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Ethnic Rakhine disembark from a boat that brought them from violence-plagued Maungtau to Buthidaung, Rakhine State. PHOTO: THEIN ZAW

‘Maximum restraint’ in countering terrorism: NSA

THE Union Government has a sovereign right to defend itself against terrorist acts, but the government would exercise “maximum restraint” in order to avoid collateral damage and casualties among innocent civilians, said National Security

Adviser UThaung Tun at a press conference in Yangon yesterday. Violence in northern Rakhine state has driven thousands of ethnic Rakhine people to Buthidaung and Sittway, while women and children from the Muslim community have fled toward the

Bangladesh border. The National Security Advisor called on all communities to cooperate with the government in its endeavours to restore peace and stability to the affected areas.

At the press conference, Union Minister for Home Affairs

Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe clarified the situation in Rakhine, saying that the ongoing attacks by the extremist terrorists indicate their goal to create an Islamic State in the Maungtau and Buthidaung area.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session holds its 52nd day meeting

Myo Myint, Mi Mi Phyoe
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

At 52nd day meeting held yesterday Dr U Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency put forward a motion urging the Union Government to keep DNA formation record that can be referred for each individual ethnic race.

As regards the motion, Major Htin Lin Oo, Tatmadaw Hluttaw Representative discussed in support, "Each and every one of the countries across the world, is conserving their own cultures. As for the Union with its own cultures and characteristics of the esteemed lineage, it is the national responsibility to make existences of national ethnic people and their cultures

to eternally survive.

It is the national responsibility to have DNA formation record registered, which can be referred for each individual ethnic race. It is also serving the responsibility for national security from the technical point of view. Some professionals under the Tatmadaw medical corps are working for DNA testing and research works in some countries, studying the subject and researches in overseas countries' universities.

The present motion has been found to have encouraged implementation of the work of having characteristics of national ethnic people born in the Union registered up to Genetic Level, by using cutting-edge technologies of the



U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population. **PHOTO: MNA**



Dr U Maung Thin of Meiktila constituency. **PHOTO: MNA**

modern age."

Also taking part in the meeting were U Saw Tun Mra Aung of Papun constituency, U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency, U Thein Tun of Kyaunggon constituency, Dr U Aung Khin of

Pyin Oo Lwin constituency and Major Win Min Tun, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative.

Over the discussions, U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population clarified and said that the

motion should be put on record.

In replying to the question raised by U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency in Bago Region, Dr Myint Htwe, Union Minister for Health and Sports said, "The Ministry of Health and Sports had not designated any principles to be appointed as director-general or rector in the Department of Myanmar Traditional Medicine. Instead, depending upon qualifications, integrity, service age, professional competence in the subject and working capacity, these posts are filled.

So anyone who is well qualified, will be appointed as director-general or rector. And, the vacant posts under the Department of Traditional Medicine have been appointed." ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Ministry, NGOs cooperating on education reform

Aung Ye Thwin, Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

At yesterday's meeting of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw, Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said the ministry is conducting educational reform by cooperating with Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) in sectors and sub-sectors.

The Deputy Minister was responding to a question by U Mahn Law Moug of Constituency 8 in Chin State on plans to reduce centralism in education sector and plans to promote and transfer teaching staff.

U Win Maw Tun said there are plans to "assign duties and responsibilities accordingly to responsible officials holding management duties in depart-

ments under the ministry at the state, region, district and township levels in order that they take on their duties and responsibilities more enthusiastically. Doing so is an important step in reducing centralism in the government".

The Deputy Minister added that the ministry is implementing the national education strategic plan (2016-2021) in accordance with the national education law and to successfully implement the national education strategic plan, new processes are required to strengthen existing management setup and systems while work procedures and processes need to be modified and changed.

"The Ministry understands the matters pointed out by the members of parliament, but in transiting from an old to a new



U Mahn Law Moug of Constituency 8, Chin State. **PHOTO: MNA**

system, there is a need for management and practices to be in line with the new system and it is best to transit to a new system only when everything is in place", the deputy minister said.

"According to the national education strategic plan and project stages, sector wise reforms were conducted and



Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun. **PHOTO: MNA**

township, district, state and region level duties and responsibilities were being transferred in stages to teaching and management staff, parents and locals and thus the matters raised by the members of parliament will also be conducted in stages," answered the deputy minister.

In a separate issue, U Khin Myo Win of Taninthayi Region constituency 12 tabled a motion urging the government to conduct proper inspections and record keeping of all landed fish at ports before sending it to processing plants or loading it on ships for export. In tabling the motion, U Khin Myo Win said the volume of Myanmar fishery and aquaculture exports are ten times less than that of neighbouring countries like Thailand and Viet Nam. The motion had originally been brought forward to ensure the long-term development of fishery and aquaculture resources in Myanmar and to obtain adequate taxes. Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced the Hluttaw's acceptance to discuss the motion after he obtained the decision of the Hluttaw. ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint holds talks with Mr Kozo Yamamoto in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

U Win Myint, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Mr Kozo Yamamoto and party

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Mr Kozo Yamamoto, a member of the House of Representative in the Diet and General Secretary of Japan-Myanmar Parliamentary Friendship Association and party at the guest house

of Hluttaw Premises in Nay Pyi Taw, at about 2:30 pm yesterday.

In the meeting, matters on upgrading Japan-Myanmar Friendship and joint co-operation, human resource development and legislation of Hlut-

taw were cordially discussed.

Also present at the meeting were U T Khun Myat, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw and responsible officials from the Office of Pyithu Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Central Committee for Confiscated Farmlands holds meeting

THE Central Committee for Reviewing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands held a meeting yesterday at the Ministry of Home Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

Chairman of the Central Committee, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, delivered the opening speech.

Attending the meeting were Vice Chairman of the Central Committee and Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Union Ministers Lieutenant General Sein Win, U Ohn Win, U Khin Maung Cho and U Win Khaing, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr. Myo Aung and chairmen of state and region level committees for reviewing confiscated

farmlands and other lands.

The Vice President said the Central Committee and the Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw met on 31 July 2017 and discussed the policies and framework of the Central Committee. They discussed on how to include members of the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Regional and State Level Hluttaw into the Central Committee.

The Central Committee said they had notified the various Hluttaw representatives in advance of including them in sub-committees on reviewing confiscated farmlands for each region and state. The Central Committee said there needs to be reports on surveying and re-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers an opening speech at the meeting of the Central Committee for Rescrutinizing Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

viewing confiscated farmlands. The central committee said they need to place importance on direct complaints signed by victims of confiscated lands and review complaints sent by representatives of the victims.

The Vice President then went on to say the Central Committee conducts meetings with state and regional Hluttaw

representatives and ministry officials to solve complaints of the confiscated lands. So far the Central Committee has solved cases from Mandalay and Bago regions, Kachin, Kayah, Chin and Shan states.

The Vice President said that the sub-committees need to issue official reports on land that has been returned to their owners

so as to raise public awareness.

U Tin Myint, Permanent Secretary of the Central Committee, presented the status of reviewing complaints of victims of confiscated lands and restoring ownership. Afterwards, the Vice President gave his overall remarks based on the presentations made.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Items provided by international organisations are found in terrorist hideouts. PHOTO: INFORMATION COMMITTEE

Terrorist hideouts discovered, items provided by int'l organisations found

SECURITY forces discovered six tents for shrimp pond guards about 1500 meters north of Kyeekyun outpost at 3 am on 28 August while on patrol as they saw the rays of torchlight and heard shouts of the ARSA extremist terrorists.

Energetic biscuits and empty packets of snack, empty cans of soft drink provided by WFP were found inside the suspected hideouts of ARSA extremist terrorists. The security personnel found two small wooden boats in a bush beside the prawn pond. Security

personnel on duty discovered polythene bags in the bushes by ARSA extremist terrorists at the foot of the mountain outside Koetankauk Village in Yathedaung Township at 11 am. Seven packs of different medicine, one USAID-branded rice packet, one WFP-branded rice packet, three IEDs made of steel rods, three remote sensors, three sacks of wires, 6 remote controls, three Panasonic-branded 9V batteries and 7 bullets of .303 rifle were confiscated.—Information Committee ■

‘Maximum restraint’ in countering terrorism: NSA

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He also explained that the police have been taking the principal role to protect the population, pledging that the security forces are taking care to carry out their duties in keeping with their code of conduct and the law.

In ongoing attacks on Monday, the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists burnt down more than 2,300 houses, according to the statement released by the information committee of the government.

“ARSA extremist terrorists planted improvised explosive

devices in the homes and set fire to the homes so that security forces would get injured when the IEDs exploded due to the fire,” said the statement.

There are challenges, especially providing health care to internally displaced people (IDPs), said Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, who visited ethnic Rakhine people who fled their homes and are currently being sheltered at IDP camps.

“It is important to send food to them quickly. We need to provide health care to them. And



U Thuang Tun, National Security Advisor speaks to the media and diplomats at a press conference in Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

we need to arrange to transport injured people to the hospital,” said the Union Minister in an exclusive interview with the Myanmar News Agency.

