

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Migrant workers are welcomed by volunteers as they arrive in Kawthoung on the Thai-Myanmar border. PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)

## Myanmar, Thailand negotiate to solve migrant labour issue

In an attempt to solve the growing problem of undocumented Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand who are returning to their homeland out of fear of a new labour decree, the two countries are negotiating on issuing official documents to workers, but the talks are still ongoing and incomplete, said Union Minister for Labour,

Immigration and Population U Thein Swe at a news conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The number of migrant workers who returned to Myanmar reached 34,069 as of yesterday morning, according to the ministry. The influx has overtaxed social agencies and border crossings, officials said.

“Workers should avoid

seeking employment through brokers and they should seek job opportunities with official agencies and should go the neighbouring country only when they get an official letter offering a job,” said the Union Minister.

Earlier this week, Thailand’s junta delayed full enforcement of a new labour law aimed at regulating the foreign work-

force after the decree sparked panic and prompted more than 60,000 foreign workers to flee from the country, many of them from Myanmar, Laos and Cambodia.

The new decree would have imposed heavy fines on employers and employees who do not have work permits, a senior official said. **SEE PAGE-10**



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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

# New areas of the Secretariat open on 70<sup>th</sup> Martyrs' Day



File photo of the Secretariat building seen on 68<sup>th</sup> Martyrs' Day. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The Secretariat building will be opened to the public on Martyrs' day on 19 July and this year marks the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the assassination of the martyrs along with Bogyoke Aung San. For the first time the Parliament House, located within the Secretariat compound and the Cabinet Meeting Room will be opened to the public.

Daw May Thandar Win, a

spokesperson from the Secretariat's Preservation Group said this is the first time the public can access the original parliament building of Myanmar and the room where the assassination of Bogyoke Aung San and his six cabinet colleagues took place. The original furniture that was in the room during the time of the assassination will be borrowed from the National Museum for

display to the public. There will be an art exhibition to honor the sacrifice of the martyrs and a religious ceremony to share merits with the martyrs. A Facebook page has also been launched for those keen to follow the events on Martyrs' Day.

Students between the ages of 10 and 14 were invited to participate in art competitions to mark the history and sacrifice

of the martyrs. Out of 270 who participated, 40 were chosen to be put on display in the gallery of the Secretariat building.

The Parliament House was used as the nation's parliament from 1935 to 1962 and the early drafts of the country's constitution were drafted there. When Myanmar first got independence the Union Jack of UK was replaced, and the flag of the Union

of Burma was raised for the first time on the flagpole in front of the Parliament House.

The Cabinet Meeting Room situated in the Secretariat's west wing was used by various administrations since 1905 and was also the office of Bogyoke Aung San.

The Secretariat will be opened to the public on 19 July from 8am to 4pm.—Ko Moe ■

## Minister of State for Foreign Affairs visits Morocco

The Myanmar delegation led by U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, paid an official visit to the Kingdom of Morocco to attend the First Meeting of Myanmar-Morocco Bilateral Consultations convened on 3 July in Rabat, Morocco. The meeting was held between Myanmar delegation led by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Moroccan delegation led by Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation H.E. Mrs. Mounia Boucetta. At the Meeting, the two sides welcomed the establishment of the Bilateral Consultations Mechanism and expressed their common desire for expanding the ties of friendship and economic cooperation, enhancing trade and investment between the two countries. They

also discussed on commemorating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2018 and enhancing cooperation at the regional and international fora. Minister of State U Kyaw Tin briefed on Myanmar's efforts on its democratization process, national reconciliation and peace process including recent developments in Rakhine State. Secretary of State Mrs. Mounia Boucetta also briefed on political developments of Morocco. They also exchanged views on regional and international issues at the working lunch hosted by Secretary of State of Morocco.

During the visit, the Minister of State U Kyaw Tin and the Secretary of State Mrs. Mounia Boucetta signed the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Kingdom of Morocco on Bilateral Consultations and the Agreement between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco on the exemption of Visa for diplomatic, official, service and special passports. Minister of State U Kyaw Tin and Secretary of State Mrs. Mounia Boucetta then held a joint press conference and briefed the highlights of discussion at the Bilateral Consultations. The Minister of State also made a study tour of the Moroccan Academy for Diplomatic Studies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rabat.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin (Left) and Secretary of State of Morocco Mrs. Mounia Boucetta (Right) hold joint press conference. **PHOTO: MOFA**

## Only working in unison can benefit all

If you wish for the country to be developed and prosperous, all of the country's resources — financial, natural and human — have to be used together for the equal development of all races. If the Bamar does what it wants, if the Kachin does what it wants, if the Shan, Kachin and Chin do not all cooperate, there will be no benefits for anyone. Only when you try working in unison will you know its benefits.

(Excerpt from the speech made by Bogyoke Aung San at the Panglong Dinner on February 11, 1947)



# Waso robe offering ceremony held in Nay Pyi Taw

MYANMAR'S Waso robe offering ceremony was held at the Maha Sasana Beikman, Upatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with President U Htin Kyaw and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paying homage to Sayadaws and offering Waso robes and other offertories.

Also present at the ceremony were the Chairman Sayadaw of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabivamsa, Vice-Chairman of the SSMNC Abidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Obathabivamsa and Reverend Sayadaws.

Prior to the ceremony, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid homage to the Buddha in the Sasana Beikman, offering food, fruits, flowers, water and candles.

Audience present at the ceremony received five precepts administered by

the Chairman Sayadaw, listening to the parittas recited by members of the Sangha. Afterwards, the President and his wife donated a Waso robe and offertories to the Chairman Sayadaw, followed by the offering of the Waso robe and offertories to the Atulakari Hsinmin Monastery Sayadaw by the State Counsellor.

Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay offered a Waso robe and offertories to Vice-Chairman of SSMNC Yaydashay Sayadaw, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and wife Daw Cho Cho donated to Konethar Sayadaw Bhaddanta Vilasa and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than and wife Daw Nant Kyin Kyi to YayU Sayadaw. Following that, Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo donated a Waso robe to Vice-Chairman of SSMNC



President U Htin Kyaw, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi offering 'soon' to Sayadaws as part of the Waso robe offering ceremony. PHOTO: MNA

Dr Bhaddanta Pinnya Nanda, and Senior General of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla donated to Kanthonesint Sayardaw Bhaddanta Gunikarbivamsa.

In addition, Chairman

of the Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt and wife Daw Htay Yi, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein and wife Daw Aye Thida, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and

Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and wife Daw Thein Yin, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission

Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann and wife Daw Khin Lay Thet also offered Waso robes and offertories to Sayadaws.

Making Waso robe donations and offertories to members of the Sangha were Union Ministers, the Union Attorney General, Union Auditor General, Union Civil Service Board Chairman, Central Bank of Myanmar Chairman, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman and Nay Pyi Taw Command Commander.

At the end of the ceremony, Vice-Chairman of SSMNC Atulakari Hsinmin, Monastery Sayadaw preached the sermon and shared the merits of the deed. Finally, President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and guests offered food to the Sayadaws.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## State Counsellor receives World Bank's Country Director

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Country Director of World Bank for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw on 5 July 2017 at 15:00 hours.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the promotion of cooperation between Myanmar and the World Bank in various sectors such



State Counsellor welcomes World Bank's Country Director Ms. Ellen Goldstein. PHOTO: MNA

as electrification, better road construction, public health and nutrition which can significantly contrib-

ute to the socio-economic development of the people of Myanmar.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

## State Counsellor receives UNHCR Mr. Filippo Grandi

State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees-UNHCR Mr. Filippo Grandi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on the measures taken in the form of humanitarian aids from UNHCR, and cooperation between Myanmar and UNHCR.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with UN High Commissioner Mr. Filippo Grandi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 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.

## Myanmar rice to be exported to Philippines

By May Thet Hnin

Myanmar Rice Federation plans to export Myanmar rice to the Philippines with a tender system. Dr. Soe Tun, the vice chairman of Myanmar Rice Entrepreneurs Association, told the Global New Light of Myanmar.

"We have decided to export Myanmar rice to the Philippines with tender system. Previously, representatives of the governments of Myanmar and the Philippines have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the export of Myanmar rice to the Philippines," said Dr. Soe Tun. "But, the Philippines were not willing to pay the proposed price. Therefore, we could not export Myanmar rice then. If



Rice cutting machine working in paddy field in Kangyidauk, Ayeyawady. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR

they win the tender now, we will send the rice."

The Philippines offered quotation for Myanmar rice to the Philippines through their embassy in Yangon. Myanmar

Ministry of Commerce officials intend to make a counter offer in the third week of July. China is currently the main buyer of Myanmar rice followed by other Asian nations,

African countries and Europe.

