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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Friday, 6 July 2018



## President U Win Myint attends monsoon tree planting event for environment greenery movement

President U Win Myint attended the monsoon tree planting event for the 2018 environment greenery movement held at Pho Zaung Taung reserve in Pobathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

The event was also attended by Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Ministers Dr. Pe Myint, Dr. Aung Thu, U Ohn Win and Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo, Union Civil Service Board Chairman Dr. Win Thein, Central Bank of Myanmar Governor

U Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Amyotha Hluttaw Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee chairman U Kyaw Thiha and officials.

At the event, President U Win Myint planted a Myanmar padauk tree. Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than planted mahogany and tamalan saplings, while the remaining attendees planted other saplings at the 2018 environment greenery movement event.

Afterwards, President U Win Myint observed sapling plantings by others.

At the event, 333 saplings, including teak, pyinkado, padauk, tamalan, mahogany, were planted, it is learnt.

Pho Zaung Taung reserve's 51 blocks cover 8,517.09 acres containing various plant species in it.—Myanmar News Agency■

President U Win Myint plants a padauk tree at the monsoon tree planting event for 2018 environment greenery movement in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

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## VP U Myint Swe attends 2<sup>nd</sup> coord meeting of Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee

VICE President U Myint Swe, Patron of the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee attended and addressed the second coordination meeting of the committee held at the meeting hall of Arzani Beikman (Martyrs' Mausoleum) management office yesterday morning.

Present at the meeting

were Chairman of the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Work Committee Chairman Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyto Min Thein, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Aung Thu, Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, Yangon Region

Ministers, Yangon Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin San Naing, members of central committee, work committees and members of sub-committees and departmental officials.

In his address to the meeting, the Vice President said this is the second coordination meeting to successfully

hold the 2018 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Martyrs' Day. In order to hold the event successfully, the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee and work committees had been formed, in accordance with Notification 43/2018, dated 8 June 2018, issued by the Office of the President.

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# Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives British Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat received British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg at the Pyithu Hluttaw building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they cordially discussed developmental processes of the Hluttaw and promoting the capacity development of Hluttaw representatives and staff.

The meeting was also attended by Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat meets with British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets with British Ambassador Mr. Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives British Ambassador

AMYOTHA Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Daniel Patrick Brendon Chugg at the Amyotha Hluttaw guest hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. During the meeting, they cordially discussed the promotion of investments, bilateral cooperation and friendship between the two countries, procedures of the Hluttaws, performance of committees, aid for the development of Hluttaws and promoting the capacity development of Hluttaw representatives.

Also present at the meeting were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with DFID advisor Mr. Joe Rolling in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Tun Tun Hein meets with DFID advisor Mr. Joe Rolling in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives DFID advisor

PYITHU Hluttaw Deputy Speaker and Chairman of Joint Coordination Committee (JCC) on Hluttaw Development U Tun Tun Hein received Advisor to the Department for International Development (DFID) Mr. Joe Rolling at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

cordially discussed DFID aid for the developmental processes of the Hluttaws along with promoting the capacity development of the Hluttaw representatives. The discussion also focused on the research of the Hluttaws and the strengthening of the Hluttaw committees.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Investment, public-private partnerships discussed at disaster risk reduction conference

THE third day of the 2018 Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) continued in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, yesterday.

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye, Vice Chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, participated in ministerial and high-level discussions led by the Mongolian government concerning investments in disaster risk reduction operations and promoting public-private partnerships. The union minister pointed out rescue efforts and humanitarian aid provided in the 2015 flood crisis as a noteworthy example of a public-private partnership in Myanmar. During the 2015 floods, the Myanmar Merchants Association, the Private Airline Company Association, private telecommunications companies, authorities and humanitarian organisations raced to clean contaminated water sources in flood-hit parts of Myanmar, while distributing safe drinking water. Due to contaminated water, the

area was undergoing diarrhea outbreaks. The union minister also discussed the established public network for disaster risk management, emergency response, and risk reduction operations. He said they are implementing preemptive disaster prevention projects with neighbouring regional countries through a three-way cooperation model between public, private, and civil societies.

Myanmar is applying for Disaster Risk Insurance in the Asian Region as a preemptive measure to acquire necessary funds when responding to disasters, said the union minister. He also discussed the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development's UEHRD progress and requested cooperation from international and private organisations for long-term investments to remedy flood-related disasters that occur in Myanmar every year.

Participating in the ministerial and high-level discussions

were high-ranking officials from Mongolia's unicameral parliament, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Finance, Private Entrepreneur Association, Asian Development Bank, private insurance companies, and representatives from member countries. Afterwards, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye met privately with Mr. U. Enkhtuvshin, the Deputy Prime Minister of Mongolia. The union minister and deputy prime minister openly discussed matters relating to promoting bilateral relations and people-to-people relations, cooperating in disaster risk reduction and operations in other sectors, hosting occasional meetings between Myanmar and Mongolia, requesting assistance from Mongolia's developed tourism industry for Myanmar's tourism sector, future exchange between the two countries, and further promoting existing collaboration efforts.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye (Front, 2nd from left) poses for a documentary photo together with participants at the third day of the 2018 AMCDRR in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



# Come hell or high water!

We need zeal and perseverance to realize our goal. Once in a boat race in Pathein, rowers stopped paddling and lifted their oars when they achieved a slight lead over their competitors' boat. We, the Myanmar people, too often give up before reaching our goal. We can call this a Myanmar spirit under enslavement. I warn all of you to be against this spirit. Come hell or high water, you must never give up!

(Excerpt from the last address Bogyoke Aung San delivered from the City Hall in front of Maha Bandoola Park in Yangon, on 13 July 1947



## President U Win Myint attends monsoon tree planting event in Nay Pyi Taw



President U Win Myint visits the tree planting event together with Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**



Vice President U Henry Van Thio plants a mahogany tree at the tree planting event in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat plants a tamalan tree at the tree planting event in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than plants a tamalan tree at the tree planting event in Nay Pyi Taw.



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# EuroCham Myanmar: Investment in food safety management systems prerequisite for agri-business growth

EUROCHAM Myanmar released a press statement mentioning that food safety is a challenge for Myanmar, and that investment in food safety management systems is required as a prior condition for the growth of agribusiness.

Agribusiness accounts for 38 per cent of gross domestic product and 23 per cent of the country's exports. Ensuring food safety will help boost agricultural sector and tourism, increase exports, create job opportunities and improve the country's economy, according to the press release.

Several studies in 2017 and

2018 indicated inadequate food safety standards, poor occupational safety and health practices at factories in Myanmar. The studies showed pesticide residues in vegetables, formalin in red bean cakes and Vibrio bacteria found in fish sold by BBQ fish vendors.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit's Global Food Security Index 2017, Myanmar ranks 71 for quality and safety among 113 countries. It is much lower than Thailand, Laos and India, according to the report of the World Health Organization.

Food safety not only im-

pacts on the social well-being of Myanmar's citizens but also influences tourism, economy and the development of the country. When food safety standards are strictly practiced, it will enable food enterprises to improve efficiency and cut costs, contributing to a stronger brand value and enabling Myanmar to explore new markets.

U Tin Win, Assistant Director of Plant Protection Division under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, pointed out that the private sector is crucial for participating in safety management with the supply of safe inputs such as

pesticides, veterinary drugs, by raising awareness, education and training for farmers and enterprises. The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) also stressed in 2016 the urgency to provide technical training to the staffs of management agencies at various ministries, covering specific areas, such as food safety, sanitation, good hygienic practices and good manufacturing practice.

Additionally, Agrobusiness Advocacy Group of EuroCham highly recommended having updated laws and standards, enforcing regulations and raising awareness. —GNLM ■



File photo shows the aerial view of Bagan, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO : PHOE KHWAR**

## Public forum on Bagan as World Heritage site

PUBLIC awareness talks were held in 43 villages in the Bagan region in order to broaden local residents' understanding about why Bagan should be designated a World Heritage site, according to the Department of Archaeology and National Museum in Bagan.

During the discussions, officials from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum stressed the cultural and historical significance of Bagan and how this justifies Bagan's entry into the list of

World Heritage sites. The public forum started on Wednesday and will continue until the end of August for the 43 villages in Bagan.

