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# STEP CLOSER TO PEACE

## NDA (Mongla) holds talks with Peace Commission, backs “all-inclusive” peace policy

Ko Moe

REPRESENTATIVES of the National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA (Mongla) backed the government’s “all-inclusive” peace policy and pledged again not to secede from the union, upholding it as a political principle.

The organization based in Special Region-4 in Shan State held talks Union Peace Commission yesterday in Yangon over the upcoming Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong.

“Besides, they also proposed a resource sharing issue and expressed their views that the country’s resources should be equitably shared among all ethnic peoples for the development all regions and the taxation be managed systematically,” said U Khin Zaw Oo.

The two sides also discussed land issues, environmental conservation, human rights and freedom of belief.

The peace commission also invited the NDAA (Mongla) leaders to participate in the political framework review meeting which is scheduled to be held in the first week of August.



National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA (Mongla) and Myanmar Peace Commission hold talks in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

## MoHT cracks down on unlicensed outbound tour operators

LEGAL action will start to be taken this August against unlicensed domestic tourism operators which offer tours to foreign countries, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

A sum of 69 unlicensed tour operators within Myanmar, which offer such overseas excursions, have reportedly been reminded to

apply for an official license.

“We’ve told those unlicensed tour operators to apply for licenses. They were given until the end of June to complete their license applications, but this was then extended for the month of July after they requested more time. We’re now beginning to take legal action against those

unlicensed enterprises; their time is up,” said U Myint Htway, an official from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Legal charges will reportedly be pressed in accordance with the existing hotel and tourism laws, which could see unlicensed outbound tour operators being fined and/or having their enterprises

forcibly shutdown.

According to the records of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Myanmar boasts a total of 255 licensed tour operators which offer travel itineraries to foreign destinations.

Ministry of Hotels and Tourism announced early last month that it would permit travel license

to both inbound and outbound tours businesses this year, following request by the Myanmar Tourism Association.

Currently, tours companies have to apply for two licenses for inbound and outbound tours to the Ministry to be able to run local and foreign tours.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



# Bill to repeal Emergency Provisions Act submitted to Pyithu Hluttaw

BILL Committee put forward a bill to revoke the 1950 Emergency Provisions Act to Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

U Ba Shein, member of the Bill Committee, submitted the motion and U Tun Tun Hein, chairman of the Bill Committee, read out the committee's report on the bill on the fifth day of the second regular session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw.

Next, a motion calling for preparedness measures to reduce public concern on dykes of Ayeyawady river and Ngawun river

in Ayeyawady Region and further measures to be undertaken in the open season to ensure durability of the dykes was put forward to the parliament.

Then, a question and answer session followed, with Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win responding to questions by lawmakers.

Regarding the return of farmlands in reserved forests and protected areas in Banmauk Township, the Union minister stated that 3,175.57 acres includ-

ed in the township's forest area will be deleted from the list of forest areas of the township.

But, 406.68 acres will be designated for establishment of community forest plantations and 181-16 acres will be leased for a long period of time, added the Union minister.

Likewise, the Union minister replied to a question on a 30-acre coal mine of Ngwe Yi Pale mining company in Hsipaw Township, saying that the company has vowed to meet the demands of local people in accord with the



U Tun Tun Hein, chairman of the Bill Committee. PHOTO: MNA

U Ba Shein, member of the Bill Committee. PHOTO: MNA

periods set to be fulfilled and it is conducting EIA, HIA, SIA and EMP on the coal mine.

According to Union minister, the company's responsible persons held a public consul-

tation meeting on coal mining at a monastery in Namma village-tract in the township on 25 June, attended by village heads and townselders.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Amyotha Hluttaw discusses excise tax collection, fight against narcotic drugs

WORKS are underway to increase excise taxes and to form task forces at township level in order to take actions against illegal activities, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe told Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

Sales of alcoholic beverages have been under constant supervisions to ensure safety of the products do not contain chemicals, said the deputy minister, adding that the Law Amending the Myanmar Excise Act was

enacted on 22 December, 2015.

As increased rates of excise tax have been levied in respective regions and states since the start of this fiscal year, there will not be a further increase in the excise taxes at the moment, added the deputy minister, pledging an education campaign to raise public awareness about the problems associated with alcohol consumption in cooperation with departments concerned of the Ministry of Health and Sports.

During the yesterday's

Amyotha Hluttaw session, lawmakers made their suggestions on a proposal calling for punitive actions against drug abuse and illicit trafficking and more anti-drug campaigns and establishment of drug rehabilitation centers in Shan State (North).

U Maung Maung Latt of Sagaing Region Constituency No (9) stressed the need to wipe out narcotic drugs use in the country through collaborative efforts of all stakeholders including those in the entertain-

ment and the media and CSOs.

In her discussion, Daw Myat Thida Tun of Mon State Constituency No (5) pointed out that ownerless seizure of drugs and arrests of drug users rather than dealers and traffickers have raised public suspicions over law enforcement officials and the rule of law is thereby questioned.

She emphasized the need to launch nationwide anti-drug measures and called for adequate funds for the success of narcotic prevention projects.

Likewise, Daw Nann Ni Ni Aye of Kayin State Constituency No (6) called for the launch

of anti-drug education program in the targeted areas to warn the people of drug risks and establishment of rehab centers in regions and states.

The lawmaker suggested that the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control should be led by a Vice-President to ensure successful fight against drug abuse and trafficking.

In her discussion, Daw Htu May of Rakhine State Constituency No (11) stressed the need to launch the government's war on drugs that includes arrests and seizures and education campaigns targeting school youth.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Action will be taken against smuggling of star tortoise



Baby star tortoises (*Geochelone platynota*) are seen before released to conservation area. PHOTO: KHIN MYO MYO

“ACTION will be taken against smuggling of star tortoises, which are endangered specie. A prison term of seven years and Ks 50,000 fine will be imposed upon the smugglers because the eco system upon which human beings depend is maintained by star tortoises, said Dr Kalyar, the resident representative of Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA).

The Myanmar star tortoise (*Geochelone platynota*) is a Critically Endangered species endemic to the dry zone of central Myanmar. Star tortoises have long been harvested for food by local people,

but high demand, first from food and traditional medicine markets in southern China, and later by pet markets in China, Japan, and Thailand led to precipitous population declines during the late 1990s, and the species is now thought to be “ecologically” extinct. Recognizing that future conservation efforts hinged on developing successful captive breeding programs to supply tortoises for eventual reintroduction. Colonies of Myanmar star tortoises were established at several facilities in Myanmar (Shwe Settaw, Minzontaung, and Lawkananda Wildlife

Sanctuaries, and Yadanabon Zoological Gardens in Mandalay). To date, these programs have enjoyed considerable success and large numbers of hatchlings are being produced each year. Consequently, the species is now at little risk of biological extinction. Considerable interest has been expressed in reintroducing tortoises into suitably protected sites, and a recent survey identified two wildlife sanctuaries (Shwe Settaw and Minzontaung wildlife sanctuaries) where such projects were deemed feasible.

The star tortoises are being raised under a new breeding system under research in four sanctuaries. They are adults at their sixties, and 50 tortoises are being bred every year. This kind of Myanmar star tortoises are being preserved because they excrete faeces the seeds from which grow as plants which keep the environment healthy, it is learnt. A total of 407 star tortoises are being provided with healthcare in Shwesettaw wildlife sanctuary, it is noted. There are 26 species of tortoises and among which star tortoises and other eight species of tortoises are in the danger of near extinction. —200

## UEC to cooperate with CSOs to ensure accurate voter lists for future elections

THE Union Election Commission (UEC) will seek help from Civil Service Organizations and local election observers to ensure an accurate voter lists for future elections, UEC Chairman U Hla Thein told a workshop on rights and responsibilities of local election observers held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, election observation is a tool for improving the quality of elections as observers help build public confidence in the transparency of the elections and promote acceptance of results.

Acknowledging final reports of local and international election observation missions, the UEC chairman highlighted the importance of their recommendations for next elections.

According to the UEC chairman, the workshop is aimed at establishing a legal framework on local election observers and seeking ways and means for better future polls through cooperation with observation teams.

Next, presentations by the IDEA senior programme manager and the resident representative of Democracy Reporting International and discussions on a code of conduct and accreditation process for election observers followed.

Then, the UEC chairman held talks with those present on a wide range of matters including election legal framework revision process.

According to the UEC, more election observers will be invited to observe upcoming by-election and 2020 general elections.

Altogether 11,445 local observers and 1,153 international observers were allowed to observe the previous general elections last year.

The Union Election Commission, the national level electoral commission, is responsible for organising and overseeing elections in the country, as well as vetting parliamentary candidates and political parties. —*Myanmar News Agency*



## Charges for trespassing on confiscated farmlands dropped in Nay Pyi Taw

NAY PYI TAW Development Committee dropped all charges for trespassing on confiscated farmlands in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, according to an official from the committee.

Of sixty-one cases, 60 filed in the time of the previous government were closed, said the official who did not mention his name, adding that the remaining one is also expected to be closed following coordination.

According to the official, charges that have been dropped include 32 cases in Dekhinathiri Township, 18 in Zabuthiri Township, two in Ottarathiri Township and eight in Pobbathiri Township.

The remaining case is about squatting on an authorized land in Thukhadipa ward between Kwingyi creek and a township hospital. The squatter has been charged under Section 27 for continuing to live there after paying a fine of K50,000 under Section 26.

Those affected by land confiscation in the time of Nay Pyi Taw project will be given compensations or lands in other places, said the official.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

## 22<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions to take place in Nay Pyi Taw in October



Vice President U Henry Van Thio addresses the meeting of 22nd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions. PHOTO: MNA

A WORK coordination meeting of the leading committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions was held at the Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with an address by Vice President U Henry Van Thio, patron of the committee.

In his address, the Vice

President stressed the need for perseverance of traditional cultural arts till posterity, saying that Myanmar value represents its traditions and customs, cultural arts and heritages.

He called for collaborative efforts to hold the upcoming Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions with the full essence as cultural arts indi-

cate a certain country's cultural status.

Next, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, chairman of the leading committee, Permanent Secretary Dr Daw Nandar Hmum, vice-chairperson of the committee, Director-General U Tun Ohn, secretary of the committee, elaborated on preparations for successful holding of

the competitions.

Then, those present including the Union ministers and regional ministers reported on matters related to works to be done and requirements.

The 22nd Myanmar Traditional Performing Arts Competitions is scheduled to be held in Nay Pyi Taw Yezin this October.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Volunteers and firemen inspect U Bein Bridge. PHOTO: THAN HTAY

## U Bein Bridge closed as flood water touches its floor

**Aung Thant Khaing**

PEOPLE are banned from passing through U Bein Bridge as flood water reached the floor of the bridge at about 2.30 pm yesterday following the water level of Taung-taman Lake continued to rise, said sources in Mandalay.

"The river level has risen by about two feet above its danger level in Mandalay and officials are

taking necessary measures as flood waters reach the floor of U Bein Bridge following the rise of water level in the lake," said Amara social organization.

