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One of the many floating tomato gardens in Inle Lake, Shan State, a major cash crop in the region. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

Better agricultural methods for floating farms of Inle Lake

THE International Finance Corporation (IFC), a member of the World Bank Group, will implement the Agriculture Inputs Reform Project with an aim to boost productivity, increase incomes and improve the skills, knowledge and quality in the floating farms of Inle Lake in Shan State.

The project has the support of the Department for International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), and the Government of Japan, who are all working with the Department of Agriculture of Myanmar's Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation (MoALI).

At a one-day workshop on Good Agriculture Practices (GAP) organised by IFC and MoALI in Nyuang Shwe, 300 participants — including 200 tomato farmers — discussed how to improve and reduce the use of chemicals on their floating

farms on Inle Lake. The event, a consequence of IFC's efforts to support GAP and protect Inle Lake, was aimed at seeking solutions for improved sustainable agricultural practices and ensuring the lake continues to be a leading source of income for local residents.

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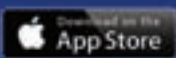
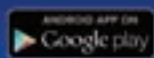
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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Human rights report submitted to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Myo Myint, Aye Aye Thant
(Myanmar News Agency)

The 2016 annual report by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission was submitted to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

U Win Mya, the chairman of the MNHRC, said special attention had been paid of the rights of children.

“Supplementary agreements on rights of children or children’s involvement in armed conflicts had been initially signed, but arrangements will be made for further signing for approval. Suggestions will be made to ensure safety on the job and not to lose the rights of labourers, including children in human-resource-orientated productions. If the international agreement on economic, social and cultural rights can be approved and signed successfully, the international community can assume that Myanmar’s stance on the protection and up-gradation of human rights is of great strength.”

U Win Mya spoke afterwards about arrangements to hold discussions and talks on human rights, human rights in combination with media and social websites, the situation on surveys over complaints, receipts of complaints about the Ministries



U Soe Min, U Soe Thein and U Bo Bo Nge take an oath as deputy governors of the Central Bank of Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

and Region and State Cabinets, arrangements for inmates from penitentiaries to further their learning, separate interviews and interrogations with inmates from custodies and prisons, acquisition of advice for Myanmar from the UNHCR, holding workshops aimed at reducing forced slavery and situations included in the special report of the Commission, submitted to the CEDAW Committee.

The report was put on record by the Hluttaw.

At the meeting, U Soe Min, U Soe Thein and U Bo Bo Nge took an oath as the deputy-governors of Central Bank of Myanmar, in

the presence of the Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, followed by the announcement that Hluttaw put the appointment of U Set Aung, as Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance, sent by the President.

Approvals were made on a bill on petroleum and petroleum products that had been sent back from the President with his conclusions attached, and also on a bill on embankment, which was a disagreement between Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw.

Hluttaw representatives discussed at length the exemption of commercial tax and special commercial tax for some commodities included in the 2017 Union

Tax and Revenue Law.

“It has been found that budget estimates of the Union for tax and revenue of FY 2017-2018 exceeded Ks260,000 million more than that of FY 2016-2017. Budget estimate of the Union for special commercial tax outnumbered Ks87299.941 million more than that of FY 2016-2017. Provided that diamonds and emeralds are to be exempted from the levying of a special commercial tax in the current financial year, it needs to comply with national tax policies and budget estimate of tax and revenue of the Union. National budget deficit for the FY 2017-2018 will be 4.37% of GDP with

the ratio of tax and GDP to be 7.10%. In doing so, it is necessary to consider potential effects over national deficit and ratio of tax and GDP, in advance. We must take notice of potential emergence of bribery and corruption by exempting things of great value from being levied. Diamonds and emeralds are items of value which are out of reach for most people”, said Major Htin Lin Oo, Hluttaw representative from the Tatmadaw.