Daw Aye Aye Nyunt, a local resident of Mawyawady village, Maungtau Township, said although the terrorists were dressed in black and hid their faces she knows that they are from nearby villagers. “I grew up with the various people in the region, so I can tell,” she said. “There have been many deaths and casualties in our neighboring villages too.”—GNLM ■



A ship is crowded with ethnic Rakhine people who fled conflict areas. PHOTO: THEIN ZAW

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Seriously injured patients in ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks transferred to Sittway General Hospital

According to Sittway General Hospital, 5 patients who were seriously wounded in the attacks launched by extremist terrorists and currently receiving medical treatment at Maungtaw hospital were transferred to Sittway general hospital yesterday morning.

Dr Shwe Thein, Superintendent of State General Hospital, Sittway said, "Today, 2 in-patients and 3 out-patients from Maungtaw were transferred in a motor boat. We here in Sittway have had specialist medical doctors and a sufficient amount of drugs. All the patients who reached here were given out medical treatment free of charge, including medicines and surgical operations. If necessary, we accept all the patients transferred, as indoor or outdoor patients." After series of terrorist attacks, on 26th August 2 injured patients from Buthidaung hospital, one injured patient from Ponnagyun township arrived at the Sittway general hospital, while on 28th August, one injured patient from Buthidaung township, two from Yathedaung and



Injured civilians are seen on a ship on their way to Sittway. **PHOTO: THEIN ZAW**

on 29th August two injured and 3 out-patients from Maungtaw arrived at the hospital. All the patients have their wounds operated, it was learnt. At about 11 am on 28 August, personnel from Road Department had been wounded by a burst of the hand-made mine planted by ARSA terrorists, while riding on motor-bike nearby Koetangauk in Yathedaung township, receiving medical treatment at Sittway hospital, it has been learnt.

U Maung Thein Aung, su-

pervisor of road department who was receiving medical treatment at Sittway general hospital due to the attack by ARSA extremist terrorists recounted, "On my way from Koetangauk, our bike stepped over the hand-made mine planted by ARSA extremist terrorists. Shrapnel hit me on my head, my back and my hands. Out of four on the two bikes, only our bike was hit. The front one was completely unharmed. As soon as it took place, I ordered the bike rider to go straight to

Ah Ngu Maw port as quickly as possible. While shedding blood, we came straight to Sittway hospital, by boat from Ah Ngu Maw." Similarly, Ko Zaw Myo Aung, supervisor 2, Phaungtawpyin rural health department in Buthidaung township, who was wounded by the attack of ARSA extremist terrorists on 25 August said, "At about 2 am on 25 August, ARSA extremist terrorist attackers amounting to 100 made an armed attack over Phaungtawpyin police outposts, armed with swords, firearms and bombs. At that time I was sleeping at the police outpost. I was seriously wounded on my hand, with my leg slightly injured. Some police forces were killed in the attack. I was hospitalized to Buthidaung hospital and then transferred to Sittway general hospital."

Among the patients who were injured and hospitalized due to armed attacks from ARSA extremist terrorists, a police man named Thura Naing died of serious wounds at Sittway hospital.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Horse-cart driver takes the passengers to get around the ancient city of Inwa. **PHOTO: TEIN TAMAN**

Women operate horse carts for tourists in ancient city of Inwa

There are currently about 200 women operating horse wagons for tourists in Inwa, Mandalay Region.

The horse-cart gate is located in Ohtoktaw Ward and many operators are able to effectively communicate with

tourists as they have been taking foreigners for scenic rides for decades.

A horse-cart ride costs foreigners Ks 10,000 and tourists are welcome to take photos of the horse-cart drivers. Horse-cart drivers typically

make two trips per day.

Most of the rides feature four famous tourist sites in the ancient city. If tourists wish to deviate from their set route, it costs extra, said a woman horse-cart driver. — Tein Taman ■

Traditional textile exhibition to be held next month in Yangon

"Let Khat Than," an exhibition of Myanmar traditional hand-woven textiles will take place from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm, 5-10 September at the National Museum on Pyay Road in Yangon, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The exhibition is being organized by the British Council, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation the Embassy of Switzerland with support from the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture. Let Khat Than is following On the Line: New perspectives on Craft in Southeast Asia Exhibition in London, which was held in May 2017 in London. The London exhibition was organized by the Royal College of Art and featured crafts created by women in Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand. Let Khat Than exhibition is the first part of a three-year textile project. Seminars will take place on the first two days of the exhibition.—GNLM ■

Myanmar exports rice to Kenya

MYANMAR has begun exporting rice to Kenya, a major east African trade hub.

Between 12 and 19 August, Myanmar exported 875 tons of rice to Kenya.

During that week, Myanmar exported 37,574 tons of rice to Malaysia, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Singapore, Russia, the Philippines, South Africa, Kenya, Ghana, Madagascar, Togo and European Union countries.

Rice export volume increased by 13,114 tons over the previous week.

Despite these overall increases, broken rice exports declined.

About 8,900 tons of broken rice with an estimated value of \$2.2 million was exported to



Farmers plant rice seedlings in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Viet Nam, Singapore, China, Djibouti, Zambia, Madagascar and European Union countries.

This represented a decline of 3,882 tons compared to the previous week.

Trade along the China and Bangladesh borders was estimated at 24,517 tons.

China remains Myanmar's biggest rice export market. —GNLM ■

Growers from NyaungU grow Sterculia urens

STERCULIA urens is being cultivated by farmers in NyaungU, Mandalay, often in lieu of more traditional pulses varieties, as an experimental crop to hedge against recent fluctuations in the agricultural sector.

Sterculia urens is native to India and recently introduced

in Myanmar. The tree produces a gum that is used in a variety of medicinal and cosmetic products as well as in processed foods.

A viss ((3.6 pounds) of Sterculia gum is worth Ks25,000 to Ks40,000. —Ye Win Naing (NyaungU) ■

Record high gold price in Myanmar

May Thet Hnin

RISING global gold prices have driven Myanmar prices to a record high yesterday, according to the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association.

The price of gold in Myanmar reached a record high of US\$ 1,192 per ounce, com-

pared to the global price of \$1,318 per ounce.

U Kyaw Win, the secretary of Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association, said that on Monday - one day after North Korea conducted a missile test - the price of gold spiked in Myanmar by about one per cent.

So far this year, gold price has increased by a total of 10 per cent in Myanmar.

“Record high gold price cools the market,” said U Kyaw Win.

“Gold and jewellery shops do not rush to make transactions while observing market prices.” ■

Myanmar to standardize customs valuations and audits

MYANMAR has agreed to apply internationally accepted standards for customs valuations at ports of entry, according to a report in Myanmar Alin, yesterday.

“Custom duties based on World Trade Organisation customs valuations will start to be practiced in Myanmar,” said U Win Myint, director of Customs Department at the Un-

ion of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry last Friday. “Import duties will be assessed prior to departure at international airports and port terminals. In addition, post-clearance audits will be carried out in compliance to WTO rules.”

Post-clearance audits are used to establish national databases to verify and monitor

cross border trade.

The new system will require greater transparency and digitization by import and export companies, which will be required to keep accurate data for at least seven years. Myanmar is adopting the new customs standards, in part, to fulfill its obligations as a member of WTO. —Myint Maung Soe ■

Pilot programme to introduce systematic farming methods, seed bank, financing

A pilot project in Taikkyi and Hmawby townships in Yangon Region and DaikU in Bago Region will introduce scientific cultivation methods during its five-year term, according to a report of Myawady Daily, yesterday.

The project, which is being implemented by the Swedish non-governmental organisation, We Effect, the Agriculture and Farmer Federation of Myanmar (AFFM) and Cooperative Bank, includes technical and monetary

assistance to improve business practices, cultivation and processing methods.

The plan also includes establishment of a seed bank.

We Effect has agreed to link farms to a cooperative loan system. —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) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သည်

<p>နေပြည်တော် ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၈</p> <p>နေပြည်တော် နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသိမ်မြို့နယ်၊ ခရေပင်လမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉</p> <p>ရန်ကင်း The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၅၀၄၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၄၂၄၁၁၄</p> <p>မန္တလေး လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၁၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲခေ့ ရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၈၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၀</p> <p>တောင်ကြီး ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၄၅၇</p> <p>မကွေး နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ရေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၁၂</p> <p>တချင်းတုံ မြို့နယ် (၃-၁)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ တချင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၀၄၂၂၄၉၂</p>	<p>ကလေး အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃</p> <p>မြင်းကြီးများ အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေခဲရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်းကြီးများမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၄၆၂</p> <p>ဝင်းတော် ရေခဲရပ်ကွက်လမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိမိတော်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်ကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဝင်းတော်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈</p> <p>လားရှိုး ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဝင်းတော်မြို့၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇</p> <p>ခြောက် မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ခြောက်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃</p> <p>မော်လမြိုင် ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၇၂၇၂၆</p> <p>မုံရွာ နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေး တာဝါတိုင်အနီး၊ မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃</p>
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Strengthening Myanmar's banking sector is key to economic growth

Finance sector needs more training, technology, tax incentives, smart regulation and international assistance, says former Central Bank of Myanmar official

May Thet Hnin

Central to Myanmar's economic development is the reform of its finance sector and specifically its banking sector. Banks play a fundamental role in the transformation of market economies.

