

# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 91, 9<sup>th</sup> Waning of Waso 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 17 July 2017



Successfully separated conjoined twins Sai Hkam and Sai Ngin at Children's Hospital in Yangon. **PHOTO: PE ZAW**

## Conjoined twin boys successfully separated

DOCTORS of Children's Hospital in Yangon successfully separated Siamese twins at 9 am today after a surgical operation that lasted over two hours, according to the hospital.

The twins – Sai Hkam and Sai Ngin – are the sons of U Sai Aung and Daw Nang Hkam Nan of Wanhok village in Kengtung Township, eastern Shan State. They were born at Kengtung General Hospital two years ago on 7 March morning.

The two boys have been under intensive care of Medical Superintendent Dr. Su Su Dway, Professor Dr. Aye Aye (Pediatric Surgeon), Professor Dr. Ye Myint Kyaw (Child Specialist), and Professor Dr. Hla Myat Nwe (Neonatologist) since they were transferred to operation ward I of the Children's Hospital on 4 May 2015.

The surgical operation was conducted by surgical operation group 1 led by Dr. Aye Aye (Pediatric Surgeon)

and group 2 led by Associate Professor Dr. Nyo Nyo Win (Pediatric Surgeon, Yangon General Hospital) with the help of a number of medical professionals.

"The boys were joined at the navel. The surgical operation was successful. Currently they are under close care in the operation theatre.

We will place them in other ward when their situation improves," said Dr. Aye Aye (Pediatric Surgeon).

"We never thought that we would have Siamese twins. We thank all the doctors and the medical staff for the successful operation," said the father.

"We conducted medical checks on the twins at different stages and made preparations for the operation," said Dr. Nyo Nyo Win (Pediatric Surgeon).

It is the sixth surgical operation on the Conjoined twins at the hospital, and the cost of the operation was born by the State.—Zaw Gyi (Panita) ■

### Martyrs' Day to be broadcast live

The observance of the 70th Anniversary Martyrs' Day (Arzani Day) at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan, Yangon, will be broadcast live by MRTV, Myanmar Radio, MRTV Entertainment and MRTV National Races channels beginning 7:15 am today.

Fallen leaders will be memorialized by state officials and relatives at the Martyrs' Day anniversary which starts on 8 am. — Myanmar News Agency



#### NATIONAL

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khaing Than attends Stake driving ceremony

**PAGE-3**



#### NATIONAL

Stake Driving Ceremony for Mandalay High Court held

**PAGE-2**

SO SIMPLE, SO EASY

## KBZ mBANKING

AVAILABLE ON

**KBZ BANK**  
STRENGTH OF MYANMAR

01-2306219



# Stake Driving Ceremony for Mandalay High Court held

Stake Driving Ceremony of Mandalay High Court was held at auspicious pandal in the place of construction situated at 66th and 67th road between Tharaphi and Gangaw street at 9:50 am of 16 July. Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo attended the ceremony.

Union Minister U Win Khaing for Electricity and Energy and Construction, Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung of Mandalay Region, Deputy Minister Dr Htun Naing for Electricity and Energy, Deputy Minister U Kyaw Lin for Construction, Speaker of Hluttaw of the Region, Union Chief Justice of the Region, Mandalay May-

or, Region Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Minister for Finance participated in Stake Driving Ceremony and sprayed the scented water around the pandal.

Feeding dragon ritual was done by Union Chief Justice U Htun Htun Oo in the event as a symbol of successful execution of Stake Driving Ceremony.

The Region High Court building is 240 ft long and 240 ft wide RC, 3-storied building which will be constructed on the land of 4.89 acres by Building Department (2) special team (6) of Ministry of Construction. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Stake Driving Ceremony of Mandalay High Court in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Six more suspects arrested in connection with October Rakhine State attack

MYANMAR security forces arrested six suspects on 15 July allegedly connected to an armed attack in Ngakhura village, Maungtau Township,

Rakhine State in October. The suspects were detained in Ngakhura police station pending further investigation. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Independent media group collecting news in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Independent media group tours Rakhine

AN independent media group including foreign journalists interviewed the chief minister and ministers of Rakhine State cabinet at the government office in the regional capital Sittway yesterday morning.

They also gathered news at Thetkai-pyin and Dar-paing relief camps in Rakhine State.

The media group arrived back Yangon from Sittway by air in the evening. —Myanmar News Agency ■

## Kidnapped victim found dead in Buthidaung

Abdu Sulwon who was abducted by about 15 masked men at his home in Maunghnama Village on 4 July was found dead near Kalan Pann Zin creek on 15 July. Mar Mauk Tuhel, a boat

driver, in Nga Yant Chaung village, Buthidaung found a body stranded near Kalan Pann Zin creek and reported to the Taung Ba Zar Police Station. After an investigation the security forces

identified the dead person as Abdu Sulwon of Maunghnama village.

The case is under investigation. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Ms. Yanghee Lee meets Kayin State Government officials

Ms. Yanghee Lee, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights in Myanmar led a delegation to meet with Kayin State government officials at Pyidaungsu Yeiktha in Hpa-an yesterday, according to a report from the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD).

Ms. Lee met with Interim Kayin State Chief Minister and Minister of State Project, Finance and Development U Than Naing; with state government ministers and with Government Secretary U Pyone Cho to discuss Kayin State's security situation.

The discussion also covered

resettlement of displaced Myanmar people along the Myanmar-Thai border and local development projects, including mine clearance.

Following the meeting, the UN delegation met with civil society organizations at Thiri Hpa-an Hotel, Hpa-an. —Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD) ■

## Maungtau crab catchers benefit from breeding season

CRAB catchers are earning an average of Ks10,000 during the rainy season, according to local fishermen in Maungtau Township, Rakhine State.

"Crabs are bred in rainy season and consequently the crab catching is good during this season" said Ko Soe Aung of Aungminglar Village of Maungtau Township. Sea crabs are caught by placing traps in prawn ponds. "Sea crabs caught from Maungtau area are sent to Sittway through Angumaw by Hilux pick-ups. Daily output is three Hilux truckloads. They are sent alive to China from Sittway", said crab trader U Tin Maung of 4<sup>th</sup> Ward of Buthidaung



Crab catchers enjoying good business in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: THETKA**

Township. "Dead crabs are sold to local consumers at a reasonable price." Crab traders buy crabs from crab catchers at the

price Ks15,000 to 25,000 per batch (usually a recycled 110-pound rice bag).—Myint Muang Soe, Aung Kyaw Oo ■



## Spread democracy!

We must spread democracy, and must try to build an independent Myanmar through this system. Only democracy is suitable for independence as it is the only system that supports peace. So, democracy must be our goal!

(Excerpt from the speech delivered at the fourth State leaders meeting in August 1945)



## Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khaing Than attended the Stake Driving Ceremony for the building of Bronze Statue of the Martyrs Meet and encourage the returning displaced workers

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khaing Than arrived at the acceptance station for the returning workers opened at the office of the displaced worker in Myawaddy and warmly welcomed the workers repatriated from Thailand and encourage them. Then he inspected the receiving of the returning workers, sending the workers back home and health care services.

Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw, Mahn Win Khaing Than encouraged the returning workers and said "Be no longer anxious as you are now back in your country and tell the difficulties encountered to the authorities concerned frankly. Now the new investment law has been enacted and rules and regulations are also ratified. There will be job opportunities when the foreign companies invest in the country. When the jobs come

I wish you to work for the good of the country." Then, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw cordially greeted the workers after giving the food to them. He, then attended the Stake Driving Ceremony for bronze statues of the Martyrs. He drove the stake for the bronze statue of Mahn Ba Khaing and other responsible officials sprayed the scented water over the statue.

Afterwards, the Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw met with the members of Hluttaw, departmental officials, ward and village administer at the meeting hall of Myawaddy combined office and explained the matters relating to the allotment of Hluttaw Fund and works of the Hluttaw. Then he outlined the guidance upon the expending of Union Hluttaw development Fund.—Htein Lin Aung (IPRD) ■



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than presenting foodstuff to returnees from Thailand. **PHOTO: HTEIN LIN AUNG (IPRD) ■**

## Kachin State capital Myitkyina gets community centre



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint looks around the community centre. **PHOTO: MNA**

A community centre was opened in Myitkyina, the capital of Kachin State in the northernmost sector of Myanmar yesterday morning, with an address by Union Minis-

ter for Information Dr. Pe Myint. The Minister said the democratically elected government is reporting back information on its services in the public interest to

the people apart from its main task of providing the public with local and international news and events. At the same time it is enhancing public knowledge or public education through libraries. He also said the Information Ministry is using radio, TV, dailies and libraries as tools for disseminating information. As time passes alongside the social, technological and technical changes community centres become the effective means for contacting the people. The nurturing of the democracy practices such as community gatherings, legal assembling and the majority involvement in the administrative and management affairs of the state in the democratic reforms is the goal of the centres.

Under the sponsorship of

the Information Ministry, the Daw Khin Kyi Foundation and the Information and Public Relations Department-IPRD jointly opened the centre that will serve as a place where people can work and organise together for the benefit of their local communities, including adult education social and cultural activities.

After the opening ceremony, Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint, Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, Chief Minister Dr. Khet Aung, Speaker of the state parliament U Tun Tin, Ambassador of Czech Republic to Myanmar Mr. Jaroslav Dolecek and officials visited mobile library bus and mini museum, children's reading corner, library, training hall and meeting room of the centre, outdoor fitness centre, book

store, IPRD district office, youth centre and gymnasium run by Daw Khin Kyi Foundation.

Normally, a community centre has other many functions as it can be used as a place for all-community celebrations at various occasions and traditions; and for public meetings of the citizens on various issues, where politicians or other official leaders come to meet the citizens and ask for their opinions, support or votes, and where community members meet each other socially.

