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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (2nd Right) talks to Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe (2nd Left) and Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win (Left) as they pose for documentary photo at the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

## Democracy with dignity

The path to democracy needs to be correct and dignified: State Counsellor

THE path to democracy needs to be correct and dignified, said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her opening speech at the "Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition" in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

"Some think what counts, is to reach the goal regardless of whatever ways and means are used. But I've a different opinion. If we follow the wrong path, we'll not achieve what we want even if we reach the goal. The goal itself cannot be

dignified. That's why we need to follow the correct path in a dignified manner," she said.

"The path the country walked after gaining independence was not smooth. A change can be a change for the better or a change for the worse. Our

country started with democratic norms, from which we deviated. So, we have walked on the road to democracy to put the country back on the right path to democracy with peaceful, non-violent ways," she said.

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## Agreement reaches between Peace Commission and UNFC

NCA to be signed after approval of remaining points by both sides

By Ye Khaung Nyunt

DELEGATION for Political Negotiation formed by the Peace Commission and United Nationalities Federal Council held its 6th official meeting for the second day at National Reconciliation and Peace Center on Shweli road in Yangon at 9 am yesterday.

At the meeting, 4 out of 8 matters demanded by UNFC were agreed after discussing in detail. If the approval from both sides for the remaining parts to be negotiated is achieved, Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement will be able to be signed, it is learnt.

After negotiation, Khu Oo Ral, leader of DPN and Dr Tin Myo Win, leader of National Commission made conclusion speeches respectively.

Khu Oo Ral said, "Our 6th Negotiation will come to a halt with successful result. I hereby express my happiness over the acquired results for feeling that mutual understanding can be rebuilt in cordial and frank ways between both sides.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

## 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session 43rd day meeting

A motion urging the government to setup conservation and protection work programs as a priority for long term existence of water resources and ground water was tabled by U Sai Ngaung Hsaing Hein of Maukmai constituency in Pyithu Hluttaw meeting held yesterday.

Hluttaw decided to accept the motion and Hluttaw Speaker announced for interested hluttaw representatives to enroll their names to discuss the motion.

Also at the meeting U Min Naung of Pinlebu constituency raised a question on plan to release farm lands within reserved and protected forest areas to which Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win said the government had pledged to have 30 per cent of the country's area as reserved and protected forest areas while 10 per cent



U Ohn Win. PHOTO: MNA

is reserved as natural reserve area for climate change. Currently only 24.83 per cent of the country's area is reserved and protected forest area and 5.79 per cent is natural reserve area. As such, there is no plan to release farm lands within reserved and protected areas answered the Union Minister.



U Kyaw Soe. PHOTO: MNA

U Kyaw Soe of Bamauk constituency then raised a question on plans to prevent, expose and taking action against systematic illegal logging cases in Bamauk Township (Sagaing Region). Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win said a combined force consisting of (personnel

from) township general administration department, township police force, police forest ranger, township forest department and Tatmadaw columns were preventing, exposing and taking action in a timely manner to prevent illegal logging and illegal production of forest products in Bamauk Township.

A 50 strong police forest ranger force was assigned in Katha, Shwebo, Monywa and Kalay districts and under the arrangement of District Forest Department and together with forest department personnel were continuously detaining and preventing illegal logging in townships. During FY 2016-2017 613 tons of logs and 36 suspects were detained while as of 7 August in FY 2017-2018, 150 tons of logs and 7 suspects were detained said the Union Minister.

Questions by U Sai Maung

Pwint of Tangyan constituency, U Zarni Min of Shwegu constituency and U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (South) constituency on releasing of Tangyan airfield land, taking action against ships that are not in accordance with set rules and regulations and re-arming of the forest department personnel were then answered by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo. In the day's meeting hluttaw was informed of receiving an accountancy bill sent from Amyotha Hluttaw with amendment, bill committee submitted a report and announcement made for enrolment of hluttaw representatives who wish to submit an amendment motion.—Kyaw Thu Htet & Aye Aye Thant (Myanmar News Agency) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

## 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 42nd day meeting

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 42nd day meeting was held yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall.

At the meeting U Htay Oo of Yangon Region constituency 2 asked on plan to release 44.25 acres of grazing land and farm land in Dagon Myothit (South) Township confiscated by 504th Artillery Battalion and Yangon Command to construct schools, congregation hall, drinking water pond, sports ground and libraries that does not exist in the area. Deputy Minister for Defence Maj-Gen Myint Nwe said the area mentioned in the question was found to include 18.16 acres of farm land that came into existence after Zalotgyi creek was straightened to enable smooth flow of water while 42.09 acres were previously part of the creek and underwater totaling 60.25 acres of land. Prior to 1999, these areas were underwater and were not under any agriculture work.

It was also found that application was made according to regulation to develop these lands and as per decision number 26 of Yangon Division Peace and Development Council exec-



Maj-Gen Myint Nwe. PHOTO: MNA

utive meeting minute 28/2005 permission was granted and 504th Artillery Battalion dug fish ponds with its own machineries, labour of the troops and cash investment.

Additionally, head of township land record department and chairman of township peace and development council had also supported the work as the digging of fish ponds didn't obstruct the routes of the villagers while improving the water flow and then the lands in question were worked on by the battalion with land form (105/106).

Furthermore when U Win Naing of Shantegyi Village applied to land management central committee to use 16 acres of the 60.25 acres as farm land, this 16 acres land



Dr. Mya Thaug. PHOTO: MNA

was released back to Dagon Myothit (South) Township land management on 10 February 2014. Since the remaining 44.25 acres of land was formerly lands underwater that is now being worked on officially while the land itself is not suitable to construct schools, congregation hall, sports ground and libraries the Deputy Minister answered that there is no plan to release it.

Questions by Dr. Mya Thaug of Bago Region constituency 7 and U Ye Myint Soe of Yangon Region constituency 7 were then answered by Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko and Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy Dr. Tun Naing.—Thura Zaw (MNA) ■



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with National Assembly Speaker of ROK. PHOTO: MNA

### Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives National Assembly Speaker of ROK

SPEAKER of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received H.E. Mr. Chung Sye-kyun, National Assembly Speaker of Republic of Korea (ROK) and party at the Amyotha Hluttaw visitors hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

They discussed matters relating to bilateral friendship, promoting friendship and cooperation between the two parliaments, legislation process and organization setup of Myanmar parliament, sharing experience and technology and providing aids and assistance at the meeting. Also present at the meeting were chairman of the Myanmar-Republic of Korea inter-parliamentary Friendship Association, secretary, members and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw office.

At noon, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker hosted a luncheon in honour of the ROK delegation led

by the National Assembly Speaker in the dining hall of the Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw. At the luncheon, the two Speakers mentioned again about their wishes for increasing cooperation between the two parliaments and artistes from Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture performed Myanmar traditional songs and dances. The two Speakers then presented the artistes with flower baskets and took commemorative group photo. Present at the luncheon were Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, the chairman of the Myanmar- Republic of Korea Inter-parliamentary Friendship Association, secretary, members and officials of the Hluttaw office, and responsible officials from the embassy of ROK in Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency ■



# State Counsellor receives Korean National Assembly Speaker

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Chung Sye-kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, yesterday at 3pm at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed matters on bilateral relations and cooperation, promoting friendly relations between two Parliaments of Myanmar and the Republic of Korea.— Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr. Chung Sye-kyun, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor

### “Press Release on the Situation in Maungdaw” ( 11 August 2017 )

1. To bring about national reconciliation, peace and development in Rakhine, the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar is striving, with both long term and short term plans, to resolve the issues between the two communities. This includes provision of humanitarian assistances from both international and domestic resources, and development of basic infrastructure in the region. Priorities are given to building roads, bridges and enhanced access to electricity in the Rakhine region.

2. Currently, (13) out of (20) townships in Rakhine State and their adjacent (184) villages have access to electricity.

Electricity is distributed in Buthidaung and Maungdaw Townships by utilizing diesel generators. Additionally, a team from the Union Ministry concerned joined by the Rakhine State government has been sent to Rakhine on 11-8-2017 to conduct a feasibility survey to evaluate the possibility of electrification of townships that do not have electricity.

3. Long term plans are being implemented for development of transportation and infrastructure in the Rakhine State. For the effective maintenance of peace, security and rule of law, priorities are given to building connecting roads, bridges and concrete roads to link eastern to

western parts of the May Yu mountain range in Sittwe and Maungdaw Districts.

4. While the Government is implementing the above development plans and striving to maintain peace and security in Maungdaw District in Rakhine State, extremists are stepping up their terrorist activities in the region. Up to 9th August, (59) innocent people are murdered and (33) had gone missing. Many administrators, village heads and those who are believed to be cooperating with the government and those who talked to media are being killed. Latest situation is that (7) Mro ethnic nationals are killed by these extremists. They are making death threats in order to prevent the people from cooperating with the government as well as to disrupt the national verification process and peace and security of the region. These dastardly acts must be condemned by everyone.

5. The Government is handling the situation strictly within standing laws, rules and regulation. Taking advantage, the extremists are stepping up their terrorist activities in the region. The Government will resolutely take effective action against these terrorist acts in accordance with law. To protect the innocent civilians, security enforcement will be enhanced in the region. At the same time, actions will be taken against all extremists and those who abet their extremism. The Government is working together with Tatmadaw security forces to quell these stepped up terrorist acts including issuance of Article 144 curfew in necessary areas in order to establish and maintain peace, stability and security in the region.

6. We urge the people, political parties, NGOs, friendly countries and international community to show support by opposing the extremist terrorist acts.

## Effective Measures Taken to Enhance Development and Security in Rakhine

IN line with the decisions taken at the meeting on the security situation in the Rakhine State held on 9 August 2017 and presided by the State Counsellor, development activities in Rakhine are being enhanced with momentum.

A group of engineers and technicians, led by the chief engineer from the Electricity

Supply Enterprise, the Ministry of Electricity and Energy left for the Rakhine State on 11 August 2017 to conduct a feasibility survey to evaluate provision of electricity from the national grid to townships that do not have electricity.

Moreover, as proposed by the Rakhine State Government, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the

Ministry of Defence at the meeting, the Ministry of Construction is to undertake building of four connecting roads to link eastern and western parts of the May Yu mountain range which will contribute to peace, security, and rule of law as well as safe and smooth transportation.

In accordance with the decision taken at the meeting

on 9 August, the Rakhine State Government will impose curfew under the Article 144 for relevant areas within the Rathidaung Township to maintain peace and stability. Plans are underway to reinforce security forces and military forces by deployment of additional troops to support the security maintenance and clearance operations.