Myanmar exported over 400,000 tonnes of rice this year and plans to export a total of 2 million tonnes by the end of the year, said Dr. Soe Tun. ■

## Border trade volume on track to top last year

Border trade from 1 April to 23 June this financial year was estimated at US\$1.66 billion, representing a \$117 million increase compared to the same period last year.

Exports increased \$48 million and imports increased by \$69.35, according to the official statistics of the Ministry of Commerce. Myanmar's main trading partners include China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh.

Myanmar's trade with China primarily takes place at Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehau and Kengtung ports of entry; Myanmar's Indian trade primarily takes place at Tamu and Reed; Thai trade at Kawthaung and Myawady; and Bangladeshi trade at Sittway and Maungtau.

The increase in export through border trade is due to the major increase in trade volume at Muse, which experienced

the largest trade volume of all Myanmar's land ports of entry.

As of 23 June, border trade value was \$1 billion at Muse, \$56.7 million in Lweje, \$126 million in Chinshwehau, \$40.6 million in Kanpikete, under \$1 million in Kengtung, \$19.2 million in Tachilek, \$177 million in Myawady, \$34.9 million in Kawthaung, \$38.2 million in Myeik, \$2.06 million in Htee Khee, 1.05 million in Mawtaung, under 1

million in Maese, under 1 million in Sittway, US\$2.53 million in Maungtau, \$6.44 million in Tamu and \$10.27 million in Reed.

Myanmar's main exports include agricultural products, forest products, animal products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products while capital goods, industrial raw materials and consumer products are mostly imported into the country.—GNLM ■

## KBZ wins Best Bank in Myanmar from Finance Asia

In the ceremony for the best banks of 2017 from different Asian countries held by London based Finance Asia on 29 June, KBZ bank won the Country Awards for Achievement 2017: Best Bank in Myanmar, making it the second year in a row.

Deputy General Manager of KBZ Bank Ltd. Daw Phyu Phyu Sein accepted the award and gave an appreciation speech at the ceremony held in Four Season Hotel in Hong Kong.

Finance Asia said KBZ was selected as the recipient of the best bank in Myanmar for their great service in finance and the banking sector; having the largest market share in



PHOTO: SUPPLIED

bank deposits, able to provide the most business loans, having the most branches of banks and providing the best customer service, successfully network-

ing with international banks, successfully opening international representative offices abroad, contributing the most tax revenue to the government

with the highest income tax and performing various philanthropic activities.

KBZ bank has won numerous awards from international agencies throughout 2013 to 2016. In 2017 KBZ has won the International Quality and Excellence Awards: Diamond Category from Business Initiative Directions (BID) and the Best Domestic Bank and Best Corporate Investment Bank from AsiaMoney.

Finance Asia is a dominant agency in the banking and business world and reviews banks and finance related services throughout Asia every year.—Thura Lwin (Eco) ■

## Garment sector earned nearly US\$400 million

Myanmar earned nearly US\$400 million from garment sector exports in the past three months, according to the official figures of the Commerce Ministry.

This represents a \$100 million increase over the same period last year.

Following the lifting of European and American economic sanctions, Myanmar's garment industry is growing. Currently, Japan and European countries are placing the largest orders for garment shipments. Additionally, garment exports are also supplying South Korea, China and America.

Myanmar's garment industry is focused on "cutting, making and packing," which is a basic contract garment assembly system that allows international garment companies to reduce their labour costs. Myanmar labour leaders and policymakers are hoping to transition the domestic garment industry into a more value-added "free on board" system which puts internation-



Employees work on a production line at a garment factory in Hlinethaya industrial zone, Yangon. **FILE PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

al garment manufactures in charge of not only cutting and assembling garments but also of sourcing materials and shipping finished projects.

Myanmar's cheap labour costs often attract foreign garment industry investment, but also exacerbate tensions between factory employers and their employees.

Garment exports recorded US\$1.8 billion in FY2016-2017, according to the Commerce

Ministry.

Natural gas and agricultural products each comprised 25 per cent of Myanmar's exports. CMP garments accounted for 16 per cent of exports, minerals for eight per cent, fisheries for five per cent and forest, animal products and other products for 21 per cent. There are currently over 400 garment factories in Myanmar, with a labor force of more than 300,000 workers.—Ko Htet ■

## FMI to increase Myanmar's infrastructural investment

By Ko Moe

First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd (FMI) is planning to increase its investment in Myanmar's infrastructure development sector.

"Infrastructure sector development is of vital importance to the country and we will scale up our investments into this. We will closely cooperate with both local and foreign organisations

for this," said U Tun Tun, Executive Director of FMI.

FMI will also pursue Myanmar's tourism sector opportunities, he added. During last FY2016-2017, FMI made investments in its core businesses, including financial services, real estate and health care, earning a profit of Ks14.9 billion.

Those profits came primarily from Yoma Bank, Pan Hlaing Hospital and housing

development businesses, said U Tun Tun. Yoma Bank's earned revenues through fee payments on loans, financial management services for businesses, remittance services and microfinance loans for farmers.

FMI is a conglomerate and one of Myanmar's largest public companies, and one of four listed on Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) since 2016. FMI has more than 8,000 shareholders. ■

## More rice mills to be set up for quality rice export to China

More modern rice mills will be established to enhance rice quality for export to China, according to a report of Myawady Daily newspaper yesterday.

Eleven mills in Myanmar have already shipped 100,000 tonnes of higher quality rice to China, recently. The mills intend to double their Chinese export volume and Myanmar and China

intend to establish a memorandum of understanding in September. China officially requires rice shipments to originate from certified mills that have passed quality assurance standards and are free from chemical fertilizer and pests. Quality assurance also requires that crops be traceable so that their origination and logistical paths can be tracked

through supply chains.

The 11 rice mills that are planning to take part in increased high quality shipments all met Chinese standards in 2014 and 2015.

"To boost export volume, we planned to set up with more rice mills," said U Ye Min Aung, the secretary of Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).—GNLM ■

## Myanmar sesame oil prepping for export to America next year

MYANMAR sesame oil has attracted the interest of international consumers and investors, including Americans, according to a report of Myawady Daily newspaper yesterday.

According to the report, preparations are underway to export a small amount of Myanmar sesame oil to America next year for use in processed

snack foods.

Myanmar's sesame oil is expected to fetch a good price due to its quality, said U Saw Naing, a sesame oil producer to Myawady Daily. Nearly 200,000 tonnes of sesame oil are exported to foreign trade partners each year. Myanmar sesame oil is currently sold in China, South Korea and Japan.—GNLM ■

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Yangon's growing economy can be seen in the construction of new complexes such as Sule Square seen on the right, which was opened in December 2016. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**



## Yangon's economy—the strength of the nation

Nandar Win, Myat Sandi

YANGON REGION is a place where most of the income of the nation earns. All the goods are also flowing into the region from every corner of the country. Economic development in this region will surely bring about development of other regions and states. The following is the views of economic experts on development of Yangon:

### **Economic Researcher UKhin Maung Nyo (Economics)**

“Yes, they are doing out of their goodwill. But I think Yangon is shouldering a great burden. Whatever they say, people have very high hope on them. It is just like the saying ‘Nothing bears out in practice what it promises incipiently.’ My opinion is that a well planned and brilliantly executed idea is needed. Nature of the economies proves the fact that the fewer the rules the better for carrying out the economic activities. But there may be differences based on the different types of economy. Some say it is a good time for doing business but some think differently. It is because of the type of the business. A year ago, some said that construction works were bad,

but now it seems pretty good.”

### **U Thurein Aung (Vice President, Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Ltd.)**

“Yangon is a very important region as it is an economic hub of the country. Projects implemented and policies laid down in Yangon can have great influence on other parts of the country with good prospects. I would like to say that whatever decision is made, it will have a great impact on the whole country.”

### **U Wai Phyoo (Vice President, UMFCCI)**

“Yangon's economic situation is good but there are many difficulties and limitations. Industrial zones and roads are expanded because only when Yangon sees development, will the whole nation be prosperous.

There has been a great migration from all parts of the country to Yangon to find good jobs and as a result the city became a big city.

Consumer goods and food prices are high in Yangon and other parts of the country follow suit. Commodity prices need to be controlled to become a wealthy nation. As long as the

prices cannot be controlled, the middle class cannot improve itself.

Increase the salary is not the answer because this will end up in spending and the nation will not develop.

There will be no wealth. Every country has a problem of

### **U Thet Lwin Toe (Vice Chairman, Myanmar Tourism Federation)**

“With a great tradition, Yangon lies on sea, land and air routes. Regarding tourism industry, Yangon needs to preserve its cultural heritages and create

### **U Thardu (Chariman, Myanmar Arts and Crafts Association)**

“Currently, we have to struggle on our own. I believe there will be more good opportunities for the people as the government has entered into the second year term. I saw weakness in cooperation with government departments. I would like to suggest the government to give support to those who deserve, I mean, government should support the businesses that will bring benefit to the nation and its people.”

