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President U Win Myint shakes hands with outgoing Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. K. W. N. D Karunaratne in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

## President U Win Myint receives Sri Lankan Ambassador

### Myanmar, Sri Lanka discuss Yangon-Colombo air route

President U Win Myint received outgoing Sri Lankan Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. K. W. N. D Karunaratne, who has completed his tour of duty in

Myanmar, at the guest hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to en-

hancing friendly relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Sri Lanka, as members of BIMSTEC, and the schemes for the Yangon-Colombo air route.

Union Minister U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Min Thu and other officials also attended the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## As non-member, Myanmar will not accept ICC referrals

By Min Thit (MNA)

Efforts to refer Myanmar to the International Criminal Court (ICC), of which it is not a member, concerning the conflicts in Rakhine State will be rejected, said Director-General U Zaw Htay of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office.

U Zaw Htay made the remark yesterday at a press conference for the country's ministries on their second year performance held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

"The UN has set a policy regarding the ICC where it only has jurisdiction in its member countries. The Vienna Convention on International Treaties states that for a country to follow the 12 international agreements, it needs to first be registered and verified before it can become a member state," said U Zaw Htay.

He added that even EU countries who are ICC member-states are not subject to referrals concerning the Syria conflicts, therefore it would be unconventional for Myanmar to accept referrals to the ICC.

Because of recent terrorist attacks and the resulting security measures, a large number of people are fleeing Rakhine State into Bangladesh.

"Bangladesh is a member-state, and the ICC requested Bangladesh's observations which will be reviewed by three ICC judges.

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## Pyithu Hluttaw

## Pyithu Hluttaw approves motion for agricultural education, rejects discussion on bill

U TUN TUN of Pwintbyu constituency submitted a motion yesterday urging the union government to implement nationwide agricultural training courses and seminars to improve the quality of agricultural education in the country, as well as enhance the livelihoods of farmers.

During the Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday, Speaker U T Khun Myat called for the Hluttaw's approval to replace Pyithu Hluttaw committee members, while Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation answered asterisk-marked questions and a report was read.

U Myo Zaw Oo of Lewe constituency asked whether the Sin Ohn cistern in Lewe Township would be rebuilt.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw replied that the Sin Ohn cistern was in use since 1958, and is linked to Chaung Ma Nge reservoir to irrigate 4,560 acres of monsoon crops and 2,074 acres of summer crops. He said the cistern did not require immediate emergency repairs, so the spending will be focused on other



U Tun Tun. PHOTO: MNA

high priority objectives but added there were plans to inspect the cistern in the future for a detailed analysis.

#### Livestock farming, making bricks on farmland

U Tun Tun Naing of Kani constituency asked whether farm owners who wished to use their farmlands for breeding livestock and making bricks would receive legal permits in the allotted time.

The deputy minister replied that interested individuals or farmers must first apply to use their farmlands for other ventures, in accordance with the 2012



U Hla Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA

Farmland Law. The concerned farmland management group or department will then systematically review applications in their monthly meetings and act in accordance with the 2012 Farmland Law.

#### Further water supply system in Kengtung

U Steven of Kengtung constituency asked whether a portion of the union budget would be allotted to establish a further water supply system in Kengtung.

The deputy minister replied that the water distributing process in Kengtung involved

constructing an intake tank that would cost Ks9.7 million and linking 160,000 feet of 8" GI pipes from Kwi Nam Kaing spring to the reservoir at the eight miles checkpoint would cost Ks539.1 million.

He said the Shan State Government had allotted Ks50 million for the 2017-2018 fiscal year period and had begun purchasing 8" GI pipes. The Shan State Government has additionally allotted Ks200 million from its Early Disaster Prevention fund this year, and the remaining costs will be submitted for allocation in the 2018-2019 fiscal year period, he said. The deputy minister then answered questions put forth by Dr. Daw Shwe Pon of Bago constituency, U Nyan Hein of Thanbyuzayat constituency, and U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency.

#### MPs to discuss agricultural education, socio-economy of farmers

Next, U Tun Tun of Pwintbyu submitted a motion urging the union government to implement nationwide agricultural training courses and seminars to improve

agricultural education, as well as enhance the livelihoods of farmers. He said Myanmar had surplus rice, crops, meat and fish, in addition to ideal weather conditions and land for agriculture, but the general populace required skills and knowledge to use them effectively.

An MP voiced his approval of the motion and after obtaining the approval of the Hluttaw, the speaker announced that the motion would be taken up for discussion and interested MPs were asked to sign up.

U Ba Shein of Kyaukpadaung constituency then tabled a motion to discuss the bill to amend the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Law and an MP seconded the motion. The motion was balloted via electronic voting, and the results were 38 for votes, 328 against votes, and five abstentions. Thus, Speaker U T Khun Myat announced the motion as rejected by the assembly.

The seventh-day meeting of the eighth regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw will be held tomorrow.—Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

## Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses juvenile offences, 4<sup>th</sup> Bill to amend Anti-Corruption Law

THE Amyotha Hluttaw approved the fourth bill amending the Anti-Corruption Law, while Justice of the Supreme Court of the Union U Tha Htay answered two asterisk-marked questions and the MPs discussed the Forestry Bill during the Hluttaw session yesterday.

During the first order of business, Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than obtained the approval of the Hluttaw to replace Colonel Than Htay with Colonel Soe Moe Aung as a member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee. Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon Region constituency (10) asked about the status of the young people temporarily detained in Thanlyin Juvenile Training School, which is under the Department of Social Welfare, and whether the youth would be given their rights and transferred to relevant authorities. Justice U Tha Htay replied that the juvenile court and township courts within the Yangon Region were working swiftly and accurately to sort out juvenile offences in ac-



U Tha Htay. PHOTO: MNA

cordance with the 1993 Child Law Section 41(C) and Child Rule and Regulation section 74, under the supervision of the Chief Justice of the Yangon region. U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency (2) asked whether the Supreme Court had plans to feature their court sessions, summons, progress and verdicts in a daily newspaper.

Justice U Tha Htay replied that the Supreme Court of the Union puts up details of its court



Naw Hla Hla Soe. PHOTO: MNA

procedures, and relevant information about the court sessions and cases on its website at [www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm](http://www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm) and Facebook account. As such, there are no plans to feature the court's summons, dates of court hearings and other relevant information in a daily newspaper.

He also said it would be impractical to put the Supreme Court's decisions in a daily newspaper because when an appeal is

submitted to the Supreme Court, a decision to accept or deny the appeal is made by the Justice present in office, and the decision is immediately put up on the Supreme Court's notice board.

Next, the Forestry Bill was discussed by Dr. Khun Win Thaung of Kachin State constituency (11), U Han Win Thein of Taninthayi Region constituency (4), and Daw Shwe Shwe Sein of Bago Region constituency (3).

Later, U Aung Thein of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee read the committee's report on the fourth bill to amend the Anti-Corruption Law, which was then discussed by MPs.

U Kyi Win of Ayeyarwady Region Constituency (12) appealed for the removal of Section 16, Sub-Section (l), Section 46, and Section 59 from the original Anti-Corruption Law. Naw Hla Hla Soe of Yangon region constituency (10) appealed to amend Section 16, Sub-Section (l) into a separate section by itself and add it as Section 18 after Section 17 of the Anti-Corruption Law. U Hla San of Magway Region constitu-

ency (1) also appealed to remove Section 16, Sub-Section (l).

Section 16, Sub-Section (l), Section 46, and Section 59 are necessary to take action against individuals who send information or complaint letters to purposely defame or impair another individual, and therefore, should not be removed. The appeal to amend Section 16, Sub-Section (l), as a separate section by itself is observed to be not in accordance with legislative procedures. Therefore, the decisions concerning these appeals will be made by the Hluttaw.

The speaker then read each clause of the bill for the decision of the Hluttaw. U Aung Kyi, chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, motioned for the Hluttaw to accept the bill and U Maung Maung Lett of Sagaing Region constituency (9) seconded the motion. After some discussion, the speaker announced the Hluttaw had accepted the bill.

The seventh-day of the eighth regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw will be held tomorrow.—Aung Ye Thwin ■

“ We have much to carry on fulfilling the hopes and needs of the people of the country. We must press on until our citizens have their dignity raised and our country can retain its former glory on the global stage.

(Excerpt from the speech by President U Win Myint at the ceremony to take oath of office at Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30<sup>th</sup> March 2018)

“ No matter what kind of projects we implement, the main factor for success is collective endeavor. I am firmly convinced that we can overcome any challenge— no matter how big or difficult— if we can set aside prejudices of organizations and select groups, and work without pointing fingers and if every one of us makes concerted efforts with goodwill, wisdom, and courage.

(Excerpt from the speech by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of NLD Government on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2018)

## As non-member, Myanmar will not accept ICC referrals

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This is their process, but if you look at ICC's history, it cannot take action against non-member states. If they try to proceed with something that cannot be done, we will not accept it,” U Zaw Htay said.