It is learnt that in order to prevent extremist terrorists from taking a stronghold in the May Yu mountain range, security clearance operations are being heightened. Union Ministries concerned are coordinating to station troops in the May Yu mountain range to enhance the security in the region.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Agreement reaches between Peace Commission and UNFC

### FROM PAGE-1

I think half of success can be achieved though full agreements cannot be gained at present. I would like to say that we are closer for all of us to implement by taking part with rights granted equally. Here I want the whole populace to understand us fully. There are many steps for us to do. I want to say that it is required to decide after finding

solutions through negotiations at different levels.”

According to the meeting, negotiation results are very good and the remaining 4 facts to be negotiated are left to get the approval from the leaders of both sides.

Dr Tin Myo Win said, “Today’s 6th official meeting can achieve to some extent. Likewise the leader of DPN, we also

hoped similarly. That is because all from two sides as well as the people, national brethren and respective organizations watching us behind and encouraging us are waiting for good results. Though we labeled them in serial numbers, the most difficult part—mutual trust can be built up. Yet we have to submit it to leaders. After this, we will meet again and we pray for moving

together to the peace goal.”

In the news release, it is described:

1. 6th official meeting between Peace Commission and Delegation for Political Negotiation was held at National Reconciliation and Peace Center on Shweli road in Yangon on August 10 and 11.

2. At the meeting, 9 proposals submitted by DPN were

cordially and frankly negotiated. Results on negotiations are to be submitted to our respective leaders again.

3. At the 6th meeting, mutual trusts were more strengthened, and more negotiations will be further made for all to take part in peace process.

7th negotiation between PC and DPN will be held not later than 2nd week September. ■



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

A YBS bus seen at a bus-stop in downtown Yangon. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

# YRTA to invite tender to install card system on YBS buses

The Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) has invited the tender to install card system on Yangon Bus Service (YBS) buses, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

YRTA has invited those

interested entrepreneurs to submit tenders to install card system for Yangon Payment Service. The tenderers have to present their projects to the selection committee on 15 August.

The winner of the tender

will be assigned with three tasks— card issuing, card acquiring and cards top up agency.

Currently, YRTA has fixed the cash boxes to replace the bus conductor on YBS buses. But, the passengers are inconvenient because of scarcity

of the small note. Therefore, Yangon Region government is making arrangements to install the card payment system.

Currently, YBS is operating with 2,600 including 1,000 which were bought by Yangon Region government.—200

# Establishment of three industrial zones to create over 70,000 job opportunities

ESTABLISHMENT of three industrial zones will create over 70,000 job opportunities in Yangon Region, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The three industrial zones will be set up in Dagon(East)

township, Hlegu township and Twantay township.

The three industrial zones will be founded jointly by Yangon Region government, Yangon City Development Committee and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The project is

included in the summarized report of the urban development strategic plan.

MIC will grant only those investments which can create better job opportunities for the local people.

Among the industrial zones,

Hlinethaya industrial zone is being upgraded with the use of high technology which has the least environmental impact. The factories are located mostly in Hlinethaya industrial zone and Shwepyitha industrial zone.—200

# Domestic gold prices likely to hit the record

With the global gold prices increasing, the domestic gold prices reached Ks 913,000 per tical on 11 August, likely to hit the record very soon, according to the local gold market.

With the global gold price decreasing in the first week of July, the domestic gold price decreased down from Ks 890,000 per tical between 8 and 11 July.

After 21 July, the prices of domestic gold have increased again to above Ks 900,000 per tical, Ks 910,000 per tical on 9 August and Ks 912,800 per tical on 10 August. The domestic gold price went above Ks 900,000 per tical between 16 May and 2 July. The domestic gold prices hit a record high of Ks 913,400 per tical on 7 June 2017. After wards, the

prices of local market decreased again to KS 904,400 per tical in 29 June and Ks 900,600 in 30 June.

The domestic gold prices was up again to reach Ks 908,000 per tical on 8 August, Ks 910,000 on 9 August and Ks 913,000 on 10 and 11 August. Therefore, the domestic gold price needs 400 only to meet the high record.

The global gold price has

increased up to US\$ 1,294 per ounce on 6 June, \$1,240 on 26 June and \$1,242 on 30 June. Then, the global gold price has continued to decline \$ 1,217 on 4 July and \$1,205 on 7 July.

As the global gold price rises, the price has reached up to \$ 1,264 per ounce on 27 July, \$1,268 on 28 July and \$ 1,279 at the closing time on 11 August.— Min Thu



## Rice export by sea increased by over 7,000 tons

THE export of rice between Myanmar and international trade partners by sea increased to 23,443 tons in the last week of July, with 7,000 more than that of previous week before 23 July, the Commerce Ministry reported.

Between 23 and 29 July, the country sold white rice and par-boiled rice to Singapore, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Russia, Hong Kong, South Africa, Afghanistan and European members as well as western countries, earning US\$6.809 million from the export of rice.

The majority of rice has been exported to Bangladesh in the last week of July.

According to the ministry's statistics, the country also exported 7,128 tons of broken rice to partner countries, comprising 153 tons to Malaysia, 250 tons to Sri Lanka, 25 tons to Singapore, 500 tons to South Africa and over 6,000 tons to European countries.

China and Bangladesh imported more than 25,000 tons of rice from Myanmar through border trade camps in the same week, decreasing 2,765 tons when compared with the week



Farmers work as they harvest paddy in a field in Kangyidauk township, Ayeyawady Region in April. The export of rice by sea increased in the last week of July. **PHOTO: GNLM/ PHOE KHWAR**

before 22 July.

In the third week of July, the two countries imported nearly 27,850 tons of rice from Muse (105-mile) trade zone, Sittway and Maungdaw border

stations.

The country received \$0.688 million from the export of broken rice weighing 2,705 tons, including 2,096 tons from Muse, 589 tons from Lwejel and

20 tons from Chinshwehaw.

The exports of broken rice from borders in the fourth week of July was 585 tons less than that of the previous week.—Shwe Khine ■

## 70,000 tons of maize exported to China last month

MYANMAR exported more than 70,000 tons of maize to China through border points of entry last month, according to trade authorities.

Of the total volume, over 27,000 tons of the same crop worth US\$2.838 million were sold to the country's largest neighbour from Muse, Lwejel and Chinshwehaw cross-border gates in the last week of July, a decrease of over 1,300 tons matched against the previous week.

In the third week of last month, China imported more than 15,000 tons of maize from Myanmar through four cross-border trade stations including Kanpaiktee.

The prices of maize were Ks273,810 per ton in third week of July. The prices increased to Ks274,354 per ton in the last week of the same month.

The buying prices for maize in Chinese side were 1,500 yuans per ton and the buying prices remained the same last month.—Swe Nyein ■

## Myanmar tea growers aim for premium German export market

IN response to German preferences for machine processed dried tea leaves instead of traditionally treated tea, the Myanmar Fruit, Flower, Vegetables Producers and Exporters Association (MFVP) is revamping its processing practices.

Myanmar has only exported two tons of fresh tea to Germany so far but growers anticipate a lucrative premium tea market there.

Last month, Myanmar exported 70 tons of dried tea to China through Muse checkpoint and about 70 tons of dried tea leaves were exported to Thailand through Tachilek gate.

But Myanmar's tea is

mainly consumed domestically. Tea growers in Myanmar believe they have an opportunity to break into European markets because much of the tea grown in the country is organically produced and is well-liked for its refined taste. However, production rates are too low for significant export increases and without more scale, the price of Myanmar tea is relatively high.

Myanmar has about 200,000 acres of tea leaf plantations across the nation, with the industry mostly focused in northern, southern and eastern Shan State. There are also about seven significant tea leaf manufacturing plants in Myanmar.—Htet Myat ■

## More than \$1.9 billion in trade deficit this fiscal year

THE value of external trade for the current fiscal year totalled US\$10.934 billion since April, with the trade deficit of over \$1.9 billion, according to the Commerce Ministry's statistical report on Friday. From 1 April to 4 August of this year, the total foreign trade value rose by \$1.872 billion matched against the same period of last year. Exports were \$4.495 billion and imports were \$6.439 billion.

Trade value included over \$2.9 billion from normal trade and over \$1.5 billion from the border trade. Eighty percent of Myanmar's exports were accommodated by sea ports.

According to the ministry's yearly report, the country's trade deficit was \$91 million in FY2012-2013 and increased to \$2.555 billion in FY2013-2014, \$4.109 billion in FY2014-2015, \$5.441 billion in FY2015-2016 and \$5.5 billion in

FY2016-2017. The country predominantly exports agricultural products, animal products, minerals and forest products while it imports capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer products. To boost domestic production to penetrate the export, the trade authorities are putting forth continuous efforts market to create more business networks with international traders.—Khine Khant ■

## Flooding doubles betel prices, but demand is unaffected

The price of betel leaf reached a record high of Ks11,000 a viss (1.6 kg) in early August in Mawlamyinekyun, Ayeyawady Region due to flooding and resulting destruction to betel crops, according to a report of City News, yesterday.

Last month, a viss of betel

leaf fetched Ks4,500 for average one and Ks75,00 for quality one. The floods reduced betel supply and caused prices to double. But despite the high price, demand for the highly addictive stimulant remains constant.

About 780 tons of betel nut

worth \$640,000 was exported to India through Reed and Tamu land points of entry between 22 and 28 July. That represented an export volume increased by 146 tons more than the previous week, according to the Commerce Ministry.—Mon Mon ■



# Democracy with dignity

## FROM PAGE-1

“When we are trying to change, it is never easy,” she said, according to a simultaneous translation. She added that Myanmar can learn from the experiences of other countries that have undergone similar transformations. “To be behind also has some advantages.”

While stressing national reconciliation, she returned to the theme in her remarks on Friday, saying that learning lessons from the past is better than dwelling in it.

Present at the ceremony were U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, U T Khun Myat, Deputy Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw, U Aye Tha Aung, Deputy Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, Thura U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, Union Ministers Lt General Kyaw Swe, Lt General Sein Win, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr Pe Myint, U Thant Sin Maung, U Kyaw Win, Dr Win Myat Aye, National Security Advisor U Thaung Tun, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman, Kachin State Chief Minister, Deputy Ministers, Region and State Ministers, Hluttaw representatives, ambassadors from embassies in Myanmar, diplomats, experts from home and abroad, paper presenters, participants in the discussion, representatives from local and foreign civil societies, observers, invited guests and responsible officials.

Why do we want democratic a transition? Why did we—National League for Democracy (NLD), make efforts for nearly 30 years for the acquisition of such democratic transition? In brief, it is attributed to our gratitude toward our people, absolute truth and our heart-felt kindness to all. Our gratitude toward the people is meant for our gratitude towards well-known national leaders, anonymous comrades and people who tried their best for Independence. In recognition of these people’s gratitude, it is our duty to make the Independence we achieved the kind as hoped by our leaders, anonymous comrades and people who sacrificed their lives.

