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Wednesday, 7 June 2017

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Vice President U Myint Swe strikes a ceremonial gong at the opening ceremony of the Myanmar Investment Forum 2017 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Investment Forum commences

By May Thet Hnin, Khin Yadana, and Myanmar News Agency

The two-day Myanmar Investment Forum 2017 started yesterday in the Myanmar International Convention Center in Nay Pyi Taw, with the export of export-quality products and agricultural produce, progress of rubber exports and the need

to lift up the tourism industry by cooperating with the private sector among the topics up for discussion. One foreign investor said that the skyrocketing price of land has become a hindrance in making investments.

The forum hosted by the My-

anmar Investors Development Association (MIDA) and Myanmar B2B Management Magazine was opened by Vice President U Myint Swe by striking a ceremonial gong three times.

“The forum aims to provide investors with the ease of doing

business in Myanmar”, the Vice President said. “Currently, Myanmar relies on foreign capital and trade for the socio-economic and the country’s economic development. So, foreign direct investment (FDI) becomes the main driver to promote the inflow

of much needed foreign capital in the country”. U Khin Maung Aye, an official from MIDA, said the forum hopes to smoothen the path towards increased investment in Myanmar by both domestic and foreign entrepreneurs.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Hluttaw agree on signing the Agreement on Cooperation in Natural Disaster Early Warning and Mitigation between ASEAN and Russian Federation

THE 2nd Pyidaungsu Hluttaw approved an international agreement yesterday with ASEAN and Russia to work together to improve Myanmar's disaster relief systems.

The Agreement on Cooperation in Natural Disaster Early Warning and Mitigation is an extension of previous agreements addressing political, security, education, economic and development between ASEAN and Russia, said U Bo Bo Oo, a representative from Sanchaung.

Other representatives who discussed the agreement includ-

ed U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe, U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin, U Kyaw Thiha of Mandalay region, Dr. San Shwe Win of Yekyi, U Whey Tin of Chin State, Daw Aye Aye Mu alious Shamie of Kalay, U Oo Tun Maung of Ponnagyun, Dr. Win Myint Chit of Bago region, Dr. Win Myint of Bago region, U Han Win Thein of Taninthayi, U Kyaw Min of Kamayut and U Zaw Thein of Wakema.

Hluttaw representatives also heard comments regarding an agreement between ASEAN and Korea for conservation. U Ohn Win, the Union minister for

Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation addressed hluttaw concerns about the Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (AFoCO). Myanmar's membership in AFoCO has resulted in a regional training school that began in 2014.

Myanmar is in the middle of Himalaya region, Indochina region and Malay Peninsula region. Myanmar is one of the world's most bio-diverse nations, but its environment is under threat from global warming and human development. —Myanmar News Agency



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Conference in China promotes Asian Media

REPRESENTATIVES from 48 nations attended the 14th Asia Media Summit at the Shangri-La Hotel in Qingdao, the People's Republic of China yesterday morning.

The theme for 14th Asia Media Summit was "Media on the Frontline of Global Development".

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint joined approximately 400 attendees at the conference, which is held to



Opening ceremony of the 14th Asia Media Summit at the Shangri-La Hotel in Qingdao, China. **PHOTO: MNA**

elevate the global and regional profile of Asian media. Speakers included Chinese Vice Premier Madam Liu Yandong, who gave a keynote address. Other speakers included officials from United Na-

tions Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development and media organisations from Asia. —Myanmar News Agency ■

U Shwe Mann receives World Bank Lead Counsel Ms. Nagavalli Annamalai

CHAIRMAN of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, Thura U Shwe Mann received World Bank Lead Counsel Ms. Nagavalli Annamalai and party at Hluttaw hall 1-11 in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting matters relating to coordinating and co-



Thura U Shwe Mann holds talks with World Bank Lead Counsel in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

operation between World Bank and relevant organisations in Myanmar and development were discussed. Present at

the meeting were commission members U Maung Toe, U Khin Maung Oo and officials. —Myanmar News Agency ■

MYANMAR GAZETTE

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Maung Maung Aye, Deputy Director-General of Social Security Board, under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population as Director-General of the same department, on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. —Myanmar News Agency

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 14/2017

12th Waxing of Nayon, 1379 ME
6 June, 2017

One Defence Services Personnel representative substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Region Hluttaw or State Hluttaw Election Law to substitute one Defence Services Personnel Representative who is parliamentarian, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following one Region Hluttaw representative shown on the left column under the Notification 3/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016 with whose shown on the right column.

The Defence Services Personnel Representative of Region Hluttaw to be substituted was nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second multi-party general election held on 8 November 2015.

Bago Region Hluttaw

(1)BC 16438
Colonel Khin Maung Htay

BC 27294
Colonel Hla Myo Shwe

By order,
(Tin Tun)
Secretary
Union Election Commission
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives Ottawa

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Canada left Toronto by air on 6 June morning and arrived to Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport at local standard time 10:10 a.m.

Myanmar nationals in Canada welcomed the State

Counsellor in Ottawa international airport and hotel where she'll stay.

Later, State Counsellor will meet Myanmar Embassy staff and family after which she'll attend a meeting on federal.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed at Ottawa Macdonald-Cartier International Airport in Canada. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin visit NLD Patron U Tin Oo at Yangon General Hospital's cardiac ward, where he is recovering from a recent stroke. **PHOTO: MNA**

President, First Lady visit U Tin Oo at Yangon General Hospital

President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin visited NLD Patron U Tin Oo yesterday morning at Yangon General Hospital's cardiac ward, where he was recovering from a recent stroke.

Improvement in U Tin Oo's

health situation was explained to the President and First Lady by hospital superintendent Dr. Aye Ko Ko and officials.

U Tin Oo is on a diet of light food and is now able to stand for about 15 minutes at a time.

He will undergo rehabilitation

to regain normal mobility and will be discharged from the hospital accordingly.

Afterwards, the President and First Lady encouraged other patients in the cardiac ward.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar Investment Forum commences

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“We hope that constructive criticism will result in excellent decisions and advice for the government and local and overseas investors. Many investors from international communities are greatly interested in investing in Myanmar. We are responsible for creating situations for them to enter the country energetically. They, on their side, are necessary to create the best investment systems which will suit Myanmar”, U Khin Maung Aye said.

In addition, there will be discussions about investment opportunities in the special economic zones in Dawei, Thilawa and Kyaukpadaung as well as in industrial zones in various regions across Myanmar and other large-scale projects. There will also be discussions about possible changes in the financial sector to boost financial stability for investors.

“With the incumbent government's various incentives and policies to draw in investors, the rapidly changing market is too fast for investors to stay up-to-date with. This is the reason MIDA was established, to create business forums that link these

knowledge gaps,” said U Khin Maung Aye.

A discussion on construction of much-needed infrastructure will be a separate topic, since cooperation from the private sector is important in acquiring the necessary budgets for these projects.

U Khin Maung Aye said the government has prioritised two objectives for aiding investors, first of which is creating a fair and competitive environment for investors and the second is creating a reliable legal framework to work with. He added that because of these efforts there has been a significant decrease in the risks and dangers for businesses in Myanmar and therefore it is one of the best places for investors.

Mr Felix Haas, a freelance economic advisor who has participated in economic processes involving the World Bank and the United Nations, said Myanmar still has improvements to make, but the necessary work will be worth it.

“Myanmar is still weak in rapid economic development after the incumbent started to take office, but it is in the promising



U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning & Finance. **PHOTO: MNA**

stage between potential economic basis and opportunities. On the general view of Myanmar's economy, it can develop much provided that economic reforms had been made in every sector. I assume that the government also should find solutions by giving supports, laying down laws, orders and frameworks with a view to development of banking services, monetary markets and productivity.”

U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for Planning & Finance, said: “We have a lot to develop in the agri-

cultural sector — investment in agro-based driving forces and production through joint-venture system, provision of supports from the government side, especially up-gradation of farmers' lives, and encouragement of livestock breeding and transformation from small-scale farming to 1,000-acreage farming.”

He also pledged that the government would try its best for bringing about the economic enterprises with full responsibility and accountability in economic zones and extraction including

mining, for creating job opportunities for locals and to implement economic basics that are open and do not harm natural environment.

U Aung Naing Oo, director-general of Myanmar Investment Commission said, “There are changes in types of investments in economic sectors of our country. For example, prior to 2011, there had been 8 per cent investment in mining, with only 1 per cent at the present time. Likewise, there was only one per cent in the past with now reaching up to 12 per cent in the communications sector. We will have to amend laws on the economy, approve and promulgate rules and laws, encourage foreign investments, make efforts to develop small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and make reforms in many sectors.”

The Myanmar Investment Forum is being attended by over 100 economic organisations, more than 90 foreign enterprises and nearly 200 Myanmar businesspersons, with discussions and seminars being held presently.

The forum continues today.

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles
markrangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader)
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Sandar Soe
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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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.

YBS to replace minibuses with larger capacity vehicles

THE Yangon Bus Service (YBS) will add two new downtown lines on 25 May to replace minibuses that currently serve the area, according to Yangon Region Transport Authority Secretary Dr. Maung Aung.

YBS 84 line will run from Asein gate of Shu Khin Thar Street to Hospital gate of Dagon Myothit (North) and will pass through Dawbon, Thingangyun and South Okkalapa townships.