“At first they targeted military leaders, but now they are adding government leaders to their list and this is creating complications and confusion among the people. This is now

a matter of our country's sovereignty, which is every country's right to be free from interference from foreign entities. It's in the UN Charter, too. But due to various reasons such as terrorist groups killing civilians and destroying villages, the military had to intervene. Without security forces, everyone would be in trouble. Every country has the Right of Defence, and it will defend its people from terrorism,” said U Zaw Htay. ■



Director-General U Zaw Htay, Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office. **PHOTO: KYAW YE SWE**



Union Minister U Thaung Tun receives Ambassador of Bangladesh Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## U Thaung Tun, Union Minister, National Security Advisor, objects Bangladesh's activities near the borderline

UNION Minister for the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government and National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun called in the Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to Myanmar Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury on 23 May 2018 to the Ministry of the Office of the Union Government in Nay Pyi Taw and handed him an aide memoire regarding the security situation on the border between Boundary Pillar

34 and 35.

The Union Minister reiterated the objection lodged earlier by Myanmar concerning the building of bunkers by Bangladesh near the border line in the No-construction Zone.

The Union Minister drew the attention of the Bangladesh Ambassador to the fact that bricks and other construction materials are now being brought in to the area from the Bangladesh side, and pointed

out that it can adversely affect the security situation in the border area.

The Union Minister called on Bangladesh to remove the bunkers and to prevent the construction of other structures. The Union Minister also called upon the Bangladesh side to comply with the provisions contained in the bilateral agreement and prevent activities that may create misunderstanding between the two sides.—MNA

## Media group in Maungtaw departs for Yangon after collecting news

AN independent media group, including foreign journalists who have arrived in Maungtaw, departed for Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre to collect news yesterday morning.

The centre's Deputy Director U Soe Tun provided information about the camp and explained the repatriation processes to the journalists.

Next, the media group arrived at the Myanmar-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge and observed the two countries' borders. Later, they questioned immigration officers near the Friendship Bridge about issuing national verification cards, gathering biometric data, and the repatriation processes.

The media group then gath-

ered news at the Taung Pyo Letwe Reception Centre.

Later, the media group arrived near the border between the two countries to gather news and interview people living on the border.

In the afternoon, the media group arrived in Sittway and then departed for Yangon by flight. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Independent journalists take photos and collect news in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

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# Speaker, chairmen, secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw hold coordination meeting

The coordination meeting of the Speaker, chairmen and secretaries from the respective committees of the Pyithu Hluttaw was conducted at Zabuthiri Hall in the Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his opening speech, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat said that the coordination meeting is aimed to scrutinize bills by committee-wise.

He urged the members of the committees to work in cooperation with the ministries concerned, the Union Attorney-General, the Commission for Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment and legal experts.

The Speaker also stressed the need to make effective laws which can be beneficial to the State and its people.

U T Khun Myat also stressed the need to scrutinize the enacted laws if they are effective or if the ministries and institutions are



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat addresses the coordination meeting of Speaker, chairmen and secretaries from the respective committees of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

abide by these laws.

"Only if Hluttaw committees are strong enough will the Hluttaw be strengthened and we can march quickly on the path to democracy," said Speaker U T Khun Myat.

It is essential to cooperate with one another as for the Hluttaw Committees, and making

suggestions and discussion is also needed," the Speaker said.

Later, the chairmen and secretaries from the respective committees of Pyithu Hluttaw stated and explained the bills, complaint letters, reports and evaluations. The Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker also explained the tasks of the respective

committees, the affairs to be coordinated or amended and concluded the meeting with his suggestions. Also attending the coordination meeting were Deputy Speaker U Tun Aung alias U Tun Tun Hein, and other officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Four foreign investments, 23 domestic investments recorded in April

Foreign direct investments worth US\$47 million were pumped into the manufacturing, industrial estate, real estate and other service sectors in April, according to figures released by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

Four enterprises from China, Hong Kong and South Ko-

rea invested in Myanmar last month.

Meanwhile, domestic investments worth Ks638 billion were made in six sectors: real estate development, manufacturing, hotel and tourism, livestock and fishery, electricity and other service sectors.

MIC intends to attract for-

eign direct investments worth \$3 billion during the transitional period from April to September for the 2018-2019 Fiscal year. In the 2017-2018 FY, FDIs worth \$5.7 billion were received through 222 projects. Singapore made the largest investment worth \$2.1 billion, while China brought in \$1.39 billion.

According to the new Myanmar Investment Law, region and state investment committees are authorised to grant approval to investment proposals with capital not exceeding \$5 million (Ks6 billion).

The aim is to facilitate the verification process for investment projects.—GNLM ■

## Taxpayers must practice SAS to combat corruption

Taxpayers need not get in touch with authorities to pay tax, as they can carry out the Self-Assessment System (SAS), which can stamp out bribery and corruption, said U Myint Thuang, Yangon Region Minister for Planning and Finance.

He made the statement during the sixth regular session of the second Yangon Region Hluttaw.

U Myint Thuang was replying to a question posed by U Kyaw Min Han of Latha Township constituency 2 on how the authorities would fight corrup-

tion and prevent misuse of power; dishonest tax reporting and reduce tax liability. To combat bribery and corruption, the SAS will be implemented, and taxpayers and tax administrators no longer need to be in touch with each other; U Myint Thuang noted. The Internal Revenue Department is making efforts to adopt SAS in the Large Taxpayers Office (LTO) and the Medium Taxpayers Office (MTO) and gradually implement it in other offices. The department is thus trying to facilitate taxpayers.

"Tax compliance is under

the vertical equity and horizontal equity. We will investigate tax evaders, encourage those who are liable to pay tax, prevent tax evasion and ensure equity for taxpayers," he said.

Tax evasion cases are investigated by township tax offices based on the statistics provided by the Yangon City Development Committee. The authorities will undertake an inspection tour. During the 2017-2018 fiscal year, more than 60,300 taxpayers were identified in the Yangon Region, said U Myint Thuang.

The certificate of tax pay-

ment by the Internal Revenue Department must be presented for construction, procurement of goods and services, and leasing and selling carried out by government departments and organisations to seek a licence, according to notification 158(1)/8 from the President's office.

Tax authorities have already committed to providing customer service and preventing corruption. The related ministry and departments will take the carrot-and-stick approach, U Myint Thuang maintained.—GNLM ■

## EU, US market regulations delay fishery products of breeding enterprises

By May Thet Hnin

The Myanmar Fishery Products Processors and Exporters Association has called for the Fishery Department to conduct further negotiations with the European Union (EU) and the United States (US), as Myanmar's breeders are facing difficulties owing to the strict import rules and regulations of the US and EU, said U Tun Aye, chairman of the association.

This was revealed at the regular meeting of the Myanmar Fishery Federation held on 22 May.

EU import regulations stress on the importance of the National Residue Monitoring Plan (NRMP). According to the NRMP, residue tests have to be conducted during the entire chain of production, including during hatching, farming, feeding and processing.

Further, fishery products for exports must be produced by only those hatcheries that are compliant with Good Aquaculture Practices (GAqP).

"Currently, officials from EU



Labourers work at fish cold storage factory. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

are still calling into question the facts incorporated into NRMP to the government and private entrepreneurs. Samples have already been sent to them. It took more than a year, but they still have not given the green light to the products of farming businesses," said U Tun Aye.

"Myanmar's fishery prod-

ucts have penetrated some foreign markets. Although Myanmar has been granted the Generalised System of Preferences by EU and tax exemption for its fishery products by the US, products from breeding enterprises are not being exported to these markets. We still cannot enjoy the full rights. We need to follow up

on the requirements to meet the import criteria," said U Tun Aye.

Myanmar practises globally marketable soft-shell crabs and prawns farming, but the country is heavily reliant on China's market.

"Earlier, breeders did not understand GAqP. Now, they are acquainted with this practice,

and some of the breeders are trying to implement GAqP to export their products to more foreign markets. Some businessmen are practising mixed farming with fish and other livestock, such as broiler chickens and pigs. This kind of farming is rejected by some foreign countries. To penetrate the global market, GAqP is a must for breeders," said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, vice president of Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF).

Russia has also shown interest in Myanmar's fishery products, besides the EU and the US. Therefore, U Tun Aye has requested government-to-government discussions with Russia.

U Tun Win Myint, director of Yangon Region Fishery Department, noted that complying with EU regulations costs more capital and time, but would help reap long-term benefits. Shareholders in the supply chain need to strictly follow the import regulations.

In the 2017-2018 FY, some 568,227 tonnes of fishery products, worth \$717.7 million, were exported, according to MFF statistics. ■

## Myanmar entrepreneurs invited to join China-Southeast Asia Entrepreneurs Association

By Nyein Nyein

Entrepreneurs from China are planning to form a China-Southeast Asia Entrepreneurs Association, a non-governmental association, in cooperation with entrepreneurs from Southeast Asia. Myanmar entrepreneurs have been invited to participate

in the association, according to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

On 18 May 2018, Mo Changying, chairperson of Guangxi State, China, and other members visited Myanmar and met U Zaw Min Win, chairman of UMFCCI.

They invited Myanmar entrepreneurs to join the association.

The association will be formed with the cooperation of Chinese companies interested in investing in Southeast Asia. Entrepreneurs from well-known international companies will participate in the association, according to the UMFCCI.

The China-Southeast Asia Entrepreneurs Association will be located in Guangxi State, and it will be managed directly from Beijing. Association members will have the opportunity to observe businesses in other countries, according to UMFCCI.