"Locals do not completely know how valuable the historical and cultural background is, so we aim to broaden their understanding and knowledge of the area for the sake of preserving Bagan's heritage and for the benefit of Bagan's citizens," said U Aung Aung Kyaw, Director of the Department of Archaeology and National

Museum. The forum is jointly conducted by the Department of Archaeology and National Museum and charity organizations that support the Bagan area. The nomination dossier for Bagan's inclusion in the list of World Heritage sites was submitted to the World Heritage Central Committee on 25 January this year. In addition, the International Council on Monuments and Sites will inspect the Bagan region in September. —Ei Moh Moh Khaing/MDN ■

## Length of stay reduced for Bagan tourists

AUTHORITIES have reduced the length of stay for tourists who wish to travel to Bagan's ancient region beginning this month, said U Myint Than, Deputy-Director of the Archaeology and National Museum Department.

Authorities will not reduce the Ks25,000 entrance fee for tourists at Bagan, but will shorten the length of time allowed to visit from five days to three days. Bagan hosted over 13,000 tourists in 2017 and has welcomed over 10,300 tourists so far this year.

"Authorities have reduced the visiting date to three days from five days because three days is enough to visit around the Bagan ancient region", U Myint Than said. "Some of the tourists sold their visiting card to other tourists. That is the reason authorities have reduced the visiting days."

The reduced length of stay went into effect on 1 July as authorities were coordinating agreements with related ministries.

"When authorities permitted the five-day visiting period, some of the tourists were staying three days and selling online the other two days for Ks10,000", said U Thant Zaw, a local tour guide. —Khine Sat Wai ■



## China becoming potential export market for striped catfish

By May Thet Hnin

THE Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF) has strongly suggested that striped catfish should be farmed not only for local consumption but also for export, as China's consumption of it is remarkably high, becoming a potential export market for the same.

"Striped catfish has become popular among barbeque vendors at night markets in China. It is also one of the main ingredients at the country's hot pot restaurants. China's demand on striped catfish is growing, prompting Chinese importers to buy it from Viet Nam. For this reason, Viet Nam has hiked its price. Accordingly, we are encouraging traders to farm striped catfish", said Dr. Myint Sein from the Myanmar Fish Farmers Association.

There is no need to regularly

check the water quality of the striped catfish breeding habitat. Also, any type of aqua feed can be added into the farming ponds. Adding to these advantages, the growth rate of striped catfish is faster than other fish species, and it can also be raised in a small pond.

Some fishery traders are prepping for striped catfish farming on a commercial scale, as they have been observing its great export potentiality, said U Win Kyaing, general secretary of MFF.

"Local fishery businesses cannot keep pace with the foreign market. Heavy reliant on domestic market does not produce substantial gains, as fish surplus in the local market results in great loss. At present, the striped catfish market has two advantages: one is the dried fish business for domestic consumption and the other for

export. The MFF chair is making preparations for striped catfish farming on an enormous scale aiming for the export market. This is why MFF would like to urge traders to extend striped catfish cultivation businesses", he maintained.

"Some traders are preparing to export scraped striped catfish meat to China. However, China always observes the market before committing itself. At present, we cannot supply the exact fish sizes that they want," said U San Htike, a fish breeder.

Last year, striped catfish businesses were not doing good. Now, it's a different story.

An MFF delegation went on a study tour to striped catfish farms in Viet Nam last April. Myanmar still lags far behind many other supplier foreign countries in insufficient capital investment and in using advanced farming technology. ■



## Areca nut prices up, prompts business resumption



Rural women shelling areca nuts. PHOTO: MNA

WITH areca nut (also known as betel nut, when consumed together with betel leaves) fetching high prices this month, farm owners have resumed their temporary business of growing areca plants in Kyaikdon Town in Kayin State.

Kyaikdon has generally been recognized as the main producer of areca nuts. Farm owners have

a stockpile of nuts, as it did not fetch a good price last year. Areca nut price has somewhat risen this month, prompting them to resume their businesses.

The price of a viss (3.6 lb) of areca nuts ranged from Ks1,500-2,000 last summer. At present, the prevailing price is from Ks2,700-3,200 per viss. This

shows that there's still a fluctuation of prices.

Farm owners hire workers, paying each a daily wage of Ks5,000. They are expecting a high profit this year.

Suppliers from Kyaikdon send areca nuts to other towns, such as Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Mandalay.—Kyaikdon IPRD ■

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# VP U Myint Swe attends 2<sup>nd</sup> coord meeting of Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee

## FROM PAGE-1

To successfully implement the assigned tasks, eight sub-committees were formed and these sub-committees were learnt to be cooperating and coordinating to complete their assigned works in time.

The first coordination meeting of the committee was held at the meeting hall of the Office of the President on 20 June where 28 decisions were made.

Based on the experience of past years, work committees and sub-committees are to coordinate among themselves and conduct things to ensure the best results.

On the coming 71<sup>st</sup> Martyrs' Day, ceremonies to offer *soon* (a day meal) to members of the Sangha as a dedication to the fallen martyrs will be held both in Nay Pyi Taw and Yangon, and work committees and sub-committees need to coordinate in detail to conduct their works without any lapses.

Necessary and timely preparations to hold the Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Arzani Beikman is to be made. There should be no lapses in greeting and assigning respective places to the ceremony attendees, including the families of the Martyrs. Systematic rehearsals should be conducted

so that the entries and exits are on schedule and in time, said the Vice President.

Furthermore, the Vice President spoke of the importance of informing in advance through television, newspapers and radios on the time to pay respects, and dos and don'ts to the public coming to pay their respects. As it is a State-level event, it should be held in accordance with Union-level protocol, and since it is the rainy season, necessary preparations should be made for the convenience of those who are paying their respects.

To hold the flag raising and saluting ceremony successfully in the Secretariat Building (former Office of the Ministers), dress rehearsals should be systematically conducted. The state parliamentary meeting hall is to be prepared and displayed as last year, and as the building where the Martyrs were assassinated is not firm enough, arrangements need to be made to show it through photographic records and LED boards. Security sub-committee needs to coordinate and conduct the twelve assigned duties so that there are no lapses.

To hold the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Martyrs' Day successfully according to the set aims, work



Vice President U Myint Swe looks at documentary photos displayed for holding the Martyrs' Day ceremony at the Bogyoke Museum in Bahan Township, Yangon. **PHOTO: ZAW MIN LATT**

committees and sub-committees need to openly discuss about their completed works, future works and difficulties faced and provide necessary suggestions, said the Vice President.

Next, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Chairman of the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee, explained about the list of guests invited to the events and status of implementing the decisions made at the meeting.

Afterwards, Work Committee Chairman Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein explained about works conducted to hold the Martyrs' Day ceremony.

Following this, security committee chairman Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Thu and Police Brig-Gen Tin Ko Ko explained about security arrangements.

Chairmen and secretaries of the sub-committees then explained about their respective works, after which other meeting attendees Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General U Thant Sin, Yangon Command Deputy Commander Brig-Gen Tin San Naing, Deputy Minister for Defence Rear-Admiral Myint Nwe, Union Election Commission Office Director General U Khin Maung Oo and Myanmar Fire Services Department Director General U Myat Thu provided additional discussions.

The meeting came to a conclusion after Vice President U Myint Swe made necessary comments to ensure coordination based on the discussions and submissions made and delivered a concluding speech.

After the meeting, Vice Pres-

ident U Myint Swe, Patron of the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of Martyrs' Day Convening Central Committee went to the Arzani Beikman and inspected the preparations made.

He then continued to Bogyoke Aung San Museum in Bahan Township, Yangon, and inspected the preparations made for the public to visit the museum.

From there, he went to the Secretariat Building (former Office of the Ministers) in Botahtaung Township and inspected the flag pole where the Union Jack flag was lowered and the Union of Myanmar flag was raised on Independence Day, historical stone pillar commemorating the Martyrs, parliamentary meeting hall and the meeting room where the Martyrs were assassinated and gave necessary instructions to ensure proper coordination.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Needs assessment workshop held on effective prosecution responses to cases of violence against women and children

Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo attended and addressed the Effective Prosecution Responses to Cases of Violence Against Women and Children Needs Assessment Workshop, jointly organized by the Union Attorney General Office and United Nations organisations – United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The workshop was held at Mingalathiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw's hotel zone yesterday morning.

In his address, the Union Attorney General said the workshop was jointly organized by the

Union Attorney General Office, UNODC, UNICEF and UNFPA and is a needs assessment workshop for effective prosecution responses to cases of violence against women and children. Law officers conduct work relating to crime on behalf of the State, and their expertise, integrity, and living and working in accordance with the ethics of a law officer is vital for the people and the State, and also important for the development of justice and the rule of law. At present, crimes and violence against women and children are increasing, and the framework of law on these crimes and violence need to be complete

and reliable, while penalties and punishment need to be effective. Myanmar is a party to the Convention on the Rights of the Children (CRC) and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). The Union Attorney General Office is cooperating for the establishment of laws that are complete and satisfactory and that are of international standard to protect the children and women. The forthcoming new laws will provide extra rights and protection that are more effective than the present ones. Law officers are to follow up effectively on cases of violence against women and



Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo delivers the speech at the Effective Prosecution Responses to Cases of Violence Against Women and Children Needs Assessment Workshop in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO:**

children, said the Union Attorney General.