“The State is collecting taxes over commodities commonly used by the populace, through promulgated laws and rules. Exemption of valuable things from being levied is a question on transparency and justice. A democratic country is spending tax and revenue for expenditure and governmental machinery operation. An internationally standardised tax system must be created for the acquisition of more tax amongst the voluminous unemployment, income inequality and capability of business’s survival.” Following that, U Tun Tun Hein read out the report of the findings and conclusions of the combined drafting committee regarding the State Lottery Bill sent by the Government, and Hluttaw decided to send it back to the Government as sent the committee. ■

NATIONAL

Buthidaung monitors H1N1

The H1N1 virus is being closely watched in Buthidaung, Rakhine State, with educational efforts and ongoing testing being performed, according to a medical doctor of the township hospital.

“As a close-watch measure, severe cases of illness, sneezing, coughing and pneumonia are

being treated and tested to be able to keep them under control. Until now, no cases were found concerning outbreaks that affect the respiratory system. But educative measures are being made including having posters erected to reduce people’s worries”, said Dr. Than Tun Kyaw, of

Buthidaung Township General Hospital.

“H1N1 is a curable disease, not needing to have any worries. Suspected patients will be given medical treatment and watched closely.”

Buthidaung Township hospital is a 50-bed facility where its 157 staff members have been providing medical care. Vaccinations against curable diseases have been administered, and polio patients are being given oral polio vaccines. Though the designated date for oral polio vaccines was originally 21 to 25 July, the programme was started 16 July due to over-population in the region. Medical officials said the effort was met with “100-per cent success”. Also, as a measure against malaria, medicated mosquito nets were provided to local people. —Aone Soe ■



Dr Than Tun Kyaw comforts patient at Buthidaung Township general hospital. **PHOTO: MYO THU HEIN**



Wreckages from Y-8 military transport plane. **PHOTO: MNA**

More wreckage from Y-8 military transport plane crash discovered

Fishing boats discovered a tire and wreckages near where a Y-8 military transport plane crashed into the Andaman Sea on 7 June.

Myanmar’s navy and local fishing boat continue to search for wreckage and remains from the Y-8 plane crash.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Central Committee holds second meeting for successful convening of 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting and related meetings

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor, attended the Central Committee meeting for successful convening of the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting and its related meetings held at 2 pm yesterday at the Ayeyawady Hall of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, State Counsellor said in her address, "The present meeting is held subsequently after the 1st central committee meeting held in May. Sub-committees as well are performing their responsibilities respectively. For the successful convening of the meeting, it is of great importance to be smooth and convenient in subject matters as well as in management. As regards subject matters, effective negotiation is greatly needed among ASEM partner countries, so that there will emerge effective and good results which can be accepted by ASEM partner countries and all organisations. For all works to be successfully implemented, detailed negotiations are



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses at the Central Committee meeting for successful convening of the 13th ASEM Foreign Ministers Meeting and its related meetings in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

required to be performed among the committees."

After this, the following sub-committees presented arrangements already made and work to be implemented fur-

ther in their respective sectors: sub-committee for convening the meeting, secretariat and supervision sub-committee, sub-committee for events and ceremonies, sub-committee for finance and

correctness of financial procedures, decoration sub-committee, entertainment sub-committee, security sub-committee, catering and excursion trip sub-committee, transport and communica-

tion sub-committee, sub-committee for convening 8th Model ASEM, sub-committee for convening 11th ASEM Journalists' Seminar, and health sub-committee.—MNA ■

Permanent residency notification

FOREIGNERS applying for permanent residency must have lived in Myanmar at least three years or have been married to a Myanmar national for at least two years, according to an announcement made yesterday by the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

Details of the notification can be obtained at Myanmar embassies, at the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, or at the ministry website (www.mip.govmm).

According to the announcement, a foreign expert or an investor who had within 10 consecutive years from the date of application for permanent residence resided in Myanmar not less than 3 years with a type of visa that is not entitled to reside permanently, a foreigner (husband or wife) married to a Myanmar national for not less than 2 years who had within the 10 consecutive years from the date of application for permanent residence resided in Myanmar not less than 2 years with a type of visa that is not entitled to reside permanently, a child of such couple or legally adopted child who is not married and below the age of 18 and former Myanmar nationals who had become a citizen of

foreign countries can apply for permanent residence.

