

NATIONAL

Message sent by President on the occasion of the 71st Anniversary of Shan State Day

PAGE-3**NATIONAL**

State Counsellor receives Executive Director of UNEP Mr. Erik Solheim

PAGE-3**NATIONAL**

VP U Myint Swe attends symphony in Nay Pyi Taw

PAGE-7**NATIONAL**

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects Htantalan-Hnaring-Rezua-Matupi road

PAGE-6

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Union Minister U Thaung Tun, 2nd from Right, Indian Ambassador Mr. Vikram Misri, right, and Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang (2nd from Left) and other diplomats in Maungta. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister and diplomats witness repatriation readiness

A DELEGATION of diplomats led by Union Minister U Thaung Tun observed repatriation readiness as part of a trip to share accurate information to international communities.

Union Minister for the Office of the Union Government

U Thaung Tun, diplomats from embassies of Myanmar's neighbouring countries, the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and journalists yesterday toured Maungta to witness the preparations for repatriation.

One of the trip's primary

aims is disseminating accurate information to international communities on the government's efforts for repatriation.

At Sittway Airport, Union Minister U Thaung Tun briefed the delegation on preparations made by the Union Government

and the Rakhine State Government for repatriation, including issuing National Verification Cards, providing temporary shelter, security, food, health care, help in resettlement and rehabilitation for returnees.

SEE PAGE-10

VP U Myint Swe attends 'Green Economy' meeting

VICE President U Myint Swe attended the opening ceremony of the Inception and Implementation Meeting on the ASEAN Institute for a Green Economy (AIGE) held yesterday at the Myanmar International Convention Center-II (MICC-II) in Nay Pyi Taw, at which he said an environmentally responsible policy for economic development should be formulated.

In his opening speech, Vice President U Myint Swe said the ASEAN region, with a population of more than 630 million, was one of the world's biggest markets and stands as an important pillar in the world trade sector. It is expected to become the principal region in world trade. As a consequence, there will be an increasing demand for natural resources.

"The livelihoods of the people in the ASEAN region are still dependent on natural resources, and it is very important to manage and use the natural resources in a sustainable way. Most of the ASEAN countries face the effects of increase in population, poverty and climate change that results in heightened challenges of damage to historical and cultural heritages, depletion of natural resources, losses in biodiversity, drought and increased occurrences of natural disasters.

SEE PAGE-11

'BEST BANK IN MYANMAR'

Awarded by FinanceAsia 2017

Pyithu Hluttaw discusses health sector

Kyaw Thu Htet
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE seventh regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw held its 13th-day meeting yesterday morning, where six questions were asked and answered, a motion discussed, a decision made and a bill tabled.

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe answered questions on the health sector put forth by six Hluttaw representatives.

U Nay Soe Aung of Wuntho constituency asked whether there was a plan to construct a standard rural health centre and a staff house in Wuntho Township, Kyinekhwin Village. The Union Minister replied that Ks126 million had been allocated in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY) to construct the rural health centre.

U Aung Soe of Yinmabin constituency also asked whether a cottage hospital will be built in Yinmabin Township, Nyaungkine Village, to which the Union Minister answered that priority would be given to construct the cottage hospital in the 2018-2019 FY.

Replying to a question posed by Dr. U Soe Moe Thu of Myaungmya constituency on the plan to open a Maha Thiri Thudhamma Daw Khin Kyi Nursing and Midwife Training School in Myaungmya to honour Maha Thiri Thudhamma Daw Khin Kyi, who was from Myaungmya, the Union Minister said as soon as land was made available for it, a budget will be allocated in the 2018-2019 FY. If the training school is completed in the 2018-



Pyithu Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

2019 FY, the school will start in 2020 with at least 50 to 100 trainees, he said.

On the plan to open a cottage hospital in Taungup Township, Kintaung model village, which was broached by Daw Ni Ni May Myint of Taungup constituency, the Union Minister responded that Kingtaung Village was 10.5 miles away from Taungup Township, 21 miles away from Lamu cottage hospital and 7.5 miles from Ywama cottage hospital. Based on these and other facts, there is no plan to open a cottage hospital in Kintaung model village. It will be considered at a later stage, said the Union Minister.

However, on the plan to open a rural health centre in Khaunglanphu Township, Shilandan village tract, raised by U Ar Moe Si of Khaunglanphu constituency, the Union Minister replied that the (Kachin) State department

head had recommended opening a rural health centre in Shilandan village tract, as it was an inaccessible, remote place. Therefore, the planning and formation assessment division and the Ministry of Planning and Finance are requested to comment on this matter in the 2018-2019 FY, and the matter will be submitted to the government on priority, said the Union Minister.

In reply to a question by U Oo Tun Win of Kyauktaw constituency on the appointment and promotion of health personnel in the Public Health Department, the Union Minister said promotions were covered by public service regulations that did not allow a jump in promotions, and they will be granted step-by-step. According to the organisational setup, qualified personnel will be appointed accordingly and health assistants, with six years of experience, can become Township

Health Assistants, said the Union Minister.

A motion tabled by Dr. Aung Khin of Pyin Oo Lwin constituency, urging the government to form a mobile medical team with the township health personnel and a doctor, and conduct field visits on a rotational basis to raise the rural and community health levels, was then discussed by the Hluttaw representatives.

Although most of the Hluttaw representatives were in support of the motion in principle, some raised concerns about overburdening the townships where health personnel were not operating at full strength, while some were concerned about the township health personnel being unable to fulfil their main responsibility due to the rotational assignment to the mobile medical team.

The motion was discussed by Dr. Daw May Win Myint of

Mayangon constituency, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Hpapon constituency, Dr U Tun Lin Maw of Kyangin constituency, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative Maj. Win Min Tun, U Yan Lin of Kyauklata constituency, U Nan Mon Htin of Machanbaw constituency, U Saw Victor Clyde of Thandaunggyi constituency, Dr. U Myint Thein of Nyaunglebin constituency, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative Captain Daw Tin Mar Swe, U Ar Moe Si of Khaunglanphu constituency, Dr. U Win Aung of KhinU constituency, Dr. U Sein Mya Aye of Dala constituency and Dr. U San Shwe Win of Yekyi constituency.

In his discussion on the motion, Dr. Myint Htwe said some 1.8 million field visits were made during the one-year period in 2017. A total of some 10 million new and old patients were attended to during field visits. Some were treated during the field visits, while some were referred to hospitals and clinics. In 2017, 340,350 patients were referred to hospitals and clinics. In addition to these field visits, a group consisting of specialist doctors conducted 136 field visits. These field visits are routine works conducted by the ministry, the Union Minister explained, asking to put the motion on record. The Hluttaw agreed to put the motion on record.

Next, the Health and Sports Development Committee tabled a Myanmar dental and oral medical council bill. A report by the bill committee was read, and Hluttaw representatives were asked to enrol their names to discuss the bill. ■

Natural resources discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw

Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

THE preservation of the country's natural resources was one of the issues brought up by several lawmakers at yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw meeting in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 7th session 13th day meeting, a motion by U Pe Chit of Yangon Region constituency (9) urging the government to prevent the destruction and loss of natural resources in

Myanmar as a national duty was discussed by Naw Chris Tun @ Dr. Arr Kar Moe of Kayah State constituency (7), Daw Htu May of Rakhine State constituency (11), U Tun Tun Oo of Mandalay Region constituency (2), Daw May Than Nwe of Ayeyawady Region constituency 11, U Sa Khin Zaw Lin of Ayeyawady Region constituency 2 and U Shayrel Shu Maung of Kayah State constituency 2. Discussion on the motion will be continued today.

Also discussed yesterday

was a question on a judiciary matter raised by U Tin Aung Tun of Magway Region constituency (5). The query was answered by Union Supreme Court Judge U Myint Aung. Questions on the education sector raised by U Wai Sein Aung of Rakhine State constituency 1 and U Sai San Aung of Shan State constituency 12 were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun.