Guangxi is a key state that is part of China's One Belt One

Road project. Guangxi State is famous for its advanced level of technology in the production of agriculture products and finished products, especially in sugarcane cultivation methods, production methods, as well as pig farming methods, said U Zaw Min Win, chairman of UMFCCI. ■

## Myanmar exports over 43,000 tonnes of rice, broken rice in May

MYANMAR exported a total of 43,655 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth US\$15.464 million via its border trade camps in May, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exported 380 tonnes of rice and broken rice via the Maungtau border trade zone, 4,387 tonnes of rice via the Lweijel border trade camp and 2,268 tonnes of rice via the Muse

border trade camp, according to the Border Trade Department, operating under the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exported more than 270,000 tonnes of rice and broken rice worth \$96 million, including over 114,400 tonnes via the sea route and more than 164,500 tonnes via the border trade camps, between 1 April and 11 May 2018.

The country exported 1.423 million tonnes of rice in the 2012-2013 fiscal year, 1.262 million tonnes of rice in the 2013-2014 FY, 1.840 million tonnes in the 2014-2015 FY, 1.493 million tonnes in the 2015-2016 FY and 1.75 million tonnes in the 2016-2017 FY, according to figures released by the commerce ministry.

In the 2017-2018 FY, Myanmar expanded its export markets

and exported nearly 3.6 million tonnes of rice and broken rice worth \$1,136 million via the sea route and border trade camps.

Myanmar's rice was exported mostly via the border trader camps.

Myanmar is expecting to export some 4 million tonnes of rice worth \$1.5 billion within the next three years, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Myanmar sought new international markets to export its rice and broken rice and could export to up to 90 more countries in the 2017-2018 FY. The country normally exports rice, parboiled rice, sticky rice and broken rice to overseas buyers, including Ivory Coast, Singapore, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Russia and some European states, China and Bangladesh.—GNLM ■

# ARSA's massacre of Hindu villagers make headlines in int'l media

Amnesty International released a report on 22 May stating that new evidence had revealed ARSA terrorists massacred scores in Rakhine State, with the report hitting the headlines in international media yesterday.

Voice of America (VOA) aired the news titled "New evidence reveals ARSA terrorists massacred scores of Hindus in Rakhine State, says Amnesty International" in its 6 a.m. broadcast yesterday.

The VOA broadcast quoting the Amnesty International said that the ARSA armed group, brandishing guns and swords, was responsible for the massacre of up to 99 Hindu women, men, and children, as well as the additional unlawful killings and abductions of Hindu villagers in August 2017.

The BBC also broadcast its interview with Laura Haigh, member of the Amnesty International. In the interview, Laura Haigh said in its detailed

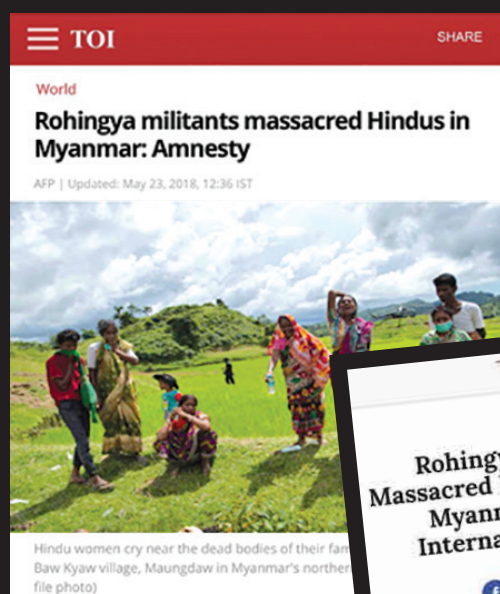
**Our latest investigation on the ground sheds much-needed light on the largely under-reported human rights abuses by ARSA during northern Rakhine State's unspeakably dark recent history.**

**Tirana Hassan,**  
Crisis Response Director at  
Amnesty International

investigation inside Myanmar's Rakhine State, Amnesty International found that 99 Hindu women, men, and children were killed in Kha Maung Seik Village by ARSA terrorists, and another six Hindus were also killed by ARSA terrorists in a separate massacre.

The ARSA terrorist group is responsible for the killings, said Laura Haigh in the interview with the BBC.

The revelation by the Amnesty International made headlines in foreign media, including in Al Jazeera, CNN, AFP, CNA, FOX News Channel, Sky



News, The Straits Times, The Guardian, Daily Mail, The Daily Star, The Independent, The Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, The Times of India, TIME and Bangkok Post.

The massacre occurred in August 2017, and the authorities found the mass graves in September, acting on information given by Hindus who were abducted and sent to Bangladesh by ARSA terrorists.

A total of 45 Hindu villagers

were found in the mass graves.

According to information provided by Hindu women, ARSA terrorists came to their village and abducted 100 villagers and slaughtered them with knives.

Eight women were spared as they promised to convert to Islam, and they were brought to Bangladesh. The information provided by them led to the discovery of the bodies.

Myanmar's state-run media released a report on 27 September

2017 that some 28 bodies were discovered in a pit some 1,500 metres north-west of Ye Baw Kya Village on 24 September 2017, while 17 bodies were found in another grave on 25 September 2017, and 48 were missing.

Besides this, the Information Committee of the government also reported that 144 Hindu villagers from O-htein Village in Maungdaw Township were missing.

On 27 September 2017, In-

dependent media, including journalists from TBS, Asahi Shimbun, EPA, AFP, VOA, CNA, BBC, Xinhua, TV Asahi, Nippon, Frontier Myanmar and Reuters, visited the site where the bodies were found.

However, international media failed to report the massacre by ARSA terrorists, and they reported the ARSA's unlawful killings of Hindus only when the Amnesty International revealed it.—Myanmar News Agency



# Ministries of Commerce, Industry, Office of the State Counsellor, Auditor-General Office hold press conference

By Han Mhwae, Lin Naing (MNA)

**IN continuation of the Union Ministries' reviews on their second one-year performance, the Ministry of Commerce, Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office, Ministry of Industry, and the Office of the Auditor General of the Union held a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.**

## Ministry of Commerce

Deputy Minister U Aung Htoo said his ministry has shifted focus from controlling trade to supporting and promoting it and is employing indirect tactics to that end. He said their goal is to triple exports by Fiscal Year 2020-2021, and reported that in FY 2017-2018, Myanmar's imports generated US\$14.83 billion, an increase of US\$3.80 billion in imports from US\$11.13 billion in FY 2015-2016.

The Ministry of Commerce has removed license requirements for 3,345 items of export and 4,818 items of import to promote more trade. They have also approved of joint ventures with foreign companies for agricultural machinery, and approved domestic trade among foreign and joint-venture companies for fertilizer, crop seeds, pesticides, medical apparatus, and construction equipment. The ministry also approved live export of oxen, cattle, goats and sheep, trade of gold, gold artifacts and jewellery, and wholesale and retail joint-ventures with foreign companies.

In FY 2015-2016, the national trade deficit was US\$5.44 billion, but in FY 2017-2018 imports of textiles, natural gases, rice and maize reduced the national trade deficit by US\$3.84 billion.

The ministry has collaborated with a Korean company to build a logistic hub in Hlinethaya Township to promote support and transportation, and will continue to build logistic hubs throughout the country.

The ministry as of 2018 has assumed the task of sending commercial attaché and trade representatives, and currently has 11 diplomats assigned to foreign countries. The ministry is working on sending diplomats to Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa, and the Middle East in the near future.

Future plans also include building an International Trade Centre on Merchant Street in Yangon to promote products made in Myanmar and will also establish EU help desks and South Korea help desks.

The ministry has established Central Trade Promotion Departments in 12 capitals of Myanmar's States and Regions, as well as consumer information and complaint centres.

The ministry is set to amend the Consumer Protection Law 2014 to make it more comprehensive in protecting the public and has set up laboratories to ex-



Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo addresses the press conference on performance during the second one-year term of the incumbent government at the Ministry of Commerce in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

amine imported products.

## Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

Director General U Zaw Htay said their ministry is working in accordance with the three sectors of Peace, Prosperity, and Democracy (PPD) laid forth by the State Counsellor.

He said the ministry has continued the work of the Union Peace-making Working Committee (UPWC) and the Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC), which was formed during former President U Thein Sein's administration. The ministry has achieved bilateral agreements and the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA) during the incumbent government's administration.

Consequently there are now Ethnic Armed Organizations (EAOs) that have not signed or accepted the NCA, and to deal with this, two institutions were established, namely the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) and the Union Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U).

The UPDJC includes the government, the military, Hluttaw MPs, EAOs, and political parties. The JMC includes the government, EAOs, and the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Put simply, political reports from national dialogues are reviewed by a working committee and then submitted to the UPDJC, which then submits it to a conference. If disagreements arise, then the Joint Implementation Coordination Meeting (JICM) holds a meeting with high-level officials and leaders to sort out the issues. After an agreement is reached, it is finally submitted to the Hluttaw.

There have been seven JICM meetings, fourteen UPDJC meetings, sixteen JMC-U meetings, and during the current administration, the 21st Century Panglong — Peace Conference was held twice.

The State Counsellor has publicly announced that federal principles will be completed before the 2020 elections, and after obtaining union accord, there will be a rise in public-private partnerships (PPPs).