Following the address of the Union Attorney General, Officer in Charge of UNODC Myanmar office Mrs. Marie Cauchois said that UNODC is cooperating with the Union Attorney General Office and based on the outcome of the workshop, more projects

that are beneficial to the people can be conducted. Present at the workshop together with the Union Attorney General were the Deputy Attorney General, officials from UNODC, UNFPA and UNICEF, directors general, directors, forty trainees and invited guests, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■



# Day two of working committee meetings held for Union Peace Conference

IN preparation for the Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, the second day meetings of the political, economic, security, land and environment work committees were held at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday morning.

At the political sector work committee meeting, Dr. Tu Ja said the day's main discussion was about gender equality. During the day's discussion, it was decided that there should be at least a minimum of 30 per cent women representation in the legislative, administrative and judicial sectors, and the majority agreed with this. At the moment, women's participation may be less than 30 per cent and it was agreed to henceforth set the minimum participation at 30 per cent.

At the land and environment work committee meeting, U Aung Naing Oo said the discussion cen-



Participants discuss the land and environment work of the Union Peace Conference—21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong (Third Session). **PHOTO: MNA**

tred on the policy established by the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC).

A discussion was also started on points proposed by the ethnic armed organisations' group. Some discussions were part of unfinished topics discussed yes-

terday. The main points discussed were financial matters: the division of taxes and resources, setting up of policies on economics, and drawing up of projects when states and regions were formed under the union and federal systems. Discussions were also held

on public service works.

Similarly, working committees of the economic, social and security sectors discussed topics to be submitted to the third session of the Union Peace Conference.

The second day's meeting

was attended by members of the UPDJC's secretary group, joint committee members, working committee members from the government, Hluttaw and Tatmadaw groups and other officials.—Thura Zaw, Myo Thu Hein (MNA) ■

## Chinese embassy donates 10 cars to Joint Monitoring Committee

AT a ceremony held yesterday, the Chinese Embassy in Myanmar donated 10 cars to the Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC) to support joint-monitoring efforts for a nationwide ceasefire.

The ceremony was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC) in Kamayut Township in Yangon.

Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang spoke at the ceremony explaining the reason for the donation, and stating that it was so JMC officials could have swifter and more efficient transportation for their work, which requires them to travel to various regions. He added that the JMC is an important component in pushing for peace in Myanmar and believed that ceasefire agreements between respective groups will be strengthened as the JMC develops. "The road ahead is filled with challenges and difficulties. However, I firmly believe that Myanmar can overcome them all, if every related party and group can work together," said Mr. Hong Liang.

Mr. Hong Liang then officially handed over 10 Volvo cars to the JMC, which were accepted by



Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang hands over Volvo cars to JMC-U Chairperson Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and Vice-Chair (1) Saw Isaac Po in Kamayut Township, Yangon, yesterday. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

JMC-U Chairperson Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Vice-Chair (1) Saw Isaac Po and Vice-Chair (2) U Sai Myo Thant. They then handed over a commemoration certificate and presents to the Chinese ambassador. Chairperson Lt-Gen Yar Pyae expressed his gratitude for the donation. He said China has always been providing human resources and financial aid to help Myanmar's peace efforts.

"China also engages in talks with ethnic armed organisations situated between our borders to take part in the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)," said the chairperson. "The cars

we received today will be of immense help in JMC's day-to-day operations. After the NCA was signed, the JMC formed five JMC-S and two JMC-I in states and regions. We have additional plans going forward and I would like to express my gratitude on behalf of the JMC for the donation."

This was followed by vice-chairs (1) and (2) delivering speeches of thanks.

The ceremony was attended by JMC-U chairperson and officials, the Chinese Ambassador and Embassy officials, and invited guests.—Zaw Gyi ■

## Union Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin receives Director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific

UNION Minister for International Cooperation U Kyaw Tin received Mr. Indrika Ratwatte, Director of the UNHCR Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific, on 5 July 2018 at 2pm, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters pertaining to the development of a detailed work program for

early implementation of the Tripartite MoU signed between the Government of Myanmar, UNHCR and UNDP and convening of a Technical Working Group to operationalize the MoU, continuation of UNHCR projects in other regions of Myanmar as well as ongoing repatriation process of displaced persons from Thailand.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Kyaw Tin holds talks with UNHCR Director Mr. Indrika Ratwatte in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**



# Ask yourself what you can do for our environment

**W**ASTE management poses a great problem both to the government and the populace in rural and urban areas of Myanmar.

Whenever it rains, cities experience flooding caused by the indiscriminate disposal of waste in drainage channels. The situation has become critical due to the large amount of waste that collects in and clogs the drainage ditches.

Most importantly, the government has not succeeded in educating communities in sustainable waste disposal methods. This includes the threats to the environment from plastic pollution, which is rapidly increasing in urban areas.

Thankfully, ordinary people are helping urban and rural areas face the challenges. Green Life, a community-based organization in Depeyin Kwe Village in Sagaing Township, Sagaing Region, received the Gratitude Letter for June from State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi for its efforts for waste management in the village.

Green Life's efforts have led to the entire village becoming involved in their own waste management. This is an outstanding model that every community across the country should follow as an example.

Despite being based in a small village, their tenacity, knowledge, enthusiasm, and kindness slowly but surely allowed them to reach new heights.

Because of their endeavour in educating the community on waste management, the entire village is now actively involved in their own waste disposal system and are supporting it with donations.

The village now has a small vehicle to transport its waste and Green Life members are expanding their voluntary services to seven neighbouring villages.

With united strength, the volunteers have shown that their community based model for beating plastic pollution can work. Other citizens, philanthropists, and volunteer groups can and should replicate what Green Life has done.

To achieve the goal of beating plastic pollution, we would like to urge community based organizations to help reduce the use of single-use plastic, and instead encourage the use of alternative products and materials that include reusable and washable bags and containers.

Myanmar already has sound traditional practices that involve using renewable resources instead of plastic. Myanmar possesses significant examples, such as clay pots to store drinking water, and the use of cane baskets and leaves for shopping. Cane chairs and bamboo chairs are good examples of Myanmar handicrafts that don't involve plastic.

Furthermore, we should reintroduce the use of our traditional packing materials — banana leaves, lotus leaves and certain species of palm leaves, which were long used as containers in communities.

If we look carefully, these measures are simple, but today they are necessary and productive. Every citizen who continuously applies these good traditional practices will help reduce plastic pollution.

John F. Kennedy, the former U.S. president, once said, "Ask not what your country can do for you - ask what you can do for your country".

In these changing times we need to ask ourselves, "What can we do for our country and our environment, which has nurtured us humans for ages?"

# Our Bogoyoke – a bibliophile

By Khin Maung Htay (Education)

**J**ULY, being a month during the rainy season in Myanmar, is the best time for a bookworm like me to enjoy reading some good books to my heart's content. Everyone has their own favorite literature, and there are also tons of books that are worth reading for one's reading pleasure. People who love poetry may favor certain kinds of poems. Similarly, some like to read articles rather than books. Actually, the gratitude we owe to our fallen martyrs is so immerse, we should not be remembering them only for one day, but should forever.

## Portrayals

Many writers have portrayed our Bogoyoke's life in many ways, especially his childhood, university days, life of an editor, Thakin status, and so on. Moreover, there are a wealth of written documentation about him as an architect of Myanmar's independence and the founder of the Tatmadaw. It was also found that Bogoyoke devoted his life for the pride and honour of his beloved country in the independence struggle.

In short, Bogoyoke was not merely a politician, but a true bibliophile. If we pay a visit to the Bogoyoke's Museum, on the first floor we can see his reading room where a variety of books, including many of them political, are kept. As the book lists are posted on the wall, we can observe which books were thoroughly read by him. In the meeting room, his speeches are inscribed and magnificently framed.