The 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 7th session 14th day meeting will be held today. ■



Union Supreme Court Judge U Myint Aung. PHOTO: MNA



Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun. PHOTO: MNA

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Office of the President

Message of Greetings from President U Htin Kyaw on the occasion of the 71st Anniversary of Shan State Day celebrations

7 February 2018

Dear esteemed brother and sisters of Shan State,

On this auspicious occasion of the 71st Anniversary of Shan State Day, I send greetings to our brothers and sisters living in the Shan State for their health and happiness. I am happy and deem it a great honor to be able to send this Message of Greetings to this event. Our country has stood tall amidst the countries of the world as a country which has firm historical roots since time immemorial with its own culture and literature where ethnic nationals have settled down and lived together through weal or woe. We have existed since ancient times, well-known among other countries of the world rich in natural resources both above ground as well as underground. In 1885 we lost our independence and sovereignty and came under British colonial rule. After that all our ethnic races revolted against the British with a deep desire to shake off the British yoke all across the country giving new birth to our nationalistic spirit which spread all over the country. As our national leader General

Aung San wanted independence for the whole country at the same time without differentiating between the central plains and the mountainous regions, he met the Shan leaders and other leaders from the mountainous regions at Panglong in the Shan states and negotiated with them and tried to reach an agreement. On 7th February 1947 Shan nationals together with the Chin and Kachin nationals were able to reach a decision to get independence for the states as well as the central plains. Furthermore, representatives of the mountainous regions were able to establish an Association for the Unity of Peoples from the Mountainous Regions and to underscore the fact that unity of the national ethnic races was the main pillar they signed the Panglong Agreement.

To honor the 7th February the day on which the central plains and the mountainous regions decided to ask for independence together, this day was designated as Shan State Day and we have been celebrating this day ever since annually. Now we have reached the 71st Anniversary. Although we are calling it

the Shan State Day, according to history, Shan State Day is an auspicious and significant day which also belongs to all national ethnic races, in fact all Myanmar nationals.

Although we achieved independence 70 years ago, because of the flames of civil wars which emerged at the same time, the Myanmar people have never been able to enjoy the fruits of independence. They are still suffering from the horrible effects of civil war which have not fully ended.

At this time the Union Government has been exerting concerted efforts hand in hand with the national ethnic races and Union citizens for the total cessation of internal armed conflicts and for lasting peace, using the path of achieving cease fire and then for political dialogues. We have been able to convene the Second Session of the Union Peace Conference – 21st Century Panglong and as the initial result we were able to obtain agreement on 37 Federal Principles as Part 1 of the Union Accord.

By having discussions and seeking solutions together, we will get results

from the political dialogues. As we build the Democratic Federal Republic, we need to work together for the emergence of a Constitution which will be in accord with the future Myanmar.

As we work for the establishment of firm basic foundations for democracy, even as we work for the development and improvement of basic infrastructure such as transport networks, production and distribution of electricity, etc., we are also working to improve economic sector investments such as education and health.

I therefore send this Message of Greetings as I remind and urge all ethnic national brothers and sisters residing in this Union to live together in unity and harmony forever, work for the total cessation of all armed conflicts and achievement of lasting peace, respect human rights and need for equality; transform and draw strength from the diversity prevailing in the country, and work together in unity.

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

State Counsellor receives Executive Director of UNEP Mr. Erik Solheim

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw on 6 February 2018 at 10:00 hours.

During the meeting, they discussed matters pertaining climate change, strengthening possible cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiatives. They also exchanged views on various sectors such as recycling technology, waste management, developing agricultural sector, and renewable energy.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Mr. Erik Solheim, Executive Director of UN Environment and Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

CCTVs installed to watch fire outbreaks in Yangon region

The Myanmar fire services department will install CCTVs to keep a close watch on fire outbreaks in Yangon from the first week of February, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

The department has started installing Italy-made CCTVs in high-rise buildings and towers in the Yangon region. The CCTVs can rotate 360 degrees and

magnify the view 30 times. So far, the department has installed eight CCTVs. It has also planned to install CCTVs in 10 townships — Insein, Shwepyith, Shwepaukan, North Dagon, East Dagon,

South Dagon, Dagon Seikkan, Thanlyin, Mingaladon and Thilawa Special Economic Zone.

The fire services department will keep a close watch on fire outbreaks through the

CCTVs and take timely action.

There were 1,720 outbreaks of fire across the country in 2017, which left 105 persons dead and more than 3,500 affected. —GNLM

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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.



The construction site of the fish aquarium seen at Kandawgyi Lake in Yangon on 22 January. This fish aquarium was started to construct in 2016 and expected to open in April 2018. **PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE**

Fisheries Department to provide shop to ornamental fish breeders

THE Fisheries Department is making arrangements to provide a shop to the Myanmar Ornamental Fish Entrepreneurs Association (MOFEA) at the fish aquarium, which will open in Kandawgyi, Yangon, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

"We have had discussions with MOFEA concerning fresh

fish. We will provide 10 shops to the association," said U Tun Win Myint, regional head of section for Yangon Region's Fisheries Department.

In Myanmar, some people breed ornamental fish as a hobby, but some are for commercial scale. Ornamental fish breeders had requested the aquarium for

a shop. Currently, MOFEA sells ornamental fish at Yangon Zoology Garden every Sunday morning.

The construction of the fish aquarium started in 2016 and 80 per cent of the work has been completed. The project is still under construction and is expected to open in April 2018.—GNLM ■

Chin National Day to be celebrated in Haka

THE Chin State government conducted to mark the 70th anniversary of the Chin National Day that will fall on 20 February. The ceremony will be held at the Wammathu Maung Stadium in Haka in Chin State.

At the ceremony, the exhibition room for lifestyle of Chin ethnic people that has changed traditional costumes and utensils. There will be, moreover, traditional dances show of various tribes and modern music entertainment, souvenir shops, fair and sports competitions.

Chin National Day comes out with reference to the first Chin National Conference that was commemorated in Falam in 1948 and 20 February was marked as the Chin State Day. The Chin State Day was changed into Chin National Day starting from the 65th anniversary of Chin National Day that was held in Haka in 2013, 66th anniversary of Chin National Day was celebrated in Mindat and the next year celebration was in Falam.

Therefore, Haka, Mindat and Falam are asked to host the Chin National Day in turn. This year; the 70th anniversary of Chin National Day will be held in Haka.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Lucky Myanmar worker banks baht 6m lottery prize

A young Myanmar woman who won a lottery first-prize worth 6 million baht last week, less than a year after she started working at a fish canning factory, has already cashed in the ticket and plans to go back home with her winnings.

Thiri Shew Sin, 21, received a cheque when she cashed in her first-prize ticket, No.026853, for the Feb 1 draw at the Government Lottery Office, and desposited it at a Krungthai Bank branch in Hat Yai district, Songkhla.

Her windfall was 5,970,000 baht after paying stamp duty of 30,000 baht. At the bank she received credit for 5,958,060 baht after fees were deducted.

The win has totally changed the young migrant's life.

Ms Thiri bought the lucky ticket from a lottery vendor in front of the Songkhla Canning Co factory where she works. It was only the third ticket she had



Thiri Shwe Sin, 21, shows a bank account detailing her deposits of the money from the first-prize lottery ticket. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

bought in the nine months she has been here.

Her Myanmar friend told her that 6 million baht was equivalent to 240 million kyat, and that will make her an instant multi-millionaire back home.

Ms Thiri is now under the care of the Migrant Work-

ers Rights Network's Hat Yai branch. A MWRN staff who gave his name as Mr Bayee accompanied her to get the cheque and helped her open a KTB bank account and deposit her winnings.

Speaking through an interpreter, the smiling young woman said she would wire

all the money to her parents in Myanmar, and they would take care of it for her. Some of it would be used to make merit.

She would soon return home to Yangon to live with her parents and siblings. There are seven people in her family. She would decide later about her future. So far, she had never even thought about having a boyfriend.

Mr Bayee said Ms Thiri was worried about having so much money after winning the lottery. So, the MWRN suggested the stay there pending her return to Myanmar.

Staff would also accompany her to Yangon for her own safety, he said.

The happy Myanmar woman was greeted by customers and bank staff when she arrived at the branch on Tuesday. They came to congratulate her and asked to have their photos taken with the lucky winner.—Myanmar Digital News ■

Export earnings up by \$1.93 bln this year

MYANMAR's export earnings from 1 April to 26 January in the current fiscal year (FY) reached US\$11.4 billion, registering an increase of \$1.93 billion, compared with the same period last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The government sector's exports were worth \$3.72 billion, whereas the estimated value of private sector exports was \$7.7 billion.

The forestry sector experienced a slight decline in exports, while the other sectors increased their value of trade. The export of finished industrial goods brought in \$5.14 billion, followed by agriculture exports that were worth \$2.45 billion. Mineral exports fetched \$1.2 billion, while fisheries exports hit \$553 million. The export value of livestock was some \$31 million. Other products worth \$1.85 billion were also traded.