Applicants for permanent residence can apply in person at Myanmar embassies, consulates or Permanent Residence Department, No. 111/113, 37th Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

A non-refundable fee of US\$500 for an application is charged and no additional fee is charged for family members who apply together. When called for an interview, the applicant(s) need to come in person to Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population in Nay Pyi Taw.

When the Implementation Central Committee issues an approval letter to the applicant, the applicant must come in person within 60 days of the issuing date of the approval letter with prescribed documents to Permanent Residence branch, Yangon and pay a yearly fee of US\$1,000 for the foreign applicant, US\$500 for a former Myanmar national, and US\$300 each for son and daughter aged between 7 to 18 years. No fee is charged for sons and daughters below 7 years of age. The applicants, son(s), and daughter(s) need to come in person. Applicants who are issued an

approval letter need to complete the process within 60 days and if not done, the Implementation Central Committee must be provided with a valid reason within 120 days.

Permanent residence will be initially granted for 5 years and within the 5 years, yearly renewal need to be done. Renewal can be made 60 days before the expiry of a year and the renewal applicant must apply in person to Permanent Residence branch in Yangon. When the first five years is completed, renewal for another five years can be applied. This application will have to be made with necessary supporting documents at the township immigration and manpower department where the applicant resides. If the Permanent Residence card is lost, damaged, or amendments need to be made, applications can be made at the township immigration and manpower department where the applicant had resided.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population is located at Office No. 48, Nay Pyi Taw, telephone 067-431500 and 067-431515.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Myanmar signs agreement on establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation

AGREEMENT on the establishment of Asian Forest Cooperation Organisation (AFoCO) was signed by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win at a ceremony held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Seoul, the Republic of Korea on 31 July.

Indonesia, Viet Nam, Cambodia, Timor-Leste, Bhutan, Brunei and the Republic of Korea have signed the agreement. Signing of the agreement reduces the effect of climate change through firm processes converted from implementing good technologies and policies of sustainable forest management framework and increases cooperation in regional forestry works resulting in closer cooperation between the government and organization. Through cooperation and sharing of technologies between member countries in research and development work, modern techniques, policies and experiences are gained for progress and development

of Myanmar forestry works.

Construction of ASEAN-Korea Forest Cooperation Regional Education and Training Center (AFoCo RETC) was started in Hmawbi, Yangon Region on 1 November 2015 and will be completed on 23 December 2017. The project period of the center is 10 years from 2014 to 2023 and support fund is US\$ 6.6 million. Short term one week courses and long-term 2 weeks to 6 months courses will be provided to invited trainees from countries of the Asia region.

During his trip to South Korea, the Union Minister visited the Korean National Arboretum and Forest Museum and viewed the maintaining of biodiversity, research and development processes, and preservation technology on species and tree resources. Forest Department is collecting and recording species, resources lists, flower samples in Myanmar forests together with Korean National Arboretum it is learnt.—MNA ■

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No more deaths from H1N1, but infects dozens

A nationwide outbreak of seasonal influenza A (H1N1) has killed 12 people out of total of 76 confirmed cases since 21 July, according to a report yesterday from the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The ministry announced there were 14 new cases since Monday and said 245 people received treatment in hospitals, nationwide, for respiratory diseases since 21 July.

The ministry noted that there have been no reported deaths due to the virus since

Monday. And the ministry said no medical staff have contracted the virus from direct contact with patients.

Patients diagnosed with respiratory disease in Yangon are being treated at Waibargi Specialist Hospital in North Okkalapa.

The ministry issued the report following an emergency meeting on Monday in Nay Pyi Taw led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry for Health and Sports. Health officials discussed forming a

rapid relief team, distributing medical supplies and potential quarantine procedures.

