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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi talks to the elderly at a peace talk in Myay Taing Kan Village, Wundwin Township, Mandalay Region, 7 August 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor stresses peace efforts, pledges nationwide electrification

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told villagers in central Myanmar yesterday that peace and power supply efforts must be priorities of the country.

At a peace talk with the villagers of Myay Taing Kan Village, Wundwin Township,

Mandalay Region, she said “I came here to talk about peace and power supply.”

“The reason I chose this village is because this village just recently got electricity and I wanted to know how it has affected the people here since it is a high priority that

the entire nation receives adequate electricity. Equally important is peace,” she added.

“Because of the conflicts between ethnic races in the past there is no trust or compassion with each other and there is no peace yet,” she said.

“If there is no peace in the country then it doesn’t matter if we are doing well in other areas, we cannot say that the country is doing well. I want to discuss this in these areas where there is no evident peace.

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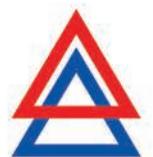
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STRENGTH OF MYANMAR

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2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session 40th day meeting

Myo Myint
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Second Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session 40th day meeting was held yesterday at Pyithu Hluttaw meeting hall.

At the meeting Dr Daw Kyi Mo Mo Lwin of Singaing constituency asked about plan to open a station hospital in Shwe Hlan Bo (Kan Auk) Village, Singaing Township and Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe said Singaing Township had a population of more than 150,000 and has a 50-bed hospital, an eye hospital and Paleik station hospital. Shwe Hlan Bo Village is a village that had a little more than one hundred households and is only 16 miles away from Singaing Hospital.

There are six norms set for allowing a station hospital and Shwe Hlan Bo (Kan Auk) village meets only two and furthermore the allocation for station hospital has already been used and there is no plan to open a station hospital there, said the Union Minister.

Responding to a question by U Myint Thein of Wetlet constituency on upgrading 25



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe. **PHOTO: MNA**

bed Wetlet Hospital to 50 bed, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe said arrangements are being made with Ministry of Planning and Finance to use the ordinary fund from FY 2017-2018 for the upgrading. Once permission is granted additional funds required for building, machineries and equipment will be allocated from the FY 2018-2019 budget said the Union Minister.

A question from Einme constituency on action to be taken against a company not conducting national project works under the Union budget in accordance with the guaran-



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**

tees made in the agreement, rules, regulation and norms was then replied by Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe.

A 3-member investigation team was formed to conduct an investigation on this matter and based on the preliminary report of the team and report by the Region Health Department head, the station hospital has been transferred to station hospital management committee after coordination between the management committee and company project engineering and the hospital is now in operation. An audit is being conducted on Top Creative Asia

Co., Ltd that constructed the hospital and based on the audit report, actions will be taken according to procedure said the Union Minister.

Responding to the questions Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said libraries are knowledge banks where generations of experiences and knowledge were stored. Anything you want to know can be found in the library books. In the world, the most developed and advanced nations are nations where there are the most readers. In the past states, regions, districts and townships offices of Information and Public Relations Department, Ministry of Information had few visitors but now, arrangements are made to turn the offices into places where people come together and meet, community centres and libraries as per the requirement of the people. As an early example, community centres were being setup in Insein, Myaungmya, Natmawk and Pyinmana together with Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

Furthermore mobile libraries were set up with library cars. Office buildings were used for

trainings, meetings, talks and gatherings while necessary items were also put in place. Last month a community centre in Myitkyina was opened where building and other work programmes are more adequate and sufficient.

These centres will support increasing knowledge of the people, raise interest of the local people on local and the country's affairs and increased participation of the people's desire in democracy political process.

Depending on finance available from the nation and cooperation of other organisations, community based centres are planned to be set up by financial years. Currently, offices and libraries under Information and Public Relations Department are being transformed to be turned into community centres where people can meet.

However, today's discussion on implementing library development as a national movement is too wide in scope and thus the motion should just be kept on record, explained the Union Minister.

The Hluttaw then decided to put on record the motion. ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives House Appropriations Committee Chairman

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received a delegation led by US House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations Chairman Hon. Mr. Rodney Frelinghuysen at the Hluttaw's building at 3:00 pm in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning bilateral relations and cooperation between the govern-



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint holds talks with Mr. Rodney Frelinghuysen in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

ments, the parliaments and people of the two countries as well as legislative and legal affairs of the parliament and democratic reforms in Myanmar.

Also present at the meet-

ing were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat, Chairmen of parliamentary committees of Pyithu Hluttaw, US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scot Marciel.—Myanmar News Agency ■

MPs discuss international relations and complaint processes

Thuya Zaw
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Members of the Amyotha Hluttaw discussed a blocked drainage pipe in Mawlamyine Township in Mon State. According to Nay Pyi Taw Council Member U Aung Myint Tun the drain is cleared every Sunday when a market nearby is closed. U Aung Myint Tun told the assembly that there were plans to clear more sections of the drainage channel.

Dr Kyaw Than Tun of Mandalay Region commented on a report by Amyotha Hluttaw Committee on International Relations,

Friendship and Cooperation with International Parliaments. He said the committee should officially record its international experiences. He also suggested the committee include Hluttaw representatives with language skills. U Mya Min Swe of Magway Region commented on a report by Amyotha Hluttaw committee on complaint letters and said the committee should screen complaint letters more thoroughly and that replies require more care. The next Amyotha Hluttaw meeting is scheduled for 9 August. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw MPs suggest to increase budget for sports activities

Thuya Zaw
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Amyotha Hluttaw MPs have suggested the parliament's committee on health, sports and culture urged the

Ministry of Health and Sports to increase budget for holding sports activities nationwide to be able to produce new generations for sports. Regarding a report of the committee, U Kyaw Thauang of Sagaing Region

constituency 1 said success in sports requires supporting experienced sports persons as well as developing new blood sports persons in Sports Science Schools and arranging tournaments at township and

village tract level.

The committee need to push relevant ministries and officials to increase budget for sports.

Amyotha Hluttaw committee on health, sports and

culture committee secretary Dr. San Maung Maung of Bago Region constituency 1 then tabled a motion for the Hluttaw to confirm the committee's report and the Hluttaw announced its confirmation. ■

Message by His Excellency U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar on the Occasion of the 50th Anniversary of the founding of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) (8 August 2017)

Dear Esteemed Citizens,

Today marks 50 years of ASEAN. This is a major milestone for any institution. These five decades have seen significant progress across all of our countries, of which we can be very proud. Today, the 10 ASEAN economies together constitute the seventh-largest economy in the world. This achievement is testament to the hard work and commitment of the ASEAN member nations.

This year marks a major anniversary for Myanmar as well. It was 20 years ago that we joined this extraordinary group of countries. Becoming part of this family of nations was an important moment in our country's history.

As we celebrate these two landmarks, it is a great pleasure and honour for me to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the people of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

ASEAN's founders were visionary leaders who desired a peaceful, stable, and economically prosperous Southeast Asia region for all people. To achieve this goal, these founding fathers sought to create an outward-looking region with vibrant, competitive, and highly-integrated economies and an inclusive community embedded with a strong sense of togetherness and common identity.

Economic and political circumstances have often challenged these aspirations. But ASEAN has always remained faithful to its mission, anchored by the principles of mutual respect, cooperation,



President U Htin Kyaw.

and consensus-building. This unique "ASEAN Way" has enabled our region's unprecedented success.

This success can be measured in many ways.

Southeast Asia has never been more peaceful and stable. Working together as a community of nations, we have collectively resolved the many issues we have faced over these 50 years.

We have achieved substantial economic prosperity as well. Together, with a combined GDP of \$2.55 trillion, we make up one of the largest economic blocs in the world. Many of the world's fastest growing economies can be found in our region. Last year, our collective economy grew by 4.7 percent, a remarkable

achievement considering the challenging global environment.

Cultural exchange across our community's borders has never been higher. Myanmar itself is a diverse and vibrant nation. When joined with the other nine countries of ASEAN, this cultural tapestry becomes even more colourful.

As we look to the next 50 years, we expect that ASEAN's ties across these areas will only deepen. By remaining true to our principles, we will be the kind of dynamic institution that will succeed in a fast-paced, globalized world. By redoubling our efforts, we will make our region even more politically cohesive, economically integrated, socially responsible, and people-oriented.

With an eye to a vibrant and prosperous future, our leaders have created a plan for the coming years: the ASEAN Community Vision 2025, which was crafted in line with the United Nation's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Part of our community's growth over the coming years will be through increasing engagement with global partners. Eighty-seven sovereign states and one regional organization have already accredited ambassadors to ASEAN. In return, we have established 52 ASEAN Committees in countries and international organizations. We will continue to expand our engagement so that we can improve the livelihood of ASEAN's citizens.

We are confident we will see this most immediately through the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which we expect will be finalized by the end of this year. Once launched, this partnership will account for half of the world's population and 30 percent of global GDP. This is why we commemorate this anniversary with the theme "Partnering for Change. Engaging the World".

But we cannot be complacent as we strive for these goals. We face many challenges. The rise, globally and in our region, of populism, anti-globalization, terrorism, violent extremism, and socio-economic uncertainties are the forces we must strive to counteract. To do this, we must redouble our efforts to expedite regional integration with the participation of our people, especially women and youth. Pushing forward with the next phase of consolidation and cohesiveness will make ASEAN a more open, peaceful, inclusive, resilient, and prosperous region.