## Making an impression

Bogoyoke was a prolific reader since he was at a young age, and he made an effort to be proficient in the English language. Even foreigners used to admire his English writing skills. Indeed



Bogoyoke was a prolific reader since he was at a young age, and he made an effort to be proficient in the English language. Even foreigners used to admire his English writing skills. Indeed his leading role as a politician is quite impressive during his lifetime. It is no wonder that he could write different kinds of writings due to his incessant reading.



his leading role as a politician is quite impressive during his lifetime. It is no wonder that he could write different kinds of writings due to his incessant reading. Whenever he met his colleagues, he would frequently say, "I will stay away from politics after gaining independence and will write." Unfortunately, he did not live long enough to witness Myanmar's independence. Although he contributed many literacy works, he was not in a position to compile a book. One of his friends, writer Thein Pe Myint, once said regrettably that Bogoyoke Aung San was keen on writing, but he did not have ample time to write a complete book.

Former director U Mya Han has attempted to compile the writings of General Aung San. There are a total of 18 pieces of Bogoyoke Aung San's writings, which includes 14 pieces in Myanmar language, and four in English, three book prefaces, one message, and letters of introduction. If we

classify his writing pieces subject-wise, we can find that there are a variety of his writing works, such as biography, politics, history, religion, and so on. It is learnt that he had started writing as an editor at the *Oway* magazine and the *New Burma* magazine, during his early university life. He entered the translation competition organized by *Gandalawka* magazine in 1933.

He translated *Authority in Modern State* by Professor Harold J. and won the prize at that time. His first article entitled, "Burma and Buddhism" appeared in the *Gandalawka* magazine in 1935. He presented several reviews on the political situation of that time, the role of youths, customs and beliefs.

## Wearing Uniform

Another striking article of Bogoyoke Aung

San was all about "Freedom of Dress in School", also published in the *Gandalawla* magazine in 1935. U Thant first wrote an article on how high school students should be able to dress freely without uniforms, and argued that he was unhappy wearing his uniform to school, and that it was crucial to have freedom and to eradicate class distinctions. Responding to this article, university student Ko Aung San who was working as an editor for *Oway* magazine wrote an article on how high school students should wear uniform. Ko Aung San argued that wearing uniform instilled a sense of patriotism among students and teachers, and that it was not worth giving up freedom for the country for the sake of having freedom of dress. Over a period of four months, the two of them had several discussions about freedom of dress in schools in the paper.

He wrote two more articles, using 'AnyarThar-Lay' as his pen name, which appeared in the *Thuriya* magazine. In this article, he wrote and discussed the controversial biography about his grandfather U Min Yaung. Another article titled, "Lawka Wihar" appeared in *Myo Nyunt* magazine in 1937. He described the three *lawkas* (worlds), the origination of human world, its evolutionary development, religions, beliefs and moral lessons in this article. He thoroughly expounded his attitude towards duties and obligations of the world and the nature of wisdom. Another article that he wrote was entitled, "Duties of a Student", in which he wrote "Knowledge is not limited to book knowledge but is wide and deep without any boundaries. All the books in the world cannot express all the knowledge which can be found only in the largest school of life itself. From the cradle to the grave, we are all students at this school." In his life sketch of biography, he wrote that he was engaged in politics for national freedom since his days at the university and became widely known from the beginning of the 1936 University Students' Strike.

He also acted as the editor of the Student Union's organ, the *Oway* Magazine and participated in establishing the All-Burma Students Union as a frontline leader. Later, he became the general secretary of the Dobama Asiayone, the most popular nationalist organization at that time.

Bogoyoke Aung San, who is recognized as the architecture of independence, had been desirous of regaining independence since he was a student, and that was his only goal. He was a book lover, concentrating on compiling works that really benefited the country. As a politician, he loved literature. He was a systematic reader and was rarely seen enjoying or spending time with friends.

Translated by Win Ko Ko Aung

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## Foreign and domestic press registration for the third session of Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong

THE third session of the Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong will take place at the Myanmar International Convention Centre – II in Nay Pyi Taw from 11 to 16 July.

Foreign and domestic journalists attending the conference can register at the Ministry of Information's website [www.moi.gov.mm](http://www.moi.gov.mm) by clicking on Union Peace Conference – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong (Third Session) and filling out

the MEDIA REGISTRATION FORM. Registration ends at 4pm on 9 July. Press passes can then be picked up at the Ministry of Information on 10 July between 10am and 4pm.

Foreign journalists are required to apply for a visa at the nearest embassy. For further questions, contact the News and Periodicals Enterprise by phone at 067-3412125 or 067-3412126.—Myanmar News Agency

## Online media registration for 71<sup>st</sup> Martyrs' Day

- The 2018 71<sup>st</sup> Martyrs' Day will take place in five designated locations (listed below). Foreign and domestic media agencies are limited to two media personnel per media agency in each location, as the number of attendants will be limited due to security reasons. Interested media agencies can register online in advance at [ir.pso.moi2015@gmail.com](mailto:ir.pso.moi2015@gmail.com) no later than 8pm on 6 July.
- The designated locations are:
  - Martyrs' Mausoleum (Yangon)
  - Bogoyoke Museum (Yangon)
  - Bogoyoke Museum (Natmauk)
  - The Secretariat Building
  - City Hall (Yangon)
- The application form can be downloaded at [www.moi.gov.mm](http://www.moi.gov.mm) and after filling it out applicants can send it to [ir.pso.moi2015@gmail.com](mailto:ir.pso.moi2015@gmail.com). Depending on the number of applicants, the department will make sure a diverse number of media agencies are able to attend the event.
- A list of verified media personnel will be announced at the Ministry of Information's website at [www.moi.gov.mm](http://www.moi.gov.mm) on 9 July. Press passes will be issued at the Copyright and Patent Sub-department at the Information and Public Relations Department in Yangon.

(Note: Each media agency can send a maximum of two media personnel to each designated location).

Ministry of Information

## EARTHQUAKE NEWS

A moderate earthquake of magnitude (5.1) Richter Scale with its epicenter (Myanmar Sea), latitude 14.60°N, longitude 96.28°E, depth (10)kilometers about (156) miles south of Kaba-Aye seismological observatory was recorded at (03) hr (04)min (53)sec M.S.T on 5 July, 2018, according to the Myanmar Daily Weather Report issued by the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology yesterday. — GNLM



# JMC-U 17<sup>th</sup> meeting concludes in Yangon

News – Zaw Gyi  
Photo – Pe Zaw

DAY three of the Union-level Joint Monitoring Committee (JMC-U) 17<sup>th</sup> meeting was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon yesterday, followed by a press conference held later in the day.

The meeting was held from 3 to 5 July. In addition to discussing and confirming the duties and responsibilities of state-level joint monitoring committee (JMC-S) and local-level joint monitoring committee (JMC-L), the meeting amended and added work guidelines for civilian representatives in various levels of JMCs, discussed and confirmed the training course guide for ceasefire joint monitoring committee. The JMC-U 18<sup>th</sup> meeting is scheduled for the second week of September, it is learnt.

The meeting was attended by JMC-U Chairman Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Tatmadaw representatives Lt-Gen Aye Win, Lt-Gen Than Tun Oo, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung, Lt-Gen Aung Lin Dway, Brig-Gen (retired) Kyaw Zan Myint, JMC-U Vice Chairman (1) Saw Isaac Po and heads of ethnic armed organisations (EAOs), JMC-U Vice Chairman (2) U Sai Myo Thant and civilian group representatives, JMC-S and JMC-L committee members and members



JMC-U secretary (2) Col. Wunna Aung, right, and JMC-U committee member Salai Yaw Aung answer questions from media at the press conference following the JMC-U meeting in Yangon. **PHOTO: MNA**

of the technical assistance office. At the press conference, JMC-U secretary (2) Col. Wunna Aung and JMC-U committee member Salai Yaw Aung were available to answer queries from the media.

In reply to one of the questions, Col. Wunna Aung said the aim of JMC is to reduce the incidences of ceasefires being broken. During the three-year interim period when the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed with ethnic armed organisations, the progress of the JMC was in the significant reduction of incidences where the ceasefire was broken. There is an 80 per cent reduction in ceasefire being broken. As there is such

progress in the JMC, the Union Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) can conduct political discussions peacefully and successfully. There are no other challenges to the JMC. The JMC is only three years old and resolving more than sixty years of conflicts would require much coordination and cooperation, he said.

At the forthcoming Union Peace Conference-21<sup>st</sup> Century Panglong, the JMC report will be read and submitted by JMC-U Vice Chairman (1) Saw Isaac Po of the EAOs group. The report will include initial formation of the JMC, aims and basic principles of the JMC, forming of five JMC-S offices and two JMC-L offices, forming and increasing

the work of Technical Support Committees (TSCs). The budget for the JMC is from the UN, in whose assessment of the SOP and TOR of the JMC, the JMC is acknowledged to have successfully implemented more than 70 per cent of the works. In 2018-2019, a budget of \$2.4 million was spent and discussions were conducted on forming more local civilian monitoring (LCM) groups and thus this year's budget would be higher than last year, explained JMC-U secretary (2).