Recently the government has enacted a series of laws intended to reform and strengthen its banking institutions to restore investors' confidence and to make capital more accessible.

For a better understanding of Myanmar's banking sector, Global New Light of Myanmar interviewed U Than Lwin, former deputy-governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar. U Than Lwin was also a technical assistant to executive director of the International Monetary Fund and currently serves as a senior consultant to Kanbawza Bank Ltd.

Q: Please clarify the current situation of banking businesses operating in Myanmar?

The banking industry is the backbone of a country's economy. The sector is like the brain of a country's economy.

Myanmar had a vibrant banking sector before 1962. At that time, there were 14 foreign banks, 10 privately-run local banks and a state-owned bank that supported the country's economy. Nationalization of the banks stifled development of the sector.

After 2011, this kind of service business has been promoted in the country. The government has prioritized reform of this sector. The government amended existing financial laws and enacted new laws including the Foreign Exchange Management Law and the Financial Institutions Law. The significant thing is that the Central Bank became an independent financial institution after enacting the new Central Bank of Myanmar Law.

Myanmar can fix foreign currency exchange rates and the CBM reduced restrictions for private banks. It is hard to compete with foreign banks in the country even though the country developed strong financial laws for the sector.

Banking services including mobile banking, ATMs and other card systems are available but 50 years late. It is hard to make the sector to become stronger within a short time.

Q: What are the weaknesses in the banking sector? How can we reform?

The main point is that there is a lot of demand for skilled workers. To develop the country's banking sector, employees need better training.

Another point is that banks make money by lending money. Banks use real estate as collateral for loans, but the real estate market is cooling due to increased property taxes, so this has caused banks to reduce their real estate exposure and their willingness to provide loans.

The country needs to develop a new tax system to reduce tax evasion.

The third point is that we need to expand bank branches, from local to regional branches, step by step. Local banks need to cooperate with international banks to acquire technology and experience.

The last point is that advisory services play an important role in making correct decisions.

Q: How can the government help the sector? What kinds of supports does the sector need?

To develop the country's banking industry, the sector needs government support. For example, currently, local banks cannot grant long-term loans to those wishing to buy a low-cost apartment as the banks mostly receive short-term deposits from their clients. Local banks need government help to get international loans. We want the government to seek loans from foreign lenders. The private sector can also take loans from foreign bankers but the interest rates are too high. We definitely need government's support and protection if it grants foreign banks further business opportunities as the sector cannot compete with foreign banks right now.

The government should consider other ways to attract foreign investors. It needs to reduce tax



U Than Lwin, former deputy-governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

rates to support local businesses providing financing. If banking businesses cannot survive for a long term, it will directly impact finance companies and surely affect Myanmar's economic growth.

Communications is needed between the CBM, private banks and the state-run banks. It is necessary to meet frequently to discuss the real situation at the grassroots. The main point is to raise the capacity of the central bank.

Q: Foreign banks have already been allowed to run banking businesses in the country. Please explain the state of competition in the industry.

The government issued operating licenses to 13 foreign banks. These international bank branches are allowed to lend money to foreign investment companies. They are also allowed to lend money to local companies through local banks. They are restricted from providing retail banking and lending directly to Myanmar citizens in Myanmar kyats. Also, to lend to local companies, they will have to work with Myanmar banks.

This kind of license allows foreign bankers to open a branch in the country. Foreign banks' advantage is in paying interest on foreign currency deposits under CBM rules, while domestic banks are not allowed to pay interest on

foreign currency deposits. This has results in some clients taking their foreign currency to foreign banks.

Local banks have been allowed to open many branches nationwide. This is local banks' advantage.

Q: What is the impact of foreign banks on the performance of domestic banks and the country's economy?

No foreign bank enters without benefits. Myanmar, as the last frontier economy, has great opportunities for investment and growth. As a developing nation, there are lots of needs in every sector. The country receives financial assistance from the World Bank and the Asia Development Bank as well as other financial institutions. The financial sector will also be developed in the country. It will attract foreign lenders. The financial sector will promote the country's economy. There is evidence that a strong financial sector will improve the economy of neighbouring China.

The CBM plays an important role in regulating foreign banks. Currently, the CBM is weak in technology and human resources. It needs to develop its data infrastructures.

Q: Please explain the role of monetary system.

There are three main pillars in the monetary system. The first pillar includes banking, insurance

and gold. The second pillar covers capital markets like the stock exchange. And the third pillar is the commodity market. Myanmar does not yet have a commodity market.

The country needs to develop those three pillars to meet development targets. The country's banking system is still poor and has seen a little progress. To improve the country's banking system, it is necessary for the Central Bank to issue appropriate policies and to communicate with private bankers, getting ground truth information and determine solutions through negotiations and by seeking foreign assistance. This is how weaknesses in the domestic banking industry will be reduced.

It is essential to invite our skilled citizens to repatriate and support our national interests and to relax rules for permanent residence. India provides her citizens with dual citizenship, welcoming overseas citizens to come back to the country and stay as long as they can, while restricting their voting rights. There are many qualified Myanmar employees in international countries. Some of them have returned to motherland. The country can acquire technology and experience from them.

Q: Please discuss the foreign exchange rate.

A healthy banking industry can strengthen Myanmar's foreign exchange. It directly affects the exchange rate. Dollar prices will decrease when the value of Myanmar kyats rise in the market. The CBM cannot interfere in the exchange rate in the market as it doesn't have enough currency reserves as in other countries. The crucial thing is to grow the Myanmar's economy, its monetary sector and banking sector. This is the only way to develop the economy. People are suffering from high commodity prices due to the increasing value of dollars. The way to stabilize foreign exchange is to establish a tax incentive program to attract investors and encourage individuals and businesses to spend money in Myanmar. ■



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Solving Rakhine issue means not falling for extremists' trap

Khin Maung Oo

THE Terrorist group known as Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army-ARSA is unveiling its real image and committing atrocious deeds in various ways, having laid siege to small villages where local ethnic minorities reside, with firearms, swords and other kinds of weapons. These terrorists committed various crimes—killing innocent people, burning houses, shops and monasteries, planting mines and attacking border guard police outposts, security forces and police outposts. In launching their attacks, the terrorists have been found to have carried out well-planned strategies—choosing dates to commence attacks, using guerrilla tactics to fight and skillfully using digital media chan-

nels including social media such as Facebook and Youtube. It can be easily seen that they have already gained the attention of international media which would ultimately help them in their efforts to secure more funding and for recruitment of new followers who believe in their cause.

ARSA extremist terrorists attack local ethnic people in northern Rakhine State started in the years 1942-1943 during the period of the Second World War. In 1948, just after gaining Independence Mujahids staged an armed rebellion, during which many villages and many acres of farming lands fell into the hands of those terrorists. Henceforth, those terrorist attackers staged armed attacks in times of emergency or Government changes occurred in the coun-

try, seizing opportunities for their own selfish ends. Under the support of an Arabian-named organization, "Harakah al-Yagin," based in a country of power in the Middle East, the ARSA terrorist group launched terrorist armed attacks in northern Rakhine State, aiming at attracting international attention on northern Rakhine State, thus resulting in more international pressure on the Myanmar Government and the Tatmadaw. Their aim was also to exert influence over the area, stationing their military forces in the area and get rid of local ethnic minorities from that region.

The terrorists used men and children armed with weapons as human shields, making them attack security forces. The terrorists also burn down houses, shops and religious edifices.

Simultaneously, they have spread propaganda by disseminating fabricated news in English. They also used Twitter, which is being widely used by international leaders, celebrities and politicians. It has been found that some media in the country have written in a biased style and presentation, portraying that these events had been caused by race and religion.

Last but not least, the strategies of these extremist terrorists and targets seem to have been carefully chosen and expertly crafted to have lasting impact for several decades. Their influence can reach faraway places all over the world, so we must take care so as not to fall for the trap of terrorists in dealing with the issues of northern Rakhine State. ■

Asia's future farms

FOOD shortages are a distant memory for many people in Asia. But as the region struggles to feed and nourish a booming population, they could become a painful fact of life again.

Asia is already the world's largest food market, and by 2050 its population is expected to grow to 5 billion — an increase of 900 million people.

Owing to its expanding middle class, the region will likely account for half of the global increase in annual beef and poultry consumption, and over three quarters of the rise in fish consumption between now and 2030.

And by then, more than 60 per cent of total cereal demand in the developing world will come from South and East Asia.

To keep up with this growing demand, food production will have to increase by 60-70 per cent compared to a decade ago.

Ideally, Asia's farms could simply expand their production. But they are woefully ill equipped to do so.

To produce a sufficient amount of food, Asia's farms will need to undergo a 21st-century transformation.

Helping Asia's farmers cope with climate change should be a central part of this effort.

Although a warming planet could boost agricultural output in a few areas, it will severely limit production and possibly trigger prolonged food crises throughout the rest of the region.

As water becomes increasingly scarce in traditionally fertile zones such as the Indo-Gangetic Plain, rising seas will ruin vast swathes of farmland.