In some cases, community centres accommodate local clubs, volunteer activities, social activities including weddings, birthdays and funerals and even entertainments.—Kachin State IPRD ■



GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR  
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**ACTING CHIEF EDITOR**

Aye Min Soe,  
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**

Mark Angeles,  
markangeles@gmail.com

**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

**SENIOR TRANSLATORS**

Khin Maung Oo,  
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader),  
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com

**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**

Ye Htut Tin,  
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**

Tun Tun Naing (Editor),  
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),  
nwenwe9131@gmail.com

**TRANSLATORS**

Khaing Thanda Lwin,  
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Hay Mar Tin Win,  
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
Ei Myat Mon  
Zaw Htet Oo  
Kyaw Zin Lin  
Sandar Soe  
Kyaw Zin Tun

**REPORTERS**

May Thet Hnin,  
mayreporter.mmm@gmail.com  
Tun Aung Kyaw,  
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

**COMPUTER TEAM**

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),  
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,  
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,  
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,  
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

**EDITORIAL SECTION**

(+95) (01) 8604529,  
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305

**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**

San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,  
Hotline - 09 974424114

**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**

(+95) (01) 8604530,  
Hotline - 09 974424848  
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Printed and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

gnlmdaily@gmail.com  
www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
www.facebook.com/  
globalnewlightofmyanmar

**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.

# Demand for traditional bamboo fan declines during monsoon retreat

TRADITIONAL bamboo fan makers in Mandalay Region have temporarily ceased production during Buddhist lent as domestic demand for the traditional products usually declines in this period.

A few firms from Yekyi village, Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region, can produce the bamboo fans during this monsoon retreat.

The market is normally increases activity again after Buddhist lent, a period of meditation and charitable acts between 8 July and 5 October.

Fans are given as a gifts to attendees of traditional ceremonies, including novitiation and other religious ceremonies, including weddings to express gratitude to hosts.

Bamboo fans are prized



Women making bamboo fans. PHOTO: NWAY NADI (MYITNGE)

over plastic designs for their authenticity.

Fan makers in Yekyi Vil-

lage say production has also slowed due to a recent shortage of bamboo in the region.

Bamboo is also used to make food, clothing and crafts. —Nway Nadi (Myitnge) ■

## Rice trade to be promoted through trade center

RICE trade will be promoted through a new exchange to ensure quality and price, according to a report of Myawady Daily yesterday.

Previously, the rice trade was normally carried out at the depots. In addition to quality assurance and systematic trade, rice exchanges will settle

advanced sales and purchasing deals, said U Ye Min Aung, the secretary general of Myanmar Rice Federation. MRF will establish exchanges at existing depots

at Wardan Street, Yangon, Bayintnaung, Mandalay and Muse. Then smaller depots across the country will also be upgraded with exchanges later on. —200 ■

## New tourism law expected to be passed this year

THE new tourism draft law has already been submitted to the parliament and it is expected to be enacted this year, according to a joint secretary-general of the Myanmar Tourism Federation (MTF), according to a report of the Myawady Daily

issued on Sunday.

The new law was initially drafted in 2015. The Office of the Attorney General and respective Hluttaw committee have approved the draft. Those working in the tourism industry are currently waiting

for parliamentary approval to pass the new law as quickly as possible. By-laws are also being developed by the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism in cooperation with relevant tourism organisations. The by-laws are expected to take effect 90 days

after enactment of the draft law.

The new law is aimed at safeguarding rights and responsibilities of tourism professionals and tourists and ensuring adequate quality and security of the tourism services.—GNLM ■

## MIC permitted four local and foreign companies to invest in real estate sector

MYANMAR Investment Commission (MIC) authorised four local and Singapore-based companies to invest in Myanmar's real estate sector, according to a report of Myawady Daily yesterday.

Singapore based Japan

Inya Investment Company Limited was permitted to carry out housing project in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region with capital of US\$35.4 million. Kajima Yankin PPP Company Limited was allowed to put wholly foreign investments of \$280.8

million in real estate development project in Yankin Township, Yangon Region.

As Myanmar Citizens investment, Fortune International Limited will develop apartment, apartment villa, office and shopping complex under a build-op-

erate-transfer system (BOT) in Mayangon Township, Yangon Region, investing Ks81.2 million. Meanwhile, Hi Star Co., Ltd will put investments of Ks1,500 million into a four-storey building complex under a BOT system. —200 ■





Delegation of Myanmar Real Estate Service Development Association and Viet Nam Real Estate Service Association seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Viet Nam. **PHOTO: SOE WIN (MLA)**

## Myanmar and Viet Nam Real Estate Service Association to sign MoU

MYANMAR Real Estate Service Development Association and the Viet Nam Real Estate Service Association are negotiating a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to enhance the real estate sectors of both nations.

A delegation led by U Tin Maung and U Aung Tun, chairman and vice chairman of the Myanmar Real Estate Services Development Association, respectively, left for Hanoi, Viet Nam on 15 July with a 25 member-delegation for discussions. The group is scheduled to re-

turn to Yangon on 19 July.

The Myanmar's last such trip took place on 24 April with assistance from Myanmar's ambassador to Viet Nam and embassy staff.

In the furtherance of a potential deal, suggestions of Viet Nam Real Estate Association regarding a draft real estate service law will be submitted to Pyithu Hluttaw through the Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Committee.

"Formulating real estate services policy also needs opin-

ions from those offering real estate services as well as public opinion", said U Tin Maung.

"Signing MoU will help build trust with our association, plus more investments in Myanmar", U Aung Tun said. "It will also help us understand the procedures, law and by-law practiced in Viet Nam's real estate industry. We expect this will bring benefits to the public. If the modern building and apartment projects increase, land price in this environment will increase". — Soe Win (MLA) ■

## Thailand invested more than US\$130 million in Thilawa SEZ so far

THAI businesses have invested US\$130 million in Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) since its initiation in 2013, according to a report on Saturday in the Myawady Daily newspaper.

Investment in Thilawa SEZ by Thailand ranked second, after Japan's \$468 million investment.

Foreign investments in Thilawa SEZ are estimated at \$1.7

billion so far. The manufacturing sector in Thilawa SEZ absorbed investments of \$773 million, the import-export sector attracted \$126 million, logistics attracted \$77 million, the service sector attracted \$56 million, real estate attracted \$30 million and the hotel sector attracted \$12 million.

Of Thilawa SEZ's total 2,400 hectares, 400 hectares are for

Zone A, with 96 percent of construction completed. Zone B, comprising 101 hectares, will be leased in 2017 and is scheduled for completion in 2018.

A total of 150 foreign companies are expected to invest in the zone. Myanmar is implementing three Special Economic Zones-Thilawa, Kyaukpadaung and Dawei. —200 ■

## MRF to push Commerce Ministry to formulate rice trade policy this FY

MYANMAR Rice Federation (MRF) is lobbying the Commerce Ministry to formulate a new rice trade policy during the current fiscal year.

MRF submitted a draft policy regarding retail, wholesale, import, export and storage of rice trade to the Commerce

Ministry in FY 2014-2015.

"Rice trade policy needs to be made depending on the analysis of the retail and wholesale markets, import-export, market competition against international countries, financial support, role of commodity depots, storage and foreign

investments", said U Ye Min Aung, the general secretary of MRF.

The Commerce Ministry formed a committee to adopt a new rice trade policy in the previous government's period, but has not yet done so. — Ko Htet ■

## US-Myanmar TIFA meeting highlighted key points on trade

OFFICIALS from the United States and Myanmar discussed matters related to investment, agriculture, customs reform, import permits, intellectual property rights and worker rights at the US-Myanmar Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) planning meeting on Thursday, according to the news released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Ad-

ministration (DICA).

The US-Myanmar TIFA meeting was held at the office of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

At the meeting, U Aung Naing Oo, Secretary of the MIC and Ms Christine Brown, the Director of the Southeast Asia and Pacific office of the US Trade Representative, delivered the opening remarks.— DICA news ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း: **"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

**"Sunday Special"** အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

သတင်းစာသစ် ပြန်လည်အားပေး ကမ္ဘာ့သတင်းစာ

**နေပြည်တော်**  
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရွှေဘို (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ ဝိမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၁၂၁၀၀

**နေပြည်တော်**  
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ယောသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ဓနုလင်းလမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

**ရန်ကုန်**  
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးဆယ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၅၄၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၂၄၁၁၄

**မန္တလေး**  
လမ်း (၂၁ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၉၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲဓနုရောင်ရမ်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၇၂၉၊ ၀၂၃၂၇၅၁

**တောင်ကြီး**  
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၅၇

**မကွေး**  
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ဈေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၇၁၂၂

**လွိုင်စင်**  
မြို့နယ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၇၉၂

**ကလေး**  
အောင်ဓမ္မရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

**မြင်းကြီး**  
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြင်းကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

**စစ်တွေ**  
ရွှေဘိုလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မီးစက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်းမြင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

**လားရှိုး**  
ဟူးမုန်းကျေးရွာတံ၊ ဟူးမုန်းဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊ (၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆွေဘုရားရွှေ၊ အဝေရာလမ်း၊ လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

**ဗြိတ်**  
မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းရောင်ရမ်း၊ ကလေးကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊ ဗြိတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၀၃

**မော်လမြိုင်**  
ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၇၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၇၂၆

**မုံရွာ**  
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတပ်မတော်အနီး၊ မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၅၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃



## Forest fires hit northern Mongolia

ULAN BATOR — Mongolia's National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) announced here on Saturday that 11 forest fires are still raging in northern Mongolia and the government has decided to deploy more resources to extinguish the fires.

All NEMA members along with local volunteers are currently fighting the forest fires on the frontline. But they are also facing a serious shortage of fire extinguishing equipment.