JMC-S and JMC-L offices are set up in towns and there is a requirement to monitor in the conflict areas. It is for this requirement that LCMs were formed to monitor the conduct

of the armed organisations from both sides. If this monitoring is conducted well, there will be progress in the work of JMC and thus LCM will be expanded and formed quickly, said Col. Wunna Aung. Similarly, JMC-U committee member Salai Yaw Aung said the first progress after ceasefire was reduction in the number of armed engagements. Armed engagements hadn't stopped completely, but were significantly reduced compared to the past.

Salai Yaw Aung also addressed the JMC being linked to politics.

"We will have to strive toward successfully conducting political discussions. But political discussions didn't reach the point that we aimed for, and this can be said as another challenge. TOR on LCM was drawn up. A decision has been made to form LCM with five persons from a village tract. They will report to JMC-S/JMC-L offices. The LCM will be monitoring down to the grassroots level and thus it is very important. The fourth meeting of civilian representatives in JMC is scheduled to be held in Taunggoo around mid-July. The aim of this meeting is for civilians to understand more about JMC and NCA, which will in turn support the peace (process)", said Salai Yaw Aung. ■

## Implementation of resolutions for Literature Conference discussed

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and the committee in charge of holding the Literature Conference held discussions yesterday over the implementation of the 39 resolutions made at the 2017 Literature Conference.

At the meeting held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw, the two sides cordially discussed suggestions on implementing the 39 resolutions of the conference, which was held in December last year.

Also present at the meeting

were Deputy Minister U Aung Hla Tun and officials.

The delegation of the committee comprised U Aung Soe Oo, Sayar Maung Thway Thit, U Myo Myint Nyein, U Myay Hmon Lwin and U Myo Myat Thu. — Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, third from left, holds talks with members of the committee in charge of holding Literature Conference on implementation of resolutions made at the 2017 conference. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Transport ministries of Myanmar, Thailand hold discussions to sign border crossing MoU

U Win Khant, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Transport and Communications of Myanmar, received the excursion team of 35 trainees as well as staff led by Mr. Sorapong Paitoonhong, Assistant Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Transport, Thailand, yesterday at the Office of the Ministry of Transport and

Communications in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to the processes being implemented in accord with the national main transport project and signing the border crossing MoU between Myanmar and Thailand. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Donated cash presented for Eternal Peace Pagoda

A ceremony to present donated cash for Eternal Peace Pagoda was held yesterday at the branch office of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture in Yangon yesterday afternoon.

During the ceremony, patron and lecturer Sayadaw of Pannita Rama monastery in Hline Township, Sayadaw Bhaddanta Pyinnavamsa presented cash donated, Ks 2.5

million to the Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko who in return presented certificates of honor.

The Eternal Peace Pagoda was being constructed on Yaza Thingaha Road, near Kan Kaw Pan traffic roundabout in Dekkhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Union Territory. —Myanmar News Agency ■



## Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects regional development in Kayin State

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspected regional development in Thaton District in Mon State yesterday afternoon.

The Union Minister and party inspected a two-mile long gravel road, which was constructed in 2017-2018 fiscal year, and one four-mile long gravel road, which is being constructed in the interim period of the FY 2018-2019. They also went to the workplace of water distribution, utilising funds by the Ministry of Border Affairs in the FY 2015-2016 inspected the process of water distribution from the reservoir, which can hold 500,000 gallons of water, and gave guidance



Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung inspects Women's Vocational Training School in Hpa-an. PHOTO: MNA

to the officials regarding security and maintenance of the reservoir, the need for cooperation among the organisations from the township, members of the City Development Committees and the public.

Then the Union Minister and party went to the Development Office in Kyaikto Township, meeting with the office staff

and attended to their requirements.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and party inspected 50 low-cost-housing units, which were constructed with the funds of the Ministry of Border Affairs in the FY 2015-2016 in Thudhamma Wadi New Satellite Town in Thaton Township. The minister attended to the needs of the family mem-

bers of the housing units.

The Union Minister and party then went to the Women's Vocational Training School (Hpa-an) and met the trainees there. They proceeded to Myaing Gyi Ngu area in Hlaingbwe Township and met with officials of the Border Guard Force. Next, the Union Minister and party provided cash assistance for the construction of schools, books and school uniforms to students. Following the inspection of Myaing Gyi Ngu-Mae Tha Waw Road, which is 31 miles long, they went to the Women's Vocational Training School (Myaing Gyi Ngu) and met with students.— Myanmar News Agency ■

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Dated 6 July 2018

## Race against rain, exhaustion for rescuers of trapped Thai boys

CHIANG RAI, (Thailand) — Thai rescuers said yesterday they may be forced into a complex extraction of 12 boys and their football coach from a flooded cave if forecast rains hammer the mountainside and jeopardise the rescue mission. Further complicating the rescue is a medical assessment of the 12 boys and their football coach that concluded that it was too dangerous to try to move the group out yesterday, according to CNN, who quoted a member of the Thai Navy SEALs who is not authorised to speak to the media. The SEALs have also started to pump oxygen into the chamber.

Myanmar and several other countries have sent divers and rescue workers to aid in the effort to free the trapped boys.

Separately, a new doctor's report highlighted that two of the boys and the coach were suffering with exhaustion from malnutrition. Fresh details of the operation underway at the Tham Luang Nang Non to free the team were emerging yesterday, as rescuers pushed ahead with multiple plans to extricate the group



Thai soldiers unpack food supplies for volunteers and rescue personnel at a provincial office during the rescue operation for 12 boys and their coach trapped in Tham Luang Cave at Khun Nam Nang Non Forest Park in Chiang Rai province. PHOTO: AFP

trapped underground for almost two weeks. More rain is forecast this weekend, putting pressure on rescuers to formulate a plan to extract the boys before flood waters rise any higher. Huge volumes of water are being pumped out of the cave complex each day, but the narrow, winding passages inside are still flooded, meaning diving through the murky water is currently the only way in and out.

Rescuers entering the cave complex located in

northern Thailand have to navigate dark, flooded tunnels for six hours to reach the team. It takes another five hours to return to the entrance. Around the camp which has sprung up near the cave entrance, Thai military divers have set up an encampment with diving gear and equipment, while people from the local community hand out food to rescuers, other volunteers and the small army of press on site.

The boys were in good spirits despite spending

almost two weeks underground, Chiang Rai governor Narongsak Osotanakorn said yesterday.

"I confirm here again that they are in good health and they are smiling and playing around," he said.

Thailand is leading the search to free 12 boys and their coach from a cave in the country's north, but many other countries are contributing assistance.

Neighbouring countries Laos and Myanmar sent rescue workers and divers; Australia has sent

police divers and are helping with planning; China has sent six rescue specialists to assist Thai divers; Israel's Maxtech Networks is providing radio and communication equipment; two UK divers were the first to discover the boys, earning one a commendation from the British Cave Rescue Council; and US Indo-Pacific Command (PACOM) sent 30 military personnel, including divers.

The last images the world saw of the boys was on Wednesday in a video where they introduced themselves one-by-one, saying "I am healthy."

Since they were found late Monday local time by a duo of British expert cave divers, Thai Navy SEALs have stayed with the team, tending to minor wounds and giving them food to build up their strength.

The boys remain weak after spending days in the darkness, barely moving from the small, muddy ledge, away from the water.

While rescuers are trying to pump enough water out of the cave to allow the boys to simply walk out, Thai Navy SEALs are also teaching them how to

scuba dive. The boys would need to wear full-face diving masks to enter the narrow tunnels in moving water, though many experts say this would be a dangerous option for novice divers.

In an attempt to maintain the boys' morale, rescue teams have prioritised installing a line of communication between the boys and their parents.

However, they were still attempting to connect them yesterday after earlier efforts failed when the line became damaged after falling into water.

As divers work in tunnels deep below ground, teams are also scouring the hillside above the caves, looking for possible entry points to the chamber where the boys are sheltering. "We are drawing our jungle trekking resources together. There are about 20 to 30 teams," Osottanakorn said.

"Now we are going to walk around that area to search every inch, (to see if) there are chimneys or holes where we can climb down, and we may adjust our plan."

AFP and CNN contributed to this report. ■



# British police probe new Novichok nerve agent case

SALISBURY (UNITED KINGDOM) — British police scrambled on Thursday to determine how a couple were exposed to the same nerve agent used on a former Russian spy earlier this year, as fear spread in the normally quiet English region where both cases took place. The couple were taken ill on Saturday in the small town of Amesbury, close to the city of Salisbury, where former double agent Sergei Skripal and his daughter Yulia were found slumped on a bench on 4 March in an incident that sparked a diplomatic crisis with Russia.

