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UNHCR Chief Mr Filippo talks to a woman receiving sewing skills at the vocational training at Alethankyaw Village in Maungtau. PHOTO: THAKKA

UNHCR Chief Mr. Filippo Grandi visits Maungtau

By Myint Maung Soe & Aung Kyaw Oo

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees-UNHCR Mr. Filippo Grandi held talks with the authorities in Maungtau yesterday over several issues including internally displaced persons, security and

cooperation between the UNHCR and Myanmar. Following the meeting, the UN delegation visited a sewing training course conducted by the Bridge Asia Japan-BAJ at Alethankyaw Village. More than 1,400 women have received the vocational skill at the training course at the BAJ

Office which has been conducted since 1992 as part of cooperation between Myanmar and UNHCR in attempts to support the peaceful coexistence of the people in the area.

During the visit, the UNHCR Chief also met officers at No. 1 Police Force Command-

ing Office (Kyikanpyin) and discussed matters relating to promoting socio-economy of the people, peaceful coexistence and building trust between communities. The UN delegation also visited the site of Wapeik Village and viewed the village resettlement situation. ■



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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session 25th day meeting held



Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing. **PHOTO: MNA**

Kyaw Thu Htet, Mi Mi Phyo (MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

FIFTH regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw 25th day meeting was held yesterday morning, clarifying eight issues and confirming a report and a bill by the Hluttaw.

U Myint Wei of Gwa constituency questioned on when electricity will be distributed from 66/11 KVA (5) MVA sub-station that connects Athoke in Ayeyawady Region with Gwa in Rakhine State.

Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing said electricity was distributed on 30 June 2017 after the construction of the sub-station and the laying of the cable was



Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

completed. Locals complaint slightly delayed the work of laying cable across Ngawun River in Ngathaingchaung township, Ayeyawady Region but was completed after Ayeyawady Region government resolved the complaint.

Replying to a question by U Thein Tun of Thabaung constituency on the total acreage permitted by vacant, fallow and virgin land central management committee and central committee, status of collecting insurance fees from permitted persons and collection of land taxes after passing of the grace period, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said to date, 5,380 individuals,

companies and entities were granted permission for more than 2.33 million acres. Permissions were granted only after insurance fees are fully paid and thus insurance fees were fully collected said the Deputy Minister.

Arrangement is underway to collect land tax after grace period in FY 2017-2018 as per the Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law added the Deputy Minister.

Questions by U Than Soe of Thazi constituency, Daw Cho Cho of Ottwin constituency, U Oo Tun Win of Kyauktaw constituency, Daw Mi Kun Chan of Paung constituency, Daw Khin Saw Wei of Yathedaung constituency and U Thet Lwin @ U Paw Khin of Myingyan constituency were answered by Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing and Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw.

In the day's meeting a Pyithu Hluttaw agriculture, livestock breeding and rural development committee report was discussed and approved and a decision made to approve the Oil and Petroleum Products Bill sent back by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments. ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives MP and former Prime Minister of Nepal Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Nepalese former PM

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Member of the Parliament and Former Prime Minister of Nepal, and party at the Pyithu Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on peace pro-

cess, political experience and setting up a federal democratic system.

Together with Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker at the meeting were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Deputy Minister for Defence tells Amyotha Hluttaw about military tactics in Sagaing

DEPUTY MINISTER for Defence Major-General Myint Nwe told parliamentarians that insurgents along the border of Tamu Township in Sagaing Region occasionally used improvised explosives and that Tatmadaw patrols in the area have prevented 29 attacks since 2008

by discovering weapons caches or using informants.

The Deputy Minister's comments at yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw also describe insurgent cross-border tactics and efforts by Myanmar security forces to prevent infiltration. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Attorney-General holds talks with SIIA's Chairman Prof. Simon Tay in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Attorney-General receives SIIA Chairman

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo received Singapore Institute of International Affairs (SIIA)'s Chairman Prof. Simon Tay in the office of the Attorney General in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. In the meeting, they discussed development of the legal framework concerned

with investment and ways to attract foreign investment while still maintaining rule of law. They also discussed ways for relaxing procedures of the Myanmar Investment Commission so that investment approvals can be issued quicker. The Union Attorney-General also explained their

plans to promote knowledge on laws concerning business and contracts for governmental officials. Also at the meeting were Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint, Permanent Secretary Daw Nu Nu Yin and Director Dr. Kyi Kyi Than Aung. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Chief Justice hears special appeal cases



PHOTO: MNA

Chief Justice of the Union U Htun Htun Oo and judges of the Supreme Court sat at the Plenary Court at the Union Supreme Court in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday,

hearing the special appeal cases. They made judgments on four special appeal cases and heard other four special appeal cases. —Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor receives MGJEA's chairman and officials

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received chairman, vice-chairmen and central working committee of Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Minister for the President's Office U Min Thu, Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin and officials from the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks to Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association's chairman and officials in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Member of Parliament of Nepal in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor receives Member of Parliament of Nepal

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received His Excellency Mr. Madhav Kumar Nepal, Member of Parliament and Former Prime Minister of Nepal at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw at (11:30) hrs yesterday.

ident of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), Mr. Ek Nath Dhakai, member of Parliament of Nepal, members of UPF and H.E. Mr. Bhim K. Udas, Ambassador of Nepal to Myanmar were present at the meeting.

During the meeting, they discussed and shared the views on peace building and national reconciliation as well as enhancement of bilateral relations in a cordial manner.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Together with Former Prime Minister of Nepal, Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, Ph.D, Pres-

Second coordination meeting on setting up owned satellite system held

VICE President U Myint Swe met with personnel concerned for drawing up plans for a Myanmar-owned satellite system at the Ministry of Transport and Communications yesterday, according to a report by Myanmar News Agency.

The group wants to help Myanmar become one of several dozen nations which own

satellite infrastructure for cross-sector development and security tasks.

Myanmar currently leases time on satellites owned by other nations and corporations. The government is considering a proposal to launch an American-manufactured satellite and to enter into a lease-to-own agreement. The satellite would

communicate on six C-band frequencies and six Ku-band frequencies.

After the Vice President's visit, the Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, who is leading the satellite purchase plan, lead the strategy meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses at the second coordination meeting of Steering Committee to Setup a Myanmar Owned Satellite System. PHOTO: MNA

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Communities in Myanmar's Dry Zone Adapting to Climate Change

Communities in Myanmar's Dry Zone are benefitting new farming techniques, including crop spacing methods, drought resistant crop selection, water conservation and environmentally sensitive livestock husbandry practices, as part of a United Nations Development Programme program, according to a press release issued by the international organization yesterday.

The agricultural techniques are being implemented as part of a project called "Addressing Climate Change Risks on Water Resources and Food Security in the Dry Zone of Myanmar".

The project is targeting 250,000 people living in the townships of Shwebo and Monywa in Sagaing Region, Myingyan and Nyaung Oo in Mandalay Region, and Chauk in Magway Region.

The four-year US\$7.9 million project is the first in Myanmar to receive funding from the Adaptation Fund. The project is being implemented by UNDP



Volunteers learn new farming techniques at a greenhouse in Mangway located in Myanmar's dry zone. **PHOTO: OILSEEDCROPS.ORG**

in partnership with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and the Dry Zone Greening Department based in Mandalay. The project started in 2015 and will conclude in 2019.

Through the project, freshwater is made available to communities during the dry season and skills and tools for

climate-resilient agricultural and livestock practices and climate risk information are provided.

Last week, UNDP Country Director, Peter Batchelor and the Director General of MONREC's Dry Zone Greening Department U Htay Aung visited some villages in Shwebo township in Sagaing Re-

gion and met with communities which are beneficiaries of the project. Some farmers are rearing climate resistant goats, pigs and poultry, while others are planting specially developed climate resistant pulses and other crops. As part of the field visit, they also had the opportunity to see a field where scientists from the Yezin Agricultural University and local farmers are selecting a rice variety best suited to the current local climatic conditions.

During his visit, Mr. Batchelor also met with the Chief Minister of Magway, HE Dr Aung Moe Nyo; the Chief Minister of Sagaing, HE Dr Myint Naing; and the Chief Minister of Mandalay, Dr Zaw Myint Maung. During his meetings he briefed them on the progress of the project, and assured them of UNDP's commitment to improving the livelihoods, and building resilience, of communities living in Myanmar's Dry Zone.—GNLM ■

Yangon-Mandalay Highway is busiest and most dangerous highway with 276 vehicle accidents in 2017

A total of 276 vehicle accidents occurred on the Yangon to Mandalay Highway this year, resulting in 63 fatalities, including 19 female and 44 male victims, and 492 injured people, including 233 females and 259 males.

Causes of the accidents included reckless driving, poor visibility due to weather, road damage, and stalled vehicles, wandering cattle and other obstructions. Myanmar has attempted to improve traffic

safety along its busiest thoroughfare by increasing the number of road safety police and opening 16 police stations along the road since 2012. The Ministry of Construction has also attempted to improve damaged and defective portions of the highway, which is under the supervision of Highway Vehicles Supervisory Committee.

Despite these efforts the number of accidents along the highway have only increased

over time.

In 2013, there were 259 accidents resulting in 113 deaths and 622 injuries.

In 2014, there were 412 accidents resulting in 157 deaths and 766 injuries.

In 2015, there were 453 accidents resulting in 124 deaths and 1,033 injuries.

In 2016, there were 744 accidents resulting in 170 deaths and 1,304 injuries.—Than Oo (Laymyetnar) ■

Residential apartments of Kanthaya Consortium Towers project to be sold

CONSTRUCTION of residential tower under the Kanthaya Consortium Towers project near downtown Yangon is now mostly complete, according to project developers.