The government has strategic plans for each state and region, and the EAOs have their own projects as well and will have to decide which of the thirteen PPP models will best suit the region. There are also cases where the PPP model may not be suitable.

The Joint Coordination Body (JCB) has outlined the use of the national budget and official development assistance (ODA) to achieve these goals. The JCB includes the government and both signatories and non-signatories. Currently, EAOs are pursuing their agenda in the JCB with help from foreign entities.

## Office of the Auditor General

Permanent Secretary Daw Khin San Oo said that they have amended the Union Auditor General Law, allotted more authority to state and regional auditors, amended the Myanmar Accountancy Council Law and the Public Accountancy Negligence Law, drawn the National Strategic Plan 2018-2022, made changes to the public finance administration system, and implemented changes made by the Myanmar Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

The Union Auditor General's Office has also collaborated with Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Office of the Auditor General of Norway, The German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ), and the European Union.

With regard to the ASEAN Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) on Accountancy Services, professional accountants from ASEAN countries have been providing non-accountancy services in Myanmar as well.

## Ministry of Industry's Pharmaceutical factories

U Ko Ko Lwin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Industry, said Ministry of Industry has upgraded its pharmaceutical factories and has been producing over 200 kinds of medicines following the GMP Guidelines of the World Health Or-

ganization.

Following the negotiation with Lao and Cambodia to export antivenom to the south-east Asian countries, the ministry exported freeze-dried 300 bottles to Cambodia and 200 bottles to Lao at the price of US\$22 per bottle. Meanwhile, the factories has produced first aid kits for emergency use in disasters.

## Improvement in Textile Sector and contributions to health care sector

The ministry has modernized weaving machines and produced marketable textiles.

Ministry of Industry has also produced seven kinds of furniture for hospitals and medical tools for surgical operation meeting the medical grade. With the use of India technology, the ministry joining hands with private sector has produced over 2.3 million lbs of textile and contributed new uniforms for the employees of the Ministry of Health and Sports. Besides, the ministry produced school uniforms for teachers of the Ministry of Education.

Ministry of Industry has assembled standard type ambulances for the Ministry of Health and Sports. Ministry of Industry owns 58 factories while running 57 factories with joint venture business with a private companies. The ministry has planned to privatize eight state-owned factories.

To develop the small and medium enterprises nationwide, the ministry formed SME agencies in regions and states. Up to 15 February 2018, the ministry, joining hands with the SME Development Bank, the Myanmar Insurance, the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation-SMBC and private banks, CB Bank, KBZ Bank and SMIDB, has granted loans to 225 SMEs under the CGI schemes.

The ministry has disbursed SME loans amounted to Ks 57.634 billion through six private banks. The two step loan were granted by Japan International Cooperation Agency-JICA from 2015 to 2017. ■

## Quality infrastructure a must to prevent landslides

Our country's four-month-long rainy season will possibly bring strong winds, storms, cyclones, heavy rainfall, lightning, hail, floods, flash floods and landslides.

There are two kinds of disasters. Secondary disasters can originate from a primary disaster in another area - for example, the cyclone that once passed through Chittagong in Bangladesh into Maungdaw in Myanmar, brought about torrential rainfall in northern Myanmar and flash floods in Magway region that resulted in 46 deaths and the disappearance of 115 people.

Natural disasters will definitely occur. It is found that the frequency of natural disasters has risen, along with their destructive power. If the level of disaster management remains the same, even as the strength of natural disasters rises, damages and losses will increase. Therefore, it is necessary to take early preventive measures against secondary disasters. It is also necessary to prepare emergency response strategies and resettlement plans.

Myanmar's hilly areas see heavy rain in the rainy season and face landslides. Hence, care must be taken to ensure all the construction projects, including the roads, are built by meeting the set standards for high quality.

Building retaining walls and canals along the roads are a must in hilly areas to prevent landslides, and preparations must be taken to quickly respond to the disaster with machinery to clear blocked roads in the rainy season.

Regarding disasters in our country, we know the time, place and the type of disasters that can occur in our region, and we should be prepared for them.

Not only individuals, but the whole world is threatened by natural disasters, and countries need to work together and individually to mitigate and reduce the effects of natural disasters. A better and more effective disaster management is sine qua non to respond to powerful natural disasters.

Prevention is better than responding. Investing in natural disaster preventive/preparation works not only reduces damages and losses, but also lowers the cost of reconstruction and redevelopment.

There is a need for all to work together and coordinate to prevent or reduce the damage and loss of lives caused by natural disasters.

Furthermore, we need to ensure proper coordination on how to effectively use the funds requested for long-term natural disaster prevention programmes and how to use the natural disaster fund.

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A worker dyes textiles at the weaving factory in Meiktila in central Myanmar. PHOTO: CHAN THA (MEIKTILA)

# Advantages for SMEs in the economy

By May Thanlwin

**S**MALL and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) play an important role in the country's economic development and are pioneers in creative entrepreneurship which can better adapt to the changing market demands more than larger businesses. The SMEs include any type of industry or services, retail and wholesale, logistics businesses, agriculture, education, healthcare, electricity, transportation, energy, infrastructure, tourism and so on. The SMEs are a fundamental part of the economic fabric in developing countries, and they play a crucial role in furthering growth, innovation and prosperity.

Every product or service that we use in our daily lives is from an SME, which makes them an indispensable part of existence. Thus, SMEs can be regarded as the lifeblood of a country's economy.

### Poverty alleviation schemes

For developing countries, SMEs should be treated as a

way to alleviate poverty first, rather than to be used to become a wealthy nation. Some causes of poverty in a country are mainly due to a lack of opportunity and efficiency. It is evident that many countries in the world are closely interrelated in many sectors such as economy, health, sociology and politics. With the aim of boosting the country's development, many branch offices of SMEs have been opened across the country since 2014. Concerning SMEs, the Government has classified human resources, technical and creative support, capital funding, better infrastructure, gaining a foothold in the marketplace, imposing reasonable taxes and regulations and creating suitable business environments as top priorities.

Cooperation is needed to strengthen the framework at the national, state and regional levels. Moreover, under the current situation, while the country is trying to link with global markets, it is a matter of great importance for the nation's SMEs to hold strong places in local markets, too. With the increasing amount of import substitutes, commodity prices

will decrease and citizens will have more opportunities for jobs. Simultaneously, per capita income and GDP percentages can rise. Thus, poverty can be alleviated and Economic Indicators can also increase to some extent.

The development of SMEs can be regarded as sign of cohesion, which can bring about all-round development of the modern state. We can see many countries which have set a good example for the world and can boast their growth through strong SMEs. Being a country rich in natural resources, a large number of job opportunities can be created, provided that high-value products can be produced by using modernised techniques. Nowadays, opportunities were created by cooperation in economic sectors among global countries. Myanmar has already established relations with global countries in trade, production and service industries, and it has more opportunities to enter the global production channel, which can create more opportunities for the development of SMEs.

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

## WWF praises Myanmar's illegal wildlife trade law

New laws recently published by Myanmar toughening the penalties for the illegal trade and poaching of wildlife drew praise yesterday from the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the world's largest conservation organisation.

The new legislation is known as The Protection of Biodiversity and Protected Areas Law.

"The publication of this law shows that the Myanmar Government is serious about the illegal trade in wildlife and we applaud the Government for this important step. This legislation also sets the stage for Myanmar to attend the October London Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade as a regional champion in the fight against one of the world's most serious organised crimes. The key highlights of the law are the new mandatory prison sentence for poaching or trade of completely protected species or species protected under CITES. By including CITES, the law closes the previous loophole for domestic elephants, affording them the same protection as their wild counterparts," said Nick Cox, Conservation Director for WWF-Myanmar.

Mr. Cox said the law also protects species migrating to and from Myanmar as well as native species, but compliance and enforcement are now necessary.

"Myanmar now has one of the strongest wildlife laws in the region, and for that the Government should be congratulated. What is needed now is a coordinated effort by all relevant agencies to enforce the law," Mr. Cox said. —GNLM

## Myanmar's economy growth on the rise: World Bank

Myanmar's economic growth was projected to rise to 6.8 per cent in 2018-2019 from 6.4 per cent before, said a report of the World Bank's Myanmar Economic Monitor released recently.

Myanmar's economy improved the 2017-2018 Fiscal Year, which ended in March, with a recovery in agriculture, improved manufacturing performance and strong services growth, according to the World Bank's report.

But, the country saw a slight slowdown likely due to tourism and banking sector uncertainties, said the report.

"The pick-up in growth and improvement in the macro-economic situation are encouraging," said Ellen Goldstein, World Bank's country director for Myanmar, Cambodia and Laos.

The Myanmar government is finalizing its sustainable development plan which serves as a platform to accelerate economic reform, modernize the financial sector and make progress in resolving conflicts that jeopardize inclusive and sustained growth, Goldstein added.

Myanmar's inflation rate will be moderating to 5.5 per cent in 2017-18 from 7 per cent in 2016-17 and to ease further to 4.9 per cent in 2018-19, said the report.—GNLM

### Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the **Global New Light of Myanmar** at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to [dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.). — Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office



Venezuela's Nicolas Maduro. PHOTO: AFP

## Venezuela's Maduro expels US diplomats, rejects sanctions

CARACAS — Venezuela ordered the expulsion of the top two US diplomats in the country on Tuesday, charging it was the victim of a “political and financial lynching” after Washington tightened sanctions over Nicolas Maduro’s re-election.