### **Daw Ohnmar Maw (Executive Director, Awards Logistics Co., Ltd.)**

“It is expected to see development not only in major business but in small and medium enterprises due to great interest of big international companies as well as SME entrepreneurs around the world. At this juncture, government's support for local entrepreneurs is of great importance to be able to compete with foreign firms in every business sector. Only when the country doubles its efforts, can it be able to compete with ASEAN countries and abreast of international communities.” ■  
(Translated by Wallace)

To gain economic development, there should be more talks and discussions between the government and the entrepreneurs. There must be trust between them. They must support each other.”

high commodity prices. Therefore, it is a must to control the price. This is the responsibility of the government.

To gain economic development, there should be more talks and discussions between the government and the entrepreneurs.

There must be trust between them. They must support each other.”

tourist attractions which have no impact on environment. Yangon is a place for human resource development and it is a strategic point for national security. The city is being expanded, and its economy is also expanded. It has only one waterway, Yangon River. Therefore it is important to maintain the watercourse through discussions with experts. Master plan is needed for the long run.”

# Today's Yangon and food prices

## Maung Maung Htwe

AT HOME, my better half loves to watch me having my meals heartily as I prefer tea than a heavy meal and I used to have a small serving of food. But, delicious curry gives me a good appetite.

So, to satisfy me, my wife usually plans a good menu but later she used to say about the menu that becomes habitual to her. She said, "Do you know how much does this five fishes cost? Three thousand kyat!"

Although she does not mention the price every time I have my food stuck in my throat when I heard the price of the dish during my meal time.

"Well, our Yangon Region mostly relies on other regions and states for food and it is not too bad to get five fishes for three thousand kyat because one fish cost just 600 kyat for which we cannot catch."

Though my words intend to comfort my wife, I am so scared of hearing the daily price escalation in Yangon.

Not just in this moment, but throughout history prices have escalated constantly and never drop in Yangon.

Around 1938, money was rare but foods were plenty in Yangon. A family with the earnings of just one hundred kyat can stand easily. A wife of a senior division clerk who earned 200 kyat per month could go shopping twice a day.

At that time, people turned their backs on fish of cheap price but preferred the expensive ones. Meats were also cheap and those who could spend just one kyat were from the upper class.

In 1970s, food prices were not too high because if you buy cramps for baits worth one fourth of a kyat you can get a lot. As for our parents who had grown up in the British colonial era it was too much for them.

After 1980, prices in Yangon showed the sign of skyrocketing. Then, the 88 uprising broke out due to hardships faced by the general public including escalated prices. After the crisis, market oriented economic system was introduced but the price escalation continued.

Famous writer Thawdar Swe wrote an article with the heading "May consumer price fall" in April 1989 in a magazine.

At that time it cost a housewife just 30 kyat for a viss of pork, 65 kyat for chicken and 35 to 40 kyat for fish.

Today, it is very rare to see the meat price under ten thousand kyat.

While having dinner at home, my wife asked me in advance what I want to have for the next day.

"Fried fish with a traditional soup, please."

"What! Do you know the price of that fish? Two thousand kyat for ten ticals."

"Oh! My goodness" ■  
(Translated by Wallace)



Vegetable prices have risen through the years with the general price for a kilogram of a certain type of vegetable usually costing no less than a thousand kyat. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR



Fish, like other meat products, sell for more than ten thousand kyat per viss in the market. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## YBS vs Commuters



New buses parked in People's Park which will eventually be used in new YBS bus routes. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

### Ma Ma Naing

As I was late one morning, I rushed to the bus stop and before boarding the bus I kept 200 kyat note in my hand and jostled against crowded people to get onto the bus. Jostling again, I reached the back of the bus. At that time, the driver shouted "Put the bus fare into the box, there is no conductor." It was difficult for me to turn to the front of the bus. It was rush hour and there were many office staff on the bus. It was hard to imagine how many of them were not familiar with the YBS system which should be aware of.

For the convenience of commuters, YBS buses were

installed with air-conditioners, but crowded with people a young lady vomited up all she had eaten as she could not reach a plastic bag kept on the bus for this purpose. Air-conditioned buses are the goodwill of the responsible persons but above-mentioned incident is the example of a commuter who was not familiar with the YBS system which should be aware of. Commuters are to board the YBS buses from the front door and step out from the back door. As there is no conductor, the driver cannot know whether commuters have stepped out or not. Once I had to step out of the bus helter-skelter before the driver shut the back door and started to drive.

YBS buses compete against each other and thus the commuters have no idea where they will be going to make a stop. So they need to run to take the bus at the place where it is making a stop.

According to my experience many thoughts came into my mind: if there is a timer at the bus stop to control the running of the buses; if drivers get equal salary; if there is no competing against each other; and so on. If something went wrong with realizing the objectives of the responsible persons regarding the YBS, it is time to find out solution to the following questions: system error?; drivers' or conductors' faults? the commuters' mistakes? ■  
(Translated by Wallace)

## National security needs to be taken care emphatically!

Khin Maung Oo

WE have noted the statement made by the National Security Advisor that sovereignty of the country and national interest are directly or indirectly connected with matters on national security. It is of great importance for a country so much so that special attention must be paid to it not only by the government and the whole populace of that country.

In reviewing as to whether there are any problems threatening our country's national security, we found that various problems on human trafficking, illegal settlement in the country trespassing border lines, human and resources securities, risks of natural disasters, climate changes and spreads of contagious diseases, cyber-attacks by the use of cutting-edge technology and extremist attacks.

Most countries across the globe

saw such problems. Likewise, we are beginning to see such problems in our country as well. Of these problems we are experiencing, it can be obviously found that extremists' terrorist attacks happened following illegal settlements in the western part of the country trespassing border lines.

Problems happening in a country are likely to make an impact to another country, hence facing difficulties and hindrances in solving those problems in their own ways. In dealing with a problem, it is of great necessity for countries concerned to rightfully co-operate at bi-lateral level, regional level and international level.

At the present time, we rarely saw remarkable military intrusion and interventions in the international sphere. Yet, kinds of intervention, ignition and instigation, provision of various supports behind locked are being carried

out to bring about influences over them, the support takers. They are performing threats in many forms.

When a country or a community wants to push pressure on another country or to implement political influence I that country, they tend to apply international standards to shape it as desired by them or for the results they want to emerge, by neglecting actual truths.

Nowadays, accusations are being made loudly without objective or unbiased analysis on issues, claiming "Human Rights," and "Humanitarianism." The two words are of great excellence per se. But, had it been used with biased attitudes, without reviewing problems, it would surely go beyond the prescriptions included in the UN Charter. If so, it will be tantamount to intervening in other countries' internal affairs.

As regards national security matters in Myanmar, only Myanmar nationals know that we must emphatically take care of dangers of extremists' terrorist attacks in present events happening in the country. During the period from October, 2016 till now, 41 innocent people were killed, with 23 abducted by terrorists. It is necessary for international communities to be well convinced that these killings are dangers threatening the national security of our country.

Thus, security forces are carrying out tasks of safeguarding the sovereignty, peace and stability of the country. Meanwhile, the whole populace as well need to join our security forces, by informing news on these terrorists to authorities concerned in time. As for international organisations, they need to assess actual situations without any bias. ■

## Earth's wildernesses are disappearing, and not enough of them are World Heritage-listed

James Allan, James Watson

EARTH'S Last intact wilderness areas are being rapidly destroyed. More than 5 million square km of wilderness (around 10% of the total area) have been lost in the past two decades. If this continues, the consequences for both people and nature will be catastrophic.

Predominantly free of human activity, especially industrial-scale activities, large wilderness areas host a huge range of environmental values, including endangered species and ecosystems, and critical functions such as storing carbon and providing fresh water. Many indigenous people and local communities, who are often politically and economically marginalised, depend on wilderness areas and have deep cultural connections to them.

Yet despite being important and highly threatened, wilderness areas have been almost completely ignored in international environmental policy. Immediate proactive action is required to save them. The question is where such action could come from.

In a paper published in *Conservation Biology*, we argue that the United Nations' World Heritage Convention should expand the amount of wilderness included in its list of Natural World Heritage Sites (NWHS). Wilderness areas are underrepresented among the 203 sites currently on the list. The World Heritage Committee's meeting in Poland this week offers a good opportunity



An endangered tiger in Hukaung Valley. PHOTO: WCS MYANMAR

to redress the balance. Whither wilderness?

The World Heritage Convention was adopted in 1972 by UNESCO (the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization) to conserve the world's most valuable natural and cultural sites – places of exceptional importance to all of humanity and future generations. Each one is unique and irreplaceable. Currently, 193 countries (almost the entire world) are parties to the convention, which has inscribed 203 natural sites around the world.