YBS 86 line will run from Lower Pazundaung Street of Mingalar Taung Nyunt Township to Yawama Kyaung Road of Insein Township passing through ABC bus stop, Thamain Bayan Street, U Chit Maung Road and



YBS 29 line runs from Dagon University and ends its route near Sule Pagoda. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

Kabar Aye Pagoda Road.

The routes will cost Ks200. "Each YBS line needs at least 40 buses to run in YBS line", said Dr. Maung Aung. "A total

of 81 YBS bus lines were running as of last week. We will adjust bus lines according to the passenger demand. Before we had 300 bus lines, now we

have 100 bus lines".

Larger buses replacing minibuses on routes to accommodate more passengers more efficiently.—001 ■

Late loan payments will delay new agricultural assistance in Tatkon

An agriculture loan programme in Tatkon township and Nay Pyi Taw will be delayed this year because a majority of the recipients of the original loan allocation of Ks67 billion failed to repay their debts in time.

Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank provided agriculture loans to 52 villages, but 36 villages, comprising 2,500

farmers, failed to pay on time due to poor crop yields last year. U Win Htay Oo, a Myanmar Agriculture Development Bank manager, said that additional loans planned this year would be delayed since loan officers were overburdened by pursuing delinquent loans while attempting to issue new allocations.

"We provided loans to

groups of three farmers each," said U Win Htay Oo. "If one member in a group failed to make his payment, other members' new loans are delayed".

The government planned to provide Ks70 billion in agricultural loans to the farmers in Tatkon this year, but only if delinquent farmers pay back their original loans, U Win Htay Oo said.—Maung Lwin (Tatkon) ■

Stimulants seized in Mohnyin, Nawngkhio, Tangyan townships

MOHNYIN Township anti-narcotic squad searched a Ma Kham Mon's house at Thayatgon Ward in Bilumyo village in Mohnyin on 5 June. The police detained Ma Kham Mon together with Ma Kham Htwe and seized 0.132 kilos of heroin and 1,970 stimulant tablets.

Similarly, Lashio Township anti-narcotic squad stopped and searched a motorbike ridden by Kyaw Zin Aung on Muse-Mandalay Union Highway at the entrance of Nawngkhio Township on the same day. Local police discovered 1,900 stimulant tablets from him.

Likewise, Tangyan Township local police searched a motorbike driven by Eik Tun



The two suspects Ma Kham Mon and Ma Kham Htwe together with heroin and stimulant tablets. **PHOTO: MPF**

together with Ma Nang Sai Kham on Tangyan-Lashio road in Tangyan Township and seized 15 kilos of raw opium.

Police have taken action against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■

Over Ks 3.4 bln in contraband confiscated in May

ILLEGAL goods worth approximately Ks 3.4 billion were confiscated at various Myanmar ports of entry in May, according to the Customs Department.

A total of 494 cases were recorded, including 175 confiscations at Mayan Chaung, 160 at Yaypu and 62 at Muse. Customs and revenue department officials also conducted confiscations in Mandalay, Yangon International Airport and Yangon Port.—200 ■

Mushroom farming training in Kayin completed

A week-long mushroom cultivation workshop for farmers organized by the Kayin State Department of Agriculture ended yesterday.

The training event was held at KNU/KNLA (PC) breeding camp of No. 3 Htaw Mae Par military strategy, No. 775 Special Regiments in Htiwapalaw villages. The purpose of the training was to teach farmers how to cultivate the crop and bring it to market, said U Win Hlaing Oo, head of the Kayin State Department of Agriculture.—Htain Linn Aung (IPRD) ■

NTT opens first data center in Myanmar

NTT Communications Corp. has opened its first data center in Myanmar to offer high-quality services to multinational firms, financial institutions and government agencies.

The Japanese company's Thai subsidiary, NTT Communications (Thailand) Co., launched the Myanmar Yangon Kamayut Data Center in Yangon on Friday, with its 300-square-meter space capable of accommodating up to 90 server racks.

Masatoshi Tsuboi, vice president of the Thai arm, said NTT's premium data center service will support firms to run their core business smoothly with its extensive experience.

"Myanmar's economic growth is benefiting from growing numbers of international joint ventures and foreign direct investment. Now is the right time to

launch our data center services in Yangon to support their business strongly with our expertise," he said. NTT, a subsidiary of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp., had a co-location resale agreement with a local IT firm, Myint & Associates Telecommunications, to resell server co-location space made available from Myanmar's first locally owned data center that has received "Tier III Design Certification" awarded by the U.S.-based Uptime Institute.

Myint & Associates is an IT solutions business arm of MPRL E&P Group of Companies, which has major businesses in the oil and gas sector. Tsuboi told NNA that Myanmar has great potential in the growth of data center business although the market is just emerging.

"Until now, Myanmar's data center trend is not coming yet.

It's quite still small. However, it's going to be coming after an outsourcing trend comes in Myanmar. Then, these individual customers need data centers because they need to prevent disasters," he said.

He expects that the data center market of Myanmar is likely to triple by 2020 from the current market size due to the country's growing economy, saying NTT has plans to expand the service in other major cities in future.

NTT, which is operating over 140 data centers worldwide, entered the Myanmar market last July and began its high-speed internet connection service for companies in Yangon soon after it received a network service license from Myanmar's Ministry of Transport and Communications.—Kyodo News ■

QTC to build solar farm in Myanmar

QTC Energy Plc, a leading MAI-listed transformer producer, plans to develop a solar farm in Myanmar by acquiring Green Earth Power Thailand Co, the *Bangkok Post* reported.

QTC's board of directors had approved the acquisition through its 99.99%-owned subsidiary, QTC Global Power Co, according to the report.

The first phase of the planned 220-megawatt solar farm is expected to start commercial operations by the first quarter next year.

The report also stated that QTCGP will buy 38,634 shares, or around 15% of the registered capital of Green Earth Power, worth 267 million baht.

Myanmar's Electric Power Enterprise has granted a build-operate-transfer contract

to Green Earth Power with a power purchase agreement (PPA) for 30 years.

The company's planned Myanmar solar farm has been divided into four phases of 40MW each.

QTC produces and distributes custom-made transformers for both the domestic and export markets.

The company produces three types of transformers: distribution transformers ranging from 30 to 5,000 kilovolt-amperes, small power transformers from 5-30 megavolt-amperes and special transformers for indoor and restricted areas. Currently, it produces 3,000-4,000 transformer units a year and also provides installation, maintenance, testing and consultancy services.—GNLM ■


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Trade via land ports down by US\$46 million this FY

TRADE through land ports of entry was US \$985 million as of 26 May this fiscal year, a decline of US \$46 million compared to the same period last fiscal year, the Commerce Ministry announced yesterday.

Meanwhile, the value of trade through sea- and air-ports reached US\$3,476 million, an increase of over US \$1,019 compared to last fiscal year.

Myanmar has 16 official land ports of entry, trading with China through Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Keng Tung, with Thailand through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Htee Khee, Maese and Mawtaung, with Bangladesh through Sittway and Maung-taw, and with India through Tamu and Reed.

The overall decline in land shipments is attributed to a US\$75 million reduction in trade at the Muse border gate to China, which is usually sees the most volume. Chinshwehaw, Keng Tung, Htee Khee and Tamu gates also showed slight decreases in trade volume.

External trade with foreign countries from 1st April to 26th May this fiscal year reached US \$4.4 billion, compared to US \$3.48 billion of last FY. —Mon Mon

Chinese SUVs coming to Myanmar under exclusive import deal

GUANGZHOU Automobile Group Co. Ltd (GAC) will begin selling its sport utility vehicles in Myanmar through an exclusive import agreement with LS Automotive Group.

LS Automotive Group will hold a kick-off event on 10-11 June at Myanmar Plaza in Yangon. LS Automotive will sell its two-wheel drive GS8 for US\$54,888 and four-wheel drive versions for \$58,888.

The company will also offer GS4, GS5 and GA6 models. —200 ■

Emirates to commence direct flights between Yangon and Phnom Penh



An Emirates plane seen at Lisbon's airport, Portugal. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dubai-based premium airline Emirates will launch a new route between Yangon and Phnom Penh, Cambodia on 1 July.

The route is the first direct flight between Yangon and Phnom Penh, Cambodia since 2014.

The airline will offer discounted fares to Cambodia's capital from 5-30 June 2017, with round-trip ticket prices starting from USD 242 for Economy Class and USD 692 for Business Class.

Tickets can be purchased at Emirates office in Myanmar, which is located at 6th floor, Myanmar Center Tower 1 (HAGL), 192 Kabar Aye Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon.

A non-stop route between Dubai and Hanoi will also begin on 1 July.—GNLM ■

Trade between Myanmar, Netherlands hits over \$140 mln last FY

BILATERAL trade between Myanmar and the Netherlands was more than US\$140 million in the fiscal year of 2016-17, an increase of over \$80 million compared with the previous FY, the Commerce Ministry reported.

According to the official statistics of the ministry, Myanmar's export to the country in north-

western Europe totalled \$91.757 million while imports from the Netherlands amounted to nearly \$50 million.

In 2015-16 FY, the trade value between the two countries hit \$61.212 million in total, including \$49.235 million from the export sector and \$11.977 million from the import sector.

The bilateral trade in FY2011-12 was \$23.119 million. The figure decreased to only \$9.330 million in FY2012-13 and increased again to \$25.676 million in FY2013-14. The trade value continued to rise in FY2014-15 and FY2015-16, with over \$41 million and over \$61 million respectively.

