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Wednesday, 26 July 2017



A couple walking in downtown Yangon yesterday wear masks to protect themselves from contracting the H1N1 virus. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Two dead from H1N1 Public urged to follow precautionary advice

Two more people, one of them a 29-year-old pregnant woman, died after contracting H1N1 influenza in Yangon, on the day the government confirmed that more than a dozen people had contracted the virus known as

swine flu, officials said yesterday. Health officials said a 25-year-old man and a 29-year-old pregnant woman died on Monday after being admitted with what appeared to be pneumonia symptoms to separate

hospitals in Yangon. Lab tests later showed that the two died of H1N1 virus infection.

"The two people who died are not the three patients who are receiving treatment at the hospital," said Dr Aye Ko Ko,

Medical Superintendent of the Yangon General Hospital.

The 25-year-old man was taken to Yangon General Hospital on Friday and died at 2 pm on Monday,

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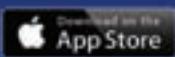
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Translation of colonial-era laws discussed at Pyithu Hluttaw

Thura Zaw, Mi Mi Phyo
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The translation into Myanmar of colonial-era laws written in English and still in use was one of the issues discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

Daw Khin Saw Wai, of Yathedaung constituency, asked whether there were any arrangements to translate laws written in English promulgated during colonial rule which are still in use into Myanmar.

U Win Myint, Deputy Attorney General, replied, "The motion ... was discussed in the Amyotha Hluttaw meeting held on 26th March 2014. Then, Amyotha Hluttaw approved to draft the bill for successful promulgation of the law forming a commission to translate existing laws written in English into Myanmar. According to the approval of Hluttaw, the Law Translation Commission had been formed strictly in the financial year 2016-2017. The Office of the Union Attorney General has been assigned to render the laws written in Myanmar into English, whereas he was not assigned to translate the bills to be submitted to Hluttaw



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

into English. Yet, the Office of the Union Attorney General will help to render the clause from English to Myanmar, provided that a parliamentarian would like to amend the existing laws written in English."

Afterward, U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency put forward a motion to discuss "Bill on Myanmar Traditional Medicine Council" at the Hluttaw, and U Soe San Thet of Myinmu constituency seconded. Then, U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced that it was transferred to Pyithu Hluttaw Drafting Committee.

As regards the important motion that the news release dated on 21st July 2017 issued

by Ms Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar was severely rejected submitted by Daw Thandar of Einme constituency, U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency said, "The present visit of Ms Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur, was the third itinerary at the time of the incumbent government, being the sixth of all her visits here. Yet, she never made a good report on Myanmar and her reports were found to become worse trip after trip. Though being an opposition party, we will stand for the incumbent government as the present matter is concerned with the national benefit. The former successive governments

tried their best to firmly stand in the United Nations mainly influenced by EU and OIC. Our country is a sovereign nation. Had the country obediently accepted pressure and resolutions without binding of UN or international organisations, the country would become the country as said by Bogyoke Aung San for sure. I hereby urge the government not to end the matter just by discussing in Hluttaw, instead to defend the national sovereignty and national interest via diplomatic channels. And I deeply support the motion of objection of the report of Ms Yanghee Lee."

Major Kyaw Zin Moe, Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw repre-

sentative discussed in support, "I deeply support that the news release on the wrong pretext of human rights over systematic solution on conflicts happening in Rakhine State by Myanmar government, dated on 21st July 2017 issued by Ms Yanghee Lee, Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar was severely rejected. For UN, local and international organisations to be able to rightly assess over situations on cooperation among the Government, the people and Tatmadaw, the Government, Hluttaw, the people and mass media need to cooperate with the Tatmadaw's attitudes and stance for the national security, with the spirits of patriotism and nationalism. And, Myanmar should draw and promulgate rules and laws on national security promulgated by international countries."

Regarding the important motion, U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs discussed the motion in support, with Hluttaw deciding to unanimously approve the motion.

The 34th meeting of the 5th regular session, 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw will be held on 27th July, it has been learnt. ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat receives Ambassador of China

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat received Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang yesterday noon at the deputy

speaker's office in Nay Pyi Taw. They discussed matters related to legal affairs, cooperation and bilateral relations.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U T Khun Myat holds talks with Chinese Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

Bill to amend Farmland Law tabled by Amyotha Hluttaw

Myo Myint, Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu tabled a bill to amend Farmland Law (2012) during yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw meeting.

Dr. Aung Thu explained that the bill was tabled to review weaknesses in the bill that make it less relevant to current situations.

A bill committee report on the bill was then read by committee member U Aung Kyi Nyunt and an announcement was made for hluttaw representatives who want to discuss the bill to register their names.

Earlier, questions by U Hla Myint @ U Hla Myint Than of Mon State Kyaukse constituency, Dr. Win Myint of Bago Region constituency 11, Daw Naw Sa Muhtu of Kayin State constituency 11 and U Win Maung of Magway Region constituency 6 were answered by Union Minister



Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin. PHOTO: MNA

for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe.

Afterward, Deputy Minister for Construction U Kyaw Lin responded to a question on city entrance, bridge and road usage tolls collected by Max Highway Company toll gate and Shwe Thanlwin Company toll gate in Bago Township, Bago Region.

Hluttaw representatives also discussed a bill to amend the Telecommunications Law, for which the Hluttaw Speaker decided to

have another hearing of the joint bill committee on the bill. Bill committee chairman U Zaw Min read the committee's report on a draft of Myanmar Gemstone Law 2017, and Amyotha Hluttaw farmers affairs committee member U Thet Naing Soe read the committee report on its progress during the duration of the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session. The Hluttaw asked that representatives who want to discuss the bill should register their names. ■

Media attendance to 54th Myanmar Gem Emporium

FOREIGN and local media representatives who wish to attend the 54th Myanmar Gem Emporium are encouraged to apply to News and Periodicals Enterprise, Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw by 27 July 2017.

The 2017 emporium will be held in Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on 2-11 August. Media personnel will be allowed entry to the emporium on 2-5 August. Emporium sales data will be released to the media on

the evening of 11 August at the Nawarat Ko Thwe Gate outside of Mani Yadana Jade Hall.

Application forms are available at the copyright and registration subsection of the Myanmar Foreign Correspondence Club. Inquiries can also be made at the News and Periodicals Enterprise phone 067-412125, 067-412126 or at the 54th Gem Emporium Management Committee phone 067-414497 and 067-414498.—MNA ■

Passenger vessel donated by Japan arrives in Myanmar

The second of the three ships donated by Japan arrived yesterday in Kyaukpyu.

Japan committed on 9 September 2016 to donate three coastal and riverine passenger ships to Myanmar.

Japan also agreed to provide two additional used vessels worth 500 million Japanese Yen and one new ship worth 1 billion Japanese Yen.

The Kissapanadi-1 vessel was transferred on 29 March

2017 and is currently operating in Rakhine State. The most recent donated vessel, Kissapanadi-2 will also operate in Rakhine.

Kissapanadi-2 was transported from Kobe, Japan, has an aluminum body, capacity for 80 passengers and a maximum speed of 25 nautical miles an hour. Kissapanadi-3 is under construction in Japan and will be transferred by the end of next year. It will also serve Rakhine.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Two more dead in H1N1 flu outbreak

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according to a statement released by the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday. The 29-year old pregnant woman sought treatment at the Central Women's Hospital on Monday and was transferred to Yangon General Hospital, where she died that afternoon. Three patients at Yangon General Hospital are being treated for Seasonal Influenza A-H1N1 infections. Their conditions are improving, according to the statement.

According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, 10 Myanmar residents contracted H1N1 in Matupi, Chin State, in July. A 6-year-old boy died of the illness, prompting many to don medical masks to protect themselves from contracting the illness.

The Ministry of Health and Sports held an emergency meeting on Monday in Nay Pyi Taw on the same day it announced preventive measures. The government called for calm after it was confirmed that a total of 13 patients were confirmed to have contracted H1N1 influenza in Myanmar.

The Ministry of Health and Sports urged the people to follow the instructions of the ministry to prevent infection and death.

In a separate announcement, the Ministry said yesterday that an outbreak of bird flu had occurred in Dawei, Taninthayi Region. More than 1,800 chickens were culled after the virus was detected last month at the farm in Dawei, 370 km southeast of Yangon.—GNLM ■



The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Department of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Director General Dr. Ye Myint Swe gives a speech at the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Working group meeting on 14th ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals

A working group of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Minerals met yesterday at the Royal Ace Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration Director General Dr. Ye Myint Swe gave an opening address. ASE-

AN senior officials on minerals discussed their nations' mineral sectors and took a commemorative group photo.

Afterward the participants discussed trade and investment in minerals, sustainable mineral development mineral information and database and capacity building in minerals. The meet-

ing was attended by officials from the Department of Mines, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation mineral sector officials, the Myanmar Federation of Mining Association. The next working group meeting will be held from 25 to 27 July.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Anti-Corruption Commission prosecutes officials over Ministry land deals

The Anti-Corruption Commission is taking legal action against four former officials of the Ministry of Home Affairs and others involved in buying and selling property owned by the Ministry of Industry.

The former ministry officials include U Pyone Cho, current Commissioner of Kayin State General Administration Department and former Permanent Deputy Secretary, Police Lt- Col Kyaw Zeyar, Deputy Director U Kyaw Ye Tway, and U Myo Khaing, the Staff officer

of Sagaing District General Administration Department. Other people involved include Police Lt- Col Kyaw Zeyar, Kyaw Zeya. U Kyaw Naing Soe and U Nay Myo Htun, both of whom represented the landowner are also facing charges of bribery, impediment and blackmail.