According to sources, flood waters spilled from the lake causing flooding at Nanthavillage, a nearby village and sluice gate was opened yesterday morning to allow a certain amount of water to flow out of the lake. Assistant Director

U Than Zaw of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (Mandalay) said that river level will remain its danger level although it is likely to recede next day.

According to figures regarding the rise of water in the lake, U Bein Bridge was swamped by flood water in 2004 and the water level of Ayeyawady River in Mandalay exceeded by about four feet above its danger level.

## Laotian President and wife to pay a State visit to Myanmar

AT the invitation of President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, His Excellency Mr. Bounnhang Vorachit, President of the Lao People's Democratic

Republic, and wife Mrs. Khammeung Vorachit will pay a State visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## MoHT cracks down on unlicensed . . .

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The ministry launched the online system for issuing four kinds of licenses concerning travel business in the first week of July including licenses for hotels and guests houses, travelling, tour guide, transportation related to tourism. Currently, 211 companies have been permitted for outbound tour operation so far while

1,980 companies are officially operating inbound tour business in the country, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. Under the law, anyone who carries out the travel services without permission from the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism shall face up to K50,000 fine or three-year jail term or both.—*GNLM with Myitmakha News Agency*

## Commercial tax collection kicks off from MPs

COLLECTION of five per cent commercial tax from Hluttaw representatives who stay at Nay Pyi Taw Sibin Guest House began yesterday, according to Nay Pyi Taw Council.

There are 430 Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw representatives staying at the Nay Pyi Taw Sibin Guest House.

Dr Myat Nyana Soe, secretary of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, welcomed the collection of commercial tax imposed on Hluttaw representatives

at the guest house, saying that lawmakers cannot be exempted from the commercial tax and the tax levied goes to the country's health, education and social sectors. As commercial tax is imposed on Hluttaw representatives, they have to pay K5,250 per night for their rooms including tax. According to calculation, Internal Revenue Department will receive K3,225,000 in commercial tax per month from 430 Hluttaw representatives.—*Thein Ko Lwin*



## New Generation Art works by Students of NUCA, Mandalay exhibited in Mandalay



Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and officials observing the Art Works. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

THE New Generation Art works Exhibition created by the students of the National University of Culture and Art, Mandalay (NUCA, Mandalay) of Fine Arts Department under the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture was opened at the Mandalay Hill Art Gallery (Bottom) in Aungmyeathazan Township on 30

Saturday July.

The Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko attended the ceremony while Rector Daw Khin Kyi Pyar, the Pro Rector U Tin Yu and U Min Lwin, the Professor and Head of Department of Painting cut the ribbons to open the exhibition formally.

Then the Minister, the Rector, guests and students enjoyed the Art works.

The two-day event, which comprised 30 works—lead, water colour, oil, and Acrylic paintings—created by 70 students of the National University of Culture and Art (Mandalay). The events ran between 30 and 31 July.—*Thiha Ko Ko*

## Ten million tourists enter CLMV destination in first five months

THE ENTRANCE of tourists into CLMV destination over the past first five months this year has reached over 10 million, according to official figures announced at the Four Countries-One Destination Conference.

Hosted by Myanmar government, the three-day

conference took place in Yangon commencing from the last day of July with the aim of further strengthening economic relations among the four countries of Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Viet Nam.

The four countries will expand their cooperation in developing banking indus-

try as well as transportation facilities in the region to promote tourism industry as it is expected to receive a greater interest from international visitors.

Tourist arrivals till the end of this year are expected to reach over 24 million in the four countries.—*001*

## Mandalarian entrepreneurs and Thai entrepreneurs meet in Mandalay

THE vice Chairman and the secretary and the executives of Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) met with 35 Thai entrepreneurs of the Association of Ceramics Entrepreneurs of Chiang Mai Province at the Yadanabon Super Centre in Channyaethazan Township in Mandalay on Saturday 30 July.

At the event, the Commercial attaché of Thai Embassy to Myanmar discussed promoting of bilateral economic cooperation. And then Thai entrepreneurs of the Association of Ceramics Entrepreneurs of Chiang Mai Province, entrepreneurs of Mandalay and owners of toys factories discussed economic cooperation between two countries. Then they looked around products of ceramics which were made in Chiang Mai Province of Thailand.—*Thiha Ko Ko*



Ceramic wares from Chiang Mai Province of Thailand being displayed.—PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

## Crime NEWS

### Three arrested for smuggling of farm animals

THREE men have been arrested by police when they were unable to produce documents related to ownership of cattle they brought by car on Sunday.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched a car, driven by Tayza with two others on board en route from Kyaukse to Mandalay on Yangon-Mandalay Road near Myothagon Village in Sintgaing

Township in Mandalay Region.

Three farm animals including a bull and two cows were discovered from the car.

The 35-year-old Tayza, 20-year-old Aung Zeya (aka Zaylabay) and 25-year-old Aung San Lin (aka Poe Toke) will face charges under the existing Essential Supplies and Services Law.—*Kyemon*

### Heroin, yaba pills seized in Yangon, Shan



Sai Naw Kham. PHOTO: KYEMON

POLICE seized over 400 kilos of heroin and about 15,000 yaba pills from drug dealers two days ago in Yangon Region and Shan State, arresting all people involved in the cases.

A combined anti-drug squad on Saturday searched a suspected car being driven by Ko Htwe near a toll gate in Hsenwi Township in northern Shan State. They discovered nearly two kilos of heroin worth over 35million from him.

Over 600 yaba tablets and 412 kilos of heroin were seized from Sai Naw Kham after lo-

cal police searched his house in Kyaunggyisu Ward in Taunggyi, the capital of Shan State on that day. The drug smuggler with two others was placed under arrest.

A similar case occurred in Yangon on 29 July. After a tip-off to police from a member of public, police arrested the two suspects who were found in possession containing a cache of 13,600 yaba pills worth Ks47.6 million. Action is being taken against the six men, who will be charged under the existing Narcotic Drugs and Physiotherapist Substances Law.—*Kyemon*

### One dies, two missing when fishing boat sinks

AN ELDERLY fisherman died and two others are missing when their boat sank in Ngawun River early Sunday, according to a report from police.

Owned by U Moe Zaw, the 27-ft long and eight-ft wide boat with 25HP motor engine went down the river during a maritime disaster.

"The heavy winds blew the river at around 2 a.m. on 31 July when the boat stopped two miles

away from Kanseik Village in Chaungwa Village-tract in Hai-gyi Island," a witness said.

The 72-year-old man called U Nyunt Sein is confirmed to have died in the maritime accident, while two others named Kyaw Zin Tun, 32, and U Hsan Shay are still missing.

Coastal guards and families of the missing people have made a major search along the river.—*Kyaw Thu Hein*



# LOCAL Business

## POSCO Daewoo picked as preferred bidder for Myanmar power plant

POSCO Daewoo, South Korea's leading trade company, was picked as the single preferred bidder for a multimillion dollar project to build a power plant in Myanmar, the company said on July 31.

The South Korea's biggest steelmaker POSCO's subsidiary said it won the qualification during an international competitive bidding held by Myanmar's Electric Power Generation Enterprise, according to the Korean Herald.

The bid winner will build a steam power plant in Shwetaung, northwest of largest city Yangon, to provide electricity to households, industrial plants and Myanmar's nationwide transmission network for the next 20 years.

"The accomplishment proves Myanmar government's trust in our contributions to the local community for a long time," said a company official.

POSCO Daewoo has had business experience in Myanmar since 1985. It is well known there for its financial arrangements and business solutions provisions.

The firm plans to consolidate its position as a big power supplier and seek out chances to expand business.—GNLM

## World Bank gearing up to assist development of legal border trade

WORLD Bank is gearing up to assist the development of legal trade in the border areas.

Trade value between Myanmar and China during this fiscal year has risen by over US\$3million when compared to the similar period of last fiscal year, with a total trade value of over US\$1.5billion, it is learnt from Trade department.

A Diagnostic Trade Integration Study (DTIS) is helping trade reform program to facilitate border trade and transportation and to strictly levy custom duties. World Bank is not directly contributing to the border areas' development but providing assistance to reform processes relating to the development of border areas.

Myanmar has to deal with a challenge of illegal trade which outmanoeuvres legal trade in border areas, said some economists. Trade camps between Myanmar and neighbouring countries are Muse, Lweje, Kanpike Tee, Chin Shwe Haw, Tamu, Reed, Myawady, Tachilek, KengTung, Kawthaung, Myeik, Nabule, Hteekhee, Mawtaung, Sittwe and Maungdaw.—200

## Fishery businessmen offer a high price of products from Salon

FISHERY businessmen offer a high price of Sea snails, ambergris, seaweed, edible swiftlet nests, honey and herbal plants from Salon area, said U Sanaw Nan, a salon ethnic.

Honey and herbal plants produced from Salon area are mostly purchased, being offered Ks6,000 to Ks8,000 depending on the herb. The merchants even come to purchase the seaweeds down to the islands.

They offer a higher price because it is hard to find the seaweeds in the rainy season. Those seaweeds fetch from Ks20,000 to Ks30,000 per viss. Hotels use those seaweeds to make a dish, he added. Salon people live in Myeik, Kyunsu, Palaw, Taninthayi, Kawthaung and Bokepyin townships and Don Kyun and Zardetgyi Kyun, Makyongalat and Nyaungwi village.—200



Workers make gold foil traditionally in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

## Gold foil making businessmen suffer from the high price of gold

GOLD foil makers are suffering from losses because of the record high price of gold up to over Ks800,000 per tickle. Some gold foil making businesses are forced to suspend, said U Aung Kyaw Myint, the proprietor of Shwe Hninsi gold foil making business.

Myanmar's gold price in July has risen by around Ks100,000 per tickle when compared to that in December, 2015. World gold price is US\$1,350 per ounce as of 31st July, 2016 whereas local gold price, Ks843,000 per tickle. The gold price was around Ks740,000 per tickle in December, 2015 at the domestic gold market.

When people place order for gold foils, tenders are being offered at Ks50,000 higher than the market price. Unexpectedly, the gold price has turned upward, making some entrepreneurs suspend their businesses. The owners of the gold foil making business cannot help but just make the gold foils at the ordered price. They are adversely affected by the sharp changes in gold price, he added.

Some placed order at a prevailing price of around Ks700,000 whereas the current market price of gold is around Ks840,000. Currently, they are forced

to be loss-making to fulfil the requirements of number of gold plates at the pagodas at the price at which they won the tender.

Some collectively bid tender in a group of eight people as they cannot afford to bid tender individually. Even if those who make advanced purchasing of pure gold suffer losses, those who make gold foil purchasing the gold at the prevailing market price cannot even raise their heads. The suspension in some gold foil making business renders the labours jobless, he continued.

Those who are en-

gaged in gold foil making businesses are found only in Myetparyat, Mandalay. There are currently over 100 businessmen who are doing this business on a commercial scale whereas over 50 businessmen, on a manageable scale in this gilding industry.