We made efforts to successfully set up a democratic system with justice and fairness freedom as hoped by our fore-fathers of Independence and ordinary people who sacrificed their lives

for the Independence. Reforms are never easy. As regards the transition, such a kind of today’s meeting is essential and suitable. We need to observe in every way, as to which challenges we are experiencing. Many other countries across the globe underwent such transition process. Yet, their experiences and ours cannot be the same. But, I think we can take a lot of lessons if we know how to take lessons.

There are designated topics to be discussed in this discussion. I think designations were made after consideration which is more important. I have said we must view in every way in reforming. Here, we will discuss in the forum the topics —“From Military to Civilian Government,” “Transition from war to peace,” and “From centrally planned economy to Market economy”.

First of all, I would like to talk about peace which is of great importance. In our country where civil wars were taking place since the time of gaining Independence, it is the most important matter to gain peace. Regarding this, some say that it is more important to develop the country. Among us we have some people who say that development may lead the country to peaceful land. I totally disagree with them. Peace and development cannot be separately seen. Development will never survive without peace or vice versa. We are required to try hard for both peace and development.

Thus, we are prioritizing our efforts on nationwide ceasefire. Simultaneously we are exerting our efforts to develop the whole nation. Economic reforms as well aren’t easy ones. In other words, our country lagged behind in development compared to conditions of neighboring countries. While they are making their efforts to the best of their ability, we had no chance to do so. So, we followed them. In spite of it, there are some advantages in following others. That is none other than having a chance to take lessons from their experiences. As regards, the democracy movement as we call it, though named it Democracy Revolution by others, it is in fact an “An Intellectual Revolution.” To gain democracy, it is necessary to bear the spirit of democracy. Only if it is so, our democracy will survive for ever. So, we need to change our mindsets concerning our doc-



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. **PHOTO: MNA**

trines, opinions, attitudes and our stances. Without changing these, it is impossible to make democracy bring about benefits for the country. Democracy coincides with rights.

With these rights, responsibilities are said to follow. During the one and half year period when our government took office, some people were found to have exercised democratic rights constructively, with some found to have used it negatively. I think people will be well convinced who are exercising these in which way.

There may be many things which are beyond the knowledge of people concerning laws, procedures and administration systems. But, most of our people were well convinced what is right or wrong. So, it is our people who know the best whether democratic transition is moving in the right way or not. Even though we are moving in the right way, it is impossible for all to turn out to be successful, all of a sudden. It is not possible to gain success in every place. We need to try hard in every way. Some view the democratic transition in a one-sided manner.

When we were young, I had ever learnt the story of 6 blind Brahmins and an elephant. One claims that an elephant is a snake as he touches its trunk, with the other claiming an elephant is like a tree as he touches its leg. We cannot look in this way. If we want to know an elephant’s appearance, we are required to look at the whole. Like the above-said Brahmins, we cannot hold one-sided opinion only.

In making an effort for national development, it is of great importance to have the capacity of viewing the whole,

for the national stability and for the establishment of democracy deep-rooted. We must view from the perspectives of economy, politics and social affairs. We cannot decide from viewing one-side or from the side we want to favor. It is incumbent upon the government to decide which must be prioritized.

In making decisions as well, it is expected to be rightful ones. In case there may be some mistakes, we will never ever be reluctant to amend them. We have to amend it with courage. I frequently say that establishing democracy is establishing a culture. Democratic culture begins from the people. Culture starts from human societies. Everything which is laid down by a government is not possible without exception. So, it is of great importance for all the people to participate in establishing a democratic culture. We ourselves competed in 2015 general election under the motto, “Time to change.”

At that time, we had said that the time to change had already passed. But we have to try our best to accomplish as soon as possible. In the period we entered the second year, we used the motto, “Together with the People.” That is because people cannot be excluded in any change, if we want to make our system stronger and long-lasting. A government is also the one elected by the people. The government elected by the people is closely related with the people, paying attention to people’s attitudes and desires.

“When discussing the democratic reform, I’d like to urge you to find a practical solution. And the past is important only to learn lessons from. As long as we cannot free ourselves from the past woes, we’ll not achieve our goal what matters most is for us to live in the present,” said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

“Those attending the meeting are needed to be loyal to the people. We must be truthful to our leaders who have fought for the independence at the cost of their lives. If we are dutiful, we can be said to be loyal,” explained the State Counsellor.

“The path ahead is quite simple but it is extremely difficult to tread on the path. May I conclude my speech by requesting all attendees to seek ways and means in order for us to be on the correct path as fast as

possible.

Following the opening speech of the State Counsellor, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivered an opening speech, expressing his hope that the forum would produce a clear image which shows the point where Myanmar arrived currently in its democratic transition.



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

“We hope that the forum would suggest ways which can assist Myanmar in overcoming challenges ahead,” said Dr Pe Myint.

He said Myanmar people have struggled for democracy for many decades.

“The international communities and neighbouring countries were watching Myanmar and recognized Myanmar as a country struggling for democracy,” he added.

“Though many countries have considered Myanmar as the country which is on the road to democracy, different views came out over the distance Myanmar walked on its path to democracy,” said the Union Minister. Historians, politicians, professors and ambassadors, among others, were all scheduled to speak at the forum.

The ‘Forum for Myanmar’s democratic transition’ is a three day exercise bringing together more than 30 speakers drawn from Myanmar lawmakers, business leaders, foreign civil society and human rights groups, academics and journalists who have followed Myanmar for a while and representatives from the military.

The Ministry of Information is organizing the event at the Myanmar International Convention Centre - 2 with support from a host of global and local partners.— Myanmar News Agency



# Experts discuss global overview of developments in Myanmar

A session “Global Overview: Setting the Framework” of the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition was held yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, with a panel discussion of experts.

Dr. Michael Vatikiotis, the Asia Regional director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, and Ms. Renata Nicola Lok Dessallien, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator, talked about global perspectives and establishing a framework.

Dr. Vatikiotis said Myanmar had been in economic isolation for many years as well as decades of conflict, so a democratic framework needs to be established. He said the World Bank reviews the transition on three factors: commitment, coordination and cooperation. Slow economic development in Southeast Asia is a challenge and it needs to be handled with firm agreement, security, cooperation and successful transitions across the globe requires appropriate distribution of authority.

Ms. Dessallien said there

needs to be a broad discussion on Myanmar’s democratic transition so that the international community can be aware of the present situation. She said the definition of democracy in the 21st century is when the people elect their government and the government works for the people. She said a successful democracy needs mutual agreement, justice and freedom. In some parts of the world there are places that have democracy without freedom, she said. SPA Chairman Serge Pun sounded upbeat during a session of the Myanmar Democratic Transition Forum today, noting how the fears of a block on democratic transition in his country may be misplaced.

“The army is not throwing its weight against democratic transition. So we are not doing too badly,” Serge Pun told the gathering at the forum.

The Myanmar Democratic Transition Forum is being held in Nay Pyi Taw over three days up until Sunday.

Serge Pun AKA U Theim



Dr. Michael Vatikiotis, the Asia Regional director of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue

Wai, the Chairman of SPA and FMI, told a session looking at the global overview of developments in Myanmar that a pragmatic approach is needed as the country transitions from the era of military dictatorship to full democracy.

“We need stability with democracy. We need to reform the military, not undermine its importance in national life,” he said.

Panelist Thant Myint-U said Myanmar’s fate is in its own hands. It should look at its own situation and choose its own



Ms. Renata Nicola Lok Dessallien, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator. **PHOTO: MNA**

path of democracy. “Political and economic corruption makes democratic transition very difficult, something Myanmar should remember,” the author said.

“Hybrid regimes or semi-democracies may last longer than expected. They are becoming the norm rather than the exception,” said Thant Myint U. “We can do away with text book approaches to democracy and look at the issues more imaginatively to handle local realities,” he added.

One country that has had a long track record with democracy

is India, the largest democracy in the world.

Ambassador of India to Myanmar Vikram Misra told the forum that both democracy and peace need to be sustained and that the economic aspect of the transition is also important.

“In India, we do diversity with a capital D. If you do that, you will end up as a much stronger nation,” Mr Misra said. “Nepal failed to get a constitution despite getting a democracy. Myanmar needs to learn from that,” he said. “India’s constitution helped it satisfy aspirations of its diverse peoples. That could be a model for Myanmar,” said the Indian Ambassador. Six plenary sessions bringing together more than thirty speakers will be followed by as many ‘winding-up’ interactive sessions that will seek out views from a cross section of more than 450 participants that would include special observers from foreign governments and global bodies who support Myanmar’s transition to democracy. —GNLM with Mizzima ■

## Myanmar talks on transition from military to civilian government

THE first day of the three-day Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition was held yesterday at the Myanmar International Convention Center-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Retired Commander-in-Chief of Indonesia Mr. Agus Widjojo and Dr. Aurel Croissant, a professor of political science from Heidelberg University in Germany, read their papers on the political transition from military to civilian government.

Mr. Widjojo said that Indonesia and Myanmar face similar challenges with one of them being the transition from a military to civilian government. Indonesia is currently in the process of transition to a civilian government and they have made amendments to their 1945 constitution towards democratic governance.

Mr. Widjojo said the transition in Indonesia was carried out with decisions from its political parties and the military did not participate in the state affairs. He said the parliament needs to be prepared to build trust with different parties in the transition and also prepare for the expectations of the people, some of which may not be in line with a democratic government. He said there shouldn’t be any misunder-

standings between the military and civilians during the transition and to reduce that as much as possible, Indonesia had its military staff attend workshops on subjects related to democracy.

He said national reconciliation is important in building an environment that supports the democratic transition and capacity building is necessary to build trust between all concerned parties. He also said this is only advice from Indonesia’s experience as Myanmar and Indonesia are not the same. He said political parties play an important part in the transition and national policy should be written together with civilians and the military.

Prof. Dr. Aurel Croissant discussed about various countries transitions from a military to civilian government. He said changes to the law and the participation of both the military and civilians is needed for the transition. He said a collaborative effort from civilians, political parties, the Hluttaw and the government is needed to build trust and better communications.

Afterwards, Hluttaw representative U Lwin Ko Lett took over as chairperson for the forum. Hluttaw representative U



Retired Commander-in-Chief of Indonesia Mr. Agus Widjojo. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyone Cho, Colonel Aung Myint Oo, the head of the National and International Affairs Department at the National Defense College of the Myanmar Armed Forces, and Executive Director Daw Khin Ma Ma Myo from the Myanmar Institute of Peace and Security Studies then discussed on the topic of transition from military to civilian government.