“The possibility that these two investigations might be linked is clearly a line of enquiry for us,” said Neil Basu, head of Britain’s counter-terrorism police force. British security minister Ben Wallace told BBC radio: “The working assumption would be that



The Skripals were treated for weeks before being released from Salisbury hospital.

PHOTO: AFP

these are victims of either the consequences of the previous attack, or something else, but not that they were directly targeted”.

Police announced late Wednesday that tests on the couple, named locally as 44-year-old woman Dawn Sturgess and

45-year-old man Charlie Rowley, revealed they had been exposed to Novichok, but could not say whether it was the same batch used on the Skripals.

Novichok is a military-grade nerve agent developed by the Soviet Union during the Cold War.

Wallace repeated the British government’s accusations of Russian responsibility for the attack on the Skripals, which have been denied by Moscow, and said Russia could provide information that would protect local residents in Salisbury. “We have said they

can come and tell us what happened. I’m waiting for the phone call from the Russian state. The offer is there. They are the ones who could fill in all the clues to keep people safe,” he said.

‘Low risk’

Interior minister Sajid Javid is to chair an emergency cabinet meeting on Thursday, as counter-terrorism police lead the investigation into the incident.

Basu said there “remains a low risk to the general public,” saying “we’re satisfied that if anyone was exposed to that level of nerve agent by now they would be showing symptoms.”

However, many questions remain over the source of the contamination and why tests were not conducted on the couple until Monday, two days af-

ter they were taken ill.

“The priority for the investigation team now is to establish how these two people have come into contact with this nerve agent,” Basu said. “We have no idea what may have contained the nerve agent at this time,” he said, urging members of the public not to touch anything if they did not know what it was.

Basu said there was no evidence to suggest that the couple “were targeted in any way”.

‘Hallucinating’

Local man Sam Hobson, 29, told AFP he was a friend of the pair and had spent time with them as they fell ill.

“I came around Charlie’s house in the morning and there were loads of ambulances outside, and his girlfriend was getting taken away,” he said. —AFP ■

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. ( 104 N/S )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO TAI VOY. NO. ( 104 N/S ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-7-2018 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

M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. ( 0248-458W/E )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V UNI AMPLE VOY. NO. ( 0248-458W/E ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-7-2018 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING  
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. ( KHAD0100N/S )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KOTA HADIAH VOY. NO. ( KHAD0100N/S ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. ( 022N/S )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V PATHEIN STAR VOY. NO. ( 022N/S ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP 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 CONTINENTAL  
SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V TOXOTIS V-1163

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V TOXOTIS V-1163 are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-7-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-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 CA SHIPPING PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

## CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. ( 1087 S/N )

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO. ( 1087 S/N ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6-7-2018 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA  
SHIPPING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185



# Waves of strikes pound south Syria after talks fail

DARAA — Waves of air strikes pounded rebel-held areas of southern Syria on Thursday as pro-regime forces launched their most intensive bombing campaign yet in a two-week-old offensive.

The renewed assault came after the failure on Wednesday of Russian-brokered talks to end the offensive in Daraa province, which has killed dozens and forced tens of thousands from their homes.

An AFP correspondent on the edge of the rebel-held south of the city of Daraa, the divided provincial capital, said the bombing of rebel neighbourhoods was the most intensive since the launch of the Russian-backed offensive on 19 June.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based monitor, said hundreds of missiles and crude barrel bombs were unleashed by Syrian and Russian aircraft overnight.

Observatory director Rami Abdel Rahman said the bombardment was an “attempt to make the rebels back down after they refused to subject themselves to the Russian terms for a ceasefire.”



Smoke rises above rebel-held areas of the town of Saida, some 10 kilometres east of Daraa, during reported air strikes by Syrian regime forces on 4 July 2018. PHOTO: AFP

Samer Homssi, who had fled to the outskirts of Daraa with his wife and four children, described a fierce onslaught of regime air strikes and shelling.

“The bombardment has not stopped for one moment since the announcement that the negotiations failed,” the 47-year-old, whose family was taking shelter in a grove of olive trees, told AFP.

‘Afraid of everything’

“We are living here in the olive trees, afraid of everything, the shelling,

the insects, with no water to drink or any medical services nearby. The situation is very difficult.”

The Observatory said air strikes were ongoing, including on the town of Tafas in the northwest of Daraa province and on towns and villages near the Jordanian border.

Six civilians, including a woman and four children, were killed in the town of Saida, which regime ground forces were trying to take, it said.

The intensity of the bombardment allowed government forces to

seize control of a security checkpoint on the Jordanian border for the first time in more than three years, it said. The intensified assault came after rebels said Wednesday that talks brokered by regime ally Russia on ending the offensive had failed.

After retaking large parts of the country since Russia intervened in Syria in 2015, regime forces have set their sights on the southern provinces of Daraa and Quneitra, bordering Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Moscow has been brokering talks with rebel towns for negotiated surrenders in a carrot-and-stick strategy that Russia and the regime have used to retake swathes of territory including the Eastern Ghouta region near Damascus earlier this year.

More than 30 towns in the south have already agreed to surrender, expanding the regime’s control of Daraa province to around 60 percent, double what it held before the start of the offensive.

## Failed negotiations

The talks this week focused on remaining rebel territory in Daraa province’s western countryside and the southern half of the provincial capital.

After meeting with a Russian delegation on Wednesday afternoon, the joint rebel command for the south said talks had failed over the issue of the rebels surrendering their heavy weapons.

Rebel sources said Moscow had demanded rebels hand over all their heavy arms in one go but that opposition fighters wanted to do so in several phases.

Moscow has also re-

portedly refused requests from some rebels for safe passage to opposition-held territory in other parts of Syria, as was done in Eastern Ghouta and Aleppo.

Daraa is considered the cradle of the 2011 uprising against President Bashar al-Assad’s rule that triggered Syria’s devastating civil war.

Nearly 150 civilians have died since the assault began, according to the Observatory.

The southern offensive has also displaced between 270,000 and 330,000 people, according to the United Nations, many south to the border with Jordan or west to near the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

Both countries have kept their borders closed, despite mounting calls by human rights groups to let Syrians escape to safety.

World powers have criticised the operation for violating a ceasefire announced last year by Washington, Amman and Moscow, but that has not halted the blitz.

The UN Security Council will hold a closed-door emergency meeting on the offensive on Thursday.—AFP ■

## Kim Dotcom loses New Zealand extradition appeal

WELLINGTON — Megaupload founder Kim Dotcom suffered a major setback in his epic legal battle against online piracy charges Thursday when New Zealand’s Court of Appeal ruled he was eligible for extradition to the United States.

The German national, who is accused of netting millions from his file sharing Megaupload empire, faces charges of racketeering, fraud and money laundering in the US, carrying jail terms of up to 20 years.

Dotcom had asked the court to overturn two previous rulings that the Internet mogul and his

three co-accused be sent to America to face charges.

Instead, a panel of three judges backed the FBI-led case, which began with a raid on Dotcom’s Auckland mansion in January 2012 and has dragged on for more than six years.

The court said US authorities had “a clear prima facie case to support the allegations that the appellants conspired to, and did, breach copyright wilfully and on a massive scale for commercial gain”.

Dotcom is accused of industrial-scale online piracy via Megaupload, which US authorities shut down when the raid

took place. They allege Megaupload netted more than US\$175 million in criminal proceeds and cost copyright owners US\$500 million-plus by offering pirated content including films and music.

“We are disappointed with today’s judgment by the NZ Court of Appeal in the Kim Dotcom case,” his lawyer Ira Rothken tweeted, indicating there would be an appeal to the Supreme Court. “We have now been to three courts each with a different legal analysis—one of which thought that there was no copyright infringement at all.”—AFP ■

## 14 school children injured in truck-van collision in North India

NEW DELHI — As many as 14 school children have been injured after their van collided head-on with a truck in northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh Thursday, police said.

The accident occurred on Kairana Bypass Road in the state’s Shamli district.

“The collision took place this morning when

the van was carrying the children to their school. All the injured children have been admitted to various hospitals,” a police official said.