Local gold price is positively related to the world gold price and the currency exchange rate. However, in the event of exchange market being less dependent upon US dollar, Myanmar gold price is usually stable despite gold price being high in the world market.—Aung Thant Khaing



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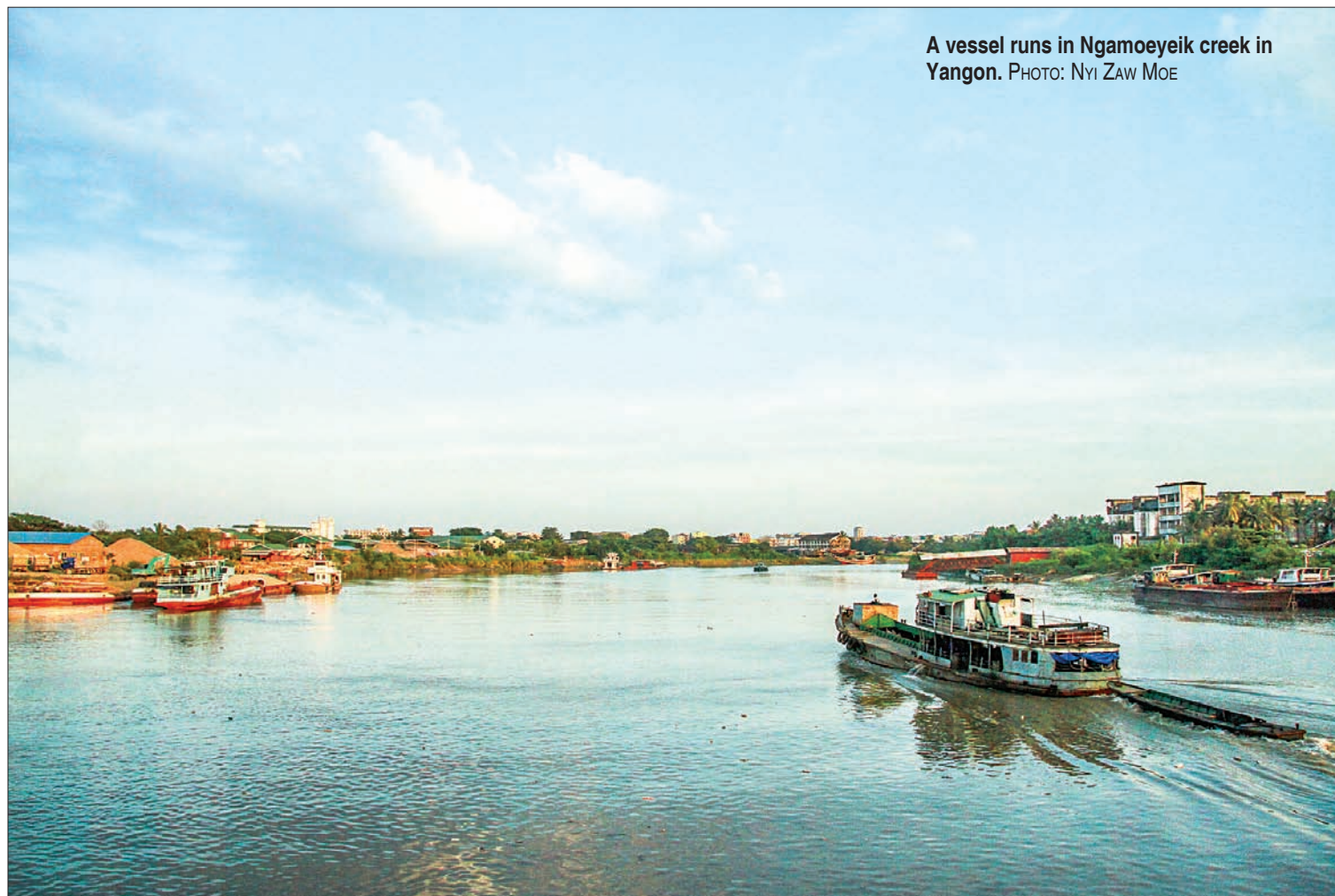
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A vessel runs in Ngamoeyeik creek in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

## Transport Authority to provide people-centered service

YANGON transport authority aims at providing people-centered service, said Dr. Maung Aung, the secretary of Yangon Transport Authority.

Yangon Transport Authority was formed on 8th July. The main purposes of this transport authority are to reduce traffic congestion and to create a better transport system.

Water taxis will start to run this year to help reduce traffic jam. Water taxis will run two routes from Hlaingthaya-Shwepyitha to Sule along Hlaing River and from Bailey bridge in South Okkalapa to Pazuntaung along Ngamoeyeik creek. The vessels running along Hlaing river can carry 50 to 100 passengers whereas vessels in Ngamoeyeik creek, 20 to 30 passengers. Bus-stops will be installed at the places where vessels stop.—200

## Notice to be given to Illegal buildings in Bagan

THERE are 443 illegal buildings in the ancient Bagan Cultural Area, it is learnt from Conservation of Myanmar Cultural Heritage and national museum Department (Bagan branch) under the ministry of religious affairs and culture.

Out of these 443 illegal buildings, constructed in ancient Bagan city, 43 buildings are located in Hnget Pyit Taung in No.3 area in Nyaung Oo, 25 buildings in Thayawady ward near red cave and 54 buildings in Thirimingalar ward No.1 area, 16 buildings in Shwekone ward and 31 buildings in Nankyikone No.5 area.

In this function, additionally, there also 15 buildings in the west of the office of the department of industrial crops develop-

ment, 33 buildings in shwetwin ward of bagan new city, 9 buildings in north Bagan new city, 64 buildings near Ktawpalin pagoda, 47 in Ayeyar z craft jetty of ancient Bagan city, 25 in west of Anandar pagoda, 51 buildings near Bu pagoda and 30 in Myingaba village south ward, it is learnt from the department of Conservation of Myanmar cultural heritage and national museum (Bagan branch).

The authorities of the department will send notices three times to the proprietors of the illegal buildings. Action will be taken according to ancient buildings conservation law if they are found to continue to keep and / or build the illegal buildings, it is learnt.—200

## TBC flats, shops, houses to sell

“Those buildings which are being constructed on a 40.529 acre land of Taunggyi Business Center (TBC) in Southern Shan State town of Taunggyi will be sold starting from the end of this year under a six to twenty-four-months installment system,” said an authority of Viet Nam TBS & Ranbuild company.

Australia based IDR Company drew the Master Plan for TBC, being constructed on Hone road four miles away from

Taunggyi town. Currently, TBC project buildings will be sold with a long-term payment because the local and foreign businessmen are interested to buy the buildings of TBC project. The locals from upper Myanmar are also interested, it is learnt.

There are 71 shops, 324 apartment buildings, 24 bus terminals, 50 Warehouse, Private Villas House, three-star motels and a City Mart at TBC.

The buildings of TCB are di-

vided into zones: the shops are in zone A; four-unit five storeyed Executive Apartments in zone B; international standard high way car parking lots including 24 gates in zone C; warehouses which are 4357 square feet wide with office rooms attached in zone D and Duplex Housing in zone E. The investors from China and Thailand have plans to buy these buildings of TBC project to invest in local businesses, it is noted. —200

## Private jets landed at YIA mostly for business purposes

PRIVATE jets landed at Yangon International Airport mostly for business purposes for two consecutive years as of second week of July, 2016, said an official from Myanmar MJETS Business Aviation Center.

There are a total of 105 private flights from Myanmar MJETS Business Aviation Center this year, with 40 flights for business, 30 flights for air ambulance, 20 flights for visit and 15 flights for technical purposes. During the past year, there were 260 private flights: 125 flights for business, 60

for air ambulance and 75 flights for visit. Therefore, private jets landed mostly for business purposes.

Myanmar MJETS Business Aviation Center is available for arrival airport services such as immigration counter and custom duties and for both arrivals and departures. Therefore, people who come to Myanmar taking private jets do not need to use the main airport terminal building.

This center is offering airport service for chartered flight and air ambulance. Myanmar MJETS

Business Aviation Center is conducting joint operation with state-owned Myanmar National Airline (MNA). Myanmar MJETS Business Aviation Center was located at the hangar owned by MNA. Myanmar MJETS Business Aviation Center was opened on 1st August, 2014 at Yangon International Airport. Those who come to Myanmar with private jets can use Myanmar MJETS Business Aviation Center for both arrival and departure instead of using main terminal of Yangon International Airport.—200

The sunset in Bagan. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



## Muse-Kyaigaung trade camp halted due to torrential rain in China

TRADING through Muse-Kyaigaung trade camp has been suspended for over two weeks because Shweli River surged because of torrential rain in China, said the merchants from Muse border areas.

Shweli River has risen starting from 9th July, rendering Z crafts carrying the motor vehicles unable to cross the river. Muse-Kegaung trade camp is the largest trade camp among

four border trade camps between China and Myanmar: Muse, Lweje, Chin Shwe Haw and Kanpike Tee. The suspension of the trading in Muse-Kyaigaung trade camp makes the merchants and labours difficult.

A labour in Muse town can daily earn about Ks15,000 when there is a regular trade between Muse and China. Currently, these labours get only Ks3,000 to 4,000 a day as a support from

their employers.

Trade value through Muse-Kyaigaung border trade camp from April to 15th July in this fiscal year amounted to over US\$1,200million whereas trade value of three other China-Myanmar border camps was over US\$200million. The trade value of these three border camps is only 20 per cent when compared to that of Muse-Kyaigaung trade camp.—200



# Philippines' Duterte says nation can survive without mining companies



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte speaks during his first State of the Nation Address at the Philippine Congress in Quezon city, Metro Manila, Philippines, on 25 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Monday warned mining companies to strictly follow tighter environmental rules or shut down, saying the Southeast Asian nation could survive without a mining industry.

“We will survive as

a nation without you,” Duterte told a media briefing, referring to the country’s miners. “Either you follow strictly government standards or you close down.”

The Philippines has suspended operations of seven domestic mines for

failure to comply with environmental regulations. Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Regina Lopez, who began an audit of all mining sites on 8 July, last week vowed to close more operations causing environmental destruction.—Reuters

# MH370 may have been brought down by ‘rogue’ pilot: air crash expert

CANBERRA — A leading air crash expert has said missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 was likely to have been in controlled flight as it hit the water, giving life to the theory it was brought down by a rogue pilot or hijacker.

Air crash expert Larry Vance told Australia’s Nine Network that there was no other way to explain why the flaperon, found off the coast of Madagascar, was “extended” meaning it would have been in controlled flight as it hit the water.

Vance said the only way to extend the flaperon, something which happens when a plane is attempting a landing, was for the pilot to engage a switch, something which is unlikely to have occurred during a sudden disaster.

“You cannot get the flaperon to extend any other way than if somebody extended it,” Vance told the Nine Network’s

60 Minutes programme overnight.

“Somebody would have to select it (in the cockpit).”

Vance said, from photos released of the flaperon, there was evidence to show the aeroplane hit the water at a controlled speed, pointing to it being a “human engineered event.”

“Somebody was flying the aeroplane into the water... There is no other alternate theory that you can follow of all the potentials that might have happened. There’s no other theory that fits,” he said.