Myanmar has an active role to play in achieving these goals. We will continue our co-operation in building regional integration and we will fulfil our duties as a responsible and proud member of this regional organization. This commitment must be reflected by every Myanmar citizen because the people of ASEAN are the heart of its past, present, and future success. And so on this auspicious occasion, as we move forward together, I wish all of you every success. ■

An advertisement for an Omega Speedmaster watch. The watch is shown in a close-up, angled view, highlighting its black dial with three sub-dials, a tachymeter scale on the bezel, and a metal link bracelet. The background is a light, textured surface. To the right of the watch, the Omega logo is displayed in red, followed by the word "OMEGA" in red and "Speedmaster" in a black script font. Below that, "38 mm" is written in a simple black font. At the bottom, there is contact information for Omega Boutiques in Yangon.

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US\$1.3 million in trade at Maungtaw border in July

BORDER trade values at the Maungtaw border in Rakhine State was estimated at US\$ 1.3 million in July, according to the Maungtaw Township Trade Department.

The trade projection for July was \$350,000, with \$300,000 in exports and \$50,000 in imports, said U Tun Kyaw, staff officer of Maungtaw Township Trade Department.

The main export items at Maungtaw gate are ginger, rice, garlic, mushrooms, saltwater prawn and dried fish.

Other exports include soap, candy, plum jam, footwear, and ointment.— A One Soe, Myo Thu Hein ■



Labourers loading sacks of rice to boat in Maungtaw, Rakhine State. PHOTO: A ONE SOE

Myanmar man arrested over stabbing of ex-girlfriend near Tokyo Station

A 28-year-old man was arrested Monday on suspicion of attempted murder after stabbing his 26-year-old former girlfriend on a street in the Otemachi business district near JR Tokyo Station.

Both the victim, who temporarily fell unconscious, and the suspect, Nyein Chang Aung, are students from Myanmar; the Metropolitan Police Department

said, adding the man has admitted to the charge.

The police arrested Nyein at the scene, alleging he stabbed the woman in the back with a knife at around 6:45 a.m.

The victim and the suspect became acquainted in June 2012 in Myanmar and broke up in April last year, the police said.

The victim consulted with

the police on 14 January, saying the suspect was waiting for her in front of her home and posting slanderous messages about her current boyfriend on Facebook. At her request, the police warned Nyein the same day to cease such behavior and he said he would desist, according to the police.

A 53-year-old man, who

passed the scene of the incident on his way to work, said, "A woman was lying limp in a pool of blood...A man was holding her while another woman was talking on the phone in a panic," he said.

The suspect was doing a part-time cleaning job at a building near the scene, the police said.—Kyodo News ■

Traditional retailers in Yangon urged to use card payment system

By May Thet Hnin

U Myo Min Aung, vice-chairman of Myanmar Retailers Association, said it is now working to implement card payment system in Yangon's retail market, urging traditional retailers to use card payment system instead of paying with cash.

He said; "The move is aimed at solving a shortage of small banknotes. In the retail market, both buyers and sellers are facing scarcity of small banknotes, with the result that the prices of goods increase a bit from its regular selling prices. It is also aimed at controlling the commodity price to a certain degree. For the time being, awareness raising programmes have been made by

the association in cooperation with Ayeyawady Bank in retail stores. A good internet connection and banking networks are required to successfully install a card payment system at retail shops. It needs to take a time to implement the plan. We are working to implement the plan as quickly as possible."

In the first phase, the association is introducing the card payment system at traditional retail stores in commercial city Yangon, encouraging them to use this system. It is planning to implement the plan in other regions and states through our syndicates in the future.

U Myo Min Aung said; "We invite retailers to come to seminars to understand the benefits of this payment system, which

will be needed at the time when international companies enter the country. Awareness raising campaigns have always been made every two months, resulting that some retailers show their interest in the system."

He continued to say that in making payment by card system, the aim for all different kinds of cards currently used in the country are able to use the system with an appropriate machines. Banks are ready to sell necessary equipment as well as methods of using the system. The association will perform as a bridge between retailers and bankers.

U Myo Min Aung said that he hopes that this payment system is likely to be used not only in retail market but in related

businesses in the future.

He went on to say that proposal relating to the use of card payment system in retail market have already been submitted to the government. Currently, some supermarkets started using the system, only 4 % of the total retailers. According to a survey conducted in 2015, the country has about 350,000 traditional retail stores.

To educate people about the use of card payment system in retail market, a seminar entitled "Towards Retail Stores Excellence" is planned to take place at the upcoming Myanmar Retail Sourcing Expo 2017 to be held at Yangon's Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall on 18 August. ■



Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) meeting was convened in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

MIC issues seven investment permits, 17 endorsements related with investment proposals

The Myanmar Investment Commission yesterday issued seven investment permits and 17 endorsements in relation to the investment proposals it had received and the amount of investment permitted was USD67.192 million and MMK409,348.47 million. The announcement came

after the 11/2017 meeting of the MIC in Yangon which reviewed investment proposals consistent with the Myanmar Investment Law. U Kyaw Win, Chairman of MIC and Union Minister for Planning and Finance, Dr Than Myint, Vice Chairman of MIC and Union Minister

for Commerce, U Tun Tun Oo Union Attorney General and all members of MIC attended the meeting. The submission of permit proposals and endorsement applications from investors and post-permit activities of MIC-permitted companies were discussed in the meeting.—GNLM ■

Cotton and sugar production requires value-added processes, investment

MYANMAR'S cotton industry lacks enough state-of-the-art cultivation techniques and processing capacity to create value-added products, leading to an undue reliance on imports of finished goods, according to U Aung Soe, the director-general of Trade Promotion Organisation at cotton, sugarcane, sugar export promotion workshop held on 4 August in Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay.

As of 21 July this financial year, more than 487 metric tons of cotton worth US\$1.07 million were exported to China. However, more than \$15 million worth cotton products including cotton thread were imported into Myanmar. This is why value-added cotton products

are required for local needs, Director-General U Aung Soe said. The government is encouraging the businesses to change from traditional to industrial activities. Cotton and sugar are prime examples of Myanmar's overreliance on extractive activities in lieu of processing capacity. Encouraging to produce finished goods rather than producing raw will enable Myanmar's industries to achieve higher export levels. This workshop focused on cotton and sugarcane growers' and provided information on cultivation, access to capital and an overview of local investment laws. The director general also

described the critical role of transportation. Mandalay Region is the main junction of highway roads, he said, and traders should take advantage of its location to ship goods to India and China. There are about 73,000 acres of cotton farms across Myanmar with a production of 500,000 tons. Mandalay Region produces most of Myanmar's cotton crop. In addition, 59,600 acres of sugarcane, out of a total of 737,900 acres, are grown in Mandalay. There are five sugar mills in Mandalay which can crush more than 1,000 tons of sugarcane daily.—Min Htet Aung (Mann Sub-printing house) ■

Sugar prices drop to Ks680,000 a ton due to re-export restrictions

CHINESE restrictions on Myanmar sugar re-exports has led to a domestic surplus and to prices dropping by Ks50,000 per ton, according to a story yesterday in Myanma Alin newspaper.

Until recently Myanmar's merchants imported sugar from Brazil, Qatar, UAE and India and then re-export to China through Muse checkpoint for margin profits. Now Chinese authorities confiscate re-exported sugar at Muse gate as China considers this trade as illegitimate. Additionally, the Myanmar Commerce Ministry no longer grants re-export licences for sugar. As a result, 100,000 tons of sugar are stockpiled in Myanmar.

Sugar prices have been de-

clining since Thingyan. Sugar was Ks730,000 per ton in May compared to Ks680,000 in August, said U Sein Tun, the secretary of Sugar and Sugarcane Producers Association.

About 2 million tons of re-exported sugar had been traded annually before new restrictions were imposed. Currently, about 100,000 tons of sugar have been imported this year under the re-export system but only small volume of it were exported. While sugar traders are suffering losses, the policy may have the effect of spurring more domestic sugar production and growth to make up for re-export shortfalls.—Phyo Lwin Aung (AMIA) ■



A man repacks sugar in packets on sale. PHOTO: REUTERS

Available @

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean City Supercenter City Mart Supermarket

State Counsellor visits recently electrified village

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited Myay Taing Kan Village, Wundwin Township, Meiktila District, Mandalay Region, yesterday and talked with villagers about the area's socio-economic development.

Myay Taing Kan Village was chosen for the visit because it lies nearly at the geographical center of Myanmar. The village is home to 281 households and a population of 1,242, most of whom earn their living on farming and weaving. Paddy, cotton and pulses are the area's main crops. The electric grid was extended to the village, for the first time, in March. Prior to electrification, the village had to spend Ks150,000 for diesel oil each month to support a light weaving industry. With electrification energy costs are only one-third of that cost, increasing the income of villagers.

The State Counsellor inspected the transformer which distributes electricity to the village and Chief Engineer U Soe Min Tun briefed her about the



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi talks to the elderly at a peace talk in Myay Taing Kan Village, Wundwin Township, Mandalay Region, 7 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

system. Afterwards, the State Counsellor had a round of Peace Talks with the villagers of Myay Taing Kan village.

She also viewed light-industry weaving sheds operated by

electricity. In the afternoon, the State Counsellor arrived at the Sihar Yama monastery in the village, donating offertories to Sayadaw U Kosalla and Sayadaw U San Vara Sarmi. Of Myanmar's

10.87 million households, 3.7 million had access to electricity in 2016. By June 2017 4.19 million households are electrified. Of 63,859 villages nationwide, 31,804 villages had been supplied elec-

tricity as of May 2017.

The National Electrification Project is being implemented with a World Bank loan of US \$300 million. Other funding sources include the national budget, local budgets and international loans and financial assistance.

In the first phase, 5,080 villages, home to approximately 630,000 families, located no more than two miles away from existing power grid lines will be prioritized for electrification. The second phase will provide electricity to 7.5 million people.

A German government loan has electrified 416 villages in Taunggyi, Loilem and Linkhe districts in Southern Shan State.