The government is also assisting regions and state agencies with their relief efforts including dissemination of public health pamphlets. The most recent updates on the virus' spread and prevention information is available at the Ministry of Health and Sports' website: www.moh.gov.mm and the Myanmar Centres for Disease Control's Facebook page.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Seized illegally cut timbers are loaded the vehicle in Mabein, Shan State in March 2017. **PHOTO: MNA**

16,000 tons of illegal timber confiscated across the nation

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation's Forestry Department confiscated over 16,000 tons of illegal timber across the nation in the first three months of this financial year.

This seasons illegal con-

fiscations are the third largest haul in the past 10 years.

The Forestry Department also confiscated 1,352 tons of charcoal, 659 back-hoes, cranes, trailers, tractors, motorbikes, three-wheel motorbikes, motorboats and motor vessels and 1,000 saw-

mills.

Forty-four per cent of Myanmar's forests are threatened by illegal timber extraction, according to Forestry Department statistics.

Myanmar ranks third in the world in deforestation.— Min Thu ■

JICA to triple loans to SMEs next fiscal year

THE Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) is planning to triple the amount of loan disbursements to small and medium enterprises in next financial year, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

JICA has disbursed Ks50 billion in SME loans this financial year and intends to

provide Ks150 billion next year.

"There is a high demand for JICA loans," said Daw Aye Aye Win, the director-general of SME Development Department. "We will have to lend about Ks100 million to each SME instead of lending Ks500 million each,"

JICA will provide SME

loans to reduce import and promote exports.

JICA has granted a total of Ks5 billion in loans to 11 SME businessmen for the first time, and a total of Ks30 billion loans to 179 SME businessmen for the second time in this financial year. JICA provided the loans through six local banks.— GNLM ■

Myanmar's traditional puppets decorate Bagan trees

BAGAN'S cultural zone is festooned with handmade traditional puppets hanging from trees, providing tourists with a colour spectacle, according to a report of yesterday's edition of City News.

Myanmar's traditional puppets – including depictions of alchemists, actors, elephants, horses and other figures are being sold at about 30 Bagan shops now. The puppets have been displayed in the trees and sold in this manner since 2016.—GNLM ■

Government plans review of number of Yangon taxis

YANGON Region government is conducting a review of the number of taxis on the streets, prompting taxi licenses to increase to about Ks2 to Ks4 million each compared to other towns where they cost between Ks1.5 and Ks2 million, according to a report of yesterday's edition of Myawady Daily newspaper.

There are more than 70,000 Yangon licensed taxis in Yangon, along with an unknown number of unlicensed taxis.—GNLM ■

Nga Moe Yeik Bridge scheduled for completion in September

A new bridge over Nga Moe Yeik creek is expected to reduce traffic congestion in that area of Yangon by 75 per cent. The bridge will connect South Oakkapa and North Dagon townships in Yangon Region, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Construction on the Ks5.2 billion bridge began in April. Myat Noe Thu Company plans to complete construction of the two-lane 175-foot-long motor road bridge within six months.—GNLM ■

Rakhine State Government meets with media

Rakhine State matter is no longer a matter of a single state but is becoming a national matter linked to international situations and had to be handled while facing numbers of difficulties and challenges said Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu during a meeting with the media on 31 July explaining about the one year work of the state government. The meeting was held in Rakhine State government office meeting room 1.

The Chief Minister added that the media and the state level departments who are in attendance will already know about the events in the state and media personnel are ex-

pected to raise questions and comments with good intention toward the development of the state.

Before this meeting, the Chief Minister met with people in various townships of the state to explain and held discussion and learnt that people were satisfied with our work. But we were unable to fully accomplish yet said the Chief Minister. However, the state government had conducted its work in accord with the country's government policies and guidelines without corruption and favoritism. The Chief Minister said we are mainly emphasizing on peace and

development of the state and the State Counsellor herself is leading a Central Committee for the Implementation of Peace and Development in Rakhine State that includes all union ministers as members of the committee and had successfully fulfilled the people's requirement and conducted developmental works.