Maduro announced the expulsions in a televised speech after being officially proclaimed the winner of Sunday’s election in the South American nation mired in an acute economic crisis and facing growing international isolation.

The vote was boycotted by the main opposition parties and widely condemned by the international community, including the United States, which denounced it as a “sham.”

The Venezuelan president declared US charge d’affaires Todd Robinson and deputy head of mission Brian Naranjo “personae non gratae.”

“They must leave the country in 48 hours in protest and in defense of the dignity of the Venezuelan homeland... Enough of conspiracies!” he said.

A State Department official told AFP that Washington had “not received notification from the Venezuelan government through diplomatic channels,” but that if the expulsions are confirmed, “the United States may take appropriate reciprocal

action.”

In anticipation that Venezuela’s charge d’affaires in Washington, Carlos Ron, would be expelled, he was appointed vice minister of foreign affairs for North America.

On Monday, President Donald Trump tightened sanctions against Caracas, making it harder for the Maduro regime to sell off state assets.

“I repudiate all the sanctions that are sought against the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, because they harm it, they generate suffering for the people of Venezuela,” Maduro said in the speech.

He promised to present “evidence” that both diplomats were engaged in a political, military and economic “conspiracy.”

Robinson denied the allegations.

“We strongly reject the accusations against me and against” Naranjo, he told journalists in the western city of Merida, promising to return there even despite Maduro expelling him.

### ‘Threat to world peace’

Washington and Caracas have not exchanged ambassadors since 2010, and relations between the two countries have been tense since the late leftist President Hugo Chavez, Maduro’s mentor, assumed power in 1999.

The deeply unpopular Maduro was declared the winner with 68 per cent of the vote, but with a record abstention rate.

Days before the elections, 11 soldiers were arrested for planning destabilizing actions against Maduro, and they were ordered to prison on Tuesday, the Foro Penal group said.

Venezuelans are reeling under an deepening crisis, with hyperinflation projected by the IMF to reach 13,800 per cent this year and dire shortages of food and medicine.

Hundreds of thousands of people have fled the country to escape the growing deprivation. The foreign ministry earlier lashed out at the US sanctions, accusing Washington of intensifying a “criminal financial and economic blockade,” which it called a crime against humanity for impeding “access to essential goods.”

“We alert the international community to the threat to world peace represented by the supremacist, racist and interventionist regime that governs Washington today, inspired by the nefarious postulates of the Ku Klux Klan,” the foreign ministry said in a statement.

It said US policy “promotes hatred, intolerance and political and financial lynching” of Venezuela. Washington has previously slapped sanctions on the president and his senior aides, and banned US entities from buying any more debt from Caracas or state oil company PDVSA.

The European Union said it was also weighing new sanctions after the election was marred by “irregularities” and failed to meet international standards.

Caracas is facing increasing international isolation, with the United States, the European Union and the 14 countries of the Lima Group — which includes Argentina, Brazil and Canada — refusing to recognize the election result.

“Venezuela is beginning to suffer an economic boycott by the United States and its allies, and this is going to be fatal to the regime,” political analyst Carlos Romero told AFP.

Maduro, a former bus driver, union leader and foreign minister, has insisted Venezuela is the victim of an “economic war” waged by the conservative opposition and external powers including the United States aimed at toppling him.

Most economists attribute the oil-rich country’s economic collapse to years of mismanagement, corruption and a period of sharply lower oil prices.—AFP ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

### As Brexit looms, Germany sees jump in Brits taking citizenship

BERLIN — The number of Britons who have obtained German citizenship has shot up dramatically since Britain’s decision to quit the European Union, official data showed on Wednesday.

“A link with the upcoming Brexit is obvious — in the two years 2016 and 2017, a total of 10,358 Britons acquired German citizenship, more than twice as many as in the period spanning 2000 to 2005,” said German statistics office Destatis. In 2015, 622 Britons were naturalised in Germany, while the number soared three-fold to reach 2,865 in 2016. The trend continued in 2017 with 7,493 Britons becoming Germans, a new record. Brits now make up the second-largest group seeking German nationality, after Turks.

—AFP ■

### Italy president summons PM candidate Conte

ROME — Italy’s president on Wednesday summoned Giuseppe Conte as he prepared to announce whether he will appoint him to lead a government formed by far-right and anti-establishment groups. “The president of the Republic, Sergio Mattarella, has summoned Giuseppe Conte to the (presidential) Quirinal palace for 17:30 (1530 GMT) today,” the presidency said in a statement.

—AFP ■

### Police open fire for second day in India protest city

TUTICORIN (India) — Police opened fire on Wednesday in a southern Indian city to disperse demonstrators who hurled petrol bombs, a day after fatally shooting 10 protesters there, witnesses said. “Police opened fire after protesters hurled homemade bombs and pelted stones at them,” a witness told AFP in Tuticorin, where 10 people were killed on Tuesday in police firing. The protesters have been demanding the closure of a copper plant owned by British mining giant Vedanta Resources which they say is causing environmental damage.—AFP ■

## Cameroon summons US ambassador: official sources

YAOUNDÉ (Cameroon) — Cameroonian authorities summoned the US ambassador in the country on Wednesday, sources said, days after he accused government forces of abuses against separatists in English-speaking regions.

Government and diplomatic sources told AFP that the foreign ministry had summoned Ambassador Peter Barlerin.

Barlerin alleged on 18 May that government forces had carried out “targeted killings” and other abuses against militants demanding independence for two English-speaking regions.

“On the side of the government, there have been targeted killings, detentions without access to legal support, family, or the Red Cross, and burning and looting of villages,” he said in a statement.

“On the side of the separatists,” he also stressed, “there have been murders of gendarmes, kidnapping of government officials, and burning of schools”.

The statement followed warnings by rights watchdogs over abuses in the conflict.

It was issued after Barlerin met with Cameroon’s President

Paul Biya.

The crisis began in 2016, when activists in the Anglophone minority stepped up a campaign for greater autonomy.

According to the International Crisis Group (ICG) think tank, “at least 120” civilians and “at least 43” security forces have been killed since the end of 2016.

The Anglophone minority accounts for about a fifth of the country’s population of 22 million. Biya has rejected the Anglophone demands, prompting radicals to make a full-blown but symbolic declaration of independence last 1 October.

That was the starting point for armed clashes and a crackdown. Barlerin, in his statement, called on both sides “to stop the violence immediately.”

Many Anglophones in the Northwest and Southwest regions complain of marginalisation in education, the judiciary and the economy and of having French imposed on them.

On Tuesday, the UN’s Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said around 160,000 people had been internally displaced by the crisis and 20,000 had sought refuge in neighbouring Nigeria.—AFP ■

## IMF urges Saudi to contain spending as deficit widens

DUBAI — The International Monetary Fund has called on Saudi Arabia to keep public spending under control, even as a partial recovery of oil prices helps the economy emerge from recession.

The lender called on the world’s top oil exporter to continue “bold structural changes” but to “resist the temptation to re-expand government spending in line with higher oil prices”, in a statement late on Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia has embarked on an ambitious reform drive, known as Vision 2030, as it seeks to reduce dependence on oil, diversify its income streams and modernise the economy.

But figures released by the finance ministry last week show spending soared 18 per cent to \$53.5 billion in the first quarter of this year, outstripping a 15 per cent increase in revenues, which hit \$44.3 billion. This created a quarterly budget shortfall of \$9.2 billion, up 31 per cent on the first three months of 2017.

Despite the rising deficit, the IMF also congratulated the Kingdom for measures designed to boost non-oil revenues, in the wake of the 2014 crash in crude prices.

“Saudi Arabia is making good progress in implementing its ambitious reform programme,” the



Employees work at the studio of the new channel Saudi Broadcasting Corporation “SBC” in Riyadh on 24 April, 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Fund said, at the end of a visit to the country.

Bolstering the national purse, the government has hiked local fuel and electricity prices, levied heavy charges on expatriate families and introduced a value-added tax (VAT) at the start of this year.

“The VAT is a milestone achievement in strengthening the tax culture and tax administration of the country,” said the IMF, while adding “further gradual energy price increases should continue” for local consumers.

The Riyadh-based Jadwa economic think-tank said much of the rise in spending was due to higher “social benefits”, no-

tably the so-called “Citizen’s Account” which compensates low-income Saudis for VAT and the rise in fuel prices. “The Q1 2018 quarterly budget shows that the government’s efforts to raise non-oil revenue are going to plan, with sizable rises in tax income,” Jadwa said in a report last week.

Saudi Arabia has posted a budget deficit since 2014 after the crash in oil prices, with shortfalls totalling \$260 billion in the past four years. The government projects a 2018 deficit of \$52 billion.

The Saudi economy shrank 0.7 per cent in 2017, the first contraction since 2009, but the IMF forecasts a return to growth this year.—AFP ■

## Scientists discover how breast cancer hibernates

PARIS — Scientists have identified the mechanism that allows breast cancer cells to lie dormant in other parts of the body only to reemerge years later with lethal force, according to a study published on Tuesday.

In experiments with human cells and live mice, researchers showed that disabling the mechanism — with drugs or gene manipulation — crippled the cancer cells and inhibited their capacity to spread.