The ministry's figures show

that the country's trade with European countries reached \$1.420 billion last FY. In 2011-12 FY, the trade between Myanmar and the EU was only over \$140 million.

Myanmar exports marketable crops, fruits and vegetables as well as fisheries products and CMP garments to the European member states.—Shwe Khine ■

Business matching between Myanmar, Netherlands on 8 June

ONE-ON-ONE business matching between Myanmar entrepreneurs and those from the Netherlands will be held this month in Yangon, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The business meeting on bilateral trade and investment

is due to take place on 8 June at the head office of the UMFCCI on Minyekyawswa Road.

Organized by the Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (Yangon), a group including about 12 businesspersons from the Netherlands Trade Mission plans to visit the country in the first week of this month.

Businesses in IT software and hardware service, engineering consulting and wastewater treatment service, oil and gas production, port development shipping, mining and banking-related businesses such as banknote, postal stamps, fiscal stamps and visa sticker. The group will also include dairy product man-

ufacturers, auto suppliers and farm-related equipment distributors. Enthusiasts may send their registration forms to ird@umfcci.com.mm no later than 6 June. Further information, dial 01 2314344-49 Ext; 311 and 120 of the International Relations Department of the UMFCCI.—Khine Khant ■

Local companies invited to apply for ASEAN Business Awards 2017

TO recognise the outstanding ASEAN enterprises in the region, the ASEAN-BAC Secretariat has invited Myanmar entrepreneurs to take part in the ASEAN Business Awards 2017 to be held in Manila, the capital of the Philippines, on 6 September.

Eligible companies may apply for the awards, which will focus on three main categories—the ASEAN 12 Priority Integra-

tion Sectors, the Special Awards (inclusive business and friends of ASEAN) and, 3) and the 2017 SMEs Excellence Award.

For those who apply for the ASEAN 12 Priority Integration Sectors, they have to prove their outstanding performance in the sectors of fisheries, electronic, e-ASEAN/ICT textiles, logistics, wood-based, rubber, agri-food, healthcare, tourism, automotive

and retail.

The 2017 SMEs Excellence Award also focuses on young entrepreneur, women, women in STEM, and SMEs in the categories of growth, corporate social responsibility, employment and innovation. The ABA also aims to showcase promising ASEAN SMEs with the potential to be global players in their respective industries.

Online registration is now available at www.abis2017.com and the businesses may apply for the awards no later than 15 June.

In the last ABA, Myanmar took young entrepreneurs award, woman entrepreneurs award, awards in ASEAN priority integration sector e-ASEAN category and ASEAN priority integration sector truism category.—Swe Nyein ■

Philippine troops find stash of banknotes as fighters pull back

MARAWI CITY (Philippines) — Philippines troops found bundles of banknotes and cheques worth about \$1.6 million abandoned by Islamist militants holed up in Marawi City, a discovery the military said on Tuesday was evidence that the fighters were pulling back.

Fighters linked to Islamic State have been cornered in a built-up sliver of the southern lakeside town after two weeks of intense combat. The military said that over the past 24 hours it had taken several buildings that had been defended by snipers.

In one house they found a vault loaded with neat stacks of money worth 52.2 million pesos (\$1.06 million) and cheques made out for cash worth 27 million pesos (\$550,000).

“The recovery of those millions of cash indicates that they are running because the government troops are pressing in and focusing on destroying them,” Marines Operations Officer Rowan Rimas told a news conference in the town as helicopters on machinegun runs buzzed overhead.

Black smoke poured from an area near one of the town’s mosques and the lake after bombings by OV-10 attack aircraft and artillery fire from the ground.

The battle for Marawi has raised concerns that the ultra-radical Islamic State, on a back foot in Syria and Iraq, is building a regional base on the Philippine island of Mindanao.



A government soldier carries a box containing 52.2 million pesos (\$1.06 million) cash seized from a vault in a house previously controlled by militants in the Marawi city, Philippines on 6 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Officials said that, among the several hundred militants who seized the town on 23 May, there were about 40 foreigners from neighbouring Indonesia and Malaysia but also from India, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Chechnya.

The fighters prepared for a long siege, stockpiling arms and food in tunnels, basements, mosques and madrasas, or Islamic religious schools, military officials say. The Philippines is largely Christian, but Marawi City is overwhelmingly Muslim.

Progress in the military campaign has been slow because hundreds of civilians are still trapped

or being held hostage in the urban heart of the town, officials have said.

“In a few days, we will we will be able to get everything, we will be able to clear the entire Marawi City,” armed forces Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año said in a radio interview.

Fighting erupted in Marawi after a bungled raid aimed at capturing Isnilon Hapilon, whom Islamic State proclaimed as its “emir” of Southeast Asia last year after he pledged allegiance to the group. The US State Department has offered a bounty of up to \$5 million for his arrest.

On Monday, President Rodrigo Duterte offered a bounty of 10 million pesos (\$200,000) to anyone who “neutralized” Hapilon, and 5 million pesos for each of the two leaders of the Maute group, one of four factions that banded together to take the town.

Año said an estimated 100 Maute militants were holding out, and the military was checking on a report that one of its founding leaders, Omar Maute, had been killed in an air strike.

Duterte, who launched a ruthless “war on drugs” after coming to power a year ago, has said the Marawi fighters

were financed by drug lords in Mindanao, an island the size of South Korea that has suffered for decades from banditry and insurgencies.

Jo-Ar Herrera, a military spokesman, said the discovery of the stash of banknotes and cheques was evidence that the militants had links to international terrorist groups. However, he said an investigation was needed to establish the facts.

It is possible that the money came from a bank that was raided on the first day of the siege. Herrera told Reuters last week that a branch of Landbank had been attacked and he had heard that one of its vaults was opened.

A four-hour ceasefire to evacuate residents trapped in the town was interrupted by gunfire on Sunday, leaving some 500-600 inside with dwindling supplies of food and water.

Officials say that 1,469 civilians have been rescued.

The latest numbers for militants killed in the battle is 120, along with 39 security personnel. The authorities have put the civilian death toll at between 20 and 38.

Asked to describe the fighting skills and training of the militants in the town, Major Rimas said: “They have snipers and their positions are well defended. Maybe they watch war movies a lot, or action pictures a lot so they borrowed some tactics from it.”—Reuters ■

Viet Nam mulls approving special economic zones scheme

HANOI — Viet Nam’s top legislature will consider approving a scheme or a draft law on special administrative-economic zones which specifies preferential treatment for investors in the zones in terms of currency, land, manpower, tax and other fields.

Enterprises in the first three special economic zones, to be built in northern Quang Ninh province, central Khanh Hoa province and southern Kien Giang province, will enjoy tax exemption for four years, tax reduction for 30 years, low land rentals, flexible policies on human resource

es, and convertible currencies besides Vietnamese dong, the Vietnamese Ministry of Planning and Investment said on Tuesday.

Late last year, the Vietnamese government decided to build three special administrative-economic zones, including Van Don in Quang Ninh, Bac Van Phong in Khanh Hoa, and Phu Quoc in Kien Giang.

Covering an area of 66,000 hectares, Bac Van Phong is expected to become an international hub of seaport, financial, tourism, medical and educational services,

according to Kien Giang authorities.

The three special economic zones are expected to annually contribute billions of US dollars to gross regional domestic product (GRDP) from 2020, and raise an average annual income of each resident in the zones to 12,000-13,000 US dollars from 2030, said the ministry.

Viet Nam’s per capita gross domestic product (GDP) was 2,215 US dollars in 2016, up 106 US dollars against 2015, according to the country’s General Statistics Office. —Xinhua ■

Two US aircraft carriers leave Sea of Japan, but guard to be kept up

YOKOSUKA, (Japan) — Two US aircraft carriers have left the Sea of Japan after engaging in exercises with Japanese defence vessels and fighter jets, a US Navy official said on Tuesday.

In a rare move, the two Navy carriers — the Carl Vinson and the Ronald Reagan — had been deployed in the Sea of Japan amid heightened tensions following North Korean missile tests.

While the carriers apparently left the area for replenishment and in connection with other missions, the United States, Japan and South Korea are expected

to remain on high alert.

The Carl Vinson is now heading to the United States, while the Ronald Reagan is continuing training with Japan’s Maritime Self-Defence Force in waters east of Japan’s southern island of Okinawa, the official said.

The two nuclear-powered carriers conducted an exercise with MSDF helicopter carrier Hyuga and destroyer Ashigara in the Sea of Japan for three days through Saturday. Japan’s Air Self-Defence Force F-15 fighter jets also took part in the drill for two days.—Kyodo News

Excellent services and modern facilities

Tin Maung Than

ALTHOUGH there are economic challenges the world is facing, global tourism remains robust with its future brighter than ever. As the number of people from various countries traveling around the world is increasing, the tourism industry has much more to offer.

Some global TV networks are foreseeing Myanmar as the next popular tourism hotspot of the world, as it is blessed with a myriad of unspoiled

destinations from snow-capped towering mountain ranges in the far north to wonderful archaeological sites in the central and west and sunny beaches along the coast. Besides, the sincere smiles of its thanatkha (natural makeup from the bark of the thanakha tree) wearing people are another bonanza.

With its high potentials for progress of the industry, Myanmar is gearing up for further improving its services and facilities including travel, food, accommodations, and is also ex-

tending the different types of tourism.