“The force of the water is really the only thing that could make that jagged edge that we see (on the flaperon). It wasn’t broken off. If it was broken off, it would be a clean break.”

Meanwhile, Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) crash investigator Peter Foley said there was a possibil-

ity that someone was in control of the plane as it went down.

“There is a possibility there was someone in control at the end and we’re actively looking for evidence to support that,” he said on Sunday night.

He admitted that if it was brought down by a “rogue” pilot, the wreckage could be outside the parameters of the Australian-led 120,000 square kilometer search zone.

The search for the Boeing 777 is scheduled to end in coming weeks, considering less than 10,000 square kilometres is yet to be searched.

“If you guided the plane or indeed control-ditched the plane, it has an extended range, potentially,” Foley said.

MH370 was a scheduled passenger flight bound for Beijing from Kuala Lumpur. There were 239 passengers and crew on board. —Xinhua

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# Fire, explosion deaths down in Viet Nam in first 7 months

HO CHI MINH CITY — A total of 2,028 fires and explosions broke out across Viet Nam in the first seven months of this year, killing 56 people and injuring 208 others, while leaving losses of some 940 billion Vi-

etnamese dong (42 million US dollars), the country’s Fire Prevention and Fight Department said on Monday.

In the same period last year, the Southeast Asian country suffered 1,967

fires and explosions, which left 61 people dead and 138 others injured, and caused losses of 358.7 billion Vietnamese dong (16 million US dollars).

Natural disasters killed or left 50 people missing,

injured 129 others, and caused property losses of nearly 1,500 billion Vietnamese dong (nearly 67 million US dollars) in the first seven months of 2016, said Viet Nam’s General Statistics Office. —Xinhua

# Indonesia to hold ASEAN infrastructure investment forum in November

JAKARTA — Indonesia has announced it will host an infrastructure investment forum in November to pave way for Southeast Asia’s regional connectivity plans by 2025. “We want to foster key strategic relationships and provide clear business partnership opportunities for governments, state-owned enterprises, and leading private sector developers of technologies and services, together with hosted global investors,” said Rosan P. Roeslani, chairman of the Indonesia

Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Jakarta.

The high-level meeting, called the ASEAN G2B Infrastructure Investment Forum, seeks to address critical challenges to the region across four key stages of infrastructure project development — planning, financing, building and operating. Thomas Lembong, chairman of the Indonesia Investment Coordinating Board (BKPM), highlighted regional connectivity in the world’s seventh-largest economy as a main issue to

tackle.

“We need more coordination among ASEAN countries, and to synchronize our protocols and procedures so that regional connectivity is more smoothly,” Lembong said.

He added that the forum, which is set to take place in Jakarta from 8 to 11 November, will provide a platform for business and government leaders from around ASEAN to discuss domestic and regional investment opportunities presented by the Master Plan

for ASEAN Connectivity 2025.

The master plan itself, which is scheduled to be ratified by ASEAN heads of state next month, focuses on three key dimensions: physical connectivity which is improving infrastructure; institutional connectivity or providing trade, investment and regulatory frameworks; and people-to-people connectivity which is expanding educational opportunities and promoting human resources development. —Xinhua

# Opinion

## Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email [ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto:ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com) with your name and title.

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

## Encouraging citizens to change their behaviour

**Khin Maung Aye**

**S**CHOLARS and management scientists, in their effort to make people understand what governance is, talk of understanding governance as (i) a structure and (ii) a process. Governance as a structure, as pointed out by Pierre and Peter, includes hierarchy, market, network and communities. Likewise, there are five modes of governance as discussed by Stephen Bell and Andrew Hindmoor (2009): via hierarchy, via persuasion, via market, via engagement and via association.

From the structural perspective of governance, the ideal model of state is governance versus hierarchy. This type of control is conducted

by and through vertically integrated state structure of democratic government and public bureaucracy. It essentially means governance by law and distinction between public and private. Nonetheless, this model has been criticized and calls for smaller scales, flexibility, diversification, informal exchange rather than formal control.

Notwithstanding, when it comes to allocation of resources, the most efficient mechanism is governance via market, which allows the state to allocate resources where it has not been employed efficiently (Pierre and Peter 2000; pp, 18-19). It is believed that it reinforces citizens by empowering them in a similar

way as power is exercised by the consumers. It empowers the people to have a say in public service of allowing market to take over the responsibilities within certain limited bounds, thereby creating a market like situation for such services which would facilitate the clients to choose directly.

Governance via network regulates and co-ordinates the policy sectors according to the choices of the actors involved rather than concerning the public policy. The shift from government to governance has strengthened the policy networks because of the declining dependence on the formal legal process. On the other hand, the govern-

ance via greater participation of the communities in the collective matters encourages civic spirit in the community without large public bureaucracies. Lastly, the governance through persuasion is a mode of governance to be achieved through a mode of self-discipline or compliance in the target subject (Bell and Hindmoor 2009; p.17). This means encouraging citizens to change their behaviour through law, taxes, regulations along with persuasions in matters like persuading the citizens to drink less, to avoid chewing betel nut, to be health conscious, to report a suspected criminal and/or a terrorist and to be engaged in voluntary activities etc.

# Promotion of Technical and Vocational Education and Training

**An Attendee of the Nay Pyi Taw TVET Forum**

**A**T the opening ceremony of the TVET Forum held in the Myanmar Convention Centre (2), Nay Pyi Taw, from 15 to 16 July 2016, the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi, in her opening speech, said that the role of Technical and Vocational Education and Training should not be looked upon as being lesser than that of the Higher Education sector. In fact in many countries TVET is taken up by youth as an educational path that meets their interest and can enhance their lives. In such countries, neither the young person nor their parents look upon TVET as being second class to higher education. She pointed out that countries focusing on vocational training had achieved development. The status of TVET in Myanmar should be such that all citizens believe that vocational training is a first-class education, she said. Next the State Counsellor invited suggestions for improving the system.

The State Counsellor's re-

marks are only too true. In Myanmar it seems that most parents wish their children getting a 'degree' (preferably a professional one) as a mark of being 'educated' and to be assured of a good income job. Because of the 'second class' attitude to TVET by most parents, the education authorities are providing 'pathways' for TVET students who complete the course with good marks to be able to cross over to the Higher Education Stream and earn 'Engineering' degree. It is also the practice in some countries that those graduating with high marks from the polytechnics, are able to join the Universities and continue studies towards an engineering degree. But it seems only a few are qualified to attend the University courses.

In the first place, as all Engineering Educators will agree, there is a difference in the content of Engineering/Professional Courses from TVET Technician Courses. Engineering/Professional Courses are more targeted to concepts, design and analysis

of systems. It can be said as being more knowledge based to nurture and promote 'thinking', 'creating' and 'innovating' and 'advancing engineering/professional knowledge and technology' at the highest post graduate level of the Higher Education Stream. Engineers are generally classified as 'Professionals.'

On the other hand, TVET Technician Courses are more aligned to practical application of technology such as 'doing', 'operating' and 'maintaining'. Engineering technicians or other technicians are generally classified as 'Associate Professionals'. *In future the need for technicians will far outstrip the need for engineers, according to the education experts.*

It must be admitted however that in Myanmar at present, many B.E. graduate engineers are, being employed in supervisory positions of 'Technicians' and may well be performing the functions of 'Technicians'.

In Myanmar, to improve TVET stream, we could perhaps consider it as part of a distinct 'Professional Stream.' At the lower end of the 'Professional Stream' would be the skilled

workers. Training of skilled workers would be undertaken by the 'formal' education sector comprising of Technical High Schools under TVET Department as well as the 'non-formal sector' comprising of skills training for workers by 'Employers' (both public and private) and training providers as set out in the Employment and Skills Development Law. At present skilled workers may obtain qualifications of National Occupational Competency Certificate at (4) levels, (level (1) being the lowest level) under the Employment and Skills Development Law.

From skilled worker level (4) upwards of the 'Professional Stream' would be the present TVET system Technician Level Diploma (AGTI) and above it the B.Tech Degree. *In fact, B. Tech Degree level could be upgraded, based on the application of technology concept, to being of an equivalent level to the corresponding BE degree, so that TVET graduates need not seek a B.E. degree.*

From the level of the upgraded B.Tech upwards ascending would be the various levels

of 'professional qualifications', awarded by legally formed 'professional bodies,' the likes of which already exists. In such a case the highest 'professional qualification' would be at the same level as the highest qualification on the Higher Education Stream. The graduates at various levels of the professional higher education sector who take up employment in industry, business or commerce or are self-employed, will of course, also be part of the 'Professional Stream'.

Important for the success of the 'Professional Stream' would be a system of quality assurance for all the qualifications in the stream. Subsequently, another requirement would be that the remuneration of B.Tech (upgraded) degree holders in the 'Professional Stream' should be the same as B.E degree holders.

The above suggestions are made bona fide with a view to further enhancing the status of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET), making it more effective and at the same time more attractive to parents and students contemplating TVET educational path.

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# Implementation of national financial switching system for Myanmar

ON the 31<sup>st</sup> of July 2016, the cooperation agreement to implement a national financial switching system for Myanmar was officially inked between Myanmar Payment Union (MPU), FPT – a leading technology corporation from Viet Nam and the National Payment Corporation of Vietnam (NAPAS) at the Melia Hotel in Yangon. Present at the ceremony were Vice President of Myanmar H.E U Myint Swe, Deputy Prime Minister of Viet Nam H.E Mr. Vu Duc Dam, Deputy Governor of the State Bank of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Kim Anh and Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar U Kyaw Kyaw Maung.

Under the agreement, FPT acts as the investor for the implementation of software, hardware, operation and other technical support for the project. NAPAS, an FPT strategic partner, takes the role of co-investor. MPU invests in infrastructure and run the business operation in its existing market. The first phase of

the project is expected to begin in early 2017. During this phase, MPU will get past experiences and best practices of NAPAS and FPT to ensure a successful transition to an advanced payment switching system.

Although there are now over 2000 ATMs, nearly 6000 POS and about 1.8 million bank cards that have been issued in Myanmar, most of transactions are still being made in cash. The deployment of a national payment switching system will help Myanmar accelerate the process of evolving from its cash payment system to electronic payment solutions. The new payment system will be implemented for typical banking services such as ATM, POS, E-Commerce, other value added services for mobile devices, EMV and electronic billing.

The contract to implement a national financial switching system for Myanmar was signed between MPU and FPT on the 4<sup>th</sup>



PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY FPT MYANMAR

of July 2016. The business model is revenue sharing and the system will be completed within a year

and FPT will be a technical partner and investor for the following 10 years. The project is expected

to be kicked off in August 2016 and put into official operation in early 2017.—Lin Aung Htet



Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe and his wife are being welcomed by Ambassador of Switzerland to Myanmar Mr Paul R Seger on their arrival at the reception to mark the National Day of Switzerland in Yangon on 1st August, 2016.

PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

## Urban development plan being formulated for Mawlamyine, Hpa-an, Myawady

A PLAN to improve urban system in Mawlamyine, Hpa-an and Myawady is being formulated by the government with US\$80 million loans from the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The four-year project will be implemented next year by the Ministry of Construction, focusing on installation of urban facilities in those central towns, which plays an important role in establishing an economic corridor to bring more development for Greater Mekong Sub-region.