The discovery, reported in the journal *Nature Communications*, provides a promising target for the development of breast cancer therapies, the study said.

Some 90 per cent of breast cancer deaths occur with metastasis, when the disease moves to other organs or parts of the body.

Scientists have struggled

to understand how cancer cells manage to remain hidden — sometimes for decades — and what, exactly, triggers their reawakening.

“Our results suggest that breast cancer cells can survive, undetected, in patients for long periods by using a cellular process known as autophagy,” said co-author Kent Hunter, a researcher at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in Bethesda, Maryland.

Autophagy occurs when any cell — healthy or cancerous — reshuffles internal components to survive in a stressful and nutrient-poor environment. This allows the cell to partially shut down, entering a state similar to hibernation.

The findings help explain why current treatments so often

fail to root out breast cancer cells that remain after surgery and chemotherapy.

### Cells in hiding

“Many of the traditional anti-cancer drugs are designed to target dividing cells,” said Hunter.

“Dormant cells, however, are not actively or frequently dividing, and are therefore thought to be resistant to these types of drugs.”

The fact that they are hiding elsewhere in the body also helps the cells escape localised treatments such as radiation.

In an experiment, researchers led by Hunter’s colleague Laura Vera-Ramirez injected dormant breast cancer cells into mice.

Half the animals were given a drug that inhibits autophagy,



Some 90 per cent of breast cancer deaths occur with metastasis, when the disease moves to other organs or parts of the body. PHOTO: AFP

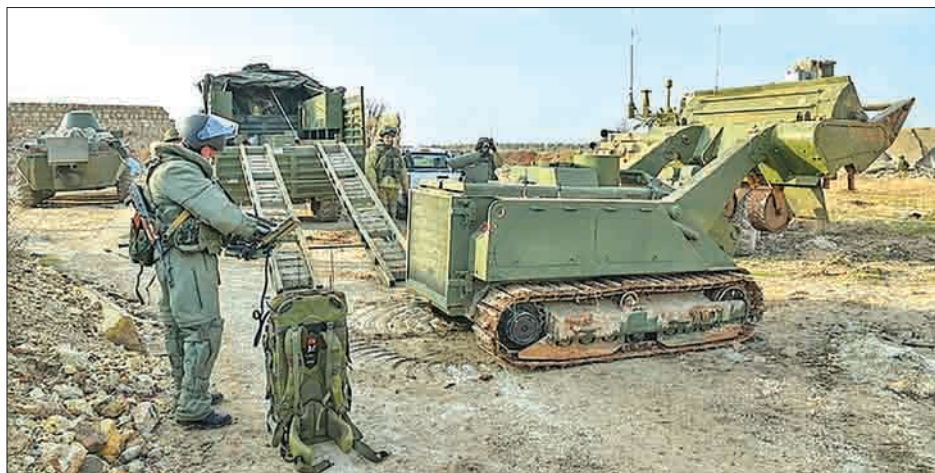
while the others received a placebo or “dummy” drug. In a second experiment, they altered a gene that controls autophagy.

Both approaches “significantly” decreased survival of the cancer cells and limited their spread, the study concluded.

Without recourse to autophagy, the cancer cells accumulated toxic matter and damage

to their mitochondria, the energy-producing units of cells.

The road to a viable treatment will be long, said Hunter. A clinical trial will have to be performed to determine whether the treatment would work in human patients. It is also unknown whether the findings apply to other types of cancer, he added.—AFP ■



Work is also underway to create a new device for obtaining water from snow and ice, a MIV-2 diving mine detector, and a source of electric power for individuals and groups. **PHOTO: TASS**

## Russia developing exoskeleton for army engineers

KUBINKA (Moscow Region) — Russia is developing a passive exoskeleton for its engineering troops, Chief of Russia's Engineering Troops Lieutenant-General Yuri Stavitsky said on Tuesday.

"Work will continue in 2018 on our own initiative under the defence procurement plan to develop and create advanced engi-

neering armament of various designation, in particular, new components of the engineering gear: a passive exoskeleton, blast protective footwear and a backpack for a combat engineer-assaulter," he said.

Work is also underway to create a new device for obtaining water from snow and ice, a MIV-2 diving mine detector, and a

source of electric power for individuals and groups.

"Uninterrupted work continues in all directions to develop and create new means of engineering equipment that meet modern requirements," Stavitsky said. In 2017, Russia's engineering troops received 750 items of engineering equipment, he said.—Tass ■

# US policy on Iran puts region in 'further danger': France

PARIS, France — French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said on Wednesday that the United States risks further destabilising the Middle East after Washington warned Iran faced the "strongest sanctions in history".

"The sanctions to be launched against Iran will not foster dialogue. On the contrary, they will boost the importance and power of Iran's conservatives and weaken president (Hassan) Rouhani, who wanted to negotiate," Le Drian told France Inter radio. "Ultimately, this stance is likely to put the region in further danger than it is today."

On 8 May, US President Donald Trump pulled out of the landmark 2015 Iran nuclear deal, which curbs the country's nuclear programme in return for sanctions relief.

The decision to withdraw from the accord marked a stark diplomatic defeat for Europe, whose leaders, repeatedly and in person, had called on Trump to think again.

Speaking on Monday, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo warned Tehran would be hit with the "strongest sanctions in history" and cautioned European firms against continuing to do business with the Islamic republic.

Le Drian warned on Wednesday of a "regional explosion" because of the Syrian civil war and the Iranian nuclear crisis.

Asked if there was a risk of a new conflict, he replied "yes".

He referred to rockets fired from "Iranian arms based in Syria" on 10 May on the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, which prompted return fire by Israel against Iranian targets inside Syria.

"The conditions are all there so that if by chance something happened, perhaps on purpose, perhaps not, there could be an escalation," he added.—AFP ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0097N/S)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. (KHAD 0097N/S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER  
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WELLINGTON VOY. NO. (1815-1816)

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WELLINGTON VOY. NO. (1815-1816) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24-5-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT  
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

## Thailand stops short of banning hazardous weedkillers

BANGKOK — A toxic weedkiller linked to Parkinson's disease and banned in more than 30 countries will not be outlawed in Thailand, after authorities announced on Wednesday they would instead restrict its use. Paraquat is highly poisonous, with just one sip of the herbicide fatal to humans, and its use has been banned throughout the European Union since 2007. But Thailand decided that reports of health and environmental hazards were not serious enough to merit a full ban of paraquat and two other controversial farm chemicals in the kingdom, where agriculture employs around 40 per cent of the population.

"The committee decided to restrict the use of paraquat, chlorpyrifos and glyphosate," Indus-

try Ministry official Somboon Yindeeyoungyuen told reporters. Scientific studies have linked the pesticide chlorpyrifos to lower intelligence in children while critics say the weedkiller glyphosate may cause cancer. Somboon said regulations — such as what concentration of the chemicals are allowed on crops and where — will be determined by the Agriculture Ministry within two months. The announcement came as a disappointment to environmental groups and medical researchers, who had lobbied for a full prohibition of paraquat and chlorpyrifos in particular. They cited links to Parkinson's disease and studies showing worrying levels of contamination on Thai produce and in water sources. One



Thailand decided that reports of health and environmental hazards were not serious enough to merit a full ban of paraquat and two other controversial farm chemicals. **PHOTO: AFP**

of the leaders of the ban campaign, the Thai Pesticide Alert Network, said the government's decision made them feel "sorry for the Thai people". "This committee... does not care about protecting the health of the people and is a tool of the companies selling those products," it added in a statement. The group called for a review of the decision, saying the government committee was stacked with industry allies and plagued by "conflicts of interests". Thailand is a leading rice exporter and a key market for agricultural inputs from China.

Experts say Chinese paraquat manufacturers are scrambling to keep

markets open abroad after Beijing announced plans to phase out domestic sales of the herbicide by 2020. "China's paraquat industry is relying mainly on exports, but as more and more countries are restricting imports on paraquat and ban the poisonous herbicide, the industry is facing a challenging future," said UN Food and Agriculture Organization expert Johannes Ketelaar. Thailand also hosts a thriving black market for illegally-mixed farm chemicals, with farmers drawn to concoctions that are cheaper and more potent — but also linked to a myriad of health problems for consumers and farmers alike.—AFP ■

# Former S Korean president Lee slams 'insult' corruption charges

SEOUL — Former South Korean president Lee Myung-bak on Wednesday defiantly described the corruption charges he faces as an “insult” at his first court appearance since his arrest in March.

The 76-year-old former CEO turned president — who served from 2008 to 2013 — faces multiple charges including bribery, abuse of power, embezzlement, and tax evasion.

The case against Lee means all four former South Korean presidents who are still alive have been charged or convicted for criminal offences. TV footage showed Lee, wearing a dark blue suit with a badge with his inmate number “716” pinned to the lapel, being led into a courtroom in Seoul. He was uncuffed due to his advanced age. “I stand here broken-hearted,” Lee said in his opening statement.



Former South Korean president Lee Myung-bak. PHOTO: AFP

He has been charged with accepting a total of some 11 billion won (\$10.2 million) in bribes between late 2007 when he was elected president and 2012, according to prosecutor documents.