Myanmar exports its goods via sea and border trade gates. Exports through the sea route fetched some \$7.16 billion, while \$4.26 billion worth of exports flowed into neighbouring countries via the border trade gates.—Mon Mon ■



An employee works at the seafood cold storage factory in Yangon. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

Sino-Myanmar border trade value increased by \$215 million this FY

THE value of border trade between China and Myanmar, as of 26 January in the current fiscal year (FY), reached some US\$5.33 billion, recording an increase of \$215 million, compared with the same period last FY.

The Sino-Myanmar border trade is mainly conducted through the Muse, Lwejel, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung points of entry.

The Chinshwehaw gate saw a decline of some \$57 million in trade value; similarly, trade through the Kengtung point also dipped slightly this FY, compared with the same period last FY.

Myanmar's border trade values with China were \$4.65 billion at Muse, \$170 million at Lwejel, some \$431 million at Chinshwehaw, some \$81.4 million at Kanpikete and \$1.6 million at Kengtung.

Rice, sugar, various types of pulses, sesame seeds, corn,

dried tea leaves, fishery products, minerals and animal products are exported to China, while capital goods, intermediate goods and consumer goods flowed into the country.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar's rice, and border trade is a better option for rice merchants. However, China confiscates rice imported from Myanmar frequently, as the authorities consider border trade in rice illegitimate.

This FY, Myanmar's merchants were hit by the confiscation of their rice by China, price manipulation and a ban on Myanmar merchants' bank accounts in China.

The commerce ministry and the Myanmar Rice Federation are still negotiating with the Chinese government so Myanmar can legally export 200,000 tonnes of rice under the government-to-government agreement.—Htet Myat ■

MACCS to be launched at Myawady gate

MYANMAR is planning to implement the Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) at the Myawady checkpoint by mid-year, according to a report in Myawady Daily yesterday.

MACCS was launched on 12 November at international ports, the Yangon Airport International Cargo Terminal and Thilawa Special Economic Zone. MACCS

facilitates trading and so, the authorities concerned are planning to adopt MACCS at the Myawady gate. The Thai-Myanmar border trade is conducted through the Myawady gate, which is well-connected with commercial hub Yangon.

Currently, MACCS awareness courses are being conducted for businessmen carrying out trade through the Myawady bor-

der gate.

MACCS can help deal with delays in container handling operations. The system was launched with the assistance of the Japanese government to make the import and export processes smooth. The system will be implemented at more border gates if it brings about good results at the Myawady border gate.—GNLM ■

Muse gate sees higher jade exports this FY

MORE than 2,990 tonnes of jade were exported to China through the Muse gate, as of 25 January in the current fiscal year (FY), earning the country US\$414 million.

Jade exports saw a significant increase this FY, compared with the last two years. In the same period, some 1,270 tonnes of jade, worth \$264 million, were exported in the 2016-2017 FY, while 1,390 tonnes, with an estimated

value of \$305 million, were exported in the 2015-2016 FY, according to the commerce ministry.

Jade exports increased after the gems and jewellery emporium and the gems expo were held at Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw between 12 and 21 December 2017.

Some four trucks loaded with jade were inspected on 24 January 2018, while another 38

trucks were sent for exports on 25 January from the Muse 105th Mile trade zone.

Between 1 April and 26 January this FY, exports from the mineral sector witnessed an increase of \$408 million in value, compared with the last FY. Mineral exports, including those of jade, amounted to \$1.2 billion, both through the sea route and border trade gate.—Ko Htet ■

VP U Henry Van Thio inspects Htantalan-Hnaring-Rezua-Matupi road

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who was in Htantalan to review the progress of regional development works, met Chin State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai; Chin State Hluttaw Speaker U Zo Bwe; Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Lin; State Ministers; Permanent Secretaries; the directors general and officials from the Htantalan Department of Roads at the guest house on the morning of 5 February.

At the meeting, the Vice President was briefed about the Htantalan-Hnaring-Rezua-Matupi road and Haka-Matupi road projects, the progress of road works, plans to be implemented in the 2018-2019 fiscal year (FY) and the road projects planned for the 2018-2019 FY by Department of Roads

Director U Kyaw Myo Htut.

U Salai Lian Luai, U Kyaw Lin and Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint provided additional explanations to the Vice President.

The Vice President suggested that quality materials must be used to lay roads of high standards, smooth road inclination on the ascent and descent parts of roads must be maintained, the construction of roadside drains must be completed before the arrival of the rains and durability of the roads must be ensured.

The Vice President then went on to Htantalan People's Hospital to inspect a site where a 50-bed hospital building extension is to be built and the construction of six 138x43 square feet rooms and two storey-reinforced concrete staff houses is



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the site of the 50-bed hospital building in Htantalan, Chin State, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**



Staff houses project is under construction in Htantalan. **PHOTO: MNA**

ongoing, explanations for which were provided by Department of Public Health Director General Dr. Tha Tun Kyaw and Department of Buildings Chief Engineer U Khin Maung Swe.

The Vice President spoke about constructing a model hospital that the people could rely on.

Next, the Vice President viewed the Htantalan Town regional development works from the Htantalan Town viewpoint.

Later, U Henry Van Thio inspected the construction and repair work of the Htantalan-Hnaring-Rezua-Matupi road.

The Htantalan-Hnaring-Rezua-Matupi road is one of the main roads in the Chin State road network and is managed

by the Chin State government. It links districts and townships in Chin State and is 128.4 kilometres long.

Upon their arrival, the Vice President and his delegation were greeted with traditional dances in Hmawngtlang Village and Hnaring Town. In Hnaring Town, the Vice President attended a ceremony to declare Hnaring as a town. State Chief Minister U Salai Lian Luai and other ministers declared the town open by cutting the ceremonial ribbon.

Hnaring Town was designated as a town by order No. 508(74)/12, dated 14 August 2017, by the President's Office, which was put on record by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 17 August

2017. It was designated as a town by the Ministry of Home Affairs through letter no. 116/2017, dated 13 September 2017.

As the Vice President and his delegation continued along the road, they were greeted with traditional dances in Rezua Town and Tingsi Village.

They also inspected the planned construction site of the Matupi district-level departmental office, where Matupi Township Administrator U Toe Toe Tun and Hluttaw representative U Pa Htan briefed about the project to them. U Henry Van Thio then went on to Matupi Town via Phaneng Village, where his delegation was greeted with traditional dances upon arrival.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar-Japan Human Rights Dialogue held in Nay Pyi Taw



The Fifth Myanmar-Japan Human Rights Dialogue being held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

THE Fifth Myanmar-Japan Human Rights Dialogue was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw, on 6 February 2018. U Myint Thu, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Myanmar and Mr. Masato Otaka, Deputy Assistant Minister, Foreign Policy Bureau and Ambassador in charge of UN Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan, co-chaired the dialogue.

During the meeting, the two sides exchanged views on policies and practices for promotion and protection of human rights adopted in Myanmar and Japan,

as well as for further consolidation of the existing cooperation between the two countries in international arena including UN.

Present also at the meeting were officials concerned from the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, Defence, Border Affairs, Labour, Immigration and Population, Health and Sports and Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on the Myanmar side, officials concerned from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Diplomatic Missions in Geneva and Yangon on the Japanese side.—Myanmar News Agency ■

VP U Myint Swe attends symphony in Nay Pyi Taw

VICE President U Myint Swe and his wife attended performance of the Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra at the Myanmar International Convention Center-2 (MICC-2) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Last night's entertainment was a collaboration between MRTV's national orchestra and a band of Japanese musicians under the tutelage of Mr. Yunosuke Yamamoto as conductor and composer.

Attending the event were union ministers, Members of Nay Pyi Taw Council, Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and other officials.

Among the songs performed by the orchestra were Bizet's Carmen Suite No. 1 Les Toreadors, Beethoven's Sym-

phony No. 4, Tchaikovsky Piano Concerto No. 1 (excerpt), Brahms' Hungarian Dance No. 5 and No. 1, Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus, Myanmar's Will and Myanmar's Scenery, Maha, Beauty and the Beast, Despacito and Mahn Taung Yeik Ko.

After the performance, the Vice President and wife conferred congratulatory wreaths to Mr. Yunosuke Yamamoto and Japanese pianist Ms. Kyoko Koyama. Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint next conferred wreaths to the choir members and Mr. Tateshi Higuchi conferred wreaths to MRTV's National Orchestra. A similar event will be held at the National Theatre on Myoma Kyaung Street in Yangon on 9 February.

—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Myint Swe and wife present the bouquet to a Japanese musician. PHOTO: MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing is seen off by Singaporean diplomat as he departs for Singapore Airshow 2018. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing leaves for Singapore Airshow 2018

AT the invitation of Lt. Gen. Perry Lim, Chief of Defence Force of the Singaporean Armed Forces, a Tatmadaw delegation, led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, left Yangon yesterday night to attend the Singapore Airshow 2018.