If sea levels were to rise by one me-



A farmer works at a cabbage farm near Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

In Myanmar, for example, only 16 per cent of farm households even use tillers or tractors to prepare the land for planting.

tre, the resulting saltwater intrusion would threaten 70 per cent of Vietnam's coastal farmlands. And as waters warm and tidal flows change, yields from the Mekong Delta's vast fishing grounds could plummet.

According to Asian Development Bank research, by 2050 irrigated rice and wheat yields could fall by as much as 20 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively. This would drive up the price for cereals, soybeans and wheat by 70 per cent, causing the number of malnourished children in the region to rise by 11 million.

But this does not have to be Asia's future, if its farmers can adapt.

Most farmers today oversee family-run subsistence plots, and lack the money and know-how to improve productivity and crop quality.

In Myanmar, for example, only 16 per cent of farm households even use tillers or tractors to prepare the land for planting. Moreover, environmental degrada-

tion has left huge swathes of land barren.

According to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, various forms of desertification affect nearly 40 per cent of Asia's total land area.

While governments cannot create new arable land, they can — and must — pursue policies to support, consolidate and intensify farming operations on the land that is still available.

For starters, the region's governments can promote farm cooperatives.

Not to be confused with old-style collectivised farming, today's cooperatives are thoroughly commercial, prioritising efficiency and profits.

They comprise agricultural enterprises as well as farmers, all of who pool their resources to create economies of scale, reduce costs and lift incomes.

When bought in bulk by a cooperative, inputs such as fertiliser and equipment are less expensive, as is the harvesting process.

By coming together to coordinate planting, cooperatives in India and Nepal have made it possible for every member's crops to be sown and harvested together by a machine, rather than individually by hand.

Cooperatives can also add value after the harvest, by streamlining crop cleaning, grading, packaging, storage and transportation.

This increases the supply of food and boosts farmers' incomes, especially in places such as Bangladesh, where more than one-third of perishables spoil before ever reaching the consumer.

SEE PAGE-9

Tatmadaw holds press conference on ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks in Northern Rakhine

As regards the ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine State in August, Tatmadaw's True News Information Team held a press conference at the Bayintnaung Guest House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

Present at the press conference were Major General Than Htut Thein of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), Maj Gen Soe Naing Oo, chairman of Tatmadaw true news information team, Maj Gen Aung Ye Win, director of directorate of the public relations and psychological warfare department, high-ranking military officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), responsible officials from the Ministry of Defence, military attaché from foreign embassies in Myanmar and journalists.

Maj Gen Aung Ye Win, clarified the historical backgrounds of Bengalis in Rakhine State, violent armed attacks between Bengalis and local Rakhine ethnic people in 2012 and 2016, situations from October 2016 to 2017 August.

Afterward, Maj Gen Soe Naing Oo explained about series of coordinated terrorist attacks since 25th August, 2017,



A military officer shows documentary pictures of ARSA extremist terrorists' attacks in northern Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

situations on the Tatmadaw's cooperation with Myanmar Police Forces in fighting against massive armed attacks of ARSA extremist terrorists, followed by clarification on Tatmadaw's conclusion from Maj Gen Than Htut Thein concerning terrorist attacks. Following that, Col Paul Andrew Bruce, military attaché of Australia Embassy said that he would like to know as to which amount of forces had been used in launching search and raid operation, while Brig General Rashedul Mannan of Bangladesh military attaché disclosed their desire to cooperate in fighting against terror-

ism, and Col Craig J Tippins of military attaché of US Embassy discussed that it was necessary to take care of potential danger of defecting into terrorist groups as for some villagers, in making search and raid.

After that, U Tin Maung Aye, Myanmar Press Council asked about convening National Defence and Security Council Meeting, U Hla Swe of Bullet Journal on Geneva Convention and U Maung Maung Tun of News Watch Journal on involvement of NGOs and INGOs in terrorist attacks, followed by replies from responsible officials.—Myanmar News Agency

Three days of youth fair planned for early December

A second coordination meeting to organise the All-Round Development of Youth Fair to develop the knowledge, skill and ethics of youths was held yesterday afternoon at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw, where Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi gave speeches.

At the meeting, Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung first explained about the fair organising programme (draft) and officials from Ministry of Information, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, Ministry of Education, and Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement discussed their relevant sectors.

Next, Union Ministers and meeting attendees participated



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint addresses the meeting on organizing the All-Round Development of Youth Fair. **PHOTO: MNA**

in a general discussion. The Union Minister for Information then delivered a concluding speech. The All-Round Development of Youth Fair will be held early December at the Yangon University compound with literature, sports, and arts activities along with ed-

ucational and entertainment programmes. Arrangements are being made to invite not only students from universities, colleges and training schools in Yangon but also youths from wards, townships and districts.—Myanmar News Agency

Appointment of Head of Service Organisation

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Dr. Than Win, the Rector of Kalay University, the Ministry of Education as the Rector of Maubin University from the date he assumes charge his duty. —MNA

Donating for victims in Rakhine State

1. Rakhine State government organized an Accepting and Distribution of Donation Work Committee to accept and distribute aid for victims and people affected by ARSA extremist terrorist attacks in Maungtaw, Yathedaung and Buthidaung townships in northern Rakhine State.

2. Anyone who wishes to donate money can donate directly to account number (CF-003420) in Myanmar Economic Bank Sittway or can contact the following persons.

- | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------|
| (a) U Kyaw Hla Tun | Chief of State Law office | 09-452255565 |
| (b) U Aung Saw Mya | Head of State | 09-253106050 |
| | Department of sports and physical education | |
| (c) U Tin Lat | Deputy Director | 09-428330033 |

Rakhine State Government

Asia's future farms

FROM PAGE-8

China is already modernising farms through cooperatives and by using digital e-commerce platforms to tap into high-value markets.

In Vietnam, a cooperative programme has improved the quality of produce for urban consumers and boosted tea, fruit and vegetable revenues by nearly one third. Although cooperatives are gradually catching on in Asia, they will need more support.

Most of the region's cooperatives are fragile, informal arrangements. But with the right legal framework in place, they could become far more efficient and durable. China's 2007 Farmers' Cooperative Law serves as a good model.

By offering incentives such as value-added-tax exemptions, the law has encouraged cooperatives and other agricultural organisations to collaborate and create economies of scale.

Within three years of the law's enactment, the number of cooperatives in China had increased ninefold, to nearly 400,000.

Cooperatives also help farmers manage the effects of climate change, by creating networks through which members can share knowledge about tricky adaptive strategies like switching from crops to fish or

shrimp in saline-affected areas.

And with the extra income that cooperatives provide, farmers can buy greenhouses to prolong their production season and shield against erratic weather.

Cooperatives also allow farmers to benefit from previously unavailable techniques such as fertigation — using irrigation to deliver liquid fertilisers.

Finally, cooperatives make climate-smart technologies more affordable. With new digital technologies, farmers can better manage their land, water and energy use, and prepare for bad weather.

For example, the Philippines has experimented with apps that give farmers news about plant and animal diseases, the best places to buy and sell farm supplies and upcoming weather events.

By using less labour, and more capital and technology, Asia's future farms can grow enough food to feed everyone in the region.

Cooperatives are one way to make this vision a reality. Only then will food shortages truly be a thing of the past.

The writer is an adviser at the Asian Development Bank on agriculture, rural development and food security. ©Project Syndicate, 2017. www.project-syndicate.org

There are difficulties for providing daily food and healthcare to villagers due to landmines planted on roads and bridges: Dr Win Myat Aye

FOLLOWING is the interview with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye and Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu by Myanmar News Agency.

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists launched simultaneous attacks on police outposts in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yethedaung in Rakhine State resulting in loss of lives and casualties of military officers and civilians. They also destroyed households, bridges and roads using landmines and explosives.

Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and U Nyi Pu, the Rakhine State Chief Minister were interviewed on the status of security operations, healthcare and humanitarian aid provided by the Union Government and the Tatmadaw.

Interview with Dr Win Myat Aye

Q: What is the current status of aid and support for the displaced people in Rakhine?

A: Due to current events all the ethnic people have to gather in one place. There are difficulties for providing daily food and healthcare issues and for sending aid to these areas due to landmines planted on roads and bridges. Air Myanmar Aviation Services Co. Ltd has provided a helicopter to the State Counsellor to aid in these efforts. I went to these areas the next day after these events happened.

There are currently six people who suffered casualties receiving treatment in Buthidaung General Hospital. There are around 250 ethnic people taking refuge in Ayezadi monastery and around 2,400 people currently staying at the Maungtaw Four Mile High School building. These places are safe for now and there are humanitarian workers and aid for them. We are arranging to send them to Sittway or back to their respective villages. This was my experience on 27 August.

On 28 August, we saw some areas and villages burned by ARSA extremist terrorists. The city entrance to Maungtaw was also burnt and we went to the gathering places of the villagers. In Taunbazar there were about 633 displaced people and 25 hu-



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye speaks during the interview. **PHOTO: MNA**

manitarian workers. In Kyainchaung there were about 200 displaced people and 70 humanitarian workers. Then we went to Maungtaw General Hospital to deliver aid to the patients from ARSA extremist terrorists attacks. We arranged for the critically injured to be transported to Sittway's Hospital. We then went to the religious building and saw about 200 displaced people there.