In general, Myanmar can offer leisure travel as it has many untouched beaches, winter tourism on the snow-capped mountains of the far north, culture tourism showing lifestyles of our nationalities, their colourful costumes and lovely art, their traditions and customs and land, extreme tourism that guides visitors to mountains, forests and caves, heritage tourism as our forefathers had left behind many archaeological wonders, wildlife tourism for people who love nature and its

flora and fauna, underwater tourism in places like the Myeik Archipelago and even sports tourism.

People usually travel to other parts of the world to see natural beauties, ancient edifices, different cultures, and enjoy a wonderful time in an exotic place. Normally, they come to spend money.

So, what we need for the industry is excellent and hospitable services and modern facilities that make a destination livelier and a visitor happier and spend more. ■

In a disturbing new trend, poachers are killing Myanmar's elephants for their skin, teeth, and tails

By World Wildlife Fund

WWF aims to deploy an emergency anti-poaching plan

In a disturbing and growing new trend, Asian elephants of all ages are being slaughtered in Myanmar for their skin and other body parts. Elephant poaching rates since January have already surpassed the annual average for the country—in a country that has less than 2,000 wild Asian elephants, this is a frightening uptick that requires immediate action to ensure their survival.

An astounding 110 elephants have been reported killed since 2003, primarily in the Bago Yoma and Ayeyarwady Delta where armed conflict and a lack of law enforcement make the terrain more accessible to poachers. At this rate, wild elephants could vanish from these two key areas of Myanmar in only one or two years.

“Asian elephants are already facing tremendous challenges across their range,” said WWF’s Nilanga Jayasinghe, senior program officer for Asian species. “Adding to those is this new trend that we are seeing in Myanmar of herds being indiscriminately poached for their skin. It is extremely alarming. We must act now to protect them!”

An emerging new threat

There are fewer than 50,000 Asian elephants left in the wild, and fewer than 2,000 in Myanmar. For decades, they’ve faced the threats of habitat loss, human-elephant conflict, and, to a lesser extent, poaching. But poaching for body parts other than tusks (only male Asian elephants grow tusks, and only 1% of male elephants in Myanmar have tusks) is on the rise.

Elephant skin is sold dried and is mixed with other ingredients to make



Photo: Nyi Zaw Moe

topical creams for dry skin conditions, and consumed as medicine for stomach ailments. The skin is also polished into beads and sold as lucky charm bracelets, while tail hairs are put into silver rings and worn for luck.

Elephant teeth are ground down into a power which is used on the face to reduce spots and inflammation. Most markets selling elephant products sit along the border regions of China, Laos,

and Thailand, but there’s also a demand in Myanmar.

We can help protect Myanmar’s wild elephants

Right now, there are no anti-poaching patrols in the Bago Yoma and Ayeyarwady Delta regions. That’s why WWF is launching an emergency action plan to train, equip, and deploy 10 anti-poaching teams to the most vulnerable areas, and implementing a thorough

plan to stop the slaughter.

You can help. We need to raise \$230,000 to put the plan into action as soon as possible. Your support will pay for the anti-poaching teams’ food, boots, tents, surveillance cameras, other supplies and equipment, training, salaries for specialist staff, and much more.

Please act now and be a hero for elephants. ■

India's humanitarian aid for cyclone victims arrives

An Indian navy vessel carrying aid from India for Cyclone-Mora victims in Rakhine State has anchored at the Myanmar International Thilawa Terminal in Yangon yesterday.

The officers of the Myanmar Navy received the aid at the terminal.

The aid, which includes clothing, food and medicines, would be transferred to the authorities in Rakhine State in order to deliver the aid to the victims of Cyclone Mora.

"We will deliver the aid to the victims in Rakhine as soon as possible," said U Win Shwe, Director of the Yangon Region Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Department.

Cyclone Mora wreaked havoc in Maungtau Township



Officials unloading aid sent from India for cyclone-stricken Rakhine. **PHOTO: MNA**

in northern Rakhine State, leaving transportation and communications in chaos and causing a loss in power to the township as it crossed into Bangladesh early on 30th May.—Zaw Gyi ■

New school buses arrive

The Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) announced that new school buses have arrived for use in basic education schools (BES) in Yangon.

Government schools reopened on 1 June and were greeted with the usual traffic jams in front of school buildings. There is also a concern for safety with the light truck vehicles used for student transportation. To solve these two issues, the Yangon Region Government signed a contract with the Korean Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) and Posco Daewoo Corporation to purchase 200 school buses, which are intended to slowly replace the light trucks.

Hyundai Co. announced that their 28-seater school buses have arrived and they are the latest Hyundai County Bus 2017 model. Each vehicle costs and estimated US\$ 36,840 and are granted lowered taxation.

"We're not saying that these vehicles were a required purchase. The government purchased these vehicles to meet their set safety standards. If schools are interested in purchasing these vehicles, the government is ready to give out bank loans for them. Since these vehicles were purchased from government to government, they



The new Hyundai 2017 model school buses will provide safer transportation for students. **PHOTO: MNA**

will be resold at an affordable price with guaranteed after sale services. Some schools have offered to purchase the new school buses with an installment plan. Even if schools are unable to afford these new buses, they can deploy vehicles like minibuses, the super custom or the Toyota HiAce instead of light trucks or similar vehicles. But they will be required to have CCTVs and GPS tracking systems installed," said an official from YRTA.

Officials from schools have voiced their interest in using the new school buses for school transportation but, as of yet, they cannot afford the price of brand new vehicles. Similarly, owners of the current transportation system have difficulties in replacing their present vehicles with minibuses.

School principals, parents of students and current school transportation officials are required to form a School Committee and submit a plan for school transportation to the Regional Government for the current school year. After discussions with officials from BES schools, it has been announced that use of current vehicles, labeled unsafe for student transportation, will be allowed until December of this year, with permission denied starting from 2018. Officials from YRTA say this means there is enough time for schools to make plans for future school transportations. They also advise schools unable to afford new school buses to negotiate with minibus owners for their transportation plan.—Su Hnin Le ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Union Election Commission Notification 13/2017

12th Waxing of Nayon, 1379 ME
6 June, 2017

One Defence Services Personnel representative substituted

According to a request made in accordance with Section 33 of the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law to substitute one Defence Services Personnel Representative who is parliamentarian, the Union Election Commission scrutinized and substituted the following one Amyotha Hluttaw representative shown on the left column under the Notification 2/2016 of the commission dated 18-1-2016 with whose shown on the right column.

The Defence Services Personnel Representative of Amyotha Hluttaw to be substituted was nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Services in the second multi-party general election held on 8 November 2015.

(1)	BC 15101	BC 25168
	Brig-Gen Ko Ko Win	Major Khin Maung Cho

*By order,
(Tin Tun)*

*Secretary
Union Election Commission
Republic of the Union of Myanmar*

Heroin, yaba pills seized

Moe Mauk township anti-narcotic police force seized heroin and yaba pills from a motorbike near Khaya village on Bhamo-Myitkyina road in Moe Mauk Township on 4 June.

Acting on a tip-off, the police stopped a motorbike driven by A Nyi Mon together with Eaik Kyein aboard and discovered 0.242 kilos of heroin and 3,950 yaba pills.

Similarly, Police detained Aung Hein Oo alias Gaung Phyu in possession of 2,000 yaba pills, a 9mm pistol, eight bullets, two cartridges at the intersection of Hpa-an-Eindu-Zarthapyin road, Zarthapyin village in Hpa-an Township on 3 June. Interrogation has led by the police into detaining Saw

Kyaw Oo, Aung Tun Kyi and Ma Phyu Hnin Oo on board a vehicle and seized 30,000 yaba pills, a point 38 revolver, four bullets and two phone handsets from them on Hpa-an-Zarthapyin road on 4 June.

Linking with the case, the police also searched a house owned by Nyunt Zaw Win and his wife Ma Mya Mya Mon at Khalal Daguntaing village in Kyar Innseik Gyi Township.

Upon conducting a search, the police discovered 198,000 yaba pills, a phone set, Ks 15 lakh and a vehicle from the house. Police have filed charges against suspects under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■



Nyi Mon and Eaik Kyein with the confiscated yaba pills on display. **PHOTO: MPF**

WORLD
BRIEFS

The crew of Russia's Sukhoi-27 jet approached the aircraft staying at a safe distance, identified it as a US strategic bomber B-52 and escorted it for some time. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russia's Sukhoi-27 jet intercepts US bomber over the Baltic

MOSCOW — Russia's Sukhoi-27 fighter jet has intercepted and escorted a US B-52 bomber, which was flying along Russia's border over the Baltic Sea, the Defence Ministry has told

the media.

"On 6 June Russia's air-space monitoring means at 10:00 Moscow time identified an air target flying along Russia's state border over the international

waters of the Baltic Sea. A Sukhoi-27 fighter jet of the Baltic Sea Fleet's air defense force was dispatched to intercept the target," the statement runs.

"The crew of Russia's Suk-

hoi-27 jet approached the aircraft staying at a safe distance, identified it as a US strategic bomber B-52 and escorted it for some time," the Defence Ministry said.—Tass ■

Passengers jump from plane at Australian airport in bomb hoax — media

SYDNEY — Passengers jumped from a plane at a rural Australian airport on Tuesday when a threatening note, which turned out to be a hoax, was found in the bathroom, police and media said, a day after a siege in Melbourne which police are treating as terrorism.