In all, 1,484 villages across Myanmar are to be electrified in FY2017-2018.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was accompanied on her trip by Union Minister Dr. Aung Thu, Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, Chief Minister of Mandalay Region Cabinet and Deputy Ministers U Min Thu and Dr. Tun Nang.—Myanmar News Agency ■

State Counsellor stresses peace efforts, pledges nationwide electrification

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I want to know what kind of thoughts, if any, a village like this has on peace especially a village far away from conflict areas. Have you ever considered it?" said the State Counsellor.

"I understand that this village was linked with electricity in March this year, so it has been four months now. Has there been any significant changes with your village, with your family or individually? I want to know the differences in situation before and after you got electricity," she said.

She told the villagers that electricity is as crucial as peace, expressing the goal of the government to supply power to the entire country by 2030.

Currently, only 38.5 per cent of the country has got access to electricity.

"There's 13 years to go to achieve our goal. But, we will try to make it faster as we go along," she said.

"We cannot neglect the problems of a small village as insignificant because by considering the problems of a small village we can find similar possible solutions to the problems



U Tun Win (teacher)

of the entire nation," she added.

"I was informed of an interesting fact about this village on my way here. Apparently the young people don't leave this village to find job opportunities somewhere else. This may seem normal here but many villages across the country have no young people in them anymore. Many of them say they leave their villages to find better business opportunities but it hurts the economy of their village. Also from a social standpoint it hurts their family and by leaving their village," she said.



Daw Khin Swe (shop keeper)

Afterwards, eight local residents discussed about peace process, building trust, building unity from diversity, education, health, electricity, agriculture, infrastructure, job opportunities and small and medium industrial business developments.

U Tun Win (teacher)

Dear Madam,

First of all, let me present the educational situation of our village, "Myay Taing Kan." Our post-primary school of the village run by 6 teaching staff has



U Ye Sein (truck owner)

69 students in total from KG to 5th standard. It has two school buildings. No 1 building built in 1953 was renovated, thus it was in a dilapidated condition. For it, the budget for its renovation of the building in a critical condition was demanded to be granted in the academic years—2015-2016 and 2016-2017. Yet, the grant was not allowed until now."

He added, "Because of the acquisition of electricity in our village, villagers have had an access to run light industries such as weaving machines and

its related works. Previously, they had to work for other businessmen in Wundwin Township as daily wagers and laborers. Now that they can work at the village, they can make more money. With the better economy, children's education will develop for sure."

Daw Khin Swe (shop keeper)

I want my daughter to be an educated person, but she did not fulfill my wish. I intend to have her taught how to sew. Regarding Peace, I know nothing.

U Ye Sein (truck owner)

I bought a truck under the two-year hire purchase contract, paying K 4-5 million every six months. Yet, during six months I disconnected with the company as my business is not related with it, finding it difficult to run my transport business as my car was running to and fro nearby the village. In actuality, it is impossible to pay K 4-5 million in a period of six months. 30% interest rate is too much, in my opinion. So, I want the contract due period to be extended.

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As regards education, when we were young we could not proceed to get our learning after passing 4th standard examination. At that time, we could not imagine buying a bike. It is very lucky of today's children to pursue their learning with the gradual development of the country.



U Win Zaw (Owner of weaving machine)



U Aung Tint (Farmer)

Daw Poe Ti (Broker)

I use basket as weighing unit in purchasing crops, with viss used in selling. As it is, I cannot store crops. I cannot run a brokerage centre. Instead I had to sell crops just after buying it. I purchase all agricultural produce.



Daw Poe Ti (Broker). Photo: MNA

U Win Zaw (Owner of weaving machine)

Business is not good. These days, I lose almost always. Prices of materials are too high, as they are imported goods. After passing sale centres at many levels, the prices skyrocketed in our hands. I think it will be more beneficial if these are produced in the country.

U Aung Tint (Farmer)

Now, we need not have firewood for cooking as we have electricity. In future today's land for firewood can be reclaimed. So, I hereby want to express my wish to help us to acquire electricity to the full. We want peace because we can develop only if we achieve peace. Our region is peaceful, but my son and my daughter were serving as the township head of the department of the traditional medicine in

Kutkai in northern Shan State. As battles are taking place there, I am always worried about them and all the nationals. So, I want peace. With the nationwide peace, our country will become pleasant. I deeply express my desire to make our country stable and peaceful.

Daw Htet Htet Aung (MBA student)

Generally, an ordinary graduate is unemployed. Without practical training, they do not have any skill nor proficiency. It is not convenient to have an ordinary degree in actual life. As regards the peace, we wholly support the leaders' efforts to achieve a successful 21st Century Panglong Agreement. As for us, we can study peaceful

ly learning in our regions. I want nationwide peace. I deeply request to Union Government to work for improving the livelihoods of all the people of the whole nation and for national solidarity.

In response to the discussions of Myay Taing Kan villagers the State Counsellor touted peace efforts, saying that lack of peace has hurt the country's economy and development. "For example, international businesses will not invest in countries where there is no peace. They need assurance for their investment," she said.

She also urged the villagers to consider that the peace process is a matter for everybody and the government can maintain development only when the

country has peace.

There must be a deep desire for peace. This must be followed by great effort. Then we need to develop the correct spirit. Then of course we need knowledge.

Regarding creating job opportunities in the country, she has urged the parents to encourage their children to receive vocational skills.

"There is a higher possibility of people who have vocational education to get a job right away after completing the vocational training," said the State Counsellor.

"We have ethnic nationals in our country with different beliefs, origin and languages. People with far sighted visions know well that these differences can be turned into strength.

"The light of electricity, the light of peace and the light of education all drive away darkness, she added." Regarding national reconciliation, she said national reconciliation is the most important thing for the country and a difficult task since the beginning. She did not want to answer the question of why it was difficult because I did not to blame anyone. She had repeatedly said that all were responsible for it. It was important for all to think about it from all angles. It must not be a one-sided view based on one's own view. There is no national reconciliation in our country because there isn't enough trust against one another. All need to strive hard on this, she said.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint addresses at a coordination meeting for the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Coordination Meeting for holding Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition held

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint spoke yesterday at a coordination meeting for the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw.

Officials responsible for various subcommittees attended the meeting. The forum is

scheduled for 11-13 August at the Myanmar International Convention Center 2 in Nay Pyi Taw. Other attendees included Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Zayar Thaw, departmental heads and representatives from the international partnership organizations.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Death toll from H1N1 reaches 16

The Ministry of Health and Sports announced yesterday that 22 people received medical examinations between 6 and 7 August and 8 cases were confirmed to have the H1N1 virus. This brings the total number of H1N1 cases since 21 July to 154 and a total death toll of 16

people. The nationwide death toll has reached 4.5 per cent said the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The ministry said 19 patients at Wabargi Specialist Hospital and 34 patients in hospitals in various regions and states are receiving treatment for confirmed cases of

H1N1. The majority of patients are doing well and the number of patients coming to hospitals to receive treatment for respiratory infections has dropped a bit. So far, there is no infection to health staff or officials who are treating with the H1N1 patients.

The ministry urged in its report for the elderly, children, pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses and low immune systems to follow the ministry's guidelines to protect against the seasonal influenza.— Myanmar News Agency ■

အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ဒါလျှောက်လွှာခေါ်ယူခြင်း

၁။ The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်မှ ထွက်ရှိသော ဘေးထွက် ပစ္စည်းများအား အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ဒါစနစ်ဖြင့် ရောင်းချ သွားမည်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။

၂။ အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ဒါပုံစံနှင့် တင်ဒါစနစ်တို့၏ အသေးစိတ် အချက်အလက် များကို (၉-၈-၂၀၁၇) ရက်မှ (၁၄-၈-၂၀၁၇)ရက်နေ့အထိ နေ့စဉ် (၉း၃၀) နာရီမှ (၁၆း၀၀) နာရီအတွင်း အောက်ပါလိပ်စာတွင် လာရောက်ဝယ်ယူ စုံစမ်းနိုင်ပါသည်။

၃။ အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ဒါများကို (၁၅. ၈. ၂၀၁၇)ရက်နေ့ (၁၂း၀၀) နာရီမှတိုင်မီအတွင်း The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်ရှိ တင်ဒါအဖွဲ့ဝင်များ ရှေ့မှောက်သို့ လာရောက်ပေးပို့ ပါရန်ဖြစ်ပါသည်။ သတ်မှတ်အချိန်ထက် ကျော်လွန်သော တင်ဒါများကို ထည့်သွင်းစဉ်းစားမည်မဟုတ်ပါ။ ယင်းနေ့ မွန်းလွဲ (၁၃း၀၀)နာရီအချိန်၌ တင်ဒါပေးသွင်းသူများရှေ့တွင် တင်ဒါဖွင့်ပါမည်။

၄။ အဆိုပါဘေးထွက်ပစ္စည်း အမျိုးအမည်၊ အရေအတွက်နှင့် ပစ္စည်းမျက်မြင် အနေအထားကြည့်ရှုလိုသူများနှင့် အသေးစိတ်အချက် အလက်များ သိရှိလိုပါက The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်သို့သွားရောက် ကြည့်ရှုနိုင်ပြီး ဖုန်း-၈၆၀၄၅၂၂ တို့ထံသို့ ရုံးချိန်အတွင်း ဆက်သွယ်မေးမြန်း နိုင်ပါသည်။

အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူစိစစ်ရေးအဖွဲ့
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်
အမှတ်(၁၅၀) ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဗဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV KALAPATI VOY. NO (12)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KALAPATI VOY. NO (12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.8.2017 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 MITSUI O.S.K KINKAI LTD**

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ASEAN's golden jubilee

Aye Maung Kyaw

ASEAN was formed on 8 August 1967 through the Bangkok Declaration. It originally had five members - Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand - and has since expanded to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Viet Nam. Therefore, ASEAN is going to celebrate its 50th Anniversary this year.