The victims who live in Kamayut and Yankin Townships, respectively, lodged a complaint against the guilty party to the Ministry of Home Affairs, which referred the case to the Anti-Corruption Commission.

The commission discovered U Pyone Cho had been using his administrative position to influence his personal agendas.

The guilty party is being prosecuted under the Anti-Corruption Law 2013, Law No.56 and the Anti-Corruption Law 2013, Law No. 56/64.

U Kyaw Ye Thway is currently on the run and is wanted under the Anti-Corruption Law 2013, Law No.56/64 Penal Code No.512 at the Yangon Region High Court yesterday.—Myanmar News Agency ■

40 per cent of medicines in the market not be reliable

By May Thet Hnin

According to Food and Drug Administration (FDA), illegal, below standard, generic and non-prescribed medicines made up 40 per cent of the market.

Dr. Theingi Zin, director of FDA said anti-biotic and pain relief drugs made up most of the illegal and below standard medicines.

"These medicines are very dangerous and cause side effects. As they are illegal and not up to standard quality, they are not reliable. As our people could

not afford to go to hospitals and clinics, they use these illegal and below quality/standard medicine not caring of side effects and ineffectiveness," she added.

Currently in Myanmar, there are over 10,000 licensed pharmacies and there were 25 cases of illegal and below standard quality medicine sales. When investigations are conducted, seven out of ten uncovers such illegal and below standard quality medicine sales. At present some cases of such sales in Yangon and Mandalay are undergoing trial in court and

when found guilty, licenses will be rescinded.

FDA had formed sub-committees in states and regions and as a first step the sub-committees are conducting spot checks and providing medical knowledge. Warning will be given to those found selling illegal and below standard medicines and they will have to sign an acknowledgement while such drugs and medicines will be confiscated. If they were found selling such drugs and medicine again, action will be taken while license will also be rescinded. ■

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Denmark to donate US\$5 million for mangrove conservation project

THE Denmark government will donate US\$ 5 million for a mangrove conservation project in Taninthayi Region and Rakhine State, according to the Forestry Department under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The project will be implemented in Myeik Town in Taninthayi Region and Sittway and Kyaukpyu townships in Rakhine State with the Forestry Department, the Fisheries Department and local NGOs, said a Forestry Department official.

"Currently, we are just drafting a proposal. So, we will conduct a field inspection during the first week of August," the officials said.

The Forestry Department and the local organisations are also conducting awareness training courses to protect mangroves in coastal villages.



Local residents fishing at mangrove forest in Bogale, Ayeyawady Region. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

"Mangrove resources are declining because of being used as firewood and the proliferation of fish farms. We need to conduct mangrove conser-

vation which can protect local people who are living near the coastal areas from natural disasters," said U Tun Paw Oo, an environmental conservation

scientist.

There are over 500,000 hectares of mangroves across the country in Myanmar. —Min Thu ■

Myanmar to export anti-venom to Cambodia

MYANMAR will export to Cambodia snake-bit anti-venom currently being manufactured by the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (MPF), in Insein Township in Yangon Region, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory formerly known as Burma Pharmaceutical Industry opened in 1957.

"Currently, we are making arrangements to export

ant-venom injections to Cambodia through our embassy," said Dr. Aung Zaw, the general manager of Myanmar Pharmaceutical Industry in Insein. "We are also talking with the Food and Drug Administration from Cambodia. We want to make sure that our anti-venom vials can combat the snakebites in Cambodia – the species of the snakes from Myanmar, Thailand and Cambodia are very similar."

Cambodia lacks the technical resources to produce anti-venom, the doctor said, and so has relied upon Indian anti-venom.

However, Indian anti-venom is only partially effective as many snake species in Cambodia and India are different. Thailand, which has snake species similar to Cambodia is producing more effective anti-venom for Cambodia, Dr. Aung Zaw said.

The state-owned Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory manufactures about 100,000 vials of anti-venom annually, more than the Ministry of Health and Sports mandate of 80,000 vials. At full capacity, the factory can manufacture about 200,000 vials of anti-venom annually.

Anti-venom vials sell for about Ks 39,000 per vial and expire after three to five years.—GNLM ■

Fire destroys homes in Mingalar Taungnyunt

A fire destroyed six apartments in Kyidaw staff quarters belonging to the Railways Police Force at the corner of Maha Thuka and Kwet Thit roads, Kyidaw ward in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township yesterday.

The fire started around 10:27 am at the house of U Ye Win Naing, 28, while he was away from home.

Investigators allege he used a gas oven with the elec-

tricity cut off.

Then, he left the house without switching off the gas oven.

The fire was brought under control at 10:48 am by firemen and neighbours. No one was injured in the accident but the estimated cost of the damages is Ks1.56 million.

The police have filed charges of negligence against U Ye Win Naing.—Kyaw Soe Moe ■



Outbreak of fire destroyed homes in Mingalar Taungnyunt Township. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE MOE**



File photo shows an aerial view of downtown Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

Public warned of fraudulent real estate deals

An article in yesterday's edition of City News warned against unscrupulous real estate agents attempting to sell fraudulent deals.

The article warned against forged documents and recommended that all real estate records be verified at the respective township's Urban and

Housing Development Department and Development Committee offices.

The article also warned against real estate salespeople who say the grant document was lost and that a new one is required. Oftentimes, this is a scheme in which fraudsters will attempt to sell a property to two

buyers simultaneously.

The article mentions that fraudulent real estate schemes are often part of an organized conspiracy of several individuals and that authorities act against them only when there is a complaint. However, there is no dedicated real estate fraud investigation unit.—GNLM ■

Raw materials, Myanmar's main import, widens trade deficit

RAW materials comprised Myanmar's largest import, with a value of US\$2 billion as of 14 July, an increase of \$610 million compared to last financial year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Total imports between 1 April to 14 July were estimated at \$5.32 billion, \$850 million more than the same period last year.

Import increases, sluggish domestic production and cur-

rent exports of \$3.55 billion during the same period are driving Myanmar's current trade deficit of \$1.76 billion.

Government sector imports were estimated to be worth \$221 million, compared to private sector imports valued at \$5.1 billion.

Consumer goods and capital goods imports have also increases. Capital goods import hit \$1.97 billion while import of consumer goods reached \$1.25 bil-

lion. Chemical, fertilizer, rubber raw materials, industrial paper products, cement, rail machines and associated equipment, vehicles and auto parts, ships and ship machinery, tractors, mobile phone and telecommunication equipment, computer and electronic devices, construction tools, wire appliances are imported into Myanmar through border trade and sea route.—Ko Khant ■

India pea production drives Myanmar exports to three-year low

Increasing domestic production of pulses in India has sent Myanmar pulses export prices to a three-year low, according to statistics collected from Bayintnaung Market, one of Yangon largest agricultural hubs.

Mung beans are Ks770,000 per ton – less than one-third of a record high price in 2015 of Ks2,456,000 per ton; and simi-

larly, pigeon peas are Ks595,000 per ton, which was Ks1,645,000 per ton during the same year.

Historically, India has accounted for as much as 70 per cent of Myanmar pulses exports. Smaller export markets include China, Viet Nam and European Union countries, but India has, until now, been a valuable export market for

Myanmar's poor quality pulses, which suffer from a lack of fertilizer, irrigation, processing and other value-add measures.

Myanmar peas are mainly grown in Sagaing and Magway regions and last financial year recorded an export volume of 1.43 million tons, according to the Commerce Ministry.—Mon Mon ■

Myanmar sterculia gums fetched the highest price

Myanmar sterculia gum (locally referred to as saekalamat) prices have reached record highs in recent years due to rising overseas demand, according to a report of City News, yesterday.

The prevailing price of Myanmar sterculia gums was Ks35,000 per viss (about 3.6 pounds) for high quality, medium quality gum is worth about Ks20,000 a viss and lower quality

gum sells for Ks15,000 per viss.

Myanmar sterculia gums are primarily sold in China, Thailand, Japan, South Korea and India. The gums are used as ingredients in snacks, cosmetics, pharmaceuticals and industrial sectors. The gum is also used for traditional medicinal purposes.

Sterculia crops are grown in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions.—GNLM ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖုန်းဖြင့် ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါပြီ

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သည့်

<p>မေတ္တီယံ ပြည်ထောင်စုအဖွဲ့အစည်းများမှ အချုပ်ပိုင် (၇) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော သတင်းစာများကို ဝယ်ယူနိုင်ပါသည်။ (ဖုန်းဖြင့်) ဖုန်း - ၀၉၅ ၄၀၂ ၂၀၀၀</p> <p>မေတ္တီယံ မေတ္တီယံ သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း) မေတ္တီယံ သတင်းစာတိုက်မှ မေတ္တီယံ သတင်းစာကို ဖုန်း - ၀၉၅ ၃၆၀၄၈၊ ၀၉၅ ၃၆၀၂၉</p> <p>ရန်ကင်း The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ မြောက်ဦးလမ်း၊ ဝမ်းသာလမ်း၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၀၀၀၅၅၂ ၂၀၅၅၅၅၅၅ ၂၃၀၀၄</p> <p>မန္တလေး လမ်း (၂၃ - ၂၄) ကြား (၁၂ - ၁၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲလမ်း၊ မေတ္တီယံ သတင်းစာတိုက် ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃ ၂၂၂၅၁ ၂၃၂၅၅၀</p> <p>တောင်ကြီး မေတ္တီယံ သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၀၁ ၂၁၂၀၆၄ ၀၅၅၂၀၄၅၅၅</p> <p>မကွေး မကွေးတိုင်း၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ မကွေးလမ်း၊ မကွေးမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃ ၂၅၅၀၂</p> <p>ကျိုင်းတုံ မြို့တော် (၃ - ၁) အမှတ် (၁) လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၀၄ ၂၂၅၅၂</p>	<p>တောင် တောင်မေတ္တီယံ သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ တောင်မေတ္တီယံ သတင်းစာတိုက် ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃ ၂၂၀၃၃</p> <p>မန္တလေး အမှတ် (၄၁) မေတ္တီယံ သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ မန္တလေးမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄ ၂၂၄၆၂</p> <p>မော်လမြိုင် မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃ ၂၃၀၆၀</p> <p>ဟင်္သာတ ဟင်္သာတမြို့၊ ဟင်္သာတမြို့၊ ဟင်္သာတမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၀၂ ၂၃၀၆၇</p> <p>ညောင် ညောင်တန်းမြို့၊ ညောင်တန်းမြို့၊ ညောင်တန်းမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၅ ၄၂၀၀၃</p> <p>မော်လမြိုင် မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇ ၂၂၅၀၅ ၀၅၇ ၂၂၅၀၆</p> <p>ရန်ကင်း ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၅၅ ၀၇၁ ၂၆၅၅၃</p>
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India swears in Ram Nath Kovind as 14th president

NEW DELHI — Ram Nath Kovind was sworn in on Tuesday as India's 14th president, becoming the first member of a powerful Hindu nationalist movement to assume the highest public office in the world's largest democracy.

The 71-year-old's elevation also boosts the representation of his Dalit community, which ranks at the lower end of India's ancient caste hierarchy, potentially helping Prime Minister Narendra Modi extend his voter base in a 2019 general election.

Kovind, a veteran politician and lawyer with a previously low profile, is a long-time member of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, or National Volunteers' Association, a grassroots movement that also helped launch Modi's political career.

Opposition leaders accused Modi of using the presidential



India's new President Ram Nath Kovind inspects an honour guard after being sworn in at the Rashtrapati Bhavan presidential palace in New Delhi, India on 25 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

race, which Kovind won easily in an electoral college last week, to further a divisive agenda through which, they say, he

wants to redefine India as a Hindu-first nation.

In a speech at his swearing in Kovind, however, praised In-

dia's diversity, saying it was "the core that makes us so unique".

"I bow to the (1.25 billion) citizens of this great nation and

promise to stay true to the trust they have bestowed on me," Kovind said in parliament's central hall.

India has around 200 million Dalits, previously known as untouchables, and many suffer social deprivation and economic exclusion.

Kovind's rise caps a series of top appointments backed by Modi — including naming a hardline priest to lead India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh — that tighten the grip of the Hindu right on key public offices. India's constitution foresees a largely ceremonial role for the president, with the prime minister and his cabinet holding executive power. But the president has a key role during political crises, such as when a general election is inconclusive, by deciding which party is in the best position to form a government. — Reuters ■

Former Thai PM Yingluck questions junta move to freeze bank accounts

BANGKOK — Former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra on Tuesday questioned a move by Thailand's military government to freeze her assets in relation to a \$1-billion fine it imposed over her government's rice buying scheme.

Yingluck, whose administration was ousted in a 2014 coup, was banned from politics for five years in 2015 after a mili-

tary-appointed legislature found her guilty of mismanaging the rice scheme. Yingluck denies she is guilty. Her supporters accuse her opponents of political persecution and the courts of bias in frequently ruling against Yingluck and her family members.

Last year, a state-appointed committee recommended she pay a fine of 35 billion baht (\$1 billion), or about a fifth of the 178

billion baht it said the schemes cost the state in 2012 and 2013.

The justice ministry on Monday began freezing several of her bank accounts. She had filed a court petition to revoke the action to freeze her bank accounts, saying the move was unlawful.

"The government has chosen to go ahead with it because they think they have the power to do whatever they want, with-

out even waiting on the court's decision on my injunction request," Yingluck wrote on her official Facebook page, vowing to continue the fight to prove her innocence. Yingluck is fighting a criminal charge of alleged negligence over the rice scheme, with the Supreme Court due to give its verdict on 25 August.

"This action creates a condition that could influence the Supreme Court decision on the rice case," Yingluck wrote, referring to the criminal case.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha warned Yingluck's supporters against gathering outside the court for the verdict.

"If people want to come on their own, then that's OK, but enticing others is illegal," he added.

Yingluck's Puea Thai Party swept to power in 2011 in part by appealing to rural voters with the rice buying scheme, which eventually saw her government buy rice from farmers at up to 50 percent above market prices.

It thus amassed grain stockpiles of 18 million tonnes, which the military government has been trying to offload since 2014. — Reuters ■



Ousted former Thai prime minister Yingluck greets her supporters as she leaves the Supreme Court in Bangkok, Thailand on 21 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Viet Nam jails dissident 9 years for propaganda against state

HANOI — A court in Viet Nam jailed a prominent dissident for nine years and gave her five years of probation for spreading propaganda against the state, her lawyer said on Tuesday, in what appeared to be the Communist-ruled country's latest crackdown on critics.

Despite sweeping reforms to its economy and growing openness to social change, including gay, lesbian and transgender rights, Viet Nam's Communist Party retains tight media censorship and does not tolerate criticism. Blogger Tran Thi Nga was found guilty at a one-day trial in the northern province of Ha Nam, six months after being arrested for posting the offending material on the internet, lawyer Ha Huy Son said.

"This is an unfair verdict," he said. "Nga is not guilty as stated by the court."

The charges against Nga are "bogus", said New York-based Human Rights Watch. — Reuters ■

Pyithu Hluttaw unanimously denounces UN envoy's rights report

THE end-of-mission statement by UN Human Rights Special Rapporteur Ms. Yanghee Lee was denounced in yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw session by a unanimous vote.

The motion to denounce the report dated 21 July was put forward yesterday by parliamentarian Daw Thandar.

Ms. Yanghee Lee criticised the government's restrictions imposed on her recent 12-day trip to Myanmar as well as the government's inaction on alleged abuses in conflict areas.

"I have to say I am disappointed to see the tactics applied by the previous government still being used" she said during the press conference on 21 July in Yangon at the conclusion of her visit.

In response, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin said the incumbent government has inherited numerous issues including armed conflicts, differences in political viewpoints, slow all-round development

and poverty. He said they are building trust between the different societies and trying to turn many differences into a driving force for resolving these issues.

The Union Minister said he agrees with the motion since at such a critical point in time it is disruptive to the connection between the different societies when the focus is given to the human rights of just one society.

He said the government is giving priority to the national reconciliation process and the peace process which will bring peace and stability, development and democracy to the people which in turn will end the human rights issues from armed conflicts. He suggested firmly that it would be of more use to cooperate with the government rather than to lay blame.

U Kyaw Tin said they gave thought to constructive criticism to practically deal with the situation of the country. He said the government



U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.
PHOTO: MNA

favours a communicative approach as opposed to direct confrontation in matters of human rights. He said cooperation with the UN is a foundation in Myanmar's foreign policy and there has been cooperation with successive UN Special Rapporteurs

for Human Rights in Myanmar since the previous government's administration.

Ms. Yanghee Lee has served as the UN envoy since 2014 and has made three visits in the previous government's administration and three more in the

current administration, including her 12-day visit from 10 to 21 July 2017.

Ms. Yanghee Lee's mandate was extended another year in the 34th regular session of the UN Human Rights Council, continuing her role in watching human rights issues in Myanmar.

"She demanded to visit Rakhine, Shan and Kayin states and the government allowed her to visit the three states. But the government did not allow her to visit some areas out of concern for her security and because she gave us short notice," said U Kyaw Tin.

"The government made arrangements for her to meet Union ministers and authorities from the states and regions," he added.

He continued to say that the government was disappointed with the Special Rapporteur's end-of-mission statement, as it contains many sweeping allegations and a number of factual errors and for her failure to facilitate

the discharge of her HRC mandate.

The statement also contains unconfirmed information and allegations and she did not reflect the clarification of the authorities over the allegations.

"It is found that there is no fairness and balance in the statement, but bias," said the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs.

Her failure to mention the challenges the government is striving to overcome in its efforts to promote development and communal harmony in Rakhine State and the threats posed by the extremists shows that she neglects the actual situation in the state, said U Kyaw Tin.

He added that UN Human Rights Rapporteur should understand the challenges that Myanmar is facing as they strive to promote human rights for its peoples while the country is moving towards democracy peacefully, he said.—Thura Zaw, Mi Mi Phyto (Myanmar News Agency) ■

Flood Bulletin

(Issued at 13:00 hr M.S.T on 25-7-2017)

(1) Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water levels have exceeded by about (2) feet at Hinthada and about (1½) feet at Zalun above their respective danger levels. The water levels may fall about (½) foot during the next (2) days and may remain above their respective danger levels.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas in Hinthada and Zalun Townships, to take precaution measure.

(2) Flood condition of Sittoung River

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water level has exceeded by about (2½) feet at Maduak above its danger level and the water level may remain above its danger level during the next (4) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying area in Maduak, to take precaution measure.

(3) Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (12:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water levels have exceeded by about (3) feet at Ngathaing Chaung and about (1½) feet at Thabaung above their respective danger levels. The water levels may remain above their respective danger level during the next (5) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas in Ngawun River to take precaution measure.

(4) Flood condition of Toe River

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water level has exceeded by about (½) foot at Maubin above its danger level and the water level may remain above its danger level during the next (3) days.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying area in Maubin Township, to take precaution measure.—Meteorology and Hydrology Department

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) towards the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The IDA N° of the financing agreement is N° H814MM. The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this financing towards eligible payments under the Purchase Order/Contract G-57 for the supply of Waterproof Raincoat and Backpacks with NCDD project Logo. DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Reference Number: G 57 – Water Proof Rain Coat with project logo and Backpacks with project logo

Reference No.	Lot N°	Item N°	Description	Quantity
G-57	1	1	Waterproof Raincoat with project logo	2,200
	2	1	Backpacks with project logo	2,900
Supply to (Project Sites)			Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw, 15 Regional Offices and forty seven (44) Township Offices spread over the National Territory.	

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below and clearly indicate the reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive an INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest at the dead line of **Thursday 17 August 2017 at 10:00 am Myanmar time.**, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in 2(two) contracts. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011. Please submit your Expression of Interest for receiving the Invitation to Quote (ITQ) to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw. For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409071/ Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com. Please indicate your e-mail address as only electronic copies of the ITQ will be send. For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

Peace Process and Need for Reassessment

Khin Maung Oo

IT has been learnt that the situation on the implementation of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and Peace Process are being re-assessed by representatives from 8 armed ethnic groups, signatories of the NCA, as of 20th July 2017.

The NCA (Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement) was signed on 15th October, 2015 by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and armed ethnic groups, and unanimously approved by the First Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 8th December 2015. Since the NCA had been inked for one year and nine months already, there may be a need to reassess the effectiveness of the NCA and whether the NCA has been easy to implement on a practical basis or not.

The major effect of the NCA was

none other than the fact that armed conflicts between the Tatmadaw and the 8 national ethnic armed groups had almost disappeared. It became possible for the people living in the border areas savor the taste of peace and stability. As the Myanmar-Thai border areas gained peace and stability, the Thai authorities have expressed their satisfaction. As a result, trade between the two countries increased more than ever and it has been possible to open more border gates.

The more important thing was that political dialogues at the national level were successfully held, according to the peace process included in the NCA. The results of political dialogues at the national level in 3 States and 3 Regions were submitted to the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong. Based on the results, 45 facts on the

5 sectors—economy, politics, land resources, social affairs and security were submitted to the UPDJC for discussion and 37 of them were approved. They were signed and approved by representatives as the first phase of the Union Agreement.

Yet, since the implementation of the NCA covers the entire peace process, there may be difficulties and inconveniences. Especially matters on JMC (joint monitoring committee), matters on demarcation between both sides and working instructions may have detailed problems. In addition, both sides are required to respect and acknowledge the duties of liaison offices opened by both sides, and simultaneously they are responsible for taking special care so as not to deviate from the facts included in the original agreements in implementing the NCA.

Though some agreements have been reached at the 2nd Panglong Conference, there are still many matters left to be accomplished according to political guarantees and processes included in the NCA. Since the inclusion of organizations which should take part in future conferences is related to the results of the successful implementation of the NCA, there is a need to make constructive assessments of the NCA.

Presently, enthusiastic efforts of the government over the internal peace process, eagerness and willingness of the Tatmadaw and national ethnic armed groups may bring about optimistic attitudes. Accordingly, I wish to submit that the ease of practical implementation experienced in the peace process would result in good effects over the entire peace process. ■

Myanmar Sayings based on money with sagacious advice

By: Tommy Pauk

WE, Myanmar say the power and usefulness of money in different ways. Myanmar words for money are Paik-San (ပိုင်ဆံ) and Ngwe (ငွေ). The word “Paik-San (ပိုင်ဆံ)” is colloquial and the word “Ngwe (ငွေ)” is formal in Myanmar language. The word Paik-San (ပိုင်ဆံ) is derived from a Hindi word “Paisa”. Myanmar word “Ngwe (ငွေ)” means silver, a precious metal. During the eras of successive monarchs in Myanmar, gold coins (ရွှေဒင်္ဂါး), silver coins (ငွေဒင်္ဂါး) and bronze coins (ကြေးဒင်္ဂါး) were made from the mints to be used as money in the country. A formal term for money in Myanmar language is “Ngwe (ငွေ)” which stands for all forms of things used as money made from the mints. All legal tender notes and coins are called Paik-San (ပိုင်ဆံ) or Ngwe (ငွေ) in Myanmar.

In this article, some of Myanmar sayings based on money and sagacious advice on how to use or handle or earn money in connection with Myanmar sense and concept have been depicted especially for those readers who are foreigners. Transliteration of Myanmar sayings are also given properly.

We, Myanmar use similes for money in human life in order to describe more vividly on the usefulness and power of money. In Myanmar society, there are Myanmar sayings and sagacious advice on using money like English expression “money makes everything”, money talks and money does not grow on tree’ etc.

The power of money is used in same sense by different people in

different societies. Since barter system is no longer used, the people around the world use money as an exchanging tool for buying things and developing social status. We the modern humans regard money as the most essential thing for our living in modern society.

“ငွေမရှိစကားမတည်” (Ngwe-ma-shi-sa-gar-ma -ti) Some persons are lack of money and they never keep their promise or their words (Myanmar sense). In other words, some people seem like not keeping their words or promise when they lack money.

Another Myanmar saying is “ငွေရှိမှလူရာဝင်” (Ngwe-shi-hma-lu-yar-wun) and which implies that if we haven’t got any money, we cannot attain social acceptance. Normally, we ostracize the people who are poor or lack of money.

Extravagant or profligate use of money is regarded as use of abundant water. In other words, a person who spends a lot of money as if it is water. “ငွေကိုရေလိုသုံးတယ်” (Ngwe-ko-yay-lo-thone-tair) In this regard, those who are extremely rich can afford to spend money like using water.

ငွေများတရားနိုင် (Ngwe-Myar-Ta-Yar-Naing) is meant to describe that when the poor plaintiff encounters the corrupt judges for some case and does not obtain the correct judgment, we usually say that the more money you bribe, the correct judgment can be obtained. This saying indicates the rickety judiciary in the society and reveals the biased judges who took bribed money from the accused and plaintiff as well. This saying also shows the disapproval of the corrupt act of

judges.

အချိန်ကို ငွေနင့်ဝယ်၍မရ (A-chane-ko-ngwe-hnint-ware-lo-ma-ya). This Myanmar saying means that we cannot buy “Time” with money. This concept is absolutely true not only in Myanmar society but also in any other societies. This is a sagacious advice as well. This saying analyzes that we cannot purchase “Time” with money indeed. Time is precious and it cannot be measured with money indeed.

“ပိုင်ဆံကို တရားသဖြင့်ရှာဖွေပါ” (Paik-san-ko-ta-yar-the-phyint-shar-phawy-bar). This means that we all must earn money in honest way so that we cannot get trouble in life. If we earn money dishonestly, we will certainly face trouble. This sagacious advice is very helpful for us to attain both secular benefit and spiritual merit.

“ပိုင်ဆံသုံးတာလက်မဖွာနဲ့” (Paik-san-thone-tar-let-ma-phwar-net) This is a sagacious advice meaning “Don’t spend money freely”.

“လူမိုက်နှင့်ငွေ အတူမနေ” (Lu-mike-hnint-ngwe-a-tu-ma-nay). The meaning of this saying is similar to that of English saying; “A fool and his money are soon parted”. Stupid people spend their money carelessly and soon become poor.

“ငွေတွင်းနက်တယ်” (Ngwe-dwin-net-tae) When we come across with very difficult situation in earning money, we usually say this phrase. Literal meaning is; it is a deep money-well and not easy for us to get money from it.

“လူမသေငွေ မရှား” (Lu-ma-the-ngwe-ma-sha) means “As long as one breathes, there is no dearth of money”.

This is a sagacious advice implying that man is capable of earning money when he is alive in good health.

“ငွေလာလူရဲ့ သည်းခြေကြိုက် ဖြစ်တယ်” (Ngwe-har-lu-ye-thi-gyay-kyaik-phyit-tae) This saying indicates that money is something that meets man’s fancy. Generally speaking, money fulfills our physical needs and wants so we love to have money.

Above-stated sayings and sagacious advice based on money are significant in Myanmar language. In modern age, the role of money in our society is obviously important. We occasionally use these sayings in our daily life.!!!

We, Myanmar use similes for money in human life in order to describe more vividly on the usefulness and power of money. In Myanmar society, there are Myanmar sayings and sagacious advice on using money like English expression “money makes everything”, money talks and money does not grow on tree’ etc.

Life jackets given to students in Rakhine State by Charity 500

STUDENTS in Rakhine State who travel to school on boat will be given life jackets, according to Police Captain Win Zaw, leader of the philanthropic group Charity 500 in



The life jackets will be provided to students in Sittway, Kyauktaw and Minbya Townships. **PHOTO THAKKA**

Sittway. Charity 500 is comprised of Sittway airport police, airport staff and taxi drivers who saved Ks 500 per month flood relief and other charitable services.

The life jackets will be provided to students in Sittway, Kyauktaw and Minbya Townships by the end of the month. Charity 500 bought more than 200 life jackets with their own funds.

They are also collecting additional donations to buy a total of 500 life jackets.

Rakhine State is a coastal state crisscrossed with many rivers and creeks, where many people rely on waterways for transport. —Myint Maung Soe/ Aung Kyaw Oo ■

U Myint Swe appointed as Non-Resident Ambassador to Republic of South Africa

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myint Swe, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Zimbabwe.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Public Announcement for remonstrance

Public of Labour Party headquartered at No. 1148, Set Hmu Leiyar Road, Ward No.45 in Dagon Myothit (North) Township, Yangon Region, submitted an application for registration as a political party in accord with the Section 5 of the Political Parties Registration Law on 25-7-2017. In their application they mention that they will use the name, the flag and the emblem as described hereunder.

In accord with Section 14 (d) of the Political Parties Registration Rules, it is hereby announced that those who want to remonstrate with the UEC about the party's name, flag and emblem may submit a complaint along with the supporting evidence within seven days starting from issuance of this announcement. —Union Election Commission ■



Party Flag



Party Logo

Fugitive nabbed in Maungtaw

SECURITY forces caught a fugitive wanted on kidnapping charges near ZinpineNyar Village in Maungtaw Township. The fugitive, Swedul-la-Main, was apprehended after an interrogation by security forces revealed he was involved in the kidnapping of two men from Fukarli Village in November 2016. Police are continuing the investigation. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives Qatar Ambassador

CHAIRMAN of the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann received the Ambassador of Qatar to Myanmar in the Hluttaw building yesterday.

During their meeting, they discussed the situation in the Persian Gulf. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with Qatar Ambassador yesterday. **PHOTO:MNA**

Ks 1,000 and Ks 2,500 stamps to be sold

NEW Ks1,000 stamps showing a Myanmar xylophone (pattala) and Ks2,500 stamps depicting a Myanmar harp (saung) will be sold starting on 27 July, 2017, according to the Ministry of Transport and Communications. The Ks1000 and Ks2,500 stamps will be available at all post offices in all regions and states. Stamps bought on 27 July at the Central Post of Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon Post Office and Mandalay Post Office will be stamped with a post date. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Two arrests linked to recent assault rifle seizure case

MYANMAR security forces arrested on 23 July two additional suspects allegedly connected to a 19 July seizure of 22 assault rifles in Thazi Township, Mandalay Region. Investigators searched a car allegedly used by the two suspects and discovered dynamite and 12 detonators. —MNA ■

The new suspects, identified as Aung Soe Min, also known as Ko Soe and Than Hlaing were arrested at the Grade One Hotel, Ward 4, Myawady, Kayin State.

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 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

US House seen passing Russia sanctions bill limiting Trump's power

WASHINGTON — The US House of Representatives is expected to vote overwhelmingly on Tuesday for a bill that would slap new sanctions on Russia, Iran and North Korea, potentially complicating President Donald Trump's hopes of pursuing improved relations with Moscow.

The bipartisan measure aims to punish Russia for its 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine and for alleged interference in the 2016 US presidential election. The measure's fate in the Senate is uncertain after a key senator said the deal announced over the weekend may not be final.

Republican Senator Bob Corker, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, told reporters that negotiators had a "very good weekend" but any announcement "seemed somewhat premature."

"We're about there, there's still some procedural issues we're discussing but, you know, I think it worked out very, very well. We've still got a couple of things to talk about on North Korea," Corker said.

If the Republican-led Senate passes the measure, Trump will need to decide whether to sign the bill or veto it. Rejecting it would carry a risk that his veto could be overridden by lawmakers.

The Trump administration has objected to a provision in the sanctions bill that the president obtain congressional approval before easing any sanctions on Moscow.

"He's going to study that



Senior Adviser to the President Jared Kushner arrives to speak to the media outside the West Wing of the White House in Washington, US on 24 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

legislation and see what the final product looks like," White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders told reporters on Monday, when asked whether Trump would support it.

An earlier version of the bill, including sanctions on Russia and Iran, passed the Senate by 98-2 on 15 June. A North Korea sanctions bill passed the House by 419-1 in May and House lawmakers were becoming increasingly impatient with the Senate's failure to take up that legislation.

House members saw the Iran and Russia sanctions bill as a chance to finally get the North Korea measure through

the Senate.

Trump's relationship with Russia has been an issue during the first six months of his presidency as investigations continue into whether his associates colluded with Russian hackers to influence the election on his behalf.

Russia denies interfering in the US election. Trump has denied his campaign colluded with Moscow, calling the probes politically motivated and repeatedly criticizing them.

In a series of tweets early on Tuesday, Trump lashed out at both US Attorney General Jeff Sessions and Andrew McCabe, acting director of the

Federal Bureau of Investigation. Without offering evidence, Trump cited "Ukrainian efforts to sabotage" his presidential campaign in order to aid his former Democratic rival, Hillary Clinton.

Jared Kushner, Trump's son-in-law and senior White House adviser, will visit Capitol Hill for a second straight day to be interviewed about his contacts with Russian officials during the 2016 campaign and the presidential transition.

Trump on Tuesday praised Kushner, saying he had done "very well yesterday in proving he did not collude with the Russians."—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Trump blasts US attorney general, questions Ukraine role in US election with no evidence

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump on Tuesday continued to blast the investigation into alleged Russian meddling into last year's US election, slamming his attorney general for not investigating his presidential rival in the race and raising questions, without offering evidence, about Ukraine's role.

In a pair of early morning tweets, Trump said US Attorney General Jeff Sessions had "taken a very weak position" toward former Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton and cited "Ukrainian efforts to sabotage Trump campaign - quietly working to boost Clinton!"—Reuters ■

No need for early election in Poland - deputy speaker

WARSAW — Poland's ruling coalition, dominated by the Law and Justice (PiS) party, will not break up, and there is no reason to hold an early election, parliament's deputy speaker said on Tuesday.

"I don't see a risk of that, at least for now," PiS lawmaker Ryszard Terlecki told reporters when asked about signals from PiS's junior coalition partner, Polska Razem, that it may support President Andrzej Duda's vetoes to two flagship PiS judicial reform bills.—Reuters ■

China says its intercept of US surveillance plane was legal, necessary

BEIJING — China's Defense Ministry said on Tuesday that its pilots actions were legal, necessary and professional after two Chinese fighter jets intercepted a US Navy surveillance plane over the East China Sea at the weekend.

The ministry said in a statement that the US plane threatened China's national security, and urged the United States to immediately cease such military activities.—Reuters ■

Kremlin: US arms supplies to Ukraine would set back peace efforts

MOSCOW — Any US decision to supply Ukraine with lethal weapons would set back peace efforts and escalate tensions, the Kremlin said on Tuesday.

The Kremlin was referring to an interview given by US special envoy on Ukraine,

Kurt Volker, to Britain's broadcaster BBC, in which he said that Washington was actively reviewing whether to send weapons to help those fighting against Russian-backed rebels.

The Kremlin said a possi-

ble delivery of US weapons to Ukraine could destabilise the situation along the frontline in the east of the country.

"We have already said more than once that any action which escalates tension ... and further aggravates the

already complicated situation will only move us further and further away from the moment of settling this internal issue of Ukraine," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a conference call with reporters.—Reuters ■

Yemen cholera epidemic slowing after infecting 400,000

GENEVA — Yemen's cholera outbreak is set to hit 400,000 cases on Tuesday but there are signs the three-month-old epidemic is slowing, according to World Health Organization data analysed by Reuters.

A dramatic fall over the past month in the number of people dying from the disease each day — from about 30 to single figures — suggests the WHO's strategy of setting up a network of rehydration points to catch patients early is working.

Cholera, which is spread by ingestion of food or water contaminated by the *Vibrio cholerae* bacterium, can kill within hours if untreated. The deaths figures indicate that 99.5 per cent of patients now survive in Yemen, where a devastating civil war and economic collapse has left millions on the brink of starvation.

"We are confronted with the vicious circle where war destroys (the) water distribution system, water is not available or contaminated and people are infecting themselves," ICRC President Peter Maurer said during a visit to Taiz governorate on Tuesday.

"To cope with the crisis we need a fundamental change in attitude and behavior of the bel-

ligerents," an ICRC statement quoted Maurer as saying.

The latest WHO situation report showed 396,086 Yemenis were thought to have caught the diarrhoeal disease by 24 July, about 1 in 50 of the population. There were 1,869 associated deaths.

New cases are continuing at between 5,000 and 6,000 per day, but the epidemic curve shows that the outbreak peaked about three weeks ago, according to the WHO.

Such epidemics normally see as many cases after the peak as before, however, and the International Committee of the Red Cross has predicted that the number of people affected will have hit 600,000 people by the end of 2017.

The cholera outbreak has prompted the UN to revise its humanitarian assessment and it now calculates 20.7 million Yemenis are in need of assistance, up from the previous figure of 18.8 million. Cholera is also spreading in Somalia, Kenya, Congo, Nigeria, Tanzania and South Sudan, where the WHO is about to start a vaccination campaign with 500,000 doses of oral cholera vaccine.—Reuters ■

Libya's PM, eastern commander set to commit to ceasefire, election — draft

CELLE-SAINT-CLOUD, France — Libya's Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj and the divided country's eastern commander Khalifa Haftar are set to agree to a conditional ceasefire and to work towards elections, according to a draft statement emailed by French President Emmanuel Macron's office.

The two men, who are due

to meet Macron in the afternoon, agreed to commit to use force only for counter-terrorism, according to the statement, which the Elysee later said had been sent prematurely and was only a working document.

They are set to commit to working for elections as soon as possible from 25 July under UN supervision.—Reuters ■



Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan addresses members of parliament from his ruling AK Party during a meeting at the parliament in Ankara, Turkey on 25 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turkey's Erdogan rails against "agents", fuelling Germany dispute

ANKARA — President Tayyip Erdogan stoked a dispute with NATO ally Germany on Tuesday, warning of Western agents "roaming free" in Turkey and telling those who threaten the country with embargoes to be ready for the consequences.

Relations between the major trading partners deteriorated after Turkey arrested 10 rights activists, including a German, three weeks ago as part of a wider security crackdown since last year's failed military coup.

A Turkish prosecutor has accused them of links to the network of Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, whom Ankara blames for the attempted coup in July 2016. The US-based Gulen denies any involvement.

"Westerners want their agents to roam freely in our land while they hurt our people," Erdogan told lawmakers from his AK Party at a meeting in parliament.

"Those who say it is the

judiciary's business when it comes to the terrorists they harbour in their own country turn things into diplomatic crises when we catch their agents red-handed."

Turkey accuses Germany of sheltering Kurdish and far-leftist militants as well as people linked to the abortive coup. Berlin denies the accusations.

Germany has increased pressure on Turkey in the past few days, threatening measures that could hinder German investment there and saying it is reviewing Turkish applications for arms projects.

Ankara has sought to limit fallout from the row, dropping a request for Germany to help it investigate hundreds of German companies it said could have links to terrorism. Erdogan said Germany companies investing in Turkey did not face difficulties.

"If you think you can scare Turkey with embargoes, you

must first be ready for much bigger consequences. Are you sure you know who you are hitting?" he said.

Tensions with Germany were already running high after the arrest of a Turkish-German journalist and a pullout of German troops from a Turkish air base.

Erdogan has repeatedly lashed out at European countries including Germany in the past, accusing them of "Nazi-like" tactics when they prevented Turkish ministers from addressing rallies of expatriate Turks in Europe called to drum up support for the April 2016 referendum vote that expanded his powers.

He drew on a fresh historical reference in his broadside on Tuesday. "Those who carried out history's most merciless, bloody, vicious massacres during the first and second world wars should not lecture us on humanity," Erdogan said.—Reuters ■

Air strikes, shelling strain Moscow-backed Damascus truce

BEIRUT — Air strikes killed at least nine people in the Eastern Ghouta area near Damascus overnight and insurgent shelling from the rebel-held area landed near the Russian embassy on Tuesday, a war monitor reported.

The fighting strained a Russian-backed truce in the area. The Syrian military declared a cessation of hostilities there on

Saturday. Russia, a military ally of President Bashar al-Assad, said it had deployed military police in the Eastern Ghouta on Monday to try to enforce a de-escalation zone it said it had agreed with the Syrian opposition there.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the deaths in the air strikes in the Eastern Ghouta town of Arbin marked the

first civilian casualties since the truce came into effect.

Further air strikes targeted the area on Tuesday morning, wounding four people, the Observatory said.

The shelling near the Russian embassy marked the first time rebels had hit government-held areas of central Damascus since the truce began.

The Observatory said the overnight air strikes wounded 30 people. The Civil Defence for rural Damascus, a rescue service operating in the area, said the dead included five children and two women.

In a statement on its Facebook page, it put the number of wounded and missing at 50. The air strikes hit the area at 11 pm

(2000 GMT), it said.

There was no immediate comment from the Syrian military on the report, and no mention of air strikes by state media.

Witnesses said three mortar shells landed in the neighbourhood where the Russian embassy is located in northeastern Damascus. There were no reports of casualties.—Reuters ■



A Canadair firefighting plane drops water to extinguish a forest fire on La Croix-Valmer from Cavalaire-sur-Mer, near Saint-Tropez, France on 25 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Wildfires lay waste to hillsides along French Riviera

NICE/MARSEILLE, France — Firefighters battled wind-whipped infernos along the French Riviera coast on Tuesday as the flames torched vegetation on hills overlooking glitzy Mediterranean resorts thronged by summer holidaymakers.

Local authorities said several firefighters were injured and one hospitalised but there were no immediate reports of deaths, unlike with similar wildfires that have killed dozens elsewhere in southern Europe, notably Portugal.

One blaze that erupted late on Monday, near the Croix Valmer resort and the yacht-filled marinas of Saint-Tropez, sent clouds of thick smoke into azure skies within view of busy beaches. Authorities said that blaze had engulfed 650 hectares of land in one of several spots where fires prompted closure of parts of the local road network, a rail line and at one stage part of the A51 motorway in the southeastern corner of France.

Weather forecasters said strong winds would

persist for another day or two days at least, heightening the risk that even spots where firefighters were close to containing the flames could fall prey to another flare-up.

One of the blazes was thought to have been started by a bolt of lightning, but carelessly discarded cigarette butts are often blamed for setting tinderbox areas of the midsummer southern coast alight.

Another fire that scorched at least 800 hectares of land in the picturesque Vaucluse region

further inland was believed to be under control on Tuesday morning, local firefighters said. But a further blaze was meanwhile ripping through swathes of hillside on the island of Corsica that lies off the French coast in a corner of the Mediterranean near Italy. Upwards of 1,400 hectares of forest and woodland had already been destroyed by fire by Monday night, when a small number of people in the village of Mirabeau and a dozen horses were evacuated to safety, authorities said.—Reuters ■

Russia completes first stage of 5th-generation fighter jet's trials

ZHUKOVSKY (Moscow Region) — Russia has completed the first stage of the state trials of the fifth-generation PAK FA (Perspective Airborne Complex of Frontline Aviation) fighter jet (T-50), Aerospace Force Commander-in-Chief Colonel-General Viktor Bondarev said on Thursday.

“Today is an historic event — a preliminary conclusion has been signed at the MAKS airshow on the state joint trials of the first stage of the T-50 aircraft prototype. We are now switching to the second stage of trials. Also, we have received a recommendation on be-

ginning the manufacture of the plane's pre-production batch,” the Aerospace Force chief said.

United Aircraft Corporation (UAC) Head Yuri Slyusar said at the MAKS-2017 international airshow on Wednesday that the pre-production batch of T-50 fifth-generation fighter jets would equal 12 planes. The T-50 (PAK FA) is Russia's fifth-generation fighter, which took to the skies for the first time in 2010. It was earlier reported that the serial production of T-50 fighters would begin in 2017 and it would enter service with the Russian Aerospace Force.—Tass ■

Spanish policeman hurt, man with knife arrested on Morocco border

MADRID — A man was detained on Tuesday after attempting to cross the border between Morocco and the Spanish enclave of Melilla while threatening police with a knife.

The man, believed to be Moroccan, approached the border at Beni Enzar at 7:35 am and shouted “Allahu akbar” (God is Greatest) before he was brought down by police. One policeman was cut on the hand during the

incident.

In close circuit television footage, the man, dressed in a blue shirt and white shorts, is seen walking across the border, waving the knife. Spanish police keep their distance before one officer runs up behind him and knocks him to the ground by striking him on the head with a white traffic bollard.

Once felled, the man is tackled by several police and detained.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (178)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (178) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT 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 YANG MING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P 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 NEW GLODEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC S'PORE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC S'PORE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.7.2017 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

Online TV channel gives voice to intellectually impaired people

TOKYO — A group of Japanese with intellectual impairments have launched an internet broadcasting station of their own to have their voices heard and offer people opportunities to learn more about those with disabilities.

“Pansy Media,” based in Higashiosaka, western Japan, broadcasts an online TV programme once in a month, with many cast members and production staff having some kind of intellectual impairment.

The 50-minute programme, which began in September last year, offers news and documentaries, as well as a feature called “my history” in which a person talks about his or her personal background. Each time, a dozen people participate in shooting.

Pansy Media is being run with support from the city-based social welfare corporation Soshien that manages group homes and workshops.

The plan to set up the internet broadcasting station, the first of its kind



Photo taken on 15 June, 2017, by photographer Miki, shows a program recording by intellectually disabled staff of Pansy Media in Higashiosaka, Osaka Prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

in Japan, dates back to 2001, when disabled people who use those facilities and staff members visited Sweden and saw their counterparts producing an information magazine and radio programs.

Inspired by the activities, they started preparing to set up an internet broadcast station in February last year, backed by the president of a video production company.

While they were rehearsing for a shooting of a drama episode depict-

ing abuse of residents at a care facility, a shocking incident occurred in July of that year — 19 residents at a care home for people with intellectual impairments were killed by a former employee of the facility in a city near Tokyo.

Satoshi Uematsu, who has been indicted in the mass-killing in Sagami-hara in Kanagawa Prefecture, told police he wanted to “save” those with multiple disabilities and felt “no remorse” for what he did.

“We didn’t choose to

have intellectual disabilities,” “Don’t we deserve to live?” — in the wake of the stabbing rampage, the members of the broadcast station added these two lines to the drama script.

Yoshinori Umehara, 42, a producer with cerebral palsy, said, “Media often feature the voices of parents or supporters, but not so much of the people with intellectual disabilities themselves.”

Once again, Pansy Media produced a program featuring the Sagami-hara stabbings this month.

Yoshimi Hayashi, a 67-year-old head of Soshien, said she was surprised by how the cast changed after making appearances in the online program.

They started to speak up positively as if they were letting out feelings that had been kept inside, Hayashi said. “It brought awareness to facility staff too, like, ‘I didn’t know you were thinking like that.’”—Kyodo News

Mumbai building collapse kills at least eight, many feared trapped

MUMBAI — A 40-year old four-storey building collapsed in the Indian city of Mumbai on Tuesday, killing at least eight people with more than 20 feared trapped, fire and police officials said.

“Search and rescue operations are still on,” said PS Rahangdale, chief fire officer of the Mumbai Fire Brigade, adding two firemen were injured during the rescue operation.

A total of 16 people had been rescued so far, he said.

The ground floor of the building in the suburb of Ghatkopar housed a nursing home, which was vacant at the time, while the rest of the building was occupied by three or four



Firefighters and rescue workers search for survivors at the site of a collapsed building in the suburbs of Mumbai, India on 25 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

families on each floor, he said.

In 2013, 145 people were killed in three separate building collapses

around Mumbai, on the western coast, the highest in recent years.

In the eastern city of Kolkata, a portion of an al-

most century-old building collapsed killing two people and some were feared trapped, media channels reported. —Reuters

Indonesia speed boat capsizes, killing at least 10 — police

JAKARTA — A speed boat capsized off Indonesia’s Borneo island on Tuesday, killing at least 10 people with several others believed missing, police and rescue officials said.

Indonesia’s search and rescue agency said in a statement that 40 people were estimated to have been on board at the time of the accident off North Kalimantan province.

“For the time being the number of people on board is still an initial estimation. There could be people who are not on the manifest. We

are waiting for people who may be reported missing by family members,” a search and rescue official said.

There have been several accidents in the waterways between Indonesia and Malaysia. In November, more than half of the 101 passengers aboard a boat died after it hit a reef and sank off the Indonesian island of Batam, south of Singapore. Four months earlier, a boat sank while en-route to Batam. Malaysian authorities recovered eight bodies and rescued 34 people.—Reuters ■



Rescue team personnel stand on a boat as they try to save the victims of capsized boat in Tarakan, North Kalimantan, Indonesia on 25 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Announcement of transferred two pesticides to distribute in Myanmar

AgroStar Pte.Ltd. Singapore had trusted Min Mahaw Co., Ltd. in Myanmar to distribute our mentioned two pesticides since 2013. But we would like to transfer these two pesticides from Min Mahaw Co., Ltd. to Asian Crops Global Co., Ltd. at the following address to distribute in Myanmar market. Therefore, please contact with Asian Crops Global Co., Ltd in Yangon whenever necessary in regard with under mentioned two pesticides in the future.

Asian Crops Global Co. Ltd,
No 49/A, Thirimingalar 2 Street,
8-Ward, Kamayut Tsp., Yangon
Mobile No. 09420 131708

Sr.No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Packing Sizes
1.	G-Amin 15 T	Gibberellic acid 15% Tablet	5 gm/ tablet
2.	BUDO 505 EC	Chlorpyrifos 50%+ Cypermethrin 5%EC	500 cc, 1 Litre

AgroStar Pte. Ltd
Singapore 179098

Announcement of mentioned one pesticide as soles distributor in Myanmar

InterCrop Group of Company Thailand, under licensed manufacturer, name is Agforepax Industries Co., Ltd. has trusted Min Mahaw Co. Ltd. at the following address to distribute our mentioned one pesticide as a soles distributor in Myanmar market.

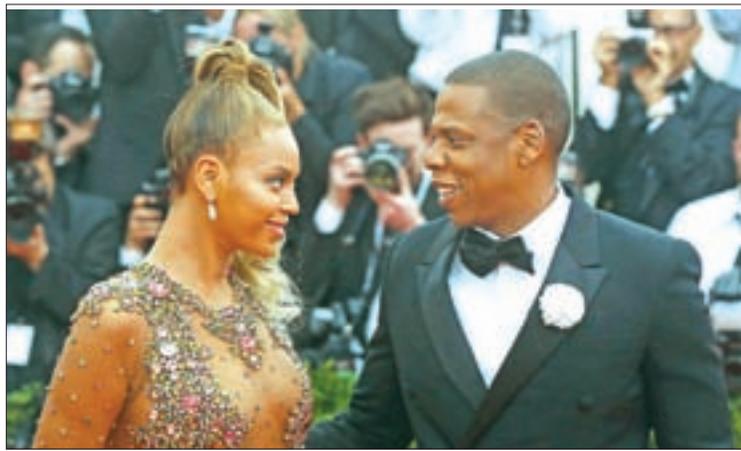
Therefore, please contact with Min Mahaw Co., Ltd. in Yangon whenever necessary in regard with under mentioned one pesticide in the future.

Min Mahaw Co., Ltd
No 49/A, Thirimingalar 2 Street
8-Ward, Kamayut Tsp., Yangon.
Tel: +95 1 501070, Fax : +95 1 536 127

Sr.No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Packing Sizes
1.	JACKET	Abamectin 1.8%EC	100cc, 500cc, 1Litre

InterCrop Group Of Co., Ltd.
Thailand

Jay-Z reigns Billboard chart, Linkin Park sales surge 461 per cent



Beyoncé arrives with husband Jay-Z at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala 2015 celebrating the opening of "China: Through the Looking Glass," in Manhattan, New York, US on 4 May, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Jay-Z ruled the Billboard 200 album chart for a second straight week with his confessional album "4:44," while California alt-rock band surged back into the Top 20 after the suicide last week of frontman Chester Bennington.

Jay-Z's "4:44," in which he admits and regrets cheating on his wife Beyoncé, sold another 86,000 copies, according to data from Nielsen SoundScan on Monday.

Linkin Park's May release, "One More Light," soared 461 per cent for the week to land in

17th place on the Billboard 200 chart with more than 22,000 copies sold.

Bennington, 41, hanged himself in his southern California home on 20 July and the band canceled its North American tour. The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Rapper Kendrick Lamar held onto the No 2 spot with another 55,000 copies sold of "Damn." after 14 weeks on re-

lease, while Moroccan-American hip hop artist French Montana debuted at No 3 with new release "Jungle Rules."

On the digital songs chart, which measures online single sales, Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi's summer blockbuster "Despacito" featuring Justin Bieber continued its reign at No 1 with another 117,000 copies sold in the United States.

"Despacito" last week smashed global records as the most-streamed music track of all time with some 4.6 billion plays.—Reuters ■

Justin Bieber cancels rest of 'Purpose' tour without explanation

LOS ANGELES — Pop singer Justin Bieber on Monday canceled the remainder of his "Purpose" world tour citing "unforeseen circumstances" but gave no specific reasons.

The cancellation will affect 14 dates in North America and Asia through 10 October. Ticket holders will get refunds.

"Justin loves his fans and hates to disappoint them," his tour publicist said in a statement. "... However, after careful consideration he has decided he will not be performing any further dates."

Bieber, 23, made no comments on his social media platforms. Celebrity news website TMZ.com cited a source as saying Bieber had decided to cancel because he was "just over it."

His mostly young female fan base, who call themselves

"Beliebers," expressed disappointment but many were concerned that the Canadian singer might be sick and offered their support.

"I am worried about you. I hope you're okay. Stay strong Justin," tweeted a fan called Claire.

"THANK U JUSTIN FOR PURPOSE TOUR. You have my biggest respect. We still love you so so much," said another fan, Nadine, tweeting from Austria.

Bieber was photographed at the weekend out hiking near Los Angeles with a young woman and appeared to be in good shape.

Bieber started the tour in support of his "Purpose" album in March 2016 and has performed more than 150 shows across Europe, Africa, South America, Australia and parts

of Asia. The tour has grossed more than \$256 million, according to figures from music tour trade publication Pollstar.

The cancellation comes a few days after the singer was banned from performing in China due to bad behavior, Beijing's Municipal Bureau of Culture said. The state office said the singer needed to improve his conduct to become a singer "truly loved" by the public, without specifying what behaviour had caused offense.

Bieber has had run-ins with the law in several countries and has become notorious for a string of indiscretions and scandals in recent years.

He also shed the clean-cut image that made him a heart-throb among his fan base when he broke into the music scene on YouTube in 2008 as a 14-year-old.—Reuters ■



Daniel Craig. PHOTO: REUTERS

Next James Bond film set for November 2019, no word on 007 star

LOS ANGELES — James Bond is returning to movie theaters in November 2019, producers said on Monday, but they did not say who will play Britain's most famous fictional spy.

Eon Productions and MGM studios said in a statement that the 25th Bond film will be released in US theaters on 8 November, 2019, with a slightly earlier release in Britain.

They gave no title, casting or other details.

Britain's Daniel Craig has played Bond in the last four films, including 2012's "Skyfall" and 2015's "Spectre." The 2015 film took some \$880 million at the global box office, according to film tracker BoxOfficeMojo.com.

His reprisal of the role for a fifth time has been the subject of much speculation after the actor said in 2015 that he would rather slash his wrists than play Bond again.

Callum McDougall, the executive producer of the Bond film franchise, told Britain's BBC Radio last year that Craig, 49, was "absolutely the first choice ... We would love Daniel to return as Bond."

Meanwhile, actors such as Idris Elba, Tom Hiddleston and Tom Hardy have all been named as potential candidates to step into the fast cars and sharply tailored suits of Bond, MI6's secret agent 007.

With its futuristic gadgets, menacing super villains and larger-than-life explosions, the Bond series is the longest-running film franchise in history, with actors such as Sean Connery, Roger Moore and Pierce Brosnan inhabiting the role of the leading man.

The new film will be written by Neal Purvis and Robert Wade, who wrote the last four movies in the franchise.—Reuters

Game of Thrones' author teases two possible new books in 2018

LOS ANGELES — Author George RR Martin has hinted at the possibility of not one but two new "Game of Thrones" books in 2018, whetting the appetites of fans who have been waiting for the next installment of the epic saga since 2011.

Martin, whose "A Song of Ice and Fire" novels were adapted into HBO's hit medieval fantasy series "Game of Thrones," currently is working on the sixth installment, "Winds

of Winter," continuing the story from 2011's "A Dance With Dragons."

"I am still working on it, I am still months away (how many? good question), I still have good days and bad days, and that's all I care to say," Martin wrote on his blog, grmm.livejournal.com, during the weekend. "I do think you will have a Westeros book from me in 2018... and who knows, maybe two. A boy can dream..." he said.

The seventh season of the television show, which premiered this month, already has advanced beyond the events of Martin's published books.

There have been recent contradictory reports about "Winds of Winter" — that Martin had not even been started it or that he had finished it but was holding it back — and the author dismissed those as "equally false and equally moronic."—Reuters ■

Romance by Meliá Yangon

ON 5th and 6th August, Meliá Yangon in partnership with Signature, will organize two days exclusive wedding shows, featuring performances of bridal fashion show, wedding talk show, couple workout plan, wedding hair-do,

wedding makeup, wedding planning and decorative art.



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Meliá Yangon's wedding experience offers a variety of exclusive 2017-2018 packages to bring couples the most inspiring wedding for lifetime celebration from a stylish tea reception to a glamorous dinner party.

Engaged couples to choose from the tea reception packages; "Romance in Style", "Romance in Elegance" and "Romance in Glamour".—GNLM

Japanese treat themselves to grilled eels on annual eel-eating day

TOKYO — Many Japanese people treated themselves to grilled eels on the eel-eating day on Tuesday, likely with a softer impact on their wallets as eels are more reasonably priced than last year.



Eels are broiled at a restaurant in Osaka, western Japan on 25 July, 2017, as the day falls on "Doyo-no-ushi-no-hi," or the midsummer day of the ox, when Japanese customarily eat eels in the hope of beating the summer heat. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The domestic catch of juvenile eels rose early this year for the first time in three seasons, leading to a fall in the price of glass eels for cultivation.

In Japan, many people eat eel, typically grilled with sweet soy sauce, on the midsummer day of the ox following an old saying that consuming eels on that day helps in coping with the summer heat. This year the day of the midsummer day of the ox falls on Tuesday and 6 August.

On Tuesday, people flocked to famous eel restaurants and bought

cooked eels at grocery stores, with the Maruetsu supermarket chain selling one grilled domestic eel for 1,680 yen (\$15) in Tokyo, around 15 per cent lower than the previous year.

"The price is still a bit expensive, but it's a reward for the summer," said Mikiko Watanabe, a 36-year-old housewife, said while shopping.

Amid heightened concern over overfishing, however, some local governments in Japan have introduced regulations to protect adult eels that have yet to spawn eggs.—Kyodo News ■

Humble sack turns into Ivory Coast fashion accessory

ABIDJAN — An entrepreneur from Ivory Coast is hoping to score an international fashion hit by recycling the cloth sacks that the country uses to ship cocoa beans around the world.

Liliane Estievenart, 45, hit on the idea of turning the sacks into attractive bags with the stenciled slogan "Produce of Cote d'Ivoire - Cocoa" - a reminder that the West African country is the world's top producer of the commodity.

Estievenart created her first bag at the request of a clothing manufacturer, and has

since gone on to design a range of purses, leather-trimmed valises and other accessories using jute, the material used in the cocoa bags.

In the nine months since she left her old job as a sales associate, she says she has sold at least 600 of the bags as far afield as Gabon, Mauritius, Togo and Ghana. She also has plans to expand.

"There is a high demand by Ivorians, our brothers in the diaspora", she said. "I hope one day we distribute everywhere throughout the world." —Reuters ■



Ivory coast fashion designer Liliane Estievenart, 45, shows her bags inside her workshop in Abidjan, Ivory Coast on 22 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule			
(26-7-2017 07:00am ~ 27-7-2017 07:00am) MST			
07:03	Am	News	09:48 Am Philatelic Pleasure
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (EP-3) (Part-1)	10:03 Am News
07:51	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (EP-3) (Part-2)	10:26 Am An Ardent Aficionado of Traditional Design
08:03	Am	News	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
08:25	Am	Hanthawaddy U Win Tin: A Fearless Man (Ep-1)	(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
08:48	Am	Porcelain and Glass	Prime Time
08:54	Am	A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving	07:03 Pm News
09:03	Am	News	07:26 Pm A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-1)
09:27	Am	Chef Life: Zin Min Htun	07:47 Pm Grow Back For Posterity "The Dawn of Development"
09:35	Am	Product of Myanmar — Myanmar Circular Stone Slab	08:03 Pm News
			08:26 Pm Exquisite Myanmar Silk
			08:46 Pm The Art of Sand Painting And Its Creator's life
			(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
			(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
			(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
			(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

North Korea to forgo this year's summer beer festival

BELJIN — North Korea has decided not to hold a beer festival this summer for unknown reasons, according to a Beijing-based tourist company.

"Sadly today we have been informed that the 2017 Pyongyang Beer Festival has been cancelled," Koryo Tours, one of the leading agencies organizing regular tours to North Korea, said Sunday on its website. "The reason for the cancellation

is unclear and we don't expect full information to be forthcoming but it is possibly down to the ongoing drought in the country that has caused a great deal of trouble," it said.

The festival in Pyongyang was due to run from Wednesday to the end of August. A week ago, North Korea's official media was still reporting about the event, so the decision to call it off was likely made abruptly.—Kyodo News ■



Attendees to hockey final competition pose for the documentary photo. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

2017 Myanmar Hockey Federation Cup's final competition and prize awarding ceremony held

Ye Yint Shine

A final competition and prize awarding ceremony of 2017 Myanmar Hockey Federation Cup was held at Thein Phyu Sport Hall on yesterday evening.

Tatmadaw (Navy) and Tatmadaw (Air) teams met at the final match. Tatmadaw (Navy) defeated Tatmadaw (Air) with 3-1. After the final competition, a prize awarding ceremony was held. The chairman of Myanmar

Hockey Federation U Saw Lu Lu Htaw, vice-chairmen U Kyaw Kyaw Hlaing and U Zaw Win and officials gave champion cup and Ks 0.5million cash prize to the Tatmadaw (Navy) team, Ks 0.3million to runner-up team, Tatmadaw (Air) team and Ks 0.2million to third placed Yangon Command team and medals to each members of the three teams.

The best goalkeeper, Thet Ko Ko Oo (Tatmadaw - Navy),

the best defender, Hla Htun Naing (Tatmadaw - Navy), the best midfielder, Justin (women team), the best forward Si Thu Aung (Myanmar police force) and the total best player Sa Kaung Htet (Tatmadaw - Navy) were also awarded in the ceremony.

This tournament was held from 11 to 25 July and Myanmar women's national hockey team also participate in preparation for 2017 SEA Game.

Juventus sign Fiorentina striker Bernardeschi for 40 mln euros

LONDON — Juventus have signed promising Fiorentina forward Federico Bernardeschi on a five-year deal for 40 million euros (\$46.56 million), the Italian champions announced on Monday.

The 23-year-old joins Juventus having spent three years in Florence, scoring 11 goals in the last Serie A season, the youngest player to do so, and collecting nine caps for Italy. Bernardeschi, a versatile forward, was described by Juventus on their website (www.juventus.com) as one of Europe's "most promising attacking talents". "A new era is about to begin in Turin and Federico Bernardeschi is set to be a key part of it," the statement said.

He is the most expensive transfer for Massimiliano Allegri's side in the close season transfer window, as they look to build a side capable of winning a record seventh successive league title. —Reuters ■



Spain's Jonny and Italy's Federico Bernardeschi in action at the match of UEFA Euro U21 Championships Semifinals at Cracovia Stadium in Krakow, Poland on 27 June 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Bicycle Network Myanmar organizes collective Waso robe offering ceremony tour

Kyaw Zin Tun

BICYCLE Network Myanmar will hold a cycling tour from Yangon to Kyoe Gone village, Hlegu Township on 6 August to celebrate a collective Waso robe offering ceremony to mark the group's third anniversary.

Riders will gather at Shwe Kayhar teashop in Mingaladon Township. Check-in will be from 5:30am to 6:00am. The ride from

the teashop to Kyoe Gone village, Hlegu Township is about 60 kilometers. The bike tour is open to the public. The public is also welcome to offer Waso robes. The monastery will provide cyclists with lunch.

Tour organizers recommended brake, light and tire checks be conducted before participating. Anyone who wishes to participate is invited to join on that day.

Myanmar U-23 national team fails to qualify for championship tournament

Kyaw Zin Tun

MYANMAR will not advance in the 2018 Asian Football Confederation Championship tournament to be held in China from 9 to 27 January.

A total of 40 teams participated in AFC qualification matches held between 15 and 23 July and 16 of those teams – China, Oman, Iraq, Qatar, Uzbekistan, Palestine, Australia, North Korea, Malaysia, South Korea, Thailand, Syria, Vietnam, Jordan, Japan and Saudi Arabia – are advancing to the championship tournament.

Myanmar were ranked 18th and missed the cut by two

places.

The tournament of AFC U-23 Championship will be played the cities of Kunshan, Changshu, Jiangyin and Changzhou.

The 16 remaining teams will divided into four groups of four teams each and be seeded according to their performance in the 2016 AFC U-23 Championship final and qualification tournaments. China, as the host of the games, will automatically be seeded and assigned to Position A1 in the draw.

The top two teams of each group will advance to the quarter-finals.

Bournemouth defender Smith signs new four-year deal

LONDON— Bournemouth full back Adam Smith has signed a new four-year contract to extend his stay until 2021, the Premier League club said on Tuesday.

The 26-year-old has made 113 appearances for Eddie Howe's side since arriving at the Vitality Stadium from Tottenham Hotspur in 2014.

"When we first brought Adam to the club we believed he had huge potential," Howe said in a statement. "Adam has taken his opportunity, improved as a player and is an important member of our squad. "We're delighted he will stay with us and hopefully continue his progression further."—Reuters ■