More than 100 furnished apartments will be sold at a 22- 23 July expo in Yangon, with prices ranging between

Ks250,000 and Ks300,000 per square feet. Ayeyawady Bank will offer mortgages and full payment plans.

The Yangon City Development Committee and Asia Myanmar Consortium Development Co. invested \$200 million into the project, which is being erected on 3.52 acres situated at

the corner of Kanyektha Street and U Aung Myat Street in Mingala Taungnyunt Township in Yangon. The project comprises a 25-storey residential tower with 132 units, a 22-storey office tower, a 22-storey five-star hotel and a 23-storey serviced apartment building with 171 units.—Soe Win (MLA) ■

NEWS BRIEFS

Two affordable residential projects planned for Mon State

HOUSING authorities in Mon State said they will build two low cost residential projects for low income people this financial year, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on 2 July.

The two projects will be developed in Kyain Village in Mawlamyine and Phoungsein Village in Thanbyuzayat townships at a cost of Ks5 billion in government funding. Upon completion of the housing project in the capital city Mawlamyine, the exact numbers of apartment units and selling prices will be announced by the state government which will manage funds for the project.—GNLM ■

New tax rate to be levied on transfer of vehicle ownership

TRANSFERS of car ownership will be taxed at a rate between Ks500,000 and Ks3 million starting today, according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily. The tax is calculated based on the car's appraised value.—200 ■

Increased migrant workers led to labour shortage in vineyards

INCREASED migrant workers rendered grapevine farmers labour scarcity, according to a report in yesterday Myawady Daily newspaper.

The grapevine farmers are faced with labour scarcity difficulty when they extend their vineyards. Labour shortage hiked up the wages up to Ks4,000 a day

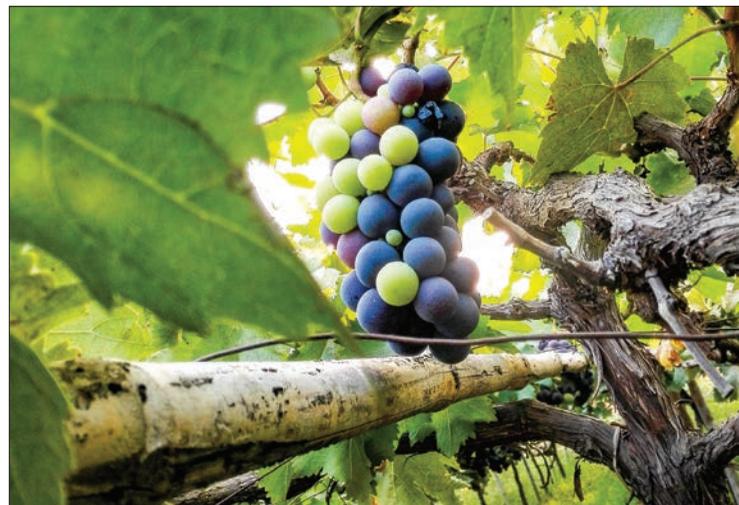
from Ks2,000-3,000.

With the increasing globalization of world trade, local people choose to work abroad to pursue better work. In addition, the grapevine growers from Yamethin Township are also expanding their vineyards.

The erratic weather condition caused the low yield and low

quality. The growers are also weak in using proper input methods; providing nutrition, protection from pests and insects and protection for disease.

The grapes are mostly grown in Kyaukpadaung, Meiktila, Mandalay, Sagaing, Monywa, Pakokku, Yenangyoung, Yamethin and Pyawbwe townships.—GNLM



Grape seen at a farm in Yamethin. PHOTO: MEIKTILA MK

Myanmar's rice export landed new destination in second week of June

Myanmar's rice penetrated new market- Azerbaijan country in second week of June, according to a report of yesterday City News.

All the stakeholders in this agro supply chain are exerting concerted efforts to triple export. However, Myanmar agro industry is still faced with challenges like low yield, high pro-

duction cost, inadequate quality, high transportation charges, high logistic cost, etc.

Myanmar's rice is exported to 53 countries from EU, Africa and Asia. During 11 and 17 June, 225 tonnes of rice were shipped to Azerbaijan and 15,320 tonnes of rice and parboiled rice with estimated worth of more than US\$4.5 million were exported

to foreign countries; Singapore, Afghanistan, Russia, Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Bangladesh, South Africa, European Union and Azerbaijan.

During this period, thousand tones of broken rice were also shipped to South Africa, Singapore, Indonesia, European Union, Bangladesh and Madagascar.—GNLM

Singapore stood in second place in overall FDI countries list

Singapore placed behind only China in overall highest foreign investment countries line-up, contributing US\$16.9 billion in 240 permitted projects, according to official figure released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA). The foreign direct investments (FDI) flowing into Myanmar amounted to over \$71.2 billion with more than 1,200 enterprises. China's investment in Myanmar accounted for over 26 per cent of total foreign investment value. Singapore's investments made up of over 23 per cent of total FDI, followed

by Thailand and Hong Kong at third and fourth place respectively.

This Financial Year 2017-2018 saw FDI of more than \$923 million as of 31 May. In this period, Singapore again stood in second place, which follows The Netherlands behind. The Netherlands put the highest investments of \$518 million as of 31 May this FY while Singapore invested over \$88 million. During last FY, a total of US\$3.8 billion of foreign investments flowed into Myanmar from Singapore which stood at top spot in FDI investment countries

list. Foreign investments of European countries reportedly flowed into Myanmar through Singapore, making Singapore top in the list last year. Foreign direct investment of over US\$6 billion is expected to flow into the country this Financial Year 2017-2018, according to the DICA. Foreign capital this FY so far was brought in Brunei Darussalam, China, France, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, The Netherlands, Viet Nam, United Kingdom, Marshall Island and China (Taipei).—Ko Htet

Chinese merchants come to Monywa for onions

Chinese merchants have come to commodity depot in Monywa town to buy onions at prevailing price since past two months, said U Myint Swe, onion broker from Monywa Township.

For two months, the Chinese merchants came daily to Monywa Town to purchase onions at prevailing price. The onions produced from central Myanmar are of higher quality

against China's onions.

Chinese merchants buy Myanmar's onions for domestic consumption as well as to export as canned onions. Currently, the demand is high at Monywa market. China's onions are also flowing into Myanmar market but the consumers do not prefer it. Those who are engaged in snack production industry chose China's onions because its price

is half of Myanmar's.

The prevailing price of onions is Ks1,200 a viss, said U Myint Swe. Currently, onions are harvested and the stocks are in hands of depot owners.

With the steady demand from China, the onions fetch a good price. Both the depot owners and the onion growers reap a handsome profit this year. — Myo Win Tun (Monywa)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

KBZ BANK
သဒ္ဒါထက်သန် ပြန်လည်အားဖြည့် ကုသမှုပေးတတ်

နေပြည်တော်
ပြန်ကြားရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ်(၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ ဝိသေသရာဇာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၀၀

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသိရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခရေလင်းလမ်း၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၃၆၀၄၀၊ ၀၆၇ ၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကင်း
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကင်းမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၈၆၀၅၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၂၄၁၀၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၉၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဓန ရောင်ရမ်း မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၀၂၃၂၉၅၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၅၊ ၀၉၉၂၁၄၃၅၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ဈေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၇၇၀၂

ဘုရှင်းတုံ
မြို့သစ် (၃-၁)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဓမ္မေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

ပြင်ကြီးများ
အမှတ် (၄၁) ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
ရုက္ခဝတီလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးတော်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျွန်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၀

လာရှိုး
ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်တယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆွာဘုရားအရှေ့အစေ့ရပ်လမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ဗြိတ်
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်းရမ်း၊ ကလွင်ကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ဗြိတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

မော်လမြိုင်
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

မုံရွာ
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Second day of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee meeting was held in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

Second day of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee meeting

SECOND day of the 14th meeting of 47-member leadership committee of the Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee was held yesterday at Wizaya Mingala Dhamathabin Hall in Thiri Mingalar Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon.

The meeting was led by Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Abhidhaja MahaRattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bhamo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and member sayadaws of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee while Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, personnel of Depart-

ment of Religious Affairs and Department for the Promotion and Propagation of the Sasana, religious affairs heads of states and regions attended and paid homage.

Chairman Sayadaw of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa chaired the meeting and State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dwipitakadhara Bhaddanta Agga Dhama was master of ceremony.

At the meeting, works conducted by Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (third sub group) during its fourth duty period on Vinaya (regulatory

framework), religious and educational affairs were discussed and decisions made.

Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (third sub group) fourth duty period works report was read and member Sayadaws provided explanation to discussed matters. The report was confirmed and the Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee 47-member committee 14th meeting was concluded in the afternoon.

Sayadaw of Kyaikkasan Veluwun Shwekyin Monastery, Thingangyun Township, Yangon East District and his followers donated the day's meals to the committee members.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar and Thailand collaborate for ASEAN Veterinary Volunteer Project – 2017

THE University of Veterinary Science and Thailand's Kasetsart University have collaborated to send students from twelve countries to conduct field re-

search in Myanmar from 1 to 8 July. The programme is part of the ASEAN Veterinary Volunteer Project-2017.

The programme has col-

lected 56 students of veterinary medicine from Myanmar, Thailand, Laos, Indonesia, Cambodia, the Philippines, VietNam, Japan, America, Canada, France and Finland and they have already done field research in Thailand from 17 to 30 June, under the administration of twenty teachers. This time they will head to Central Myanmar and travel to Lethit, Thityone, Zeepinkan and Laydan villages in Myingyan Township.

The group will hold educational seminars, perform cattle and rabies vaccination, give medicine to get rid of parasitic worms, perform needed surgeries on animals and plant long-lived trees, among other projects.—GNLM ■



Students of veterinary medicine from 12 countries and teachers pose for a documentary photo. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Man arrested for relations with terrorist group in Maungtaw

A man was arrested in Buthidaung Township yesterday on suspicion of having contacts with terrorists, according to local police source.

The Police detained

Phweyouk Islam from Meechang Gongshwe Village at his home acting on a tip-off that he has relations with a terrorist group.—Myanmar News Agency

Villager missing in Maungtaw

A resident of Futarlee Village, Zinpaing village-tract in Maungtaw Township has been reported missing on 29 June.

Mar Mout Phar left his home by motor cycle for Zinpaing village on 29 June at noon and has not yet re-

turned, according to local police source.

His family has filed a case at the Pyin Phyu police station in the afternoon of 30 June and further investigation is ongoing by the police force.—Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint addresses at the meeting to organise an All-Round Development of Youth Fair. **PHOTO: MNA**

Coordination meeting to hold All-Round Development of Youth Fair

A coordination meeting to organise an All-Round Development of Youth Fair was held in meeting hall of Ministry of Information, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint said people welcomed the holding of Children's Literature Festival as it fills a void and introduces literature to children. The youths play an important role in determining the good or bad future of the country, he said, adding that therefore, this event is scheduled to underpin the development of the youths.

"The aim of the fair is to provide a cheerful and encouraging event that will be remembered after years has passed, provide valuable experience, creates a healthy environment that prevents youth from taking the wrong path and obtain a good habit of cooperating with others" said the Union Minister.

Union Ministers Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and Dr. Win Myat Aye then advised on additional matters to be included in holding the All-Round Development

of youth fair.

Next, Information and Public Relations Department Director General U Maung Pe explained about the draft programme to hold an All-Round Development of Youth Fair and Permanent Secretary for Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture U Htun Ohn explained about planning for the fair, exhibits and entertainment programs.

Afterward, Director General U Myo Hlaing, Department of Sports and Physical Education, Ministry of Health and Sports, explained about health and sports sector arrangements made for All-Round Development of Youth Fair after which meeting attendees provided suggestions.

The All-Round Development of Youth Fair is being organised with an aim for youth all over the country to share and exchange their knowledge, skill, wisdom, ethic and to create and develop a future Myanmar human society based on the thoughts and ideas of the youth.—Myanmar News Agency ■

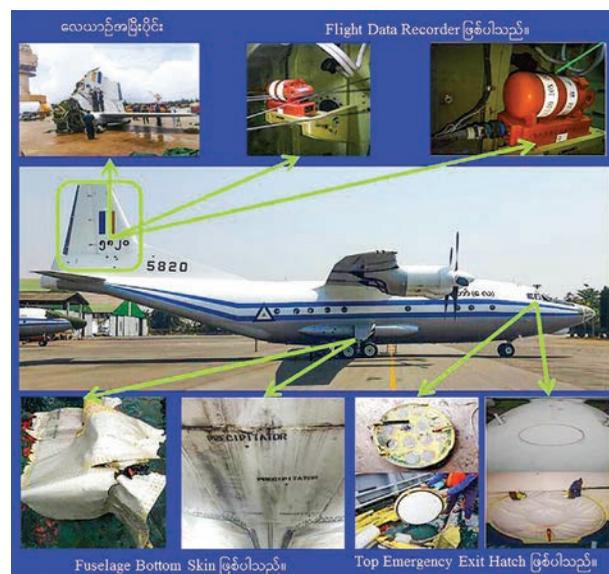
Co-ordination meeting on Y-8 plane crash held

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services attended the meeting held at 9 am yesterday at the meeting hall of the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said, "The event was a great loss of the Nation and Tatmadaw. Due to the concerted efforts of all the participants in the rescue operation, we gained success in a short period of time. While local people in Taninthayi Region including fishing vessels wholeheartedly helped, people across the nation and Tatmadaw families (army, navy and air) contributed much donation money. Loss of lives involved in this accident is

assumed to be the loss of every individual in the nation. As regards the case of U Saw Naung who sacrificed his life in an attempt to search under water, we must take it into consideration. Depending upon weather condition, search work will be carried out again."

Afterward, Rear-Admiral Moe Aung, Chief of Staff (navy) explained in detail about performances in order of dates of performance during the period from 7 June to 2 July and situations on the cooperative search for the wreckage by combining 13 naval marine vessels and 26 fishing vessels of Htoo Htoo Toe Company, Pyae Phyto Htun Company, Khine Zin Yaw Company and U Min Oo Company, divers



from the Tatmadaw (navy) and local organizations, findings of dead bodies and wreckage, transportation matters and further arrangements for search work to be carried by 9 naval marine vessels, 8

local fishing vessels and 9 diver-soldiers.

Afterward, Major General Maung Maung Kyaw, Chief of Staff (Air) clarified in detail about history of Y-8 (5820) and its flights, records re-

ceived from radars about the crash, weather conditions received from weather satellite and radars at the time of the accident, patterns of downdraft, performances of search-work carried out by 3 aircrafts owned by Tatmadaw (Air) and 2 helicopters, situations of discovering Flight Data Recorder—FDR and Cockpit Voice Recorder—CVR found from the sea, putting on record—a total of 261 pieces of wreckage recovered during the period from 8 June to 2 July by categorizing into Nose Section, Middle Fuselage and Rear Section and situations on investigation team consisting of third party group, with Lt General Hsan Oo, Adjutant-General explaining matters on prompt

acquisition of donation money received for the families of the victims in the crash, adoption and receiving rights. Lt Gen Nyo Saw, Quarter-master General explained resettlement and arrangement of employments for the bereaved family members.

Finally, the Senior General said that making arrangements for the acquisition of rights, other supports including their living, education and health, are to be given to bereaved families and it must be done for taking news and information about weather conditions. Simultaneously, it is necessary for all to carry out search works up to the latest situation, expressed the Senior General.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Myanmar migrant workers are seen on their way back home. PHOTO: KYAW SOE

Myanmar migrant workers re-enter from Kawthoung border gate

By Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung)

Yesterday, 194 Myanmar migrant workers, who lack sufficient documents, returned from Ranong, Thailand through the Kawthoung border gate. This was the third wave of migrant workers to return from Thailand.

The returning workers were welcomed by Kawthoung District Deputy Commissioner U Nay Oo, Township Administrator U Soe Myint Thein and officials from the immigration department, from the department for relief

and resettlement, representatives from the Women's Affairs Federation, firefighters and officials from the Red Cross and philanthropic organisations.

Deputy Commissioner U Nay Oo and his family donated Ks 0.5 million to a local philanthropic group which helps Myanmar workers. The Township General Administration Department distributed lunchboxes and the National League for Democracy gave out water bottles and soft drinks. The Department for Public Health administered to

the needed healthcare.

To date, over 400 migrant workers have returned through the Kawthoung border gate. Many vehicle services in Kawthoung are providing half-prices for their services to transport workers from Kawthoung to Myeik, Dawei, Mawlamyine, Yangon, Bago and Rakhine. The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and Kawthoung's Department for Relief and Resettlement help workers who cannot afford transportation by providing cash assistance. ■

Tatmadaw requests to avoid acts which can damage JMC-U image

By Ye Khaung Nyunt

The 11th meeting of the Union Joint Monitoring Committee-JMC-U kicked off at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Lt-Gen Yar Pyai, Chairman of JMC-U requested participants of the meeting to avoid actions which can damage the image of JMC-U.

"We heard some accusations of the Tatmadaw of using JMC-U to put pressure on ethnic armed groups. JMC-U's decisions

are based on unanimous approval. Therefore, I would like to request all to avoid any action which can damage the image of JMC-U" said Lt-Gen Yar Pyai.

Vice-Chairman (1) , JMC , General Saw Isaac Poe said "We all accepted that the cause of conflict is the political issue. So, we have to solve this issue politically.

We signed NCA to lead the political dialogue and follow the NCA Guidelines. Although the peace process is slow and steady, we keep trust in each other. I

am very impressive for enabling to form the JMC-S, JMC-U and JMC-L. The implementation of JMC process is very important

During the three day meeting, the military, government and civil societies also discussed on the draft of JMC's performance on the internally displaced persons, Local civilian monitoring issue, forming of JMC-L, initial report of UN Technical Needs Assessment (TNA), demarcation, demining and the draft of the term of the reference of the JMC support platform. ■

TENDER NOTICE (No. MY-H27-B6-12)

The Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed the Exchange of Notes dated February 17th, 2016, concerning the Japanese grant assistance for the Project for the Reconstruction of Flood-Affected Schools. Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) is acting as the procurement agent for and on behalf of Department of Basic Education, Ministry of Education for procuring the products and services in accordance with the E/N. Interested bidders are invited to submit the Bid as follows.

Services to be procured	: Reconstruction of Schools
Target Region	: Ayeyarwady Region
Place of Distribution for Tender Documents	: JICS Myanmar Project Office
Date of Distribution	: July 3rd, 2017 - July 12th, 2017
Pre Bid Meeting	: 14:00 on July 14th, 2017
Bid Submission	: 10:00 - 12:00 on August 9th, 2017
Bid Opening	: 13:00 on August 9th, 2017

Further information is available on JICS's website (http://www.jics.or.jp/jics_html-e/index.php) or contact to JICS Myanmar Project Office (Room No. 904 La Pyayt Wun Plaza, No.37, Alanpya Pagoda Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar). E-mail address: gmqj8780@jics.jp, matoba_satoshi@jics.or.jp, jics.yangon@gmail.com

Today belongs almost entirely to the Myanmar people

By Dr Tha Sein

Workers from Myanmar make up the backbone of Thai manual labour forces. A large number of Thai industries including a multi-billion dollar seafood sector are heavily reliant on Myanmar workers. Undocumented migrants are sometimes subject to exploitation by employers who hire undocumented foreign workers should face a fine of up to 800,000 baths (K 31.92 million) under the decree that went into effect on 23 June.

Thailand has to import migrant workers to offset the shortage of labour, particularly in the services and construction sectors. The country delayed a new labour law after 6500 Myanmar

workers returned, and their return continues, sending a signal to Bangkok what the workers can and are willing to go back home without anxiety.

Bangkok's actions are certain to run into a major problem, prompting a gradual decline in both the morale of the workers and the business environment. Other problems remain in Thailand, such as the ethical conduct and transparency of Thai companies, while corruption scandals suggest some migrant fishermen were forced to work and unpaid.

This is not the first time the Thai government has imposed restrictions on the Myanmar workers. Each time a probe is set up and nothing concrete

comes of it, with the problem simply fading from public attention. Myanmar officials should engage in negotiations with their Thai counterparts in the first place, given legalizing made by Thai government for foreign workers.

Most recently, the United States kept Thailand on a trafficking list watch list, saying it did not meet the minimum standards to end human trafficking. It may bring into question whether the latter properly deal with the issue. Thailand could use this as a lesson and make things right before it is too late.

Contrary to the past, Myanmar is seen as a promising place for infrastructural investment and a production

base, with 6.5 per cent real-term economic growth in 2016. Since the country opened up in 2012, the influx of Foreign Direct Investment-FDI reached its peak in 2014 with a total of over US\$ 8 billion in approved investment for the year.

Nowadays, the scene in Myanmar is completely different. Business atmosphere is vibrant with a steady emergence of special economic zones. Tourism is booming. New property projects are coming up along with new transport facilities, pushing land prices up to new heights. It means the country marks a new phase and today belongs almost entirely to the Myanmar people. ■

Blockchain pilots making waves in developing Asia

By Alisa DiCaprio and Steven Beck

Not just a fancy but impractical idea, blockchain is taking on a crucial role in supply chain management and finance in developing Asia. Here are some works in progress.

We've all heard the buzz about the potential applications of blockchain technology. But what's actually happening in developing countries in Asia and the Pacific?

Beyond bitcoin payments and remittances, blockchain exists largely in the pilot stage. Governments and banks are collaborating with technology firms to see if it can be used to solve persistent problems like traceability, identification, and trust.

Let's bring some clarity to the hypotheticals. But first, what exactly is blockchain? It's a type of database that takes records and puts them in a block (akin to, say, a sheet in your Excel file).

Each block is then "chained" to the previous block, using a cryptographic signature. This allows blockchains to be used like a ledger, which can be shared and corroborated by anyone with permission.

"Supply chain transparency for commodities where provenance may impact consumers is moving forward quickly, and using blockchain for this is gaining traction."

In short, it's peer-to-peer sharing of data – it does not require a trusted intermediary. Let's look at some ways our countries are using it.

Georgia - land registry

In 2016, Georgia and a US-incorporated provider piloted a blockchain-based platform for the National

Agency of Public Registry to record land titles and integrate them into the existing digital records system.

Georgians can now register land titles and verify the dates of transactions, thereby increasing transparency and accountability. The original agreement was expanded in 2017 to include other government departments.

Technically, there are two parts to the system. A private blockchain, on which the government records data on transactions, and a public blockchain. The information on ownership is publicly available, although the data underlying it are not - in order to protect the owner's privacy.

Cambodia - payment systems

Last April, the National Bank of Cambodia (NBC) signed an agreement with a Japanese startup to design a new payments system. The testing phase is expected to be launched by the end of this year.

The objective is to design a system for interbank transactions that will offer a secure and cost efficient way to transfer money. This can benefit many in a country where the commercial banking infrastructure is still evolving, but which enjoys solid mobile technology and connectivity.

Unique to this project is the collaborative relationship between the partners. The technology provider will build the infrastructure, and the NBC will contribute to the startup's ongoing technology design.

Globally, many central banks have been exploring the potential of blockchain. The International Monetary Fund has encouraged this activity and urged banks to study its implications.



"Supply chain transparency for commodities where provenance may impact consumers is moving forward quickly, and using blockchain for this is gaining traction."

Indonesia - sustainable supply chains

During the first half of 2016, a UK company piloted a blockchain project that tracked the provenance of yellowfin and skipjack tuna caught by local fishermen as part of a sustainable supply chain.

This allows proof of compliance at origin, which in can potentially replace the current paper records which are difficult to verify and subject to corruption.

The system is a mix of mobile technology and blockchain. Fishers registered their catches to the blockchain via text message. Additional data are later verified and added by NGOs. Once the information is transmitted through the supply chain, it cannot be altered, and the data are visible through the product's whole journey.

Supply chain transparency for commodities where provenance may impact consumers is moving forward quickly, and using blockchain for this is gaining traction.

Myanmar - microfinance transactions

BC Finance, the biggest micro-finance institution in Myanmar, is working with a Japanese firm to record transactions on blockchain.

The partners hope that this initiative can propel the sector's growth by

cutting costs and reducing the administrative complexity of tracking large numbers of small transactions.

It is expected that blockchain technology can be useful in a country like Myanmar, where advanced accounting systems are not yet in place. However, obstacles include frequent power outages and low-quality local circuits.

Finance in general and trade finance in particular, is one of the more active areas for blockchain development. Commercial banks throughout the region are participating in consortiums to come up with blockchain solutions to the very expensive, slow, and opaque trade process.

Bottom line

Blockchain pilots are making waves in countries in developing Asia for two reasons.

The first reason is that most developing countries don't have legacy systems that need to be replaced. Blockchain can provide the first upgrade of an existing inefficient system, or introduce infrastructure that didn't exist before.

The second reason for the widespread interest stems from the light regulatory infrastructure in many countries. So far, this has been an opportunity, but it also raises some concerns as this technology matures.

ADB can play an important role in ensuring that blockchain is implemented in a development-friendly way. We can bring together regulators, best practices, IT experts, and officials to ensure everyone is on the same page.

Alisa DiCaprio is Economic Researcher at ADB Institute and Steven Beck is Head of Trade Finance at ADB. This post is republished from the ADB blog. ■

Saraniya Ovadakatha delivered by Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa from Bhamo monastery at the Suddasama all – 47 – member meeting of the Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar held on 9th Waxing of Waso, 1379 ME (2nd July, 2017, Sunday)

REVEREND monks who are members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee attending the suddasama all – 47 – member meeting of the Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee,

I'm delighted to see you in good physical and mental health attending this meeting, laying emphasis upon religious cause.

Reverend monks,

At the Suddasama meeting of the Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, I would like to supplicate to you concerning the ovadakatha of the Buddha which is mentioned in Apadan Pali and Cariya Pitaka Pali as follows:

“Vivadam Bayato Dissava
Avivadañca Khemato,
Samagga Sakhila Hotha
Esa Buddhanussasani.

In this gatha, Vivadam Bhayato Dissava means regarding arguments as harmful. In this regard, there is the following phrase in Atthakatha, “Vivadam Bayato Dissavati, Vivadam Kalam Bayato Dissava Apayabhaghi Dissava ñattava”, which means realizing the danger of being reborn in four unhappy abodes (duggati bhaya) in addition to being inflicted with Attanuvada plus paranuvada plus danta bhayas (dangers) in this present existence.

“Avivadanca Khemato” means regarding non-argument as harmless. In this regard, there is the following phrase in Atthaka-

tha, “Avivadam Vivadato Viramanam, Nibbhappatti ti Khemato Dissava nattava”, which means realizing the effect of attainment of nibbana in addition to freedom from dangers in this present existence. Judging by these two gathas, you should particularly avoid arguments.

Mahanidessa Pali text mentioned three categories of Samaggis – Ganasamaggi, Dhammasamaggi and Anabhinibbattisamaggi, derived from the word Samagga.

Among them, those falling under the category of Ganasamaggi are united, being on good terms with one another, never being engaged in arguments, like the milk easily mixing with water.

Dhammasamaggi means proper co-existence of thirty-seven Bodhipakkhiya dhamma-while Anabhinibbattisamaggi means the nature of saturation of nibbanadhatu of the monks who have already entered parinibbanahood with Anupadisesa nibbanadhatu.

Judging by the interpretation of atthakatha, the phrase, “Samagga Ekacitta” and the term “Samagga” suggest that all those wishing to have peace and be free from danger shall be united. As long as all of you monks are united, our sasana will be free from danger, purified, perpetuated and propagated. As long as the entire mass of citizens are united, the entire nation will be free from danger.

The term Sakhila from the following pali verse, “Sakhila

Silittha Mettaya Dhuragataya Sabhamana Hothatiatto” from Atthakatha pali text is referred to those who speak in an amiable manner, and who speak words pleasing to the ears of the listeners. The mahakusala, mahakriyacittuppad is called “Sakhahlya”, which make people speak in such manners.