Livelihood supports will be provided to women in Mawlamyine, Mudon and Ye townships by ADB during the new development project to improve their economic status, said Mr Winfried F. Wicklein, director of the ADB.

Upgrading and improving urban services facilities including establishment of water supply system, drainage system, flood control system and sanitation system will be implemented during the new scheme.

The project also covers further supports along border gates to ensure safe, easy and smooth flow of commodities as well as systematic development of waste collection system and sewage water management system.

Market promotion to develop local small-and-medium-sized enterprises is one of major targets to improve tourism sector to compete with other CLMV member countries: Cambodia, Laos and Viet Nam.—Zar Zar

## Acne remains most prevalent skin disease for Myanmar women

ACNE is the most common skin problem for women of all ages in Myanmar, according to a survey made by a popular skincare brand distributed by Unilever, an Anglo-Dutch multinational consumer goods company.

A total of 700 women between 16 and 30 of ages in Yangon and Mandalay participated in the online survey. The research programme aims to understand the behavior of acne sufferers and the treatments, a survey conductor said.

The new survey reveals that 50 per cent of women respondent claimed that acne tops their skin concern, while 57 per cent are suffering one form of acne. Almost half of the respondents

suffer acne once a month and the majority said their acne last less than a week.

According to the new findings, 49 per cent of girls with acne use traditional ways such as home remedies including toothpaste, lime and liquid calcium to treat the skin disease.

Only five per cent of acne sufferers realise the bacteria are the main causes of acne which is real causes of acne, while 38 per cent of respondents accept that the sources of acne are dirt and oil on the face which is not ultimate source of acne.

Acne is a disease that affects the skin's oil glands. Acne is not a serious health threat, but it can cause scars.—GNLM



The Thanaka is used for sun protection and acne treatment.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY



# NHK starts 4K, 8K high-definition test broadcasting

TOKYO—Japan's public broadcaster NHK on Monday started 4K and 8K ultra high-definition test broadcasting on its BS satellite channels, aiming to verify the technology and popularize it ahead of the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics.

The resolution of 4K broadcasting is roughly four times as detailed as that of the currently available format while 8K broadcasting, which is making its world debut, offers 16 times finer resolution.

Viewers cannot watch 4K and 8K broadcasting with conventional television sets or tuners. NHK will place 8K televi-

sions at its broadcasting centers nationwide for visitors to watch.

NHK, officially known as Japan Broadcasting Corp., will offer 8K broadcasting of the opening ceremony of the Rio de Janeiro Summer Olympics as well as swimming and track and field games.

Public viewing events for 8K broadcasting are also planned in a total of six venues including in Tokyo and Osaka.

The Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications is planning to start 4K and 8K broadcasting by 2018 and popularize it in time for the Tokyo Olympics.—*Kyodo News*



Japan's public broadcaster NHK holds a commencement ceremony for 4K and 8K super high-definition test broadcasting on its BS satellite channels on 1 August 2016, at its broadcasting centre in Shibuya, Tokyo. NHK, officially known as Japan Broadcasting Corp., aims to verify the technology and popularize it in time for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics and Paralympics. Testing of 8K broadcasting, which is making its world debut, includes broadcasting of the opening ceremony and some games of the Rio de Janeiro Olympics starting 5 August. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

## Japan eyes ramping up bulletproof cars for safety of aid workers

TOKYO—Japanese officials said on Monday the government is mulling ramping up bulletproof vehicles and other equipment to protect the country's aid workers overseas in the wake of a terrorist attack in Bangladesh that killed seven Japanese.

A Foreign Ministry panel said in its interim report the ministry is also planning to call on foreign governments to strengthen the safety measures of their police and military.

"Japanese people can also be targets of terrorism and we need to renew our thinking that safety does not come without costs," Seiji Kihara, Japanese senior vice foreign minister, said at a meeting of the panel at which he presented the interim report to Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida.

Kishida said he expects concrete and effective measures to be worked out as "Japan needs

to continue offering support to developing countries, including Bangladesh." Other suggested steps include strengthening intelligence-gathering capabilities and conducting emergency communication drills, and a final report will be compiled by the ministry later in the month, ministry officials said.

The terrorist attack in the Bangladesh capital Dhaka last month killed 20 people including the seven Japanese involved in a project for the Japan International Cooperation Agency, which conducts projects in developing countries financed with Japanese aid.

Also last month, a vehicle carrying Japanese aid workers travelling in a bulletproof vehicle in conflict-ravaged South Sudan came under gunfire. Japanese diplomats were airlifted out of the country's capital due to safety concerns.—*Kyodo News*

# Koike vows to work with assembly as new Tokyo governor

TOKYO—The day after her election as Tokyo's first female governor, YuriKo Koike pledged on Monday to work with metropolitan assembly members to implement her promised policies.

"We have both been selected by the people of Tokyo," Koike, who while a member of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party ran without the party's endorsement, told a television programme Monday morning.

"I want to look for a connection with them, and ask for their cooperation," she said. The LDP is the largest party in the assembly and holds in a majority with Komeito, its coalition ally at the national level.

Koike appeared on TV early in the morning, her voice still hoarse from the campaign.

At a subsequent press conference, Koike, 64, who won by a wide margin of more than a million votes, said she "feels extremely moved by how gathering votes one by one has turned into such a giant surge."

She said she slept about three hours a night during the campaign, including on election night Sunday.

Koike has vowed to make the metropolitan government

more transparent and cut the governor's salary in her "Great Tokyo Reform," and resolve day-care waiting lists.

She is expected to make her first visit to the metropolitan government headquarters Tuesday.

During the campaign, Koike, an LDP lower house lawmaker before the election, criticized the party's assembly members as she fought their endorsed candidate, former Iwate Gov. Hiroya Masuda. A metropolitan government employee warned that if Koike goes against the assembly, the government will "come to a stop. Too much turmoil would bring anxiety to the people of Tokyo."

One senior employee hoped that Koike would at least see out her full four-year term unlike her three predecessors, two of whom resigned over funding scandals, while another hoped Koike would provide a new perspective as a woman and advance women's empowerment.

The central government's top spokesman affirmed Monday the need to work with Koike toward the success of the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics to be held in the capital.

"We need to coordinate (with the governor) for the good of the



Former Defence Minister YuriKo Koike attends a press conference at her election campaign office in Tokyo on 1 August 2016, a day after winning the Tokyo gubernatorial election. In the background are messages from supporters written on paper "green leaves" decorating the office. Koike, also a former environment minister, chose green as the symbol of her campaign to promote her environment-friendly stance. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

nation's people, although the election has only just finished," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference.—*Kyodo News*

## Head of Australian prison abuse inquiry quits, replaced by aboriginal leader

SYDNEY — The head of an Australian inquiry into the abuse of children in detention resigned on Monday, four days after being appointed to investigate prison video of aboriginal boys being abused, citing his lack of support from the country's indigenous leaders.

The Royal Commission will now be conducted by two

commissioners, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda and retired Supreme Court judge Margaret White, Attorney-General George Brandis said on Monday.

Aboriginal leaders had said they would not cooperate with the inquiry unless they were represented on the commission and

were unhappy that the inquiry was not national.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull ordered the probe last week, after prison CCTV footage showed guards teargassing six aboriginal teenage inmates and strapping a half-naked, hooded boy to a chair at a Darwin youth prison in the Northern Territory.

The footage sparked renewed criticism of Australia's treatment of Aborigines and their high imprisonment rate.

Aborigines comprise just three percent of Australia's population but make up 27 per cent of those in prison and 94 per cent of juvenile inmates in the Northern Territory.

"I'm not the only person who can conduct this Commission effectively and competently and it is critical that whoever is appointed has the confidence of those who are vitally concerned with this matter," retired judge Brian Martin told journalists in Darwin, announcing his resignation as head of the inquiry.

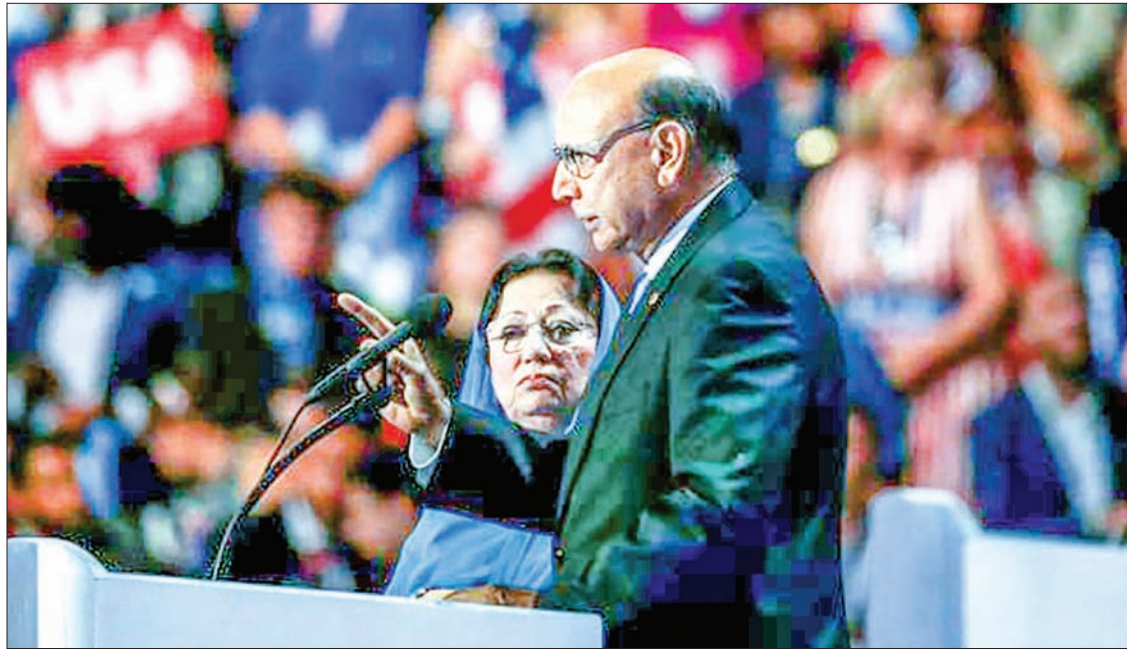
Since the broadcast of the prison video last week, the United Nations Human Rights High Commission has called on Australia to compensate the victims and protests have been held in Australian capitals.—*Reuters*



Demonstrators gather outside Sydney's Town Hall to protest against alleged child abuse in Australia's Northern Territory detention centers, on 30 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



# Clinton accuses Trump of scapegoating Muslim soldier's parents



Khizr Khan, whose son Humayun was killed serving in the US Army ten years after 11 September, 2001, speaks at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US on 28 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLEVELAND HEIGHTS, (Ohio) — US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton accused Donald Trump on Sunday of scapegoating the parents of a Muslim soldier killed in Iraq, after the Republican nominee took issue with remarks the soldier's father made at the Democratic National Convention.