World Heritage Status is granted to places with "Outstanding Universal Value", which is defined based on three pillars. First, a site must meet one of the four criteria for listing as natural World Heritage (aesthetic value, geological value, biological processes, and biodi-

versity conservation). Second, a site must have "integrity" and "intactness" of its values (in other words, it must be in excellent condition). Finally, a site must be officially protected by the national or subnational government under whose jurisdiction it falls.

Wilderness areas can be associated with all four of the natural criteria, as well as the integrity and intactness requirements. What's more, a wilderness by definition cannot be recreated once it is lost. The argument for protecting wilderness areas by adding them to the NWHS list is therefore compelling.

We created the most up-to-date maps of terrestrial wilderness using recent maps of human pressure and assessed the World Heritage Convention's current coverage of wilderness areas. We found that some 777,000 square km

(around 2% of the total) are already protected in 52 Natural World Heritage Sites.

For example, more than 90% of the World Heritage-listed Purnululu National Park in the Kimberley region of Western Australia can be defined as a wilderness area. Similarly, the Okavango Delta in Botswana features more than 18,000 square km of wilderness, containing many of the world's most endangered large mammals.

Wilderness boosts heritage value

In these cases, wilderness areas are likely contributing to the Outstanding Universal Value of these World Heritage Areas – which as explained above is a key consideration in how they are managed and protected.

One way to strengthen this protection further would be to redraw the boundaries of natural World Heritage Areas to include more wilderness. This would help to preserve the conditions that allow ecosystems and other heritage values to thrive. Our study identified broad gaps in wilderness coverage by the World Heritage Convention. Some places are already protected by national governments and could therefore be added to UNESCO's list, such as the Hukaung Valley Tiger Reserve in Myanmar, which contains 4,000 square km of wilderness, and the Eduardo Avaroa Andean Fauna Reserve in Bolivia, which has 9,000 square km.

SEE PAGE 9

# Buddhism and Peace

Dr Candavarabhivamsa

If one casts a glance at the history of human beings, one will see that the religious faiths enlighten the people, contribute to civilized societies and influence the philosophies and outlooks of the people. Even the atheists have certain basic principles embedded in their minds, and they happen to be some sort of religious faiths.

Unlike all other religious faiths, Buddhism has a peculiar belief – i.e. the belief in kamma and its kammic effects. The kammavada is translated by some people as “the self reliance principle” whereas it is translated by other people as “Reliance is laid not upon the individuals but upon the kamma”.

In this regard, it is needed to be mindful of the following pali phrase uttered by Buddha, “Cetanaham Bikkhave Kammavadamami”, Kamma means cetana. All the living beings are making one of the three volitional activities – physical, verbal and mental – at a time. These three volitional activities involve cetana, which is a mental factor (cetasika). Whenever there is a mind, there is a mental factor. Just as every conscience involves a cetana cetasika, the existence of other mental factors involve cetana cetasikas. Therefore, cetana should be regarded as a dhamma that co-exists with all minds and mental factors. The mind, mental factor and matter and also cetana have all their own characteristics. They have all their own jobs.

Amongst these dhammas, cetana is the most peculiar thing. Just as the cetana cetasika is doing its own job, it is also helping all other minds and mental factors

do their jobs. All mental factors are led, encouraged and joined by cetana in co-operation. Just as cetana is the leader in making good minds and good mental factors, it also leads them to become evil minds and evil mental factors. Through these minds and mental factors, the physical, verbal and mental volitional activities are carried out with the leadership of cetana.

All actions and activities of the human beings involve other minds and mental factors, everything is led by cetana, and all the actions and activities are, therefore, termed as physical volitional activities, verbal volitional activities and mental volitional activities, naming after (kamma) cetana. What is peculiar here is that while the mental factors come into being and end in extinction, cetana behaves differently; it has the capacity to yield an effect. Depending upon the cetana’s being noble, clean, rough and wicked, there will yield different effects accordingly. One can enjoy or suffer the good or evil effects. But these effects befall not only on the doer of a kamma but also on those around him. For example, when a motorcar dives into a ravine, it is not just the suffering of an individual but of everybody on board the car.

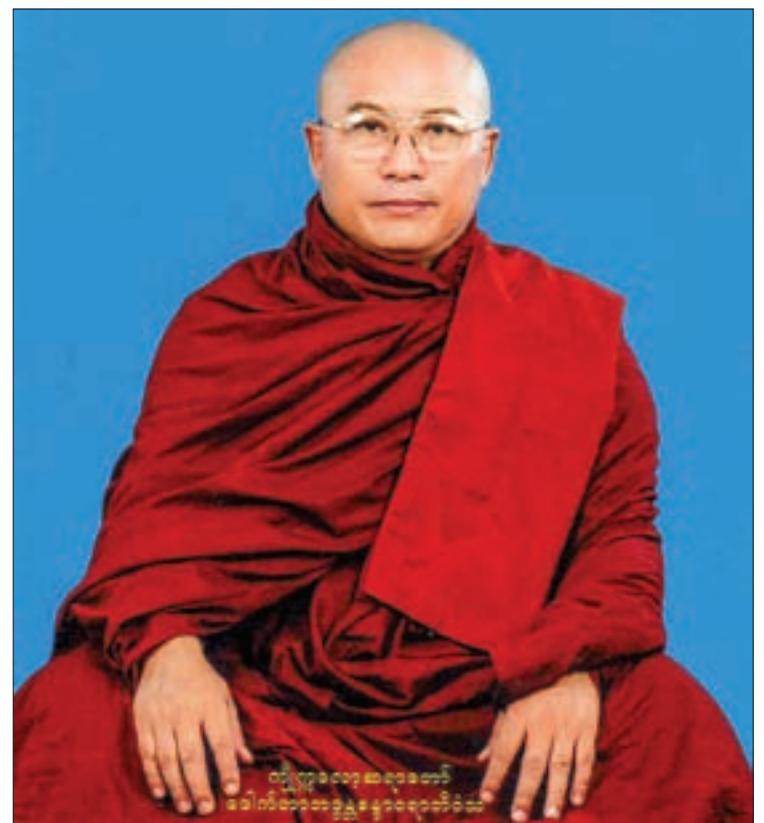
Therefore, all humans need to analyse and criticize their own cetana prevailing in themselves. As it has been said that all the mental dhammas are led by the cetana, it is necessary to analyse and criticize whether metta-the loving kindness (adosa) is leading cetana or volitional activities are being carried out with metta citta

that wants positive consequences or whether dosa that wants evil consequences is leading or volitional activities are being carried out with dosa.

Likewise, it is also needed to analyse and criticize whether the sense of equality that wants to share the opportunities (Alobha) is leading or the volitional activities are being carried out with alobha. In the same vein, it is also necessary to analyse and criticize whether atta (lobha) that brings self desire to the fore is leading or the volitional activities are being carried out with atta and lobha. Similarly, it is needed to analyse and criticize whether cetana is leading amoha (wisdom) that wants positive consequences or volitional activities are being carried out with wisdom as well as to analyse and criticize whether cetana is leading moha that fears to face the truth or the volitional activities are being carried out with moha (ignorance).

As the cetana cetasika (the mental factor of cetana) is leading all the minds and mental factors of a person, everybody is possessed with cetana. However, it is needed to watch out which cetana possesses who. As the physical, verbal and mental volitional activities are controlled by cetana, it is easy to observe the first two volitions whereas the third is difficult to assess. When the mental volitions deviate from the correct path, there will yield the evil consequences, which will have impact upon not only the doer of a volition but also upon the people around him.

Therefore, it is needed for all individuals to do only the cor-



rect volitional activities. In so doing, keeping an individual to commit only the good volitions is concerned not only with a particular person but also with all those around him who want him to enjoy the good benefits only. In this function, there is no tips as to who help should be sought from – it is a matter of self awareness and self consciousness.

In fact, this duty is not the duty of an individual only but that of all individuals who want good things happening. Otherwise, such a person cannot be said to believe in kamma and kammic effects as expounded by Lord Buddha. The majority of Buddhists accept kamma and kammic effects. However, they are weak in behaving correctly to be able to enjoy good effects. And only few kammias are found to be dedicated to other people.

Most of the kammias committed by individuals are dedicated only to themselves. Therefore,

the majority of Buddhists in Myanmar cannot enjoy good consequences although they are engaged in good volitional activities.

One thing I would like to emphasize is for the good cetana to be in the leading role, a good environment is required because people tend to change depending upon time, location, function and the ability of the individual-kala, desa, payoga and puggala. Based on these factors, even good cetana can transform into bad cetana and vice versa.

Therefore, it is needed to create a good environment to suit time, location, function and the individual. And this is a more expansive task to create a good environment.

If we really want to enjoy the fruitful results, we should not be reluctant to sow the good seeds of kamma to have a good environment.