The condition of some of the injured children are said to be serious, he added. Eye-witnesses told cops that the truck was travelling at high speed and its

driver failed to apply brakes after suddenly spotting the school van, leading to the accident.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said. “The truck driver has been booked for rash and negligent driving. A manhunt has been launched to nab him,” he added.—Xinhua ■

### KONOIKE ASIA (MYANMAR) CO., LTD.

#### Notice Under Section 208 E of the Myanmar Companies Act Final General Meeting Invitation (Members’ Voluntary Winding Up)

The final general meeting in the course of winding up will be held as per following agenda, therefore, all shareholders are cordially invited to attend the general meeting. At the meeting the Liquidator’s report and financial report shall be submitted.

The meeting is held as follows:

Date : 6<sup>th</sup> August, 2018

Time : 11:00 AM

Venue : No. (225/227), Room 1301, 13<sup>th</sup> Floor, Olympic Tower, Bo Aung Kyaw Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

U Shine Ko Ko Naing (LL.B., LL.M.)  
Liquidator  
SAGA ASIA Consulting Co., Ltd.



# Pamplona's bull run festival overshadowed by notorious sex abuse case

MADRID — Pamplona's famed San Fermin festival begins on Friday, overshadowed by a sexual abuse case that has tarnished one of Spain's best-loved traditions.

This year, in an attempt to reassure the thousands of tourists who come to party and take part in the hair-raising runs, the city in the northern Navarra region has dubbed itself "a city free of sexist assaults".

During the San Fermin festival in 2016, five men who called themselves "The Pack" filmed themselves having sex with an 18-year-old woman.

She said they had gang raped her while they claimed she had consented in a case that sparked a powerful feminist wave of indignation across the country.

An April court decision to sentence them for "sexual abuse" rather than the more serious offence of "sexual assault", a category that includes rape, pushed thousands of Spaniards onto the streets in anger.

Further fanning the flames, the five men were freed on bail just two weeks before the start of the festival, which means they



This year, in an attempt to reassure the thousands of tourists who come to party and take part in the hair-raising runs at Pamplona's famed San Fermin festival, the city in the northern Navarra region has dubbed itself "free of sexist assaults". **PHOTO: AFP**

could — in theory — return this year.

## More complaints

Incidents of sexual harassment are not new to the festival. In 2013, photos of women being groped by men shocked Spain.

Until then, "there was very

backward thinking that justified men assaulting others under the effect of alcohol and in the party context", Laura Berro, in charge of gender equality at Pamplona city hall, told AFP.

Since then, police and the authorities have at least been

more alert to the issue, although the 2016 sexual abuse case is an indicator of the scale of the problem.

A phone number is available 24/7 for people to report sexual violence. Police then attempt to identify perpetrators using CCTV

footage.

Since 2004, close to 95 per cent of complaints for sexual violence during the festival have resulted in the perpetrator being identified, according to a study by Navarra University.

"Over the past two years, there has been a huge rise in complaints. Is that because there are more assaults and abuse? No. It's because they've been reported more," says Paz Frances, who authored the study.

An information stand in a central square has also been set up to raise awareness among women taking part, and also to try to get wind of cases not reported to the police.

Before the start of the festival, hundreds of activists gathered Monday in Pamplona to pay homage to Nagore Laffage, a nurse killed 10 years ago during the bull run by a man after she refused to have sex with him.

"People have been more aware for several years now, because we've given voice to feminist ideas, and gradually, there are very important, very deep changes taking place," Berro added. — AFP ■

## Three indicted for kidnapping 'Halloween' actress, actor

LOS ANGELES—Three people have been formally charged for kidnapping "Halloween: Resurrection" actress Daisy McCrackin and actor Joseph Capone, holding one naked in a bathtub for 30 hours while demanding the other pay a \$10,000 ransom.

Keith Andre Stewart, John-tae Jones and Amber Neal were charged with 17 felony counts, including kidnapping, assault with a firearm, grand theft, mayhem and conspiracy and possession for sale of methamphetamine, according to a grand jury indictment unsealed Tuesday.

Prosecutors say the three of them traveled to McCrackin's home on May 3, where Stewart pistol-whipped Capone. The trio then placed black hoods over the actors' heads and drove them to Jones's home in Compton.

There, the trio stripped Capone naked and forced him to stay in a bathtub for 30 hours without food. Jones and Neal meanwhile took McCrackin's car and drove her to various banks demanding she pay at least \$10,000 to free



Kidnappers allegedly held Daisy McCrackin on 3-4 May, 2018, demanding that she pay a \$10,000 ransom to release fellow actor Joseph Capone. **PHOTO: AFP**

Capone. Eventually, McCrackin was forced to write a check for the same amount to Neal, who deposited it into her account, the indictment says.

The group brought McCrackin back to her home on May 4, where she escaped and contacted police, leading to the defendants' arrest.

Neal's arrest with her hands up in front of multiple police cars and police officers with their

weapons drawn, has been viewed more than 3.2 million times on Twitter; the original poster suggesting it was an example of police brutality toward African Americans.

The Los Angeles District Attorney's Office said Stewart and Jones face a maximum possible sentence of life in state prison without the possibility of parole if convicted as charged, while Neal faces up to life in prison.—AFP■

## Go to therapy: James Gunn to abusive Star Wars fans

LOS ANGELES — "Guardians of the Galaxy" director James Gunn has blasted the fans of Star Wars franchise for their abusive behaviour and said they should "go to therapy".

The 51-year-old director delivered the stinging critique on Twitter while responding to a report about Ahmed Best, who recently opened up about the backlash he received for playing Jar Jar Binks in the epic sci-fi franchise.

"People need to chill out," Gunn wrote while sharing the report about Best.

In subsequent tweets, Gunn said, "People responding to this post saying, 'Yeah, it wasn't the actor's fault! It was the writer's!' are missing the point. Critique it. Don't like it. But spewing hate and bile at individuals just doing their best to tell a story, even if the story sucks, is lame. Don't watch it!"

"Star Wars' (or any movie) may be important to you, but it doesn't belong to you.

If your self-esteem depends on how good you think

the current 'Star Wars' is, or your childhood is ruined because you don't like something in a movie, go to therapy," he added.

Best voiced Jar Jar Binks in George Lucas' prequel series— "The Phantom Menace", "Attack of the Clones" and "Revenge of the Sith". However, upon its debut, the character was ridiculed by fans and today it is considered one of the most hated characters in the history of the franchise.

In a post on Twitter, Ahmed said he contemplated suicide after he faced resentment 20 years ago and added that it "still affects my career today".

Most recently, actor Kelly Marie Tran was subjected to online abuse by Star Wars fans and it led her to wipe out her Instagram page. She played the character of Rose Tico in Rian Johnson's "The Last Jedi".

Before her, actor Daisy Ridley was also trolled by the fans for her looks and pro-gun control stance. — PTI ■



## Claude Lanzmann, director of Holocaust film 'Shoah', dies at 92

PARIS — French film-maker and writer Claude Lanzmann, director of the landmark Holocaust documentary "Shoah" which runs more than nine hours long, died in Paris on Thursday at the age of 92, his publisher said.

"Claude Lanzmann died at his home. He had been very, very weak for several days," a spokeswoman for publishing house Gallimard told AFP.

His death was also confirmed by a press officer for his final film, "The Four Sisters", which was released in France just this week.

Lanzmann had never stopped working, regularly presenting films which often took their inspiration from chapters of his own life.

Last year for example he presented at the Cannes film festival "Napalm", about his brief but intense romance with a North Korean nurse in 1958.

But it was the 1985 release of "Shoah" (the French word for



Lanzmann had never stopped working, regularly presenting films which often took their inspiration from chapters of his own life. **PHOTO: AFP**

Holocaust), considered by many the most haunting film made about the murder of six million Jews during World War II, which propelled him to global acclaim.

The nine-and-a-half hour work consists largely of interviews with survivors and witnesses of Nazi death camps in Poland, alongside chilling

images of where the horrors occurred. "If I am unstoppable it's because of the truth, which I believe in profoundly," he said in an interview with AFP last year.

"When I look at what I did in my life, I believe that I came to represent the truth, I never played with it." — AFP ■

## Strength and love: Bollywood to Sonali Bendre after cancer diagnosis

MUMBAI — Sonali Bendre Behl, who today revealed that she is fighting cancer, has found support and encouragement from her peers and friends in Bollywood.

Celebrities such as Karan Johar, Sonam Kapoor and Riteish Deshmukh took to social media to wish the actor a "speedy recovery".

"Godspeed, love and strength to a true fighter and a solid soul!" Johar, who worked with the actor in "Kal Ho Na Ho", wrote.

Deshmukh said he was "deeply saddened and shaken" by the news, and was praying for her speedy recovery and good health. He also extended his support to Sonali's husband Goldie Behl, tweeting that he was "sending all the positivity and best wishes." Ileana D'Cruz also extended "strength and love" to the actor, while Rajkumar Rao wrote "wishing you a speedy recovery ma'am. Sending you all my love and prayers."