The office of Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s Lt. Gen. Soe Htut, Yangon Command Commander Maj-Gen Thet

Pone, Tatmadaw officers, and Embassy of Singapore in Myanmar's First Secretary Ms. Sylvia Bay saw off the Tatmadaw commander-in-chief and his delegation at Yangon International Airport.

The commander-in-chief and his delegation will attend the Singapore Airshow 2018 and meet the Chief of Defence Force of the Singaporean Armed Forces. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Media invitation to Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signing ceremony

THE Ministry of Information has issued invitations to local and foreign media to attend the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) signing ceremony, which will be held on 13 February at the Myanmar International Conven-

tion Center- II (MICC- II) in Nay Pyi Taw.

Local media can register at the Copyright and Registration Division, Information and Public Relations Department, Tel. 01-544582, 01-544527 or epprmyanmar@

gmail.com, while foreign media can register at News and Periodicals Enterprise, Tel. 067-412125, 067-412126 or myogyi.npe@gmail.com. Registration will close at 4pm on 10 February. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Anti-Corruption Commission Chair receives UNDP's Country Director

ANTI-CORRUPTION Commission Chairman U Aung Kyi received United Nations Development Programme-UNDP's Country Director Peter Batchelor at the Commission's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the UNDP Myanmar's Workplan on Anti-Corruption and Integrity (2018-2022) programme, as well as the Myanmar Anti-Corruption Strategy (2019-2021).

They also discussed the development of the Commission Law (2018) and the Commission's rules in accord with commission's 2018 plan.

Present at the meet-



U Aung Kyi holds talks with Director Peter Batchelor. PHOTO: MNA

ing were the Commission's Secretary U San Win, members U Zaw Win, Daw Myat

Myat Soe and Daw Aye Aye Mu.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Let's work together for sustainability of coastal, delta resources

SOME 72 per cent of the Earth is covered in water, but 97 per cent of that is salty ocean water. About 90 per cent of the world's inhabitants are in coastal areas and near oceans. Meanwhile, about 50 per cent of the world's population is migrating into areas about 60 km from the coastlines.

Myanmar's Ayeyawady delta is densely populated. The higher the population density in coastal and delta areas, the more degradation of eco-systems occurs due to man-made errors. The coastal areas of Myanmar are abundant with coral reefs, mangroves, seagrass beds, mudflats, estuaries and sand dunes, and they all play an important role in environmental diversity and the people's socio-economic development. Meanwhile, areas of

mangroves, which are an important asset in dealing with global change, are cleared for prawn breeding and production of rice plantations have declined.

Farmers and breeders move to new areas and cut down more mangroves, leaving behind barren areas of land. The Union Government has pledged to tackle the man-made errors which are causing degradation of the eco-system of Myanmar's coastal areas, seeking cooperation from the people and local and foreign non-governmental organizations.

Mangroves are an important asset in dealing with global climate change. They are being damaged by people clearing areas of mangrove forests for prawn breeding, using small-scale explosives for catching fish, mining, waste disposal and oil spills.

Deforestation and chemicals from pesticides and herbicides also decrease the layers of alluvial soil along the coast. Meanwhile, the bio-diverse ecosystems in Taninthayi Region are being damaged as rainforests in the area are being cleared away. Conflicts and problems connected with bio-diversity management in coastal and delta areas have underscored the need for an all-round management system.

The National level Central Committee on Management of Natural Resources in Coastal Areas is taking steps to reverse the degradation of the eco-system of Myanmar's coastal areas.

But, we need cooperation among international bodies in order to save the delicate eco-systems and to assess land use inland and their impacts on sea and coastal areas before drawing up a plan to save the country's natural resources.

we need cooperation among international bodies in order to save the delicate eco-systems and to assess land use inland and their impacts on sea and coastal areas before drawing up a plan to save the country's natural resources.

Striving to achieve lasting peace

By Dr. Myat Moe (Hluttaw)

IT has been 71 years since all the ethnic races in Myanmar gathered for the Panglong Conference in Shan State and eventually signed the historic Panglong Agreement.

Panglong is not merely a part of Shan State, but also an important part of the country where the foundation of the union was laid down.

Bogyoke Aung San, representing the government, initiated the Panglong Agreement with 23 representatives of ethnic nationalities on Feb. 12, 1947, proclaiming to strive for the independence of the country through unity.

The Panglong Agreement became a turning point in our country's history, and with this Panglong Spirit, we can move forward, not for the sake of an individual or an ethnic group, but for the sake of the entire Union of Myanmar.

Panglong in Myanmar.

From time immemorial, all the national races have been living together in the country through thick and thin with friendship to one another, mutual help and reliance based on family spirit and union spirit.

All the national races have possessed a common socio-economic life and shared joys and sorrows throughout history. Therefore, a national race or a part of the union cannot be separated from national races or from the union.

When the British annexed Myanmar in 1885, the country was not unified: the central part of Myanmar was inhabited by Myanmar nationals, while the outlying areas were populated by ethnic races. The British continued to govern Myanmar into the 20th century. Due to the conspiracies, Myanmar faced armed conflicts for many years after regaining independence.

It is heartening to see the auspicious news that State

efforts for further promotion and propagation of the spirit of national unity and Union Spirit.

We are aware that cooperation and coordination are important among the government, parliament, Tatmadaw, ethnic groups, political parties, civil society organisations and every citizen in order to implement the national reconciliation and peace process.

If we have a mutual understanding with one another, if we can combine our individual strengths and nurture compassion towards one another, then we will have laid the foundation for lasting peace.

In this temporary existence, we should grasp at the first sight of opportunity to come before us so that even if we do not get to see our envisioned future, it may be something future generations will be grateful for. It is a wish of mine that the current batch of leaders do not become fixated on the short-term goals too much. I hope they do not give into their egos and devolve their sense of moral conduct.

A lack of Union Spirit in such a multicultural country

with a myriad of different languages and traditions will only push our hopes for a federal democratic country and economic development further away from us.

Towards wholesome results

The goal towards peace is heading towards peaceful dialogue at its own pace. This is partially due to the State Counsellor's honest wish for peace, her transparent policies and unwavering hope. As her father Bogyoke Aung San once said at the historical gathering on 11 February 1947, if everyone is working in their own way but not united in their goals, then there will be no results worth striving for. His words are still relevant in a time where we need to unite with our ethnic brethren.

Core of the Panglong Conference

The ethos of the 1947 Panglong Conference was to unite all ethnicities under the banner of freedom and likewise the 21st Century Panglong is centered on establishing a united federal democratic country. I believe

the union spirit borne from the Panglong Conference will guide everyone to put an end to their strife and help achieve national reconciliation.

Inherited will

Now is the time where everyone is being judged on their sacrifices made, responsibility taken, reasoning used and courage displayed as we all work towards lasting peace. We must remind ourselves not to lose sight of the Union Spirit, democracy, unity and peace flowing alongside the Panglong Conference. As we prepare to establish a lasting peace for our future generations, I look forward to the third meeting of the 21st Century Panglong Conference; a conference that will etch itself in history. It is important for all of us to nurture Union Spirit regardless of the place in which we are residing. Only Union Spirit is the true patriotism that will forever protect and safeguard all the national races.

Translated by
Win Ko Ko Aung and
Zaw Htet Oo

A lack of Union Spirit in such a multicultural country with a myriad of different languages and traditions will only push our hopes for a federal democratic country and economic development further away from us.

Union Day is an auspicious and historic day on which all the Myanmar Nationals managed to throw off the yoke of colonialism which enslaved the country for more than one hundred years, thereby becoming an independent and sovereign country again.

Union Day was a day of remembrance for those who signed the Panglong Agreement in 1947, but also a hopeful reminder for those participating and following the 21st Century

Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received delegations from the New Mon State Party (NMSP) and Lahu Democratic Union (LDU), both of whom agreed to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement, which is the most important thing for the peace process. It is evident that this news strengthens us in moving towards gaining momentum and a lasting peace in the union.