Next, we went to Maungtaw B.E.H.S (3) and saw about 1,000 displaced people, most of whom were Hindus. They primarily lacked proper healthcare but there were military health officers tending to them. We explained to them that the Tatmadaw is providing security for the area.

Q: Currently tens of thousands of people had to flee their homes and roads and transportations have been damaged so how are you providing them with humanitarian aid?

A: The Union Government is cooperating with the regional government to provide humanitarian aid as fast as possible. Many of them are scared so we have to deal with that effectively. The Tatmadaw is also providing a lot of security assistance.

Q: Do you have any comments on the help and support being provided after these attacks?

A: We started providing these help and support with ethnic and internal peace in mind. Since most of the ethnic people are in states and regions we have to give them priority and Chin and Rakhine are the two states with the most help needed. Rakhine is currently in conflict, which is an added difficulty.

Since Rakhine is the bigger state it is given first priority and the State Counsellor formed the Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace, Stability and Development in Rakhine State for that purpose. Work committees had been formed to help Rakhine State but after these attacks happened it just added to the workload.

Interview with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu

Q: What is the state government doing about the terrorist acts in Maungtaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung Townships?

A: Information was collected when the terrorist acts occur and we have been working with the union government to respond to the acts. Security is the most important requirement and reinforcing Police Forces, Border Police Forces and Tatmadaw was quickly done.

Q: What is the arrangement of state government for ethnic nationals who fled their villages?

A: First arrangement is for security forces to reach the affected areas. Security is also arranged for marshaling areas where the fleeing villagers are sheltering. Two months' supplies of food were sent since ethnic Myo people were killed earlier in the month so this already fulfilled the current requirement. There were incidents of bridges and roads being destroyed by mines causing difficulties in sending aid items. But we are overcoming these difficulties. In marshaling points close to security force stations, foods and rations from these stations were provided to the fleeing villagers. When we

were there, we arranged with Tatmadaw officials to replenish these foods and rations. Everywhere we were, we found foods being adequately provided. We are ensuring that there is no shortage of food.

Q: How is the union government cooperating with Tatmadaw with regards to the current terrorist incident?

A: Cooperation is good. As the response was immediate, damages were minimized. There were some losses initially in some places but almost all is provided with security now.

Q: What is the arrangement of the state government on rebuilding the houses burnt by ARSA extremist terrorist when the ethnic nationals return?

A: Arrangements will be made to reconstruct the damaged homes once the ethnic nationals return to their respective places. Records will be made of damages and losses, which village had how many number of houses, the population etc. With this complete information and records, reconstruction will be done speedily. Requirements of the ethnic nationals will also be



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu speaks during the interview. **PHOTO: MNA**

enquired. The primary requirement is security and on our side, we will inform Tatmadaw, police force and border police force to increase security.

Q: What has been done for health matter?

A: Medicines are adequately provided to hospitals in Buthidaung and Maungtaw as well as village health clinics. Police personnel and people killed and hurt by ARSA extremist terrorists were provided with financial supports. The events that occurred will be properly reviewed and the union government will be coordinated with.—MNA ■



Independent journalists pose for a photo before departure for Sittway at the Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Independent journalists in conflict areas in Rakhine

A group of independent journalists including local and foreign media arrived Sittway yesterday to cover the terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine.

They will tour around the conflict areas from 30 August to 1st September.

The group includes 18 journalists from Kyodo News, TV Asahi, Nippon TV, The Irawady, Asahi Shimbun, Fuji TV,

Nikkei Shimbun, Skynet Media, VOA, News Watch, Mizzima and the Voice.

This the fourth visit of the independent journalists to northern Rakhine following their third visit in July 2017. The first trip made from 19 to 22 December in 2016 and the second from 28th March to 1st April in 2017.—Myanmar News Agency

Afghan officials investigate civilian deaths in air strike

KABUL — Afghan officials are investigating reports of an air force strike in Heart province late on Monday that authorities said killed at least 13 civilians as well as some Taliban fighters.

Civilian casualties caused by US air strikes in Afghanistan have long been a source of friction between the US-backed government and international forces, but over the past two years, the reformed Afghan air force has been con-

ducting more of its own strikes.

Defence Ministry spokesman Dawlat Waziri said Afghan aircraft had conducted a strike on a Taliban target in the western province and had killed 18 insurgents and said officials were investigating reports civilians had also been killed.

“There are reports of civilian casualties, so the minister has appointed a team to investigate,” he said.

A spokesman for the NATO-led international support mission in Kabul referred questions to the defence ministry.

“Our understanding that this was an Afghan Air Force strike,” he said in an emailed statement.

Farhad Jilani, a spokesman for the Herat provincial governor, said 13 civilians had been killed and seven wounded in the air strike in Shindand district.

“There was a command

and control center of the Taliban where some Taliban had gathered,” he said.

Taliban spokesman Qari Yousuf Ahmadi said a US air strike had killed 35 women, children and elders.

Both the US and Afghan air forces conduct strikes against the Taliban and other insurgent targets and the incident underlined the risks posed as they have stepped up the pace of strikes in

recent months. The government of President Ashraf Ghani and its Western backers have announced a drive to boost the power of the fledgling Afghan air force as part of a four-year strategic plan to strengthen security forces.

The United Nations said in a report last month civilian deaths and injuries from air strikes had spiked 43 per cent in the first half of the year, with 95 people killed and 137 wounded. — Reuters ■

Suicide bomber kills five at bank in Afghan capital

KABUL — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a bank close to the heavily protected US embassy in the Afghan capital Kabul on Tuesday, killing at least five people and wounding eight, the interior ministry said.

The bomber hit the entrance to a Kabul Bank branch in the well-off area of Kabul, close to the main diplomatic quarter, ministry spokesman Najib Danish said. He said at least five people had been killed and eight wounded.

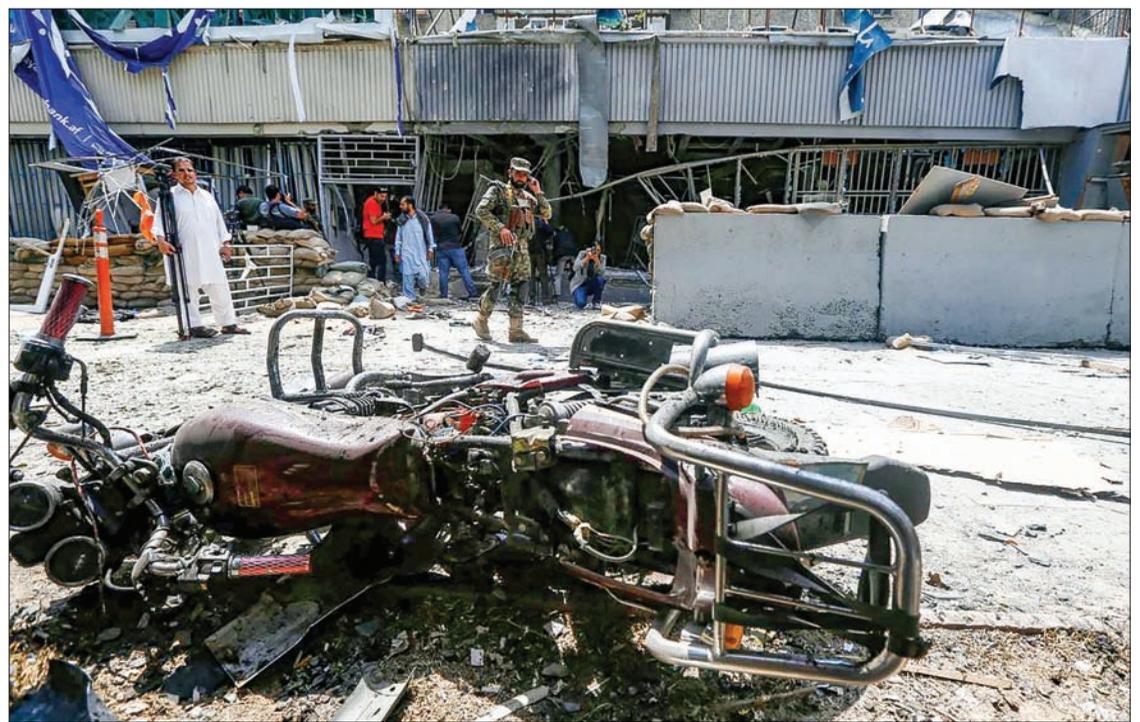
The Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack, which came as banks were busy with people taking out money ahead of the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday at the end of the week, saying it had targeted soldiers

and police withdrawing their salaries.

The latest in a long series of suicide attacks in Kabul highlight the danger in the city, where 209 civilians were killed and 777 injured in the first half of the year, according to UN figures.

The Taliban, fighting to restore Islamic law and drive out international forces backing the government in Kabul, have carried out many of the attacks. Other militant groups, including the affiliated Haqqani network and the local branch of Islamic State, have carried out others.

Attacks on banks where soldiers and police withdraw their salaries have become a regular tactic of the Taliban and the movement’s spokesman Za-



An Afghan security force stands guard at the site of a suicide bomb attack in Kabul, Afghanistan on 29 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

bihullah Mujahid said several members of the security forces had been killed.