Actor Vivek Oberoi called her "one of the strongest women" he knew.

"Cancer will surely lose this fight! Our love and prayers are with you always," he added.

Comedian Aditi Mittal wrote: "Sonali, like everything else you do, we are confident that you will conquer this as well. Sending so much love and positivity your way."

Divya Dutta said she remembered Sonali as "a girl with so much strength and will power," adding that her prayers and wishes were with her.

Arjun Kapoor took to Twitter to tweet his encouragement.

"Fight that bastard Sonali, don't let it win," he wrote.

Kapoor and his cousin, actor Sonam also commented on Sonali Bendre Behl's Instagram post, sending her love and positivity. Designer Manish Malhotra commented on her Instagram post, writing "Wishes and strength and love with you Sonali." — PTI ■

## A 'Japanese tip': the origami art left by diners

KOYTO — Yuki Tatsumi was waiting tables at an izakaya pub in Japan's Kyoto when something on the table caught his eye — a chopstick wrapper folded and fiddled into an abstract shape.

It was the catalyst for a collection that now includes some 15,000 pieces of found "origami art" made by customers folding the paper sleeves that cover chopsticks at Japanese restaurants.

"The very first one I found just looked like a bit of junk," 27-year-old Tatsumi admitted, but it made him think.

"What if this is a message for me from customers? Cleaning tables suddenly became something fun, just by thinking about it that way."

Tipping at restaurants is not standard in Japan, but Tatsumi came to see the little folded paper pieces left behind by customers as a "Japanese tip", and started watching out for different types.

He soon found there was a huge variety in the pieces left behind by customers, perhaps no surprise in a country where

origami is a popular hobby and taught at schools.

"I discovered many of them were folded in shapes of traditional good luck items in Japan, like a fan, a crane and a turtle," he said.

"I also once found a table decorated like a fish tank, with paper folded like fish and seaweed."

Enchanted by his discoveries, he decided to branch out and ask other restaurants to donate the pieces left by their customers to his collection.

In April 2016, he set off on a year-long road trip, asking hundreds of eateries from sushi restaurants to noodle stands to share their transformed paper sleeves with him.

He encountered some curiosity, and even reluctance, from restaurateurs bewildered about why he would want something usually headed straight for the garbage.

But eventually 185 places from northern Hokkaido to southern Okinawa promised to keep whatever they found and send them to him.

**Better than cash**

"Many of the restaurant owners that helped me told me afterwards that they now find it more rewarding than a real tip in cash," Tatsumi said.

"It may sound hard to believe, especially for those outside Japan, but this way of showing appreciation that is unique to each person is something very pleasing."

Now working as a researcher at an art museum in Kameoka near Kyoto, Tatsumi has around 15,000 pieces, each stored in its own small wooden box, like a piece of precious jewellery.

Many are simple, with diners just forming a makeshift chopstick rest out of the sleeve.

But others are elaborate, like a black and white patterned piece formed into a dress, or a blue wrapper twisted into a snake, with the folds following the patterns on the paper.

He sees them as an unspoken message between customers and their servers in restaurants, and worries that as automated service becomes more common in Japan, the "tips" he collects will disappear.

"When you walk into a res-



Many of the origami pieces are simple, with diners just forming a makeshift chopstick rest out of the sleeve, but others are far more elaborate. **PHOTO: AFP**

taurant and only deal with a machine, I don't think you would make these items. I really think these are products created only when people communicate in person," he said.

Tatsumi has already exhibited his collection in Japan, and plans to take it to art events in Paris and South Korea later this year.

He wants the collection to

remind people to show appreciation and consideration for what they have.

"Japan is a very wealthy country, where you can find something to eat anywhere at any time, but I think people are becoming less appreciative of what they have or who makes the food," he said. "Cash isn't the only way to show your warm feelings." — AFP ■



# Uruguay's immovable defence ready for France's unstoppable Mbappe

NIZHNIY NOVGOROD (RUSSIA)— The build-up to Friday's quarter-final clash between France and Uruguay has been dominated by individuals, but it may be the South Americans' almost unbreachable four-man defence which decides the result.

While Uruguay sweat on the fitness of striker Edinson Cavani, it should be remembered that La Celeste's progress in Russia has been built upon their defence as much as their A-list attack.

And while France pin their hopes on Kylian Mbappe, it is unlikely that the teenage superstar has encountered a defence quite like Uruguay's. The mouth-watering last-eight tie in Nizhny Novgorod is likely to be decided by a battle between Uruguay's stifling backline and the speed of Mbappe, 19. Led by captain Diego Godin, and including Jose Gimenez, Martin Caceres and Diego Laxalt, along with goalkeeper Fernando Muslera, Uruguay's defence have the joint-best record at the World Cup.

They passed through the



Atletico Madrid pair Godin and Gimenez have been immense at the back for Uruguay. **PHOTO: AFP**

group stage without conceding a goal, and the only player to score against Uruguay was Portugal's Pepe in the last 16, and that was ultimately in vain. Brazil are the only other team to have conceded

just the solitary goal so far.

Uruguay have conceded three fewer goals than France. Both teams have scored seven times. Between them, the experienced defence have over 350

international caps between them. They are supremely well-organised and have already served notice that Mbappe will not have the same kind of freedom he enjoyed against Argentina.—AFP ■

## Myanmar in tough group for 2018 Asian Games

The draw held yesterday for the 2018 Asian Games football tourney to be held in Indonesia did not go very well for Myanmar.

The Myanmar U-23 national team was placed in Group F together with Asian football powerhouses DPR Korea, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

There are a total of 24 teams in six groups, A to F.

The teams in each group play each other, and the top two teams in each group along with the four best third-placed teams will advance to the Round of 16.

Group F is packed with world-class teams. The team from DPR Korea won the silver medal at the 2015 Asian Games. Saudi Arabia this year qualified for the World Cup for the first time since 2006. Iran has won numerous medals in football at the Asian Games, including gold in 2002 and 1998.

The U-23 tournament allows each country to field three overage players.

The 2018 Asian Games football competition will be held from 14 August to 1 September 2018 in Jakarta and Palembang. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Week 19 MNL matches begin today

THE week 19 matches of the MPT Myanmar National League (MNL) 2018 will start today with interesting matches to be played in Yangon and other cities.

Today's matches include Myawady FC vs Rakhine United,

to be played at Thuwunna Stadium. The match will be broadcast live on MRTV, according to the MNL. On 7 July, Sagaing United will play against Ayeyawady United at Monywa Stadium, while Zwegapin United will play

against Magwe FC at Thuwunna Stadium.

On 8 July, Yadanabon FC will play against Yangon United at Mandalay Thiri Stadium in Mandalay. The match will be broadcast on MRTV. In other ac-

tion, GFA FC will play against Hantharwady United at Thuwunna Stadium, and defending champion Shan United will play against Southern Myanmar FC at Taunggyi Stadium. —Lynn Thit (Tgi) ■

## Brazil seek to temper World Cup hopes of Belgium's 'Golden Generation'

KAZAN (RUSSIA) — Belgium coach Roberto Martinez has admitted he has no secrets as he plots to end Brazil's bid for a record-extending sixth World Cup ahead of their "dream" quarter-final in Kazan on Friday.

But the nation's "Golden Generation" have been reminded that the match against the favourites could represent the last chance for them to shine on the world stage. "It's a dream match for our players," Martinez told Belgian press after sealing

qualification for the last eight with a last-gasp 3-2 victory over Japan in the first phase of the knockout rounds. "There won't be many secrets to the game. We have to defend as well as we can and then punish them when we have the ball. "It's that simple, and this team is ready for that."

On paper, a Belgium side containing the talents of Chelsea's Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne of Manchester City and Manchester United striker Romelu Lukaku have the poten-

tial to cause a World Cup upset.

But despite sailing through the group stage, Martinez's ambitious Red Devils have their work cut out if they are to go all the way to the July 15 final in Moscow. Third-ranked Belgium reached the quarter-finals in 2014 in Brazil but before that the last time they got so far was in 1986, when 'Little Prince' Frank Vercauteren steered them to the semi-finals before a Diego Maradona double ended their hopes in a 2-0 defeat in Mexico.—AFP ■

 <p><b>FIFA WORLD CUP RUSSIA 2018</b></p> <p>20:30 MST (6.7.2018)</p>			
Uruguay			France
<p>00:30 MST (7.7.2018)</p>			
Brazil			Belgium