At this opportune time, we all should strive with concerted



MYANMAR GAZETTE

Head of Service Organization appointed

The President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Aung Myint, Director, Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy as Managing Director of the same enterprise on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Manjurul Karim Khan Chowdhury was born on 29 March 1968. He holds degrees of Bachelor of Science in Engineering and Masters in Geopolitics and Global Security. He joined Foreign Service of Bangladesh in 1998. He served at Bangladesh High Commission in Brunei Darussalam (2002-2004), Bangladesh Embassy in Rome (2004-2007), Counsellor (Political) at Bangladesh High Commission in United Kingdom (2010-2012) and Consul General at Bangladesh Consulate General in Turkey (2012-2015) respectively. He also served as Director at Headquarter (Europe and European Union) from 2008 to 2010. He is currently serving as Director-General (South East Asia Wing), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Dhaka since September 2015.—Myanmar News Agency

Terror threat to Southeast Asia growing — ASEAN

THE terrorist threat facing Southeast Asia is growing as foreign fighters return to the region, Southeast Asian defence ministers said in a joint statement yesterday in which they pledged to improve cooperation to tackle militancy.

Six Southeast Asian nations launched an intelligence pact last month aimed at combating Islamist militants and improving co-operation on security threats, overcoming what analysts described as a high level of distrust. They also pledged to increase cooperation in July.

"We, the Defence Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), note with grave concern the rise of terrorism in our region, perpetrated by individuals and groups with increasingly sophisticated and deadly tactics and weapons," they said at the conclusion of their two-day meeting in Singapore.

"The scale and complexity of the terrorist threat faced by our region continues to grow

with the influx of returning foreign terrorist fighters and cross border movement of terrorists."

The ministers said they would also improve cooperation with external partners.

The push for further regional cooperation comes after insurgents aligned to Islamic State laid siege to the southern Philippine city of Marawi last year.

That battle sparked alarm that as Islamic State suffered reversals in Iraq and Syria, it was seeking to create a stronghold in Southeast Asia, buttressed by fighters returning from the Middle East.

ASEAN consists of Indonesia, which has the world's biggest Muslim population, and mostly Muslim Malaysia alongside Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

Singapore, ranked one of the safest countries in the world, has also been stepping up efforts to deter terrorism in recent years.—Reuters

Union Minister and diplomats witness repatriation readiness



Diplomats and officials meeting with local residents camping at the Zero Line at the border. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Thaung Tun and ambassadors stroll on the friendship bridge between Myanmar and Bangladesh during their trip to Maungta. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister U Thaung Tun, Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and diplomats are briefed by an official on Kanyinchaung Economic Zone in Maungta, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

FROM PAGE-1

Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu invited cooperation from the diplomats and the UN official in sharing accurate information on Rakhine State to international communities after they witnessed the genuine situation in the state.

He also urged them to cooperate with the authorities as Myanmar is ready to launch the repatriation and resettlement of returnees in accordance with the agreement with Bangladesh.

Following the briefing, the delegation flew by helicopter to Hla Pho Khaung camp, a transit camp for the returnees in Maungta. At Hla Pho Khaung camp, Maungta District Deputy Commissioner U Ye Htut and officials were briefed on preparations for providing shelter, security, food, water and electricity to returnees.

Following the meeting, the delegation led by U Thaung Tun toured the camp.

Hla Pho Khaung camp is established on 124.84 acres with 640 buildings and can accommodate more than 30,000 people. The camp is ready to provide accommodation, food, drinking water, electricity and health care to returnees. Under the arrangement of the Union Enterprise for Humanitarian Assistance, Resettlement and Development in Rakhine State (UEHRD), more than 500 tents are in reserve ready to be distributed to returnees whenever necessary.

Afterwards, the delegation went to Nga Khu Ya and the

reception camp, which will be used for accepting those who returned by waterway, and viewed readiness for scrutinising, issuing NV cards, health care services, internal and external liaison offices.

Afterwards, they flew to Taung Pyo Letwe reception camp and toured the facilities that will welcome those who return by road.

The delegation led by Union Minister U Thaung Tun also met with local residents who left their homes and are staying temporarily at the zero line at the border.

They briefed the residents about the government's repatriation process under the bilateral agreement between Myanmar and Bangladesh.

The delegation also visited Kanyinchaung Economic Zone, where U Aung Myint Than, Chairman of Border Trade and Merchants' Association, briefed them on current trading activities and objectives of the zone.

The delegation arrived back in Yangon in the evening.

The delegation comprised of Chinese Ambassador Mr. Hong Liang, Ambassador of India Mr. Vikram Misri, Ambassador of Singapore Ms. Vanessa Chan, the UN Resident Coordinator Mr. Knut Ostby, chargé d'affaires of the Thai and Bangladesh embassies, and journalists from Xinhua and NHK.

Myanmar was ready to launch the repatriation of returnees from Bangladesh as of 23 January with two camps and one transit camp established.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister U Thaung Tun and diplomats views readiness for scrutinisation at a repatriation camp in Maungta. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Myint Swe attends 'Green Economy' meeting

FROM PAGE-1

To overcome these challenges, all need to work together in acquiring a green and clean neighbourhood. Myanmar also believes that it can best overcome the environmental problems it faces by cooperating with ASEAN countries and international organizations", he said.

"Sustained economic development can only be achieved through protecting and preserving the natural environment and our ASEAN countries had also pledged to increase the protection and preservation of the natural environment. Our target is to establish a green and clean ASEAN in order to implement a sustainable economic development in 2020, which is our common aim".

To reach the target of a green and clean natural environment in the ASEAN region, AIGE will become a basic foundation through which information and experiences are exchanged between ASEAN member countries and development partner organizations and cooperation is increased.

As ASEAN member countries increase the implementation processes of sustainable development, AIGE is expected to do more for policies and practices



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers the speech at the opening ceremony of the Inception and Implementation Meeting of the ASEAN Institute for a Green Economy at MICC-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

that increase green economies in the ASEAN community.

"Socio-economic development, longevity, wealth and affluence from the present Myanmar economic situation depend on an ecosystem that is functioning well. Only when there is a good ecosystem can there be food sufficiency, clean water, protection from natural disasters and sufficient energy. Therefore, we need to value the natural environment and the good outcome of a good

ecosystem.

"The country is striving toward an economy that creates jobs, wealth and maintains the richness of natural environment as well as creates new policy and strategy that will produce a better future", he said.

National-level natural environment policy, strategy on main work processes, national-level policy on climate change, strategy and work processes, national level waste management strategy

and green economy policy framework are being drawn up as new policies and strategies.

In the green economy policy framework, sectors that raise green economy investment are being set and conducted as a priority. This requires investments that protect the natural environment and benefit the people.

Myanmar is including green development and climate change matters in national and regional-level sector development

processes as well as pledging to implement a 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Yesterday's meeting hopes to provide an opportunity to discuss the establishment of investment and businesses based on green technology that reduce carbon emissions in the ASEAN region. Discussions will continue until 9 February.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Reuters journalists' trial continues

THE Yangon region's Northern District Court cross-examined a plaintiff in a case related to two Reuters reporters who were charged under the Official Secrets Act yesterday morning.

Daw Su Sandar, deputy district judge and the Northern District Court's information official, told reporters that the court had cross-examined Thautkyant District Police Second Lieutenant Tin Htwe Oo. She said the court will cross-examine another plaintiff at the next hearing.

The two Reuters journalists Thet Oo Maung, or Wa Lone, and Kyaw Soe Oo have been accused under Section 3.1 (c) by Yangon Region Northern District Lieutenant Colonel Yu Naing. The trial of the two journalists began on 10 January in the Northern District Court.—Zaw Gyi ■

Arachnophobes take heed: this ancient spider had a whip-like tail

WASHINGTON — If you are not a fan of spiders, you may not like the creepy little arachnid scientists found entombed in chunks of amber from northern Myanmar. Unlike its spider cousins alive today, this guy had a tail.

Scientists on Monday described four specimens of the arachnid, called *Chimerarachne yingi*, that inhabited a Cretaceous Period tropical forest about 100 million years ago during the dinosaur age. Alongside modern spider traits such as a silk-producing structure called a spinneret, it possessed a remarkably primitive feature: a whip-like tail covered in short hairs that it may have used for sensing predators and prey.

"It is a key fossil for understanding spider origins," said paleontologist Bo Wang of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. "Our new fossil most likely represents the earliest branch of spiders, and implies that there was a lineage of tailed spiders



The Cretaceous arachnid *Chimerarachne yingi*, found trapped in amber after 100 million year appears in a handout illustration provided on 5 February 2018. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

that presumably originated in the Paleozoic (the geological era that ended 251 million years ago) and survived at least into the Cretaceous of Southeast Asia."

Despite its fearsome appearance, the fanged *Chimerarachne* was only about three-tenths of an inch (7.5 mm) long, more than half of which was its tail.

University of Kansas paleontologist Paul Selden said *Chimerarachne* represents "a

kind of missing link" between true spiders and earlier spider forerunners that had tails but lacked spinnerets.