Daw Khin Ma Ma Myo said a framework that all concerned parties have agreed on is important in the transition to a civilian government. She said there might be some tension during the transition but the Hluttaw, political parties and civilians’ participation is necessary.

She said the security sector not only includes the Tatmadaw,



Dr. Aurel Croissant, a professor of political science from Heidelberg University in Germany.

police force and central intelligence, but also health security, food security, environmental security and social security. She said all ethnic groups want unity under a federal system and for a country to develop, political reform, social reform, security reform and economic reform need to be developed.

Colonel Aung Myint Oo also said trust building between the military and civilians is important for the transition. He said Myanmar was able to transition in the most peaceful way. He said an interesting situation in Myanmar is that there are many armed ethnic groups in the country and some of them have the military power of a country, therefore everyone needs to work together to find a

solution.

Stability and security depend on each other and if there are security concerns in the country then it will have a negative impact on economic development and other sectors as well, said Colonel Aung Myint Oo. He said there needs to be a focus on which sector should be given priority and a suitable theory for the country should be chosen too.

MP U Pyone Cho said there is increased interest from the public after the transition to civilian government and there has been increased participation from the military in the peace process. However, national reconciliation, constitutional amendment and democratic transition are still ongoing and may soon lead to a table discussion. He said they are working on giving power to the people but there are still some challenges.

There are some sectors that the civilian sector has to perform as they can’t be performed by the government, said U Pyone Cho. He said the strength of the civilians and the strength of the government depend on each other.

Later, attendants of the forum were allowed to ask questions and engage in discussions. —Myanmar News Agency ■

# Assessing the democratic transition and the way forward

By Maw Lin

THE relentless struggle for democracy is the greatest historical landmark in the modern history of Myanmar. After parliament was abolished in Myanmar democracy started fading away. Democratic practices began to diminish in the political and administrative sectors together with the gradual erosion of democracy in the fields of social, economic and judicial system. For about 20 years Myanmar politics was plunged into despair. The country, once an economic might in Asia fell to the level of least developed country. A special privileged class emerged and a great gap between the rich and the poor emerged. Social inequity and unbalanced or biased judicial system prevailed in the country. There were also unjust practices even in the realm of culture and religion. Corruption became rampant in the heels of chaos in the domain of administration and the judiciary. As a consequence human rights and democratic freedom disappeared.

The people were so afraid they dared not express their views, opinions and desires. People became dejected, disillusioned and desperate with the prevailing conditions of the country. It resulted in a general people's uprising for democracy in 1988. People no longer tolerated the lack of democracy and general downtrend of the country and took to the streets calling for the restoration of democracy in the country.

The army tried to control the countrywide uprising by seizing the State power through a military coup. However they had to cede to the demand of the people and made a policy switch towards democratic transformation. Though it took a considerably long time to get on the right track to democracy, people could have eventually put the country on the path to democracy by their unstinting movement for change, ardent desire and the great force of the people. Amidst many constraints, general elections were held and the so-called civilian government emerged with ex-army men in the cabinet constituting a majority.

Then in 2015 after the general elections, the people voted into power the true civilian government with NLD people's representatives forming the

majority. The elected representatives are now in the Hluttaw and they are serving the country in the respective fields of duty. The first civilian President also emerged after 60 years of military leaders. The democracy leader, icon of people's aspirations is now serving as State Counsellor with massive people's support.

In this situation both Myanmar people and international circles believed that Myanmar is now on the track of democratization. Myanmar is now on the way to democracy, but it is now time to analyze and assess how far the transition has reached and how far the campaign rhetoric can be translated into practice.

The forum in which discussions with critical analysis and assessment on the democratic transition of Myanmar will be made is being held today 11 August 2017 under the supervision of Ministry of Information.

In this 3-day forum the democratic transition in the areas of politics, economy, military and civilian relationship and the role of the media will be discussed and assessed. It has been accepted that politics and peace are the main determinants in achieving a democratic transition. However, the forum will discuss how much the economy, civilian military relationship, role of the media and freedom of the press are also crucial in the successful implementation of tasks in the democratic transition process. It is also hoped that the forum will come up with tasks to be carried out in the future. It is also expected that critical assessments on the past during the transition period will also be made. It may include assessments on the performance of the people's representatives and cabinet members to see whether they live up to the aspirations of the people. Self-esteem and the self-congratulatory nature of human beings will also be reviewed and this will give a warning bell to those who happen to entertain these mentalities. Apart from the discussion on the importance of politics, economy, military civilian relationship and role of media in democratic transition, a general overview on the democratic transition process is also necessary. It is believed the forum will produce the best solution for peace, development and justice in the country.

Translated by Khin Maung Win

# Tax & State Budget

By Tin Shein

**B**EFORE we go any further, we have to know what tax is all about and what the state budget means. Tax is the money people have to pay to the Government to enable it to carry out its functions for the development of the country. It encompasses many areas, such as economy, education, health, infrastructure, agriculture, energy, mining, etc., and they are the key areas, development of which can contribute to and ensure a high standard of living for the people. So it is clear that tax plays a crucial role in the running of a Government in any country. It is the duty of all people to pay the taxes due on their taxable incomes to the Internal Revenue Department (IRD). Of course, it is not just the people who have to pay taxes but also corporate bodies have to pay a variety of taxes assessed on their incomes, sales of goods, sales of assets as well as incomes from other sources.

Now let us see what the state budget means. To put it briefly, it is a well-planned projection of revenues expected to be received and of the expenditures expected to be incurred in carrying out its functions by the Government during a fiscal year. As an initial step, all the departments of the Ministries at different levels have to prepare budget estimates based on the funding they need to carry out the activities next fiscal year and submit them to their respective Ministries well before the end of the current fiscal year. The Ministries have to incorporate these budget estimates into their overall budgets at the state level. Then they were submitted to the Ministry of Planning and Finance where the State Budget is prepared amending the estimates to bring them within the limits of estimated total revenues available before the final State

Budget is presented to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw for approval.

It is the tax revenues that are the main source of funds making up the state budget.

Once it has been approved by the Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw, allocations of money are made among different ministries and their various departments to meet the expenditures needed to carry out the activities planned for the next fiscal year. If the Government spends more money on its various activities of national development than it has collected from the business enterprises, both private and public, and people in taxes, then the Government will face budget overruns or deficits for the fiscal year concerned. In order to bring the budget into balance, the Government will have to raise moneys to cover those deficits, for which two options are open to it: one is to buy treasury bills issued by the Central Bank of Myanmar and the other is to make borrowings either from international financial institutions, such as IMF, World Bank, ADB, etc. or other foreign Governments.

So it is now crystal clear that the Government will be handicapped by lack of funds in its efforts to carry out its operations for the economic growth of the country, if our people and business enterprises fail to pay or evade the taxes due from them. We must take it into our heads that taxes are unavoidable if our annual incomes or earnings reach the taxable level set down under the Income-tax Law and that it is the duty of all citizens to pay taxes and they are under obligation to declare the incomes they have earned annually whenever they reach the taxable levels.

Of course, there are many accounting gimmicks that are employed by both individuals and business enterprises to evade and / or avoid income taxes.

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## Tax and State Budget

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They include but not limited to understating profits and value of inventories, overstating expenditures using fictitious invoices, and ‘under-providing’ for bad or doubtful debts, etc. In such an environment it is heard that Small and Median Enterprises (SMEs) shall be given audit-exemption under the new Myanmar Companies Act now being amended with ADB financial aid. Now under the new Myanmar Companies Act start-up Small and Medium Enterprises “SMEs” are proposed to be given tax exemption each to the tune of K 10 million or more on the net profits. Tax-exemption and audit-exemption will together work to the benefit of SMEs. Why? Because if their management are dishonest, they can draw up their financial statements in such a way as to show their net profit below the taxable threshold allowed, thus avoiding or evading the tax payable by them. To make matters worse, because they are exempted from audit, they are going to have a field day manipulating their financial statements without fear of any auditor poking their nose into the true position of their financial affairs. And what is more, there is no need to file their financial statements with the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration.

Of course, it will enable them to make shady deals with the SME tax officers on the amounts of tax to be paid. Thus, the way will be opened for them to cheat the Internal Revenues Department (IRD) out of millions of Kyats in taxes they may have evaded by manipulation of their financial statements. It is crystal clear that audit-exemption, if granted to all SMEs that account for nearly 90% of the total business enterprises in Myanmar, will surely cause a huge loss of tax revenues to the Government annually. As a result, our State Budget will be thrown into a deficit every year and the Government will be compelled to seek outside sources of funds to cover these deficits in some way or other.

In conclusion, it may be submitted that the authorities will carefully weigh the pros and cons of audit-exemption before granting it by taking into account the risks of budget deficits the Government may have to face through loss of tax revenues, as mentioned above. ■

## Protection for H1N1 donated to hospitals as death toll reaches 23

THE Ministry of Health and Sports announced that medical examinations for 25 patients were carried out between 10 and 11 August and 10 cases were confirmed to have the H1N1 virus. This brings the total number of H1N1 cases since 21 July to 204 and the total death toll has reached 23 people.

There have been 5 inpatients at Waibergi Specialist Hospital and 53 inpatients in hospitals in various regions and states receiving treatment for confirmed cases of H1N1 yesterday. The ministry said the majority of patients are doing well.

Meanwhile, Hinthada General Hospital in the Ayeyawady Region eye protection, masks, gloves and other personal protective equipment (PPE) donated by Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated yesterday to combat the spread of the H1N1 virus.

Daw Su KyiKy, the in charge of KBZ's Hinthada branch (1), donated the equipment on behalf of the foundation and the donation was received by U Toe Toe, the head of the hospital.

The philanthropic foundation has since donated Ks 50 million and 200 sets



Members of BFM hand over the personal protection equipment to the Hinthada hospital. **PHOTO: MNA**

of PPE to the Ministry of Health and Sports, 60 sets of PPE to Yangon General Hospital for its Intensive Care Unit and 100 sets of PPE to the 300-bed Tatmadaw Maternity and Child Hospital (1).

The ministry said the number of patients coming to hospitals to receive treatment for respiratory infections has dropped a bit.

The ministry urged in its report for the elderly, children, pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses and low immune systems to follow the ministry's guidelines to protect against the seasonal influenza and to receive medical examinations at the nearest health department if they experience any of the virus' symptoms.—GNLM ■

## First route of Yangon water bus on test run

Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies said they are facing some complications with constructing ferry stops for the Yangon water bus system but they are doing all they can to get back on schedule.