Mongolian President Khaltmaa Battulga discussed with Prime Minister Jargaltulga Erdenebat on Saturday the issue of fighting forest fires in the most affected territory of Selenge and Tuv aimags.

The Mongolian government also held an emergency meeting here on Saturday, and decided to

temporarily prohibit all residents and tourists from entering forest areas.

The government has also decided to deploy more emergency equipment to the NEMA and make artificial rainfall depending on local weather situations.

Since early July, more than 20 forest fires have hit northern Mongolia, including areas near the capital city of Ulan Bator, Tuv aimag, Selenge aimag and Bulgan aimag.

Hundreds of young Mongolians have spontaneously gathered through social media to join the fight against the forest fires. NEMA has expressed concern over the voluntary rescue and called on the public to stay away from the core areas of the forest fires in case of accidents.

—Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 16 July, 2017 shows the city of Ulan Bator covered in smog which was caused by severe forest fires in Mongolia. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

## Nepal to host SAARC senior police officials' conference in September

KATHMANDU — Nepal will be hosting a conference on senior police officials of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in September, a senior government official said here Sunday.

Mani Prasad Bhattarai, Chief of the SAARC Division at the Nepal's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, told Xinhua that the conference will be held in view of enhancing cooperation among law enforcement agencies of the SAARC region.

"The conference will be held in September, however, the exact dates will be announced in due

course following consultation with SAARC nations," Bhattarai added.

India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Bangladesh and Afghanistan will be the part of the SAARC conference.

Bhattarai also informed that the SAARC nations are working to develop the SAARC Visa Exemption Sticker Scheme to simplify visa process for the people in the region.

The SAARC is a regional body to promote regional cooperation and cordial relations among these South Asian countries. —Xinhua ■



A relative of an Australian victim of Malaysia Airlines jet MH17 touches a memorial that was unveiled outside Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, on 17 July 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Australia says MH17 perpetrators may be tried in absentia

SYDNEY — The perpetrators who brought down Malaysia Airlines Flight MH17 in July 2014, killing all 298 aboard, may be tried in absentia, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said on Sunday.

Most of those on board the Boeing 777 were Dutch, but others came from 17 countries, including 38 Australians.

It was shot down by a Russian-made Buk missile over eastern Ukrainian territory held by pro-Russia separatists, the Dutch Safety Board concluded in 2015. Late in June, the Netherlands said suspects in the case

would be tried in a Dutch court, and under Dutch law.

Bishop said "every legal avenue" was being pursued, and urged Russia to comply with UN Security Council resolution 2166, authored by Australia.

"That calls on all states to cooperate to ensure that those responsible for the killing are brought to justice," she told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation. "It may be that there will have to be a trial in absentia," Bishop added.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman was unable to provide additional details.

Moscow, which denies any involvement in the fighting in eastern Ukraine, also denies one of its rockets could have been used against MH17.

The decision on a trial in the Netherlands follows attempts, blocked by Russia in 2015, to set up an international court over the incident. It is not clear how far Russia will cooperate with a Dutch court if prosecutors name Russian suspects or request information. Bishop's comments come just days after Malaysia expressed hopes that suspects would be known by the end of the year. —Reuters ■

## Bangladesh elite force cordons off militant hideout

DHAKA — Bangladesh's anti-crime elite force Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) on Sunday cordoned off a residential building on the outskirts of capital Dhaka when militants with huge explosives opened fire at the law enforcers.

The RAB team surrounded the village house early Sunday suspecting presence of Islamist militants there, said Abdul Awal, a police official in Ashulia.

"Militants fired at least five gunshots" from inside

the house, he said, adding that the militants also hurled crude bombs at the law enforcers.

In retaliation, according to the official, RAB members also fired at the militants.

No one was hurt in the incidents of gunfire and blasts.

The RAB team on loudspeaker asked the suspected militants to surrender.

Authorities have already imposed a restriction on movement of vehicles and pedestrians around the terror hideout

which is now under siege by the security forces.

No further details were immediately available about the raid.

Security has been tightened in Bangladesh since militants attacked a Spanish cafe in Dhaka's Gulshan on July 1 last year, killing 22 people mostly foreigners.

Since the cafe attack, Bangladeshi police have conducted series of large-scale operations against militants. —Xinhua ■



# Three die in Kobe, man arrested for possessing knife

KOBE — An elderly couple and a woman were found dead Sunday in Kobe in western Japan and a 26-year-old male relative of the couple was arrested for possessing a kitchen knife nearby, police said.

Two other women were injured. The Hyogo prefectural police are investigating the incident on suspicion of murder and attempted murder.

The police received a phone call from someone speaking with a man's voice around 6:20 am from a house asking for help.

A police officer found the elderly couple collapsed at the scene. The two were later confirmed dead, while another woman was found dead nearby.

The police arrested the man who lives at the house where the phone call was made on suspicion of violating the Firearms and Swords Control Law for possessing a kitchen knife at a shrine close to the residence. They are investigating whether the man is related to the deaths of the three people. — Kyodo News



Police officers investigate near a house in Kobe, western Japan, on July 16, 2017, after an elderly couple were found collapsed there. The couple were later confirmed dead while another woman was found dead nearby. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## First tunnel project of Indonesia's Jakarta-Bandung high-speed railway launched

WALINI (Indonesia) — The Walini tunnel project of the High-Speed Railway (HSR) linking Indonesian capital Jakarta to Bandung was launched here Saturday.

Indonesian State-owned Enterprises (SoE) Minister Rini Soemarno attended the ground-breaking ceremony and visited the project in Walini in Bandung Regency.

"I am optimistic about this project which would be in full swing at the end of August. It means that any obstacles we are facing now need to be cleared," Rini told Xinhua.

The minister said she will immediately coordinate with state

power firm PLN and the Ministry of Public Works to overcome the obstacles.

"I am pleased with these developments so far. I have heard about results of cooperation with the Chinese firms here, such as recruitment of locals in the projects," she said. The project was previously delayed due to official permits and land compensation issues, she said.

"But as the state enterprise minister who is a shareholder of this project, I will make it sure this project would be completed as we have planned," she said.

Praising the Indonesian minister's commitments, Zhang Wei, general manager of the China

Railway Engineering Corporation (CREC) Jakarta-Bandung High-Speed Railway project, said that the commencement of the tunnel project will offer a significant demonstration and give experience for other tunnel constructions in the HSR project.

"As the first formal project of the Jakarta-Bandung HSR project, the commencement of the tunnel in Walini marks an important step in the overall construction," Zhang told Xinhua. The CREC will cooperate with other Chinese contractors so as to contribute to the accomplishment of the HSR project and the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative, he said.—Xinhua ■

## Philippine military says 550 buildings in Marawi remain to be cleared up

MANILA — Philippine security forces have yet to clear up to 550 buildings in Marawi to completely retake the southern city from extremists allied with Islamic State (IS), a spokesman of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) said on Sunday.

Army Lt. Col Jo-Ar Herrera said the troops are making advances in pushing out up to 70 militants still holed up in the remaining buildings and mosques in the city's four villages.

In the last 48 hours, Herrera said that the troops managed to clear 60 more buildings previously occupied by the militants.

He said the troops also recovered "many" firearms during the latest raids. Since the military offensive, Herrera said the troops have recovered "more or less 500 firearms from the rebels."

"We are gaining more grounds. The rebel-held area is getting smaller," Herrera said, adding "we are committed and focused to finish the job as soon as possible."

Herrera said the troops are maximizing the military's capabilities at this stage. "We have been fighting units on the ground, the best tactical commanders. As I said it's just a matter of time this conflict will

be over soon," he said. Herrera said that the rebel-held buildings in Marawi's four villages are rigged with explosives like improvised explosive devices, fuel and molotov bombs in a bid to delay the advancing troops, making it difficult for the troops to easily penetrate the buildings.

The estimated 70 militants who are occupying the buildings are still heavily-armed, he said.

"They still have machine guns and anti-tank weapons. There are still plenty of snipers around."

AFP spokesman Restituto Padilla said Saturday that the death toll in the 55-day Marawi conflict has reached 537, including 93 soldiers and policemen.

As of 7 pm of 14 July, he said at least 399 Islamic militants and 45 civilians have been killed. The death toll is expected to rise as the fighting continues to retake rebel-controlled areas within the city.

Fighting broke out in the Philippines' only Islamic city on 23 May when militants allied with Islamic State (IS) in the Middle East attacked a hospital, a school and government buildings in a failed attempt to control the city.—Xinhua ■



Photo taken on 15 July, 2017 shows the the construction site of the Walini tunnel project of the High-Speed Railway (HSR) linking Indonesian capital Jakarta to Bandung. The Walini tunnel project of the High-Speed Railway (HSR) linking Indonesian capital Jakarta to Bandung was launched here Saturday. **PHOTO: XINHUA**



## A noteworthy speech by Bogoyoke for us to keep in our minds forever!

Khin Maung Oo

IN our Myanmar calendar, we have had two gloomy and disgraceful days. The first one took place on 19th July, 1947 when our national leader and architect of Myanmar Independence Bogoyoke Aung San and colleagues were assassinated by a power mad national traitor and a group of thugs. We have been mournfully holding the “Martyrs’ Day,” annually, in commemoration of our fallen leaders. The second one happened on 7th July 1962. In 1962, students staged a protest against the military coup of General Ne Win, and due to the suppression of the military dictator students were killed in a massacre, so this day has

been known as Seventh July.

These days, articles and poems on Bogoyoke and martyrs as well as excerpts from Bogoyoke’s historic speeches occupy the pages of our dailies and periodicals almost every day. Much as these have been heard more than 60 times, our desire to read these never ceased. Especially, I think Bogoyoke’s speeches or rather words that came out of his mouth are of great strength. Utopia is an imaginary paradise, but we will reach our hoped-for federal democratic union sooner rather than later if we abide by and practice in accordance with Bogoyoke’s speeches. Bogoyoke always spoke out only what he could do himself, never asking others to do what he could not.