These allegations include claims that the Samsung Group bought a pres-

idential pardon in 2009 for its chairman Lee Kun-hee, who had been convicted of tax evasion and given a suspended jail sentence.

“I was appalled by the allegations that I received bribes from Samsung in return for a presidential pardon,” Lee said. “This is an insult to me,” he added.

He claimed he had given the Samsung chief, then a member of the International Olympic Committee, a special pardon so that he could lead efforts to host the 2018 Winter Olympics, which eventually took place in Pyeongchang. Samsung allegedly paid six billion won (\$5.6 million) in legal

fees to a US law firm on Lee’s behalf.

The firm was representing DAS, an auto parts company which prosecutors claim Lee owns in his relatives’ names, which was involved in a costly court battle with a US businessman at the time.

Both Samsung and Lee have denied the allegations, saying they are groundless. The money that prosecutors claim Lee took includes 1.7 billion won in secret funds syphoned off from the country’s spy agency and some 3.5 billion won received in return for favours, from people including business figures, a politician and a Buddhist monk. Separately, prosecutors claim Lee embezzled 35 billion won from DAS over 12 years between 1994 and 2006. Lee on Wednesday repeated his denial that he owned DAS, saying the auto parts company be-

longs to his brother.

“I just hope the country’s justice system may prove its fairness before the people and the international community through this trial,” he concluded.

South Korean presidents have a tendency to end up in prison after their time in power — usually once their political rivals have moved into the presidential Blue House. Last month Lee’s successor Park Geun-hye was sentenced to 24 years in prison and fined millions of dollars for bribery and abuse of power.

Two former army generals who served as president through the 1980s to early 1990s also spent time in jail after leaving office but were later pardoned.

Another former leader, Roh Moo-hyun, committed suicide after becoming embroiled in a corruption probe.—AFP ■

## Thai police charged after paying trickster bribes for jobs

BANGKOK — Six Thai police officers seeking promotion face charges after they were duped into paying bribes totalling \$130,000 to a trickster masquerading online as a senior officer, highlighting a cash-for-jobs culture in the force.

The officers were allegedly conned by a taxi driver who used a profile photo of Major-General Surachate Hakparn as a fake profile on LINE, Thailand’s leading social media platform. Surachate is the high-profile number two of Thailand’s Tourist Police and is better known by his nickname “Big Joke”, which reflects his seniority rather than sense of humour.

One officer who paid \$31,000 to the scammer in 2016 was coincidentally later promoted, Surachate told AFP, boosting the credibility of the ruse for another

year. “It was an absolutely false claim. I’m angry since I’ve heard about the scam since 2016 but couldn’t catch him,” he told AFP. Other bribes ranged from \$3,000 to \$65,342, he said. “Scams like this are common during police reshuffles, but the strange part is that this time high-ranking colonels and superintendents have been caught,” Surachate added. Taxi driver Paichit Saiya, 45, was arrested in Bangkok on Monday and charged with fraud as well as breaching the tough Computer Crime law.

The six police officers face both criminal charges and internal police disciplinary measures, Surachate added. “In order to make an example they will be prosecuted. The police must work for the public and there should be no bribery in appointments.” Thai-

land’s 200,000-strong police force has an influential role in a strictly hierarchical society. Senior police operate complex patronage networks and sit on the boards of powerful public committees and private businesses alike, promoting allies and demoting rivals. The last police chief declared his assets at around \$11 million. He now runs the country’s Football Association. But lower ranks are poorly paid, with a new entrant earning around \$460 a month. Thais routinely scoff at their police for being graft-prone, with “tea money” transactions a daily reality to avoid police action over minor infringements. The ruling junta has moved to rein in what its described as a rampant corruption culture among the police—but it rarely prosecutes allegations of graft within the army.—AFP ■

### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE ( INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER ) ( 10/ 2018 )

1. Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB/002(18-19)	Cement Additives (4) Items	US\$
(2)	DMP/L-031(18-19)	Steel Ball Valves and Pipe Fittings (2) Groups	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-032(18-19)	2 3/8" & 2 7/8" EUE Tubing (2) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-033(18-19)	Spares for CAT D-342 Engine (52) Items	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-034(18-19)	Spares for CAT D-353 PC Engine (55) Items	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-035(18-19)	Spares for Hitachi Excavator (72) Items	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-036(18-19)	Spares for Mack Truck (10) Items	Ks

2. The Open Tender forms including Description of Materials / Qty with details specifications and Tender Terms & Conditions can be available free download at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy Website Portal ([www.moe.gov.mm](http://www.moe.gov.mm)) as from 23 May 2018. Tender forms will not be sold.

3. The interested Bidders should submit the **Technical Specifications with Original Bid Bond and Commercial Quotation in each separate sealed envelopes** on which to be addressed to the Managing Director, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise and should reach in Tender Box of the Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise not later than **16:30 pm on 21 June 2018**.

4. Tender Closing Date & Time- 21-6-2018, 16:30 pm

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph . +95 67 - 411206  
+95 67 411212

## Pop singer Namie Amuro receives prefectural honor award from Okinawa

NAHA (Japan) — Japanese pop singer Namie Amuro received an award on Wednesday from her home prefecture of Okinawa for inspiring the local population.

“I am very happy to have this prestigious award,” the pop diva said after receiving it from Governor Takeshi Onaga.

Amuro surprised fans last year by suddenly announcing on her website that she will quit showbiz in September 2018.

Since her professional debut in 1992, her performances as both a singer and dancer have captivated fans in Japan and elsewhere in Asia. She became one of the country’s leading stars, with a string of hits including “Chase the Chance,” “Body Feels Exit,” “Sweet 19 Blues,” and “Can You Celebrate?”

Clad in a miniskirt, thick-soled boots and with her hair dyed brown, Amuro also became a fashion icon, creating a phenomenon known as “Amuraa” in the 1990s, with many young girls and women copying her fashion, hairstyle and makeup.

Amuro sang “Never End” at a welcome reception for leaders of the Group of Eight nations at their summit in Okinawa in 2000.—Kyodo News ■



Japanese pop singer Namie Amuro. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Swedish superstar DJ Avicii. PHOTO: AFP

## DJ Avicii’s funeral to be ‘private’: family

STOCKHOLM — Swedish superstar DJ Avicii, who died last month aged 28, is to be buried “privately” with only his closest relatives and friends present, his family said on Tuesday.

The musician, whose real name was Tim Bergling, was found dead on 20 April in Muscat, the capital of the Gulf sultanate Oman, where he had been on holiday with friends.

In a statement, his family confirmed that “the funeral will be private, in the presence of the people who were closest to Tim”, without specifying the date or location. The family said in an open letter last month that Avicii “wanted peace” and “could not go on any longer”.

“He really struggled with thoughts about Meaning, Life, Happiness,” they wrote in the letter, seen by AFP.

Avicii had made no secret of his health problems, including pancreatitis, triggered in part by excessive drinking linked to his party lifestyle.

In 2016, he stunned fans by announcing his retirement when he was just 26, saying that he wanted to leave the high-flying electronic music lifestyle.

Avicii was among the first DJs to break through into the mainstream with his hit songs “Wake Me Up” and “Levels” as electronic dance music grew over the past decade from nightclubs to Top 40 radio.— AFP ■

## Kazakhstan hopes actress’s Cannes win will inspire local talent

PARIS — After Kazakhstan’s Samal Yeslyamova scooped a surprise award for best actress at the Cannes film festival, many of her compatriots found themselves typing her name into search engines.

Yeslyamova — who won the

prize for her portrayal of a Central Asian single mother struggling for survival in Russia in the film “Ayka” — is not a complete unknown in the country. But nor was she a household name until now. “It’s a cause for great celebration, but also regret,” said

Ermeke Tursunov, a film director who lives in Kazakhstan’s largest city Almaty. “The lead actress in this film was an ethnic Kazakh girl from northern Kazakhstan, the director an ethnic Russian from southern Kazakhstan,” he told AFP. “But it was not a Kazakh film. It was a Russian film.”

While a small, private Kazakh studio was among those that participated in the making of the film, funding came from the Russian culture ministry as well as the Council of Europe and the Polish film institute.

Although oil-rich Kazakhstan had a proud filmmaking tradition during Soviet times, it is better known these days for its portrayal in Sacha Baron Cohen’s off-colour mockumentary “Borat”.

### Kazakhstan’s Tarantino and Thurman?

The relationship between Yeslyamova, 33, and director Sergey Dvortsevoy, 55, has been likened by at least one Kazakh website to the partnership between Hollywood duo Quentin

Tarantino and Uma Thurman.

Dvortsevoy hails from the southern town of Shymkent, which has stronger cultural links to Uzbekistan than to its northern neighbour Russia.

Yeslyamova, whose achievement is unprecedented in Kazakhstan, comes from a village near the Russian border and went to college in Petropavlovsk, a town where ethnic Slavs still form the majority population.

The pair met during casting for “Tulpan” — a film set in the Kazakh countryside and filmed in scorching conditions which entered Cannes in 2008 and won the “Un Certain Regard” category, reserved for emerging directors or unexpected or marginal themes. As they flew into the capital on Tuesday, Yeslyamova and Dvortsevoy were met at Astana’s Nursultan Nazarbayev airport by a youthful crowd that serenaded her with a national ballad.