Trump, in an ABC interview that aired on Sunday, questioned why Ghazala Khan, mother of US Army Captain Humayun Khan, stood quietly by her husband, Khizr Khan, as he took the stage at last week's Democratic convention in Philadelphia.

Trump suggested the mother might not have been "allowed" to speak.

Speaking at a church service, Clinton said Trump had been insulting to a family who had sacrificed so much. She also used the episode to contrast her own religious faith with that of Trump,

who has spoken of religion on the campaign trail infrequently.

"I don't begrudge anyone of any other faith or of no faith at all, but I do tremble before those who would scapegoat other Americans, who would insult people because of their religion, their ethnicity, their disability," Clinton said in remarks at the Imani Temple Ministries, an African-American church in Cleveland Heights, Ohio.

"It's just not how I was raised, that's not how I was taught in my church," said Clinton, who grew up as a Methodist. "Tim Kaine and I are people of faith," she said, referring to her vice presidential running mate, who is a Catholic.

Top Republican lawmakers House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell also condemned Trump's remarks in separate statements, although they did not

mention their presidential candidate by name.

"Many Muslim Americans have served valiantly in our military, and made the ultimate sacrifice. Captain Khan was one such brave example," Ryan said.

"His sacrifice — and that of Khizr and Ghazala Khan — should always be honored. Period," he said.

Earlier on Sunday, Ghazala Khan took up her own defense in an opinion piece in the Washington Post, saying her husband had asked her in advance whether she would want to speak at the convention but that she had decided she would be unable to do so on stage because of her pain over the 2004 death of her son.

"Donald Trump said that maybe I wasn't allowed to say anything. That is not true," she wrote. "When Donald Trump is talking about Islam, he is ignorant." —Reuters

## Bosnia clears last obstacles to progress towards EU, win IMF deal

SARAJEVO — Bosnia's rival leaders agreed on Sunday on the key conditions set by the European Union for accepting the country's membership application and cleared the way for winning a much needed IMF loan deal, which was delayed three weeks ago.

Bosnia, an ethnically divided Balkan nation beset by economic woes, applied to join the 28-nation EU in February and hoped Brussels would consider its membership bid at its ministerial council in mid-July but was scuppered by disputes.

Without the prospect of membership, Bosnia would have risked being left behind by its neighbours who also emerged

from the break-up of the former Yugoslavia and who either already belong to the bloc or are far further down the road to joining.

"We solved today a set of issues which open the way for the acceptance of Bosnia's (EU) application, ... but also open the way towards the IMF arrangement," said Bakir Izetbegovic, the leader of the Muslim Bosniak largest SDA party and chairman of the country's three-man inter-ethnic presidency.

The autonomous Serb Republic in Bosnia had opposed two key reforms — a deal expanding a trade agreement Bosnia had with Croatia to cover all members of the EU and an effective coordination mechanism

with Brussels.

Meanwhile, Bosniak leaders declined to sign a letter of intent with the IMF, prompting the lender to delay the consideration of the deal that was scheduled for mid-July by its Executive Board.

The trade objections were dropped after Germany intervened and promised help to the country as a whole, and the Serb Republic, in particular to ease the effects of the deal on farmers.

And on Sunday, at an EU-initiated meeting, leaders of the largest Bosniak and Serb political parties agreed to overcome the disputes. The Serbs agreed on the mechanism to deal with the EU and the Bosniaks signed the IMF deal. —Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

## Five migrant bodies recovered, 1,100 rescued — Italy coastguard

ROME — The bodies of five migrants were recovered and more than 1,100 others were rescued from overcrowded boats off the coast of Libya on Sunday, Italy's coastguard said.

One victim was found on board a wooden fishing boat, a coastguard spokesman said. The other bodies were pulled from the sea after 10 migrants either jumped or fell into the water as rescuers approached, the spokesman said.

Six of them survived, the Italian navy said, adding that life-saving first aid was performed on three of the people who had been pulled from the sea. —Reuters

## Dutch police detain man on highway near Amsterdam airport

AMSTERDAM — Dutch police, who have been conducting vehicle searches near Amsterdam's Schiphol airport since last week, stopped a bus on a major highway on Monday and detained a man, local TV channel RTV reported.

Police boosted security around the airport on Friday due to concerns about a security threat.

Another broadcaster, NOS, said police had detained a "confused man". —Reuters

## Turkish police forces briefly close NATO air base

ANKARA — Turkey's counter-terrorism police forces briefly closed the Incirlik Air Base in southeast Turkey on Sunday to prevent a new coup attempt, said the *Hurriyet Daily News*.

The shutdown operation carried out by the police forces has been completed in two and a half hours. Earlier, it was reported that supporters of Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen would make a new coup attempt in this air base, according to *Hurriyet*.

The Incirlik military base is used by the United States and shelters combat planes of the US-led coalition launching airstrikes in Syria and Iraq against the Islamic State group outlawed in many countries. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced on Saturday that the country's intelligence agency will be under his control and military commanders will report to the defence minister. —Xinhua

## German decision to block Erdogan speech is against EU values: Turkish minister

ISTANBUL — A German court decision preventing Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan from addressing a rally in Cologne via videoconference runs counter to democratic values and free speech, Turkey's minister for EU affairs tweeted on Sunday.

"German Constitutional Court's decision on the anti-coup rally in Cologne is an utter backsliding in freedom of speech and democracy," Omer Celik wrote in English on his official Twitter account.

The rally has been called in support of Turkey's democracy following a failed military coup on 15-16 July. German media reports said authorities had intervened to prevent Erdogan from addressing the rally via videoconference due to concerns over public order. Germany is home to Europe's largest ethnic Turkish diaspora. —Reuters

## Russia conducts 1st military training shooting from Pantsir-S1 in Far East

VLADIVOSTOK, (Russia) — Russia's Pacific Fleet conducted the first military training shooting from the latest anti-aircraft artillery weapon system Pantsir-S1 in the Far Eastern Kamchatka Peninsula, the TASS news agency reported on Monday.

The Pantsir-S1 entered service in 2016 and is expected to take on combat duty as soon as possible, the Pacific Fleet's spokesman Vladimir Matveyev said.

During the training, the missile battalion soldiers made a march of 50 kilometers and shot from rocket-gun at small air targets moving with different speeds and at different altitudes.

The Pantsir-S1 is a short range air defense system designed to protect strategic military and civil point targets. The system is capable of engaging a wide variety of aerial targets, such as aircraft, helicopters, ballistic and cruise missiles and guided bombs. —Xinhua



## California firefighters struggle to slow Big Sur blaze

CARMEL-BY-THE-SEA, (Calif) — Firefighters struggled on Sunday to slow a deadly wildfire that has raged for 10 days near California's Big Sur coast, destroying dozens of homes and forcing the evacuation of hundreds of residents and campers, authorities said.

The so-called Soberanes Fire, which erupted on 22 July just south of Carmel-by-the-Sea, has grown to 40,000 acres (16,187 hectares) of parched chaparral and timberland in and around the Los Padres National Forest.

"Firefighters are meeting challenges due to topography, fuel load, and dry humidity," said Katherine Garver, a spokeswoman for the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire). "The fire is making runs into inaccessible areas."

Officials ordered evacuations for the famous Tassajara Zen Mountain Centre in Pfeiffer Big Sur State Park and other areas on Sunday afternoon.

They had hoped that favourable weather condi-



Firefighters stand on steep terrain while fire crews create fire breaks at Garrapata State Park during the Soberanes Fire north of Big Sur, California, US, on 31 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

tions would allow progress to be made in containing the blaze, with strong winds that had been driving the fire for days starting to abate.

By Sunday night, 18 per cent of the fire's perimeter was contained, a slight increase from earlier in the day, officials said.

Extremely hot, dry weather is still hampering the efforts of some 5,300 firefighters, 16 helicopters,

a half dozen air tankers and 500 fire engines.

Officials do not expect the fire to be fully contained until the end of August because parts of it are burning in steep and inaccessible terrain. Its cause is under investigation.

Flames have already destroyed 57 homes and 11 outbuildings, with at least five other structures damaged, according to the latest tally. Another 2,000

structures were threatened, with an estimated 350 residents displaced by evacuations unrelated to those in the area of the Zen Centre, officials said.

The fire threat has prompted authorities to close a string of popular California campgrounds and recreation areas along the northern end of the Big Sur coastline, including Point Lobos Natural Reserve.—Reuters

## 'Download a good heart', Pope tells young as Polish visit ends

KRAKOW, (Poland) — Pope Francis wrapped up his Polish visit on Sunday with a huge outdoor Mass where he told young people to look beyond the instant gratification afforded by technology, and instead to try to change the world.

Hundreds of thousands of young people, many of whom camped out for the night, waved national flags and cheered as Francis arrived to say the Mass in a large field on the outskirts of Krakow at the end of his five-day trip to Poland where he presided at the Catholic Church's World Youth Day festivities.

Francis, 79, who has said he is a "disaster" with technology, sprinkled his sermon at the last major event of the trip with social media and technology terms.

He urged the young people to "download" the best "link" of all, that of a heart which sees and trans-

mits goodness without growing weary."

He said their response to the challenges of life cannot be "texting a few words," that prayer should be given pride of place over their internet "chats", and that God's memory was not a "hard disk" filled with files on everyone, but more of a compassionate heart that wants to help them "erase" evil.

Francis encouraged them to continue "to be dreamers (who) believe in a new humanity, one that rejects hatred between peoples, one that refuses to see borders as barriers".

The trip has been marked by heavy security, including metal detectors and sniffer dogs at most events.

During an unscheduled stop in a Krakow church on Saturday night, Francis condemned the "devastating wave of terrorism" and war that has hit the world.—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2016 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

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ATLANTIC VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2016 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

## Hot air balloon hits power lines before crash in Texas: investigators

LOCKHART, (United States) — The hot air balloon struck the power lines before it crashed in a pasture near Lockhart in central part of the US state of Texas, US federal investigators confirmed on Sunday.

There was evidence that part of the balloon hit the electrical lines before the deadly crash that killed all the 16 people on board, according to investigators from the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB).

It is still unclear whether the fire broke out before or after the balloon struck the power lines.

"There is evidence that some component of the balloon hit the wires — not the tower," Robert Sumwalt from the NTSB said at a briefing.

He added that the massive red-white-and-blue balloon with a smiling-face image travelled nearly 13 km after taking off at around 7 am (1200 GMT). A high-tension power line was hit at 7:42 am (1242 GMT) Saturday, followed by a call to 911 a

minute later.

Sumwalt expressed the hope that investigators will be able to gather some information from the cell phones found among the wreckage. The response team said that the devices have been completely destroyed, but Sumwalt remained hopeful that the NTSB specialist team will be able to find some information. The hot air balloon, a Kubicek-type manufactured in the Czech Republic, was operated by Heart of Texas Hot Air Balloons.

As of Sunday night, the investigators have not identified any victim, and dental records reportedly would have to be used to identify the victims.