Wishing you health and happiness. ■

## Earth’s wildernesses are disappearing, and not enough of them are World Heritage-listed

### FROM PAGE 8

The places we have identified, and others, could potentially be designated as new Natural World Heritage Sites if they meet the other strict criteria for Outstanding Universal Values and integrity.

The World Heritage Convention could better achieve its objectives and make a substantial contribution to the conservation of wilderness areas by doing these four things:

1. formally acknowledge the Outstanding Universal Values of wilderness areas
2. strengthen the current protection of wilderness within NWHS
3. expand or reconfigure current NWHS to include more wilderness, and
4. designate new NWHS in wilderness areas.

It’s up to national governments to submit sites for inscription as NWHS, and we urge them to consider wilderness when doing so. This will strengthen their

applications, and provide wilderness areas with the extra protection they need.

The UNESCO World Heritage Committee’s meeting in Poland this week will consider two sites with significant wilderness areas for World Heritage status: Qinghai Hoh Xil Nature Reserve in China and Los Alerces National Park in Argentina. We urge the committee to approve these sites, and use this to spur further opportunities to raise the profile of wilderness conservation worldwide. It

is an obvious win-win.

The clock is ticking fast for our last wilderness areas and the biodiversity they protect. Immediate action is needed. ■

**James Allan**, PhD candidate, School of Geography, Planning and Environmental Management, The University of Queensland.

**James Watson**, Associate Professor, The University of Queensland.

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



Foreign Minister of Norway Mr. Borge Brende arrives at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Norwegian delegation arrives Nay Pyi Taw

A delegation led by Mr. Borge Brende, Foreign Minister of Norway, arrived Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening.

The Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs was welcomed at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport by U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Tone Tinnes, Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



A foreign veterinary student vaccinates a goat. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN NAING**

## Foreign veterinary students vaccinate cattle in fieldwork

Students of veterinary medicine from Southeast Asia, the United States, Canada, and Japan have conducted fieldwork in Myingyan Township, Mandalay Region and administered vaccinations to the local livestock and dogs in the area. They have also planted trees for reforestation efforts.

The programme is part of the ASEAN Veterinary Volunteer Project 2017. The group of students are led by Dr. Ye Htut Aung, Deputy Professor of the

University of Veterinary Science (Yezin) and Dr. Tanu Pinyopumint, the Associate Dean of Kasetsart University. The group will hold educational seminars, perform cattle and rabies vaccinations, give medicine to get rid of parasitic worms, perform needed surgeries on animals and plant long-living trees, among other projects in Lethit, Thityone, Zeepinkan and Laydan villages in Myinchan township.—U Zaw Min Naing (Myingyan) ■

# JMC-U to send Verification Teams to Shan State

Union Joint Monitoring Committee-JMC-U will send its verification teams to Shan State before September to probe into killing of a militia leader and two armed clashes between the Tatmadaw and Restoration Council of Shan State-RCSS in Mongpyin.

The decision comes at its three-day meeting starting on 3<sup>rd</sup> July in Yangon.

At the 11<sup>th</sup> meeting, participants discussed several issues including formation of Verification Teams, Standard Operating Procedures-SOPs and works of the state-level Joint Monitoring Committees-JMC-S.

Local-level Joint Monitoring Committees-JMC-L has been formed in Langkho, and further committees will be formed in Papun and Bawkali in Kayin State before August, according



The 11<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Union Joint Monitoring Committee held in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG**

to participants of the meeting.

The participants approved two parts of SOP: how the international organizations can help and can cooperate with JMC and directives for making relations between JMC and international organizations.

“We also discussed the issue related with the internally

displaced persons. The three groups in the JMC agreed to observe the rehabilitation and resettlement of IDPs and will discuss works for joint coordination teams in next meetings,” said Daw Hsai Pan, the executive director of the technical supporting committee of the JMC.—Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

## Immigrant fatally stabbed in Maungtau Tsp

An undocumented immigrant who was visiting his wife in Maungtau was stabbed to death yesterday by several attackers, according to Myanmar News Agency.

Muster Armurt, who was illegally staying in Zawmatet

village in Maungtau Township, was attacked by five men armed with knives in a field in the village at about 4 am and suffered stab wounds in his neck, back and right leg. He was pronounced dead at a local hospital at about 5am.

The man, Muster Armurt was arrested in 2001 and was repatriated in 2013 to Bangladesh when he worked in another country. He was visiting his wife in Thayay Gone Tann village in Maungtau.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Two villagers missing in Maungtau

Two men from Thaechaung Village in Maungtau Township have been missing since Sunday, according to local police.

Naing Win, also known as

Jiaman, and Anu Hamad left in a car belonging to Naing Win at 10am on Sunday and did not return home. During a search for the two men, family members

found the car abandoned near a football ground. The two men are still missing and a police investigation is continuing.—Myanmar News Agency

## Myanmar, Thailand negotiate to solve migrant . . .

### FROM PAGE-1

The original decree was issued in part to tackle human trafficking concerns raised by the international community, Deputy Prime Minister Wisanu Krea-ngam told reporters on Tuesday.

Despite the delay of the decree, undocumented workers are still returning to their home countries in droves.

Even as more and more migrant workers return home due to harsher labour law enforcement by Thai authorities, Ranong border gate officials allow only 100 people per day to cross the border. This has caused many Myanmar migrants to struggle to find enough

food and lodging while waiting to cross back into Myanmar.

It is estimated that about 5 million Myanmar nationals are working in Thailand and of them, about 2,200,000 have proper documents, Union Minister U Thein Swe said. Meanwhile, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mr Filippo Grandi held talks with Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday over accepting the Myanmar migrant workers who returned of their own volition from Thailand.

For those undocumented Myanmar workers who remain in Thailand, churches and affiliated organisations have been

helping those who face difficulties returning home.

The Diocesan Social Action Center (DISAC) in Phuket is providing assistance to Myanmar migrant workers who want to go home but cannot.

DISAC is sending Myanmar migrant workers who do not have an employment permit to Ranong through Phuket. The association then sends them to Kawthoung in Myanmar, said an official from the DISAC.

Currently, DISAC has already sent about 400 Myanmar migrant workers to the Kawthoung through Ranong as of yesterday.—GNLM (Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) also contributed to this story) ■

## N Korea says its ICBM can carry nuclear warhead; US calls for global action

SEOUL — North Korea said on Wednesday its newly developed intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) can carry a large nuclear warhead, triggering a call by Washington for global action to hold it accountable for pursuing nuclear weapons.

A spokeswoman for the US Defence Department said it had concluded that North Korea test-launched an ICBM on Tuesday, which some experts now believe had the range to reach the US state of Alaska as well as parts of the mainland United States.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said the test, on the eve of the US Independence Day holiday, represented “a new esca-



The intercontinental ballistic missile Hwasong-14 is seen during its test in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 5 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

lation of the threat” to the United States and its allies, and vowed to take stronger measures.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said the test completed his country's strategic weapons capability that includes atomic and hydrogen bombs and ICBMs, the state KCNA news agency said.

Pyongyang would not negotiate with the United States to give up those weapons until Washington abandons its hostile policy against the North, KCNA quoted Kim as saying.

“He, with a broad smile on his face, told officials, scientists and technicians that the US would be displeased ... as it was given a ‘package of gifts’ on its ‘Independence Day,’” KCNA said.

Kim ordered them to “frequently send big and small ‘gift packages’ to the Yankees,” it added.

The launch came days before leaders from the Group of 20 nations are due to discuss steps to rein in North Korea's weapons programme, which it has pursued in defiance of

United Nations Security Council sanctions.

The test successfully verified the technical requirements of the newly developed ICBM in stage separation, the atmospheric re-entry of the warhead and the late-stage control of the warhead, KCNA said.

Tillerson warned that any country that hosts North Korean workers, provides economic or military aid to Pyongyang, or fails to implement UN sanctions “is aiding and abetting a dangerous regime”.

“All nations should publicly demonstrate to North Korea that there are consequences to their pursuit of nuclear weapons,” Tillerson said in a statement.—Reuters ■

## Singapore, Malaysia to award tender for high-speed rail in December 2018

SINGAPORE — Singapore and Malaysia aim to award the tender for the development of a high-speed rail linking them in December next year, according to company officials who attended an industry briefing organized by authorities from the two countries on Wednesday. Nearly 400 participants from 165 international and local firms attended the one-day briefing in Singapore, Malaysia's MyHSR Corp and the Land Transport Authority of Singapore said in a joint statement at the end of the briefing which they organized.

They included a consortium of 10 Japanese companies, including East Japan Railway Co (JR East) and the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, Japanese sources told reporters. The 360-kilometre high-speed rail linking Singapore with Kuala Lumpur — a bilateral initiative of the Singapore and Malaysian governments — is expected to start operating by December 2026, reducing travel time between them to just about 90 minutes from 4 to

5 hours now by road.