This year, we have a chance to read more excerpts from his speeches more than in previous years, as if a thirsty person diving into a lake. Here I would like to point out one, among them. It was the excerpt from Bogoyoke Aung San’s speech addressed at the All Workers’ Union and dinner party in Natmauk, on 25th March 1947.

Bogoyoke said, “You are required to distinguish politics from discipline. Nothing will work without discipline. If someone wants to violate a discipline, he must be well convinced of what kind of punishment he deservedly will have as a consequence. Try your best to have an order changed, by keeping discipline. Abide by disciplines before having it changed. This

is the difference between politics and discipline.”

As said by Aristotle, all of us being political animals are responsible to take part in politics, that is, to bring about the well-being of our society. In doing so, we, being social animals with the power of speech and moral reasoning, should not act out of judgment, that is, we need to abide by rules, laws or disciplines. Trying our best to have an order changed is our cause, and to accomplish our cause, we must abide by discipline. To sum it up, Bogoyoke’s speech is pointing out that we need to distinguish between Politics and Discipline in striving to achieve our national causes. ■

## There should be no excuse for Grand Larcenies

Tommy Pauk

EVERY conscientious person avoids committing larceny in any society in the world. As a common acceptance, a person who is guilty for larceny must be penalized in accordance with the law prescribed in a certain society. In any society, nobody wants to be addressed them as ‘thief’. The word ‘thief’ is derogatory to the person who is addressed by others. Basically we human beings value the human dignity in life and in a society that we live in. We do not want to be called ‘thief’ by others unless we steal any property or money from individual or from public property. The sensible people try to control their minds not to do bad things or commit crimes. This means that well-bred persons cherish the value of basic human dignity and decency. Normally, the honest and simple persons disgust the act of stealing other people’s property or money. Some dishonest persons or

morally corrupt public officials in some countries commit grand larcenies or steal public property. Even if the accused are higher rank officials or head of state, they ought to deal with the Larceny law. The exemplary penalty should be imposed on the accused those who are public officials in any country so that they can have the clean government. Everyone has to abide by law in human society.

We often hear that the public officials in some countries committed larceny and the accused were penalized for the grand larceny. Some were given severe or harsher punishment and the stolen property was seized or frozen by the law enforcement. Civilized people around the world never ever excuse for those who committed grand larcenies because the act of stealing is a crime which causes great losses to the concerned owner of the property or the state’s property indeed. Even then, the culprits tarnish the im-

age of a certain society and they totally breach the religious teachings. Moreover, no one can deny that such immoral act is detrimental to a certain country’s prestige and national glory. Actually, when people are in power, they do not care the law and they fall prey to the inordinate-greed for their personal gain. Thus, they commit a criminal case of grand theft or grand larcenies recklessly. All the citizens and cabinet members in every country should practice good moral conduct at all time to make their country prestigious and glorious.

Nobody should ignore or neglect the criminal case of grand larceny whenever it arises in the administrative levels of a state. If the authorities involved in the law enforcement agencies fail to take actions against those accused for grand larceny related to public funds or private funds, they would be considered accomplices. Consequently, failure on action against those accused for grand larceny would

provoke public outcry.

If a particular country is notorious for increasing grand larcenies, the foreign investors will shrink to invest to do some business or set up an industry in it. Due to malpractice of some public officials or services personnel, the country concerned get negative impact such as barriers arising in exercising good governance and clean government. The government and the citizens must protect and crack down the act of grand larcenies in any country aiming to develop country’s economy and prosperity. We should accept this dictum “righteous government and honest citizens always work together for preserving a country’s glory and fame” as a universal concept. The intent of this article is to highlight the impact caused by the act of grand larceny. We all should bear in mind that this act is a bad-deed or a sin. Everyone on earth should be content with the honest way of living in human life. ■

### Flood Bulletin (Issued at 13:00 hr M.S.T on 16-7-2017)

#### 1. Flood condition of Ayeyawady River

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water levels have exceeded by about (1) foot at Pakokku and about (2) feet at Nyaung Oo above their respective danger levels, the water levels may continue to rise about (2) inches at Pakokku and about (3) inches at Nyaung Oo during the next (1) day and may remain above their respective danger levels.

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water levels have exceeded by about (½) foot at Hinthada and about (1) centimeter at Zalun above their respective danger levels, the water levels may continue to rise about (1) foot each at Hinthada and Zalun during the next (3) days and may remain above their respective danger levels.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas in Pakokku, Nyaung Oo, Hinthada and Zalun Townships, to take precaution measure.

#### 2. Flood condition of Chindwin River

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water levels have exceeded by about (1) foot at Phaung Pyin and about (½) foot at Kani above their respective danger levels. The water levels may fall below their respective danger levels during the next (1) day at Phaung Pyin and Kani.

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water levels have exceeded by about (5) feet at Mawlaik, about (4) feet at Kalewa and about (4½) feet at Minkin above their respective danger levels. The water levels may fall about (3) feet each at Mawlaik, Kalwea and Minkin during the next (2) days and may remain above their respective danger levels.

According to the (12:30) hr M.S.T observation today, the water level has exceeded by about (2) feet at Monywa of Chindwin River above its danger level. The water level may fall about (1) foot during the next (1) day and may remain above its danger level.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas along the Chindwin River, to take precaution measure.

#### 3. Flood condition of Ngawun River

According to the (12:30) hrs M.S.T observation today, the water level has exceeded by about (1) foot at Ngathaing Chaung of Ngawun River above its danger level. The water level may continue to rise about (1) foot during the next (3) days and may remain above its danger level. It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas in Ngawun River to take precaution measure.

**Department of Meteorology and Hydrology**



## 112 undocumented Myanmar workers arrive at Kawthoung from Thailand

A group of 112 undocumented Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand returned to the Kawthoung port of entry of Myanmar aboard a motorized schooner yesterday night.

The group was the 12th group of undocumented Myanmar migrant workers to return to Kawthoung from

Thailand after a recent immigration crackdown that began on 29 June.

Since that time, 1,617 Myanmar migrants have returned to Kawthoung.

Other Thailand-Myanmar ports of entry are also seeing large numbers of returning migrant workers.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Region Relief and Resettlement Department and local social organizations arranged highway coach tickets and other travel allowances for returning Myanmar workers.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■



Undocumented Myanmar migrant workers in Thailand return to Kawthoung port. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)** ■

## Union Minister visits Yeywa hydropower dam



Union Minister U Win Khaing meets officials and staff of Yeywa hydropower dam. **PHOTO: MNA**

UNION Minister for Construction U Win Khaing visited Yeywa hydropower dam in Mandalay Region where to inspect the turbine and generator of a 790-megawatt power plant.

At the meeting hall of the dam, the minister met with officials and discussed the power distribution system and its connection with the national grid and generation targets.

The plant has annual production capacity of 3550 kilowatt hours and maintenance of machines. Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing who was included in the

minister's inspection team and Department of Hydropower Implementation officials reported on dam maintenance works of the hydropower plant located near Yeyaman village 38 miles southeast of Mandalay.

The minister then inspected the project site of the 66-megawatt Deedok hydropower dam located downstream of the Yeywa Dam.

The 2264-foot-long and 433-foot-high Yeywa Dam can store up to two million acre-feet of water.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Landing bridge for tourists and local visitors in Kawthoung

TANINTHAYI Region Government is implementing the construction of a landing bridge in Kawthoung to be used by local and foreign visitors, according to Kawthoung District Road department.

The landing stage is being constructed near the seaside of Bayint Naung cape in the strand road, Kawthoung. It is a concrete type bridge with 55 ft width, 33 ft length and 17 ft height. It will be constructed

by Sgalacdicos Co.,Ltd with the management of Road department in Kawthoung District. The funds for this landing bridge will be covered by Taninthayi Region Government fund Ks 33.3 million.

Tourism is a smokeless industry that also supported all incomes to State Budget every year. At the present, Kawthoung is being developed as a tourist attraction. Due to beautiful scenery of natural

islands, coasts and underwater beauties, local and foreign businessmen have invested in hotels and resorts.

Thus foreign visitors are more interested in visiting these places and it is needed a bridge to connect between islands and lands.

They are planning to finish the constructing of this harbor bridge in time for the coming season.—Kyaw Soe (Kawthoung) ■



Landing bridge for tourists and local visitors constructed in Kawthoung. **PHOTO: KYAW SOE (KAWTHOUNG)** ■

## Customs seizures at Yepu checkpoint worth Ks1.855 million within a day

MYANMAR customs confiscated unauthorized goods with an estimated value of Ks1.855 million on Saturday at a checkpoint stop, according to a statement by the Customs Department yesterday.

Checkpoint guards seized two express cars heading from Myawady to Yangon and unauthorized fishing nets, fish sauce,

instant noodle, cream, soya milk and corn in those cars on 15 July.

The government opened two new permanent checkpoints in Shan and Mon States at Yepu and Mayaungyaung on 1 March to prevent distribution of illegal goods.

On 15 July, more than 400 vehicles on Mandalay-Muse Un-

ion Highway were inspected at checkpoints.

The customs department seized illegal goods amounting to Ks1.4 billion through all points of entry in April. The figures increased to Ks3 billion in May. In June, the customs seizures reached Ks3.7 billion.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Illegal goods seized at Yepu checkpoint. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

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



# Trump may reverse decision on climate accord, France's Macron says

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron said he was hopeful that US President Donald Trump would reverse his decision to pull the United States out of the Paris climate accord, according to weekly newspaper *Le Journal du Dimanche* (JDD) on Sunday.