“There are several difficulties with the ports,” said Daw Tint Tint Lwin, CEO of Tint Tint Myanmar Group of Companies. “Port security is completed and the water vehicles are ready. We are currently running test trials. Staff training is almost completed too.”

The first route for the water bus starts from Hlinethaya to Insein to Botahtaung and will have sixteen water

vehicles. Eight stops have been designated and they are at the Insein suspension bridge, Bayinnaung bridge, FMI Housing, Hlinethaya train station, Kyimyindine market bridge, Laththa Lanthit bridge, Pansodan Nanthida and Botahtaung bridge No.4.

The bus fares will cost Ks 500 for travelling the entire route and KS 300 for short distances. The company is said to have invested between USD 20 million to USD 37 million in the water bus system.

Security features will include CCTV and GPS monitoring systems that are used in Hungary. The company has also

collaborated with IKBZ for the passenger's insurance schemes. Updates on the Yangon water bus can be viewed on the bus system's Facebook page and website.

LED signboards will be used to show the departure of a boat from a bus stop and there will be 20 minutes of intervals between each water bus. A journey on the entire route will take about one and a half hour and the buses will run from 6 am to 6 pm.

Additionally, jetties are under construction on the route from Yangon River to Ngamoeyek Creek for another water bus route.—Ko Moe ■

## Invitation for Tender Proposal for Bus-Fare Payment

FOR introducing bus-fare payment through card system in Yangon Transportation Services, Yangon Region Cabinet invited tender proposals as the first phase on August 9, according to Dr Maung Aung, secretary of Yangon Region Transport Supervision Authority.

It has been learnt that citizen-owned local companies, Myanmar citizens and joint-ventured foreign companies are

eligible to bid tenders to operate Cards Issuing Service, Card Acquiring Service and Cards Top up Agent Service to perform the tasks of payment through card system of Yangon Payment Services (YPS) to be introduced by Yangon Region Transport Authority.

Dr Maung Aung said, “Now tenders are being invited for Card Payment System from local companies and foreign

joint-venture companies. Further information will be clarified in detail.”

Tender proposal (first phase) was sold on August 9. On August 15, detailed clarification will be made at the Office of Yangon Region Cabinet. As the first phase, tender proposals will be accepted starting from August 25 and the deadline is targeted as September 16.—Hsu Hnin Le ■

## 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





The participants of the first day of the Forum on Myanmar Democratic Transition pose for documentary photo in Nay Pyi Taw. The forum will last for three days from 11 to 13 August at the Myanmar International Convention Center-2. **PHOTO: MNA (NEWS ON PAGE-1)**

## Grave concern over the future of Myanmar's wild elephants as skin trade targets mothers and calves

On World Elephant Day yesterday, national and international conservation organisations expressed grave concern about the plight of Myanmar's declining wild elephant population following a surge in demand for their skin.

"Unlike ivory poaching, which targets tusked males, the sudden increase in the demand for skin means the killing is indiscriminate with mothers and calves found poisoned and skinned. If this continues it could lead to the extinction of wild elephants in Myanmar," said Nay Myo Shwe, Taninthayi Conservation Programme Coordinator, Fauna & Flora International Myanmar.

Elephants are typically shot with poisoned darts or high velocity rifles, and die a prolonged and painful death before being skinned.

"The skin is traded illegally and turned into gruesome jewellery or consumed in 'medicines'

that have no proven medical value. Elephant skin and other illegal wildlife trade products are openly sold in popular tourist destinations such as Yangon and Kyaiktiyo. Closing these markets is a key step if we are to ensure the future of Myanmar's wild elephants," said Mark Grindley, Manager, Taninthayi Conservation Programme, Fauna & Flora International Myanmar.

Elephant skin has long been part of the illegal wildlife trade but never at these levels.

"At least 30 wild elephants have been poached so far in 2017 with six elephants killed in the last six weeks. This is far above the previous yearly poaching average for Myanmar," said Aung Myo Chit, Country Coordinator, Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute.

The wild elephant population in Myanmar has plummeted, with estimates at between

1400 and 2000, however numbers could be far lower.

"A few decades ago Myanmar would have had tens of thousands of wild elephants. This decline is of grave concern and we urge people to report any sale of elephant products, or any suspicions of poaching, to the authorities," said Christy Williams, Country Director, WWF-Myanmar.

Conservation organisations have worked with the Myanmar government to train elephant rangers who are being deployed in key poaching hot-spots. In July alone, 45 rangers were trained in specialist techniques, with more trainings scheduled.

The majority of elephant skinning is targeted poaching, but occasionally it is a by-product of conflict between elephants and humans. Events such as 'crop raiding' or damage to property has increased as elephant habitat is lost and

wild elephants come into increasing contact with people.

These events can lead to accidental or deliberate injury to both elephants and humans. Since 2010, government figures record at least 35 human deaths and 95 elephant deaths attributed to poaching and conflict across Myanmar.

A Myanmar Elephant Conservation Action Plan (MECAP) has been developed by the Myanmar government with support from a wide range of local and international organisations. The plan details actions to address the illegal capture, poaching and trade of wild elephants and their parts.

It also includes sections on human-elephant conflict, conservation of wild elephants and their habitat, and management of Myanmar's large numbers of working elephants. The plan is expected to be released in the coming months.—WWF/WCS ■

## Training on catching methods concludes in Maungtau

A multiplier training course number 2/2017 on catching methods conducted by the Maungtau District Police Force was concluded yesterday afternoon at Mayu Hall in Maungtau.

The aim of the training was for police enforcing the rule of law to properly arrest suspects according to lessons of catching methods.

"Police personnel should learn the subjects and methods of catching and know the type of catching method to use according to prescribed rules and regulation", said Police Lt-Col Nyan Win Oo, Commander of Maungtau District Police Forces.

During the training course's concluding event, the trainees demonstrated the lessons on catching methods. A total of 58 police personnel attended the training course.—A-1 Soe and Myo Thu Hein ■

## Millions of improved homes needed in Myanmar to cut disaster risk — UN

KUALA LUMPUR — One in four people in Myanmar live in low-quality housing, exposing them to greater threats during natural disasters, the United Nations said Friday.

An estimated 13.5 million people, or a quarter of Myanmar's population, live in houses

built with materials that can deteriorate rapidly such as bamboo, wood and leaves, a report by the government and the U.N. Population Fund (UNFPA) showed.

Some 3.8 million new or improved homes need to be built to address the problem, said the

report, which is based on census data. "Without durable homes, people are exposed to displacement and injury during natural disasters, and more people lose their lives," UNFPA Myanmar representative Janet Jackson told the Thomson Reuters Foundation in an email.

Many people who live in such homes are also at greater risk due to the use of candles, kerosene and firewood in lighting or cooking, which could affect air quality and people's health.

"Women who spend more time indoors cooking are at particular risk", Jackson said.

Asia-Pacific is home to 40 percent of natural disasters and 84 percent of people affected by natural disasters worldwide, according to the United Nations.

Myanmar is prone to natural disasters such as floods, cyclones, earthquakes and droughts. —Reuters ■



# EU Commissioner calls for eggs summit after contamination scare

BRUSSELS — The European Commissioner charged with food safety has called for a meeting of ministers and national watchdogs to discuss the fallout of an eggs contamination scare that has led to finger pointing between several European Union members. Tensions have risen between agricultural ministers in Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany after traces of moderately toxic insecticide fipronil were found in batches of eggs, linked by authorities to a Dutch supplier of cleaning products.

While initially the Belgian food safety regulator drew criticism from abroad for not acting fast enough after being made aware of fipronil contamination, Belgium's agriculture minister



Eggs are packed to be sold at a poultry farm in Wortel near Antwerp, Belgium, on 8 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

on Wednesday said it was the Dutch who were too slow to respond to inquiries. "Blaming and shaming will bring us nowhere and I want to stop this," EU Commissioner Vytenis Andriukaitis told Reuters in a statement.

Andriukaitis said he hoped to gather a meeting before the end of September of the ministers

concerned, along with the various national food safety agency representatives.

"We need to work together to draw lessons learnt and move forward instead of losing energy on finger pointing," he said.

Millions of eggs have been pulled from European supermarket shelves, though some national regulators have voiced concern

that many contaminated eggs have entered the food chain, mainly through processed products such as biscuits and cakes. While a large amount of contaminated eggs would need to be eaten to show negative health effects, fipronil is considered moderately toxic and can cause organ damage in humans.

Fipronil is widely used to treat pets for ticks and fleas but its use in the food chain, for example to clean out barns, is forbidden.

Dutch authorities on Thursday arrested two directors of the company at the centre of the food safety scare, with prosecutors saying they suspected them of threatening public health and possession of a prohibited pesticides. —Reuters ■

# Colombia's ELN rebels may call ceasefire for pope's visit

BOGOTA — Colombia's Marxist-led ELN rebels could declare a unilateral ceasefire to honour Pope Francis on his visit to the country next month, a leader of the group founded by radical Roman Catholic priests told Reuters.

"His holiness Francis is a pope who has returned the church to think in terms of the impoverished and excluded majorities. He is a progressive pope and anything we Colombians can do to receive him is a gesture for the support he gives to the peace process," said Pablo Beltran of the National Liberation Army.

The ELN and President Juan Manuel Santos's government are negotiating a peace deal in Ecuador, and a temporary bilateral ceasefire for the pontiff's visit is possible, Beltran, a member of the ELN's leadership and its chief negotiator in the peace talks, said in a



Pope Francis waves as he leads the Angelus prayer in Saint Peter's Square at the Vatican, on 9 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

phone interview from Quito late on Wednesday.

He said no two-way truce agreement had been reached yet, however, with less than a month to go before the pope arrives in the predominantly Roman Catholic country.

"We're going to make all the necessary effort so that the ceasefire is bilateral, but if it's not achievable we will consider the possibility of making it unilateral," said Beltran, a member of the ELN's

leadership and its chief negotiator in the peace talks.

The ELN was founded in 1964 by rebels inspired by Cuba's 1959 revolution and it was led for decades by Catholic priests driven by some of the more radical ideas behind Liberation Theology.

The government and the ELN began formal peace negotiations in February after more than three years of behind-the-scenes talks on an agenda and logistics.

Santos has demand-

ed that the rebel group stop kidnappings, hostilities against civilians and attacks on oil infrastructure to move toward a bilateral ceasefire. The ELN has said the attacks are defensive and respond to military offensives against its fighters. The government did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the possibility of a temporary ceasefire.

Beltran also said the ELN has moved into areas once occupied by the larger Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), which signed a peace deal with the government late last year, ending its part in a half-century conflict that has killed more than 220,000 people and displaced millions.