"Nothing was found, there was no actual threat to anybody, just a note, so there was nothing in it," a police spokeswoman who declined to give

her name told Reuters.

Police said the 68-passenger turboprop plane with 42 passengers on board on a domestic flight was evacuated at the airport in Albury, in southern New South Wales, and a man was arrested.

Australian Associated Press quoted a passenger as saying he heard someone shout: "Leave your luggage. Get out and run, run, run." It said passengers jumped on to the tarmac.

"Police and emergency services attended Albury airport after receiving information a note was located in the toilet area," a New South Wales state police spokeswoman Emily Waters told Reuters.

"All passengers disembarked and a man was arrested within five minutes," Waters said, declining to provide further details.

She did not say what was written on the note.

Virgin Australia said po-

lice met the plane on its arrival "due to a security incident on board". It could not immediately confirm how many passengers were on board.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said police were treating a deadly siege on Monday in the southern city of Melbourne as an "act of terrorism" after a claim by the Islamic State group that one of its fighters was the gunman responsible.—Reuters ■

British police name third London attacker as Youssef Zaghba

LONDON — British police investigating Saturday's attack on London Bridge on Tuesday named the third assailant as Youssef Zaghba, a 22-year-old Italian national of Moroccan descent who was from east London.

Police said Zaghba had not been a subject of interest to police or the domestic spy agency MI5. Police had on Monday named the other two attackers as Khuram Butt, aged 27, and Rachid Redouane, aged 30.

Police also said they had made a fresh arrest on Tuesday, detaining a 27-year-old man in Barking, east London.—Reuters ■

France says wants dialogue to end row between Arab states, Qatar

PARIS — France said on Tuesday it wanted a diplomatic row between Arab states and Qatar to be resolved through dialogue, its foreign ministry said. "France wishes that the current tensions are resolved through dialogue," the foreign ministry told reporters in a daily online briefing. Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain on Monday cut ties with Qatar, which denounced the move as based on lies about it supporting Islamist militants.—Reuters ■

US, Mexico to make statement on sugar export issues — statement

WASHINGTON — US and Mexican economic officials will make a statement on Mexican sugar export issues in a news conference on Thursday afternoon, the US Department of Commerce said in a statement.

US Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross and Mexican Minister of Economy Idefonso Guajardo will make the announcement at 1:45 pm (1745 GMT) at the US Chamber of Commerce in Washington, the department said.—Reuters ■

Qatar seeks Kuwaiti mediation after powerful Arab nations shun it

DOHA/DUBAI — Qatar's ruler postponed an address to his country on Tuesday over its sudden and damaging diplomatic isolation from other leading Arab nations, in order to allow Kuwait some time and room to mediate.

In a sign of the potential consequences for the Qatari economy, a number of banks in the region began stepping back from business dealings with Qatar.

Qatar's foreign minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani, said Doha was ready for mediation efforts after Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain severed diplomatic relations in a coordinated move.

They said the break was prompted by Qatari support for Islamist militants and Iran, something Doha vehemently denies.

Yemen, Libya's eastern-based government and the Maldives joined later and transport links were shut down.

Qatar's ruler Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani spoke by telephone overnight with his counterpart in Kuwait, which has maintained ties with Qatar, and decided to postpone the speech, the minister told Qatar-based Al Jazeera television.



A man leaves Qatar Airways office in Manama, Bahrain on 5 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Doha has also decided not to retaliate against its neighbours' moves, he said.

In one sign of the impact of the measures, some Saudi Arabian and United Arab Emirates commercial banks were holding off on doing business with Qatari banks, such as letters of credit, because of the diplomatic rift, banking sources told Reuters

on Tuesday.

Qatar's stock market rebounded in early trade on Tuesday after plunging the previous day but the Qatari riyal fell against the US dollar.

Qatar wants to give Kuwait's Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber al-Sabah the ability to "proceed and communicate with the parties to the crisis and to

try to contain the issue," Sheikh Mohammed said.

Kuwait's emir had an important role in a previous Gulf rift in 2014 and Qatar's Sheikh Tamim "regards him as a parent and respects his desire to postpone any speech or step until there is a clearer picture of the crisis," Al Jazeera quoted the foreign minister as saying.

Sheikh Mohammed told the channel that the measures taken against Qatar affected its citizens and family ties in the Gulf Arab region, but said Doha would not take counter measures.

He said Qatar "believes such differences between sister countries must be resolved through dialogue" and proposed holding a session to exchange views and narrow differences, while respecting each other's views, without giving details.

Kuwait's emir, who has spent decades as a diplomat and mediator in regional disputes, hosted Sheikh Tamim last week as the crisis was brewing.

Monday's decision forbids Saudi, UAE and Bahraini citizens from travelling to Qatar, residing in it or passing through it. Residents and visitors of those countries must leave Qatar within 14 days. Qatari citizens also have 14 days to leave those countries.

The measures are more severe than during a previous eight-month rift in 2014, when Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE withdrew their ambassadors from Doha, again alleging Qatari support for militant groups.—Reuters ■

Suspected bomb kills 7 outside mosque in Afghanistan's Herat

HERAT, (Afghanistan) — A suspected bomb outside a mosque in the Afghan city of Herat killed at least seven people and wounded 15 on Tuesday, police said, the latest casualties in a particularly bloody week in Afghanistan.

Officials in the western city believe explosives were hidden in a motorcycle left in a parking area outside the Jama Masjid, a large mosque dating from the 12th century, known for its intricate blue tiles.

Abdul Ahad Walizada, spokesman for Herat police, said at least seven people were killed and 15 wounded as they

made their way to the mosque for prayers.

Near the border with Iran, Herat is one of Afghanistan's largest cities.

The attack came after a spate of violence in Afghanistan's capital, Kabul, where on Wednesday more than 150 people were killed and hundreds wounded in a suicide truck-bomb attack. Several protesters were killed in clashes with police on Friday at the bomb site, and at least a dozen people were killed when suicide bombers attacked the funeral for one of the dead protesters on Saturday.—Reuters ■

US-backed Syrian force starts battle to capture Raqqa from Islamic State

HUKOUMIYA, (Syria)/BEIRUT — The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) said on Tuesday it had begun a battle to capture Raqqa, Islamic State's de facto capital in Syria, launching attacks from the east, west and north of the city.

In a phone interview with Reuters from Syria, SDF spokesman Talal Silo said the operation started on Monday and the fighting would be "fierce because Daesh (Islamic State) will die to defend their so-called capital".

Islamic State captured the city from rebel groups in 2014 and has used it as an operations base to plan attacks in the West. The assault on Raqqa will

pile more pressure on Islamic State's self-declared "caliphate" with the group facing defeat in the Iraqi city of Mosul and being forced into retreat across much of Syria.

"The coalition has a big role in the success of the operations. In addition to warplanes, there are coalition forces working side by side with the Syrian Democratic Forces," Silo said.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based organisation that reports on the war, earlier said the SDF attacked the eastern edge of Raqqa and a military base on the northern outskirts of the city on Tuesday.

The Kurdish YPG, part of

the SDF, told Reuters on Saturday the assault on Raqqa was expected to start in a few days.

"It started today at dawn," Observatory Director Rami Abdulrahman said. "They have reached the city but they have not entered any of its buildings."

The attack on the al-Mashlab district and on the Division 17 base around 1 km to the north of the city centre followed heavy overnight air strikes, the Observatory said. The SDF has been working to encircle Raqqa since November in an offensive backed by the US-led coalition that is also fighting Islamic State in Iraq, where the jihadist group is on the brink of defeat in the city of Mosul.—Reuters ■

Indian minister climbs tree to talk on mobile phone

NEW DELHI — An Indian minister Arjun Ram Meghwal climbed a tree in a bid to get clearer mobile phone signal in western state of Rajasthan, reports said on Monday.

The junior minister in charge of Finance and Corporate Affairs climbed the tree on Sunday in Bikaner district, about 375 km northwest of Jaipur city, the capital of Rajasthan.

Officials said Meghwal was on a visit to Dholiya village in his parliamentary constituency on Sunday.

Reports said the villagers complained to the minister about their problems, following which minister tried to reach officers on phone.

After failing to reach the officers on mobile phone, the villagers reportedly suggested the minister to climb a tree for clearer signal on his phone.

No sooner the minister agreed to climb the tree, a ladder was brought immediately, to help the minister scale the tree with his phone held high.

A video of Meghwal talking on the phone to an official while balancing himself on the ladder has been widely shared on social media networks.

Reports said it was normal for people in the village to climb trees to get better phone connectivity.

Mobile phone connectivity across India is erratic especially in rural areas.—Xinhua ■



French President Emmanuel Macron. PHOTO: REUTERS

France's Macron set for biggest majority since De Gaulle — poll

PARIS — Emmanuel Macron's party is set to win the biggest parliamentary majority for a French president since Charles de Gaulle's 1968 landslide, a survey of voter intentions for the coming legislative elections showed on Tuesday.

A majority of such proportions would give Macron's government a strong mandate to push ahead with his economic reforms, starting with a pro-business overhaul of the France's labour code.

Macron's centrist Republic On The Move (LREM) — which did not exist a year ago and has turned the French political scene upside down — was seen winning 29.5 per cent of the vote in the 11 June first round, the

Ipsos Sopra-Steria poll found.

With a solid lead ahead of other parties, LREM would go on to win 385-415 seats out of 577 seats in the lower house of parliament in a 18 June second round of voting, the poll projected.