“(Trump) told me that he would try to find a solution in the coming months,” Macron told the paper, referring to meetings the two leaders had this week in Paris.

“We spoke in detail about the things that could make him come back to the Paris accord,” he added.

Trump has said the Paris accord is soft on leading polluters like China and India, putting US industry at risk.

Trump on Friday appeared to hold the door open to a change of position on the 2015 Paris climate change agreement which he pulled the United States out of earlier this year.



French President Emmanuel Macron and US President Donald Trump attend the traditional Bastille Day military parade on the Champs-Élysées in Paris, France, on 14 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The accord, reached by nearly 200 countries in 2015, was meant to limit global warming to 2 degrees or less by 2100,

mainly through pledges to cut carbon dioxide and other emissions from the burning of fossil fuels.

Trump has repeatedly said he would be open to a better deal for the United States. —Reuters ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

### At least eight killed in wall collapse at football match in Senegal

DAKAR — At least 8 people were killed on Saturday in a stampede and a wall collapse during a local league cup final in Senegal's capital Dakar, local media reported.

With the score at 2-1 during extra time, a fight broke out between fans of rivals US Ouakam and Stade de Mbour. Police fired tear gas to control the rioting situation. As spectators tried to flee the stadium, part of a wall supporting bleachers collapsed, killing at least 8 people and seriously injuring over 49 others.

Rescue workers and medics are currently working at the scene and searching for more survivors under the rubble. —Xinhua ■

### Australia should aim to become major arms exporter: minister

CANBERRA — Australia needs to “reverse the current situation” and become one of the world's premier arms exporters, according to the nation's Defense Industry Minister Christopher Pyne.

Speaking with local media on Sunday, the minister said that Australia must become self-sufficient in the way that it builds its defence capabilities, adding that creating an arms export industry would deliver self-sufficiency and build strategic relationships with ally nations in the Middle East. —Xinhua ■

### Death toll rises to 22 in house fire in China's Jiangsu

NANJING — The death toll rose to 22 in a house fire in east China's Jiangsu Province early Sunday morning, local authorities said.

The fire broke out at around 4:32 a.m. in a two-story residential house in Yushan Town in Changshu City, leaving 22 people dead and another three injured.

The fire has been put out. Investigation into the cause of the accident is under way. —Xinhua ■

## EU leaders willing to compromise on freedom of movement, says Tony Blair

LONDON — European Union leaders are willing to change the bloc's rules for the freedom of movement of workers, opening an opportunity for Britain to avoid a damaging “hard Brexit”, former prime minister Tony Blair said on Saturday.

The election of French President Emmanuel Macron had put reform of the EU on the table, meaning Britain and the EU could meet “halfway” to strike a deal that would keep Britain inside the world's largest trading area, Blair said.

“The European leaders, certainly from my discussions, are willing to consider changes to accommodate Britain, including around freedom of movement,” the former Labour prime minister said in an article published by his Institute for Global Change.

“The opposition to free movement of people, once you break it down, is much more nuanced. The French and Germans share some of the British worries, notably around immi-

gration, and would compromise on freedom of movement.”

Blair's comments are at odds with the EU's negotiating stance, which stresses there can be no “cherry picking” from the benefits of membership of the EU's single market without accepting freedom of movement for EU workers.

In a separate interview, Blair said he thought it was possible that Britain could stay in the EU because public opinion was moving against Brexit.

“I think it's absolutely necessary that it doesn't happen because I think every day is bringing us fresh evidence that it's doing us damage economically,” Blair said, in a preview of Sky News' Sophy Ridge on Sunday programme. The pro-Brexit Leave Means Leave campaign said Blair's comments showed how out of touch he is with voters.

Many Western EU leaders are indeed concerned to limit free movement only to workers - as specified in the EU treaty.

Germany has won a series of EU court cases denying benefits and residence rights to immigrants who were not working.

There is little appetite in the bloc for reopening a negotiation with Britain that it already had before the Brexit referendum - partly because many in the EU see Britain's problems with EU immigration as partly of its own making.

Under Blair's government, citizens of Poland and other ex-communist states were allowed to settle immediately in Britain, despite a years-long transition period allowed under EU rules. When former prime minister David Cameron made cutting EU immigration the focus of a deal he demanded before holding the referendum last year, other European governments argued London could do more within existing EU rules to limit arrivals.

They nonetheless agreed to a special deal for Cameron to give Britain special rights to

curb EU immigration, but that deal was rendered moot by the Brexit vote.

In his article on Saturday, Blair lamented that both Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative Party and the opposition Labour Party had set their minds on leaving the single market, without exploring the alternatives.

“Given what is at stake, and what, daily, we are discovering about the costs of Brexit, how can it be right deliberately to take off the table the option of compromise between Britain and Europe so that Britain stays within a reformed Europe?” he said.

Blair praised the current leader of the Labour Party, left-winger Jeremy Corbyn, for mobilising young voters in last month's general election in which May lost her majority in parliament. But Britain under a Corbyn-led government could “hit the canvas, flat on our back” if it adopted hard-left economics, Blair said. —Reuters ■



## As Washington ponders Afghan mission, Marines toil in Helmand

CAMP BASTION (Afghanistan) — While Washington works on plans to send more troops to Afghanistan, US forces on the ground are grappling with building an army in the middle of a war their commanders say is locked in stalemate.

It is slow, hot, often frustrating work, ranging from overseeing basic infantry training to trying to create modern logistics systems for an army in which many soldiers cannot read or write.

“There are enormous challenges ahead,” said Brig. Gen. Roger Turner, who led a task force in Helmand five years ago and who has returned as commander of around 300 Marines training and advising the Afghan army and police.

When the Marines left Helmand in 2014, they did not expect to return, but building the Afghan army has been slower than anticipated. Many issues trainers focus on, such as improving army leadership or getting troops off vulnerable checkpoints, are ones American advisers have recommended for years. Insurgents control five

of Helmand’s 14 districts and contest the others, threatening the capital Lashkar Gah, where they have a strong foothold just outside the city centre. Afghan forces are suffering thousands of casualties and without near-daily air strikes by US fighters and helicopters, said Colonel Asmatullah Gharwal, intelligence officer for the Afghan army 215<sup>th</sup> Corps, “we would probably not be able to defend Helmand province.”

With US commanders declaring that Afghanistan faces “stalemate”, the Pentagon is expected to add between 3,000-5,000 troops to more than 13,000 coalition forces already there though there are no signs it plans to send them into combat.

That would leave the task essentially unchanged — not to defeat the Taliban but to get Afghan forces to a point where they can fight alone and force the insurgents to negotiate. For Turner, the key is improving army leadership, an issue US advisers have stressed constantly but with mixed success since the NATO-led coalition ended combat operations in 2014. — Reuters ■

## Syrian army takes more oil fields from Islamic State in Raqqa and eastern desert

BEIRUT — The Syrian army backed by heavy Russian air strikes seized a string of oil wells in southwest Raqqa province on Saturday, as retreating Islamic State militants battle to defend their remaining territory in the country.

State-owned Ikhbariyah television quoted a military source as saying the army had taken control of Wahab, al Fahd, Dbaysan, al-Qseer, Abu al Qatat and Abu Qatash oil fields and several other villages in the desert area that lies in the southwest of Raqqa province.

The seized oil fields lie south of the town of Rasafa and its oil wells, which the army took last month from the militants in their first major territorial gains inside the province.

The army and Iranian-backed militias have in the last few months been advancing east of Aleppo city and seizing swathes of territory west of the Euphrates River that militants have pulled out of to defend their de facto capital of Raqqa, where they are now battling US-backed troops

inside the city.

The latest gains tighten the army’s grip on a bulge of territory stretching from eastern Hama province to eastern Homs and the edge of Raqqa and Deir Zor provinces, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights war monitor said.

The monitor said the Russian air force intensified its strikes on several targets and towns held by the militants in the area including Uqairbat, a target of Russian cruise missiles fired from warships in the Mediterranean at the end of May.

The army’s next goal is to retake the town of Sukhna, a gateway to the eastern province of Deir Zor that borders Iraq and likely to be the militants’ last major bastion in Syria if Raqqa falls.

The army and its Iranian-backed allies have also announced in the last few days steady gains in the desert northeast of the ancient city of Palmyra with their capture of the Hail gas field that brought them almost 18 kms south of Sukhna.

Heavy fighting has how-

ever continued in the last 48 hours near Hail and the nearby Arak gas field that the Syrian army took last month, both the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and jihadist websites said.

The army and Iranian-backed militias have been engaged in a campaign since May to fill the void left by the retreat of militants in areas they once controlled in the vast eastern Syrian desert that stretches all the way from central Syria to the south eastern border with Iraq and Jordan.

In the southeastern desert, heavy fighting continued between the army and its Iranian backed allies on one side and the Western-backed Free Syrian Army (FSA) rebels in the rugged eastern countryside of the city of Sweida in southern Syria.

The army said it had captured most of these areas that are also near the border with Jordan, while the rebels said they had inflicted losses on Lebanon’s powerful Hezbollah group and Iraqi Shi’ite militias.—Reuters ■

## Berlin ‘dismayed and furious’ over murder of German women in Egypt

HURGHADA (Egypt)/BERLIN — German officials said on Saturday they had been left “dismayed and furious” by the stabbing of two German women at an Egyptian beach resort, calling it a deliberate attack on foreign tourists.

An Egyptian man stabbed the two German tourists to death and wounded at least four others on Friday at a popular seaside vacation spot on the Red Sea, officials and witnesses said.

The knifeman killed the two German women and wounded two other tourists at the Zahabia hotel in Hurghada, then swam to a neighbouring beach to attack at least two more people at the Sunny Days El Palacio resort before being caught by staff and arrested, officials and security sources said.