Brunei Darussalam joined on 8 January 1984, Viet Nam on 28 July 1995, Laos and Myanmar on 23 July 1997, and Cambodia on 30 April 1999.

The ASEAN Declaration states that the founding of the ASEAN is aimed at accelerating the economic growth, social progress and cultural development in the region through joint endeavors in the spirit of equality and partnership in order

to strengthen the foundation for a prosperous and peaceful community of Southeast Asian nations.

At the 27th ASEAN summit in Kuala Lumpur on 22 November 2015, ASEAN leaders adopted the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) 2025 blueprint in their goal for economic integration. The AEC aims to (1) Facilitate the movements of goods, services, investments, capital and skills of the region (2) Increase trade (goods and services) and investment among Member States (3) Promote and expand regional production sharing and networks and (4) Promote a higher level of transparency and predictability.

On 28 January 1992 in Singapore, the then six-members of ASEAN signed the ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) agreement to support

local manufacturing in all ASEAN countries. Before that, ASEAN was involved in economic cooperation with Japan from 1985 and the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) was held with Japan, Republic of Korea and China in 1996 and 1997 to promote East Asian regional co-operation.

In 2005, the East Asia Summit (EAS) was held with 10 ASEAN member countries and Japan, Republic of Korea, China, India, Australia and New Zealand. Russia joined the EAS in 2011 and the AEC was firmly established in 2015.

In the beginning, the five members of ASEAN had an individual income of USD 122 in 1967, depending on the GDP of each country. In 2016 it grew to USD 4760. ASEAN GDP reached USD2.2 trillion taking 3 per cent of the global market.

ASEAN had no internet connections in 1990 but currently 34.2 per cent of ASEAN has internet connectivity. Only 61.9 per cent of ASEAN had electric supply but in 2014, 91.6 per cent of ASEAN had electricity. The number of mobile users in ASEAN was 1.1 per cent in 1990 and it reached 126.6 per cent in 2015. Foreign investment was at USD 22.1 billion in 2001 and it has grown to USD 130 billion in 2015. Expenditure on defence service was at USD 4.4 billion in 1970 and has grown to USD 37.8 billion in 2016.

The main concern throughout ASEAN right now is the spread of Islamic extremists. ASEAN has some way to go to catch up to the five superpower countries and Myanmar need to try harder for economic development. *(Translated by GNLM)* ■

Global Overview and Myanmar Democratic Transition

Professor Chaw Chaw Sein

MYANMAR transition since 2010 is praised as “Myanmar spring” by the international media due to its smooth democratization process. The 2015 post election of Myanmar is again praised by the international community for two factors: one is free and fair election which is one of the core values of democracy and another is peaceful transfer of power from semi-civilian government to elected civilian government. Myanmar democratic transition is now on her way and democratic consolidation is necessary for the completed transition. In the global agenda, the past two decades have witnessed the most remarkable development toward democracy, which has been refereed to as third wave of democratization. Since then, democracy replaced the military or “quasi-civilian” regimes. It is an opportunity for Myanmar today to learn from the global trends of democratic transition.

In the last quarter of the twentieth century, trends in seven different regions converged to change the political landscape of the world: the fall of right-wing authoritarian regimes in Southern Europe in the mid 1970s, the replacement of military dictatorship by elected civilian governments across Latin American from late 1970s to late 1980s, the decline of authoritarian rule in parts of East and South Asia starting in the mid 1980s, the collapse of the communist regime in Eastern Europe at the end of the 1990s, the breakup of the Soviet Union and the establishment

of the post-Soviet republics in 1991, the decline of one-party regimes in many parts of sub-Saharan Africa in the first half of the 1990s and a weak but recognize liberalizing trend in some Middle East countries in the 1990s. Despite these regional democratic trends, some countries continue to be beset by unstable parliamentary institutions, weak rule of law, inchoate systems of political representation, chronic corruption, bureaucratic inefficiency, and a lack of social justice.

According to Human Rights Watch data in 2006, more than hundred countries (121) in the world are democracy and among them, 78 are liberal democracy and the rest can be labeled as electoral democracy. Though Myanmar is yet to be a liberal democracy (long way with challenges to reach there), Myanmar can be listed in electoral democracy. In spite of the political development, asserting civilian control of the armed forces remains high on the political agenda in many emerging democracies.

The book on “*Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation*” written by Professor Juan J. Linz (Yale University) and Professor Alfred Stepan (the first rector and president of the Central European University) is a magisterial book that represents to understand democratic broke down, transition and consolidation. The authors highlighted the five areas that are necessary for the consolidation democracy—civil society, political society, rule of law, state bureaucracy and economic society. The book aspires to cover 15

As the rule of law is weak, Myanmar requires an independent judicial system and supported by a strong legal culture in civil society. Myanmar can also learn from the Indonesian model of reforms such as Ministry of Home Affairs, transferred from military to the civilian control.

contemporary countries stretching across three areas: Southern Europe, South America and Post Communist Europe. The book is contributive for all the democratic countries that are on their way to completed transition and to consolidation.

This article would like to borrow the above-mentioned five areas as a case study on Myanmar. First let us look the civil society. The **civil society** can include manifold social movements such as women's groups, religious groupings and intellectual organizations and civic associations from all social strata such as trade unions, entrepreneurial groups, journalists or lawyers. In case of Myanmar, all these groups have been freely formed since

transition and are allowed to have free movement and free assembly if their activities do not damage the internal security. Myanmar has given more space for the civil society under this government and the fruitful contribution of civil society can be seen in Myanmar's general election and peace making process.

The second condition for the consolidated democracy is the role of **political society**. It is to contest the legitimate right to exercise control over public power. A full democratic transition and democratic consolidation must involve political society. Myanmar already has the institutions of democratic political society- political parties, elections, electoral rules, political leadership and legislature. However, to be efficient and effective, these institutions still need to work hard.

To achieve a consolidated democracy, the necessary degree of autonomy and independence of civil and political society must further be embedded in and supported by the **rule of law**. Modern democracy needs the effective capacity to command, regulate and extract. For this, Myanmar needs a functioning state and a state bureaucracy considered usable by the new democratic government. As the rule of law is weak, Myanmar requires an independent judicial system and supported by a strong legal culture in civil society. Myanmar can also learn from the Indonesian model of reforms such as Ministry of Home Affairs, transferred from military to the civilian control.

SEE PAGE 9

Pyithit Test Well-1 of Offshore Block A6 finds gas

Myanmar energy officials celebrated the discovery of natural gas at the Pyithit Test Well-1 of Offshore Block A6 yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw at the Ministry of Electricity and Energy. The find will be exploited by MPRL E&P Pte. Ltd., TOTAL E&P Myanmar and Woodside Energy which are engaged in a production sharing contract with Myanmar Oil & Gas Enterprise. Drilling of the Pyithit test well started at 10 June, reaching a target depth 4570 meter (14993ft). According to wireline logging data during the drilling, a gas-bearing 35-meter-thick sand bedding was detected at a depth of 3542 meters. A production test was carried out and determined that 50 million cubic feet of gas can be produced per day. Another test well at Pyi Tharyar will be



Dignitaries are seen at the ceremony to announce discovery of gas. **PHOTO: MNA**

drilled in the western side of A(6) Block with deep water drilling ship Dhirubhai in August.

Under the joint venture partnership, MPRL E&P invested 20%, Woodside Energy Pte. Ltd. of Australia 40% and TOTAL E&P Myanmar 40%. Yesterday's ceremony

was attended by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win and department Heads and local and foreign media.—Myanmar News Agency

Investments of US\$1.7 billion flowed into Thilawa SEZ since establishment

THILAWA Special Economic Zone (SEZ) has generated a total of US\$1.7 billion in investments since its establishment in September 2015, according to a report of yesterday's edition of Myawady Daily.

Manufacturing sectors have absorbed investments worth \$770 million at the SEZ. Export/import sector attracted more than \$120 million in investments. Over \$70 million investments flowed

into transportation sector while service sector stimulated investments of \$50 million. More than \$30 million investments went to real estate and the hotel sector attracted \$12 million in investments. Of 2,400 hectares of land in Thilawa SEZ, development of 400 hectares have been developed. Zone B is being developed on 101 hectares of land and will be completed in mid-2018. A total of 84 companies invested at Thilawa

SEZ, 79 companies in Zone A and five companies in Zone B. Those companies are engaged in production of construction materials, auto parts, electrical appliances, farming materials.

Myanmar is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones—Thilawa, Kyaukpyu and Dawei. Of the three, Thilawa has the most advanced infrastructure and the strongest economic base.—Ko Htet ■



Seven outstanding students released from prisons

Seven students received the president pardon and released from the prisons of Insein and Mandalay on yesterday morning for their winning with flying colours at the matriculation examination.

The released students were Shun Lae Wai Kyaw, Hein Htet Aung (a) Lee Shin Htet, Hlaing Min Oo,

Htut Kaung Myo Win and Aung Chan Min of Mandalay Prison and Ye Htut Aung (a) Htut Htut and Thin Naing Phyo (a) Thet Phyo Naing (a) Naung Kwae of Insein Prison. The students were given amnesty according to the criminal code section 401, sub-section (1).—Myanmar News Agency ■



Insein Correctional Department. **PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)**

Global Overview and Myanmar Democratic Transition

FROM PAGE 8

With regard to state bureaucracy, modern democracy needs the effective capacity to command, regulate and extract. For this, it needs a functioning state and a state bureaucracy considered usable by the new democratic government. The final supportive for a consolidation of democracy concerns the economic society that mediates between state and market. Market requires corporation laws, the regulation of stock market, and protection of property both public and private. Democrat-

ic consolidation requires the institutionalization of a socially and politically regulated market. This requires an economic society, which in turn requires an effective state.