Li Qiangmin, Chinese Consul General in Houston, told Xinhua on Sunday night that the Chinese Consulate General has been closely following the development of the accident and no Chinese citizens have been so far confirmed among the victims.

The accident is the deadliest of its kind in the US history. —Xinhua

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

Phone No: 2301185



# China calls for British nuclear project to proceed

BEIJING — China on Monday called for Britain to proceed with a nuclear power plant project partly invested in by a Chinese firm, saying the project had firm support from London, after Britain's new government said it would review it again.

The plan by France's EDF to build two reactors with financial backing from a Chinese state-owned company, China General Nuclear Power Corp, was championed by Prime Minister Theresa May's predecessor, David Cameron, as a sign of Britain's openness to foreign investment.

But just hours before a signing ceremony was due to take place on Friday, May's new government said it would review the project again, raising concern that Britain's approach to infrastructure deals, energy supply and foreign investment may be changing.

May was concerned about the security implications of a planned Chinese investment in the Hinkley Point nuclear plant and in-

tervened to delay the project, a former colleague and a source said on Saturday.

In a statement sent to Reuters, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said they had "noted" the decision.

"I would like to stress that this project was agreed upon by China, Britain and France in the spirit of mutual benefit and cooperation, and win-win cooperation, and has always had the strong support of Britain and France," Hua said.

China "hopes that Britain can reach a decision as soon as possible, to ensure the project's smooth implementation", she added, without elaborating. Britain and EDF first reached a broad commercial agreement on the project in 2013. China got involved two years later when Downing Street laid on a state visit for President Xi Jinping, designed to cement a "Golden Era" of relations between the two countries.

China General Nuclear Power, which would hold a stake of about a third in the



A tractor mows a field on the site where EDF Energy's Hinkley Point C nuclear power station will be constructed in Bridgwater, southwest England in this file photograph taken on 24 October 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

project, said on Saturday it respected the decision of the new British government to take the time needed to familiarise itself with the programme.

But China's official Xinhua news agency, in an English-language commentary, took a stronger line.

While China understood and respected Britain's requirement for more time to think about the deal, China would not tolerate "unwanted accusations" about its investments in Britain, a country that cannot risk driving away other Chinese investors as it looks for post-Brexit trade

deals.

"What China cannot understand is the 'suspicious approach' that comes from nowhere to Chinese investment in making the postponement," it said.

The project would create thousands of jobs and generate much needed energy following the closure

of coal-fired power plants, Xinhua added, dismissing fears China would put "back-doors" into the project.

"For a kingdom striving to pull itself out of the Brexit aftermath, openness is the key way out," it said.

"If history offers any guide, many China-targeted suspicions have been boiled down to diffidence and distortion. China can wait for a rational British government to make responsible decisions, but can not tolerate any unwanted accusation against its sincere and benign willingness for win-win cooperation."

Such commentaries are not government statements, but offer a reflection of official thinking.

Xinhua said people might think Britain was trying to erect a wall of protectionism.

This "will surely stain its credibility as an open economy and might deter possible investors from China and other parts of the world in the future", it added.—Reuters

## Man who stabbed London passenger 'for Syria' jailed for life

LONDON — A man who stabbed a passenger at a London underground train station in December while shouting that he was acting for Syria was jailed for life at a London court on Monday.

Muhaydin Mire, 30, of east London, beat his victim, forced him to the ground and kicked his head before attempting to cut his neck, leaving the man with a 12-cm (5-inch) gash that required five hours of surgery.

He will serve a minimum of 8-1/2 years in prison after being convicted of attempted murder at London's Old Bailey criminal court on 8 June.

Initially described by police as a "terrorist incident", the attack at Leytonstone station in east London was investigated by the Metropolitan Police's Counter Terrorism Command.

"Whilst Mire was not accused of terrorist offences, it would appear from comments he made

at the time of the attack and the content he had downloaded on his phone that he may have been inspired by terrorist propaganda," said Commander Dean Haydon in a statement.

Mire, who tried to attack several other people during the incident, had pleaded guilty to four counts of attempted wounding but denied trying to kill his victim.

Several people filmed the incident on their phones. Some of the videos were posted on the Internet shortly after the attack, including footage of a bystander shouting "You ain't no Muslim, bruv (brother)," a phrase which circulated widely and was praised by then Prime Minister David Cameron.

The Leytonstone incident took place on 5 December, a time of heightened tension over Islamist militancy in Europe following the 13 November attacks that killed 130 people in Paris.—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.8.2016 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEAS  
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.8.2016 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.

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 1.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO ( 009N )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CRUSADER VOY NO ( 009N ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185



# Jessica Alba introduces victims of gun violence at award show



Jessica Alba. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Actress Jessica Alba introduced a group of teenagers affected by gun violence on stage at the Teen Choice Awards 2016.

“They share an unlikely bond that is hard to comprehend. They’re the brothers, sisters, daughters, and family members of recent victims of gun violence,” Alba told the audience.

“I am talking about Aurora, Baton Rouge, Dallas, Minneapolis, Orlando, San Bernardino, Newtown. It keeps happening and it has to stop. Many of those impacted by these acts of violence are teens.” The group on stage then introduced themselves to the crowd. Among them were J.T. Lewis, whose brother was killed in the Sandy Hook elementary school shooting, two of San Bernardino victim Bennetta Betbadal’s children, the siblings of Jason Josephat, who died during

the shooting at Orlando’s Pulse nightclub, and Alton Sterling’s son, Cameron, reported Entertainment Weekly.

“Tonight we stand together with these teens,” Alba, 35, said after they introduced themselves.

“United in a call for peace and an end to this violence. Now more than ever we need to stop, feel, and ask, ‘What’s going on?’”

They were met with a standing ovation, and a performance from Ne-Yo, who sang Marvin Gaye’s “What’s Going On.”

Alba then continued through her tears: “These teens had the courage to come here with their grief and take a stand. Tonight Ne-Yo and I and all of us here and all of you watching need to do the same.”

Alba then asked fans in the crowd to take a photo of the teens on stage and post with the hashtag, #StopTheViolence.—PTI

## Tori Spelling USD one million in debt

LOS ANGELES — Actress Tori Spelling and her husband Dean McDermott are reportedly more than USD 1 million in debt.

The 42-year-old actress was hit with a federal tax lien for USD 707,487.30 in unpaid taxes for 2014, according to TMZ. The couple is already facing a barrage of unpaid bills, and was also slapped with another tax bill from officials in the State of California in early July for USD 259,108.23, also related to earnings in 2014.

It’s the latest financial

problem for the former “Beverly Hills, 90210” star as she is also being sued by American Express executives over a hefty, outstanding credit card bill.

The mother-of-four reportedly racked up debts of almost USD 38,000 on her card, but she has allegedly failed to make any payments since last year.

Meanwhile, Tori’s mother Candy Spelling, widow of multi-millionaire TV producer Aaron Spelling, insists that although she is helping her daughter with her living expenses, she will not pay off her debts.—PTI

## Christina Grimmie wins posthumous Teen Choice Award

LOS ANGELES — Singer Christina Grimmie, who passed away in June, won her first honour at the 2016 Teen Choice Awards.

The 22-year-old “With Love” has been awarded a posthumous Choice Web Star: Music honour at the event.

Grimmie won the surf-

board after beating Boyce Avenue, Chloe X Halle, Cimorelli, MattyBRaps, and Johnny Orlando. On 10 June, Grimmie was shot four times by 27-year-old Kevin James Loibl while she signed autographs following her performance with Before You Exit at The Plaza Live in Orlando.—PTI



Macy’s iHeartRadio Rising Star Christina Grimmie performs with dancers during the 2015 iHeartRadio Music Festival at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada on 18 September 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## ‘Jason Bourne’ scores with \$60 million debut, ‘Bad Moms’ hits big

LOS ANGELES — Audiences turned out in force to see Matt Damon in “Jason Bourne,” pushing the spy sequel to a sterling \$60 million debut.

The film marked the actor’s return to the action franchise after a nine-year hiatus, during which he repeatedly hinted that he might be done with his most popular role. He and director Paul Greengrass argued that 2007’s “The Bourne Ultimatum” had brought the character full circle by filling in him on the shadowy bureaucratic maneuvers that transformed him into a killing machine. What was left?

Be it creative spark or big paydays, the pair were somehow lured back to the series. That’s good news for Universal, which ran the risk of losing a Tiffany franchise without Damon’s involvement. In the interim, the studio had made an ill-conceived attempt at cinematic universe building with “The Bourne Legacy,” introducing Jeremy Renner as another amnesiac ass-kicker dubbed Aaron Cross. The crowds didn’t exactly flock to see this sub-Bourne, and the film grossed about \$150 million less than “The Bourne Ultimatum” globally.

As a sign of Damon’s appeal, audience surveys reveal that the actor’s presence above-the-title was the second most frequently cited reason that people turned up for “Jason Bourne.”

“It’s no secret that people were anticipating a reunion of [Damon and Greengrass],” said Nick Carpou, Universal’s domestic distribution chief, adding “Putting the team back together made smart business sense.”

“Jason Bourne” marks the series’ second highest opening, behind “The Bourne Ultimatum’s” \$69.3 million debut. When adjust-



Luciana Barroso and actor Matt Damon arrive for the Universal Pictures movie premiere of “Jason Bourne” at Caesars Palace hotel-casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 18 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ed for inflation, however, it trails all but “The Bourne Legacy’s” opening weekends. Universal spent \$120 million to make the latest installment and released it in 4,026 theaters.

“It proves that this is a franchise that’s still viable and that it can continue if they want to keep making them,” said Paul Dergabedian, senior media analyst at ComScore. “Jason Bourne” is the perfect title for this film, because that’s who everyone wanted to see return.”

Aaron Cross...not so much.

Even with Bourne’s resurgence commanding most of the attention, the weekend’s other major new wide release managed to score a respectable debut. STX Entertainment’s “Bad Moms” opened to a healthy \$23.4 million and a third place finish. That’s a strong return on the film’s \$20 million production budget. It also gives STX Entertainment a much needed win after its other summer release, the Civil War drama “Free State of Jones” collapsed at multiplexes.

“Bad Moms” originally was set up at Paramount Pictures and was intended to star Leslie Mann with the actress’ husband and frequent collaborator Judd Apatow producing. But Mann dropped out, as did Apatow, and the project migrated to STX. It stars Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell, and Kathryn Hahn as women who reject the pressure to be perfect parents, and instead indulge in hard partying and a more relaxed, Chablis-fueled approach to child-rearing.

“It is a terrific movie that has a lot of heart and a lot of laughs and it plays great across the board,” said Kevin Grayson, STX’s domestic distribution chief.

Grayson believes the film will continue to draw crowds in the coming weeks, because there are no other raunchy comedies with female leads on deck. That could help the picture withstand “Suicide Squad’s” opening next weekend. The comic book movie is tracking to open to as much as \$125 million, establishing a new record for an August launch.—Reuters



# Panda subway train debuts in bear's home province

CHENGDU — A panda-themed train debuted on Sunday in southwest China's Sichuan Province, home of the beloved black and white bears.