Ngien Hoon Ping, chief executive of the LTA, said there was “strong interest from companies all over the world” in the briefing and reaffirmed a tender will be called by the end of this year. “We look forward to receiving quality bids from various consortia,” he said.

Some participants told reporters that the tender will be opened in December this year, with the deadline for submission of tender applications slated for June next year, and the award to be announced in December next year. The sources said the participants included those from Japan, China, South Korea and Europe.

One company official speaking on condition of anonymity said, “I think it will be China versus Japan in the finals,” although he also saw South Korea as a possible dark horse.

Some executives from local firms from Singapore and Malaysia have also expressed interest in joining the consortiums formed by the bigger players for a slice of the pie in the multibillion dollar project.—Reuters ■

## China invites foreign experts to help treat ailing dissident Liu

BEIJING — China invited medical experts from the United States and Germany to help treat dissident Nobel laureate Liu Xiaobo for cancer, a local government announced on Wednesday, in a softening of its stance ahead of this week's G20 summit in Germany.

Liu, 61, was jailed for 11 years in 2009 for “inciting subversion of state power” after he helped write a petition known as “Charter 08” calling for sweeping political reforms.

He was recently moved from jail to a hospital to be treated for late-stage liver cancer.

The hospital, in the northeastern city of Shenyang, made the decision at the request of the family and in consultation with the doctors already treating him, the Shenyang Bureau of Justice said in a short statement on its website.

It provided no other details. Officials who picked up the telephone at the hospital said they were unaware of the

case.

A source close to Liu's family said the invitation was a positive step that greatly increased transparency around Liu's illness and the chance that he would receive the best possible treatment available.

“The fact that they specially chose the US and Germany suggests that the authorities are considering allowing Liu to travel to one of these two countries,” the source said, although there were still questions about how the doctors would be chosen and what access they would have.

Asked if the move would lead to Liu leaving the country, Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told a regular briefing, “We hope other countries can respect China's judicial sovereignty and not meddle in China's internal affairs.”

Rights group Amnesty International said the move appeared in part “an attempt to limit international criticism” even as the government

continued to refuse to allow Liu to be treated overseas.

“Time is running out for Liu Xiaobo,” said Salil Shetty, Amnesty's secretary general.

“It is not too late for the authorities to end this cruel farce. They must let Liu Xiaobo and his wife, Liu Xia, travel abroad to get the medical treatment he so desperately needs.”

The US embassy in Beijing declined to comment. Newly appointed US Ambassador to China Terry Branstad said last week the United States would like to see Liu treated elsewhere for his cancer.

The German embassy also declined to comment.

The move comes ahead of President Xi Jinping's attendance at a summit of the Group of 20 nations in the German city of Hamburg on Friday and Saturday, where Xi will seek to project Chinese leadership on issues such as climate change and free trade.—Reuters ■

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## Austria laments “misunderstanding” with Italy on border controls

VIENNA — A dispute between Italy and Austria over possible controls on their shared border was a “misunderstanding”, Austrian Chancellor Christian Kern said on Wednesday, assuring Rome that his army had not put tanks at a crucial frontier crossing.

Austrian Defence Minister Hans Peter Doskozil said in remarks published on Tuesday that he expected controls to be imposed “very soon” at the border with Italy, prompting a

furious response from Rome.

An official from his ministry added that four armoured vehicles and 750 troops were ready to be deployed if necessary.

“One must clear up misunderstandings like the ones that have evidently arisen with Italy,” Kern told a joint news conference with Doskozil, adding that Austria was preparing to introduce controls at the important Brenner crossing if

there were a surge in migrant arrivals there, but there was no need to at present.

“We are not deploying tanks at Brenner and I can emphasise again that cooperation with Italy is really good,” Kern said, adding that there was no indication Italy was not in control of the situation on its southern flank, where there has been a surge in the number of migrants crossing the Mediterranean.—Reuters ■



German Chancellor Angela Merkel attends the weekly cabinet meeting at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany on 5 July, 2017. PHOTO:REUTERS

## Merkel takes aim at US “winners and losers” policy before G20

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel sharply criticised US policy under President Donald Trump on Wednesday, two days before they are due to meet at the G20 summit, for being based on a “winners and losers” view of the world rather than on cooperation.

Merkel will host the two-day meeting of G20 leaders that starts on Friday in Hamburg. Along with Trump, others attending include Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkey’s Tayyip Erdogan.

The talks are expected to be tricky as the agenda includes divisive issues such as free trade and climate change.

“As G20 president, it is my job to work on possibilities for agreement and not to contribute to a situation where a lack of communication prevails,” she told Die Zeit weekly.

However, she added that differences should not be pushed under the table.

“While we are looking at the possibilities of cooperation to benefit everyone, globalisation is seen by the American administration more as a process that is not about a win-win situation but about

winners and losers,” she said.

She said comments from a Trump security advisor that the world was an arena, not a global community, contradicted her views.

Germany wants everyone to benefit from economic progress rather than only a few, she said.

Europe must pool its energy, she said, adding that ideas of an economic government for the euro zone and of a European finance minister, put forward by new French President Emmanuel Macron, were “two important thoughts”.

Tens of thousands of protesters are expected to march in the city this week against globalisation and what they say is corporate greed and a failure to tackle climate change.

Merkel said she respected peaceful demonstrators in Hamburg but “anyone who gets violent spurns democracy”.

German police used water cannon to disperse around 500 anti-capitalist protesters overnight in Hamburg.—Reuters ■

## Russian nuclear sub test-launches cruise missile in Barents Sea

MURMANSK — Russia’s Smolensk nuclear-powered submarine has conducted a successful test launch of a cruise missile that hit the designated target in the Barents Sea, the Northern Fleet’s press service said on Wednesday.

“From the underwater position, a Granit missile was fired against a combined sea-based target at a distance of

about 400 kilometres,” a fleet spokesperson said. “The target was successfully hit.”

The launch was carried out as part of a scheduled combat training.

Northern Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Nikolai Yevmenov, the crew “demonstrated high professionalism and naval skills” during the

launch.

The Smolensk is a Project 949A Antey-class submarine built in 1990. The submarines of this class displace 24,000 tons, have an underwater speed of 32 knots and a crew of 107. They are armed with 24 launchers of Granit cruise missiles with a range of about 500 km and six torpedo tubes.—Tass ■



The launch was carried out as part of a scheduled combat training. PHOTO: TASS

## Seven die in downtown Johannesburg building blaze

JOHANNESBURG — Seven people died in a high-rise apartment block fire in Johannesburg on Wednesday including a man who jumped to his death to escape the flames, emergency services said.

Emergency workers said there could be more bodies inside the Cape York building in

South Africa’s commercial capital and that they had launched a search operation.

Fifty people were rescued from the building and some were being treated for smoke inhalation, emergency services spokesman Nana Hadebe said, adding that the fire had been contained.

Residents made ropes from sheets to get out through their apartment windows to flee the blaze, witnesses said on Twitter.

Hadebe said the cause of the fire, in an impoverished downtown neighbourhood near the Ellis Park rugby stadium as well as the tourist district

of Maboneng, was not immediately known.

Johannesburg Mayor Herman Mashaba told local media the building was illegally occupied and such “hijacked” buildings now posed a crisis in the city.

“The tragedy at Cape York in the Inner City is a narrative

all too familiar. Residents live in squalor and pay with their lives,” Mashaba tweeted.

In 2013 a fire killed four people in the same building, which had no running water or electricity at the time, South Africa’s Sunday Times reported, but occupants moved back in soon afterward.—Reuters ■

# Philippine troops arrest Marawi militants' 'main financier'

MANILA — Philippine security forces arrested on Wednesday the main financier and logistics supporter of the pro-Islamic State militants who have for weeks been battling government troops for control of a southern town, the army said.

The militants from a faction known as the Maute group, seized the town of Marawi on 23 May and are resisting daily assaults by government forces using aircraft and artillery, and with help from allies the United States and Australia.

The fighting in the largely Muslim town in south of the predominantly Christian Philippines has alarmed neighbours, fearful that Islamic State is bent on gaining a foothold in the region as it loses ground in the Middle East.

Security forces raided a village not far from Marawi and detained three suspects found with ammunition and material for making bombs, an army

spokesman, Brigadier-General Gilbert Gapay, said.

One of those detained was an important supporter of the Maute group who Gapay identified as Monaliza Romato, alias Monay.

The woman is a niece of the matriarch of the

Maute clan, whose men-folk lead the Marawi attack. Two of seven Maute brothers, Omar and Abdullah, were educated in the Middle East, and were the main planners of the assault on Marawi, the military has said.

"Monay has replaced her aunt as the main financier and logistic supporter of the militant group," Gapay said in a statement.

"The arrest will adversely affect the logistics support network of the group," he said.

The raid, seizure of weapons and the arrests would also prevent the militants from mounting diversionary attacks, he said.