Besides these five areas, civil-military relations is an important area for the consolidation of democracy. There are several theories of civil-military relations. The general understanding of civil-military relations is the civilian control over military in five decision-making areas: elite recruitment, public policy, military organization, internal security and national

defense. Whatever the theories are, the best-suited paradigm for Myanmar in this current situation is the civil-military partnership (CMP), which means neither military control over civilian nor civilian control over military in security related sectors. The possible way to construct the CMP in Myanmar is both civilian and military can cooperate in the needs of non-traditional security areas such as economic security, environmental security, health security, maritime security, etc.

The Ministry of Information will host international fo-

rum on "Myanmar Democratic Transition" in Nay Pyi Taw this week. Several distinguished speakers and experts in this field from both local and international will participate and exchange their view on Myanmar democratic transition. The forum will be conducted with interesting sessions such as -political transition from military to civilian, economic transition from central command to market economy, the transition from war to peace and the role of media in transition etc. It is hopeful that the forum will contribute to Myanmar's dem-

ocratic transition and will find constructive ways for democratic consolidation.

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- Larry Diamond, Debates on Democratization, Baltimore, Johns Hopkins University Press, 2010
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Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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

WORLD
BRIEFS

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson answers questions during a news conference in Manila, Philippines on 7 August, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tillerson says US, Russia can settle problems, ease tension

MANILA — US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Monday he believes Washington and Russia can find a way to ease tension, saying it wouldn't be useful to cut ties over the single issue of suspected Russian meddling in the US election.

Tillerson said Russia had also expressed some willingness to resume talks about the crisis in Ukraine, where a 2015 ceasefire between Kiev's forces and Russian-backed separatists in the eastern part of the country is regularly violated.

"We should find places we can work together... In places we have differences we're going to

have to continue to find ways to address those," Tillerson told reporters. Tillerson met his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, on the sidelines of an international gathering in Manila on Sunday, where he also asked about Moscow's retaliation to new US sanctions against Russia.

The meeting was their first since President Donald Trump reluctantly signed into law the sanctions that Russia said amounted to a full-scale trade war and ended hopes for better ties. Lavrov on Sunday said he believed his US colleagues were ready to continue dialogue with Moscow on complex issues de-

spite tensions.

Tillerson said he discussed Russia's suspected meddling in the 2016 US presidential election with Lavrov to "help them understand how serious this incident had been and how seriously it damaged the relationship" between the two nations.

But Tillerson said that should not irreversibly damage ties.

"The fact that we want to work with them on areas that are of serious national security interest to us, and at the same time having this extraordinary issue of mistrust that divides us, that is just what we in the diplo-

matic part of our relationship are required to do," Tillerson said.

The United States sent its special representative on Ukraine, Kurt Volker, a former US envoy to NATO, to Ukraine last month to assess the situation in the former Soviet republic.

Washington cites the conflict as a key obstacle to improved relations between Russia and the United States.

"We appointed a special envoy to engage with Russia but also coordinating with all parties. This is full visibility to all parties. We are not trying to cut some kind of deal on the side," Tillerson said. —Reuters ■

North Korea ready to teach US 'severe lesson', says UN abused its authority

MANILA — North Korea is ready to give the United States a "severe lesson" with its strategic nuclear force if it takes military action against it, and will not put its nuclear programme or its missiles on the negotiating table, it said in a statement to a regional meeting on Monday.

In a transcript of a statement by Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho, which was distributed to media in Manila, Pyongyang called new UN sanctions "fabricated" and warned there would be "strong follow-up measures" and acts of justice. It said the resolution showed the United Nations had abused its authority. —Reuters ■

N Korea sanctions should be implemented "swiftly and robustly" — UK PM May's spokesman

LONDON — Countries should implement agreed sanctions on North Korea "swiftly and robustly", British Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said on Monday.

The UN Security Council unanimously imposed new sanctions on North Korea on Saturday aimed at pressuring Pyongyang to end its nuclear programme. The sanctions could slash North Korea's \$3 billion annual export revenue by a third. —Reuters ■

Australia, Japan, US call for South China Sea code to be legally binding

MANILA — Australia, Japan and the United States on Monday urged Southeast Asian nations and China to ensure that a South China Sea code of conduct they have committed to draft will be legally binding. The Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China should establish a set of rules that were "legally binding, meaningful, effective, and consistent with international law," the foreign ministers of the three countries said in a statement following a meeting in Manila. —Reuters ■

Greek GDP stats gaps prompt suspension of flash data

ATHENS — Greece's statistics service ELSTAT has suspended until further notice the release of flash quarterly estimates on the country's gross domestic product because of divergences with provisional estimates, an official at the statistics service said on Monday.

The move means that flash data will not be issued on 14 August. Nationwide quarterly GDP data will be released on 1 September, taking into account more information than the early

indicator of the flash estimate. That quarterly figure, known as provisional data, can also be subject to revisions over time. The quality of Greek statistical data is under constant scrutiny by Brussels since the country plunged into crisis in 2010, requiring to date three international bailouts to stave off bankruptcy.

Discrepancies in the way the budget deficit was calculated before 2010 — which angry euro zone partners say concealed the extent of the deficit — helped

trigger the financial crisis that engulfed Greece and the euro zone. A senior ELSTAT official told Reuters the suspension of the flash data was necessary because flash data was issued on the basis of incomplete information, which subsequently needed revisions when more data came in.

"We will probably not publish flash estimates for the next coming quarters after recent divergences," the ELSTAT official said. There have been consider-

able differences in the past two quarters between flash data, issued 45 days after the lapse of the reference period, and provisional data that follows and is released within a 60 day period.

On 2 June, ELSTAT upwardly revised its first-quarter GDP estimate to an expansion of 0.4 per cent quarter-on-quarter on a provisional basis; flash data released 15 days earlier had estimated the economy had contracted by 0.1 per cent. —Reuters ■

Kenyans stockpile food, police get first aid kits ahead of vote

KISUMU (Kenya) — Nervous Kenyans stockpiled food and water on Monday and police prepared first emergency aid kits as families headed to their ethnic heartlands on the eve of an election many fear could descend into violence.

Opposition leader Raila Odinga, 72, who lost elections in 2007 and 2013, has already said President Uhuru Kenyatta, 55, can only win if his ruling Jubilee party rigs the vote, a stance that increases the chances of a disputed result and unrest.

Opinion polls before Tuesday's presidential election put the pair neck-and-neck. Kenyans will also be voting for members of parliament and local representatives.

In 2007, Odinga's call for street protests after problems with the vote count triggered a widespread campaign of ethnic violence in which 1,200 people were killed and 600,000 displaced. The violence also hammered



An election clerk organises polling material a day ahead of the presidential election in Mombasa, Kenya on 7 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

East Africa's biggest economy as regional trade ground to a halt and tourists, the biggest source of foreign exchange, canceled holidays. Much of the killing a decade

ago was in Kisumu, a city of a million people, most of them from Odinga's Luo tribe, on the shores of Lake Victoria.

On Sunday, its open-air markets and shops were packed

with customers stocking up on last-minute essentials.

"We are fearful because before there was rigging and that led to violence," said orange seller Christine Okoth.

Wilson Njenga, a central government official overseeing the western region, said police had received disaster equipment including first aid and gloves but insisted it was all part of normal contingency planning.

"We don't want to be caught flatfooted," he told reporters.

On the campaign trail last week, Odinga told Reuters that Kenyatta could not win without cheating, a message that has fired up supporters in his backyard.

"If he doesn't win, we are going to the streets and we'll demonstrate," said 28-year-old Kisumu potato seller Ruth Achieng. Deputy President William Ruto, who was charged along with Kenyatta by the International Criminal Court (ICC) for organizing the 2007 violence, tweeted a prayer for peaceful and transparent polls.

The ICC cases against both him and Kenyatta collapsed. —Reuters ■

Saudi Arabia still sees no role for Assad in Syrian transition

DUBAI— Saudi Arabia, a main backer of Syrian rebels, said on Sunday it still supported an international agreement on the future of Syria and President Bashar al-Assad should have no role in any transition to bring the war there to an end.

The Saudi Foreign Ministry denied media reports that Saudi Arabia was considering a politi-

cal transition with a first phase in which Assad will stay in power.

Several media, including the state-owned Russia Today, said Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir had informed the Syrian opposition's High Negotiations Committee (HNC) about the decision.

A ministry statement, carried by the Saudi state news

agency SPA, called the reports attributed to al-Jubeir "inaccurate".

"The position of the kingdom on the Syrian crisis is firm, and it is based on the Geneva 1 communique and on UN Security Council resolution 2254 that stipulated the formation of a transitional body that will run the country," it said.

The agreement also called for drafting a new constitution and holding a new election with no role for Assad in the whole transitional process.

Saudi Arabia supports the HNC and its efforts to widen its membership and unify the Syrian opposition, the statement said.

The announcement came

ahead of the next round of United Nations-led Syria peace talks expected in September.

Assad's negotiators have not met directly with the opposition because there is no unified delegation as the HNC and two other groups, known as the Cairo and Moscow platforms, all claim to represent the opposition.

—Reuters ■

Dozens of migrants run across border in Spanish enclave

MADRID — Dozens of sub-Saharan migrants crossed into Spain from Morocco in the early hours of Monday after running through a border gate into the enclave of Ceuta, emergency services said.

Migrants frequently attempt to storm the borders of Spain's two enclaves in northern Africa, Ceuta and Melilla, often clambering up fences which are up to 6 metres tall and topped by razor wire.