At 8:26am, the train departed with its first passengers, marking the opening of the fourth subway line in the provincial capital of Chengdu.

The carriages have handles shaped like panda heads, while the pole grips are painted to resemble bamboo. Seats and walls are decorated with panda patterns and pink bear footprints speckle the floor.

The panda train also fea-

tures announcements in the voice of a child for maximum cuteness.

The subway line, which runs from the southwest to the northeast of the city, is about 20 kilometres long and has 17 stops, passing through major tourist destinations, including the Chengdu Giant Panda Base.

Chengdu is accelerating its subway construction, with five new lines scheduled to begin construction this year, according to Rao Yong, general manager of Chengdu Subway Service Co. Ltd.—Xinhua

# Art exhibition held in Portugal's UNESCO World Heritage site

LISBON — A contemporary art exhibition entitled "Point of View" is being held here in Sintra, the UNESCO world heritage site some 30 km northwest of the Portuguese capital Lisbon.

Ten renowned contemporary artists including Portuguese artists Alexandre Farto (Vhils) and Gabriela Albergaria, German artist Nils-Udo and British artist Stuart Ian Frost, were invited to choose their "point of view" and build an installation using mostly materials from the environment in the park, to explore the relationship between man and nature.

The artworks are left unattended during the whole year so as to be purposely affected by the weather.

For instance, Nils-Udo's "Clearing," a green patch of grass, surrounded by trees and a

giant stone, is starting to dry out in a corner.

Ian Frost's "Spore" made of cork and acacia wood with a shape like a log, had a perfectly flat surface when it was installed and is now full of undulation.

One of the main purposes of the exhibition is to tempt visitors to venture into the park. Visitors are not as easily tempted to take a walk through the site's gardens and parks, technical director of Parques de Sintra, Nuno Oliveira, told Xinhua.

Oliveira added that initiatives like this have helped the number of visitors to the park grow significantly.

The exhibition will end on 25 May 2017.

Sintra was classified as a World Heritage site in 1995 and received 2 million visitors last year.—Xinhua

## IN PICTURE

# Annual buffalo racing held in Thailand



Thai buffalo racers compete during an annual buffalo racing in Chonburi Province, Thailand, on 31 July 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

# 'China's Challenges' wins historic Emmy Award

BEIJING — A China-US co-production called "China's Challenges" has garnered an Emmy Award in Los Angeles, making history for such bilateral collaboration, said the show's producer on Sunday.

US expert on China Robert Kuhn, also known for his book "How China's Leaders Think," said he and his team were delighted that the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences in Los Angeles has awarded an Emmy to their TV series for "pioneering presentation of China's historic transformation and today's challenges."

"It is good for the world to understand what is really happening in China," he told Xinhua in Beijing, where he is working on

another show with China Central Television.

"China's Challenges" explores with unique access and in cinematic detail how China is addressing critical issues, including wealth and education distribution, social problems, environmental protection, competing priorities, and relations between China's rich traditional culture and its rapidly modernizing society.

The series was co-produced by The Public Broadcasting Service (PBS), an American public broadcaster and television program distributor and The Kuhn Foundation in association with Shanghai Media Group. It was created, written and hosted by Kuhn.

"To our knowledge, 'China's Challenges' is the first international television production in association with a major China-based media organisation that has won this prestigious Emmy award, re-affirming the special benefits of our unique US-China collaboration to tell the true story of China to the world," Kuhn said.

"China's Challenges" has been broadcast on over 210 PBS stations in the United States, reaching 24 of the top 25 US markets and over 120 markets in total. There have been about 4,000 broadcasts of "China's Challenges" in the United States alone. Other countries that broadcast the series include Canada, Germany and Australia.—Xinhua



**Entertainment Channel**

(2-8-2016, Tuesday)

06:00 pm	Khaing"
• Weather Report	08:50 pm
• Music Programme	• Tying Knot Wedding Ceremony
06:10 pm	09:10 pm
• Cartoon Programme "Meet The Robinsons" (Part-2)	• International Movie Songs
07:00 pm	09:20 pm
• International Drama Series	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
07:40 pm	09:40 pm
• International Drama Series	• Music Programme
08:20 pm	09:50 pm
• MRTV Entertainment Music	• Sayit-Wine Girls
08:40 pm	10:20 pm
• Chef Life "Moe Moe"	• Myanmar Video

From 2-8-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm  
To 3-8-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm



**Myanmar International**

(2-8-2016 07:00am ~ 3-8-2016 07:00am) MST

## Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Game Changers (Ep- I)
07:52	Am	Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-II)
08:44	Am	Sagaing: Gold Leaf
08:52	Am	TECH School
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Dances of Myanmar "Akha Traditional Dance"
09:30	Am	Dances of Myanmar "Pre Kayaw Dance"
09:35	Am	Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"

09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: Street Vendors
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	The Legend of An ambulatory Surgeon (EP-2)
10:52	Am	Tea Leaves

(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
07:27	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-5)
07:52	Pm	Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes: Pre Kayaw- Their Life and Customs (Part- I)
08:54	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](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))



# Djokovic beats Nishikori in Rogers Cup final

TORONTO — World number one Novak Djokovic continued his dominance of Kei Nishikori with a 6-3, 7-5 victory in the final of the Rogers Cup in Toronto on Sunday.

After clinching his 30<sup>th</sup> ATP World Tour Masters 1000 title, Djokovic immediately started to turn his attention to something more elusive, an Olympic gold medal.

In his first tournament since an upset third round loss to American Sam Querrey on the grass of Wimbledon four weeks ago, Djokovic returned to his winning ways and became the first four-time winner of the Rogers Cup. The 29-year-old Serb seized the opening set in just over 30 minutes, and then dug deep during a spirited back and forth in the final stages of the hardcourt match. Djokovic was

bolstered by a strong service performance as he won 82 per cent of his first serve points and recorded five aces.

"I worked on it (with my coach)," Djokovic, who struggled on serve earlier in the tournament, said in a courtside interview.

"I had to change something, I was not getting many of the free points (as I did today).

"It allowed me to be more aggressive. It was my best (serving) performance of the week."

With the second set tied at 5-5 and the score at deuce, Djokovic won a pair of rallies to earn the decisive break.

Djokovic put extra loft on a forehand to create an unforced

error from Nishikori on game point, before triumphantly pointing at his head to illustrate

his savvy.

He served out to close the match.

Nishikori fought hard to stay in the final set but seemed to be bothered by his rackets as he made multiple trips to the side of the court to change.

The Japanese player recorded his fourth straight Memphis title in February for his 11<sup>th</sup> ATP

Tour victory, but he cannot seem to solve the world's top player and has now lost nine straight times to Djokovic.

"It was a shame to lose but this was my first time final here in Toronto," Nishikori told the Canadian crowd. "So, it was a great week."

Djokovic, a 12-time grand slam champion, will now turn his focus to the Rio Olympics, a tournament he has yet to conquer.

He earned a bronze medal in singles at Beijing in 2008 and fell just short of a medal at London in 2012.

"I don't need to explain that every athlete dreams of being a part of the Olympic Games," he said. "I'm competing in singles and doubles."

"Hopefully I'll get at least one medal."—Reuters



**Novak Djokovic of Serbia holds up the champions trophy after defeating Kei Nishikori of Japan to win the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Aviva Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on 31 July 2016.**  
PHOTO: REUTERS



**Manchester United's Wayne Rooney during Pre Season Friendly at Ulllevi Stadium, Gothenburg, Sweden on 30 July 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

## Rooney expects rejuvenated Man Utd to challenge for title

LONDON — Manchester United have been rejuvenated under new manager Jose Mourinho and are poised to mount a strong challenge for the Premier League title, skipper Wayne Rooney has said.

The 30-year-old forward, who secured his fifth league title with the club the last time they won it in 2013, scored eight top flight goals last season as United finished fifth and failed to qualify for the Champions League.

The 20-times English title winners have already signed striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic, midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan and defender Eric Bailly and according to local media reports, have been negotiating with Juventus over the transfer of Paul Pogba.

"I think the players feel this is more like the old Manchester United. It's not just the new signings, we've got Anthony Martial and Marcus Rashford from last

season who made such an impact," Rooney told the Daily Mail in an interview.

Rooney, who will line up against boyhood club Everton in his testimonial at Old Trafford on Wednesday, also hopes United can secure the annual Community Shield against English champions Leicester City at Wembley on Sunday.

"We're in a very good spot now, we think we can challenge for the Premier League, and we want to put a marker down, in the Community Shield with Leicester," Rooney added.

"I know it's a one-off game, but we want to show we can win a trophy early on... we feel that's an important event for us."

United, who thrashed Turkish side Galatasaray 5-2 in a friendly on Saturday, open their league campaign with a trip to Bournemouth on 14 August.—Reuters

## Walker wins first major at PGA Championship

SPRINGFIELD, (New Jersey) — American Jimmy Walker broke through for his first major title with a one-shot win over Jason Day in the PGA Championship after playing 36 gruelling holes at water-logged Baltusrol on Sunday.

The 37-year-old Texan calmly canned a three-foot par putt to cap a wire-to-wire win with steely precision, shooting a final-round 67 to finish on 14-under-par 266.

His victory was far from routine, however.

"It was a battle the whole day," said Walker, a five-time winner on the US tour.

Walker had to return to the classic championship course early Sunday morning to play his entire third round after heavy rain and thunderstorms suspended play on Saturday, and shot two-under 68 for a one-shot lead going into the final 18.

He then had to fend off

major winners Day and Henrik Stenson breathing down his neck in the final round, but came out shining with a one-two punch after the turn to set up victory.

Holding a one-shot lead over both world number one and defending champion Day and British Open winner Stenson, Walker holed out from a green-side bunker to birdie the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Walker then rolled in a left-to-right curling, 30-foot uphill putt for birdie at the 11<sup>th</sup> to extend his lead to two over Australia's Day. He widened the lead to three with a birdie putt that curled around the lip and in at the 17<sup>th</sup>.

But Day put on the pressure, reaching the par-five 18<sup>th</sup> in two. He rolled in the eagle putt for 67 to close the gap to one, as Walker, playing in the final pairing, looked on from back in the fairway.

"I made the birdie (on 17) but sometimes things just don't

come easy and golf is not an easy game, and Jason is a true champion," Walker said.

"I wouldn't expect anything less, an eagle at the last. That's unreal. So it really put it on me to make a par (on 18)."

The American sprayed his approach to 18 into thick rough right of the green before punching his third safely onto the green but 35 feet beyond the hole.

He rolled his first putt three feet past, leaving himself with a testing par putt, which he sank under enormous pressure in the fading light for his first major triumph.

"Sometimes pars are hard but we got it," Walker said before lifting the gleaming silver Wanamaker Trophy.

Said Day: "It was nice to get the eagle, just to try and make Jimmy think about it, but obviously Jimmy just played too good all day. The birdie on 17 was key for him."—Reuters



**Jimmy Walker holds up the Wanamaker trophy during the Sunday round of the 2016 PGA Championship golf tournament at Baltusrol GC at Lower Course, Springfield, NJ, USA, on 31 July 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS