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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the media at a press conference yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO**

Hluttaw mulls change to law seen as violating free speech

PARLIAMENT is considering amendments to a law that human rights monitors say violates free speech and has been used to jail journalists and activists, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said yesterday.

Following a recent spate of arrests of reporters, the United

States and the European Union have raised concern that despite Myanmar electing its first civilian government in about half a century, its media face increasing curbs.

“About 66(d), the legislature is considering amendments to that particular law,”

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said at a news conference, referring to a broadly worded clause of the Telecommunications Law that prohibits use of the telecoms network to “extort, threaten, obstruct, defame, disturb, inappropriately influence or intimidate”.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi did not say what changes were planned, but Myanmar officials have indicated that the law may be changed to enable judges to release on bail those charged under the law, diplomats have told Reuters.

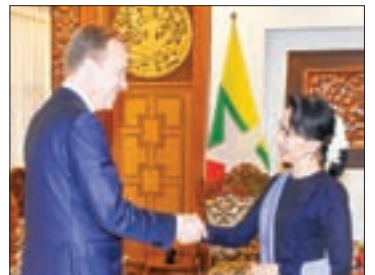
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Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session holds its 26th meeting

Kyaw Thu Htet &
Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce said at the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting held at yesterday, "As regards the implementation of Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone, discussions will be officially released transparently, by making directly contacts with local people. Enquiries can be directly made at the Office of the Kyaukphyu SEZ Management Committee, CITIC Ltd and Myanmar Public Company to be formed newly."

In reply to the question raised by U Ba Shein of Kyaukphyu constituency, deputy minister said, "In implementing Kyaukphyu SEZ enterprises, for the successful set-up of Government Designated Entity—GDE which is to launch joint venture with the foreign developer investor, declaration of interest was publicized. Now 52 Myanmar companies which proposed to take part are making arrangements to

form Myanmar-Kyaukphyu SEZ Private Company Ltd. Kyaukphyu SEZ Management Committee is discussing with CITIC & Myanmar Public Company matters on investment, ratio of share ownership, bank loans, environmental destruction, analysis of social disadvantages, matters of making survey to be carried out on the ground and framework of the agreement, at length. Depending upon the results of the discussions, projects are to be implemented step by step in accord with the procedures."

And, deputy minister added, "Kyaukphyu SEZ is a long term project. Profits are expected to be gained in 2039. Volume of the investment is huge, thus discussions are being made transparently as it is of great importance as a strategy in implementing the project. As regards compensation for the land, it is K 25 million per acre for the land nearest to Yangon in Thilawa SEZ, whereas in Kyaukphyu compensation for the land is being demanded at up to K 90 million per acre. Regarding



U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce. **PHOTO: MNA**

this, we will meet with local people for discussion."

As regards the question raised by U Sai Ngaung Hsai Hein of Maukmae constituency, Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement said, "209 villagers of 45 house-holds from Mikesarsay and Ponesote villages of Gadugyi village-tract in Maukmae township are taking shelter at Narhii village of Barnmart village-tract in Maukmae township. For them,



Dr Win Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. **PHOTO: MNA**

Shan State Cabinet supported K 1.5 million, with on 17 May, 2017 K 11.4825 million worth of commodities, rice, oil and monetary aids provided by the department of relief and resettlement, Shan State and on 30th May 2017 11.4825 million worth of provisions. And, cloth for rain-proof tents and medicine for purifying water and K 19.3 million were supported by donors and philanthropic groups."

He added, "Necessary supports will be given to displaced

people to return to their locations, depending upon peace and security in their area. As Makyaingmoon youth development center has a land of enough area and secure buildings, arrangements are being made to create it into a pleasant place for pre-primary school-age children. And, arrangements are under way for students desirous of proceeding learning at school to study again, and for children lacking academic education to learn vocational training." Afterward, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, deputy ministers U Aung Htoo, and U Kyaw Lin replied to the questions raised by U Than Aung of Ngaputaw constituency, Daw Aye Mya Mya Myo of Kyauktan constituency, U Ar Moe Hsi of Khaunglanphoo constituency and U Khin Maung Thein of Sagaing constituency. At today's meeting, annual meeting report of Pyithu Hluttaw Investment and Industrial Development Committee was read out and approval of the bill on amendment of the act of marriage on Christianity was made. ■



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint shakes hands with Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Country Director of Work Bank for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives Ms. Ellen Goldstein

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Country Director of World Bank for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR at the Pyithu Hluttaw Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on yesterday at 2pm.

During the meeting, they

discussed matters relating to transportation, electricity, education, health and SME development for the development of rural people and increasing co-operation between World Bank and Myanmar. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Public works and fisheries conservation discussed at Amyotha Hluttaw

Thuya Zaw
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

U Ngun Hay of Chin State addressed the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday about a plan to unsatisfactory road work by Global Village Co. in Hranhrein Village, Haka, Chin State. The project was funded under a 2015-2016 disbursement from the Border Area and National Races Development Department of the Ministry of Border Affairs.

Border Affairs Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut said the five-miles gravel road was assigned through a tender won by Global Village Company in FY2016-2017 and that the Chin State government allocated funds of Ks383.29 million. He said the road is still under construction with 80 percent of the work done. Chin State government is overseeing the work of the company in order that it is completed according to set standard said the deputy



Border Affairs Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut. **PHOTO: MNA**

minister. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw reported to the assembly that the Irrigation and Water Utilisation Management Department constructed a sluice gate with Yangon Region funds in FY2016-2017.

Local residents had requested the project to protect 4,500 acres of village farms in eastern part of Kyauktan Township, Yangon Region from flooding and sea-water intrusion.

The gate was constructed

with assessment and funding oversight by Yangon Region government and Hluttaw. U Okka Min of Taninthayi Region then posed a question about the proper administration of fish sanctuaries during fishing season and prevention of overfishing. Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw said in FY2012-2013 75 percent of the total local commercial fishing fleet was permitted to engage in commercial fishing.

This total authorized fleet was reduced to 40 percent in FY2015-2016. To conserve fish stock in Myanmar waters in FY2016-2017 fishing was banned during May, June, July and this fiscal year only 30 percent of the total local commercial fishing fleet will be permitted to fish during fishing season. Fishing fleets will be reduced or increased according to fish stock levels. Poachers will be punished, said the deputy minister. ■

Special care cannot be given to every grain of rice

We work everyday to govern an entire nation. So we don't have the leisure time. In governing the country, it is impossible to focus at the same time on every issue. But, in reality, our government is working with many difficulties. We saw success in some areas and not in other areas.

(Excerpt from the address made by Bogyoke Aung San at meeting with journalists on 30 May 1947)



UNHCR chief renews call for solutions in Kachin, Rakhine states

THE UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi, has concluded his first visit to Myanmar by appealing for inclusive and sustainable solutions to protracted displacement and statelessness.

"I was very happy to hear the State Counsellor (Daw Aung San Suu Kyi) saying that refugees are welcome back from Thailand," said the High Commissioner. "We agreed that returns must be voluntary and sustainable. Refugees should not come back to a situation of dependency but of self-reliance."

They also discussed humanitarian access in Kachin and Rakhine states, where some 100,000 and 120,000 people, respectively, have been living for more than five years in camps for internally displaced people.

While in Rakhine State, the High Commissioner met with displaced Muslims in Sit-tway's Dar Paing camp, who expressed their strong desire to return home. He also reached out to Rakhine and Muslim communities north of Maungtaw and listened to their safety and livelihood concerns.

"These are complex issues but they are not intractable," said Grandi. "A crucial first step is to pursue freedom of movement and access to services and livelihoods for all. Accelerated pathways to citizenship are also part of the solution, as are efforts to tackle exclusion and poverty."

He highlighted that the recommendations of the Advisory Commission of Rakhine State provide an important roadmap for the way forward.

Mr. Filippo Grandi met with various ambassadors to Myanmar and officials from UN humanitarian agencies and other international non-governmental organisations at the Novotel Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

The High Commissioner later visited the house of the late third Secretary-General of the UN, U Thant, on Panwar Street in Yangon and discussed global refugee issues with Dr. Thant Myint Oo, civil society leaders, literary experts and scholars in attendance.

The High Commissioner and his entourage then left Yangon via the Yangon International Airport in the evening.— Myanmar News Agency ■



UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi talks to reporters at the U Thant House in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Norwegian Foreign Minister Borge Brende. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor receives Norwegian Foreign Minister

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung Suu Kyi met with the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Borge Brende yesterday morning in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on the peace process in Myanmar, strengthening of the democracy transition process and promoting

bilateral relations.

At a press conference following the meeting, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pledged to maintain good relations with Norway, expressing thanks to Norway for its assistance in Myanmar's peace process and democratic transition.

The Norwegian Foreign Minister disclosed that Norway

would sign Memorandum of Understanding with Myanmar during his visit concerning the fishery, agriculture and energy sectors.

At the meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, they also discussed regional issues, global threats and progress in Rakhine State.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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National encephalitis immunization effort launched

By May Thet Hnin

JAPANESE Encephalitis (JE) is a disease spread through mosquito bites. Symptoms usually take 5-15 days to develop and include fever, headache, vomiting, confusion, and difficulty moving. Symptoms that develop later include swelling around the brain and coma. JE is a serious disease that may cause death.

The government is planning to immunize 14 million young people against Japanese encephalitis, a mosquito-borne disease with symptoms that appear within five to 15 days including fever, headaches, vomiting, confusion and limited mobility.

More serious symptoms include swelling around the brain and coma. Japanese encephalitis mainly afflicts young

children and can be fatal.

"As a prevention measure, children between ages nine months and 15 years old will be vaccinated," said Dr. Htar Htar Lin, deputy director of the Expanded Programme on Immunization of the Department of Public Health. "This vaccination programme will be carried out under two plans: school-based and public-based."

Under the school-based plan, the government will begin vaccinate 7.9 million within the week of 15 November. The school-based programme includes the schools under the Education Ministry and other ministries, private schools and monastic schools.

The public vaccination programme will include 5.6 million children and take place during the week of 11 December. This part of the programme will tar-

get children not yet attending school or those absent during the earlier school-based vaccination.

Dr. Htar Htar Lin said this aspect of the programme will be the most challenging as it will include scattered rural populations where roads are often poor and clinics often far apart.

"In 2014, the department planned Japanese encephalitis vaccination programmes were conducted exclusively for Rakhine State due to the large number of JE cases there," said Dr San Kyawt Khaing, the assistant director of Rakhine State Health Department. "But as we saw more and more cases in other regions and states there after, it prompted the Health department to launch a national level vaccination programme this year. We have been planning this since 2015."

Currently, one Rakhine resident was reported to have Japanese Encephalitis symptoms, but laboratory blood tests determined a negative result.

Mosquitoes transmit the disease by feeding on hibernating birds, believed to be its origin. Mosquitoes either infect humans directly or by infecting the food chain, farm pigs for example.

The most effective way to guard against Japanese encephalitis is by preventing mosquito breeding, but this is nearly impossible in Myanmar, one of the wettest nations on earth.

According to World Health Organization, 24 countries in South East Asia and western Pacific region are affected by an ongoing Japanese Encephalitis epidemic affecting more than 3 million people. ■

Myanmar's national landmark Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHO KHWAR**

Myanmar prepares to seek UNESCO World Heritage Designation for Shwedagon Pagoda

THE Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture is preparing to propose that Shwedagon Pagoda be designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2020, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

An estimated 300,000 tourists visited Shwedagon Pagoda during the past five months of 2017, according to official statistics from the Shwedagon Pagoda

board of trustees.

"The number of tourists who have visited Shwedagon Pagoda has increased this fiscal year, compared to previous years," said an official from the Shwedagon Pagoda board of trustees. "If we can put the pagoda on the list of World heritage, the number of tourist will increase."

There were 78,054 tourists in January, 77,062 tourists in Feb-

ruary, 64,005 tourists in March, 40,789 tourists in April and 36,674 tourists in May.

Thai tourists were the most numerous, followed by Chinese visitors.

The number of tourists to Myanmar has increased by 30,000 visitors during the first five months in 2017 compared to the same period of last year. —City News ■

Sedona to hold Love and Bliss Wedding Fair 2017

Sedona Hotel Yangon announced that it will hold annual wedding fair on 8 and 9 July. Titled 'Love and Bliss', guests may look forward to a series of exciting events, starting with Ms. Universe Myanmar 2017, Zun Than Sin and Sophia, as guests-of-honor; fashion shows by local designers. The hotel boasts of luxurious and spacious surroundings, a variety of culinary delights, and contemporary guest rooms.

"We have received numerous positive feedback from couples who have chosen Sedona Hotel Yangon as the venue for their engagement, solemnisation, and subsequently, their wedding ceremony here," says Mr. Mok Kok Meng, General Manager of Sedona Hotel Yangon. Sedona Hotel Yangon's Love and Bliss Wedding Fair 2017 is open to public from 10am to 6pm on 8 and 9 July 2017 at the Grand Ballroom. Admission is free.—GNLM ■

for a tonne of “specialty coffee.” Coffee quality is determined by growing techniques, the specific origin of the beans, the type of coffee bean strain and traceability factors, including the adequacy of recordkeeping on labor practices, environmental stewardship and visibility of the logistical supply chain from farm to market.—GNLM ■



Norway returns Buddha Statue to Protect Myanmar's National Cultural Heritage

NORWAY returned an illegally-purchased Buddha Statue to Myanmar yesterday.

The repatriation of an illegally-purchased Buddha Statue to its place of origin comes under the auspices of UNESCO, representatives of Myanmar and The Kingdom of Norway.

The return of the statue took place during an official handover ceremony in the presence of Mr Børge Brende, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway, and Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister of Religious Affairs and Culture, at the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The alabaster statue depicts Buddha in the mudra of 'earth witness' (*bhūmisparśa*), one of the most common iconic representations of Buddha images in Myanmar. Its tumultuous story dates back to 2011 when the Norwegian Customs identified and prevented the illegal import of this cultural artefact. The Norwegian prosecutor confiscated the statue and after years of research, the statue was identified by experts as originating from the Manda-



Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr Børge Brende handed over Buddha Statue to Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister of Religious Affairs and Culture at the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

lay region in Myanmar and estimated to be between 150 and 200 years old. Hence, as a protected cultural object, the procedure for the return to its country of origin was initiated by the Government of Norway.

Recalling that both states are parties to the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, and bearing in-

mind the good relations based on mutual trust, representatives of the Governments of Norway and Myanmar, met at UNESCO in Paris on 16 January 2017 to formalize the statue's return. The process conducted by Nor-

wegian authorities to return the Buddha statue, illustrates a best practice for return of cultural property. Norway hindered the illegal import of the statue and engaged specialists to find its country of origin, thus securing a successful return to its country of origin, Myanmar.

The return of the Buddha statue furthermore marks an important step in the cultural cooperation between Myanmar and Norwegian authorities, with international counterparts, in regards to the global efforts to safeguard cultural heritage, and to curb illicit trafficking. Trafficking of cultural artefacts often follow the same networks and routes as other international crime

From 2016 and until its repatriation, the Buddha statue remained on display at The Museum of Cultural History in Oslo, where its presentation aimed to raise public awareness about illicit trafficking of cultural artefacts. Upon its return home, the Buddha statue will be put on display at the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw.—GNLM ■

Deputy Minister of Transport and Communications delivers speech at ASEAN Ports Conference

Deputy Minister for Transport and Communications U Kyaw Myo delivered a speech at the 15th ASEAN Ports and Shipping Conference and Exhibition hosted by the Myanmar Port Authority, Ministry of Transport and Communications at Sule Shangri-La Hotel, Yangon, yesterday.

After the deputy minister's speech, Myanmar Port Authority Director General U Ni Aung gave a keynote address and Mr. Rory J.

Doyle, Director General of Transport Events Management gave an organizer's remark.

The conference was attended and booths exhibited by more than 250 representatives from 20 countries including Myanmar, Australia, Philippines, Singapore, England, Malaysia, Germany, South Korea, Hong Kong, Netherlands, United Arab Emirates, Thailand, Sweden, China, Indonesia and Norway.—GNLM ■

Myanmar-Norway sign MOU on Fish for Development Programme

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Myanmar-Norway cooperation in fishery sector development was signed yesterday morning in Thingaha Hotel, Nay Pyi Taw.

At the event Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Aung Thu and Norway Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Mr. Borge Brende first gave speeches of greetings and then

Permanent Secretary of Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr. Khin Zaw and Norway ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Tone Tinnes sign the MOU for cooperation in fishery sector technical development under the Fish for Development Programme.

By signing the MOU, the Fish for Development Programme is continued to be im-

plemented while the cooperation program allows increased implementation of managing information related to fishery sector, increasing capacity in ocean research, development in sea water fish species breeding, procedures related to fishery sector and international agreement and the cooperation period is for five years from July 2017 to July 2022.—MNA ■



Hluttaw mulls change to law seen as violating free speech

FROM PAGE-1

Last month, three journalists covering an event organised by an ethnic minority rebel group that authorities have designated an "illegal organisation" were detained by the military and later arrested on suspicion of breaching a colonial-era Unlawful Associations Act.

A newspaper editor is also on trial under the telecoms law over a satirical article making fun of the military.

The cases have sparked outrage among the media community in Yangon since the government lifted pre-publication censorship in 2012.

They have also prompted statements of concern from both the European Union and the United States.

When asked about the case of the three arrested reporters, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said it was "not for us to comment on... how the various cases should be

tried in the court - that's for the justice sector to take care of".

"This should not be seen very narrowly as three journalists against the army or vice versa, but in general, as to whether the existing laws are in line with our desire for justice and democratisation," she said.

The three journalists are due to appear in court in Shan State on 11 July. They face up to three years in prison.—Reuters/Antoni Slodkowski ■



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than meets Ms. Ellen Goldstein. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker receives Ms. Ellen Goldstein

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received Ms. Ellen Goldstein, Country Director of World Bank for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR at the Amyotha Hluttaw Hall in Nay Pyi Taw on yesterday at 3pm.

During the meeting, they discussed matters relating to

the procedure and aids of the World Bank and cooperation of World Bank to Myanmar for the democratic transition. Present at the meeting were Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Thar Aung and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw office. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Experts from University of Vienna give talks at Yangon University of Dental Medicine

A three-member delegation led by Professor Andreas Moritz of Medial University of Vienna, Austria, gave talks on three titles: Innovative Technologies: Laser,

Digital Dentistry, The Maxillary Sinus Floor Elevation: Techniques and Case Presentations at the University of Dental Medicine in Yangon yesterday. — GNLM ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Order 15/2017

13th Waning of Waso, 1379 ME
6 July, 2017

Appointment of Security and Border Affairs Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 262 (a) (2), (b) (e) (f), article 264 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 19 (c), section 82 (c) of Union Government Law and Section 8 (a) Sub-section (2) (b) (f) (g), Section 56 (a) of Region or State Government Law, Colonel Khin Maung Htay, Bago Region Security and Border Affairs Minister; Colonel Naing Oo, Magway Region Security and Border Affairs Minister and Colonel Myo Min Aung, Mandalay Region Security and Border Affairs Minister, have been returned to unit to perform the original military duties and replaced with the following persons submitted by respective military officers have been appointed as Region Security and Border Affairs Ministers.

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| (a) Colonel Hla Myo Shwe | Bago Region Government |
| (b) Colonel Min Oo | Magway Region Government |
| (c) Colonel Kyaw Kyaw Min | Mandalay Region Government |

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Stimulants seized in Pyigyidagun Tsp, Mandalay

MANDALAY Region, Pyigyidagun Township police seized 1,264,000 stimulant tablets weighing 126.4 kilograms worth Ks 6,320 million on 5 July.

Acting on a tip-off, an anti-narcotic squad from Pyigyidagun Township, Mandalay searched a house owned by Kyaw Win who was suspected of a drugs case in Lashio at No 55+72 at the corner of 58th street and Banyardala street, Thinpankon ward, Pyigyidagun

Township. The police seized black BMW and black Chevrolet which were parked in the yard.

Interrogation of the security guard Aung Min Tun, 30, has led the police to searching the garage owned by Kyaw Win II-2/75, 60th street (b) between Min Gyi Yan Naung street and Min Ye Kyaw Swa street, Sethmu ward, Pyigyidagun Township. The police discovered white Hiace, white Surf and black Navibator and also seized 564,000 stimulant

tablets hidden in Hiace's spare wheel and 700,000 stimulant tablets hidden in Surf's spare wheel. A total of stimulant tablets weigh 126.4 kilograms worth Ks 6,320 million. The police also found Ks 36 million, twelve gold bars weighing ten ticals per bar each and other jewellerys weighing two viss and sixteen ticals. Police filed charges against them under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Tin Maung (Mandalay) ■

Norwegian FM holds talks with ethnic armed groups' leaders, Rakhine State Advisory ommission



Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr. Borge Brende holds talks with Rakhine State Advisory Commission. **PHOTO: MNA**

A delegation led by Norwegian Foreign Minister Mr. Borge Brende separately met ethnic armed groups' leaders and members from Advisory Commission on Rakhine State at Kempinski Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The delegation also met with Chairman of Karen National Union Saw Mutu Sae Po, Chairman of All Burma Students' Democratic Front-ABSDF U Than Khe and a central executive committee member of New Mon State

Party (NMSP) Naing Win Hla at 2:30 pm.

Then, the Norwegian Foreign Minister and party met Dr Tha Hla Shwe and U Khin Maung Lay, members of Rakhine State Advisory Commission. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Foreign veterinary students visit Bagan

STUDENTS of veterinary medicine from 12 countries, who are currently giving voluntary services to vaccinating cattle in

central Myanmar, visited Bagan yesterday.

During the visit, they also visited a horse riding club

in Bagan.

The team comprising 75 veterinary students returned Yezin University of Veterinary Science in the evening following their excursion.

The students from South-east Asia, the United States, Canada,

and Japan have conducted fieldwork in Myinchan Township, Mandalay

Region and administered vaccinations to the local livestock and dogs

in the area. They have also planted trees for reforestation efforts.

The program is part of the ASEAN Veterinary Volunteer Project 2017.— Ye Thura Aung (NyaungU) ■



Foreign veterinary students are seen in Bagan. **PHOTO: YE THURA AUNG (NYAUNGU)**

Need to Ensure People's Security

By Khin Maung Oo

Not only to protect people's depredation but also to bring about rule of law, peace & stability of the area, the Police Force plays an important role, accordingly they are required to perform its duties around the clock. Since the time of the colonial rule in the country, Myanmar Police Force was established, existing so far under the consecutive governing bodies as a systematically formed security force.

In such a transitional period toward the democracy system the police force has to carry out its duties assigned by the public-elected government, in accord with prescribed rules and laws according to democratic standards. A vast amount of the tasks are being carried out every day. It is not easy to make the police force a very prestigious organization of good image.

Why? It is not strange for the police force not to get all people's respect and support as it has to associate daily with various kinds of people—good or evil ones.

Police forces are required to fulfill themselves with the qualifications and skills needed to become well-trained, qualified and reliable ones so that they can protect people from dangers, arrest and take actions against those who commit crimes, as soon as possible. Simultaneously, they must have enough facilities so as to perform their duties without delay. Under the current situations, financial allotment granted for the Myanmar Police Force is a meagre amount compared to those of international police forces.

Yet, we found that the incumbent government has been transforming MPF into a developed one to keep

up with the current time's situations. It must be said that it reached some progress to some extent as it had been supplied with necessary supports, in respective budget years. For security matters and suppression of crimes, people's police forces are being provided with modern weapons, communication equipments, technological aids, some motor vehicles, oils used for transportation, police uniforms, expenditures and provisions more than ever.

As it is, there still some necessities to urgently find out solutions on crimes, investigate and take arrests of violators and recruit qualified new police forces. It is of great importance to have enough travelling allowances so that they can reach scenes of crimes in time. It is unreasonable for a police man not to pursue a crime and investigate a case due to lack of travelling allowance.

Now it has been learnt that imprecise money had been granted beforehand in their respective budget years depending upon pursuit, transportation, prevention and types of outbreaks. Thus, it is assumed that extra budget needs to be kept to spend for unexpected cases depending on the volume of cases so that they can be promptly discovered without delay.

Police forces are necessary to have fundamental intellect and physical strength so as to hinder activities of criminals to some extent so that they can gain people's respect and reliance. To sum it up, we can build up a peaceful society by improving up-gradation of police forces' capacities and supplying it with various supports to become a prestigious organization of good image, for rule of law, peace and stability in our regions. ■

Myanmar-China Education Cooperation: Asian Universities Alliance (AUA)

BY Prof. Yin Myo Thu (IR)

Currently, the term 'internationalization in education' is popularly articulated among faculty members and university students in many countries. Education in Myanmar is now opening up to the world within its limited resources as the internationalization is increasingly penetrating into individual's education. It is a good opportune time for Myanmar in cooperating with many prestigious universities of other countries. There are many university students who have chance to participate in international education events, seminars and workshops held in neighboring countries and countries in other continents. Education and research cooperation with neighboring countries has been significantly multiplied since 2011. Many prestigious universities rushed into Myanmar to do research and education cooperation with universities throughout Myanmar. Obviously, on 28 April 2017, a great step for education in Asian Continent has been launched at the Tsinghua University, People's Republic of China. It was, in fact, a grand event of launch ceremony of Asian Universities Alliance (AUA) at the Tsinghua University, the most prestigious university in PRC and Asia. It is like a Belt and Road among Asian Universities for university education cooperation.

As the higher education or university education becomes the forefront of people-to-people contact, the universities among Asia developed an idea to

establish educational cooperation in higher and advance education to support diverse needs of countries. Before the official launching ceremony of AUA in April, 2017, there were many steps and preparation for member universities in Asia. In October 2016, there was a meeting among twelve universities in Asia, held at the Tsinghua University to form an association for Asian Universities. Unfortunately, the University of Yangon was unable to attend the meeting. Within a month, a four member delegation led by Director Fang Yanghua, Tsinghua University came to meet with Rector Dr. Pho Kaung, the University of Yangon and explained how AUA Constitution has been agreed among member universities. Even the University of Yangon could not participate in drafting the AUA Constitution, other members agreed that the University of Yangon as a founding member of the AUA. After completing the process to enter into AUA, the University of Yangon is allowed to be member of AUA in December 2016. When it was launched officially, the member increased to fifteen universities in Asia as India interested to participate in AUA.

AUA is composed of fifteen universities of Asia, all of which are century old or nearly century old universities. The University of Yangon is now approaching in its centennial anniversary in 2020. AUA member universities are Chulalongkorn University (Thailand), Hong

Kong University of Science and Technology (HK SAR), King Saud University (Saudi Arabia), Singapore National University- NUS (Singapore), Nazarbayev University (Kazakhstan), Tsinghua University and Beijing (Peking) University (PRC), Seoul National University (ROK), UAE University (United Arab Emirate), Univesitas Indonesia (Indonesia), Colombo University (Sri Lanka), Univesitie of Malaya (Malaysia), Tokyo University (Japan), University of Yangon (Myanmar) and Bombay Institute of Technology (India).

So, it is time to announce that the AUA is starting to create its activities formally. The very first step is to launch the First AUA Summit and Launch Ceremony on 28 April 2017 together with AUA Youth Innovation Workshop in which four students from each member universities participated. On 28 April 2017, all 56 delegations from fifteen universities held the Working Group Meeting to lay down the future cooperation among AUA member universities. Myanmar ambassador to PRC, U Thit Lwin Ohn also attended the AUA Launch Ceremony where the Vice Premier of PRC Madam Liu Yuanxue gave a very interesting policy-based address on development of China in the world. It is clear that PRC is growing economically upon which Chinese leaders are trying to accommodate its development with other partners in the world, especially with universities in Asia.

There are significant points agreed during Working Group Meeting. Tsinghua University will serve as Presidency of AUA for 2017-2020 and Chulalongkorn University of Thailand will take the responsibility to serve as executive presidency for 2018 and Univesitas Indonesia for 2019. Delegation members agreed the decision to lay down three norms in measuring educational achievement among member universities, that is, Expert, Quality and Connectivity in carrying out AUA activities such as student exchange, faculty exchange, research and development, cultural assimilation and internalization of university education. All members agreed to give membership due USD 5000 annually while Tsinghua University Alumni provided USD 1.5 million for AUA activities in the future. Themes were selected by open voting system. After second round of voting, there come out three themes for AUA 2017-2019, that is, "Public Health", "Resource & Development", and "Information Technology" to do research collaboration for the first three years of cooperation.

There were four students from the University of Yangon participated in AUA Youth Innovation Workshop which was held for two weeks at the Tsinghua University. All four students could present the challenges of higher education, global shift, aging society care and technical advance individually.

SEE PAGE 9

The Four Cardinal Virtues & Peace

Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa

LEADING pioneers who set up and developed various religions in this world themselves searched for their own doctrines with a view to bringing about virtues to humans, celestial beings and brahmas, kinds of being superior to the above two and thought to inhabit the celestial regions. All individuals following their respective religions are those who abide by their greatest leaders' instructions without any hints of doubt.

Our most sophisticated Gotama Buddha preaches the four cardinal virtues for the peace of the world. These cardinal virtues—Metta, Karuna, Mudita and Upekkha can give well-beings to all human and celestial beings who follow it. Our world will surely become a peaceful and pleasant one for us to live in, provided that all the beings living on this planet earth will follow the four cardinal virtues.

Quite right in saying so. It wholly depends upon intelligence and cognition and natural practices born of the former two, of every individual, to build up a pleasant and peaceful world to live in. At present, countries, races and humans are closely connected to each other through the aid of cutting edge technologies. Surround the interrelationship with the four cardinal virtues and our planet earth will definitely become a peaceful abode for us. Of the four cardinal virtues, Metta (Loving-kindness) is none other than helping others willingly in accomplishing others' benefits. In practising disseminating of Metta to others, it is physically-done kind of sending Metta for us to remove or rid any impediments found on our way so that they cannot be harmed by these or they can easily move on.

We want to live healthily and peacefully. Out of being considerate toward others, likewise, we tend to send our prayers such as, "May you be healthy and wealthy," or giving helpful advices for their well-beings with Metta. This is verbally-done kind of sending Metta. To our great peace, energy and strength, we hear these encouraging words.

Cultivating Metta in us is mental-



Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Chairman Sayadaw, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

ly-done kind of sending Metta. Our Lord Buddha guides us through "Metta Sutta" how to practice Metta Meditation so that we can develop Metta in us.

Karuna, the second of the four cardinal virtues is kind of the sympathy carrying the meaning of purity. It is like the feeling that we want them to be liberated from sufferings whenever we come across someone in trouble. In "Visuddhi Megga" ("Path of Liberation") "Dukkha Pana Yana Karappa Vutthi Lekkhana" is defined as the characteristic caused by desire to liberate someone from sufferings. It is called Karuna that a feeling of sympathy occurs to the wholesome person when we see or hear someone or many being in trouble. Being kind to one's inferiors or giving care to them is Karuna.

It is said that Karuna must be developed by contemplating those deserving pity and sympathy and those suffering grief. In case those kinds of people are out of our sight, it is said that Karuna must be developed by likening the people who became rich by unwholesome and dubious ways and means to those who are going to be punished by death, in a condemned cell. That is how a person

facing the death penalty was tied to ropes, beaten or tortured at every junction on the way to the cemetery, in olden days. On seeing the scene, some felt the feeling of kindness, giving some delicious food to him. Meanwhile, most thought that the poor man knocking on the door of death was enjoying the taste of food at this infinitesimally favourable time. However, the others were feeling pity and sympathy for him, knowing that the criminal was going to die very soon and everyone of his steps was like moving toward death. These days, we are seeing people in trouble more and more in news media. If we contemplate the prayer, "Dukkha Muccantu—May you all liberate yourself from suffering," as many times as possible, you can be said that you are developing Karuna, one of the four cardinal virtues in you.

The third of the four cardinal virtues is Mudita which is meant for rejoicing at somebody's success or prosperity, without any hints of jealousy. We must contemplate In Pali, "Yatha Laddha Sampattito Ma Gacchantu—May you keep your property in hand, without yielding to others' destruction," whereas in Visuddhi Magga (Path of Liberation), it is defined as "May any property or possessions acquired according to their fate be always with you, without being destroyed by others' action." It means that we do not want any others else's deeds to destroy the second party's property. We can develop the Mudita Virtues in our minds by contemplating not only very rich people but also bourgeois groups.

The fourth and last one of the four cardinal virtues is Upekkha (detachment). That is to say, Upekkha means solemn and pure mind free from affection or hatred. In its real essence, it means letting someone decide something as liked by them, or freedom from forcing someone to do one's commitments. Of the four cardinal values, Upekkha is tantamount to negligence and freedom from worries by getting rid of inclinations or tendencies of wanting someone to be rich based on loving-kindness, inclinations of wanting someone to be free from suffer-

ing based on sympathy, inclinations of wanting someone to keep one's success or property exist as normal, without being destroyed by other ones based on Mudita (rejoicing at someone's property or success without any jealousy). According to the Buddha's noteworthy word "Sabbe Satta Kamma Saka" we must neglect the effects, assuming that all beings are destined to success or failure, wealth or poverty as a boomerang effect. This is Upekkha.

Today, our planet sees natural and man-made disasters such as terrorist attacks, riots, violence, wars and battles, epidemics, endemics, and pandemics floods, wild fires, land slide, nuclear explosion and collapsed mines. Man-made happenings are caused by humans, on the pretext of differences in politics, racism, religion and economy, based on greed, anger and ignorance. Therefore, every individual is experiencing anxiety, fear, worry, sorrow and disappointment every day and every time.

The only way to liberate ourselves from these scourges and sufferings is for all beings living in this world to develop the four cardinal virtues—Metta, Karuna, Mudita and Upekkha. In doing so, as for the superiors Karuna and Upekkha should be developed in them whereas inferior ones should Mudita. Metta (Loving kindness) should be developed by each and every one of us—superiors and inferiors.

If it is so, we shall have a peaceful and pleasant place to live in, for sure. Accordingly, all the religious leaders are required to bring about the four cardinal virtues toward all beings in the world and for all of them to strictly abide by these principles. Only if the four cardinal virtues should be exercised after being well convinced of it, will physical and verbal wrongdoings cease to exist from this world. For these reasons, you all are urged to develop the four cardinal virtues in you so that the whole world will be peaceful and pleasant.

Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa, Chairman Sayadaw, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee.

Myanmar-China Education ...

FROM PAGE 8

After university students from AUA member universities, there was a time for Presidential Forum telecasted by the CCTV which was also interesting event and all participants observed the diverse nature of education challenges in their

own countries and the way to overcome these challenges. Dr. Ohmar Kyaw, Pro Rector of the University of Yangon also explained the biggest limitations for the university and students today in advanced education of Myanmar.