Dhamma Sangani Pali text has the following verse, “Tattha Katamam Sakhalyam, Ya Sa Vasa Antaka Kakkasa Parakatuka Parabhisajjani Kodhasamanta Asamadhisamvattanika Tatharupim Vacam Pahaya Ya Sa Vaca Nela Kannasuha Pemaniya Hadayangama Pori Bahujana Kanta Bahujana manapa tatharupim Vacam Basita Hoti, Ya Tatta sanhavacata Sakhilavacata Apharusavacata, Idam Vuccati Sakhalyam”.

According to the above-mentioned Pali gatha, you, members of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, including myself, are noble Sakhila monks, and we are, therefore, needed to speak in an amiable manner in our discussion and deliberation of religious affairs. In order for us to gain the great merit all the time, we should avoid the undermentioned six words – Antaka, Kakkasa, Parakatuka, Parabhisajjani, Kodha samanta and Asamathi-samvattanika – and use only the following seven words – Nela, Kannasukha, Pemaniya, Hadayangama, Pori, Bahujanakanta and Bahujanamanapa whereas Antaka means unsmooth words



Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa. PHOTO: MNA

like Kumsana and Vambhana; Kakkasa suggests rough words unpleasing to ears; Parakatuka means bitter words; Parabhisajjani means irritating, heart breaking words; kodha samanta means words outraging the people; and Asamathi-samvattanika means words that do not create Upacarasamathi and Appanasamathi. And Nela means flawless words; Kannasukha means words pleasing to the ears; Pemaniya means words that are lovely and cherishable; Hadayangama means words that are to the liking of one's heart; Pori means words that are polite and used by the dwellers of metropolitan cities; Bahujanakanta means the words the majority of the people like; and Bahujanamanapa means those encouraging words that are cherished by the majority of the people.

Venerable monks,

These words of advice of Gotama Buddha are those delivered by all preceding Buddhas of astronomical figures who have already attained parinibbana. This being so, I would like to supplicate to you, members of State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, to heed these words of advice.

May I conclude my ovadakatha by reciting the following gatha, “Vivadam Bayato Dissava, Avivadanca Khemato, Samagga Sakhila Hotha, Esa Buddhanussasani”. This pali gatha means “Oh monks! Please realize that argument is harmful, and non-argument is harmless. Be aware of this, you live in unity, speak amiable words. This is the advice of all preceding Buddhas who have already attained parinibbana”.

Invitation to 14th China-ASEAN Expo and 14th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit

14th China-ASEAN Expo and 14th China-ASEAN Business and Investment Summit will be held from 12 to 15 September in Nanning International Convention & Exhibition Centre, Nanning and businesses

are invited to participate.

Interested businesses who want to know more details can contact Myanmar Trade Promotion Organization, Ministry of Commerce, Nay Pyi Taw at phone 067-

430446/430447, fax 067-430128, email: moctradefair@gmail.com and Myanmar Trade Center (Yangon) at phone 01-254024, email: tipic.moc@gmail.com, website: www.trade.gov.mm. ■

MYANMAR GAZETTE

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Ko Ko Aung, General Manager, Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein), Myanma Pharmaceutical Industry, under the Ministry of Industry as Managing Director, Myanma Pharmaceutical Industry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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

Trump talks North Korea threat in calls with China, Japan leaders

BRIDGEWATER, NJ — US President Donald Trump spoke to Chinese President Xi Jinping and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Sunday and discussed the threat posed by North Korea, while putting pressure on Beijing over trade.

“Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to a denuclearized Korean Peninsula,” the White House said of Trump’s call with Xi.

“President Trump reiterated his determination to seek more balanced trade relations with America’s trading partners,” it said.

Trump has become increasingly frustrated with China’s inability to rein in North Korea, and the reference to trade was an indication that the one-time New York businessman may be ready to return to his tougher-talking ways on business with Beijing after holding back in hopes that it would put more pressure on Pyongyang.

Trump and Abe, in their call, reiterated their commitment to increase pressure on North Korea.

“They reaffirmed that the United States-Japan Alliance



US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: REUTERS

stands ready to defend and respond to any threat or action taken by North Korea,” the White House said in a statement.

The phone calls, ahead of meetings he will hold with both leaders at the G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, on 7-8 July, come at a time of heightened concern over North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs.

Trump’s separate conversations with the two leaders followed White House talks with South Korea’s new president, Moon Jae-in, last week in which the US leader called

on Asian powers to implement sanctions and demand North Korea “choose a better path and do it quickly.”

During and after a Florida summit with Xi in April, Trump praised his Chinese counterpart for agreeing to work on the North Korea issue and has held back on attacking Chinese trade practices he railed against during the presidential campaign.

But Trump has recently suggested he was running out of patience with China’s modest steps to pressure North Korea, which is working to develop a nuclear-tipped missile capable

of hitting the United States, and has been considering moving ahead on trade actions.

Trump has been weighing new quotas or tariffs on steel imports for national security reasons and plans to discuss his concerns at the G20. Washington sees excess global production capacity, particularly in China, administration officials say.

On Thursday, the United States targeted a Chinese bank and sanctioned Chinese individuals and a firm for dealing with North Korea and approved a \$1.42 billion arms deal with Taiwan - decisions that angered Beijing.

And on Sunday a US warship sailed near a disputed island in the South China Sea claimed by China, drawing a rebuke from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Trump, who held talks with Abe earlier this year at the president’s Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida, has forged a united front with the Japanese leader on the need to exert pressure on North Korea to curb its nuclear and missile development.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

UK government will respond this year on police and teacher pay — May’s spokesman

LONDON — The British government will respond to recommendations on pay increases for teachers, police and some other public sector workers later this year, Prime Minister Theresa May’s spokesman said on Monday when asked about pressure to drop pay caps.

Media have reported some members of May’s top team of ministers want her to drop long-standing public sector pay restraints in response to voter dissatisfaction at more than seven years of austerity — cited as one reason for her Conservative Party’s poor election showing last month.

The spokesman said the government had already accepted the recommendations of pay bodies representing professions such as nurses and doctors, and would consider others in the normal way as and when they presented their cases.

—Reuters ■

China’s defence ministry says US damaged stability in South China Sea

BEIJING, — The United States has seriously damaged peace and stability in the South China Sea after a US warship sailed near a disputed island in waters claimed by China, the Asian nation’s defence ministry said on Monday.

The ministry resolutely opposes the entry of US warships into Chinese territory, it said in a statement on social media.

The actions of the United States navy seriously damaged the “political atmosphere” around the development of military ties between the two countries, the ministry added.

The USS Stethem, a guided-missile destroyer, sailed within 12 nautical miles of Triton Island, part of the Paracel Islands in the South China Sea, a US Defence Department official said.—Reuters ■

Merkel’s conservatives promise full employment by 2025

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservatives promised Germany more police, more homes and full employment within eight years, as they presented their programme on Monday for an election in which she will seek a fourth term in office.

With Europe’s biggest economy growing robustly, Merkel’s Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), have made assurances that they will not raise taxes and will invest more.

As the countdown to the 24 September ballot continues, they hold a clear opinion poll lead over the centre-left Social



German Chancellor and head of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) Angela Merkel. PHOTO: REUTERS

Democrats (SPD) but would still need to team up with another party to govern.

On Monday they added the goal of full employment — which they define as a jobless rate of

less than 3 per cent — by 2025 to their list of campaign pledges.

“We think we can do this,” Merkel told a news conference with CSU leader Horst Seehofer convened to present the election

programme.

Germany’s jobless rate is currently at a post-reunification low of 5.5 per cent, and a level of 3 per cent has not been seen since the “Economic Miracle” boom of the mid-1970s.

The conservative parties also want to add 1.5 million homes during the next parliamentary term, and expand Germany’s broadband network.

On foreign policy, Merkel said they want a ‘Marshall Plan’ with Africa.

They also said they are prepared to work with the new French government to develop the euro zone step by step, but oppose a mutualisation of debts.—Reuters ■

Suspected Boko Haram militants kill nine, abduct dozens in Niger

NIAMEY — Suspected Boko Haram Islamist militants killed nine people and abducted dozens more in southern Niger on Sunday night, the local mayor and a journalist said.

The attackers rode camels into the village of Ngalewa, about 50 km (30 miles) north of the border with Nigeria — home of the Boko Haram insurgency — said Maman Nour, the director of a community radio station in the nearby town of Kabelawa.

“They killed nine people and they kidnapped around 30,” said Nour, who had spoken to fleeing villagers.

Abba Gata Issa,

mayor of the district, confirmed the nine dead and said around 40 women and children had been kidnapped.

Boko Haram launches frequent cross-border raids from its strongholds in northeastern Nigeria and has killed more than 20,000 people during its eight-year insurgency.

Last week bombers killed two people and wounded 11 others at a UN-managed camp in the same region of Niger that houses thousands of people who have fled Boko Haram violence. It was the first suicide attack in Niger’s southern Diffa region in a year. —Reuters ■

Syrian army announces ceasefire in southern Syria until Thursday

BEIRUT — The Syrian army said it would suspend combat operations in southern Syria until Thursday, including in Quneitra province where Israel has hit army outposts in recent days, according to a statement carried by state television.

The army general command said the ceasefire took effect from midday (0900 GMT) on Sunday and was being done to support “reconciliation efforts”, in the

second unilateral ceasefire in the last two weeks.

On 17 June, the army announced a ceasefire that only affected fighting in the southern city of Deraa along the border with Israel. This latest announcement extends the ceasefire alongside Deraa city to the whole of southern Syria, including the strategic southwestern Quneitra province near the border with Israel and also Sweida province in the southeast.—Reuters ■

Saudi Arabia, allies give Qatar two more days to accept demands

DOHA/DUBAI — Four Arab states that accuse Qatar of supporting terrorism agreed to extend until Tuesday a deadline for Doha to comply with a list of demands, as US President Donald Trump voiced concerns about the dispute to both sides.