Many former FARC areas are being overrun by right-wing paramilitary groups and the ELN is trying to protect the civilian population, Beltran said. —Reuters ■

## Transferring Distributor for Registered Pesticides

Distribution and registration processes of pesticides produced by Anhui Byter Agriculture Technology Co.,Ltd are transferring from Close Friend Co.,Ltd to Myanmar Golden Byter Co.,Ltd. Any objection regarding to this transfer can notify at Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board for the the following Pesticides within 7 days.

No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Byter Shovel 32.4% SL	2,4-D Acid 2.4% + Glyphosate 30% SL	Provisional	P2017-3673
2	Byter Grteen Arrow 1.8% EC	Abamectin 1.8% EC	Provisional	P2017-3674
3	Byter A Fan 26 SC	Azoxystrobin 16% + Difenoconazole 10% SC	Provisional	P2017-3675
4	Byter Kaung San 16000 WP	Bacillus thuringiensis 16000 IU/MG	Provisional	P2017-3676
5	Byter Done Pyan 50% SP	Cartap 50% SP	Provisional	P2017-3677
6	Byter Mar Shal 15 EC	Cyhalofop-butyl 15% EC	Provisional	P2017-3678
7	Byter Royal 10WDG	Difenoconazole 10% WDG	Provisional	P2017-3679
8	Byter Control 80WDG	Dimethomorph 80% WDG	Provisional	P2017-3680
9	Byter Pronil 5 EC	Fipronil 5% EC	Provisional	P2017-3681
10	Byter Show Motion 48% SL	Glyphosate 48% SL	Provisional	P2017-3682
11	Byter Halmet 5ME	Hexaconazole 5% ME	Provisional	P2017-3683
12	Byter Dragular 70WDG	Imidacloprid 70%	Provisional	P2017-3684
13	Byter Bravo 40EC	Isoprothiolane 40% EC	Provisional	P2017-3685
14	Byter Bacter King 2 SL	Kasugamycin 2% SL	Provisional	P2017-3686
15	Byter Aliba 50WP	Kresoxim-methyl 50% WP	Provisional	P2017-3687
16	Byter Kong FU 5EW	Lambda-cyhalotrin 5% EW	Provisional	P2017-3688
17	Byter Gyo Thar 72WP	Mancozeb 64% + Metalaxyl 8% WP	Provisional	P2017-3689
18	Byter Moe Set 80WP	Mancozeb 80% WP	Provisional	P2017-3690
19	Byter Fast 27.6 SL	Paraquat 27.6% SL	Provisional	P2017-3691
20	Byter Min Lat War 33 EC	Pendimethalin 330g/1 EC	Provisional	P2017-3692
21	Byter An None 10EC	Quizalofop-P-ethyl 10% EC	Provisional	P2017-3693
22	Byter Fuji.1 1.8WP	Abamectin 0.1% + Imidacloprid 1.7% WP	Experimental	E2017-3694
23	Byter Michael 25EW	Abamectin 0.3% + Chlorpyrifos 24.7% EW	Experimental	E2017-3695
24	Byter Fighter 4EC	Abamectin 1% + Acetamiprid 3% EC	Experimental	E2017-3696
25	Byter Tiger 15WP	Buprofezin 10% Nitenpyram 5% WP	Experimental	E2017-3697
26	Byter Rainger 50EC	Difenoconazole 25% + Propiconazole 25% EC	Experimental	E2017-3698
27	Byter Nyi Naung 15SC	Dimethomorph 10% + Hexaconazole 5% SC	Experimental	E2017-3699
28	Byter Star 25SC	Iprodione 20% + Tebuconazole 5% SC	Experimental	E2017-3700
29	Byter Proud 48% EC	Prochloraz 48% EC	Experimental	E2017-3701

Close Friend Co.,Ltd.  
No.872/A, Thu Mingalar Road, 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.

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No.	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1.	Crop-Lush 75SP	Acephate 75% SP	Provisional	2016-3286
2.	Crop-Cola 48 EC	Chlorpyrifos 480g/1 EC	Provisional	2016-3287

Close Friend Co.,Ltd.  
No.872/A, Thu Mingalar Road, 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.

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No	Trade Name	Active Ingredient	Registration Type	Registration Number
1	Crop-Growing 80WP	Mancozeb 80% WP	Provisional	2016-3283
2	Crop-healthy 1.8 EC	Abamectin 1.8 EC	Provisional	2016-3285
3	Crop-Strong 10WP	Imidacloprid 10% WP	Provisional	2016-3288

Close Friend Co.,Ltd.  
No.872/A, Thu Mingalar Road, 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, South Okkalapa Township, Yangon.

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# Magnitude 6.2 quake hits Philippine island of Luzon, jolts buildings

MANILA — An earthquake of magnitude 6.2 hit the Philippines' northern island of Luzon on Friday and was felt in the capital Manila, shaking buildings and forcing the evacuation of offices and schools.

There were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries in the quake, which the United States Geological Survey earlier measured at 6.6. The quake struck at 1:28 pm (0528 GMT) 10.7 km (6.6 miles) southeast of Nasugbu, in the province of Batangas, at a depth of 168 km (104 miles).

No tsunami warning was issued by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, which put the magnitude of the quake at 6.3, and said it expected aftershocks.

The Philippines is on the geologically active Pacific Ring of Fire and experiences frequent earthquakes.—Reuters ■



Students use their hands to cover their heads as they evacuate their school premises after an earthquake of magnitude 6.2 hit the northern island of Luzon and was felt in the Metro Manila, Philippines, on 11 August 2017, shaking buildings and forcing the evacuation of offices and schools. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Fire breaks out in building at Bangladesh capital airport

DHAKA — A devastating fire broke out on Friday afternoon at a building inside the Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in the Bangladeshi capital of Dhaka, a fireman said.

The blaze started at the second floor of the airport's main building at around 1:37 pm local time (0737 GMT), a Fire Service Control Room official told Xinhua.

The official, who did not give his name, said a total of 10 fire firefighting units were battling to bring flames under control.

Hundreds of passengers, officials and staff were reportedly evacuated following the fire.

The cause of the fire could not be known immediately.

No further details were yet available on casualties.—Xinhua ■

## 20% of vehicles produced in Indonesia to be eco-friendly by 2025

TANGERANG — By 2025, a fifth of the vehicles produced in Indonesia will be hybrid or electric vehicles, Industry Minister Airlangga Hartarto said Thursday at the opening of the Indonesian International Auto Show in Tangerang, near Jakarta.

"By 2025, we wish that 20 per cent of the total vehicles produced in this country will be low carbon emission vehicles," Hartarto said. Around 400,000 such vehicles are projected to be produced in 2025, when overall output is expected to hit 2 million motor vehicles.

Hartarto noted the country does not need to prepare additional infrastructure for hybrids, but will need to construct electrical charging facilities for electric vehicles.

Indonesia expects to see domestic auto sales hit 1.1 million vehicles this year, alone accounting for one-third of demand in the 10-nation Southeast Asia auto market. Indonesia is expected to export 200,000 vehicles this year,

according to Hartarto.

Indonesian production capacity now totals 2.2 million units, following a 7.5 trillion rupiah (\$562 million) expansion by Mitsubishi Motors Corp. and a 9 trillion rupiah investment by a joint venture of US-based General Motors Co., and SAIC Motors and Wuling Automobile Co., both Chinese automakers.

At the 25<sup>th</sup> GAIKINDO (Association of Indonesia's Automotive Industry) Indonesia International Auto Show, or GIIAS 2017 for short, which runs from 10 to 20 August, more than 40 new and concept vehicles are on display, including the world premiere of the Mitsubishi Expander.

The Chinese automaker Wuling is debuting a family multipurpose vehicle called the Conero, which will be sold at a price below any similar Japanese MPV in Indonesia. GIIAS 2017 is expected to draw more than a half million visitors and produces sales of more than 23,000 vehicles.—Kyodo News ■

## Singapore to realize cashless public transport system by 2020

SINGAPORE — Singapore's Land Transport Authority (LTA) and its subsidiary TransitLink are working towards a fully cashless vision for public transport by 2020.

The two authorities jointly announced on Friday that they will launch a series of initiatives where commuters will no longer use cash to pay for rides or to top up stored-value cards. On one hand, the authorities will encourage and empower commuters to go cashless by expanding cashless payment options for stored-value

card transactions. They added an option of topping up stored-value cards via general ticketing machines this year, which is using personal bank cards, as well as mobile payment platforms like Apple Pay and Android Pay. The move increased cashless top-up transactions via general ticketing machines by over 70 per cent in the first half of 2017. On the other hand, they will progressively remove cash payment options for public transport transactions, including for fare payment on buses

and for stored-value card services at train stations, over the next few years. The authorities added that they will allocate service agents at train stations and make information available at ticketing touch-points and on various media platforms, in order to assist commuters. They will also ensure that cash alternatives to paying for public transport rides, such as for the sale and top-up of stored-value cards, are available nearby, for example, at convenience stores, said the two authorities.—Xinhua ■

## Japan to extend missile shield after N Korea threatens Guam

TOKYO — The government is considering deploying missile interceptors along the possible path of North Korean ballistic missiles fired toward Guam after Pyongyang threatened the US Pacific territory, government sources said Friday.

The government is preparing to deploy the air-to-surface missile defence system in western Japan after North Korea said it is "seriously examining" a plan to

simultaneously fire four intermediate-range ballistic missiles over western Japan in an "enveloping strike at Guam."

The Air Self-Defence Force's Patriot Advanced Capability-3 system will likely be deployed in the western prefectures of Shimane, Hiroshima and Kochi, which North Korea said its missiles could cross over, the sources said. The government wants to be prepared in the event that

the North Korean missiles fail as they cross over Japan, the sources said. No SDF troops are regularly stationed in the three prefectures. Japan's missile defence scheme employs the Maritime Self-Defence Force's Aegis destroyers to shoot down airborne missiles and the Air Self-Defence Force's PAC-3 system aimed at countering missiles that evade Aegis' interceptors.—Kyodo News ■



## ‘Beyond the Wall’- Tales of persecuted lives at the Berlin Wall

BERLIN — An open-air installation is to open along an old section of the Berlin Wall at the weekend, featuring photos of soldiers patrolling the former deadly border, and stories of those persecuted behind it.

“Beyond the Wall” — 229-metres (250 yards) long and facing the West — is designed to keep alive the memory of the dividing wall put up by Communist East German authorities nearly 56 years ago on 13 August, 1961.

It fell in November 1989 due to mass popular pressure and the decline of Soviet Union power.