It is found that the university is a

significant venue where students have good opportunity to develop their moral and physical training at the same time. The proof was that the grand orchestra played by Tsinghua students and its alumina for the remarkable launching of AUA on 29 April 2017 was the very important ground in nurturing moral and ethical education of a good citizen of a country. As education is increasingly re-

gionalized and globalized in current intellectual development, we should strive hard to keep up our education development together with partners who have common objectives. It is also observed that the development of a student needs a lot of preparation and facilities such as perfect and excellent human resources, financial resources and moral support for good future generations. ■

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 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

NATO allies look for reassurance from Trump in Warsaw

WARSAW — US President Donald Trump meets eastern NATO allies in Warsaw on Thursday amid expectations he will reaffirm Washington's commitment to counter threats from Russia after unnerving them in May by failing to endorse the principle of collective defence.

En route to a potentially fractious G20 summit in Germany, Trump will take part in a gathering of leaders from central Europe, Baltic states and the Balkans, an event convened by Poland and Croatia to boost regional trade and infrastructure.

The White House has said Trump will use the stopover in Warsaw to showcase his commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, which he once called "obsolete", a likely effort to patch up relations after the tense alliance summit in May.

Poland's conservative and eurosceptic government, which shares views with Trump on issues such as climate change, migration and coal mining, has hailed the US president's visit as a recognition of its role as a leading voice in central Europe.

The west Europeans, critical of Poland's democratic record, will be watchful as to whether Trump, who will give a major policy speech on a Warsaw square, may encourage its government in its defiance of Brussels.



US President Donald Trump and First Lady Melania Trump arrive at Warsaw military airport in Warsaw, Poland, on 5 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Some west European governments are worried over a deepening divide between east and west within the European Union and some diplomats see Thursday's regional summit as a Polish bid to carve out influence outside EU structures.

Poland also wants to buy liquefied natural gas from US companies to counterbalance Russian gas supplies in the region.

"We are simply an important country in this part of the world," Polish President Andrzej Duda said in an interview with the PAP news agency.

"We are among the biggest countries in Europe, we are a leader of central Europe, and President Trump ... understands this."

Like other countries close to the NATO frontline with Russia, Poland will be eager to hear Trump embrace the alliance principle that an attack against one member represents an attack against all of them.

Trump, who has praised Russian President Vladimir Putin in the past, flustered allies at his first NATO summit when he dropped a mention of the mutual defence principle, known as

Article 5, which is the bedrock of the trans-Atlantic partnership.

"The White House sees opportunities to fix the problem that they created in Brussels where it looked like there was a big trans-Atlantic divide," said Julie Smith, who was a national security adviser to former US Vice President Joe Biden.

"If he has a very warm welcome in Poland ... that could help push back on the narrative that he's not developing strong partnerships with our closest allies," Smith, now with the Center for a New American Security in Washington, told Reuters.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Japan, NATO look forward to further cooperation at sea, in cyberspace

BRUSSELS — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg affirmed Thursday in Brussels that Japan and NATO should expand their existing cooperation, particularly in maritime security and cybersecurity.

"By further strengthening cooperation between Japan and NATO, we must make solid the foundation of (ties between) Japan, the United States and Europe, which share basic values...I agreed on this awareness with Secretary General Stoltenberg today," Abe said at a joint press event after their talks at NATO headquarters.—Kyodo News ■

Suicide attack kills three at bus station in central Syria

DAMASCUS — At least three people were killed and nine others wounded on Thursday when a suicide bomber attacked a bus station in the central city of Hama, state news agency SANA reported.

The bomber detonated his explosive vest in the western bus station in Hama, said the report, adding that some of the wounded are in critical conditions.

The bus station is also adjacent to a popular marketplace in the city.—Xinhua ■

Ahead of G20 summit, Putin calls sanctions 'covert form' of protectionism

MOSCOW — Russia is in favour of an open and rules-based trade order to boost global growth, and sanctions imposed against Moscow are a "covert form" of protectionism, President Vladimir Putin was quoted as saying on Thursday ahead of a G20 summit in Germany.

"I'm convinced that only open trade relations based on uniform norms and standards can stimulate growth of the global economy and support a progressive development of intergovernmental relations," Putin wrote in

a guest article published in German business daily Handelsblatt on Thursday. Putin said that protectionism was becoming widespread and a behavioural norm.

"And unilaterally imposed and politically motivated sanctions on investment, trade and, in particular, technology transfer become its covert form," Putin said. "In our opinion, such sanctions not only have no perspective, but they also contradict the G20 principles for interacting in the interests of all countries of the world."—Reuters ■



Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting to make a statement following the talks with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping at the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia on 4 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Indian Air Force training aircraft crashes in western state

NEW DELHI — An Indian Air Force training aircraft crashed in the western state of Rajasthan on Thursday, defence sources said.

However, both pilots survived the crash as they managed to eject the Russian-made MiG-23UB training plane safely on time, sources said. The incident took place in Balesar area of Rajasthan's Jodhpur district while the aircraft was on a routine training sortie, they said. A court of inquiry has been initiated into the crash, sources said.—Xinhua ■

Libya's eastern commander declares victory in battle for Benghazi

BENGHAZI, (LIBYA) — Libya's eastern commander Khalifa Haftar said on Wednesday his forces had taken full control of Libya's second city Benghazi from rival armed groups after a three-year campaign.

The battle for Benghazi between Haftar's self-styled Libyan National Army (LNA) and an array of Islamist militants and other fighters has been part of a broader conflict since Libya slipped into turmoil following the 2011 fall of strongman Muammar Gaddafi.

Victory would mark a major advance for the one-time commander in Gaddafi's army, who has slowly gained ground in eastern and southern Libya in defiance of a UN-backed government that is struggling to extend its influence from the capital, Tripoli.

"Your armed forces declare to you the liberation of Benghazi from terrorism, a full liberation and a victory of dignity," Haftar said, wearing a white uniform in a televised speech.

"Benghazi has entered into a new era of safety and peace."

Before he spoke, LNA forces



Members of the Libyan army's special forces celebrate after the liberation of the last region of Islamist militants in their last stronghold in Benghazi, Libya, on 5 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

made rapid progress through the seafront district of Sabri, using heavy artillery to blast their way through some of the final pockets of resistance.

As they have after past retreats in the battle for the city, rival armed groups may fall back

on using guerrilla tactics against Haftar's forces.

Haftar launched his "Operation Dignity" in Benghazi in May 2014, promising to crush Islamists blamed for a wave of assassinations and bombings.

Over three years his forces

have clashed with militants as well as with former anti-Gaddafi rebels resisting what they saw as an attempt to reimpose autocratic rule. The LNA suffered heavy losses, which its own officials put at more than 5,000 men.

Haftar's critics accuse him

of dragging Benghazi into a war that he has used to establish military control over much of eastern Libya. Parts of Benghazi have been wrecked by heavy shelling and air strikes.

In Sabri, where the LNA advanced on Wednesday, deserted streets were littered with debris and the shells of rusting cars. Some buildings have been destroyed and others peppered with holes from bullets and shrapnel.

Having seized a string of key oil ports and southern air bases since last year, Haftar has made little secret of ambitions to enter Tripoli, where he portrays his rivals as beholden to Islamists and militia rule.

He has backing from foreign powers including Egypt and the United Arab Emirates, and has cultivated closer ties with Moscow. The LNA has gradually grown bigger and better equipped but is still heavily dependent on alliances with local brigades and tribes.

Though weak, the UN-backed government in Tripoli retains the formal support of most Western powers.—Reuters ■

Qatar Airways says joins major Middle East carriers in lifting of US laptop ban

DOHA — Qatar Airways said on Thursday that passengers travelling to the United States can now carry their laptops and other large electronics on board, ending a three month in-cabin ban on devices for the Doha-based airline.

Qatar Airways joins Emirates [EMIRA.UL], Turkish Airlines and Etihad Airways who have also announced this week a lifting of the US ban on their flights.

In March, the United States imposed the ban on direct flights originating at 10 airports in eight countries — Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Turkey — to address fears that bombs could be concealed in electronic devices taken aboard aircraft.

Qatar Airways said in a statement early on Thursday the ban had been lifted after the airline and its hub airport Hamad In-



Baggage and a laptop are scanned using the Transport Security Administration's new Automated Screening Lane technology at Terminal 4 of JFK airport in New York City, US, on 17 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ternational met with all new US security requirements.

US transport officials were due to visit Qatar Airways, Emirates and Turkish Airlines on Wednesday to check that the latest measures are in place, a spokesman for the US Transportation Security Administration

(TSA) told Reuters on Wednesday.