Qatar has called the charges baseless and says the stiff demands — including closing Qatar-based al Jazeera

TV and ejecting Turkish troops based there — are so draconian that they appear designed to be rejected.

Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Egypt and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) have raised the possibility of further sanctions against Qatar if it does not comply with the 13 demands presented to Doha through mediator Kuwait.—Reuters ■

Islamic State cornered in Mosul as Iraq prepares victory celebrations

MOSUL, (Iraq) — Islamic State fighters were battling to hold on to the last few streets under their control in the Old City of Mosul on Monday, in what looked like a hopeless last stand in their former stronghold.

In fierce fighting, Iraqi army units forced the insurgents back, cornering them in a shrinking rectangle no more than 300 metres (yards) wide and 500 metres long by the Tigris river, according to a map published by the military media office.

Smoke covered parts of the Old City, rocked by air strikes and artillery salvos through the morning.

The number of Islamic State (IS) militants fighting in Mosul has dwindled from thousands at the start of the government offensive more than eight months ago to a mere couple of hundred now, according to the Iraqi military.

Reaching the Tigris would give Iraqi forces



Members of the Emergency Response Division walk with their weapons during the fight with the Islamic States militants in the Old City of Mosul, Iraq on 3 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

full control over the city and is expected by the end of this week. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi is expected to visit Mosul to formally declare victory, and a week of nationwide celebrations is planned.

Mosul is by far the largest city ever controlled by Islamic State. It was here, nearly three years ago to the day, that it declared the founding of its “caliphate” over parts of

Iraq and Syria.

The city’s fall would mark the effective end of the Iraqi half of the caliphate, although the group still controls territory west and south of Mosul, where tens of thousands of civilians live.

The group is retaliating with suicide attacks in the parts of Mosul taken by Iraqi forces and elsewhere in the country.

A suicide bomber

dressed as a veiled woman killed 14 people and wounded 13 others in a displacement camp west of the capital Baghdad on Sunday, security sources said. IS claimed responsibility. A US-led international coalition is providing air and ground support to the Mosul offensive by the Iraqi army, elite Counter Terrorism Service units and militarised police.— Reuters ■

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားများ ဘဏ်လီမိတက် အစုရှယ်ယာရှင်များသို့ ဖိတ်ကြားခြင်း

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားများဘဏ်လီမိတက်၏ ၂၀၁၆-၂၀၁၇ဘဏ္ဍာနှစ်၊ ဒါရိုက်တာအဖွဲ့ အစီရင်ခံစာ စာရင်းရှင်းတမ်းနှင့် စာရင်းစစ် အစီရင်ခံစာများကို အတည်ပြုရန်၊ အစုရှယ်ယာရှင်များအပေါ် အမြတ်ဝေစုခွဲဝေခြင်းကို ကြေညာရန်နှင့် ဒါရိုက်တာများ ရွေးချယ်တင်မြောက်ရန်တို့အတွက် (၂၅) ကြိမ်မြောက်နှစ်ပတ်လည်အထွေထွေအစည်းအဝေးကြီးနှင့် (၂၅)နှစ်ပြည့် ငွေရတုအထိမ်းအမှတ် အခမ်းအနားကို အောက်ပါအစီအစဉ်အတိုင်း ကျင်းပပြုလုပ်မည်ဖြစ်ပါ၍ အစုရှယ်ယာရှင်များ တက်ရောက်နိုင်ကြပါရန် ဖိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်။

- ကျင်းပမည့်ရက် - ၈-၇-၂၀၁၇(စနေနေ့)
- ကျင်းပမည့်အချိန် - နံနက်(၉:၀၀)နာရီ မှ နေ့လည် (၁:၀၀) နာရီအထိ
- ကျင်းပမည့်နေရာ - “NOVOTEL YANGON MAX” အမှတ်(၄၅၉)၊ ပြည်လမ်း၊ ကမာရွတ်မြို့နယ် ရန်ကုန်တိုင်းဒေသကြီး

- မှတ်ချက်။ - အစည်းအဝေးဖိတ်စာကို အစီရင်ခံစာများနှင့်အတူ ဘဏ်တွင် မှတ်တမ်း တင်ထားသော လိပ်စာများသို့ ပေးပို့ထားပါသည်။ ဖိတ်စာလက်ဝယ် မရောက်ရှိသော ရှယ်ယာရှင်များလည်း အထက်ပါအစီအစဉ်အတိုင်း တက်ရောက်နိုင်ပါရန် ဖိတ်ကြားအပ်ပါသည်။
- အစုရှယ်ယာရှင်များအနေဖြင့် အစည်းအဝေးဖိတ်ကြားစာနှင့်တကွ တက်ရောက်ပါရန် မေတ္တာရပ်ခံအပ်ပါသည်။
- အစုရှယ်ယာ လွှဲပြောင်းခြင်းမှတ်တမ်းစာအုပ်ကို(၇. ၇. ၂၀၁၇)ရက်နေ့ထိ ခေတ္တပိတ်ထား မည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားများဘဏ်လီမိတက်

Russian commercial ties pose great potential

BEIJING — Sino-Russian business ties are on the ascent and they still offer considerable potential, President of China Xi Jinping told TASS in an interview on the verge of the visit to Moscow.

“(Russian) President (Vladimir) Putin and I attach great significance to trade and economic cooperation between China and Russia and proactively stimulate its development.

Trade and economic ties are far-reaching and offer enormous potential in practical cooperation between our countries,” the President of China said. China has maintained the status of Russia’s largest trading partner for the seventh year in a row, he said.

“Despite the impact of such adverse factors as a sluggish global economy and fluctuating prices for



China's President Xi Jinping. PHOTO: TASS

oil and other base goods, the downward trend in the Sino-Russian trade was reversed last year. Trade turnover amounted to \$69.53 bln and grew by 2.2% when compared to 2015. The bilateral trade acquired high dynamics during the first 5 months of this year and surged 26%. Expectations are that trade turnover may be over \$80 bln by the end of the year,” Xi Jinping said.

“The structure is currently being streamlined

and additional growth opportunities are seen,” the Chinese President said. In particular, trade in machinery and high technology products is rising dramatically (by 20.8% and 19.4% respectively in the first quarter of this year). Investment cooperation is gradually gaining traction and financial cooperation is deepening. “The Central Bank of Russia opened its first overseas representative office in China. A Russian company has

become the first among companies from countries along the One Belt and One Road in successfully floating Panda Bonds on China’s exchange. Beijing announced the creation of the China-Russia investment fund for cultivating regional cooperation between the northeastern districts of China and Russia’s Far East,” Xi Jinping noted. Trade in agricultural products is growing at a rapid pace, he added.

Beijing “has already become the largest trading partner for the Far Eastern region of Russia,” the president of China said.

“The parties are proactively working on promising cooperation projects in such spheres as deep conversion of resources, port logistics, modern agriculture and infrastructural cooperation,” Xi Jinping added.—Tass

Bus bursts into flames after collision in Germany, killing 17 — report

BERLIN — Seventeen people were killed when a coach burst into flames after colliding with a lorry on a motorway in the German state of Bavaria on Monday, local newspaper Frankenpost said.

Frankenpost did not identify its source for the information and police were not immediately available to comment

when contacted by Reuters. A police spokesman told broadcaster n-tv that 17 people were unaccounted for and he expected several had died.

Thirty-one people were injured, some seriously, police said on Twitter. They said there were 48 people on the bus at the time of the crash.—Reuters ■



Firefighters are seen at the site where a coach burst into flames after colliding with a lorry on a motorway near Muenchberg, Germany in this still image taken from video on 3 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (015)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (015) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.7.2017 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 GLODEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV FRISIA LAHN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV FRISIA LAHN VOY. NO (). NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.7.2017 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

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CALIMERO VOY. NO (0643)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CALIMERO VOY. NO (0643) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE
LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.7.2017 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL SOLO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.7.2017 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Indian Navy content with Russian-made aircraft carrier

ST PETERSBURG — The Soviet aircraft carrier Admiral Gorshkov renamed as the Vikramaditya after its upgrade and transfer to India is in an excellent condition and the Indian Navy is content with its operation, Nevskoye Design Bureau CEO Sergei Vlasov told TASS on Thursday.

“As for the aircraft carrier’s design, the Indian side did not have and does not have any questions. The ship is in an excellent condition; it has undergone docking and its underwater part is also in a very good condition. Its operation will determine the possibility of extending its service life,” the chief executive said.

“The Vikramaditya’s docking has shown that the aircraft carrier can withstand almost a five-year inter-docking period of work in warm seas,” the Nevskoye design bureau chief stressed.

“If it is normally



Indian aircraft carrier Vikramaditya. PHOTO: TASS

maintained and timely repaired, it can serve for 40 and 50 years,” Vlasov added.

India signed an agreement with Russia on acquiring the aircraft carrier in January 2004. The Indian side received the hull of the Admiral Gorshkov for free on condition that the aircraft carrier would be upgraded and equipped

with Russian-made aircraft. At the same time, Russia committed itself to training the Indian crew.

During the upgrade, the displacement of the aircraft carrier Vikramaditya grew to 45,000 tonnes.

The aircraft carrier designed by the Nevskoye design bureau received an advanced flight deck, a

ski-jump ramp for fighter jet takeoff, radars, navigation, communications and aircraft control systems and other equipment.