It was the first major attack on foreign tourists since a similar assault on the same resort more than a year ago, and comes as Egypt struggles to revive a tourism industry hurt by securi-



Workers and security detain the man who stabbed two German tourists to death and wounded four others during an attack of the Zahabia hotel resort in Hurghada, south of the capital Cairo, Egypt, on 14 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

ty threats and years of political upheaval.

“We now have the sad certainty that two German wom-

en were killed in the attack in Hurghada,” a German Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said.

“According to what we know,

the act was a deliberate attack on foreign tourists — a particularly devious and criminal act that leaves us sad, dismayed and fu-

rious,” she added.

Sources close to the investigation told Reuters the attacker was taken to Cairo for questioning by prosecutors after officers from Egypt’s domestic security agency conducted an initial inquiry.

The suspect, from a village in the southern Kafr al-Sheikh province, arrived in Hurghada at 5 a.m. on Friday in a public bus and waited until shops opened before buying a knife, the sources said.

He then bought a ticket for 100 Egyptian pounds (4.27 pounds) to enter a beach where he killed the two German tourists and injured two others before jumping over a wall, swimming to the neighbouring beach and carrying out more stabbings.

Police questioned the shop owner who sold the attacker the knife but later released him. The knife was found in the water by divers, a source in the Sunny Days El Palacio resort said.—Reuters ■





Romanian President Klaus Iohannis during a news conference at the Chancellery in Berlin, Germany, on 19 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Romania says any Patriot missile system buy meant to boost defence

BUCHAREST — Romanian military purchases are not intended to put strain on relations with nearby Russia but to strengthen the country's defences, President Klaus Iohannis said on Saturday.

Earlier this month, the US State Department said it has approved the possible sale of seven Patriot missile defence systems worth \$3.9 billion (2.98 billion pounds) to Romania.

A NATO member since 2004 and European Union member since 2007, Romania has com-

mitted to boost its defence spending to two percent of gross domestic product this year.

Asked whether talk of acquiring Patriot missiles and recent military drills were straining relations with Russia, Iohannis told reporters: "Firstly, we must look at what these acquisitions are for." "We are not getting ready to attack anyone. We are preparing ... for our army to benefit from modern, efficient features. They are meant to defend us, to guarantee the security of Romanians." —Reuters ■

### MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 19<sup>th</sup> JULY 2017 (Martyrs' Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

### THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYNMAR OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (13/2017)

Open tenders are invited for service of the following operations in United States Dollars.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	OS-001(17-18)	24" Yadana Offshore Domestic Gas Pipeline (Side Scan Sonar Survey & Freespan Rectification)	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 31.8.2017, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 1<sup>st</sup> August, 2017 at the Finance Department, Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise, No-(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise  
Ph. +95 67-411275/411331

# Huge California wildfire spreads overnight as crews dig in

LOS ANGELES — Firefighters battled on Saturday to gain control of a destructive wildfire burning near Santa Barbara, California that mushroomed in size overnight, pushed by gusty offshore winds into dry brush that has not burned in decades.

The Whittier Fire, which broke out 8 July and has already destroyed eight homes, had been more than 50 per cent contained on Friday before so-called "Sundowner" winds picked up in the evening, according to a California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) website.

Nearly 3,000 people who were forced to flee their homes near Cachuma Lake and the community of Goleta remained under evacuation orders as fire officials said another evening of Sundowners could drive the flames toward populated areas.

"The fire continues burning in an area above the community of Goleta and crews continue to build containment and contingency lines to hold the fire in check," Cal Fire said on the Inciweb fire-tracking website.

"The east and west flanks of the fire continue to burn towards established containment lines."

More than 1,600 firefighters were working the blaze, assisted by water-dropping planes and helicopters. Highway 154 was shut down in both directions and the Los Padres National Park was closed to the public. Evacuation shelters were opened at a high school in Goleta. The conflagration, which had blackened

17,364 acres along California's scenic central coast as of Saturday afternoon, was being fed by brush and vegetation that had not burned since 1955, according to fire officials.

"The combination of old, dry fuels with a newly cured heavy grass crop contributed to the rapid growth of this fire," Cal Fire said. "Large, old oak trees are continuing to burn well after the fire has past, leaving hazardous snags along highways and firelines."

The Whittier Fire is among more than 50 large, active wildfires burning across the US West as forecasters warned that hot, dry conditions could persist, creating tinderbox conditions.

Red flag warnings were issued for Northern California and parts of

other states, where the National Weather Service said temperatures could reach above 90 degrees Fahrenheit (32 degrees Celsius) and winds to gust 50 miles (80 km) per hour.

Flames have charred more than twice as much land in California so far in 2017 compared with a year earlier, according to Cal Fire.

Still, firefighters have made significant gains against the so-called Wall Fire, which had damaged or destroyed 44 homes in Butte County and more than 60 other structures, calling it mostly contained as of Saturday. The Alamo Fire, which charred some 29,000 acres and destroyed at least one home in San Luis Obispo County, was said to be 92 percent contained as of Saturday morning.—Reuters ■



Flames from the Whittier Fire burn in the distance behind a home near El Capitan Ranch near Santa Barbara, California, US on 14 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Gunmen attack Congo wildlife reserve, US journalist, three guards missing

KINSHASA — Armed men attacked a group of journalists and park rangers in a remote east Congo wildlife reserve overnight into Saturday, and an American journalist and three guards were missing, a local official said. The group attacked comprised the American and two Dutch journalists and 13 Congolese park rangers. They were near the town of Mambasa in Okapi

Wildlife Reserve, Mambasa territory administrator Alfred Bongwalanga told Reuters by telephone. The two Dutch journalists and all but three of the rangers had been found and were safe. Bongwalanga did not know which of the several armed groups roaming eastern Congo was responsible. Kidnapping of locals and Westerners for ransom has been on the rise in eastern Democratic Republic

of Congo, a tinderbox of rebel groups and militias left over from a 1998-2003 war.

But Bongwalanga said there was no evidence the journalist or guards had been kidnapped. "I can't confirm any hypothesis that this was a kidnapping ... That does sometimes happen in Ituri (province where the reserve lies) but it has been more than a year since the last one," he told Reuters by telephone.

"The army has deployed. Search and rescue efforts are underway but this is a dense forest," he added. "We remain optimistic that we will find them." In May armed bandits killed a Congolese park ranger and briefly kidnapped two conservation workers, including a Frenchman, during an ambush on South Kivu's Itombwe Reserve.—Reuters ■



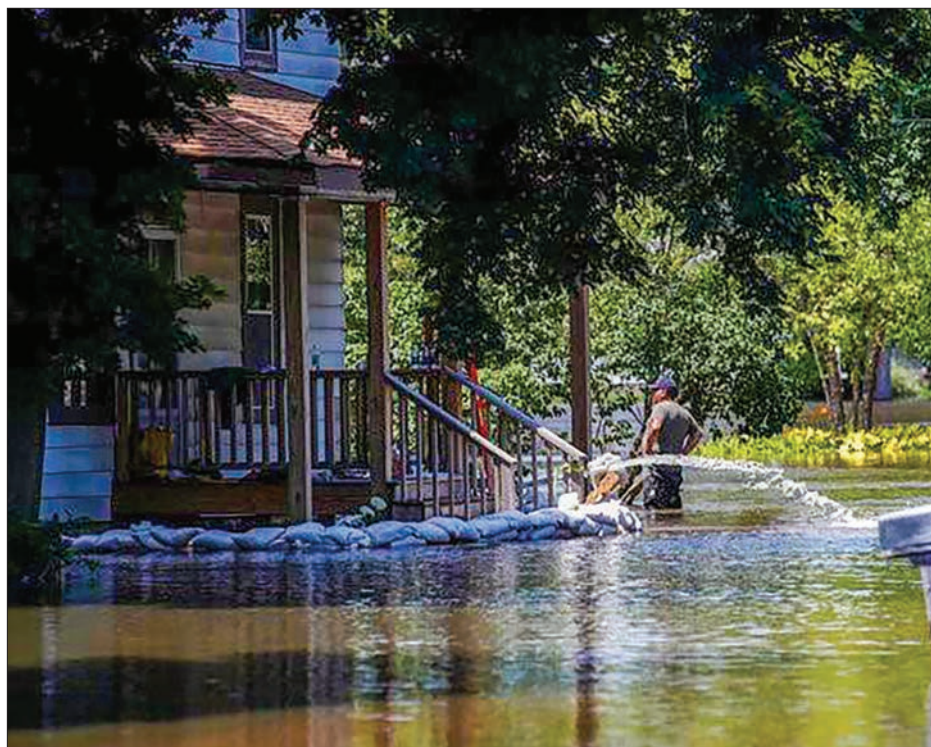
# Thousands of Illinois homes swamped by flood waters as rivers keep rising

GURNEE, (Illinois) — Flooding north of Chicago could worsen on Saturday as rivers keep rising after a deluge earlier this week that damaged thousands of homes and sent water cascading into streets and basements, officials said.

Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner on Friday issued a disaster proclamation for Lake, McHenry and Kane counties and pledged the support of the state government to people whose properties were damaged or destroyed.

Thousands of homes were affected by flooding after storms dumped more than 7 inches (18 cm) of rain in the area on Tuesday and Wednesday, said Patti Thompson, a spokeswoman for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency.

The full extent of damage was still unknown, but houses had their basements inundated and some structures may have suffered worse, Thompson said. No injuries or deaths have been reported.



A man checks a flooded area in Gurnee, Illinois, US on 15 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

“Until the water goes down, it’s hard to get a firm number,” Thompson said by phone. “We still have a few more days when we’re going to see levels rising in some of these areas.”

In Lake County alone, which includes Chicago’s affluent suburb of Highland Park, an official said

at a news conference Friday that 2,100 structures were submerged and 5,800 structures could ultimately be flooded.