Not only was that the biggest majority projected by a poll for the election since Macron won the presidency in May, it would also be the strongest since voters rallied behind former president and wartime hero De Gaulle in 1968 after student revolts and nationwide general strikes.

LREM's 29.5 per cent first-round vote was seen leading the conservative Republicans and their allies on 23 per cent.

The far right National Front was seen winning 17 per cent, the hard-left France Unbowed on 12.5, and the Socialists at 8.5 per cent.

LREM's first round lead has narrowed from 31 per cent the last time the poll was conducted a week ago after Macron's former campaign chief and now a cabinet minister came under investigation for past financial dealings.

But the investigation has so far done little to dent Macron's popularity following his election last month against far right leader Marine Le Pen. Sixty percent of those surveyed said they were satisfied with Macron.

And after the first round eliminates any candidate who

gathers less than 12.5 per cent of the vote, Macron's candidates will be strongly placed across the country to win the decisive second round, pollsters say.

In the second round, the poll projected that The Republicans party would win just 105-125 seats in parliament, the Socialists 25-35 seats, the hard left France Unbowed 12-22 seats and the National Front 5-15 seats.

The poll, conducted on 2-4 June for France Televisions and radiofrance with a sample of 2,103 people, also found that 68 per cent of those surveyed had definitely made up their minds about whom they would vote for.

That number rose to 75 per cent for those backing Macron's party.—Reuters ■

Fourteen Venezuelan army officers jailed in first week of protests — documents

CARACAS — Venezuela's security forces arrested at least 14 army officers on suspicion of "rebellion" and "treason" in the first week of protests against President Nicolas Maduro's government in early April, according to military documents obtained by Reuters.

The soldiers, who include colonels and captains, are being held in Ramo Verde prison in the hills outside Caracas, according to lists being circulated within the military.

The documents said their cases were being "processed",

and it was not clear if they had been formally charged.

The lists emerged after allegations by Venezuelan opposition leaders that a purge is underway within the military to quash dissent over the handling of massive demonstrations against the socialist government since early April.

The documents seen by Reuters only went up to 8 April, after which opposition leaders and rights activists say many more soldiers have been rounded up.

The military's National Guard unit has been at the fore-

front of policing the protests, using tear gas, water cannons, and rubber bullets against masked youths who hurl stones, Molotov cocktails and excrement against security lines.

At least 65 people have died, with victims including government and opposition supporters, bystanders and members of the security forces. Hundreds more have been injured.

Opposition leaders say there is increasing disquiet within the military over the use of force against protesters who are demanding general elections, for-

eign humanitarian aid and freedom for jailed activists.

In public, top military officers have backed Maduro's accusation that an "armed insurrection" is being mounted by violent conspirators seeking a coup with US backing.

But privately some National Guard members have complained of exhaustion and disillusionment. A few soldiers have gone public with their discontent.

Three lieutenants fled to Colombia and requested asylum last month, prompting the Venezuelan government to demand

their extradition to face charges of coup plotting.

Opposition media last week published a video purporting to be a Venezuelan naval sergeant expressing his dissent and urging colleagues to disobey "abusive" and "corrupt" superiors.

"I reject Mr Nicolas Maduro Moros as an illegitimate president and refuse to recognize his regime and dictatorial government," Giomar Flores said in a seven-minute video, wearing a white naval uniform and black beret next to a Venezuelan flag.—Reuters ■

Japanese firm tapping Cambodia's organic food sector

PHNOM PENH — A Japanese company is tapping Cambodia's burgeoning organic food sector as local consumers with rising incomes look for safer and higher-quality products, but a lack of labeling regulations stands in its way.

Shun Ogawa, general manager of the production management department of Japan Farm Products based in Osaka, said current prices of organic vegetables in Phnom Penh are far lower than what they should be, considering the cost of production.

The market for organic produce is not mature yet in Cambodia, with only hazy standards in place and without official labeling regulations, barring JFP from expanding production, Ogawa said. "Because there is no regulation in labeling, it allows falsely claimed organic products to be sold in the market (at low prices)."

Currently, JFP supplies 300 kilograms per day on average — mainly tropical vegetables — to the AEON Mall shopping center and several Japanese restaurants in Phnom Penh.

The company is considering obtaining an international organic certification in the next two years, eyeing export opportunities, Ogawa said.

"Cambodia is potentially a better place for organic farming and as a production base for exports compared to other countries in the region because of its cheap labor and competitive prices of raw materials," he said. "Its foreign investor-friendly in-



Organic vegetables are shown at a Whole Foods Market in LaJolla, California. PHOTO: REUTERS



The price of bananas is displayed on a digital price tag at a 365 by Whole Foods Market grocery store ahead of its opening day in Los Angeles, U.S., May 24, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

vestment policy and access to international markets with tariff exemption make Cambodia a good place for organic farming investment."

Unsafe vegetables and fruits imported to Cambodia frequently make headlines in newspapers and other media outlets, stirring public concern over food safety and providing an opportunity for

chemical-free and organic vegetable producers to tap a larger domestic market share, said Aurelien Cadot, general manager of Natural Garden, one of the fastest growing local organic store chains founded in 2008.

"Stores like us guarantee a safer product for consumers when there is no such safety or quality guaranteed for what is sold in the traditional market," said Cadot. "When we first opened, most of our customers were expats living and working in Phnom Penh. But now, we see a balance between foreign and local customers. This could be explained as local consumers are concerned about unsafe products and also they could afford the products."—Kyodo News ■

Father of Philippines' militant Maute brothers arrested—police

MANILA — Philippine police on Tuesday arrested a man who said he was the father of two brothers whose Maute group of Islamist militants led the seizure of southern Marawi City two weeks ago.

The man, who identified himself as Cayamora Maute, was in a vehicle along with a son-in-law, a daughter-in-law and a woman believed to be his wife, when it was stopped at a checkpoint in Davao City, regional police official Alexander Tagum said.

"As a patriarch and the father of the Maute brothers...I guess he can still persuade these armed groups to stop the fighting in Marawi and once and for all surrender to the government," Tagum told a news conference.

The 23 May occupation of Marawi City by hundreds of militants who had pledged allegiance to the ultra-radical group, Islamic State, triggered a brutal urban battle with military forces that entered its third week on Tuesday.

Military officials believe the Maute brothers — Omarkhayam and Abdullah — are holed up in a built-up area of Marawi City. The military earlier said it was investigating a report that one of them had been killed in the fighting.—Reuters ■

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
MV EOLUS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EOLUS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T(4) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BEN LINE AGENCIES
(S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE
MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (174)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (174) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185



Apple Inc CEO Tim Cook is shown with TV personality James Corden and musician Pharrell during a taped comedy bit in this image shot from a projection screen during an Apple media event in San Francisco, California, US on 7 September, 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

James Corden says it was 'love at first sight' with wife

LONDON — TV personality James Corden says it was “love at first sight” with wife Julia Carey.

The 38-year-old popular talk show host married Julia in 2012 and share two children together— Max and Carey.

The “Late Late Show” star was in awe of the television pro-

ducer when he first saw her, reported Femalefirst.

“It (love at first sight) was for me. I doubt it was for her. She’s incredible. People always talk about me and how much work the show must be, but it’s nothing compared to what she does. Our daughter was only 12 weeks old when we moved here.

I had to come out earlier because the baby didn’t have a passport.

“It was a massive thing to just pick up our life and come here, you know. And we’re happy because we’re together all of the time. It’s not like I’m doing a movie where I’ll be back in a few months,” Corden tells The Sunday Times Magazine.—PTI ■

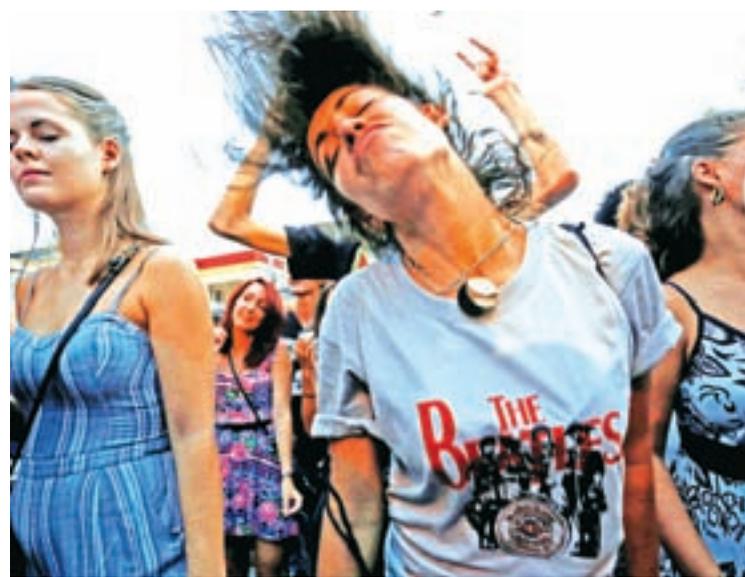
Beatles back on Billboard with ‘Sgt Pepper’ 50th anniversary release

LONDON — The Beatles returned to the Billboard 200 album charts with the 50th anniversary reissue of classic “Sgt Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band,” according to data from Nielsen SoundScan on Monday.