There was no confirmation

from the government. President Ashraf Ghani’s government, facing growing public anger over insecurity in Kabul, has started

tightening checks around the centre of the city, where many of the most deadly attacks have taken place.— Reuters ■

Yemen allies agree to end tensions after deadly clash — officials

DUBAI — Leaders of the Houthi group and loyalists of former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, allies in Yemen’s civil war, said on Tuesday they had agreed to ease tensions between them after three people were killed in a clash.

The violence late on Saturday between members of the Iran-aligned Houthis and Saleh loyalists marked a breakdown within the main political coalition fighting the Saudi-backed government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi in the 2 1/2-year-old conflict.

Aref al-Zouka, head of Saleh’s General People’s Congress (GPC), and the Houthi An-

sarullah group’s official spokesman Mohammed Abdulsalam led delegations at a meeting in the Yemeni capital Sanaa late on Monday.

The meeting decided to “remove all causes of the tensions that occurred in the capital Sanaa and to return the security situation to what it was before the activities last week,” the two sides said in a statement.

The two fighting groups together rule northern Yemen and have maintained an uneasy alliance throughout a conflict that has killed at least 10,000 people and unleashed hunger and disease. Saleh ran Yemen for three decades. A mass ral-

ly to commemorate his party’s founding anniversary last week aroused the ire of the Houthis, who viewed it as a show of force meant to undermine them.

Tensions boiled over on Saturday night when Houthi fighters set up a security checkpoint near the home of Saleh’s son and his media office. Two Houthi fighters were killed and Yemeni media reported that an army colonel who served as a senior official in Saleh’s GPC party also died. Both sides agreed at the meeting to close ranks and to “unify efforts to confront the aggression”, the statement said, referring to the Saudi-led military campaign in Yemen.— Reuters ■

Iran rejects US demand for UN inspector visit to military sites

ANKARA — Iran has dismissed a US demand for UN nuclear inspectors to visit its military bases as “merely a dream” as Washington reviews a 2015 nuclear agreement between Tehran and six world powers, including the United States.

US President Donald Trump has called the nuclear pact — negotiated under his predecessor Barack Obama — “the worst deal ever”. In April, he ordered a review of whether a suspension of nuclear sanctions on Iran was in the US interest.

The US ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, last week pressed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to seek access to Iranian military

bases to ensure that they were not concealing activities banned by the nuclear deal.

“Iran’s military sites are off limits...All information about these sites are classified,” Iranian government spokesman Mohammad Baqer Nobakht told a weekly news conference broadcast on state television. “Iran will never allow such visits. Don’t pay attention to such remarks that are only a dream.”

Under US law, the State Department must notify Congress every 90 days of Iran’s compliance with the nuclear deal. The next deadline is October, and Trump has said he thinks by then the United States will declare Iran to be non-compliant.— Reuters ■

Russian defence contractor reveals deals signed at Army-2017 forum

MOSCOW — Russian state arms export agency Rosoboronexport signed more than 10 contracts and deals at the Army-2017 international military and technical forum, the company's press service said on Tuesday.

"At the forum, we signed more than 10 contracts and agreements, including with the representatives of Kazakhstan and Burkina Faso. They positively influenced the company's portfolio of orders," Rosoboronexport Deputy Director General Sergey Goreslavsky, who headed the company's official delegation at the forum, said.

Rosoboronexport's business program at the forum was very extensive, he said. "Over the past three days of work at the Army-2017, we have held around 70 meetings

with foreign delegations of some 50 countries from almost all regions of the world.

The company's press service said that foreign delegations showed special interest in tanks T-90S/MC, Iskander-E tactical ballistic missiles, BTR-80 A/BTR-82A wheeled amphibious armored personnel carriers, automobile and armored vehicles, modern pieces of small and special arms, close combat weapons and material and technical supply of forces.

Visitors were also interested in aviation and naval equipment, air defence and radio electronic systems. Rosoboronexport signed two agreements on cooperation in promoting IT products in information security area.—Reuters ■

Tough choice for Trump if Congress refuses border wall financing

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump is unlikely to win congressional support for funds he wants for a proposed US-Mexico border wall before an 1 October deadline, meaning he may have to choose between backing down on a key campaign promise or shutting down the government.

The second option was a politically dangerous one before Hurricane Harvey tore through southern Texas over the weekend and it now looks even riskier.

At a campaign-style rally in Phoenix last week, Trump doubled down on his earlier demands that Congress fund a Mexican border wall in government spending legislation, adding a clear threat. "If we have to close down our government, we're building that wall," he told supporters.



US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: REUTERS

Since then, lawmakers who were already struggling to hammer out a stop-gap federal spending bill before 1 October to avoid a shutdown have had to factor in Trump's threat as well.

During his election campaign, Trump insisted Mexico would pay for the construction of the wall, which experts said could cost about \$22 billion and take more than three years to complete.

With Mexico refusing to pay, Trump has said since taking office in January that the wall will initially need US funding but that he will find a way to make Mexico ultimately pay for it.

A government shutdown would result if Congress is unable to agree on a spending deal or if Trump does not like the package and vetoes it. A veto would put Trump in a dangerous position of

rejecting a bill approved by his own party.

"Shutting down the government would be a self-destructive act, not to mention an act of political malpractice," Republican Representative Charlie Dent said in an interview.

Republicans firmly control the House of Representatives, but have only a narrow majority in the Senate, where at least eight Democratic votes will be needed to pass a spending bill.

Democratic leaders firmly oppose the border wall and appear to be in no mood to do Trump a favor by including funding now.

"Democrats aren't feeling the heat over this," Democratic strategist Jim Manley said, adding that "no Democrat is going to be cowed" by Trump's threat to shut down the government.—Reuters ■

Wealthy cocaine users funding slavery, says former UK drug chief

LONDON — Middle-class cocaine users are turning a blind eye to the link between their drug habit and sex trafficking, slavery and murder, said the former head of UK drug strategy. "These are middle-aged, middle-class people at dinner parties," Tony Siggers, former head of drugs threat at the National Crime Agency, told The Times on Tuesday, in his first interview since leaving the post.

"They will find sweatshops abhorrent, slave labour a brutal, terrible thing to be happening in their neighbourhood, and the news that a 16-year-old has been knifed to death in London will shock them," he added.

Britain has one of the highest rates of cocaine use in Europe, according to the European Commission and the Organisation for Economic Co-opera-

tion and Development (OECD) — with 4.2 per cent of young adults having taken the drug in 2015.

Siggers said this was funding the exploitation of women in the sex industry, as well as slavery and gun violence. "The consequences of buying cocaine are more abhorrent than most of what the people using it find abhorrent," he said. In Britain, there are an estimated 13,000 victims of forced labour, sexual exploitation and domestic servitude, most of them from Albania, Nigeria, Poland and Viet Nam. Siggers said there was a lack of action among employers in tackling the prevalence and acceptance of cocaine use in some industries, particularly among banks and other companies in the City of London, Britain's financial centre.—Reuters ■

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MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (022)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (022) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.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 YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIMA PERFECT VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185



Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying attends a regular press briefing in Beijing on 29 August, 2017. Hua said China opposes any ballistic missile launch by North Korea in violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions, in response to Pyongyang's missile launch early in the day. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

China criticizes N Korea's launch of missile over Japan

BEIJING — China criticized North Korea on Tuesday for firing yet another ballistic missile, this time flying over Japan for the first time in more than a year before landing in the northern Pacific Ocean.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told a regular press briefing that China opposes any ballistic missile launch by North Korea in violation of relevant UN Security Council resolutions. In China's first official response to the launch early Tuesday of the missile that

traveled around 2,700 kilometres from Pyongyang, Hua also said the situation on the Korean Peninsula remains highly sensitive and all sides should exercise restraint to create necessary conditions for the resumption of dialogue and negotiation. Ahead of the Security Council's expected emergency meeting in New York on Tuesday afternoon, Hua said China believes that pressure and sanctions alone cannot fundamentally solve the issue of North Korea's nuclear testing and missile launch-

es. To find a way out of the situation, she advocated China's proposed initiative of simultaneously suspending North Korea's weapons program and regular military exercises by the United States and South Korea. North Korea's latest launch of the ballistic missile, already the 13th in 2017, which flew over the northern Japanese island of Hokkaido, came at a time of joint military drills being conducted by the South Korean and US armed forces through Thursday. —Kyodo News ■

N Korea missile test shows threat to US 'not a bluff' — Russian lawmaker

MOSCOW — North Korea's latest missile test shows its threat to fire four missiles into the waters near the US Pacific territory of Guam was not a bluff, a senior Russian lawmaker said on Tuesday.