On Monday a group of more than 100 migrants ran

through one gate in the fence usually used as a border control, surprising Moroccan and Spanish security forces, a Reuters witness said.

The Red Cross said it had assisted 186 people following the morning rush across the border, adding that four migrants were taken to hospital.

Once inside Spain's enclaves, migrants are usually taken to temporary shelters and later moved to the Spanish mainland, or returned to their country of origin. Many migrants try to

enter Spain as a means of reaching other parts of Europe.

Arrivals through Ceuta and Melilla, as well as the number of migrants attempting to cross into Spain by sea from North Africa has risen this year, although the route between Libya and Italy remains the most popular.

The Red Cross said last week it had attended 7,400 migrants crossing into mainland Spain and Ceuta and Melilla so far this year, up from 3,600 in the same period a year ago.—Reuters ■

Turkish troops hold exercises in Qatar

DOHA— Qatar held joint military exercises with Turkish troops on Monday, Qatari media reported, showcasing their strategic alliance two months into a boycott by Arab neighbours which accuse Doha of supporting terrorism.

The manoeuvres are aimed at preparing Qatar's armed forces to defend "vital economic, strategic and infrastructure facilities," state-owned newspaper Al-Sharq reported.

Turkey's parliament fast-tracked legislation on 7 June to allow hundreds of troops to be deployed to a military base in Qatar, set up as part of an agreement signed in 2014, in a show of

support for Qatar, which is also home to the biggest US air base in the region.

Ankara has said it will deploy 3,000 ground troops at the base to serve as a venue for joint training exercises and to support anti-terrorism efforts.

Turkey stood by Qatar after Saudi Arabia, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain called it a supporter of terrorism, which Doha denies, and cut off diplomatic ties and transport links. The countries want Qatar to close down the Turkish base, curb relations with Iran and close the Al Jazeera TV channel. —Reuters ■

British election failure shakes confidence in May's Brexit strategy — ORB poll

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May's botched gamble on a snap election has shaken public confidence in the government with nearly two thirds of voters now negative about her government's approach to Brexit talks, an ORB opinion poll indicated.

Britain has less than two years to negotiate the terms of the divorce and the outlines of the future relationship before it is due to leave in late March 2019.

May is reeling from a crisis of her own making — the loss of her parliamentary majority in a 8 June snap election which she had called to strengthen her hand. The EU's top negotiator has warned that formal talks could be delayed. An 2-3 Au-



British Prime Minister Theresa May. PHOTO: REUTERS

gust opinion poll for ORB International showed 61 per cent of British voters disapproved of the government's handling of the Brexit negotiations,

up from 56 per cent last month and 46 per cent in June. The data showed most voters approved of May's handling of Brexit negotiations this year until

the start of June when May lost of her majority.

"This months Brexit tracker suggests the damage from a poor election result is continuing to cast doubt over Brexit," Johnny Heald, managing director of ORB, said.

"Confidence that the prime minister will be able to negotiate the right deal remains brittle," he said.

When asked if whether they were confident May would get the right deal, 44 per cent of people said they were not confident. Just 35 per cent were confident May would get the right Brexit deal while 21 per cent said they did not know.

ORB asked 2,000 voters across the United Kingdom. The margin of error is around 2.2 per cent. —Reuters ■

Russia's new combat helicopter to undergo tests in Syria

MOSCOW — Russia's newest helicopter Mi-28UB (with dual controls) will be tested in Syria, the CEO of the Helicopters of Russia company, Andrei Boginsky, has said. "Currently the Mi-28N helicopter has a crew of two — the pilot and the operator. The task of the upgrade project is to turn into a combined combat and training aircraft, with the full set of controls in front of both seats. We would like these helicopters [Mi-28UB - TASS] to undergo tests here [in Syria]," Boginsky said in an interview on the Zvezda TV news channel recorded at the Hmeymim air base. Earlier, the Helicopters of Russia general designer, Nikolai Pavlenko, said eight new Mi-28UB

helicopters would be provided for the Aerospace Force later this year.

The chief of the Aerospace Force's army aviation combat training, Nikolai Pavlenko, said that the first Mi-28UB helicopters would be delivered to the 344th centre of combat training and retraining center in Torzhok.

Mi-28UB is a combined combat and training configuration of the attack helicopter Mi-28N Night Hunter. It began to be developed in 2010.

The double control function is one of its key features. Although the helicopter is meant for training pilots, it retains all combat capabilities and can attack enemy targets and vehicles.—Tass ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1713S)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO (1713S) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 BLPL SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV V TRE VOY. NO (-)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV V TRE VOY. NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIPL 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 WILHELMSSEN SHIPS
SERVICE(S) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/ M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
(S'PORE) PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AWPT where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

ASEAN, at 50, faces questions of relevance, centrality

MANILA — Fifty years ago, when five countries — Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand — set up the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, their main objective was to cope with communist threats expanding in Viet Nam.

At the same time, they were trying to fight insurgencies within their borders and prevent the internal conflicts from spiraling into broader, regional ones, as well as to maintain neutrality amid rivalries between super-power states.

Over the past half century, the grouping's membership has doubled to 10 to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam while trying to maintain regional peace and stability.

Amy Searight, director of the Southeast Asia Programme at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, said that many notable and even surprising successes have been achieved by the body, including preventing armed conflict despite "such high degree of diversity and political rivalry" among member states.

The regional bloc has also succeeded in developing and promoting norms of open regionalism to commerce and investment that have been critical to the region's economic success and has laid "the groundwork for an effective regional security architecture," she added.

Moreover, it successfully managed to launch collaborative efforts to tackle specific problems, such as piracy in the Malacca Straits and cross-border crimes and terrorism in the Sulu Sea, and to cultivate healthy relationships with all dialogue partners, observers note.

Challenges, however, are still ahead for the regional community to maintain its relevance in global affairs and its centrality in setting the agenda for the region.

"Some challenges have proved daunting and have called ASEAN's effectiveness and relevance into question," said Searight, former deputy assistant secretary of defence for South and Southeast Asia.

Pou Sothirak, executive director of the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace, shared a similar view, saying emerging, serious security issues in recent times have also constantly confronted its relevance.

"The first challenge in my mind is how is ASEAN able to keep its centrality afloat amid traditional and non-traditional security challenges, which are constantly testing the association's credibility," he said.

Thai Foreign Minister Don Pramudwinai acknowledged that one of the tough challenges ASEAN is facing is security in the digital realm. "ASEAN has to adjust the community to the dynamic world and be ready to deal with possible threats," Don said.

In dealing with security issues, which also include territorial disputes among member states and instability in the Korean Peninsula, according to Sothirak, ASEAN needs strong leadership to put the difficult issues on the agenda, particularly those that affect regional peace and stability.

The main problem, he said, is that ASEAN lacks effective leadership.

"Now, ASEAN is often perceived by many observers as a mini clearing house of routine tools and avoids sensitive subjects that might involve the internal affairs of member states," he said.

Avoidance of intervention in the domestic affairs of other member states is occurring, according to Sothirak, particularly in the case of "sensitive issues" related to sovereignty. He cited overlapping maritime claims in the South China Sea.

Don stressed, however, that maintaining neutrality and upholding the principle of consensus serve its unity and reliability in dealing with regional and global issues.

"We have to maintain the ASEAN way of consensus because it is our charm. We have to maintain a peaceful atmosphere and avoid escalating conflicts...to make a sea of peace," he said.

Searight and Sothirak disagreed, saying neutrality cannot be an option any longer in some cases.

"In the present era, political disputes are getting more difficult to resolve. ASEAN needs to invent itself as a provider of regional leadership and exhibit leadership skills to address complex problems," Sothirak said.

Focusing on neutrality and showing less centrality, according to Searight, may raise the "diplomatic comfort level" in the short term, but can seriously undermine ASEAN's influence in the long run and turn the body into a passive bystander of larger regional dynamics.

ASEAN needs to find a way forward to maintain centrality and forge greater unity and not always focus on neutrality, they said.

"This will take leadership and political courage and determination, and likely entail institutional reform," Searight said.

"Not an easy course of action, but ASEAN has shown in the past that it is up to tough challenges, including seizing the opportunity in a period of uncertainty in regional order, if it put its collective mind to it," she said.

North Korea, South Korea foreign ministers chat briefly in Manila

MANILA — The foreign ministers of North and South Korea held a rare but very brief meeting over the weekend on the sidelines of regional talks in Manila, a government source said on Monday, amid strained inter-Korean relations.

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, however, said on Sunday that Seoul's recent offer to resume dialogue between the two countries "lacks sincerity," according to the South Korean government source. Ri made that comment following South Korean counterpart Kang Kyung-wha's request for North Korea to respond to the offer, the source said.

Last month, South Korea's government proposed that the two countries hold dialogue on ways to defuse tensions along their heavily militarized border and restart reunions of families separated by the 1950-53 Korean War.

Those overtures marked the first formal olive branch extended by South Korea since President Moon Jae-in took office in May. They were made after North Korea carried out its first test-firing of an intercontinental ballistic missile on 4 July. — Kyodo News ■

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY NATIONAL ELECTRIFICATION PROJECT Invitation for Bids

Date: 8th August, 2017
SPECIFIC PROCUREMENT NOTICE
IDA Credit No. : 5727-MM

Contract Title: Insulators and Related Fittings for National Electrification Project
Reference No. : C1-G5

1. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the National Electrification Project, and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for Insulators and Related Fittings for National Electrification Project.

2. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for supply of Insulators and Related Fittings to be delivered in 2018 to multiple destinations in all Regions and States of Myanmar. Domestic preference with the margin of 15% will apply. The goods have been grouped into 4 lots and bidders may submit bid for any one or more lots.