The United States announced on 29 June enhanced security measures for flights to the country which require additional time to screen passengers and personal electronic devices for possible explosives.—Reuters ■

Russia, Turkey, Iran fail to agree on Syria de-escalation zones

ASTANA, (Kazakhstan) — Russia, Turkey and Iran failed in talks on Wednesday to finalise an agreement on creating four de-escalation zones in Syria after Ankara raised objections, diplomats said.

Russia and Iran, which back President Bashar al-Assad's government, and Turkey, which supports some of the rebels, aim to reach a consensus on the zones by the end of August, when their delegations are set to meet again in the Kazakh capital.

The failure is a setback for Moscow, the main architect of the plan, as it seeks to take the lead in global efforts to settle the Syrian civil war.

"During these consultations, the Turkish side said it needed more time in order ... to make an appropriate decision,"

said senior Russian negotiator Alexander Lavrentyev.

Bashar al-Ja'afari, the lead negotiator from the Damascus government, was more direct.

"The Turkish delegation objected to the adoption of any documents related to the implementation of mechanisms of the agreement on the de-escalation zones," he said.

Russia, Turkey and Iran have set up a working group to reconcile their positions before the next Astana meeting set for the final week of August.

Lavrentyev said details related to the southern de-escalation zone needed to be agreed with the United States and Jordan, which support the rebels based there.

Turkish delegates made no statement to the media after the talks.—Reuters ■

Leftist protesters vow to disrupt G20 summit in Hamburg

HAMBURG — “Welcome to Hell”. That’s the greeting for US President Donald Trump and other world leaders from anti-capitalist protesters in Hamburg, who have vowed to disrupt the G20 summit in the German port city.

Among the 100,000 protesters expected in the city, some 8,000 are deemed by security forces to be ready to commit violence, posing a challenge for those tasked with securing the July 7-8 summit of leaders of the world’s 20 biggest economies.

There has been no significant violence at several smaller demonstrations in the city this week, including a march on Wednesday by more than 7,000 beer-drinking mainly young revellers holding placards denouncing capitalism and G20 leaders.

But a fire overnight at a Porsche car dealer in the north of the city that damaged eight vehicles could be a foretaste of what’s to come. Police said they were investigating whether it was an arson attack.



An activist is detained by police following his arrival at Hamburg Hauptbahnhof central railway station during the G20 summit in Hamburg, Germany, on 6 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

“There is no concrete evidence to link the incident to the G20 summit,” a police spokesman told Reuters. “But we assume this is the case.”

Locals are unhappy with Chancellor Angela Merkel’s decision to hold the summit in the centre of Germany’s second-largest city as they fear

property damage by violent protesters. Their daily routines are also being disrupted by security measures.

Up to 20,000 police officers

will be on duty to watch over the main demonstration, dubbed “Welcome to Hell” by the alliance of anti-capitalist groups who organised it. Protesters have said they will try to block roads in the city.

Merkel took a big gamble in deciding to host the summit, where leaders will hold talks on difficult issues from trade and climate change to African development, in the city of her birth.

Should the protests go awry, her reputation could be damaged less than three months before an election in which she is seeking a fourth term. To air the locals’ disenchantment, Hamburg-based soft drinks maker Fritz Kola has launched a poster advertising campaign featuring a portrait of Trump snoozing. A caption reads: “Wake up, man! Fritz Kola. Lots of caffeine”.

Protesters say the G20 has failed to solve many of the issues threatening world peace, including climate change, rising inequality and violent conflicts.—Reuters ■

At least 123 Venezuelan soldiers detained since protests: documents

CARACAS — At least 123 members of Venezuela’s armed forces have been detained since anti-government unrest began in April on charges ranging from treason and rebellion to theft and desertion, according to military documents seen by Reuters.

The list of detainees, which includes officers as well as servicemen from the lower ranks of the army, navy, air force and National Guard, provided the clearest picture to date of dissatisfaction and dissent within Venezuela’s roughly 150,000-strong military.

The records, detailing prisoners held in three Venezuelan jails, showed that since April nearly 30 members of the military have been detained for deserting or abandoning their post and almost 40 for rebellion, treason, or insubordination.

Most of the remaining military prisoners were charged with theft. Millions of Venezuelans are suffering from food shortages and soaring inflation

caused by a severe economic crisis. Even within the armed forces, salaries start at the minimum wage, equivalent to around \$12.50 a month at the black market exchange rate, and privately some members admit to being poorly paid and underfed. Since the opposition started its protests more than three months ago, a handful of security officials have gone public with their discontent. Last week, rogue policeman and action movie star Oscar Perez commandeered a helicopter and attacked government buildings, claiming that a faction within the armed forces was opposed to Maduro’s government. The military documents seen by Reuters, which covered detentions until mid-June, appeared to support opposition leaders’ assertions that anger and dissent among soldiers over economic hardship is more widespread. “This shows low morale and discontent and, of course, economic

necessity,” one former army general said of the detentions, asking not to be named for fear of reprisals. Venezuela’s military and Information Ministry did not respond to requests for comment. Venezuelans view the armed forces as the key power broker in their country. Opposition leaders have repeatedly exhorted military leaders to break with socialist President Nicolas Maduro. Maduro has said that he is the victim of an “armed insurrection” by US-backed opponents seeking to gain control of the OPEC country’s oil wealth. He has said that the top military brass have been standing by him.

The National Guard has been at the forefront of policing protests across the country. It uses tear gas, water cannons, and rubber bullets against masked youths who in turn hurl stones, Molotov cocktails and excrement at security lines. At least 90 people have been killed since April.—Reuters ■



French President Emmanuel Macron attends a joint news conference at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, on 6 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Climate change action needs to go beyond Paris accord, Macron says

PARIS — Climate change action need to go beyond the 2015 Paris agreement, French President Emmanuel Macron said on Thursday, in comments reinforcing his earlier position on an international deal hit by US President Donald Trump’s decision to pull out.

“The Paris agreement is... a step in the right direction but it is not enough and we need to continue to advance and show, in terms of concrete plans and financing, our ability to go beyond it,” said Macron.

Macron is leading the

charge to keep the momentum on the landmark accord that was reached in the French capital in 2015, after Trump’s decision to pull out drew condemnation from world leaders. Macron was speaking during a joint briefing with the head of the World Bank in Paris and ahead of a visit to Paris by Trump next week.

World Bank President Jim Yong Kim said that, for his part, the World Bank firmly backed the COP21 Paris climate change agreement.—Reuters ■

Asia shares drop on Fed minutes, oil edges up after big drop

SINGAPORE — Most Asian stock markets fell on Thursday after minutes from the Federal Reserve's last meeting showed a lack of consensus on the future pace of US interest rate increases, while oil prices inched higher following a steep decline a day earlier.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan was down 0.2 per cent. Japan's Nikkei slipped 0.3 per cent as a stronger yen depressed the outlook for export earnings.

South Korea's KOSPI lost 0.2 per cent, while Australian shares were down 0.3 per cent.

China's bluechip CSI 300 index fell 0.2 per cent and Hong Kong's Hang Seng slid 0.1 per cent.

Trading in Asia has been buffeted this week by tensions on the Korean peninsula after North Korea fired a missile, which US officials concluded was an intercontinental ballistic missile, into Japanese waters. The United States said on Wednesday it was ready to use force if needed to stop North Korea's nuclear missile programme but said it preferred global diplomatic action against Pyongyang.

The Nasdaq closed up 0.7 per cent on Wednesday.



Videographer films an electronic board showing the graphs of exchange rates between the Japanese yen, the US dollar and Euro outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

day as technology shares recovered. But the Dow Jones Industrial Average was flat and the S&P 500 gained just 0.15 per cent.

Fed policymakers were increasingly split on the outlook for inflation and how it might affect the future pace of interest rate rises, according to minutes released on Wednesday of the central bank's 13-14 June policy meeting.

Several officials also wanted to announce a start to the process of reducing the Fed's large portfolio of Treasury bonds and mortgage-backed securities by the end of August, but others preferred to wait until later in the year.

"With the mixed tone from the minutes and the essential delay to the announcement of balance sheet reduction timing,

there is no surprise why we are seeing the muted reaction from the markets," Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Singapore, wrote in a note. US 10-year Treasury yields dipped to 2.3303 per cent, but remained near seven-week highs touched on Wednesday. The dollar retreated 0.2 per cent to 113.045 yen on Thursday. The dollar index, which tracks the currency against a basket of trade-weighted peers, was little changed at 96.294.

"The minutes from the 13-14 June FOMC meeting underscore that the start of the balance sheet reduction is on course for this year," Kathy Bostjancic, head of US macro investor services at Oxford Economics, wrote in a note.

"On the interest rate front, we believe rising

concerns that the slowdown in the inflation rate could be long-lasting will lead policymakers to forgo additional rate hikes this year and to only raise rates twice (total 50 basis points) in 2018."

Markets are waiting for the release of US non-farm payrolls data for June, due on Friday, for a steer on Fed policy.