The ship can carry 30 planes and helicopters, including Mikoyan MiG-29K (NATO reporting name: Fulcrum) fighter jets that are delivered for Russia’s aircraft carrier Admiral Kuznetsov as well.—Tass ■

Spanish police rescue kidnapped man held for 11 days

CASARRUBIOS DEL MONTE, Spain — Spanish police launched a dramatic raid to rescue a man they said had been kidnapped, drugged and held for 11 days, minutes before a 1.5 million-euro (\$1.7 million) ransom was to be paid.

Video of the raid, released by police on Monday, showed officers with riot shields and pistols drawn breaking down the door of an apartment and the bound victim being told: “Be calm. We’re police. You’re free”.

Police said they had arrested four people in the town of Casarrubios del Monte in the central province of Toledo and another in Madrid in connection with the incident.

The victim, who has not been named, was kidnapped from his home in the Catalan province of Girona in June by a gang who beat and drugged him

before forcing him into a car at gunpoint, according to police.

The victim’s wife received a telephone call demanding 1.5 million euros in exchange for his being released alive.

Police said last week’s raid was launched moments before the ransom was due to be handed over to the kidnappers in a car park. The gang had previously operated in Eastern Europe, they said.

Its alleged ringleader is a Romanian citizen who had studied medicine in Madrid and was working in a hospital there. He is alleged to have procured the drugs used to sedate the victim, police said.

The victim was described as a Serbian who was also a naturalized Dutch citizen. He was taken to hospital to receive treatment for his injuries.—Reuters ■

China, Russia share opposition to US THAAD in South Korea: Xi

MOSCOW — Chinese President Xi Jinping set off on a visit to Russia on Monday stressing the grave threat a US anti-missile system in South Korea poses to both Chinese and Russian interests.

China has repeatedly stated its opposition to the

US Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system and has called for its deployment to be stopped, and the missiles already installed to be removed. China says the system’s powerful radar can probe deep into its territory, undermining its

security and a regional balance while doing nothing to stop North Korea in its relentless pursuit of nuclear weapons and the missiles to deliver them.

“The US deployment of an advanced anti-missile system in South Korea gravely harms the strategic

security interests of China, Russia and other countries in the region,” China’s state Xinhua news agency cited Xi as saying. The United States and South Korea say the THAAD is solely aimed at defending the South from North Korea.

China and Russia have

maintained close communication and coordination on the issue and held very similar views on it, Xi said in an interview with Russian media. “Beijing and Moscow are steadfastly opposed to the THAAD deployment and seriously suggest that relevant coun-

tries stop and cancel the installation,” Xinhua cited Xi as saying. China and Russia would take “necessary measures”, either together or independently, to protect their interests, Xi said, without elaborating, according to Xinhua.—Reuters ■

NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

This serves as a general notice that Myancash Company Limited, (Company Registration No. 469FC 2016/2017) is withdrawing its application for registration filed with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, under the Ministry of Planning and Finance. Any objections must be sent to Yasushi Kaita at Tel. No.09423-000-488 within seven (7) days from today.

Mr. Takashi Shigeno

Director of MYANCASH COMPANY LIMITED

Registration No.: 469FC 2016-2017

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV DA FU VOY. NO (167)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DA FU VOY. NO (167) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT 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 COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SIGAP VOY. NO (9)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SIGAP VOY. NO (9) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 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 MERIDIAN SHIPPING
AGENCIES PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301928

Box Office: 'Despicable Me 3' rules, 'Baby Driver' shows strong, Will Ferrell's 'House' collapses

LOS ANGELES — Illumination and Universal's "Despicable Me 3" is cruising to an easy box office win during a busy holiday weekend. The latest in the franchise is opening to \$75.4 million from 4,529 locations — the widest domestic release ever. That total is lower than earlier estimates, which pegged the film above \$80 million (earlier tracking suggested it could land even higher), but nevertheless it remains the weekend's big winner.

Steve Carell plays double duty in "Despicable Me 3" as the series' protagonist Gru, and now also his twin brother, Dru. The plot centres on the brothers, as they team up for a criminal heist. "South Park" co-creator Trey Parker joins the franchise to voice the villain. Critics are generally on the movie's side, earning it a 62% on Rotten Tomatoes. The movie earned an A- CinemaScore from audiences, which is lower than the A earned by the first two installments and "Minions."

"With these characters that have reached a level of ubiquity in our culture, these movies continue to create this want to see," said Nick Carpou, Universal's domestic distribution chief, who added, "I think we have the best marketing group in the business."

Despite "Despicable's" rule, perhaps the more interesting stories for the industry reside further down the box office chart.

Starting with "Baby Driver," from Sony's TriStar Pictures, MRC, and Working Title. Edgar Wright's latest also appears to be his biggest box office hit, as it's



Cast members Kristen Wiig (L) and Steve Carell attend the premiere of 'Despicable Me 3' in Los Angeles, California, US on 24 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

cruising to \$30 million from 3,226 locations — that's including the \$5.7 million head start the movie got by opening early in previews on Tuesday.

The movie centres around a character named Baby (Ansel Elgort), who becomes the getaway driver for a kingpin named Doc (Kevin Spacey). Music plays an integral role in the film since Baby suffered a traumatic experience as a child that left him with tinnitus, which he blocks out with music. The rest of the cast includes Lily James, Jon Bernthal, Eiza Gonzalez, Jon Hamm, and Jamie Foxx.

"Edgar and our partners at MRC and Working Title have made one of the most original and entertaining films in recent memory, and we're so thrilled to

see it received as a bonafide hit in a crowded summer season," said Sony's distribution chief Adrian Smith.

"Baby Driver," like "Get Out" earlier this year and "The Big Sick," currently showing strong in limited release, is the kind of project that gets Hollywood excited about the chance for original ideas to also be financially viable. Wright's film picked up buzz when it won the Audience Award and positive early reviews at the SXSW Film Festival. The movie's marketing capitalized on its colorful aesthetic and emphasis on music.

Amy Poehler and Will Ferrell's "The House," meanwhile, is having trouble attracting visitors. The R-rated comedy from New Line, Warner Bros., and

Village Roadshow is opening to \$9 million from 3,134 locations.

"The House" is the story of a husband (Ferrell) and wife (Poehler) who start an underground casino to help raise money for their daughter's college fund. Andrew Jay Cohen directed from a script that he wrote with Brendan O'Brien — the two previously collaborated on the "Neighbors" movies.

For the weekend's top five, Paramount's "Transformers: The Last Knight" should land in third with \$17 million during its second weekend. "Wonder Woman" continues to be a force for Warner Bros., and is on its way to \$15.6 million domestically during its fifth weekend. The movie has crossed \$700 million worldwide and passed "Suicide

Squad" and "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" at the domestic box office. And Disney and Pixar's "Cars 3" should take the five slot during its third week with \$9.5 million domestically.

After a strong start to 2017, a rather slow summer box office overall has brought the year-to-date box office numbers down to about even with last year.

"A weak May followed by a June that failed to become the savior of the summer now puts July in the hot seat to deliver the goods and get us out of the summer season doldrums," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at ComScore.

Outside of the major release circuit, the arthouse appears to have some juice for the first time this summer with strong numbers from "The Little Hours," "The Beguiled," and "The Big Sick."

Gunpowder and Sky's first theatrical release, "Little Hours" posted the highest per screen average from two locations this weekend. The nun-centric religious satire starring Alison Brie and Aubrey Plaza should open to \$61,560. Meanwhile, Sofia Coppola's "Beguiled" expects to crack the top ten in limited release, after expanding to 674 locations. The Focus Features release should make an estimated \$3.3 million over the three-day weekend. And Kumail Nanjiani's semi-autobiographical romantic comedy "Big Sick" expanded to 71 locations, posting a three-day total of \$1.67 million. Lionsgate and Amazon Studios are planning to push the film to wide release on 14 July.—Reuters ■

Michelle Rodriguez clarifies 'Fast & Furious' comments in new

LOS ANGELES — Actress Michelle Rodriguez, who had threatened to leave the "Fast & Furious" franchise because of its treatment of women, has now called her co-star Vin Diesel the "biggest supporter of strong women".

In a video posted on Diesel's Instagram account, Rodriguez clarified that her recent comments were not directed at the actor, who is also a producer on

the "Fast and Furious" films, reported Entertainment Weekly.

"Vin, for many years you've been the biggest supporter of strong women," Rodriguez said in the video.

"I've always appreciated that about you throughout the years. Just know that if I ever post anything, that it's not you I'm talking to."

Diesel, who kissed Rodriguez on the forehead mid-video,

responded to the actress' words with a laugh. "Of course it's not me!" he said.

In the caption of the post, Diesel added, "Proud of Our saga but we must try to reach higher each time. The challenge is what makes it fun and exciting. It's also why this saga has reached the level that it has you have been the best fans in film history and we are forever grateful. Dom and Letty.—PTI ■

Gemma Arterton won't star in 'Christopher Robin'

LOS ANGELES — Actress Gemma Arterton is no longer attached to star in "Christopher Robin."

Representatives for the actress had been speaking with Disney for weeks, but talks did not progress from there, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

Ewan McGregor is starring as the title character, the now-grown child from

AA.Milne's Winnie the Pooh stories, in the movie being directed by Marc Forster.

McGregor will play the adult Christopher Robin, who has lost his sense of imagination and is a businessman focused on work and success.