3. For quick reference, some of the key qualification requirements include :
▪ The minimum average annual turnover (or annual sales volume) of the last three years shall be as follows:

Lot no. and description	Amount in USD (million)
Lot 1 - Insulator and Related Fitting package for Bago (W), Kachin, Chin, Sagaing .	3.0
Lot 2 - Insulator and Related Fitting package for for Rakhine, Magway, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago (E)	3.0
Lot 3 - Insulator and Related Fitting package for Ayeyarwaddy, Mandalay	2.0
Lot 4 - Insulator and Related Fitting package for Shan (N) , Kayah, Shan(S), Shan(E), Kayin, Mon, Yangon.	1.6

▪ The bidder should have past experience of having satisfactorily completed during the last 5 years at least **two contracts** for supply of similar goods, with the value of each such contract should be greater than the minimum amount shown in the table below.

Lot no. and description	Amount in USD (million)
Lot 1 - Insulator and Related Fitting package for Bago (W), Kachin, Chin, Sagaing .	2.6
Lot 2 - Insulator and Related Fitting package for for Rakhine, Magway, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago(E)	2.3
Lot 3 - Insulator and Related Fitting package for Ayeyarwaddy, Mandalay	1.7
Lot 4 - Insulator and Related Fitting package for Shan (N) , Kayah, Shan(S), Shan(E), Kayin, Mon, Yangon.	1.3

Other requirements are stated in Section III of the bidding documents.

4. Bidding will be conducted through the International Competitive Bidding procedures as specified in the World Bank's [Guidelines: Procurement of Goods, Works and Non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers](#) [edition of January 2011 revised in July 2014] ("Procurement Guidelines"), and is open to all eligible bidders as defined in the Procurement Guidelines. In addition, please refer to the paragraphs 1.6 and 1.7 setting for the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest.

5. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from Project Manager, Project Management Office, Office No.(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, nep.pmo.moep@gmail.com and inspect the bidding documents during office hours 10:00 to 16:00 hours Myanmar time at the address given below.

6. A complete set of bidding documents in English may be obtained free of charge by interested eligible bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below. The bidding documents will be issued through email only.

In case of any difficulty in obtaining the bidding documents, interested parties may contact in writing:
Director General, Department of Electric Power Planning
Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Office No.(27)
City: Nay Pyi Taw
Country: The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Email: nep.pmoep@gmail.com

7. Bids must be delivered to the address below on or before **September 22, 2017**, 10:00 hours (10:00 am) Myanmar time. Electronic bidding will not be permitted. Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be publicly opened in the presence of the bidders' designated representatives at the address below on **September 22, 2017**, 10:00 hours (10:00 am) Myanmar time.

8. All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security as stated in ITB 19.1.

9. The address referred to above is :
Attention : Director General Office, Department of Electric Power Planning
Office No(27), Ministry of Electricity and Energy, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Telephone : +95 67 410203
Facsimile : +95 67 410077
E-mail : nep.pmoep@gmail.com
Web site : <http://www.moep.gov.mm>

Taylor Swift in federal court over groping allegation

DENVER — Taylor Swift might turn up in a federal court in Denver on Monday as lawyers for the pop star and a Colorado radio personality start jury selection for dueling lawsuits over whether the former disc jockey groped her four years ago during a photo shoot.

Swift, 27, is expected to take the witness stand during the trial in US District Court to testify about the incident, which resulted in broadcaster David Mueller's firing from Colorado music station KYGO-FM.

The bitter litigation centres on Swift's allegations that Mueller slipped his hand under her dress and grabbed her bare bottom as they posed together during a meet-and-greet session before her 2 June, 2013, concert in Denver.

"It was not an accident, it was completely intentional, and I have never been so sure of anything in my life," Swift said in describing the incident during a deposition.

Mueller, 55, sued first, claiming the singer-songwriter had falsely accused him of the groping and pressured station management to oust him from his \$150,000-per-year job at the station, according to the lawsuit.

Swift countersued for assault and battery, and that became part of the same trial.

Mueller denies that anything inappropriate occurred



Taylor Swift has some pretty useful strategies that contributed to her being included on Time magazine's list of the most influential people in the world. PHOTO: REUTERS

during the brief backstage encounter in which he stood on one side of the pop star and his girlfriend on the other.

"The contention that Mr Mueller lifted up Ms Swift's skirt and grabbed her bottom, while standing with his girlfriend, in front of Ms Swift's photographer and (her) highly trained security personnel ... is nonsense," the lawsuit said.

Mueller is suing under tort claims of interference with contractual obligations and prospective business relations. Jurors will determine what monetary damages, if any, he is entitled to if Swift is found liable.

In court filings, Swift said while her manager informed

KYGO management about the incident, she did not demand that Mueller be fired.

The radio station conducted its own investigation, and two days after the incident fired Mueller for violating the morality clause of his contract, court documents show.

The judge has placed a gag order on all parties, and attorneys for both sides did not respond to messages seeking comment.

Swift, one of the most successful contemporary music artists, earned \$170 million between June 2015 and June 2016 following a world tour and her best-selling "1989" album, according to Forbes Magazine.—Reuters ■

Actors Chris Pratt, Anna Faris announce they are separating

LOS ANGELES — Actors Chris Pratt and Anna Faris are splitting up after eight years of marriage, they said on Sunday.

"Anna and I are sad to announce we are legally separating. We tried hard for a long time, and we're really disappointed," Pratt, 38, said in a statement posted on his official Facebook page. Faris, 40, posted a statement along the same lines on her social media pages.

Pratt, known for starring roles in blockbusters "Guardians of the Galaxy," "The Lego Movie" and "Jurassic World,"



Chris Pratt with his wife Anna Faris. PHOTO: REUTERS

and Faris, star of the "Scary Movie" franchise and the TV sitcom "Mom," have a four-year-old child.

"Our son has two parents who love him very much and for his sake we want to keep this situation as private as possible moving forward," the couple said. "We still have love for

each other, will always cherish our time together and continue to have the deepest respect for one another."

The couple married in 2009, two years after co-starring in the film "Take Me Home Tonight." It was Pratt's first marriage and Faris' second.—Reuters ■

"Wolf Warrior 2" continues to lead Chinese box office

BEIJING — "Wolf Warrior 2," a domestic action film, topped the Chinese box office in a landslide victory, grossing 2.2 billion yuan (about 321 million US dollars) in the week ending 6 August.

"Wolf Warrior 2" tells the story of a former Chinese Special Forces operative's adventures rescuing compatriots and local friends in a war-torn region of Africa occupied by insurgents and mercenaries.

The domestic romance "Once upon a Time" took second

place, making 425 million yuan in the week.

"The Founding of an Army," a domestic war film depicting the Chinese revolutionary war, landed in third place for the week, earning 129 million yuan.

Universal's animated film "Despicable Me 3" came in fourth, generating 27 million yuan.

Rounding out the top five was domestic animation "Dear Tutu," which grossed 13 million yuan.—Xinhua ■

'Dark Tower' leads slow weekend with \$19.5 million, 'Detroit' stumbles

LOS ANGELES — As the dog days of summer drag on, a trio of wide releases are kicking off the August box office with a whimper.

The weekend's leader is "The Dark Tower." Sony and MRC's long-time-coming Stephen King adaptation starring Idris Elba and Matthew McConaughey is landing on a modest \$19.5 million from 3,451 locations. Made for about \$66 million counting reshoots, the story centres on a boy (played by Tom Taylor) who discovers another dimension where he aligns himself with a Gunslinger (Elba) on a mission to save the world from various enemies, including the Man in Black (McConaughey). Critics mostly panned the movie, leading to its current 18 per cent on Rotten Tomatoes.

Meanwhile, Annapurna's "Detroit" is not faring as well as expected. Kathryn Bigelow and Mark Boal's latest collaboration should end up with \$7.3 million from 3,007 locations this weekend. Combined with a week of limited release grosses, its total should stand at \$7.8 million. An awards-season push could end up helping its bottom line. So far, critics are on board, earning the tale of the Motor City's 1967 riots a 96 per cent on Rotten Tomatoes. The movie is toplined by "Star Wars" breakout John Boyega, as well as Will Poulter, and Algee Smith.

That leaves "Kidnap" — from David Dinerstein's recently-launched Aviron, and Lotus — which is racing to \$10.2 million from 2,378 locations. The movie stars Halle Berry as a mother attempting to rescue her son after



Actor Matthew McConaughey.

PHOTO: REUTERS

he is taken. Aviron acquired the film from a bankrupt Relativity, but the distributor declined to release the thriller's acquisition cost, making it difficult to judge its performance.

"Dunkirk," the box office winner the past two weekends, is sliding comfortably into second with \$17.6 million from 4,014 locations. Christopher Nolan's World War II movie crossed the \$300 million mark on Saturday, and by the end of the weekend should tally a \$133.6 million domestic total. This weekend it looks to make about \$4 million from Imax screens alone, which will count for \$29.8 million of the movie's domestic grosses. Warner Bros. also continues to see profits from "Wonder Woman," which will land right up against the \$400 million domestic milestone by the end of this weekend. In limited release, TWC's "Wind River" should make \$164,167 from four locations. The film stars Jeremy Renner and Elizabeth Olsen, and marks Taylor Sheridan's directorial debut. Sheridan conceived the movie as part of a loose trilogy that also includes two recent releases that he wrote, but did not direct, "Sicario" and "Hell or High Water."—Reuters ■



Photo taken on 4 Augst, 2017 shows a small replica of the Athens National Observatory inside the building on the Hill of the Nymphs in the centre of Athens, Greece. Celebrated Argentinean artist Adrian Villar Rojas has transformed this summer the outdoor space of the Athens National Observatory opposite to the Athens Acropolis into a "jungle", posing to locals and foreign tourists questions regarding disappearance, extinction, the passage and volatility of time. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Argentinean artist turns hill opposite Athens Acropolis into "jungle"

ATHENS — Celebrated Argentinean artist Adrian Villar Rojas has transformed this summer the outdoor space of the Athens National Observatory opposite to the Athens Acropolis into a "jungle", posing to locals and foreign tourists questions regarding disappearance, extinction, the passage and volatility of time.