The euro pulled back 0.1 per cent to \$1.13355 on Thursday. US crude was up 0.4 per cent at \$45.33 a barrel on Thursday, after tumbling by as much as 5.4 per cent on Wednesday.

The steep decline on Wednesday off the back of data showing rising OPEC exports. That snapped an eight-day winning streak for US oil, the longest rally in more than five years. —Reuters ■

M6.5 quake rocks central Philippines

MANILA — A magnitude 6.5 earthquake hit the central part of the Philippines late Thursday afternoon, the country's state owned seismology institute said.

According to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, the quake hit the municipality of Jaro in Leyte province around 4 pm, with tremors felt in several neighboring cities including Ta-

cloban, Cebu and Sagay.

The quake was felt as far away as the island province of Negros Occidental northwestward, and the Dinagat Islands to the southeast of Leyte island. The US Geological Survey said it hit at a depth of just 6.5 kilometers. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage. —Kyodo News■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CHINDWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CHINDWIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.7.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

Can US defend against North Korea missiles? Not everyone agrees

WASHINGTON — Not everybody asserts as confidently as the Pentagon that the US military can defend the United States from the growing threat posed by North Korea's intercontinental ballistic missile capability.

Pyongyang's first test on Tuesday of an ICBM with a potential to strike the state of Alaska has raised the question: How capable is the U.S. military of knocking down an incoming missile or barrage of missiles?

Briefing reporters

on Wednesday, Pentagon spokesman Navy Captain Jeff Davis said: "We do have confidence in our ability to defend against the limited threat, the nascent threat that is there."

Davis cited a successful test in May in which a US-based missile interceptor knocked down a simulated incoming North Korean ICBM. But he acknowledged the test programme's track programme was not perfect.

"It's something we have mixed results on. But we also have an abil-

ity to shoot more than one interceptor," Davis said.

An internal memo seen by Reuters also showed that the Pentagon upgraded its assessment of US defences after the May test.

Despite hundreds of billions of dollars spent on a multi-layered missile defences system, the United States may not be able to seal itself off entirely from a North Korean intercontinental ballistic missile attack. Experts caution that US missile defences are now geared to shoot-

ing down one, or perhaps a small number of basic, incoming missiles. Were North Korea's technology and production to keep advancing, US defences could be overwhelmed unless they keep pace with the threat. "Over the next four years, the United States has to increase its current capacity of our deployed systems, aggressively push for more and faster deployment," said Riki Ellison, founder of the Missile Defense Advocacy Alliance. —Reuters ■

Myanmar Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.00 feet to 20.10 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of July 10th to July 11th, 2017.

Please be noted that it is not serious level of tide because the highest tide level have reached up to 22 feet above the chart datum in year 2014 and 2015, and this notice is normally issued whenever high tide of Yangon River is expected to reach over 20 feet high above the chart datum to inform the high tide to the public living near river foreshore area of Yangon City.

Trombone Shorty, Usher bring funk, R & B to Montreux festival

MONTREUX, (SWITZERLAND) — Usher and The Roots, and Trombone Shorty gave high-energy shows at the Montreux Jazz Festival on Wednesday night, bringing American funk, hip-hop and R&B to the famed stage.

Legendary producer Quincy Jones introduced Trombone Shorty & Orleans Avenue, recalling having heard him play as a child on the radio. “He was 8 years old then, now he’s 31, my brother Trombone Shorty.”

“You’ve got a night to remember,” said Jones, a co-director of Montreux in the 1990s. “These are some talented boys.”

The New Orleans musician and singer, born Troy Andrews, opened the night, making his third appearance, five years after his last show in 2012.

Wearing black sunglasses, he bounded onto the stage and knelt to play trombone during the first number “Backatown”.

He played tracks from his latest album “Parking Lot Symphony”, released in April, often doing both vocals and trombone,



Usher (L) & Tarik Trotter from The Roots perform during the 51st Montreux Jazz Festival in Montreux, Switzerland, on 5 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

and ending with a tribute to James Brown.

“It’s the third time I’ve heard him. I’d like to see him in New Orleans,” said American Sharon Boggs, a resident of Switzerland attending the 51st

edition of one of Europe’s most prestigious festivals. “He should be the main act. Everybody else is here for Usher.”

Usher, joined by the legendary hip-hop group The Roots and its lead singer Tarik Trotter, ini-

tially wore a black sequin jacket before shedding layers. Backed by more than a dozen musicians and singers he played tracks from his latest album *Hard II Love* and displayed his dance moves.

Highlights were his hits “Bad Girl” and “Let It Burn” — during which he asked the crowd to light up their phones — followed by “Yeah!”.

The eight-time Grammy-winning singer, whose full name is Usher Raymond, has been ranked by the Recording Industry Association of America as one of the best-selling artists in American music history, having sold over 75 million albums worldwide.

The crowd paid up to 295 Swiss francs for the four-hour event but Trombone Shorty and Usher did not appear together.

Lauryn Hill of Fugees fame, Macy Gray, Ibrahim Maalouf, and Erykah Badu and Solange, sister of Beyonce, are among other artists booked at the festival that lasts through 15 July.

A bronze statue of the late festival founder Claude Nobs was unveiled on Sunday in a lakeside garden alongside those of giants Aretha Franklin, Miles Davis and Ray Charles whom he brought to the Montreux stage.—Reuters ■

Actors get scratched off the list if they take a break: Akshaye

NEW DELHI — Actor Akshaye Khanna says it was difficult for him to make a comeback in films after he decided to end his self-imposed sabbatical of four years.

The 42-year-old actor returned to the big screen last year as an antagonist in the action-comedy film “Dishoom”.

Akshaye believes if the film industry gets a whiff that an actor is not working, one gets cut off the list of go-to artistes.

In an interview with PTI, the actor says, “There’s a perception in the industry that if the actor is not working or has taken a timeout, he or she has left the film circuit. They don’t know the reasons.

“They don’t try to know whether he left the industry or is it a break. If they have this at the back of their heads that Akshaye is not working, you get scratched from ‘the list’.”

Akshaye, who will next be seen in “Mom”, featuring Sridevi in the lead, says he wants to

do more work but it will take him some time to get back to the grind of the film business.

“I want to do more work now. It takes time to gather momentum when you start working again. Because filmmaking is a long process and it is difficult to find work that you connect with. To get into the process of doing back-to-back films, it takes getting a little used to,” he says.

The actor, who has featured in hit films such as “Taal”, “Dil Chahta Hai”, “Humraaz” and “Hungama”, says as an artiste he is not worried about his contemporaries moving ahead in their careers but he fears being rejected by the audiences.

“The fear of every actor is when is this life going to be snatched away from me? Which is the day or year that the audience is going to decide ‘that’s it’.

“There’s a point when the audience says enough. That is the only fear, there is no fear of comparison with the other

heroes.”

Akshaye says he considers himself lucky that he is still getting work and it has made him more humble.

“I’m not saying it out of conceit, but out of gratitude, that the kind of break I took, then to be able to come back, get the work that I’m getting, is not common. It’s not something that I can take casually. It is something I value tremendously, I’m grateful for it.”

Akshaye believes there are certain films in every actor’s life that have a lasting effect.

“Such films that the audiences remembers 10-15 years after they released come by rarely. They remember you for only one reason - the impact. You are lucky if you get to do even one.”

Apart from the Ravi Udyawar-directed film, the actor will also be seen in “Ittefaq”, featuring Sidharth Malhotra and Sonakshi Sinha.

“Mom” releases this Friday.—PTI ■

Planet of the Apes stars talk of trilogy’s simian showdown

LONDON — The final film in the rebooted “Planet of the Apes” series will hit cinemas next week, promising an action-packed conclusion to a trilogy that has garnered both critical acclaim and box office receipts.

“War for the Planet of the Apes” sees motion-capture performance specialist Andy Serkis return in his role as Caesar, leader of a super-intelligent band of apes who take on an army led by Woody Harrelson’s ruthless colonel in a post-apocalyptic setting.

Serkis said the conflict between apes and humans at the film’s core was a warning against supremacist ideologies. “If you think your species is better, if you think your type of people or your type of religion or anything that your set of beliefs is better than someone else’s, then that is the road to ruin,” he said.

Serkis’s on-screen antagonist Harrelson, who has experience in dystopian cinema

from his role in the “Hunger Games” films, said that he had been a fan of the renewed series before being asked to appear in it.

“It was a privilege to be asked to do it. I don’t think it’s that I’m drawn to that (dark sci-fi films), I’m just drawn - some things make sense. Some things you can’t say no to.”

“War” follows on from “Rise of the Planet of the Apes”, and “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes”, and is to be the final instalment of this series, but not the end of the franchise altogether, said the film’s director and co-writer Matt Reeves.