The movie is set to begin shooting later this summer in the UK. "The Jungle Book" producer Brigham Taylor is producing.—PTI ■

12th Estonian Youth Song and Dance Celebration held in Tallinn, Estonia



Children take part in the 12th Estonian Youth Song and Dance Celebration in Tallinn, Estonia, on 2 July, 2017. The joint procession and song celebration Sunday ended the third day of the 12th Estonian Youth Song and Dance Celebration under the theme of "Here I'll Stay". The theme of the 2017 celebration focuses on the connection between the younger generation and its land, culture and the older generations, meaning a turn to "our roots". **PHOTO: XINHUA**

What happens in Vegas: Nevada puts pot on the menu for fun-seekers

LAS VEGAS — Nevada, the only state where both gambling and prostitution are legal, is adding recreational marijuana to its list of sanctioned indulgences for adults, with sales kicking off at more than dozen shops beginning on Saturday. As result of a legalization measure approved by Nevada voters in November, the state will join four other US states and the District of Columbia in allowing recreational sales.

Authorized marijuana shops will be able to sell up to one ounce (28 grams) for recreational use by customers 21 years and older, said Stephanie Klapstein, a spokeswoman for the state Department of Taxation.

Public consumption of marijuana is prohibited, and Nevada has enacted new regulations against edible forms of pot that could appeal to children, such as fruit-shaped candies infused with cannabis. Nevada is also imposing a 10 percent excise tax on pot sales in addition to the regular 4.6 per cent state sales tax. Nevada has yet to finalize the exact number of stores that regulators will approve. Sixty applications were submitted from across the state, according to Klapstein, whose department is overseeing the state's pot market. Only medical cannabis dispensaries, which became legal in the state

in 2015, are eligible to apply for licenses for recreational sales. Many of them are expected to open in Las Vegas, Nevada's largest city and gambling magnet.

"Tens of millions of visitors per year from all over the US and around the world will see firsthand that regulating marijuana works," said Mason Tvert, a spokesman for the Marijuana Policy Project, a group that backed the November 2016 ballot measure. Voters in three other states — California, Maine and Massachusetts — have also approved marijuana legalization. In 2012, Washington and Colorado were the first states to legalize recreational marijuana, followed by Oregon and Alaska. Marijuana remains illegal under federal law. Most US states allow it for medical purposes, but not for recreation.

A US Department of Justice spokesman in an email declined to comment on Nevada's state-sanctioned marijuana sales and added that the department is reviewing its policies on marijuana enforcement.

US Attorney General Jeff Sessions has long opposed easing marijuana restrictions. At a speech in March, he described marijuana as "only slightly less awful" than heroin and said the United States needed to discourage drug use. —Reuters ■

Online literature booms in China

BEIJING — Online literature is booming in China, and its market size has exceeded 9 billion yuan (about 1.32 billion US dollars), authorities said.

By the end of 2016, there were 333 million online literature readers, ac-

counting for 43.3 per cent of the total number of netizens in China, according to Beijing Municipal Bureau of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television.

Among them, 304 million users access literature through mobile

phones. Over the last 20 years, China's online literature industry has registered explosive growth, with an annual growth rate of 20 per cent, the bureau said. An online literature convention will be held in Beijing from 11 to

13 August. "China's online literature has entered an era of golden opportunities. Much of the literature has gone beyond borders to overseas countries and regions," said Yang Shuo, head of the bureau. —Xinhua ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(4-7-2017 07:00am - 5-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-6)- In Pursuit of a dream
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Traditional Customs of Holy Waso
08:38	Am	Talk Show: MOBILE WEEK (Samsung)
08:55	Am	Art Students: Sculpture
09:03	Am	News
09:25	Am	Choral Dance (Duel)
09:33	Am	Choral Dance By Female Dancers
09:41	Am	The Pride of Myanmar Traditional Handicraft
09:47	Am	Today Myanmar: The Luyaychun Clinic, Free Yet Special
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Aesthetic Chinlone
10:51	Am	Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)- Monday 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	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Talk Show: MOBILE WEEK (Huawei)
07:45	Pm	Cosplayer
07:51	Pm	One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	Taste of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad)
08:43	Pm	Up Against The Tide

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Monday 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)

MRTV Programme Schedule (4-7-2017, Tuesday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	2:05 Am	◆ TV Drama Series
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	5:05 Pm	◆ Mono Classical Songs
8:35 Am	◆ Documentary	5:30 Pm	◆ Catch Asia News
9:10 Am	◆ Law Affairs	5:35 Pm	◆ Money Talk Myanmar
9:25 Am	◆ Documentary (Mandalay Palace)	6:20 Pm	◆ Football Magazine
10:30 Am	◆ MRTV's Youth Programme	6:35 Pm	◆ Kyae Pwint Myae Yae Yin Khone Than
12:30 Am	◆ TV Drama Series	7:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
1:10 Am	◆ Radio Drama	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
1:45 Am	◆ Yes or No Talk Show (Part-3)	8:35 Pm	◆ Documentary
		9:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
			◆ Documentary

Pyay United trounces Shah United in 2017 AFF FUTSAL CHAMPIONSHIP



PU team seen together with MFF Futsal League champion cup rewarded in Myanmar last month.

PHOTO: MFF

Ye Yint Shine

MYANMAR futsal team Pyay United (PU) beat Cambodian futsal team Shah United 8-1 in the 2017 AFF invitational futsal club championship held in Bangkok, Thailand which began yesterday morning. PU team is including in Group (A) together with current

champion host Thaiport team, Indonesian Parmartar team and Brunei Shah United. In Group (B), Australian, Vietnamese, Malaysian and Laos' team are included. In the second day of the championship, PU team will play against host Thaiport team today. It is the first time for PU team to compete in the AFF invitational

futsal championship since PU was crowned in Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) Futsal League 2017 last month.

The AFF Futsal championship was held for the third time this year and former Myanmar futsal league champion Myanmar Imperial College (MIC) has won two times for the 3rd place. ■

Germany's Loew spoils for choice with World Cup looming

SAINT PETERSBURG, Russia — After Germany's success at the Confederations Cup and Under 21 European championship over the last few days, coach Joachim Loew must feel like a kid in a candy store as he maps out his plans for next year's World Cup title defence in Russia.

Despite resting more than half a dozen key players this summer, Germany won the Confederations Cup for the first time on Sunday by beating South American champions Chile 1-0.

Two days earlier, the country's Under-21 team secured the European title, shocking favourites Spain by the same score and confirming the country's stellar work at youth level.

The 57-year-old Loew, now in his 11th year in charge, has a pool of more than 40 players to monitor as the clock ticks down to next year's World Cup finals. All of them battle-tested and with tournament experience.

"Joachim Loew now has the big chance, with a mix of experience and dynamism, to put together a strong squad (for next year)," said German Football Association (DFB) President Reinhard Grindel. "We have a big pool to choose from."

The biggest problem for Loew is likely to be who to leave out. Players like Confederations Cup top scorers Timo Werner, Lars Stindl and Leon Goretzka, who all netted three times at the tournament, have every right to believe their fine performances in Russia will be a stepping stone to the 2018 World Cup squad.

Antonio Ruediger, Sebastian Rudy and Mathias Ginter also rose to the occasion while Julian Draxler, who captained the team in the absence of Manuel Neuer, was voted player of the tournament. "We certainly have a lot of players who in those two tournaments have filled up on confidence," Loew said.—Reuters ■

Sugita in red-hot form ahead of Wimbledon

LONDON (England) — Fresh from claiming his first career ATP title at the Antalya Open in southern Turkey, Yuichi Sugita arrived in London on Sunday and said he could not hope to start Wimbledon on a better note.

Sugita moved up from 66th to a career-best 44th in the latest ATP rankings. The improvement puts him second behind Kei Nishikori on the list of all-time highest-ranked male Japanese singles players, surpassing Shuzo Matsuoka whose best was 46th, achieved in 1992.

Wimbledon nine seed Nishikori, who was drawn against Italy's Marco Cecchinato in the first round, remained unchanged at No 9 on the ATP rankings.

"I was able to achieve good results (in Turkey) and this

is a perfect way to head into Wimbledon," said Sugita.

Instead of celebrating in Turkey after Saturday's final against Adrian Mannarino, Sugita opted to take a red-eye flight to London ahead of his first-round match at Wimbledon. On Tuesday, Sugita faces Brydan Klein of Britain who was granted a wildcard entry into the main draw for the 3-16 July Grand Slam event.

"The speed of the balls (off the court) was really high in Antalya so I have to adjust myself here," said Sugita.

Wimbledon and the Antalya Open are among the seven grass court tournaments on the ATP World Tour. "This is where I have to win. I felt myself bracing the moment I set foot in the facility (in Wimbledon)," he said.—Kyodo News ■



Yuichi Sugita of Japan hits a forehand during the Antalya Open final against Adrian Mannarino of France in Antalya, Turkey, on 1 July, 2017. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Djokovic winning Wimbledon should not surprise anyone — Agassi

LONDON — Novak Djokovic has lost his aura of invincibility but coach Andre Agassi says nobody should be surprised if the Serb goes on to claim his fourth Wimbledon title this month.

Djokovic has dropped to fourth in singles rankings after an inconsistent season and the 30-year-old's Aegon International triumph on Saturday was only his second title of the year. "Don't be surprised," eight-time grand slam winner Agassi, who joined Djokovic's team prior to French Open in May, was quoted as saying by the Guardian newspaper. "Can a guy like this objectively find his way back to the trophy? Heck, yeah he could... That's the plan, that's always the plan - to get better - and the belief in winning has to be yours and yours alone.—Reuters ■