More than 400 people have been killed in the fighting in Marawi. Hundreds of thousands have been displaced and about 20 per cent of the centre of the town has been destroyed.

On Wednesday, military aircraft dropped bombs on the town while ground forces tried to advance from house to house.

President Rodrigo Duterte imposed martial law on Mindanao island, where Marawi is located, for 60 days when the fighting erupted and Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said there was pressure on the military to defeat the militants before it expires on 23 July.

That is also a day before Duterte is due to deliver his annual state of the nation address in Congress. Lorenzana said the military last week sent an aircraft to

the United States to stock up on various bombs and rockets, supplies of which were running out.

US forces are providing Philippine troops with technical assistance for the battle while Australia has sent two surveillance planes. In another part of Mindanao, soldiers on Tuesday found the beheaded bodies of two Vietnamese sailors abducted a year ago by militants from the Abu Sayyaf group.

Three Vietnamese sailors are still being held by Abu Sayyaf, who, in all, hold 14 foreigners and eight Philippine citizens.

Viet Nam denounced the killing of its citizens.

"Vietnam strongly condemns all savage and inhumane kidnapping and murderous acts and believes that these acts must be punished properly," foreign ministry spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang told Reuters.

The Abu Sayyaf militants are allied with the Maute group.—Reuters ■



A Filipino army driver of an armored vehicle takes a look while driving on the route to Marawi, as army troops continue their assault against insurgents from the Maute group in Marawi, Philippines on 5 July, 2017. PHOTO REUTERS

# UN survey finds cybersecurity gaps everywhere except Singapore

GENEVA — Singapore has a near-perfect approach to cybersecurity, but many other rich countries have holes in their defences and some poorer countries are showing them how it should be done, a UN survey showed on Wednesday.

Wealth breeds cyber-crime, but it does not auto-

matically generate cybersecurity, so governments need to make sure they are prepared, the survey by the UN International Telecommunication Union (ITU) said.

"There is still an evident gap between countries in terms of awareness, understanding, knowledge

and finally capacity to deploy the proper strategies, capabilities and programmes," the survey said.

The United States came second in the ITU's Global Cybersecurity Index, but many of the other highly rated countries were small or developing economies. The rest of the top 10

were Malaysia, Oman, Estonia, Mauritius, Australia, Georgia, France and Canada. Russia ranked 11<sup>th</sup>. India was 25<sup>th</sup>, one place ahead of Germany, and China was 34<sup>th</sup>. The ranking was based on countries' legal, technical and organisational institutions, their educational and research capabilities,

and their cooperation in information-sharing networks. "Cybersecurity is an ecosystem where laws, organizations, skills, cooperation and technical implementation need to be in harmony to be most effective," the survey said.

"The degree of inter-connectivity of networks

implies that anything and everything can be exposed, and everything from national critical infrastructure to our basic human rights can be compromised." The crucial first step was to adopt a national security strategy, but 50 per cent of countries have none, the survey said.—Reuters ■

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR SOLO VOY. NO (754)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR SOLO VOY. NO (754) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2017 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 SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE  
LTD

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2017 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING  
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2017 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



Priyanka Chopra. PHOTO: PTI

## Priyanka Chopra becomes Academy member, praises diversity push

LOS ANGELES — Priyanka Chopra is one of the newest members the Academy of Motion Picture of Arts & Sciences (AMPAS) and the actress has praised the ongoing push for racial and gender equality.

Following two years of sharp criticism and back-to-back ceremonies with an all-white slate of acting nominees, AMPAS last week invited a record 774 new members from 57 countries around the world to join the organisations ranks, reported Entertainment Weekly.

“While the numbers have their own story to tell, I think its important to recognise that progress is being made. Its going to take some time to correct, but continuous efforts always help,” Priyanka said.

The 34-year-old Indian ac-

triss, who made her foray into the West with TV series “Quantico”, said the Academy should move beyond a single award for foreign language films and include them in other major categories.

“It’s interesting that though (past Indian) winners were Indian, it was for their work in international films ? largely about India, but not made by India. For a global community like India to be represented on a larger scale, I think it will have to move beyond a single award for all foreign language films.

“It is very rare to see foreign language films represented in the other categories,” she said.

Apart from Priyanka, other Indian stars who have been invited to join the Academy

and vote in the Oscars include the likes of, megastar Amitabh Bachchan, Aamir Khan, Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, filmmakers Goutam Ghose, Buddhadeb Dasgupta, Salman Khan, Irrfan Khan and Deepika Padukone.

Priyanka said the class of 2017 “does have a very diverse collection, including a few from my country, and one hopes that we all work together to push the larger picture’. I’d like to see more opportunities for foreign films to be represented at the Oscars.”

Actress Phylicia Rashad, Rinko Kikuchi, Aldis Hodge, Sanaa Lathan, Terry Crews, Colman Domingo, and Anna Deavere Smith, and Colombian filmmaker Patricia Cardoso have also accepted the AMPAS invitation. —PTI ■

## Lagerfeld parades Chanel models under mini Eiffel Tower

PARIS — Karl Lagerfeld presented Chanel’s haute couture collection under a scaled-down version of the Eiffel Tower on Tuesday.

Haute couture fashion week is open to an exclusive club of designers who make bespoke collections by hand and includes Chanel, Dior and Jean-Paul Gaultier.

Lagerfeld has a history of eye-catching set designs for his runway shows and models have

previously weaved through an airport departure lounge, a supermarket and a busy brasserie.

This season it was back to basics with the mock-up tower straddling a catwalk inside the Grand Palais.

Models paraded in demure A-line skirts, hooded coats and wide-legged jumpsuits in classic Chanel tweed.

They were crowned with matching bowler-style hats in keeping with the collection’s vin-



German designer Karl Lagerfeld appears at the end of his Haute Couture Fall/Winter 2017/2018 collection for fashion house Chanel in Paris, France on 4 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

tage feel, although their transparent low block heels added a modern twist. Another of La-

gerfeld’s labels, Fendi, is set to close the Paris fashion week on Wednesday.—Reuters ■

## Tove Lo wants to pursue acting

LONDON — Swedish singer Tove Lo says she is eyeing a career in Hollywood and is dreaming of working with director Quentin Tarantino.

The 29-year-old singer, who has become a huge star in her native Sweden, says she would love to move into acting in the coming years, reported Femalefirst.

“I definitely want to do more. Anything (by director Quentin) Tarantino I would want to be a part of. That’s my big dream. That would be amazing,” Tove says.

The songstress is known for her controversial on-stage antics, but insists she can be a good role model for young children. “Usually the question is, ‘Don’t you feel you should be ashamed for setting a bad example to young girls?’ singing bluntly about sex, drugs and everything... A lot of my fans come up to me and say, ‘you make me feel better about me just as me.’” she says.—PTI ■

## Korean drama stars Song Joong Ki, Song Hye Kyo to wed in October

SEOUL — South Korean soap opera fans across Asia and beyond woke up Wednesday to the surprise announcement by stars Song Joong Ki and Song Hye Kyo that they will get married in October, despite their having flatly denied rumours of an off-screen romance.

The 31-year-old actor and

35-year-old actress played the leading roles as a soldier-doctor couple in the 2016 TV drama “Descendants of the Sun,” which became immensely popular not only in South Korea but also elsewhere in Asia.

The two stars will tie the knot on 31 October, their agencies said, explaining that they

had previously denied the relationship because “the situation demanded caution as marriage is a joining of not just two people but of two families.”

Song Hye Kyo won fame in dramas such as “Autumn in My Heart” and “All In,” while the “Descendants” series shot Song Joong Ki to mega stardom.

The actor will also star in the upcoming film “The Battleship Island,” which depicts the story of an attempted escape by forced coal mine labourers on the island of Hashima during the Japanese occupation-era. The movie is scheduled for release in July.—Kyodo News ■

# Grime spreads beyond London's underground

LONDON — Squeezed in to a small and sweaty East London nightclub at 3 am, the Slew Dem Crew spit bars to a raucous audience revelling in the fast growing popularity of Britain's new musical obsession.

Grime, developed from garage and rap, has been enjoying a breakout period since British artist Skepta scooped the prestigious Mercury Prize in September and fellow Londoner Stormzy gave the genre its first number one album in March.

In the small nightclubs, cafes and independent radio station studios of the capital, the accolades and recognition are drowning out the critics who say the music glamorizes violence.

"To those critics I would say you haven't listened to enough grime music because there's so many creative people in the scene for someone to belittle us with that statement," Rage, 32, a member of the Slew Dem Crew, told Reuters.

"Grime is now being accepted all over the world.

We are seeing people of all races and genders actively listening to, buying and making grime music."