"*Chimerarachne* could be considered as a spider. It all depends on where we decide to draw the line," Selden said. "I am sure arachnophobes would not like this animal, except that it is only a few millimeters long, so it would be living almost unseen by them."

The earliest arachnids, a group including spiders, scorpions,

mites, ticks and others, dates to about 420 million years ago. The oldest-known true spiders lived about 315 millions year ago.

Numerous animals and plants have been found beautifully preserved inside amber, which is fossilized tree resin. Many important amber finds have been made in Myanmar. *Chimerarachne* may have lived under bark or in the moss at the foot of a tree.

"All four specimens are adult males, which would have been roving around looking for females at this point in their lives," Selden said.

"*Chimerarachne* most likely wove a sheet web, and possibly a burrow lined with silk. Spiders use silk for a great many purposes, of which prey-capture webs is just one. Egg-wrapping is a vital function for spider silk, as well as laying a trail to find its way back home."

The research was published in the journal *Nature Ecology & Evolution*.—Reuters ■

Russia developing 'smart' munitions and electronic warfare artillery shells

MOSCOW — Russia is developing electronic warfare munitions and also shells for small-caliber artillery capable of determining the place and the time of their detonation, CEO of Pribor Research and Production Association (part of Tecmash Group within the Rostec hi-tech corporation) Yuri Nabokov told TASS on Tuesday.

"We are thinking on this theme and at the level of the technological groundwork we developing the so-called smart muni-

tions, which will determine whether they need to be detonated or not, where this has to be done and how, and from the viewpoint of the control process, there are still many pitfalls," the Pribor chief executive said.

"Our caliber imposes very large restrictions also due to the artillery systems that were developed in the years when priority was given to a big ammunition load rather than to the shell's smart properties," Nabokov said.

Responding to a

question about whether the Pribor Research and Production Association was developing 30mm electronic warfare munitions, the chief executive said his company was engaged in this work. "We have set up a division that is dealing solely with electronics and non-standard munitions," the chief executive said.

This work is being conducted at the level of creating the technological groundwork, without setting specific tasks, he said.—Tass ■



A division that is dealing solely with electronics and non-standard munitions has been set up, the company's chief executive says. **PHOTO: TASS**

Poland's president says will sign Holocaust bill, defying critics

WARSAW — Poland's president said on Tuesday he will sign into law a bill imposing jail terms for suggesting the country was complicit in the Holocaust, defying criticism from Israel, the United States and activists.

Andrzej Duda said in a televised address the legislation would ensure Poland's "dignity and historical truth".

Poland's right-wing government says the law

is needed to protect the reputation of its citizens and make sure they are recognised as victims not perpetrators of Nazi aggression during World War Two. Israel has said the law would curb free speech, criminalise basic historical facts and stop any discussion on the role that some Poles played in Nazi crimes. Activists say the passage of the bill has encouraged a rise in anti-Semitism.

More than three million of Poland's 3.2 million Jews were murdered by the Nazis, accounting for about half of the Jews killed in the Holocaust. Jews from across the continent were sent to be killed at death camps built and operated by Germans in Poland, including Auschwitz, Treblinka, Belzec and Sobibor. The Polish measure would impose prison sentences of up to three years for mention-

ing the term "Polish death camps" and for suggesting "publicly and against the facts" that the Polish nation or state was complicit in Nazi Germany's crimes. President Duda said the bill would protect Poland's interests "so that we are not being slandered as a state and as a nation. But it also takes into account the sensitivity of those for whom remembering the Holocaust is extremely important. He added that

he would ask the Constitutional Tribunal for a number of clarifications about the bill. Those would likely be issued after it goes into effect. The legislation provides exemptions for research and art. Israel's education minister said on Monday he was "honoured" Poland had cancelled his visit to Warsaw this week because he refused to back down from condemning the bill.—Reuters ■

China's COMAC says first delivery of C919 jet planned for 2021

SINGAPORE—The Commercial Aircraft Corp of China Ltd (COMAC) on Tuesday said it was aiming to make the first delivery of its C919 single-aisle jet in 2021, despite delays in flight testing.

Lu Zheng, COMAC's deputy general manager of sales and marketing, told reporters on the sidelines of the Singapore Airshow that the company expected Chinese certification to take three to four years. COMAC also has been speaking to US authorities.

"It should not have any impact" on the delivery time to the jet's launch customer, China Eastern Airlines, he said. "We're

striving for 2021."

The C919, which hopes to compete with Boeing Co's 737 and the Airbus SE A320, is a symbol of China's civil aerospace ambitions and President Xi Jinping's push to upgrade manufacturing capabilities.

There was an almost five month-gap between the C919's first and second flight, far longer than that of other new aircraft, which had raised concerns that COMAC's plans to deliver the aircraft were running behind schedule. The plane has since undergone multiple tests, including a long-distance flight.

Lu also said US and European certification to



Employees work on a China's home-grown C919 passenger jet at Manufacturing and Final Assembly Centre of state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corporation of China (COMAC) during a media tour in Shanghai, China on 4 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

come after it wins approval from Chinese regulators. Europe's aviation safety regulator has started the certification process, but its US counterpart has not, he said.

He described recent

partnerships between Airbus and Bombardier, as well as Boeing and Embraer as "normal," but said that they would affect the markets its C919 and ARJ21 planes want to compete in. "It will have

an impact but they've also been impacted by us," he said. "We will work hard to become, from a follower, to be a competitor, and in future, if we have the opportunity, to become a leader. But it's a long road."

The company does not plan to announce any orders at the Singapore Airshow, he added. But it planned to speak to potential customers from South-east Asia.

The company, which is also co-developing a new wide-body jetliner with Russia, said in a statement that it had asked engine makers for proposals to supply the C929 jet's propulsion system on 21 December.—Reuters ■

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Yangon. 7th February 2018

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Yangon. 7th February 2018

Singapore proposes ASEAN leaders assert unity in vision statement

SINGAPORE — Singapore has proposed that ASEAN leaders adopt a vision statement at their April summit to demonstrate a unified front as a big-power tussle for regional influence tests the 50-year-old group's cohesiveness.

Besides helping the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations navigate the intensifying showdown between outside powers like the United States and China, the envisioned final statement would be designed to help member nations adapt to rapid technological changes. A draft document was presented to ASEAN foreign ministers at their two-day meeting ending on Tuesday. When it was discussed at a working dinner on Monday night, the ministers all looked to be "supportive," said an ASEAN official, who declined to



ASEAN foreign ministers pose for a photo in Singapore on 6 February, 2018, as the Association of Southeast Asian Nations discussed issues such as that of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

be identified.

The proposal from Singapore, which chairs ASEAN this year, appears to be a bid to save the group from fragmenting after it was wracked by fierce disagreements on issues of how to deal with China's territorial claims in the region, with some members showing more

loyalty to China than others.

The seven-page document, a copy of which has been obtained by Kyodo News, is titled "ASEAN Leaders' Vision for a Resilient and Innovative ASEAN."

It contains 10 key principles such as "unity and centrality," "rules-based

order" and "embrace technology" and more than 30 priority areas to which leaders will pledge their focus.

The priorities range from forging an ASEAN extradition treaty to combat transnational crimes, to concluding with China a code of conduct for the South China Sea, to estab-

lishing an ASEAN smart cities network and to taking initiatives to tackle terrorism and radicalization.

Ticking off a list of challenges facing ASEAN, such as growing uncertainties in the global strategic landscape, violent extremism, climate change and maritime issues, the document seeks an ASEAN that is able to "navigate these challenges in a coordinated, integrated and effective manner."

On the principle of unity and centrality, the statement says, "ASEAN shall remain united vis-à-vis external divisive forces."

It also reaffirms ASEAN's principle of consensus for decision-making, which has come under criticism in recent years for leading to deadlocks when members look to resolve contentious issues.

The consensus rule is

set to remain intact, with diplomatic sources saying in recent days there is concern among ASEAN members the group might break up if it switched to a majority-wins voting system.

The statement goes on to say the grouping should "build an open, transparent, inclusive and rules-based regional architecture to effectively engage key partners in order to respond collectively and constructively to global developments and issues of common concern."

It also says ASEAN will maintain its long-standing "principle of non-interference in the internal affairs" of member countries.

Singapore aims to have the statement endorsed at the leaders' summit to be held in the city-state in April.

—Kyodo News ■

US and North Korea trade warnings on nuclear strikes

GENEVA— The United States said on Tuesday that North Korea may be only months away from being able to strike the US mainland with a nuclear-tipped ballistic missile, while Pyongyang said Washington was considering a pre-emptive strike against it.