### Spark of inspiration

While both private and state-owned studios in Kazakh-

stan have vastly increased their output in recent years, critics say that quality has not always followed on from quantity.

In recent years, the most prominent titles have been nation-building epics, with big-budget picture “Nomad” featuring American actor Jason Scott Lee proving a relative flop in 2007, drawing criticism for wasting money. Another noted film was “The Sky of My Childhood” (2011) which looked at the early years of Nazarbayev’s reign and the country’s Soviet past.

There have also been a string of comedies in both Kazakh and Russian, aimed at the domestic market. In a country of 17 million with a large rural population, that market is relatively small. Ainur Isayeva, spokeswoman for Kazakhfilm, said Kazakhstan was “incredibly happy” Yeslyamova took the best actress gong and hoped her success at Cannes would “provide a spark” for other local filmmakers and actors.— AFP ■



Kazakh actress Samal Yeslyamova won best actress for her part in “Ayka” at Cannes. PHOTO: AFP

## The Lady, I and Affairs of State

Thura U Shwe Mann



Mindfulness and steadfastness are required in order not to break the paddle while rowing or not to lose direction while traveling, as old Burmese sayings go. I believe she and I are among those who, when confronted by such a situation, have employed discretion, foresight, wisdom and courage in dealing with the challenges, without losing track of our common vision. However, assumptions on this may or may not be true. Self-confidence is good but over-confidence has to be tempered with the realization that "No one knows everything, nor can master everything, nor can be correct in everything."

### Note of thanks

I wish to express my profound gratitude to the title holders of photographs used as illustration in the book, the media personalities that conducted the interviews as well as their networks, and members of the public (layman and revered monks) who very kindly shared their opinions and advice on Facebook.

Thura U Shwe Mann

The Publication of this book should therefore be welcomed, not only by those interested in Myanmar's recent developments, but by anyone wanting to better understand transitions from military dictatorship.

Dr. Thant Myint-U

## English Version Release

- ❖ This book recounts events as they happened, and the anecdotes contain many interesting points for reflection and possible debate.
- ❖ It also allows opportunities to form opinions about the author himself and of the personalities portrayed.
- ❖ The author states, "My main volition is that the people examine our endeavors, draw conclusions and lessons from our actions, and continue with efforts towards the betterment and development of the country."

## Distribution

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## Portrait of emperor and empress painted almost 30 yrs after succession

TOKYO — A life-size portrait of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko has been painted for the first time since the emperor was enthroned nearly 30 years ago. The emperor is set to abdicate on 30 April, 2019, and his elder son Crown Prince Naruhito will take over the throne the following day. The Imperial Household Agency said Monday it has no plans to show the painting to the public.

The two-meter square work by Hiroshi Noda, one of Japan's most famous realist painters, has been painted based on a photo taken in 2014 and was brought to the agency in March, it said. The emperor and empress had only been painted in 1974, as a crown prince and princess, while there are 31 portraits of previous imperial couples from the Meiji era (1868-1912), according to the agency.— Kyodo News ■



Supplied photo shows a portrait of Japanese Emperor Akihito (L) and Empress Michiko. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Researchers found that Stradivari violins, such as this one once owned by French violinist Rodolphe Kreutzer, were designed to emulate female voices. PHOTO: AFP

## First violins imitated human voices

ROME — Music historians have long suspected that the inventors of the violin wanted to imitate the human voice, and a study out Monday shows how 16<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> century luthiers in Italy did it.

Researchers at National Taiwan University asked a professional violinist to play 15 antique instruments, including one from 1570 by Andrea Amati, the early 16<sup>th</sup>-century luthier from Cremona, Ita-

ly who is considered to be the father of the modern four-string violin.

Others played in the study were from the Stradivari family, conceived by Antonio Stradivari, who improved upon Amati's design.

First, researchers recorded scales played on the 15 antique instruments played by a professional violinist and recorded at Taiwan's Chimei Museum.

Then, they recorded the voices of eight men and eight women, ranging in age from 16 to 30 years, who sang common English vowels.

Performing a thorough acoustic analysis, they found that an Amati violin dating to 1570 and a Gasparo da Salo violin dating to 1560 mimicked the basses and baritones of male singers, "raising the possibility that master violinmakers from this

period may have designed violins to emulate male voices," said the report.

"In contrast, Stradivari violins were marked by elevated formants, making them relatively more similar to female voices," such as tenors and altos, the researchers added.

"These properties may explain the characteristic brilliance of Stradivari violins." —AFP ■



Former Shan United striker Patrick Asare attempts to balance the football in a MNL match. **PHOTO:MNL**

## Shan United says goodbye to striker Patrick Asare

**PATRICK** Asare, a Ghanaian footballer who played as a striker for Shan United F.C. in the MPT Myanmar National League, has left the team under what was described as mutual agreement, according to Shan United.

Also departing from Shan United are two local players, Nann Min Aung and Phyo Paing Soe, under similar circumstances, according to an official from Shan United.

The manager of the team said it came down to finding

players who fit into Shan United's team philosophy and style of play.

"The players who departed are really good players, who put in hard work in the training ground," said U Khin Maung-Htun, the general manager of Shan United. "But some of their brilliant efforts did not match up with our team."

U Khin Maung Htun said the mutual parting of ways was necessary in order for the team to move forward and improve.

"For a better future, with

them we decided with bilateral agreements taken between the players and officials from the team. We will always remember of them as participants on our team. We really thank them for their best efforts and wish them the best of luck in the future," he added.

With Shan United now lacking a main striker, officials immediately launched a search for a new striker that will be a good fit for the fix with the team, according to Shan United officials.

— Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

## Summer football course for kids concludes in Yangon

THE month-long summer football course (2/2018) conducted under the supervision of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) concluded yesterday morning with ceremonies and certificates, according to the MFF.

The football courses for children under the age of 18 began on 23 April on the artificial turf of the football academy of Yangon.

A total of 60 children from across Myanmar attended and completed the course, according

to the MFF.

"The courses are very nice, as the kids will get a lot of football skills and knowledge in the long summer holidays", said U Khun Zeyyar Aung Lin, the parent of children from Taunggyi, Shan State.

"All the children who passed the training courses were given course completion certificates and will return home with enhanced football skills", he added.— Lynn Thit(Tgi) ■

## Neymar returns to training with Brazil

**RIO DE JANEIRO** — Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar trained freely on Tuesday as Brazil began their preparations for the World Cup in Russia.

Neymar has not played since suffering a cracked fifth metatarsal in his right foot in late February. He underwent surgery in the Brazilian city of Belo Horizonte on 3 March and is now in the final phase of his recovery, according to Brazil's medical staff.

The 26-year-old was put through a series of routine physical tests before completing an hour of ball work at Brazil's Granja Comary training base in Teresopolis, near Rio de Janeiro.

Neymar is expected to step up the intensity of his training in the coming days. Brazil national team doctor Rodrigo Lasmar has said the former Santos prodigy is on track to be in peak condition for Brazil's first World Cup match against Switzerland on 17 June.

Brazil will warm up for the tournament with friendlies against Croatia and Austria on 3 and 10 June. Despite his long injury layoff, Neymar scored 28 goals and provided 16 assists across all competitions for Paris Saint-Germain this season following his record 222 million-euro transfer from Barcelona in August.—Xinhua ■

## Arsenal name Unai Emery as new boss

**LONDON** — Arsenal announced former Paris Saint-Germain coach Unai Emery as their new boss on Wednesday, handing him the daunting task of revitalising a club that has slipped well behind their Premier League rivals.

The Spaniard, who won the domestic treble with PSG this season, emerged as the shock favourite to replace Arsene Wenger earlier this week after it had appeared former Arsenal captain Mikel Arteta was in line to land the job at the Emirates.

Wenger departed at the end of the season following a 22-year reign, with the club finishing sixth in the Premier League — 37 points behind champions Man-

chester City — and failing to qualify for the Champions League.

Arsenal will be wary of the turmoil at Manchester United after the departure of long-serving manager Alex Ferguson in 2013 but said the choice of Emery was unanimous.

"I am thrilled to be joining one of the great clubs in the game," Emery, 46, told Arsenal's website.

"Arsenal is known and loved throughout the world for its style of play, its commitment to young players, the fantastic stadium, the way the club is run. I'm very excited to be given the responsibility to start this important new chapter in Arsenal's history."

Chief executive Ivan Gazidis said the decision to appoint the former Valencia and Spartak Moscow boss had been unanimous.

"Unai has an outstanding track record of success throughout his career, has developed some of the best young talent in Europe and plays an exciting, progressive style of football that fits Arsenal perfectly," he said.

"His hard-working and passionate approach and his sense of values on and off the pitch make him the ideal person to take us forward."

Emery, 46, left PSG this month after winning Ligue 1 and four domestic cups in two



Unai Emery is the new Arsenal head coach. **PHOTO:AFP**

seasons in the French capital.

The Spaniard, who will be unveiled at a press conference at the Emirates later on Wednesday, will work in a head coach capacity at Arsenal.

It follows the appointments of Raul Sanllehi as head of football

relations and Sven Mislintat as head of recruitment over the past year. Before moving to France in 2016, Emery had a significant track record of success in Spain, winning three successive Europa League titles with Sevilla.—AFP ■