The grime artists do tackle drugs, money, respect, turf wars and other gritty topics, all set over a tempo of 140 beats per minute. "A lot of us come from dark backgrounds and deeper struggles so the real lyrics we write may have violence in them but it's just a form of expression," said Clipson, another member of the Slew Dem Crew. —Reuters ■



Members from grime group The Collective perform at City Sound Project, Penny Theatre club, Canterbury, Britain on 28 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Peru reveals replica of face of ancient female ruler



A replica of The Lady of Cao face, a female mummy found at the archaeological site Huaca El Brujo, a grand pyramid of the ancient Moche pre-hispanic culture, is seen at the Ministry of Culture in Lima, Peru on 4 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

LIMA, PERU — She died in her twenties some 1,700 years ago, and is believed to have ruled over a desert valley in ancient Peru where her elaborately tattooed body was buried with weapons and gold objects.

But a glimpse of the former priestess, the Lady of Cao, can now be seen in a replica of her face unveiled by culture officials and archaeologists on Monday.

Using 3D imaging technology and forensics archaeology, the replica was based on the Lady of Cao's skull structure and ethnographic research and took 10 months to create, Peru's culture ministry said.

The goal, said Culture Minister Salvador del Solar, was to bring the world closer to one of Peru's best archaeological finds and remind Peruvians of their rich cultural heritage.

"Its relevance is really incalculable," del Solar said of the oval-shaped face with high cheekbones on display under a golden crown. "We can now show the world her face, a face that Peruvians see ourselves in."

The discovery of the Lady of Cao's mummified remains in 2005 shattered the belief that the ancient Moche society, which occupied the Chicama Valley from about 100 to 700 AD, was patriarchal. Several

Moche female mummies have been found since in graves with objects denoting a high political and religious standing.

Archaeologists believe the Lady of Cao died due to complications of childbirth but otherwise lived a healthy life. Her arms and legs were covered with tattoos of snakes, spiders and other supernatural motifs. Discovered near her funerary bundle was a strangled adolescent, who might have been a sacrifice to guide her into the afterlife, according to the museum at the El Brujo archaeological site where she was found.

The Lady of Cao is a reminder of the complex so-

cieties that thrived in what is now Peru long before the Inca empire dominated the Andes or Europeans arrived in the Americas.

The Moche built irrigation canals to grow crops in the desert and were known for their ceramics and gold-work that have been looted from their gravesites.

The replica of the Lady of Cao, a collaboration that included archaeologists, the Wiese Foundation and global imaging company FARO Technologies Inc, will be displayed in Peru's culture ministry in the capital Lima through July 16. It will later be shown at the museum at El Brujo. —Reuters ■

MRTV Programme Schedule (6-7-2017, Thursday)	
6:00 Am ◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	3:15 Am ◆ TV Drama Series
7:00 Am ◆ Breakfast News	4:35 Pm ◆ Documentary
7:35 Am ◆ NRC Programme	4:45 Pm ◆ Documentary
8:35 Am ◆ Documentary (Part-1)	5:05 Pm ◆ NHK Programme "The World of Flowering Plants (Photosynthesis and Respiration)"
9:15 Am ◆ Beautiful ASEAN	5:20 Pm ◆ Documentary
9:25 Am ◆ ASEAN Spotlight (17) (A) Single Aviation Market (Philippines) (B) Women in Business (Cambodia)	5:30 Pm ◆ Socio Economic Scenes
10:30 Am ◆ MRTV Worker's Programme	6:20 Pm ◆ Football Magazine
11:35 Am ◆ Real Story Real Movies (Part-1)	6:35 Pm ◆ Current Affair
12:30 Am ◆ TV Drama Series	8:00 Pm ◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
1:00 Am ◆ Myanmar Movie (Part -1)	8:35 Pm ◆ Documentary (Part-2)
2:20 Am ◆ Drama Series	9:15 Pm ◆ TV Drama Series
	◆ Talk and Old Film (Part-4)

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule		
(6-7-2017 07:00am ~ 7-7-2017 07:00am) MST		
07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	History And Mystery Behind The Caves
07:52	Am	Porcelain and Glass
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	A Monk's Robe
08:33	Am	Travelogue: Trekking Around Kalaw Township
08:48	Am	Marketable Goods-(Aluminium Glasses & Stainless Steel)
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Product of Myanmar - Craft Blacksmithing
09:52	Am	Famous pagodas of Sagaing
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Novicehood in Myanmar
10:52	Am	Talented Musicians
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) -Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
<b>Prime Time</b>		
07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	MOBILE WEEK 2017
07:41	Pm	Htan Taw Drums (Part-I) "Osi"
07:54	Pm	A Traditional Doctor
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Rising Glory Of Myanmar Arts
08:54	Pm	Kyeikhteeyoe: Welcome All
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(For Detailed Schedule - <a href="http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule">www.myanmaritv.com/schedule</a> )		

## Messi set for bumper new deal at Barcelona

BARCELONA — Barcelona forward Lionel Messi is set to sign a new contract to keep him at the La Liga club until 2021 with the option of a further one-year extension, according to media reports in Spain and Britain.

The five-times Ballon d'Or winner has been at Barcelona for close to two decades, rising through their youth system to become one of the most successful and recognisable footballers in the world.

The Argentina interna-

tional is expected to officially sign the deal when he returns to the club for pre-season training and the talisman's new release clause is reported to have risen to 300 million euros (\$340.65 million).

One of the biggest names in sport, the 30-year-old is the all-time top scorer for club and country. His expansive list of honours includes eight Spanish league titles and four Champions League trophies with Barcelona since his senior debut in 2003.

—Reuters ■

## Chelsea's Abraham joins Swansea on a season-long loan

LONDON — Chelsea striker Tammy Abraham has joined Swansea City on a season-long loan deal, the Welsh club said on Tuesday.

Abraham, who also signed a new five-year contract with his parent club, scored 26 goals in 48 games on loan at English Championship side Bristol City last season.

He also scored once in four

games as England's under-21 side reached the semi-finals of the European Championship last month. The 19-year-old will join Swansea boss Paul Clement, who worked as a coach at Chelsea between 2007 and 2011.

Swansea, who finished 15th in the Premier League last season, open their 2017-18 campaign at Southampton on 12 August.—Reuters ■

## European League's players to be included in AFC qualifier hosted in Myanmar



Australian players cum European League's players post for the group photo. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Kyaw Zin Lin

MYANMAR will host 2017 AFC U-23 Championship Group F qualification matches from 19 to 23 July at the Thuwana Stadium in Yangon.

For the qualifier, Australia's under-23 national football team has already announced their 26 players' list including five European players according to Football Federation Australia (FFA).

Players are mostly from Australian A-League Club and other five players including goalkeeper

Thomas Glover from Premier League Club Tottenham Hotspurs, A-League Morecambe FC shining player Danijel Nhizic according to Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) web page.

We are preparing from the start of this month as we have to compete in Group F qualifier matches hosted in Myanmar. We will compete and have a great respect to our opponents in the matches said Australian Coach Josep Gombau.

All the national teams have been divided into 10 groups and

Myanmar is included in Group-F together with Australia, Singapore and Brunei. The group winners will also be joined by five best second-place finishers and host China in the final round of the competition scheduled in 2018 January.

Myanmar U-23 national team also features many players who were part of the 2015 U-20 World Cup hosted in New Zealand.

Myanmar will face Singapore in the opening match on 19 July, followed by Brunei on 21 July and Australia on 23 July respectively.

## Pacquiao backs call for review of Horn decision

MANILA, PHILIPPINES — Manny Pacquiao has backed a call asking the World Boxing Organization (WBO) to review the controversial points decision that saw Australia's Jeff Horn capture the Filipino great's welterweight world title in Brisbane on Sunday.

Horn improved his unbeaten record to 17-0-1 after the judges scored the bout 117-111, 115-113 and 115-113 in the 29-year-old's favour but many observers questioned the outcome, saying the officials had made a "hometown decision".

While Horn dismissed criticism of his win, the regulatory body of professional sport in the Philippines, the Games and Amusement Board (GAB), requested a "thorough review" of the fight on Monday and Pacquiao has backed their demand.

"WBO should take appropriate action on the letter sent



Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines swings and misses during his loss to Jeff Horn of Australia in Brisbane, Australia on 2 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

by the Games and Amusement Board (GAB) so as not to erode

the people's interest in boxing,"

Pacquiao said in a statement on Wednesday.

"On my part, I had already accepted the decision but as a leader and, at the same time, fighter, I have the moral obligation to uphold sportsmanship, truth and fairness in the eyes of the public."

"I love boxing and I don't wanna see it dying because of (an) unfair decision and officiating." On Tuesday, the WBO said that the decision could not be reversed and highlighted the rematch clause in both fighters' contracts.

"The discretion of a referee or judge cannot be reversed, except in a case of fraud or violation of laws which is not the case in Pac vs Horn," the organisation said on their Twitter account.

"The contract for Pac vs Horn provides a rematch clause, which the WBO is in accordance if the promoters decide to move forward."—Reuters ■