The clash came at the United Nations-sponsored Conference on Disarmament days after the Trump administration said it will expand its nuclear capability.

US disarmament ambassador Robert Wood, addressing the Geneva forum, also warned that arsenals in China and Russia were expanding, drawing rebukes from their respective delegations.

"Russia, China and North Korea are growing their stockpiles, increasing the prominence of nuclear weapons in their security strategies, and

— in some cases — pursuing the development of new nuclear capabilities to threaten other peaceful nations," Wood said.

North Korea "may now be only months away from the capability to strike the US with nuclear-armed ballistic missiles", he said, giving no further detail on the source of the statement.

North Korea is under tightening UN Security Council resolutions for its banned nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, but relations with South Korea have softened in the lead-up to the Pyeongchang Olympic Games opening on 9 February. North Korea accused the United States of seeking to aggravate the situation on the divided Korean peninsula by "deploying large nuclear assets" nearby and lay the ground for a possible pre-emptive strike against it.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-02-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S "INTERASIA LINES"

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V NACC POROS V.39B

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V NACC POROS V.39B are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MERIDIAN SHIPPING
AGENCIES PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V MAERSK WOLGAST VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-1 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

M.V SHAHR E KORD VOY. NO. ()

Consignees of cargo carried on M.V SHAHR E KORD VOY. NO. () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7-2-2018 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND & SEA LOGISTICS.**

Phone No: 2301185



Singer-songwriter Paul Simon. PHOTO: REUTERS

Paul Simon is Homeward Bound after 50-year touring career

LOS ANGELES—Singer-songwriter Paul Simon announced on Monday he is quitting touring, saying it felt “a touch exhilarating, and something of a relief” to bring his 50-year performing career to an end.

In a Facebook posting, Simon, 76, said he would make a final tour — “Homeward Bound — The Farewell Tour” — of North America and Europe later this year. After that, the “Sounds of Silence” singer said he would do an occasional performance “in a (hopefully) acoustically pristine hall.”

“I’ve often wondered what

it would feel like to reach the point where I’d consider bringing my performing career to a natural end. Now I know: it feels a little unsettling, a touch exhilarating, and something of a relief,” he wrote.

New York-based Simon said he came to the decision mostly because “I feel the travel and time away from my wife and family takes a toll that detracts from the joy of playing.”

Simon’s award-winning career includes a legendary partnership with singer Art Garfunkel. They released their first album in 1964 and went on to

record classics including “Mrs. Robinson,” “The Boxer” and “Bridge Over Troubled Water.”

The duo split in 1970 and Simon launched a successful solo career with Grammy-winning albums like “Still Crazy After All These Years” and “Graceland.”

Simon is the latest pop artist from the 1960s and 1970s to step back from touring. Elton John announced last month that he would be making a final three-year farewell tour, and Neil Diamond announced he was suffering from Parkinson’s disease and would retire from touring.—Reuters ■

Oscars chief says Hollywood abuses being ‘jack-hammered into oblivion’

LOS ANGELES — The president of the group that hands out the annual Oscars declared on Monday that some of the worst abuses in the movie industry were finally being “jack-hammered into oblivion.”

John Bailey, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, told more than 200 Oscar nominees that the Academy was working hard toward a greater diversity.

The Oscars, the highest honours in the movie business, have been criticized in recent years for excluding people of colour from nominations. In response to the #OscarsSoWhite social media campaign, it has broadened its white, old and male-dominated membership



President of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences John Bailey. PHOTO: REUTERS

to invite more women and people of colour into its 8,000-strong ranks.

Addressing the class of 2018 nominees at an annual luncheon, Bailey said the 90-year-old Academy was reinventing itself with programmes committed to inclusion and diversity “in today’s era of a greater awareness and responsibility in balancing gender, race, ethnicity and religion.”

As a 75-year old white man, Bailey said he was gratified that “the fossilised bedrock of many of Hollywood’s worst abuses are being jack-hammered into oblivion.”

Nominees for this year’s Oscars, to be handed out in March, include female director Greta Gerwig and African-American director Jordan Peele, Rachel Morrison as the first Oscar-nominated female cinematographer, four black actors, and movies that range from female-driven stories to romantic fantasy, war films and contemporary reflections on race. Bailey did not directly refer to the sexual misconduct scandal that has jolted Hollywood and led to dozens of actors, directors, producers and agents being fired, forced to step down or dropped from creative projects.—Reuters ■

Hugh Grant settles phone-hacking claim against Mirror newspapers

LONDON — British actor Hugh Grant has settled a legal case against Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) after the company admitted that reporters at its three tabloid titles had hacked into his voicemails over a 10-year period to get scoops, he said on Monday.

Grant, who is known internationally for roles in films such as “Four Weddings and a Funeral” and “Notting Hill”, won substantial damages from MGN and will donate them to Hacked Off, a group that campaigns against press intrusion.

Grant was one of the highest profile victims of phone-hacking by reporters, a practice that became widespread at some of Britain’s fiercely competitive tabloids but was exposed during a major scandal in 2011.

Most of the focus at the time



British actor Hugh Grant. PHOTO: REUTERS

was on the News of the World, a Sunday tabloid owned by Rupert Murdoch which the media mogul shut down at the height of the scandal.

Later, it emerged that phone-hacking had also occurred at the Sun, another Murdoch title, and at the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror and Sunday People, all owned by MGN

which is part of Trinity Mirror (TNI.L).

“This newspaper group has misled the public and its shareholders for many years; and it has let down its readers and its hard-working journalists,” Grant said in a statement after his lawyers announced in court that the case had been settled.

“Those journalists have

paid the price for the wrongdoing of executives who have left with large pay-offs and share options,” he said, naming several former editors of the three Trinity Mirror titles.

During a short hearing to inform the London High Court that the case had been settled, a lawyer for MGN said the company acknowledged phone-hacking was morally wrong and deeply regretted the acts of its former employees.

“MGN accepts that the unlawful interception of voicemail messages and procurement of private information about the Claimant and others should never have happened,” the lawyer said.

A Trinity Mirror spokesman said the company had no further comment beyond what was said in court.

Grant’s complaint related not just to phone-hacking but also to surveillance and blagging, a method whereby reporters would pose as other people to coax private information out of sources who did not realise they were speaking to the press.

Grant’s lawyer told the court that one of his main reasons for pursuing the legal claim against MGN was to expose the truth about what she called “Trinity Mirror’s concealment of its wrongdoing”.

As part of the settlement, MGN admitted that “senior employees, including executives, editors and journalists, condoned, encouraged or actively turned a blind eye to the widespread culture of unlawful information gathering activities at all three of its newspapers for many years”.—Reuters ■



in
Picture

The opening ceremony of Myanmar Imperial Research Association (MIRA) organized by Myanmar Imperial College was held in Yangon at 3pm on 3 February. PHOTO: GNLM

Chinese rice paper paintings star souvenirs at Cuba book fair

HAVANA — Visitors to the bustling Havana International Book Fair this year are leaving toting books — and delicate Chinese paintings that have become a popular souvenir item.

Printed with the latest digital technology, exquisite paintings on Chinese xuan paper, a kind of traditional paper made from rice for painting and Chinese calligraphy, have been selling like hot cakes at this year's fair, where China is the guest country.

The Chinese pavilion is one of the most visited by Cubans and foreigners alike, who hope to learn more about China's rich culture.

To satisfy their curiosity, China has brought some 3,000 academic and literary texts in Spanish, English and Mandarin, as well as other expressions of Chinese culture to the fair.

Among the attractions, a large roll of fine paper with beautiful reproduction of traditional Chinese paintings is making the biggest splash. The roll contains around 22 different scenes and rapidly thinned out in the first few days of the fair as visitors lined up to acquire their keepsake from China.

Sisters Dayana and Leydis Lopez bought four paintings to decorate their house, and their favorite is a lotus flower painting they plan to keep in their bedroom.

"China has not only brought books but other items that are representative of its culture. I really like the variety of colors they use in these paintings. The soft material and the quality is impressive," Leydis Lopez told

Xinhua.

Buying a traditional painting, Dayana Lopez said, is not only a way to take home a piece of Chinese art, but also to display the delicacy, beauty and strength of the nation.

They were surprised to learn that the paintings were done on rice paper.

"I already loved the paintings, but when I found out the paper was made of rice it dazzled me even more because that is one of China's signature products. Now it has double value and meaning for me," Dayana Lopez said.