Muddy water lapped against homes and covered roadways in the communities of Round Lake Beach, Des Plaines and Lincolnshire, and residents walked through

water that reached their ankles or higher, in photos published by the Chicago Tribune.

Some rivers were at record high levels, officials said.

Three-quarters of an inch (1.9 cm) of rain was forecast in scattered showers late on Saturday into early Sunday, said me-

teorologist Michael Musher of the federal Weather Prediction Center.

Light rain is also forecast for Wisconsin but is not expected to lead to flooding there.

Even so, officials fear water flowing downstream from Wisconsin could exacerbate flooding in areas north of Chicago.

The water level in the Fox River in Algonquin, a small community about 40 miles (64 km) northwest of downtown Chicago, was at nearly 12 feet (3.7 meters), which is above the flood stage, said meteorologist Charles Mott of the National Weather Service.

The Fox River was expected to peak on Monday evening at 12.9 feet (3.9 meters), Mott said.

Severe weather was also expected in other parts of the country on Saturday. Areas around Nashville, Tennessee, could see heavy rain, and thunderstorms could strike parts of the Rocky Mountain range, Musher said.—Reuters ■

South Korea minimum hourly wage to be raised by 16.4% next year

SEOUL — The minimum hourly wage in South Korea will be raised by 16.4 per cent to 7,530 won (\$6.7) next year, Yonhap News Agency reported, citing unnamed officials.

The South Korean news agency said the decision was made Saturday during “last-minute negotiations” among labor and management representatives.

Sunday was the deadline for reaching agreement under a law requiring a 20-day objection period before fixing the minimum wage for next year on 5 August, Yonhap said.

The increase will follow a 7 per cent hike this year to 6,470 won per hour, and South Korea’s recently elected new president, Moon Jae In, has promised to boost the minimum wage to 10,000 won an hour before his five-year term ends in May 2022, the report said.—Kyodo News ■

## Venezuela opposition holds unofficial plebiscite to defy Maduro

CARACAS — Venezuela’s opposition holds an unofficial referendum on Sunday to increase pressure on President Nicolas Maduro as he seeks to create a legislative superbody that his adversaries call the consolidation of a dictatorship.

The symbolic poll, which will also ask voters if they want early elections, is intended to further dent Maduro’s legitimacy amid a crippling economic crisis and three months of anti-government protests that have led to nearly 100 deaths. The opposition has cast the vote, which begins at 7 am local time at some 2,000 centers around the country, as an act of

civil disobedience to be followed by “zero hour,” a possible reference to a national strike or other escalated actions against Maduro.

But the vote does not appear to augur a short-term change of government or a solution to the country’s political stalemate.

Maduro, 54, says Sunday’s plebiscite is illegal and meaningless. Instead, the leftist leader is campaigning for an official July 30 vote for the new assembly, which will be able to rewrite the constitution and dissolve state institutions.

“(Even with) rain, thunder or lightning, Sunday’s poll will go ahead!”

said opposition leader Henrique Capriles in a Friday evening broadcast. “We Venezuelans are going out to vote for the future, the fatherland and the freedom of Venezuela.”

Voters will be asked three questions: if they reject the constitutional assembly, if they want the armed forces to defend the existing constitution and if they want elections before Maduro’s term in office ends in 2018.

Some public employees, under government pressure not to participate in opposition events, are seeking creative ways to vote in the plebiscite without being noticed.—Reuters ■

## Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 19<sup>th</sup> July (Wednesday) 2017 “MARTYRS’ DAY”, under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar



State Bank of India Yangon Launches outward remittance services to India in partnership with local banks.

Fast, Reliable, Easy remittance to India

Please visit our web portal <https://remit.onlinesbi.com/myanmar> for registration and for further guidance please visit our branch on any working day. For any query please call us at 01-8610473 or email at [sbi.yangon@statebank.com](mailto:sbi.yangon@statebank.com)





## Disney builds buzz with superheroes, 'Star Wars' and 'Mary Poppins'

LOS ANGELES — Avengers, Mary Poppins and Luke Skywalker brought star power to Walt Disney Co's annual D23 fan convention on Saturday, as the studio drummed up excitement for upcoming films including a live-action "Lion King," "Aladdin" and "Dumbo."

From Iron Man to Spider-Man, the cast of the upcoming ensemble "Avengers: Infinity War" gathered on stage for a superhero-sized selfie and debuted new footage for fans.

The May 2018 film, which Marvel studios President Kevin Feige said was the biggest production so far in the franchise, will unite Marvel superheroes from the last decade, including Captain America, Thor, Hulk, Black Panther and Doctor Strange, to battle intergalactic overload Thanos.

New scenes showed Thor being rescued by the Guardians of the Galaxy, teaming up with Iron Man and Doctor Strange in ravaged other-worldly landscapes where Loki wages destruction.

Disney has dominated the box office with animated and live-action films, which include



Jury member Will Smith reacts on stage 28 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

the Marvel superheroes, "Star Wars," princesses, pirates and musicals.

For the lead role in live-action Arabian tale "Aladdin," Disney introduced newcomer Mena Massoud, after trade publications reported this week that the studio had trouble finding an actor of the right ethnicity.

Naomi Scott will star as Princess Jasmine and Will Smith will play the Genie.

Upcoming films include writer-director Ava Duvernay's star-studded reimagining of "A Wrinkle In Time," "Mary Poppins Returns," "Mulan" and "Dumbo."

Fans on Saturday expecting

a new trailer for the upcoming "Star Wars: The Last Jedi" were instead shown behind-the-scenes footage that included scenes with the late Carrie Fisher, who played Princess Leia.

"It's all about family, that's what's so powerful about it," Fisher said of the film in interviews taped before her sudden

death in December.

Mark Hamill, who plays Luke Skywalker, said the new film had "so many unexpected elements, which is great in a 'Star Wars' film because it's getting harder and harder to bring new things to the table."

The announcement of a live-action "Lion King" film based on the 1994 animated classic, to be directed by Jon Favreau, received the warmest welcome. Footage showed a vibrant sunset across the African plains as photo-realistic computer-generated animals congregate to welcome a baby lion.

A first look at "Mary Poppins Returns" showed Emily Blunt's take on the singing, no-nonsense nanny with magical powers made famous in the 1964 musical starring Julie Andrews.

Scenes showed Mary Poppins floating from the skies holding a kite, pulling an umbrella out of her magic bottomless bag and riding in a car with lamplighter Jack (Lin-Manuel Miranda) in a part-animated sequence echoing the original film. —Reuters ■

## Dumbo production underway, film to release in March 2019

ANAHEIM (CALIFORNIA) — Tim Burton's live-action adaptation of the 1941 animated classic, "Dumbo", will open in theaters on 29 March, 2019.

Burton is retelling the story of the iconic flying elephant and the first look of the movie was released at the D23 Expo.

The director was not present for D23, but he sent a video from the sets.

Production has just begun on the film and the video featured footage from the set,

which, showed off a circus.

Burton recorded the video from inside Casey Jr, the iconic train from the original movie.

"Dumbo was always one of my favourite Disney films. We are trying to give it the same heart, feeling and emotion that we all loved about the original," said Burton.

The film features Colin Farrell as Holt Farrier, a former circus star and war-veteran charged with the care of a newborn elephant whose

oversized ears make him a laughingstock of an already struggling circus.

Nico Parker and Finley Hobbins have been cast as Holt's children, who discover that Dumbo can fly.

Danny DeVito portrays circus owner Max Medici and Michael Keaton plays entrepreneur VA Vandevere who swoops in with aerial artist Colette Marchant, portrayed by Eva Green, to make Dumbo a star.—PTI ■

## Josh Cooley to direct 'Toy Story 4' after John Lasseter steps down

ANAHEIM (California) — John Lasseter has stepped down from the director's chair of "Toy Story 4" and now his co-helmer Josh Cooley will take the film forward.

Lasseter, who is also the Chief creative officer of Disney's

Pixar, broke the news on Friday at D23 expo here. Lasseter invited Cooley to the stage, revealing that the "Riley's First Date?" helmer has assumed full responsibilities of the film. The pair brought with them a behind-the-scenes look taken

at Pixar headquarters that introduced the movie's crew. Lasseter may have left the direction to Cooley but he will be producing the film along with Jonas Rivera. "Toy Story 4" is set to release in the US theatres on 21 June, 2019.—PTI ■



Singer Aaron Carter poses on the red carpet at the 52nd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles in 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Singer Aaron Carter arrested in Georgia

LOS ANGELES — Singer Aaron Carter was arrested on Saturday in Georgia and charged with driving under the influence and possession of marijuana, according to media reports. Carter, 29, was arrested alongside girlfriend Madison Parker, the reports said.

ABC News, citing the Habersham County sheriff's office, said the pair were arrested in Georgia

on Saturday night. Other reports said Carter was pulled over driving erratically.

Earlier on Saturday the singer said on Twitter he would not make a scheduled concert in Kansas City due to "transportation issues." Carter is the younger brother of Nick Carter, a former member of the group "Backstreet Boys." —Reuters ■



# Niigata marks 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of deadly quake

NIIGATA (Japan) — A memorial service was held Sunday in Niigata Prefecture to mark the 10th anniversary of an earthquake that killed 15 people and injured more than 2,300 others in and around the prefecture.

At the ceremony jointly hosted by the prefecture, the city of Kashiwazaki and the village of Kariwa, bereaved family members of the victims and local residents observed a moment of silence at 10:13 a.m., the time when the earthquake struck.

In the magnitude 6.8 earthquake originating off the coast of the Sea of Japan, a total of 2,346 people in Niigata, Nagano and Toyama prefectures were injured, some seriously. The quake damaged about 44,000 houses and 12,000 people were forced to evacuate.