The remastered version of the “Sgt Pepper” 1967 album sold more than 75,000 units for the week to take the No 3 spot on the Billboard 200. It was the highest Billboard 200 ranking for the British rock quartet in some 16 years, when its greatest hits album “1” spent several weeks at or near the top of the chart, Billboard said.

Still, The Beatles were not big enough to steal the thunder of Kentucky rapper Bryson Tiller, 24, whose “True to Self” sold 106,000 units in its first week and took the No 1 spot.

Kendrick Lamar’s “Damn.” held onto second place with another 84,000 units sold in its seventh week of release.



A woman dances during an open-air covers concert in celebration of the release of Beatles’ landmark album “Sgt. Pepper’s Lonely Hearts Club Band” 50 years ago, in Havana, Cuba on 1 June, 2017. **PHOTO:**

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

On the digital songs chart,

which measures online single sales, Puerto Rican singer Luis Fonsi’s “Despacito” featuring Justin Bieber held onto the top spot for a fourth week with another 148,000 copies sold.—Reuters ■

“Wonder Woman” rules box office with biggest female director opening weekend

LOS ANGELES — “Wonder Woman” of Warner Bros. topped box office in North America with an estimated 100.5 million US dollars debut weekend, making the Patty Jenkins-directed superhero film the biggest ever opening weekend for a female director.

The latest DC Comics superhero movie, starring Gal Gadot, is the first big-budget superhero movie with a female lead to be directed by a woman. The previous record-holder for top opening for a female director was Sam Taylor-Johnson’s “Fifty Shades of Grey” which debuted with an 85 million US dollars weekend in 2015.

And overseas, “Wonder Woman” also won the weekend with 122.5 million US dollars from 55 markets for a global

cume of 223 million US dollars. “The movie helps to get a lackluster summer so far heading in the right direction. A perfectly cast Gal Gadot in the lead role coupled with a great release date, killer marketing campaign and above all a great movie that has both

critics and audiences buzzing on social media, contributed to this better than expected result,” said movie analyst Paul Dergarabedian at comScore.

ComScore/Screen Engine’s PostTrak shows that audiences gave the film 4.5 out of 5 stars and the audience split was 52 per cent female and 48 percent male.

Fox’s PG animated superhero movie “Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie” was a distant second place, bringing in an estimated 23.5 million US dollars in its opening weekend. The animated family-friendly action adventure based on the children’s novel series “Captain Underpants” by Day Pilkey.

Disney’s “Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales” moved to the third place with an estimated 21.6 million US dollars. The fifth installment of the “Pirates” franchise has earned 386.6 million US dollars to date internationally for a global total combined with North America of 501.2 million US dollars.—Xinhua ■

Dylan’s Nobel speech: songs only need to move you, not make sense

STOCKHOLM—NOBEL prize-winner Bob Dylan said on Monday that unlike literature his songs were meant to be sung not read and that they only needed to move people, not to make sense.

The Swedish Academy’s decision to award last year’s prize for literature to Dylan, who had “created new poetic expressions within the great American song tradition”, was seen by some as slap in the face by some mainstream writers of poetry and prose.

In his Nobel lecture, the notoriously media-shy Dylan said: “Our songs are alive in the land of the living. But songs are unlike literature. They’re meant to be sung, not read.”

“If a song moves you, that’s all that’s important. I don’t have to know what a song means. I’ve written all kinds of things into my songs. And I’m not going to worry about it – what it all means,” he said in the speech posted on the Academy’s web-

site.

Dylan, the first singer-songwriter to win the prize, was silent about the award for weeks after it was announced and he did not attend the prize ceremony and banquet.

Nobel laureates need to give a lecture within six months from the 10 December. 10 award ceremony in order to receive an 8-million-crown (\$900,000) prize sum. It does not necessarily need to be delivered in Stockholm. In his lecture, Dylan tells how Buddy Holly and a Leadbelly record transported him as a teenager into an unknown world, and he discusses three of his favorite books: Moby Dick, All Quiet on the Western Front and The Odyssey.

“The speech is extraordinary and, as one might expect, eloquent. Now that the lecture has been delivered, the Dylan adventure is coming to a close,” Swedish Academy secretary Sara Danius said in a statement.—Reuters ■

Nat Geo set to release climbers' historic ascent footage of El Capitan

LOS ANGELES — National Geographic has captured the historical solo climb of El Capitan by rock climber Alex Honnold and is soon set to release the footage.

The new docu-feature, tentatively titled "Solo", will document the 3,000-foot vertical rock journey at Yosemite National Park, with National Geographic Documentary Films, reported Deadline.

Jimmy Chin and E Chai Vasarhelyi have directed the film, which will get a theatrical release followed by a global broadcast on National Geographic channels in 171 countries.

Hannold completed the climb, which is considered the highest, most dangerous rock-climbing track ever attempted, in 3 hours 56 minutes with the cameras rolling.

"Alex's passion to push

himself to the edge of what is humanly possible, to continually redefine the limits set for him, encompasses everything we represent at National Geographic. He is a true explorer in every sense of the word, one who fully embodies the pioneering spirit," said Tim Pastore, president of original programming and production at National Geographic channels. —PTI

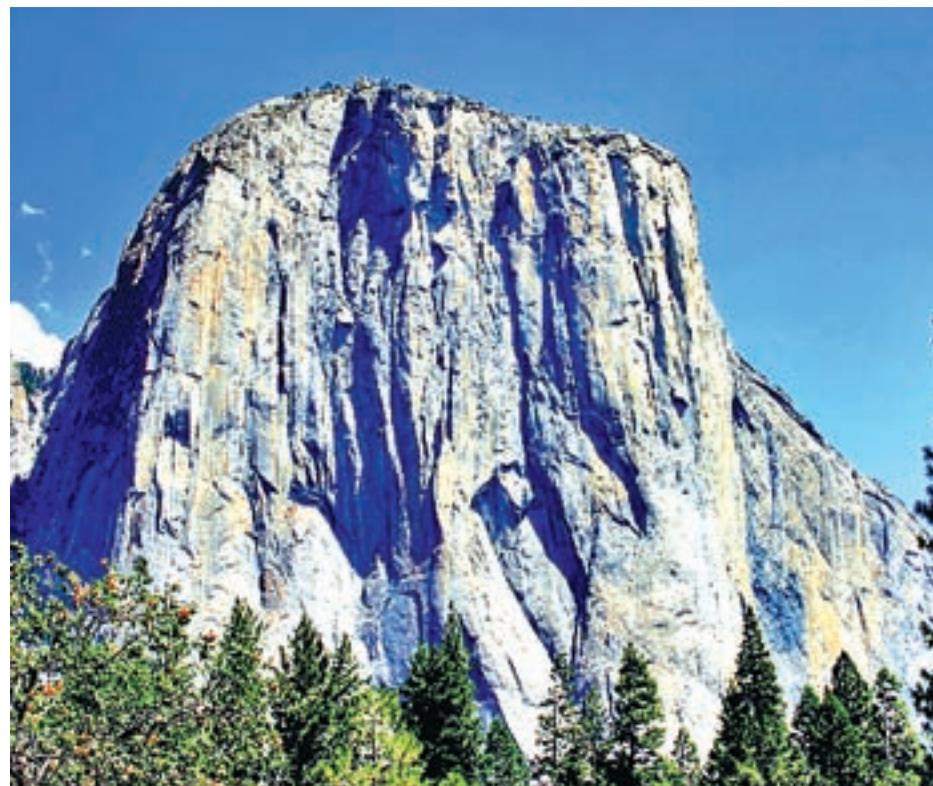


PHOTO: PTI

Japan, Australia to negotiate return of Ainu remains

TOKYO — The Japanese government said on Monday it will start negotiations with Australia toward returning to Japan the remains of indigenous Ainu people held by Australian museums.

Australia's ambassador to Japan, Richard Court, is expected to meet with representatives of the Ainu Association of Hokkaido as soon as Thursday in Sapporo, Hokkaido's capital, to explain how the remains have been preserved.

The Japanese government will confirm the wishes of the association before beginning talks with

Canberra, according to diplomatic sources.

Australia notified Japan in May about the three sets of remains, all skulls, stored in the National Museum of Australia in Canberra and elsewhere, the sources said.

Inquiries by both countries found documents confirming that Yoshikiyo Koganei, professor emeritus at Tokyo Imperial University Medical College, which is now Tokyo University's faculty of medicine, had sent the remains to researchers in Australia between 1911 and 1936. "It has become global practice to return indigenous people's remains

that were taken overseas," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a press conference, confirming that the Australian ambassador has information about the remains.

Remains of Ainu people taken out of Japan for anthropological research since before World War II have also been found in Germany, Britain and the United States.

A German academic society decided this year to return a set of remains to Japan. A Japanese government panel on Ainu affairs compiled a report in May stating that Japan will quickly make arrange-

ments for the return of any remains found to have been taken overseas, so they can be memorialized with dignity by Ainu people. Ainu people, who have their own customs and language, have lived for centuries on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido and nearby areas, including Sakhalin and the Kuril Islands. But they have long experienced marginalization under assimilation policies of the Japanese government and in the face of a lingering view among the Japanese public that the country is ethnically homogenous. —Kyodo News ■

Drone used to capture images of Osaka Castle turret for repair

OSAKA — An architectural office captured images of the rooftop and walls of a turret at Osaka Castle on Monday using a drone, with the aim of offering renovation services for cultural assets.

The flying of drones in areas near the castle and other parks in the western Japan city of

Osaka is prohibited, but the Osaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry helped the office gain special permission from the city as part of its initiative to promote new businesses.