Pyongyang fired a ballistic missile over Japan's northern Hokkaido island into the sea early on Tuesday. The test, one of

the most provocative ever from the reclusive state, appeared to have been of a recently developed intermediate-range Hwasong-12 missile, experts said. "Alas, Pyongyang has demonstrated that its threats to the US base on Guam are not a bluff," Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the upper house of parliament's international affairs

committee, said on social media. Kosachev also said that a United Nations Security Council resolution regarding North Korea's missile programme which passed this month had failed to achieve its objective, "because the situation has turned into a bilateral standoff between North Korea and the United States". —Reuters ■



Women walk past a large TV screen showing news about North Korea's missile launch in Tokyo, Japan on 29 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Heavy rain brings floods, traffic snarls to India's financial capital

MUMBAI — A spell of incessant rain on Tuesday flooded several low-lying areas and paralysed train services in India's financial capital of Mumbai, officials said. Weather officials predict heavy seasonal monsoon rains in the city and its surroundings over the next 24 hours, following more than 100 mm (4 inches) of rain in Mumbai on Tuesday, and urged

people to stay indoors. "I have been trying to get to office for the last two hours, but have only made it halfway," said Milan Shah, a marketing manager who trudged through the downpour only to find himself marooned at a central train station. "I am now planning to try and get back home." Many businesses asked employees to leave early in expecta-

tions of worsening traffic jams, as the rain coincides with high tide conditions in the western coastal city, threatening to overload an ageing drainage system. Tuesday's congestion is also expected to be worsened by crowds flocking to perform the ritual immersion in the sea of idols of the Hindu god Ganesh, the conqueror of obstacles, in a major annual festival.

The harsh weather prompted many schools to send children home early, although others were on holiday for the festival. The rain reduced visibility, forcing airport authorities to divert a few flights. "Flights were delayed by around 20 minutes," added Veena Chip-lunkar, a spokeswoman for the Mumbai International Airport. —Reuters ■

Cambodia's Appeal Court upholds 18-month-prison sentence for ex-opposition senator

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's Appeal Court on Tuesday upheld the decision of a lower court to sentence, in absentia, ex-opposition senator Thak Lany to 18 months in prison for alleging that

Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen was behind the murder last year of political analyst Kem Ley, according to a verdict. "The Phnom Penh Municipal Court's deci-

sion against Thak Lany is correct, so the Appeal Court decides to uphold the decision," Appeal Court Presiding Judge Plang Samnang said as he pronounced the verdict. Lany, 61, is a former

senator of the Sam Rainsy Party that merged with the Human Rights Party in late 2012 to form a major opposition party called Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP). —Reuters ■

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A scene from the latest season of "Game of Thrones". PHOTO: REUTERS

Zombies, romance and revenge drive record 'Game of Thrones' ratings

LOS ANGELES — A zombie dragon, an illicit romance and satisfying revenge helped drive the season finale of "Game of Thrones" to a viewership high, HBO said Monday, as the seventh season drew record ratings.

A total of 12.1 million viewers watched Sunday's seventh season finale, titled "The Dragon and the Wolf," up 36 per cent from the 8.9 million viewers who watched the season six finale. Viewership from replays and streams on HBO's on-demand apps boosted the overall Sunday ratings to 16.5 million viewers.

The seventh and penultimate season of Emmy-winning "Game of Thrones" drew an overall 30.8 million viewers, up nearly 8 million viewers from last season and cementing it as the most-watched show on Time Warner Inc's premium cable network HBO. The record ratings came after hackers stole data and content from HBO and leaked it online, including scripts and unaired episodes of "Game of Thrones."

The seventh season saw the show's lead characters head towards a great battle over the Iron

Throne reigning over the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros, while a zombie army of White Walkers, led by the undead Night King, march south and threaten mankind's destruction.

Characters Jon Snow and Daenerys Targaryen finally came together to join forces against the White Walkers, the remaining Stark children reunite at their home in Winterfell and enact a satisfying revenge against master manipulator Petyr Baelish.

The Lannister siblings also reunite in King's Landing in a tense meeting that puts their

family ties to the test.

Medieval fantasy "Game of Thrones," based on George RR Martin's "A Song of Ice and Fire" books, has won numerous Emmy awards including best drama series last year. It is not eligible for this year's Emmy awards due to its summer premiere after production was pushed back to capture more winter landscapes for the storyline, but it will be back on the roster for next year's Emmy awards. Ahead of the show's final eighth season next year, a series of spin-offs is being developed.—Reuters ■

Georgian movie wins best film at Sarajevo Film Festival

SARAJEVO — Georgian movie "Scary Mother", directed by Ana Urushadze, on Thursday night won the Heart of Sarajevo for the best film at the 23rd Sarajevo Film Festival (SFF).

"Scary Mother" is a movie about a 50-year-old housewife, Manana, who struggles with a dilemma whether to choose between her family life and a love for writing she has repressed for years. After she finally decides to follow her passion, she is ready to sacrifice everything for it, mentally and physically.

Heart of Sarajevo for best actor went to Serban Pavlu for his role in "Meda or The Not So Bright Side of Things". Heart of Sarajevo for best actress went to Ornela Kapetani for her role in "Daybreak".

Meanwhile, Heart of Sarajevo for the best documentary was given to "City of the Sun", directed by Rati Oneli from Georgia. The award for the best short film was given to "Into the Blue", directed by Antoneta Alamat Kusijanovic from Croatia.—Xinhua ■



Director of Georgian movie "Scary Mother", winner of the best film at the 23rd Sarajevo Film Festival (SFF) Ana Urushadze (C), speaks to the audience at the National Theatre in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 17 August, 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

Guillermo del Toro's 'Fantastic Voyage' remake on hold

LOS ANGELES — Director Guillermo del Toro's "Fantastic Voyage" remake has been put on hold until after awards season.

The filmmaker has reportedly delayed the long-gestating project until after he completes work and promotion on "The Shape of Water", which is due out on December 8, reported Deadline.

Del Toro signed on to direct the remake over a year and a half ago.

The original plan was to start production on "Fantastic Voyage" remake next spring for a holiday 2019 release.

But with the "Shape of Water" commitments and the potential awards season activity, the project will now resume next year, pushing the release to 2020.—PTI ■

"Wolf Warrior 2" leads Chinese box office for 5th week

BEIJING — Chinese action film "Wolf Warrior 2" continued to dominate the Chinese film market in the week ending on 27 August, grossing 259 million yuan (39.1 million US dollars), China Film News reported on Monday.

The film, which tells the story of a former Chinese Special Forces operative's adventures rescuing compatriots and locals in a war-torn region of Africa occupied by insurgents and mercenaries, has made 5.4 billion yuan since hitting Chinese screens on 27 July.

"Valerian and the City of a Thousand Planets," a French science fiction movie, came in second with 192 million yuan in sales in Chinese theaters in its debut week.

Hong Kong action movie "Paradox" landed in third place earning 161 million yuan.

Hollywood animated film "Cars 3" came in fourth, generating 71 million yuan in the first week of its release.

Rounding out the top five was American action film, "Baby Driver," which grossed 64 million yuan.—Xinhua ■

A mammoth engineering feat, Scotland's third Forth bridge is ready to open

EDINBURGH — The Queensferry Crossing, the third bridge in as many centuries to link Edinburgh and the north of Scotland over the River Forth, was formally completed on Monday, concluding the biggest Scottish infrastructure project in a generation.

The elegant new bridge opens to traffic on Wednesday. With three structures rising like sails over its span, it is the longest of its type in the world at 1.7 miles (2.7 km).

It reaches 210 metres (690 ft) above high tide, standing as tall as around 48 London buses stacked on top of each other. Barriers deflect the wind and shield vehicles from the

huge gusts common on the Forth.

The state-of-the-art engineering feat needed 35,000 tonnes of steel for the superstructure and 150,000 tonnes of concrete. Construction took six years. Although the project overran by 10 weeks, its cost of 1.35 billion pounds (\$1.75 billion) is 235 million pounds below budget.

"The Queensferry Crossing is a symbol of a confident, forward-looking Scotland and — as well as providing a vital transport connection for many years to come — it is a truly iconic structure and a feat of modern engineering," said Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

The Forth Bridge, a



Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon stands in front of the Queensferry Crossing which is illuminated to mark the ceremonial handover from the contractors to the Scottish Government, Queensferry Scotland on 28 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

red-coloured rail bridge that has become a UNESCO World Heritage site, opened in 1890, the first major structure in Britain to be made from steel.

The second Forth Bridge, a road which will now be used primarily for public transport vehicles, opened in 1964. — Reuters ■

California school children help build tiny homes for LA's homeless

LOS ANGELES — A Los Angeles man who has spent more than two years building tiny, portable homes to help house the city's homeless population recruited a group of fourth and fifth grade children to aid his mission.

Elvis Summers, 40, has built dozens of compact one-room homes on

wheels. For his latest construction, a 28-foot-by-8-foot home, he has teamed up with a group of more than 100 children, aged 9 to 11, from a local charter school.

Mariposa Robles, 10, sawed planks of wood, installed floor insulation and helped raise the plywood walls of a tiny

house. Around 135 children have been involved with the project, working in shifts over a year. "It's so amazing seeing it all come together," an excited Robles told Reuters.

Robles' school, Santa Clarita Valley International Charter School in Castaic, California, reached out to Summers

to help build houses and has raised almost \$6,000 of a \$19,000 target through crowd-funding website GoFundMe to finish the home.

Los Angeles' homeless population is estimated at about 58,000, according to the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority. — Reuters ■

Japanese specialty ice business carves niche in NYC

NEW YORK — As New York City's bar owners and mixologists strive for the perfect drinking experience, Japan native Shintaro Okamoto encourages them to consider an often-overlooked detail — the quality of the ice.

Okamoto, 43, founded his namesake ice studio in 2003 while still in graduate school for fine art at Hunter College. His early business focused on ice sculptures before he also began crafting specialty ice for cocktail bars.

"Back then, even with so many events happening in New York and the city always looking for new things, ice sculpture was not well-established," Okamoto told Kyodo News at his office.

The native of Fukuoka Prefecture learned the art of ice sculpture from his father, Takeo, a trained sushi chef who moved the family to Alaska when Shintaro was 9. The elder Okamoto made ice sculptures as a side business, and even competed in some international competitions.

"I felt there were many possibilities in what my dad had been making," Okamoto

to said. "I wanted to combine my fresh sensibility from studying art in New York with the sense of customer service I had from Japan and from growing up in the restaurant business."

The Okamoto Studio, located in the city's borough of Queens, is equipped with three gigantic freezers that each produce a pair of 275-pound blocks of ice every four days during the summer.

The ice comes out dense and perfectly clear, ready to be used for sculpture or trimmed to custom sizes and shapes for his customers in the drink service industry.

Cooling a drink with a single piece of ice cut to the ideal dimensions, Okamoto explained, reduces the surface area of the ice and therefore slows its melting while also preventing excessive dilution.

"Ice made with regular freezers comes out white and there are air bubbles in it," Okamoto added, noting that air in the ice increases the rate of melting. A whitish hue also detracts from the color of whiskey or vibrant cocktails. —Kyodo News ■

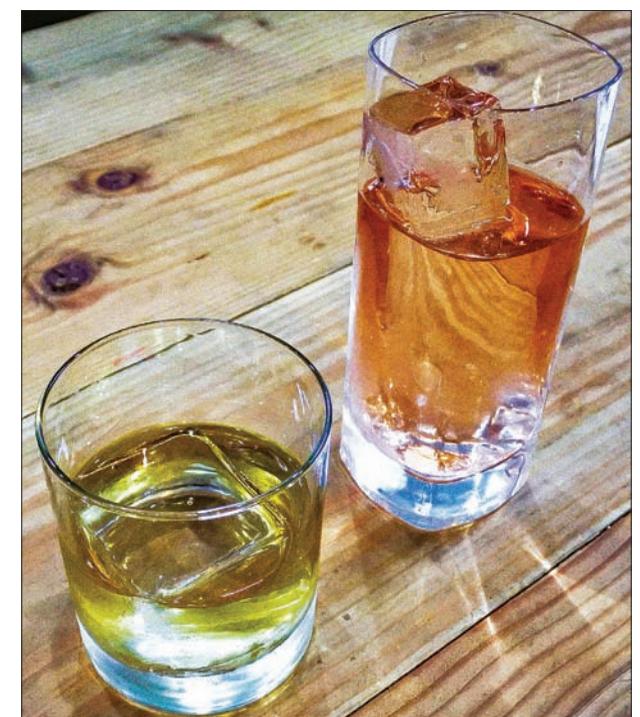


Photo taken on 15 August, 2017, in New York shows beverages using specialty ice crafted by ice sculptor Shintaro Okamoto for cocktail bars. Okamoto's ice is perfectly clear with no air bubbles inside, and the feature makes it slow to melt. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(30-8-2017 07:00am ~31-8-2017 07:00am) MST			(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
Prime Time					
07:03	Am	News	07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2) (Jivitadana Hospital)	07:26	Pm	Travelogue: Trekking Around Kalaw Township
07:51	Am	Orchid Lover	07:42	Pm	Grow Back For Posterity "The Dawn of Development"
08:03	Am	News	07:55	Pm	Now in Yangon
08:26	Am	An Ardent Aficionado Of Traditional Design	08:03	Pm	News
09:03	Am	News	08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-1) The Culture of Pennant Pillar
09:26	Am	A Life In The Ring	08:41	Pm	Creations of a Designer: Fashion
09:42	Am	Product of Myanmar - Myanmar Circular Stone Slab	08:47	Pm	Living in Off-Season
09:54	Am	Will you feed the pigeons?	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
10:03	Am	News	(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
10:26	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-1) Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop	(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat 07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am		
10:52	Am	A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving	(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)		

Myanmar takes four gold medals in sepak takraw

Kyaw Zin Tun

The two-week sepak takraw competitions at the 2017 Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia concluded yesterday with Myanmar taking four gold medals, two for sepak takraw and two for chinlone, and two silver medals.

Sepaktakraw, or kick volleyball, is a sport native to Southeast Asia. The matches were held at Titiwangsa Indoor Stadium, Kuala Lumpur from 16 to 29 August.

Chinlone, uses the same rattan ball, but has different rules. In chinlone six players stand in a circle and keep the ball aloft with-

out using their hands, employing as much creativity as possible. Chinlone was introduced at the 2013 SEA Games in Myanmar.

Myanmar won two gold medals from men's doubles and women's quadrant play, which features four players on each side. Myanmar won two golds in chinlone. Twelve gold medals in sepak takraw this year. Thailand was the strongest competitor, earning six gold medals. Myanmar last won two sepak takraw gold medals at the 2015 SEA Games and six chinlone gold medals and four sepak takraw gold medals at the 2013 SEA Games. ■



Myanmar sepak takraw player kicks the ball with her right instep against the Viet Nam player, during their Sepak Takraw women's doubles match at 2017 Southeast Asian Games. **PHOTO: SPED**



Myanmar striker Aung Kaung Mann, 19, trying to pass the ball from the midst of three Indonesian footballers including defender Muhammad Rezaldi Hehanusa, 28, at yesterday's bronze medal match at 2017 SEA Games. **PHOTO: MFF**

Myanmar football team misses bronze medal while Thailand takes gold medal

Kyaw Zin Tun

The Myanmar men's football team was eliminated, 1-3, by Indonesia in a bronze medal match yesterday while Thailand took gold medal against Malaysia with 1-0 in the final match at the Southeast Asian Games in Malaysia.

Myanmar's line up included Sann Sat Naing, Nan Wai Min, Hteik Hteik Aung, Thiha The Aung, Haling Bo Bo, Aung Thu,

Sithu Aung, Mg Mg Lwin, Yan Naing Oo, Than Paing and Hein Thiha Zaw. In the first half, Myanmar led the match after an opening goal by Than Paing at 23 minutes. Indonesia scored three times in the second half. **Myanmar national selection team defeated Malaysia in their friendly match**

Myanmar's national team beat Malaysia's national team, 1-0, in a FIFA friendly match at Thuwanna Stadium, Yangon yes-

terday. Myanmar went with the lineup of Thiha Sithu, David Dan, Win Min Htut, Zaw Min Htun, Thein Than Win, Yan Aung Kyaw, Tin Win Aung, Thiha Zaw, Thet Naing, Min Min Thu and Kyaw Ko Ko. Myanmar's Kyaw Ko Ko scored on Malaysia at the 90 minute mark.

The Myanmar team will travel to Kazakhstan tomorrow to play another friendly match against the Kazak team on 5 September. ■

Stoke sign Austrian defender Wimmer from Spurs

LONDON— Stoke City have signed defender Kevin Wimmer from Premier League rivals Tottenham Hotspur for 18 million pounds (\$23 million) on a five-year contract.

The 24-year-old Austria international has not played for Spurs this season, though he made 31 appearances in all competitions for the club since joining from Cologne in 2015. Stoke announced the signing on their official Twitter feed on Tuesday and manager Mark Hughes said that he was satisfied with the club's efforts to strengthen the defence.

"Kevin is an undoubted talent. He will significantly add to the quality of the group of players that I already have," Hughes tweeted. "We put a real emphasis on trying to enhance the defensive areas of the squad this sum-

mer. We feel that we have been able to do that."

Wimmer is Stoke's fourth permanent signing of the current window, and follows centre back Bruno Martins Indi, midfielder Darren Fletcher and Cameroon forward Eric Maxim Choupo-Moting to the club.

Hughes' has also brought in forward Jese Rodriguez on a season-long loan from Paris St Germain and defender Kurt Zouma on a similar deal from Chelsea. "I had some really good conversations with the manager... and they were important for me," Wimmer told Stoke's website. (www.stokecityfc.com) "I like the way he approaches the game, his style of play suits the way I like to play too — he likes his defenders to be able to play out with the ball."—Reuters ■



Tottenham's Kevin Wimmer. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Viet Nam to face Cambodia in Asian Cup qualifier

HANOI — Led by new coach Mai Duc Chung, Viet Nam's national football squad gathered here on Tuesday to prepare for an Asian Cup qualifying match against Cambodia on 5 September. After the Vietnamese squad left the 2017 Southeast Asian (SEA) Games empty-handed, coach Nguyen Huu Thang resigned, and Mai Duc Chung, who has led Viet Nam's national women's football team to the top spot at SEA Games five times, including the 2017 event in Malaysia, was appointed by the Viet Nam Football Federation as the interim coach of Viet Nam's national men's football team. The 66-year-old interim coach said Vietnamese players should not focus on long and high passes, but short and medium quick coordination, creating few opportunities for rivals to approach them and regain control of the ball.—Xinhua ■