"We have kept moving toward reconstruction



A memorial service is held in Kashiwazaki, Niigata Prefecture, on 16 July 2017, to mark the 10th anniversary of an earthquake that killed 15 people and injured more than 2,300 others in and around the prefecture. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

with the spirit of mutual support," said Kashiwazaki Mayor Masahiro Sakurai. "I am utterly committed to making an attractive hometown."

Niigata Gov. Ryuichi Yoneyama said, "It is our responsibility to broadly transmit and hand down our experiences and lessons, as large-scale earthquakes are repeatedly occurring nationwide."

A man who lost his father said the past 10 years have passed like the blink of an eye. "My heart aches, feeling that this time has come again," the man said.

The ceremony was also joined by Tomoaki Kobayakawa, president of Tokyo Electric Power Company Holdings Inc., which operates the Kashiwazaki-Kariwa nuclear power station in the prefecture.

The quake caused the emergency shutdown of four active nuclear reactors at the plant, located 16 kilometers away from the epicenter. The remaining three of its seven reactors there were not operating at the time. The plant leaked a small amount of radioactive water into the sea after suffering a fire involving an electric transformer. —Kyodo News ■

# GOT put women at the forefront: Gwendoline Christie

LOS ANGELES — Actress Gwendoline Christie said epic fantasy drama "Game of Thrones" is one such series that has given due importance to the women.

The 38-year-old actress, who plays Brienne of Tarth on the HBO show, said "GOT" has been a game-changer as it gave an arc to its female characters, unlike many other shows on television, reported Entertainment Weekly. "This was a television show that would put women at the forefront.

We were going to explore female characters in a way that conventionally doesn't happen," Christie said at "The Top 10 Game-Changing Game of Thrones Moments", a special on the People/Entertainment Weekly Network (PEN).

Citing examples of characters such as Sansa and Arya Stark, Daenerys Targaryen, Cersei Lannister, and Brienne, the actress said the women in the series are independent, complex and powerful. —PTI ■

# Not going to the gym to get size zero: Kareena

MUMBAI — Kareena Kapoor Khan said she is not working out to attain a size-zero figure as she believes gaining weight post-pregnancy is a natural process.

The 36-year-old actress, who gave birth to baby boy, Taimur last year in December, was seen going to the gym soon after the delivery.

"If I am going to the gym, it's not about getting size zero. So many people and girls went like, 'Why

does she have to leave her baby and go to the gym?' I read these comments and I feel that's the most stupid thing ever because having a child doesn't mean you can't feel good.

"If you are feeling good, if your mental health is good then automatically your child feels well. Taimur is happy and everyone is happy. I am one of the most relaxed and chilled out girls," Kareena told reporters here. —PTI ■

# China rescues 49 tourists stranded on island by typhoon

BEIJING — Forty-nine tourists stranded on an island off the coast of China's southern Guangdong province have been picked up and taken to safety as Typhoon Talas approaches, authorities said on Sunday.

The tourists belonged to four camping groups that

had been stranded on Nanteng island some 35 km (22 miles) east of Yangjiang city on the mainland, the Ministry of Transport said in a statement. The island is normally uninhabited.

On Sunday morning, all of the tourists were transferred safely to a ship

and a helicopter dispatched by the Guangzhou-headquartered Nanhai Rescue Bureau of the Ministry of Transport. China's national observatory on Sunday morning renewed a blue alert for Typhoon Talas, which is expected to hit the southern island province

of Hainan and Beibu Gulf.

At 0200 GMT Sunday, the eye of Talas was above the South China Sea some 60 km to the southwest of Sanya city in Hainan, packing winds of up to 23 meters per second, the National Meteorological Center (NMC) said. —Reuters ■

Programme Schedule

(17-7-2017 07:00am - 18-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations-Lacquaware Making
07:52	Am	Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	On the River
08:47	Am	Mulberry Art Painting: Muu Muu
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The World's Largest Book
09:52	Am	Wet Markets in Yangon: Thirimingalar Market
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Coconut Shell Artist
10:50	Am	Never Forget The Martyr's Day (May La Thanzin)

10:53 Am Myanmar Puppet

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

**Prime Time**

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (EP-1) (Part-2)
07:53	Pm	Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes "Rvwang (Part-2)"
08:55	Pm	Will you feed the pigeons?

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday 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))

Programme Schedule  
(17-7-2017, Monday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	3:00 Pm	◆ Peace Music Festival
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	4:20 Pm	◆ University of DDistance Education (TV Lecture) -First Year (Zoology)
8:35 Am	◆ Women in Myanmar Society	4:35 Pm	◆ Documentary
9:10 Am	◆ World Heritage " India Single Rock Temple" (India)	5:05 Pm	◆ This Week's Special Interest
9:15 Am	◆ Documentary	5:30 Pm	◆ Yes or No Talk Show " Season-4" (Intro)
10:30 Am	◆ Soutlion for Agriculture	6:20 Pm	◆ Football Magazine
11:15 Am	◆ Documentary (ASAEN)	6:35 Pm	◆ Law Affairs
11:30 Am	◆ MRTV Youth's Programme	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
12:30 Pm	◆ Fashion Show (Part-3)	8:35 Pm	◆ Documentary
2:30 Pm	◆ Tasty of Trip	◆ Documentary (Mandalay Palace)	
		9:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series



## One Minute silence will be observed as memorial of Martyrs' day at U-23 ASIAN qualifiers

Kyaw Zin Lin

ONE minute silence will be observed by wearing black arm bands at the ASIAN U-23 group (F) qualifier opening matches at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon on 19 July as a sign of respect to martyrs including General Aung San.

Myanmar national football team will play with Singapore and Australia will play against Brunei on that day and Asian Football Confederation (AFC) also allowed making minute silence for all these matches.

Myanmar falls in the group together with Australia, Brunei and Singapore and needs to snatch first or second place in order to proceed the next step that will be hosted in China. ■

## Myanmar youth golfers rewarded in Singapore Open Amateur Championship

MYANMAR youth golfers who participated in 70<sup>th</sup> Singapore Open Amateur Championship held at the Singapore Island Country Club from 11 to 14 July and rewarded respectively.

The championship is a regional tournament with a total of 107 participants from 14 countries; Thailand, Singapore, Australia, Myanmar, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Philippines, China (Taipei), Malaysia, Viet Nam, Nepal, England, Romania and Korea.

Final day of the competition on 14 July was disrupted by heavy

rain and prizes were awarded based on the results of the first three days. Myanmar golfer Yazar Aung received a Hole-in-One prize on a 178 meter 14th hole. 17 Myanmar golfers played under the guidance of U Ko Ko Aye, President of Myanmar Golf Federation and coached by U Zaw Moe (Professional) and were placed fourth in the team event.

Myanmar golfers were sent to compete in this championship with the aim of achieving better results in the 29<sup>th</sup> SEA Games to be held in Malaysia. —Phoe Thaw Zin ■



Myanmar golfers who participated in Singapore Open Amateur Championship. **PHOTO MGF**

## Scolari denies rift with Barca target Paulinho

HONG KONG — Luiz Felipe Scolari has denied reports of a rift between himself and Guangzhou Evergrande's Paulinho as Spanish media continue to question the midfielder's future with the Chinese Super League club.

The 28-year-old has been the subject of several unsuccessful

bids by Barcelona following a strong run of form for both his club and Brazil. Spanish newspaper Mundo Deportivo reported that Scolari had removed Paulinho from training earlier in the week due to a lack of focus in light of Barcelona's attempts to buy him, but the World Cup-win-

ning coach said the reports were incorrect. "Paulinho has been training throughout the whole week and you saw how he played in today's game too," said Scolari after Guangzhou's 2-1 win over Shandong Luneng in the Chinese Super League on Saturday.

"I saw the report, it said I

kicked Paulinho out of the training session. Actually, I sent Paulinho, Yu Hanchao and Li Xuepeng out to rest, but they only saw Paulinho. "If they don't think Paulinho is a professional player and that he would treat the game with such a negative attitude, they are beyond naive."—Reuters ■

## Federer wins record eighth Wimbledon title as Cilic crumbles

LONDON — Ruthless Roger Federer thrashed suffering Croatia's Marin Cilic 6-3, 6-1, 6-4 to become the first man to win eight Wimbledon singles crowns on Sunday, five years after landing his seventh.

The Swiss maestro, appearing in his 11th Wimbledon final, was challenged early on but once he broke a nervous Cilic in the fifth game of the opening set the match became a no-contest.

Not that Federer was concerned as, 23 days before his 36th birthday, the father of four became the oldest men's singles champion at Wimbledon in the professional era -- doing so without dropping a set throughout a glorious fortnight.

For Cilic, his first final on Centre Court became a nightmare broadcast to hundreds of millions around the globe.

After a reasonably solid start he became discombobulated and after falling 3-0 behind in the second set he slumped on



Switzerland's Roger Federer poses with the trophy as he celebrates after winning the final against Croatia's Marin Cilic in London, Britain, on 16 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

his courtside chair and could be seen sobbing as a physio and tournament referee attended

him.

For a moment it looked as though the final might end in

a retirement for the first time since 1911.

Given sympathetic cheers

by the Federer-favouring 15,000 crowd, the 28-year-old managed to regain his composure but there was no chance of Federer letting up as he accelerated towards a record-extending 19<sup>th</sup> grand slam title.

Cilic required a medical timeout after surrendering the second set in 25 minutes — a problem apparently with his foot — but it was his spirit that appeared broken.

Federer was unrelenting and with Cilic's brain still out of contact with his legs, the Swiss third seed broke in the seventh game of the third set as his opponent crashed yet another groundstroke into the net.

The end came quickly as Federer served at 5-4 to regain the title he cherishes above all others.

He missed a first match point when a forehand went wide but converted the second with his eighth ace of the match.—Reuters ■