The original “Planet of the Apes” spawned a five-film series that ran from 1968 to 1973. The first film, an arresting science fiction classic that starred Charlton Heston, won an Oscar for its prosthetic make-up effects and was a critical and commercial hit, but the subsequent movies struggled to replicate the original’s success.—Reuters ■



A cuneiform tablet, an ancient clay artifact that originated in modern-day Iraq is seen in this undated handout photo obtained by Reuters on 15 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Hobby Lobby to forfeit ancient Iraqi artifacts in settlement with DOJ

LOS ANGELES — Arts and crafts retailer Hobby Lobby has agreed to forfeit thousands of illegally smuggled ancient Middle Eastern artifacts obtained from antiquities dealers for a Bible museum headed by its president, the company and US officials said on Wednesday.

The forfeiture will include some 5,500 artifacts purchased by Hobby Lobby Inc that originated from the region of modern-day Iraq and were shipped under false labels, as well as an additional \$3 million to settle the civil charges, the Department of Justice said in a statement.

"The protection of cultural heritage is a mission that (Homeland Security Investigations) and its partner US Customs and Border Protection take very seriously as we recognize that while some may put a price on these artifacts, the people of Iraq consider them priceless," Angel Melendez, special agent in charge of Homeland Security Investigations in New York, said in the statement.

Privately-held Hobby Lobby said that it was new to the world of antiquities when it began acquiring historical items for its Museum of the Bible in 2009 and made mistakes in relying on dealers and shippers who "did not understand the correct way to document and ship" them. The company's president, Steve Green, is

the chairman and founder of the Museum of the Bible, which is under construction in Washington, DC. The artifacts being forfeited include cuneiform tablets and bricks, clay bullae and cylinder seals. Cuneiform is an ancient system of writing on clay tablets. "At no time did Hobby Lobby ever purchase items from dealers in Iraq or from anyone who indicated that they acquired items from that country," Green said in his statement. "Hobby Lobby condemns such conduct and has always acted with the intent to protect ancient items of cultural and historical importance. ...

"We have accepted responsibility and learned a great deal," Green added, saying that the company has now "implemented acquisition policies and procedures based on the industry's highest standards." Federal prosecutors say that when Hobby Lobby, which is based in Oklahoma City, began assembling its collection it was warned by an expert on cultural property law to be cautious in acquiring artifacts from Iraq, which in some cases have been looted from archaeological sites. Despite that warning and other red flags the company in December 2010 purchased thousands of items from a middle-man, without meeting the purported owner, according to prosecutors.—Reuters ■

Colombia advances toward salvaging treasure from sunken Spanish galleon

BOGOTA — Colombia is making progress towards salvaging a Spanish galleon carrying jewels and coins that sank more than 300 years ago, President Juan Manuel Santos said on Wednesday after receiving a proposal from an investor to bring it to the surface.

The ship named San Jose, thought by historians to be carrying one of the largest unsalvaged maritime treasures, sank in 1708 near the historical Caribbean port of Cartagena, and its wreckage was located in 2015.

"The discovery of this ship — one of the most

important that navigated in our seas during colonial times — begins a new chapter in the cultural and scientific history, not only of Colombia, but of the entire world," Santos said on national television from Cartagena.

"Questions about navigation, world trade, about colonial costs, will be answered."

The government will accept further offers to recover the ship and its treasure, Santos said. A museum will be built to showcase artifacts found in the wreckage.

Santos did not disclose

the investor behind the first proposal or its terms.

Sonar images have so far revealed bronze cannons made specifically for the ship, arms, ceramics and other artifacts. Archaeological excavation and scientific tests on the wreck will continue to ensure it can be properly preserved, Santos said.

The San Jose was part of the fleet of King Philip V, who fought the English during the War of Spanish Succession. Some 600 people died in the shipwreck when an English fleet engaged the galleon in a gun fight.

A team of international experts, the Colombian navy and the country's archaeology institute discovered the wreck in 2015.

The San Jose was the subject of a legal dispute between Colombia and Sea Search Armada, a US-based salvage company, which said in 1981 it had located the area where the ship sank. The company and the government agreed to split any proceeds from the wreckage, but the government later said all treasure would belong to Colombia, a view that was backed by a US court in 2011.—Reuters ■



Colombia's President Juan Manuel Santos speaks in Cartagena, Colombia, on 5 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

10:52 Am Kayah Style

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Thursday 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 New

07:26 Pm MOBILE WEEK 2017

07:55 Pm Now in Yangon

08:03 Pm New

08:26 Pm The Stories Of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin-A Living Literary Legend Of Myanmar)

08:52 Pm Black Gold (Part-1)

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

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

(7-7-2017 07:00am ~ 8-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	A Day Life Of Kayan Padaung Tribe
07:55	Am	Hip-Hop and Design
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Shwe Myanmar And Full Moon Day Of Waso
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Back To A Paradise (Ep-1)
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	The Green Corner (Epi 10) Glow In the Dark Mason Jars
10:37	Am	Shan Novices To Be.....

Myanmar national football team prepares for Asian U-23 qualifier and 29th SEA Game

Myanmar national football team's U-22 players are camping and training in Yangon for the upcoming Asian U-23 qualifier and 29th SEA Game hosted in Malaysia.

The Myanmar team will be handled by Coach Gutt Friedrich along the matches of the upcoming games.

The Myanmar U-23 national team has been re-composed with young players including Aung Thu and Si Thu Aung, both of who took part in the 2015 U-20 World Cup hosted in New Zealand.

Myanmar is placed in Group-F together with Australia, Singapore and Brunei.

The qualifier matches will be held two matches per day and Myanmar will play with Singa-

pore on 19 July, with Brunei on 21 July and Australia on 23 July.

The winning teams from each respective country will also be joined by five of the best second-place teams and host China in the final round of the competition scheduled in January 2018.

Myanmar also participated in the 2016 AFC Championship Qualification but did not pass the selection match.

The qualifier matches will be held starting from 19 to 23 July at the Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon.

The 29th SEA Games will also take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 19 to 30 August 2017, with 405 events in 38 sports to be featured in the games.— Shine Htet Zaw ■



Myanmar football players training under coach Gutt Friedrich.
PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Manchester United agree 75 million pound fee for Everton striker Lukaku

LONDON — Manchester United have agreed a 75 million pound (\$97 million) deal for Everton striker Romelu Lukaku, a source close to the negotiations told Reuters on Thursday.

The move, which is not connected to any talks of a Wayne Rooney deal in the opposite direction, is expected to be formally announced within the next 36 hours.

Lukaku had been United's number one target for next season, the source said. United will not now be pursuing any interest in Real Madrid's Alvaro Morata. "Chelsea's interest in Lukaku allowed United to fly under the radar on this," the source said. "But he has been the club's number one target."

There had been much speculation that the Belgian international would return to Chelsea, which he joined in 2011.—Reuters ■

Germany's Podolski eyes Champions League berth with Kobe

LONDON — Germany's Lukas Podolski has set his sights on helping Vissel Kobe qualify for the Asian Champions League in his maiden J.League season, the World Cup-winning forward said on Thursday.

Podolski became the biggest name to arrive in the J.League since Uruguayan striker Diego Forlan joined Cerezo Osaka in 2014 when the 32-year-old signed an estimated \$5.3 million deal

to make the switch from Galatasaray.

"I don't feel any pressure because I have had pressure since I started playing football," Podolski, a member of Germany's 2014 World Cup winning team, told a news conference in Kobe.

"It is not a problem, it is a big challenge for me. I don't play in Europe, I play now in the J.League and Asia, so

it is a big move, of course, but I have a target."

"The first target is to fight for the first three places (in the J.League) to qualify for the Champions League," said Podolski who is set to make his debut in a July 29 home match against Omiya Ardija.

Kobe had wanted Podolski to join them before the spring transfer window closed on Mar. 31 and will

expect him to lift the club, currently lying 11th and 13 points behind leaders Kashima Antlers, in the second half of the season. "I am here now to help everyone. I am not alone. I know my teammates will help me. Now we have to go train hard and fight on the pitch for 90 minutes and get three points every game," added the former Bayern Munich and Arsenal player.— Reuters ■



Germany's Lukas Podolski. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dimitrov underlines potential with emphatic Baghdatis win

LONDON — Grigor Dimitrov gave an exhibition of his enormous talent on Thursday, striding emphatically into the third round at Wimbledon with a 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 win over Cypriot Marcos Baghdatis. The 13th-seeded Bulgarian looked less like his "Baby Federer" nickname and more like the Swiss maestro all grown up as he made light work of Baghdatis, a former semi-finalist at the All England Club.

The 26-year-old, who also reached the last four in 2014, has perhaps struggled to live up to his promise as a youngster. Yet, having reached the semis at the Australian Open earlier this year before losing to Rafa Nadal in a titanic five-set battle, he showed on a sun-baked Court Two that he has the potential and the game to trouble the established favourites.—Reuters ■