The new exhibition features stills from videos that German-American artist Stefan Roloff shot of the Berlin Wall from the west in 1984 — including East German soldiers peering through binoculars, climbing ladders up to watchtowers and walking



Visitors look at the art installation “Beyond The Wall” by German artist Stefan Roloff at the backside of the East Side Gallery in Berlin, Germany, on 10 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

along the Wall.

“There are very few authentic places where you can still see what’s left of the Wall,” Klaus Lederer, a Berlin senator responsible for culture told a news conference.

The exhibition also features stories and silhouettes of people whose lives were affected by the

Wall — including a man who authorities accused of having a fetish, a woman arrested for receiving a postcard from a friend in West Berlin, and another woman whose apartment was bugged by the East German Stasi secret police.

Mario Roellig is one of the victims whose sto-

ry is told. The Stasi interrogated and imprisoned him after he tried to flee to the West to be with his boyfriend. He remembers a Stasi officer telling him they would find him anywhere.

Years later, when Roellig was working in a shop in reunified Berlin, he realised a customer inquiring

about cigars was his Stasi interrogator. Roellig asked for an apology but the man screamed that his sentence was rightful.

“It’s important to talk about it so I can get rid of the fear of this place, that time and above all the perpetrators who are still around,” he told Reuters at the Wall.

Roellig — who now lives in western Berlin — said memories of the past bubble up when he crosses a border and he feels unable to ever spend a night at his parents’ home in eastern Berlin.

“To this day I can’t stay there overnight as I seem to still be anxious that the Wall will be put back up and I’ll be on the wrong side again,” he said.

Roloff, the artist, meanwhile believes his exhibition is particularly relevant at a time when US President Donald Trump wants to build a wall along the border with Mexico.

“For me it’s not necessarily a historic project even though it shows things from a time that has passed. It’s a continuing phenomenon. There have been walls as long as people have existed and unfortunately they’ll continue to exist,” he said.—Reuters ■

## New Orleans braces for more rain, watchful for flash floods

NEW ORLEANS — The governor of Louisiana and the mayor of New Orleans declared a state of emergency for the city on Thursday due to torrential rains that overwhelmed a municipal drainage system already diminished by power shortages.

At a press conference, Mayor Mitch Landrieu also called for a private, third-party company to assume management of a pumping system meant to lower the risk of floods.

The emergency declarations by Landrieu and Governor John Bel Edwards are to remain in effect until 3 September.

The drainage system for the city, much of which lies below sea level, was inundated last Saturday by storms that dumped up to 9 inches of rain in three hours in some areas, causing flash flooding, according to the mayor’s press secretary, Erin Burns.

New Orleans officials

said its Sewerage & Water Board lost service on Wednesday night to a key turbine providing power to a majority of pumping stations for the East Bank section of town, hindering stormwater drainage in that area.

Local media have reported that Landrieu, disappointed by the handling of the response to the heavy rains and flooding, this week accepted the resignations or retirements of four top officials

for the New Orleans Sewerage & Water Board and Public Works Department.

The drainage system, when at full capacity, “can drain 1 inch of rainfall in the first hour, and a half inch of rainfall every hour after that,” New Orleans emergency operations chief Aaron Miller told Reuters.

Miller said the system is running less efficiently than that, but he could not quantify the capacity as of Thursday.—Reuters ■

### CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BANDA VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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### Vacancy Announcement

Myanmar Digital News is an online news network publishing daily both in Myanmar and English. We need a native English editor to rewrite and edit news stories and articles. The right candidate should be able to stay in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar and will be provided with accommodation. Salary is negotiable. If you’re interested, please email your cv together with a cover letter to [recruitment@myanmardigitalnews.com](mailto:recruitment@myanmardigitalnews.com) not later than 31 August 2017.

## Viet Nam pledges further divestment in big firms

HANOI — Viet Nam will accelerate equitization of state-owned enterprises as well as divestment in joint stock companies by 2020, including leading firms in their business fields, local media reported on Friday.

The Vietnamese government is reviewing the list of fields and businesses in which the government

will gradually hold smaller stakes, including the biggest dairy firm Vinamilk and top brewer Sabeco, daily newspaper Tuoi Tre (Youth) quoted Dang Quyet Tien, deputy head of the Corporate Finance Department under the Vietnamese Ministry of Finance, as saying. The government will also equitize 137 state-

owned enterprises, he said, adding that it will sell all stakes in many of the enterprises.

The state will retain full ownership in state-owned enterprises operating in a few fields, including defense and security, money printing, and industrial explosives production and trading. Viet Nam is facili-

tating mergers and acquisitions in association with equitization of big state-owned enterprises in the fields of transport, infrastructure, food, foodstuff, agriculture, telecommunications, trading, service, tourism and construction, according to the Ministry of Planning and Investment.—Xinhua ■



## Last blast from Gregg Allman, Southern man

LONDON — So close to death was blues rocker Gregg Allman when he was making his final album, the cover photographer did not get to his Savannah, Georgia, house in time.

Instead, “Southern Blood”, Allman’s posthumous paean to his life and music to be released in September, is adorned with a sepia shot of the grounds, a wooden boardwalk heading away under the shade of Spanish Moss.

There probably could not be a more appropriate symbol for Allman, who died from cancer in May, aged 69. From the early days with his late brother Duane onwards, Tennessee-born Allman was the epitome of Southern rock and blues.

“Southern Blood” is not about the South per se for that, skip back an album to the 2011 Grammy-nominated “Low Country Blues”. This one is about Allman.

“(Gregg) was acutely aware that his time was limited,” Allman’s manager and friend Michael Lehman told Reuters



Musician Michael Francis McCarthy, 32, plays his guitar as people depart from Rose Hill Cemetery after the burial service for the late Allman Brothers Band co-founder Gregg Allman in Macon, Georgia, US, on 3 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

when asked about the recording session.

“These compositions, they are all poignant and meaningful and talk about his life’s journey. Everyone of them had meaning (for him).”

For his last hurrah, Allman chose a number of songs written by friends and favorite artists including Jackson Browne, Willie Dixon, Jerry Garcia and Lowell George.

Each song, including those written by Allman himself, touch on something of the man — who led a difficult life with the early death of his brother, six divorces including from his celebrity marriage to Cher, drug addiction, hepatitis C, a liver transplant and, ultimately, cancer.

George’s “Willin’”, for example, is the tale of a hard-times Southwestern truck driver who keeps on the road against all the

odds, a hint at Allman’s near continual touring.

Another song — written by Mississippi bluesman Willie Dixon — needs no explanation: “I Love The Life I Live, I Live The Life I Love”.

In a similar vein a lot of the songs are basically goodbyes. One such is Allman’s sweet rendition of Bob Dylan’s “Going, Going, Gone” with its starting lyrics: “I’ve just reached a place/ Where the willow don’t bend/ There’s not much more to be said/ It’s the top of the end”.

Perhaps most poignant of all is the opening track, Allman’s own “My Only True Friend” in which he calls on the people who have followed his music since before 1969, the year the Allman Brothers hit the road, to remember him.

“You and I both know this river must surely flow to an end Keep me in your heart, keep your soul on the mend

I hope you’re haunted by the music of my soul, when I’m gone

Please don’t fly away to find a new love”.—Reuters ■

## I faced homelessness once: Idris Elba

LONDON — Actor Idris Elba has revealed that there was a time when he did not have a roof over his head.

The 44-year-old actor said he had to find a place to spend the night as he did not have anywhere to put up, reported Contactmusic.

“I faced homelessness once, and it just seems bizarre that young people are getting into this perpetual cycle.

“This is England, Great Britain, we shouldn’t be facing that,” Elba told TimeOut magazine.

“The Dark Tower” actor’s comment comes after he appeared at the Shelter benefit with rapper Skepta.

“I’ve got a passion and I turned up to say: ‘Skepta’s here, support the cause’,” Elba added.—PTI ■

## Seeking bigfoot: TV naturalist Attenborough gets comic homage

EDINBURGH — Did you hear the one about the British naturalist, the marmot, the grizzly bear and the South African poacher?

A one-man show at the Edinburgh Fringe, part of the world’s biggest arts festival, pokes family-friendly fun at a national institution, 91-year-old TV zoologist David Attenborough, who is famous for series such as The Blue Planet and Life on Earth.

Comedian Tom Neenan says the award-winning broadcaster, who since the 1950s has shared his love of nature with millions of viewers in Britain and around

the world, is a perfect antidote to the cast of “villains” dominating public life. In his show, Neenan, 31, plays Attenborough as an earnest young man in a safari jacket, seeking his big career break via a quest for a mythical creature, the sasquatch, or bigfoot.

Neenan, who has worked mostly for the BBC as a comedy writer, was inspired in a roundabout way by the political maelstrom unleashed by Britain’s vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump’s election to the US presidency.

“A lot of people around me



Naturalist David Attenborough arrives for a memorial service for his brother Richard Attenborough at Westminster Abbey in London, on 17 March 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

were mired in villains of the time,” he told Reuters. “I was trying not to wallow in all the negativity that was around by beaming in on what was the most joyous thing I could think of. And it was him as a young man becoming the Attenborough we know.”

On his travels, the young Attenborough of the show meets a host of comic characters and ribs a couple of British institutions such as the BBC itself, with a marmot and a dose of scatological humor thrown in for good measure.—Reuters ■

## Nick Jonas joins ‘Chaos Walking’

LOS ANGELES — Singer-actor Nick Jonas has joined the cast of post-apocalyptic thriller “Chaos Walking”.

The 24-year-old musician will star alongside actors Daisy Ridley and Tom Holland, according to The Hollywood Reporter. The film is based on Patrick Ness’ best-selling novel of the same name and will be directed by Doug Liman.

The story is centred on a colony planet where almost all women have been killed by a virus and all living creatures have been affected by The Noise, a virus that inflicts immersive visions of ones’ thoughts. Jonas will portray the role of Davy Prentiss Jr, a young soldier in Mayor Prentiss’ army, who is fuelled by jealousy over his father’s mentorship of long-time rival Todd Hewitt.

The movie also stars Mads Mikkelsen as the villain, along with Demian Bichir and Kurt Sutter, who have recently come onboard.—PTI ■

## ‘Suits’ enlists Jay Harrington for multiepisode arc

LOS ANGELES — The creators of legal drama “Suits” have roped in actor Jay Harrington to feature in a multiepisode arc in the show.