Rojas' impressive installation on the Hill of the Nymphs entitled "The Theater of Disappearance" is the first project ever he was allowed to set up in an archaeological site worldwide, organizers of the Greek NEON nonprofit organization which commissioned the work told Xinhua.

It is also the first time Greek authorities have given the green light for such a major project in an archaeological site.

The Athens National Observatory with a remarkable view of the Parthenon is a landmark in the historic centre of the Greek capital. It is the first research institution established in Greece in 1842.

The Athens National Observatory is part of the city's history and more often in recent years tries

through various events to highlight the link between science and Art, according to its Director Manolis Pleionis.

"Opening up to a different kind of Art and hosting the Theater of Disappearance was a challenge. Adrian Villar Rojas revealed with his work more potential of the historic site of the Hill of the Nymphs," Professor Pleionis noted.

Villar Rojas is well known for large-scale sculptural installations that radically disturb the sites he engages with. He creates unpredictable settings for the visitor to explore.

On the Hill of the Nymphs he worked for months to sow 46,000 plants from 26 species, including bamboo, artichokes, watermelons, pumpkins, artichokes and asparagus across an area of 4,500 square metres.

The vegetation gradually took over the hill, swallowing statues, and will to grow until the exhibition's end on 24 September.

Since 1 June visitors — free of entrance — can walk through narrow paths to admire this "jungle" and discover the sculptural installations Rojas has hidden in vitrines among the

plants as well as a barren zone which points to a war-torn site.

Among others the visitors can see a replica of the Victory of Samothrace, the statue of a winged female figure, which lies horizontally instead of upright or a replica of NASA's unmanned space rover that arrived on Mars in 2012 to assess whether the planet has ever supported life.

"What does it mean to have the soil beneath our feet?" Villar Rojas asks visitors through this intervention which also expands into the indoor spaces of the Observatory.

"I come from Argentina, where essentially soil is a means of production... The strongest features of our national identity are our crops and cattle," the artist told the organizers.

"When I arrived in Greece, I immediately understood that for Greeks what is below their feet was as constitutive of their national identity as it is for Argentineans, but in a completely different way. What was beneath their feet was culture: thousands of years of human civilizations," he said according to an NEON press release.

"The transformation

of the Athens National Observatory by Villar Rojas shows his vision and commitment to overturn status quo. It also shows NEON's determination to bring contemporary culture closer to the public with innovative and bold ideas," NEON's founder, collector and entrepreneur Dimitris Daskalopoulos said.

Founded in 2013 NEON aims to show that Art is a key tool for growth for a country which faces difficult times in recent years during the debt crisis.

The project on the Hill of the Nymphs is part of the organization's campaign to establish a link between contemporary culture and the historical and archaeological heritage of Athens.

The installation is also an umbrella title and part of four separate exhibitions taking place in 2017 across Europe and the US. In addition to Athens, Villar Rojas currently presents his work at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York (14 April to 29 October), Kunsthau Bregenz in Austria (13 May to 27 August) and the Geffen Contemporary at MOCA in Los Angeles (22 October to 26 February, 2018).—Xinhua ■

The two sides of China's "coin bucket" challenge

CHANGCHUN — What would you do if a bucket of coins were placed right in front of you? In China, the "coin bucket challenge" has caused quite a stir.

Such coin buckets full of one yuan coins (1 yuan equals 15 US cents) have popped up in front of subway stations, and on overpasses and walking streets in many cities in China. A billboard is placed beside the bucket, which reads: Help yourself if in need, but take no more than 5 yuan.

According to the National Business Daily, a coin bucket was recently placed in a subway station near one of the busiest streets in Chengdu, capital of southwest China's Sichuan Province. A hidden camera captured what happened.

Some people took pictures of the scene and uploaded them online, some hesitated before taking the coins, and others used the opportunity to educate their child. The internet is sharply divided on the challenge.

"I saw the 'test' at the subway station and nobody took any coins," read a comment on microblog Sina Weibo. "Maybe that is because people's lives are changing for the better."

"I think it's great," said another Weibo user. "When you have no change for the bus, you can change your big notes into coins."

But many people remain suspicious, calling the challenge "meaningless" because it is not "scientific."—Xinhua ■

mitv Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(8-8-2017 07:00am ~ 9-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Geographic Center of Myanmar
07:47	Am	Safari World
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Natural Mineral Water
08:41	Am	Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Let's perform a buffalo dance
09:39	Am	Wet Markets in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market
09:48	Am	Today Myanmar: Foods and Risks of Chemical Dye
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Reflected Glory
10:37	Am	Myanmar Masterclass "Artist Chan Aye"

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)
08:03	Pm	News
08:25	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Fried Flat Noodle)
08:50	Pm	Now In Yangon
08:55	Pm	Now In Yangon
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		

(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Myanmar selects 29th SEA Games women's football team

The Myanmar Football Federation has chosen 20 female football players to compete in the 29th SEA Games women football tournament.

Goal Keeper Myo Ma Ma Nyein, Nge Nge Htwe and Thander Moe were the last cuts following a friendly match against the Myanmar Women Sports and Physical Education team in Yangon on 5 August.

Team manager Daw Myat Myat Oo, Head Coach Roger Reijners, Assistant Coaches U Aung Naing and Daw Thet Thet Win and Goalie Coach U Ko Ko Aung will lead the 20-player team, which will include stand-out players Khin Moe Wai, San San Maw, Khin Mar Lar Tun and Naw Arr Lhu Arr Phaw.

At the SEA Games, Myanmar



A player of Myanmar women's team undertraining. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

mar women's team will play in a round robin system against Vietnam, Thailand, the Philippines and Malaysia, which is hosting the tournament.

Myanmar plays Thailand on 15 August, Malaysia on 17 August, Vietnam on 20 August and the Philippines on 22 August.— Shine Htet Zaw ■

Myanmar got 7th grade in World Vovinum Championship 2017

The fifth World Vovinum Championship was held in New deli, India from 1 to 5 August and Myanmar has possessed 2 gold medals, one silver medal and 9 bronze medals in addition to reaching 7th grade.

All Myanmar Vovinum athletes arrived back home yesterday and officials from department of Sports and Physical Education, Myanmar Vovinum Federation and other respective officials welcomed them at the Yangon International Airport.

In the competitions of Female Dual Knife Form, Ma Khaing Wah Phuu won one gold medal, in Male Multiple Myo Htun Ane, Cho Manar, Chan Myae Aung and Ye Wint Htoo won one gold medal, in Female Dragon Tiger Form Khaing Wah Phoo won one silver medal.

In Male and Female Dual Self Defense Min Khant Zarni Lwin and Chit No Dee Saung

won one bronze medal, in Male Fighting Myo Htun Ann won one bronze medal, in Female Fighting Ma Ale Shi Lar Min Naing won one bronze medal

In Male Dragon Tiger Form and in Male 64Kg class Fighting Min Khat Zarni Lwin won one bronze medal each, in Ying Yan Sword Myo Htun Anne won one bronze medal.

In Female Dual Plar Sword Form Ma Khaing Wah Phuu and Ma Ale Shi Lar Min Naing won one bronze medal, in Female Fighting Ma Khaing Wah Phuu won one bronze medal and in Dual Male Fighting Myo Htun Anne and Cho Manar won one bronze medal.

Athletes from 18 countries around the world competed in the competition.

The competition is the very first time for Myanmar along with acquiring 7th grade in the competition.— Sports and Physical Education (Ygn) ■

Keys wins all-American final to claim Stanford title

STANFORD, CA USA— Madison Keys outdueled fellow American Vandeweghe 7-6(4), 6-4 on Sunday to win the Stanford Classic and capture her first title of the year.

In an evenly matched contest between two friendly opponents, third seed Keys was impregnable on serve but claimed the only break in the second set before closing out a confidence-boosting win ahead of the US Open.

Keys missed the opening two months of the season after undergoing surgery on her left wrist but has worked her way back into solid form, knocking out Wimbledon champion Garbine Muguruza in the semi-final.

"It hasn't been the easiest

season, but it finally feels like I'm on the right track and feeling good about my tennis again," Keys told reporters.

"It feels amazing to have a title at home and on hard courts. I'm really, really happy that this is kind of the start of my US Open Series." Vandeweghe, who reached the semi-finals of the Australian Open and the quarter-finals at Wimbledon this season, was also looking for her first title of 2017. She blasted six aces but faltered in the opening set tie-break to allow Keys to take control. "I think it was a high quality match from both players. It was fun to play a friend, to have an all-American final — it was enjoyable," Vandeweghe said.—Reuters ■



Madison Keys. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar hockey fixtures for 27th SEA Games

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar hockey team prepared their best for the 2017 SEA Games that will host in Malaysia and the team has been under training in Myanmar since last year. Myanmar will play against Thailand on 23 August with Singapore on 25 August, with Indonesia on 25 August and host Malaysia on 27 August respectively.

The two teams getting highest point will fight for the first place and the third and fourth teams will play for the third place in the competition. As Malaysia' hockey team is one of the world class teams and Myanmar will be likely to struggle for the gold medal.

A field hockey match consists of four quarters, usually 15 minutes each and begins with a pass back. Goals are scored when a player hits the ball in between the goal posts and over the line from within the 16-yard area during a match. ■