The turret faces a moat, making visual observation of the walls difficult. —Kyodo News ■

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

<p>(7-6-2017 07:00am ~ 8-6-2017 07:00am) MST</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10%;">07:03</td><td style="width: 10%;">Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>07:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1)Mingalar Byuha</td></tr> <tr><td>07:51</td><td>Am</td><td>Philatelic Pleasure</td></tr> <tr><td>08:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>08:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Amazing: May Phoo Han</td></tr> <tr><td>08:37</td><td>Am</td><td>Gemstone Sculptor</td></tr> <tr><td>08:48</td><td>Am</td><td>Toddy Palm Product Shop</td></tr> <tr><td>09:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>09:27</td><td>Am</td><td>Horse Cart Driver</td></tr> <tr><td>09:37</td><td>Am</td><td>Waso Charity Feast</td></tr> <tr><td>09:55</td><td>Am</td><td>[Doctor] [Painter]</td></tr> <tr><td>10:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>10:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin</td></tr> <tr><td>10:49</td><td>Am</td><td>A Tea Business Pankwan (Part-2)</td></tr> </table>	07:03	Am	News	07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1)Mingalar Byuha	07:51	Am	Philatelic Pleasure	08:03	Am	News	08:26	Am	Amazing: May Phoo Han	08:37	Am	Gemstone Sculptor	08:48	Am	Toddy Palm Product Shop	09:03	Am	News	09:27	Am	Horse Cart Driver	09:37	Am	Waso Charity Feast	09:55	Am	[Doctor] [Painter]	10:03	Am	News	10:26	Am	Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin	10:49	Am	A Tea Business Pankwan (Part-2)	<p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>Prime Time</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10%;">07:03</td><td style="width: 10%;">Pm</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>07:27</td><td>Pm</td><td>Travel To The Southern Part of Shan State (Kalaw)</td></tr> <tr><td>07:46</td><td>Pm</td><td>A Way of Life: Karate-do</td></tr> <tr><td>08:03</td><td>Pm</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>08:26</td><td>Pm</td><td>Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-3) The Sphinx of Egypt And The Manousiha of Myanmar</td></tr> <tr><td>08:40</td><td>Pm</td><td>A Photographer's Life at Shwedagon Pagoda</td></tr> <tr><td>08:47</td><td>Pm</td><td>Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab</td></tr> </table> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>	07:03	Pm	News	07:27	Pm	Travel To The Southern Part of Shan State (Kalaw)	07:46	Pm	A Way of Life: Karate-do	08:03	Pm	News	08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-3) The Sphinx of Egypt And The Manousiha of Myanmar	08:40	Pm	A Photographer's Life at Shwedagon Pagoda	08:47	Pm	Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab	<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 10%;">6:00 Am</td><td style="width: 10%;">♦ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw</td><td style="width: 10%;">Performing Arts Competition</td></tr> <tr><td>7:00 Am</td><td>♦ Breakfast News</td><td>2:25 Am ♦ TV Drama Series</td></tr> <tr><td>7:35 Am</td><td>♦ Money Talk Myanmar</td><td>3:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series</td></tr> <tr><td>8:35 Am</td><td>♦ Solution for Agriculture</td><td>5:35 Pm ♦ MRTV Travelogue</td></tr> <tr><td>9:10 Am</td><td>♦ "Multipurpose Stadium"</td><td>6:20 Pm ♦ Football Magazine</td></tr> <tr><td>9:20 Am</td><td>♦ Documentary</td><td>6:35 Pm ♦ Real Story Real Movie</td></tr> <tr><td>9:30 Am</td><td>♦ Kyae Pwint Myae Yae Yin Khone Than</td><td>7:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series</td></tr> <tr><td>9:40 Am</td><td>♦ Documentary</td><td>8:00 Pm ♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report</td></tr> <tr><td>10:30 Am</td><td>♦ Pyi Thu Ni Ti</td><td>8:35 Pm ♦ Documentary</td></tr> <tr><td>12:30 Am</td><td>♦ TV Drama Series</td><td>8:50 Pm ♦ Road to SEA Game</td></tr> <tr><td>1:00 Am</td><td>♦ Myanmar Traditional</td><td>9:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series</td></tr> <tr><td></td><td></td><td>♦ Fine Art- Bosom of Dramatic Performance</td></tr> </table>	6:00 Am	♦ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	Performing Arts Competition	7:00 Am	♦ Breakfast News	2:25 Am ♦ TV Drama Series	7:35 Am	♦ Money Talk Myanmar	3:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series	8:35 Am	♦ Solution for Agriculture	5:35 Pm ♦ MRTV Travelogue	9:10 Am	♦ "Multipurpose Stadium"	6:20 Pm ♦ Football Magazine	9:20 Am	♦ Documentary	6:35 Pm ♦ Real Story Real Movie	9:30 Am	♦ Kyae Pwint Myae Yae Yin Khone Than	7:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series	9:40 Am	♦ Documentary	8:00 Pm ♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report	10:30 Am	♦ Pyi Thu Ni Ti	8:35 Pm ♦ Documentary	12:30 Am	♦ TV Drama Series	8:50 Pm ♦ Road to SEA Game	1:00 Am	♦ Myanmar Traditional	9:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series			♦ Fine Art- Bosom of Dramatic Performance
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(7-6-2017, Wednesday)

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Arsenal's Szczesny wants to extend Roma stay, says club boss

LONDON — Arsenal goalkeeper Wojciech Szczesny wants to extend his stay at Roma after completing two loan spells at the club, President of the Serie A side James Palotta has said.

Szczesny, who debuted for Arsenal in 2010, moved to Roma in 2015 and re-signed for another year after a successful first campaign. This season, the 27-year-old has made 38 appearances to help the Italian side seal a second-placed league finish.

"He told me that he wanted to stay with us," Palotta told radio station SiriusXM.

"I'll say more, I was surprised by the fact some of the players I thought had wanted to leave came up to me before and after the final game to say they wanted to remain. "It's a sign we've got a good group, we



Roma's Wojciech Szczesny. PHOTO: RUETERS

just lack some depth and Monchi (director of football) will help us with that." Media reports have linked Szczesny with a switch

to Serie A champions Juventus with the final decision about the keeper's future resting with Arsenal.—Reuters



Switzerland's Stanislas Wawrinka celebrates winning his fourth round match against France's Gael Monfils at Roland Garros in Paris, France on 5 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Resilient Wawrinka ends French men's challenge to reach last eight

PARIS — Stan Wawrinka's array of shots was too much to handle for a resurgent Gael Monfils as the 2015 champion reached the French Open quarter-finals with a 7-5, 7-6(7), 6-2 victory on Monday.

The third seed from Switzerland was a break down in the opening set but played tighter when it mattered while Monfils, who had been struggling with injuries this season, looked suddenly out of sorts.

Wawrinka, who will take on Croatian Marin Cilic for a place

in the last four, squandered three set points in the second set tiebreak but prevailed on his fourth attempt.

Monfils, the 15th seed, had nothing left in the tank in the third set and could only watch on in frustration as Wawrinka reached the last eight without dropping a set in the tournament. Monfils's exit means France's hopes of ending their 34-year-search for a men's champion at Roland Garros will extend into at least 2018.—Reuters

Kolasinac signs for Arsenal on a free transfer

LONDON — Arsenal have signed Schalke 04's Bosnia left back Saed Kolasinac on a free transfer, the Premier League club said on Tuesday.

Kolasinac will start pre-season training with Arsenal in July "subject to the completion of all

regulatory processes", the north London club announced on their website (www.arsenal.com).

Schalke confirmed in a statement that the 23-year-old had signed a deal at The Emirates which runs until 2022.

Kolasinac will be competing

with two senior left backs, Nacho Monreal and Kieran Gibbs, for a first-team spot.

He represented Germany at youth level before deciding in 2013 to play for Bosnia, his parents' homeland, and has collected 17 caps.—Reuters ■

Kane embracing senior role in England squad

LONDON — Striker Harry Kane sees himself as one of the leaders in the current England side, the 23-year-old has said ahead of his first senior appearance under Gareth Southgate in Saturday's World Cup qualifier against Scotland.

Premier League Golden Boot winner Kane has scored five goals in 17 appearances for the Lions and the Tottenham striker is already looking ahead to taking on more responsibility.

"I see myself as one of the leaders now in the team and I'm looking forward to it," Kane said at a sponsorship event.

"I'm only 23 but I feel that there are a lot of younger players in the team compared to me and I have a good relationship with them."

Kane said the presence of Tottenham team mates helped them build stronger bonds.

"I have a good relationship with all the players, the older,

the younger and there are quite a few Spurs boys in there as well," Kane said.

"It helps as we play with each other, train with each other day-in, day-out, so we know each other very well on the pitch, but off the pitch also.

"If someone is feeling a bit down, or if they're not quite right then we are there to know that and help them out."

England travel to Scotland for the Group F World Cup qualifier and Kane expected a tougher encounter than their 3-0 win in the reverse fixture in November. "It is a massive game; everyone knows how big England versus Scotland is with the rivalry that we have," he said. "We know it will be a bit tougher doing it away from home but, with the team we have got and the confidence we have got, we know we just have to go out there and not get too caught up in the moment."—Reuters ■



Dortmund's Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang and Schalke's Saed Kolasinac in action. PHOTO: REUTERS