The 45-year-old “Better Off Ted” actor will be seen playing Mark Meadows, Donna Paulson’s

ex-boyfriend in two episodes, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

“We have discussed Jay for many roles over the years because our casting director, Bonnie Zane, knows I’m a huge fan of his from

‘Better Off Ted’ and other things. Often he was unavailable. A few months ago he was pitched for the role of Tommy Bratton, but we ended up going with Al Sapienza. A few weeks later we were writing the role of Mark Meadows

and that was perfect. “It requires someone in that age range who can be charming, can be handsome, and someone who can be a challenge sexually with Harvey for Donna,” showrunner Aaron Korsh said.—PTI ■



# America's total eclipse floods market with fake sunglasses

LOS ANGELES — When millions of Americans turn their faces skyward to witness the nation's first coast-to-coast total solar eclipse in a century, many will reach for specially designed sunglasses, but experts caution the public to stay clear of unsafe counterfeits.

Even as makers of certified, safety-tested solar eye ware were rushed to meet surging demand before the 21 August eclipse, they have joined astronomers and optometrists in warning of defective knockoffs flooding the US market.

"It's a bunch of unscrupulous people cashing in on the eclipse and putting public safety at risk," said Richard Fienberg, press officer for the American Astronomical Society (AAS).

Staring at the sun without proper filtration, even when it is partially obscured by the moon during an eclipse, can damage

or destroy photo-receptor cells of the eye's retina, leaving blind spots in a person's field of vision, experts said.

Special eyeglasses made with proper solar filters allow viewers to safely gaze at the sun any time for unlimited duration, the AAS said.

Although the advent of solar-safe sunglasses dates back more than three decades, they have never been so widely available to the public as for the 2017 event, which Fienberg said may rank as the most watched total solar eclipse in human history. That is largely because this year's spectacle will be the first in 99 years to span the entire continental United States — the world's third most populous nation — across a 70-mile-wide (113-km) path over 14 states, from the Pacific coast of Oregon to the Atlantic shore

of South Carolina. It will also be the first total solar eclipse visible from any of the Lower 48 states since 1979. As a measure of excitement surrounding the event, a leading supplier of solar lenses, Arizona-based Thousand Oaks Optical, has sold enough of its filters this year alone to produce roughly 100 million pairs of glasses, company owner Pat Steele-Gaishin told Reuters.

While no data exists for how many made-for-eclipse eyeglasses are in circulation overall, shady distributors of purportedly solar-safe shades abound on the Internet, Fienberg said.

The lenses of some obvious fakes allow the penetration of light from such relatively faint sources as fluorescent lamps, while the only thing one should see through authentic solar-safe filters when looking



Solar eclipse glasses that will be handed out by the community are pictured in Depoe Bay, Oregon, US, on 8 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

at objects fainter than the sun is pitch blackness.

Other bogus glasses have come stamped with forged logos of reputable manufacturers or with phony safety labels.

Peru State College in Nebraska, which lies in the path of the eclipse, ordered 7,500 pairs for students but discovered the shipment from a Chinese distributor was defective and came with safety certificates for


ordinary sunglasses.

Peru marketing director Jason Hogue said the college has since reordered from a legitimate supplier.

The AAS and NASA have posted a list of reputable solar filter brands, retail distributors and online dealers.

Prices range from as little as 99 cents for a pair of paper-frame glasses to \$20 or \$30 for a more stylish plastic set. While a last-minute rush has left many dealers out of stock two weeks before the big day, the good news is that US astronomy buffs have to wait only seven more years for the next total solar eclipse over North America, in April 2024.

Made from an extremely opaque black polymer film containing fine carbon powder, true solar-safe lenses are designed to screen out 250,000 times more visible light than would otherwise reach the naked eye, said B. Ralph Chou, a Canadian optometrist who led development of global standards for solar optics. Any filter less opaque than that may cause severe eye damage that would not become evident until hours later, Chou warned. The legitimate glasses, which offer no views outside the eclipse, carry their own hazards, however.—Reuters ■



Myanmar

International

Programme Schedule

(12-8-2017 07:00am -13-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Great Shwedagon-The Ten Traditional Arts & Crafts
07:47	Am	All About Orchids
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Come Beat Eggs For Fun & Reward
08:47	Am	Colourful Threads
08:55	Am	Art Students: Their Dream
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Gemstone Sculptor
09:39	Am	Adventurous Young Photographer
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Next Generation "Saw Noel (Violinist)"
10:36	Am	Aesthetic Painting on Pathein Umbrella
10:50	Am	Myanmar's Export: Mango

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Friday 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
07:25	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-1)
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: Foods & Risks of Chemical Dye
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Creator Of Imagination
08:55	Pm	Now In Yangon

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

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)-Friday 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))

# In a remote Irish town, a goat reigns supreme

KILLORGLIN, (Ireland) — For a few days this week a goat will be king of a small town in Ireland's rural south west.

Billed as one of Ireland's oldest festivals, the Puck Fair sees locals in the town of Killorglin pluck a wild mountain goat from its habitat and crown him 'King Puck' for the duration of the event.

This year's king was paraded through the town on Thursday, where he was crowned by the Queen of Puck — an honor bestowed on a local schoolgirl. He appeared relaxed, if occasionally bemused, during his coronation.

"I've seen it for the last 11 years so it's nothing new but when I first moved here from England I thought it was strange," festival-goer Ben Henry, 25, of Killarney told Reuters.

"I heard a fella today saying he's been coming

Puck Queen Caitlin Horgan, 12, poses with the newly crowned King Puck goat which will be held on a platform above the town for three days in Killorglin, Ireland, on 10 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

to Puck for 57 years so that says a lot!" he added.

The festival will feature music, street performers and a horse fair.

The origins of the event are unclear, though there are many local theories from a harvest festival to tales of a lone goat fleeing Oliver Cromwell's troops into the village.

Organizers say historical references to the festival date back to the early 17<sup>th</sup> century.

As for King Puck, organizers say he is to be treated royally during his brief reign with a diet of ash tree branches, water and cabbage to sustain him until he returns to his mountain home following his dethronement ceremony. Organizers expect to welcome more than 100,000 visitors during the festival which runs until 12 August.—Reuters ■



## Myanmar lost Inter Milan 2-4 in their 1st friendly match

KyawZin Lin

MYANMAR U-18 national football team played their first friendly match with Inter Milan Youth FC yesterday at the Thuwanna Stadium.

Myanmar lost 2-4 with their two late equalizers in the second half.

Myanmar used key players Pyae Sone Naing and Myat Kaung Kant in the match and played very aggressively along the match.

As Inter Milan is one of the best teams even in European Clubs, the players played very brilliantly and forced Myanmar even in the ten minute period just after the kick-off.

Thomas from Inter Milan



Myanmar's Thet Paing Htoo in action with Inter Milan youth FC's player during their friendly match at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO MFF**

struck the opening goal at 16 minute. After the opening goal, the Inter Milan attacked again

immediately and gained their second goal at the 20 minutes by Inter Milan player Andrea

Adorante.

At the 41 minute, Andrea Adorante got his chance again

unexpectedly and he scored the third goal for Inter Milan.

In the second half, Myanmar made some player substitutions and changed game tactic thus Myanmar played much better than the first half.

Inter Milan's shining player Elia scored their fourth goal at the 54 minute yet Myanmar narrow the gap to 4-1 by Pyae Sone Naing's penalty kick at 62 minute.

Myanmar got its second goal at the 68 minute, scored by Myat Kaung Khant with a slick piece of skill, directly into the goal net.

The second friendly football match between Myanmar and Inter Milan will be played at 6pm on 13 August at the same stadium. ■

## Pliskova reaches Rogers Cup quarters after Osaka retires

TORONTO — World number one Karolina Pliskova was dragged into a mighty battle before being granted a berth in the Rogers Cup quarter-finals when Japanese teenager Naomi Osaka retired with an abdominal injury on Thursday.

Czech Pliskova, playing her first tournament with the top ranking, was pushed into a deciding set by qualifier Osaka before the 19-year-old called for the trainer when trailing 6-2, 6-7(4), 1-0 and promptly withdrew.

"She played well, especially in the second set she was fighting pretty hard, much better than the first," said Pliskova.

"I was just trying to stay in the game, the first game of the third set was very tough I didn't even know she was injured."

Pliskova, playing her first tournament since a shock second round defeat at Wimbledon, had shown signs of rust



Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic plays a shot against Naomi Osaka of Japan (not pictured) during the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Aviva Centre in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on 10 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

in a ragged opening win over Anastasia Pavlyuchenkova but looked more like a world number one as she swept four straight games to take the first set from

50th-ranked Osaka. But the Japanese rallied to match the lanky Czech shot-for-shot in a gripping second set, then dominated the tiebreak.—Reuters ■

## Myanmar attends football directors workshop

KyawZin Lin

THE first-ever AFC Member Associations (MAs) Competitions Directors Workshop kicked off on Thursday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with Myanmar officials in attendance, according to the website of the Myanmar Football Federation.

U Ko Ko Thein, General Secretary of the Myanmar Football Federation, and U Soe Moe Kyaw, Chief Executive of the Myanmar National League, represented Myanmar at the workshop.

Officials from the Asian Football Confederation, general secretaries and CEOs of respective football leagues from membership countries also attended the workshop meeting.

The aim of the two-day workshop meeting was to share with all the MAs the

recommended competitions calendar and receive feedback in order to ensure a logical collective effort for an optimized timetable.

AFC Head of National Competitions Avazbek Berdikulov, AFC Manager of Club Competitions Pavel Luzanov and AFC Head of Futsal & Beach Soccer Competitions Brian Johnson also presented the proposed AFC Competitions calendars from 2019 to 2022 from their respective divisions.

On the last day of the meeting, representatives also held discussions with numerous stakeholders before submitting the finalised calendars to the AFC Competitions Committee for approval.

The workshop is intended to keep the MAs up-to-date with the latest developments in AFC competitions and objectives in the near future. ■

## Mayweather vows to finish McGregor bout early

LAS VEGAS — Floyd Mayweather has said he has done his homework on mixed martial artist Conor McGregor and promised their multi-million dollar fight in Las Vegas on 26 August will not go the distance.

Both fighters have now tipped a knockout finish to the hotly anticipated bout between arguably one of the greatest boxers of all time and the explosive UFC champion.

"Expect excitement. He's

gonna talk trash, I'm gonna talk trash, there's gonna be a lot of blood, sweat and tears," Mayweather told reporters at a media conference at his gym in Las Vegas.

Casually dressed in a black

T-shirt and shorts, the bluster and profanity of the recent four-city promotional tour undertaken with McGregor was replaced by a more sober analysis.

"It's about doing your homework. It's not really watching

fight tapes, it's about knowing the person you're facing across the ring from you. You want to know what they like to eat, what they're doing when they're not in camp," said the undefeated 40-year-old.—Reuters ■