Cubans have also been surprised by a more contemporary aspect of these rice paper paintings: the use of an innovative digital printing technology called Printing on Demand.

An initiative of China National Publications Import and Export (Group) Corporation, the paintings spotlight the capacity to create high-quality digital prints for publishing and artwork.

Cuban painter Ruben Rivero said learning about the properties of the paper was his greatest discovery at the fair, as it is an ideal material for absorbing ink and he would love to try it in his work.

"Rice paper could only come from a culture in which rice is a way of life," Rivero said.

"I was fascinated by the idea because I didn't know about it. Today I learned of its existence and how long the Chinese had their own methods of printing before the invention of printing press," he said. —Xinhua ■

Indonesia to take part in Thailand's int'l travel fair

JAKARTA — Indonesia would open a tourism promotion exhibit in Thailand's landmark international travel fair held in Bangkok from 7 to 11 February, an Indonesia tourism ministry official said here on Tuesday.

"This year we have set the target to receive 163,000 Thai tourists. The upcoming travel fair is a crucial moment to seize the Thai market. More than 400,000 visitors were expected to attend the travel fair event," Rizki Handayani, an assistant deputy minister overseeing regional market at the ministry said in a statement.

The arrivals of Thai tourists in Indonesia from January to

November last year stood any 98,289. Thailand was Indonesia's fourth largest tourism market in Southeast Asian region after Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, she said.

Rizki said that the Indonesian exhibit in the 2018 Thailand International Travel Fair (TITF) would consist of 8 booths, themed traditional Phisinis vessel.

The exhibit would showcase Indonesia's traditional and cultural dance performances, Indonesian foods and beverages.

The government would bring along 10 firms running hospitality businesses in Bali, Central Java, West Java, East

Nusa Tenggara, Yogyakarta and North Sumatra provinces in the upcoming TITF event.

According to her, direct tour package sales for Thailand potential travelers would be conducted in the Indonesian exhibit throughout the 5-day event.

Commenting the Indonesian mission in the upcoming 2018 TITF, Tourism Minister Arief Yahya said that the markets in Southeast Asian region have great potentialities to tap on.

The proximity in culture, distance and abundance of flight access to cities in the region have made it highly possible to give positive impacts to national tourism, he added. —Xinhua ■

Princess Mako's engagement to be postponed

TOKYO — The Imperial Household Agency said on Tuesday the formal engagement of Princess Mako, the eldest granddaughter of Emperor Akihito, and her fiancé Kei Komuro will be postponed until 2020, due to "lack of preparation."

The princess and her classmate from university days, both 26, were supposed to be formally engaged in a traditional court ceremony called "Nosai no Gi" on 4 March, ahead of their planned wedding on 4 November.

The princess said through the agency she "came to recognize the lack of time to make sufficient preparations."

The agency denied any link between the postponement and recent weekly magazine reports of a financial dispute between Komuro's mother and her former fiancé over her son's educational expenses, which were shouldered by the mother's former partner.

"It is not because there were weekly magazine reports," an

agency official said. The princess said she has reported the postponement to Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, who have shown respect for their decision.

"Last May, there had been reports about our engagement at an unexpected time," she said. "We believe we have rushed various things." "I wish to think about marriage more deeply and concretely and give sufficient time to prepare our marriage and for after the marriage," she said. —Kyodo News ■



Japanese Princess Mako (R), the eldest granddaughter of Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, and her longtime boyfriend Kei Komuro smile during a news conference in Tokyo's Motoakasaka district on 3 September, 2017, after the Imperial Household Agency announced they will marry, possibly in fall 2018. Princess Mako and Komuro expressed delight at their engagement as they appeared before the public together for the first time. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Tottenham's Kane dismisses diving claims, officials back ref



Tottenham's Harry Kane. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Tottenham Hotspur striker Harry Kane has dismissed claims that he dived for a penalty made by Liverpool's Virgil van Dijk following Sunday's pulsating 2-2 draw at Anfield.

The visitors were awarded two penalties, one of which Kane scored with virtually the final kick of the game to score his 100th Premier League goal and earn his side a point.

Kane missed the other spot-kick after Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius was adjudged to have brought him down.

But Dutchman Van Dijk, who was penalised for the second penalty, said neither should have been given.

"I think the first penalty was offside and I think it is a dive," Van Dijk said. "You see him (Kane) diving clearly and no-one is talking about that."

"There is a lot of discussion about whether it is offside, yes

or no, but I think it was offside as well. The referee made his decision together with the linesman. It was good for us that it was saved."

Kane responded by saying: "I felt contact and I went down. I'm not going to jump out of the way because it's football."

Television sound recording of referee Jon Moss and assistant Eddie Smart revealed confusion about whether the ball had been accidentally played on to Kane by Liverpool's Dejan Lovren.

After a lengthy discussion with Smart, Moss asked fourth official Martin Atkinson if he had "got anything from TV", which the Professional Game Match Officials Limited (PGMOL) on Monday said was "misguided", but the referee was always aware that a Liverpool player had touched the ball on the way through. —Reuters ■

Football Association of Nyaungdone formed

THE Football Association of Nyaungdone in Nyaungdone Township, Ayeyawady Region, was formed on Monday, according to the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF).

The party, led by Secretary of Implementation Committee for forming Township Football Association U Ko Ko Thein and former footballers U Ye Nyunt and U Myo Hlaing Win, met Nyaungdone Township cabinet members and officials from the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Education, as well as township elders, in Nyaungdone Township on

Monday.

At the meeting, some 30 attendees formed the Football Association of Naungdone.

The association comprised 15 members, including patrons U Ohn Thwin (Pyithu Hluttaw representative), Daw Ni Ni Moe (Hluttaw representative), U Kyaw San (Hluttaw representative) and U Thwin Ko Ko Min (Township Administrator); Chairman U Myint Thwin; Vice Chairman (1) U Thet Lin; Vice Chairman (2) U Naing Oo; General Secretary Daw Khin San Yi; Associate Secretary U Ye Htut Win; Financial Officer U Ye Lin Aung;

members Daw Nyunt Nyunt Htay, Dr Soe Hlaing Oo, U Htay Lwin, U Soe Min Thein; veteran footballer group head U Myo Win; head coach U Nyi Nyi Zaw; head referee U Khin Maung Zaw; Head of Women's Football Affairs Daw Thin Thin Soe; and Futsal Affair Head U Aung Myo Kyaw.

So far, Ayeyawady has registered four township football associations, including the Football Association of Nyaungdone.

The committee will form township football associations in other townships across Myanmar. —GNLM ■

Sport & Education FC's Yi Yi Oo hits hat-trick

Sport & Education FC striker Yi Yi Oo hit a hat-trick in yesterday's match after scoring five goals against YREO FC, according to Myanmar Women's League.

The seventh week of KBZ Bank Women's League 2017-2018 kicked off yesterday with the opening match, in which Sport & Education FC beat YREO 7-0 at Aung San Stadium.

Yi Yi Oo shot five goals in the 2nd, 52nd, 75th, 81st and 83rd

minutes.

Another two goals for Sport and Education FC were scored by Shwe Moe Aye in the 54th minute and Kay Zin Myint in the 85th minute.

Among the four matches to be played in the seventh week, the second match between University FC and Thitsar Arman FC will be played today. The third match between Myawady FC and Gandamar FC will be played tomorrow, whereas the fourth

match between Zwekapin FC and ISPE FC will be played on Friday.

All the matches will be played at Aung San Stadium at 3:30pm on the respective days. So far, Myawady FC's Win Theigi Tun is the top scorer, garnering 18 goals, followed by Thitsar Arman FC's Khin Moe Wai, who has scored 15 goals, whereas Sport and Education FC's Yi Yi Oo is in the third place, with 14 goals. —GNLM ■

Juve's Matuidi suffers thigh injury, set to miss Spurs tie

MILAN — Juventus midfielder Blaise Matuidi has suffered a thigh injury, the Serie A champions said, making him doubtful for their Champions League tie against Tottenham Hotspur next week.

The hard-tackling Frenchman, who has impressed since joining the Turin side from Paris St Germain in August, was taken off during the first half of Sun-

day's 7-0 demolition of Sassuolo.

"Blaise Matuidi underwent tests which revealed a mild-medium tear to the flexor muscles in his left thigh," Juventus said in a statement. "Further tests will be necessary to better ascertain the extent of his injury."

Juventus visit Fiorentina for a Serie A match on Friday before hosting Tottenham on 13 February. —Reuters ■



Juventus' Blaise Matuidi in action with Genoa's Stephane Omeonga. PHOTO: REUTERS