The Chief Minister also said the people's requirements were also being met additionally with President's special fund of Ks3.65 billion while Tatmadaw, Myanmar police force, departments and people are working together for peace and stability in the state.

Afterward the media raised questions on stability in Rakhine State, development, education, health, transport, media freedom in acquiring news and state government issuing timely news and the Chief Minister, state ministers and officials provided the answers.

The media meeting was attended by media personnel from Rakhine State based Radio Free Asia (RFA), Eleven Media, DMG, EPA, Roma Time Media, Narinjara News, Rakhine Gazette, MRTV/NRC, and Sky Net. — Tin Tun (IPRD) ■



Chief Minister of Rakhine State and state ministers answer to media personnel at the meeting with media agencies in Rakhine. **PHOTO: TIN TUN (IPRD)**

Better agricultural methods . . .

FROM PAGE-1

"Most farmers have poor knowledge about using pesticides in a safe and sustainable manner. They are known to mix chemicals with their bare hands. This not only triggers potential health risks, but also pollutes the water and soil, which in turn can contaminate the plants and fish," said Dr. Ye Tint Tun, Director General of Department of Agriculture. "Hence, it is imperative for farmers to learn how to use chemicals sustainably. MoALI is supporting the implementation of GAP for tomato farmers on Inle Lake so that farming, fishing and tourism continue to provide livelihoods to people of this area."

As a major cash crop, tomato farming on the lake has triggered increased use of fertilizers and pesticides, having long-term negative impact

on the water quality. In addition to farming and fishing as key local industries, around 252,000 international tourists and 400,000 domestic tourists visited Inle Lake in 2016, thus generating incomes and jobs for local residents. Protecting the lake, therefore, is important for a sustainable growth in tourist arrivals.

The workshop shared experiences of farmers participating in the GAP program to reduce use of chemicals and improve production efficiency through preventive bio products. Tomato buyers highlighted a growing demand for high-quality products among consumers, especially in major supermarkets, where they were ready to pay more for GAP quality produce. At the event, farmers were also introduced to applications that could help them improve financial and inputs management, as well as to financial products

available to support agriculture production in the Nyaung Shwe area.

"Agriculture is an area where Myanmar has a significant comparative advantage with abundant land and water resources. It is vital for these resources to be well-managed to ensure long-term sustainability of this sector as well as to ensure the health and safety of the population," said Vikram Kumar, IFC Country Manager for Myanmar. "We are pleased to support MoALI's efforts to institute GAP in the Inle Lake area and to support the Ministry at the national level to improve the regulatory environment, standards and use of agriculture inputs for other crops, such as rice and sesame seeds." The IFC, a member of the World Bank Group, is the largest global development institution focused on the private sector in emerging markets.—GNLM ■



The materials used in making an improvised explosive device in Maungta. **PHOTO: State Counsellor's Office Information Committee**

IED explodes in Maungta

An improvised explosive device exploded in a village in Maungta Township yesterday.

Following the explosion, the security forces went to the scene at Pantawpyin Village in Maungta Township and inspected the site.

It is found that the explosion occurred the house of Madiparl, 60, while violent attackers were making the IED, according to security forces there.

The explosion left burn and destroyed floor and some burning clothes.

The security forces also discovered two bullets of a pistol, two packs of gun powder, fertilizer which are believed to be used in making IEDs, three detonators, one coil of wire and other materials at the home.

The local police are probing the case.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Swiss National Day was held in Yangon

UNION MINISTER for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe is welcomed by Swiss Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Paul Rene' Seger at a ceremony to mark the Swiss National Day which was held in Melia Yangon Hotel in Yangon at 6:30 pm on 1 August.—Myanmar News Agency

Authorities, volunteers team up to prevent H1N1

Lewe Township authorities held a coordination meeting with health officials and civil societies yesterday at the 100-bed hospital in Lewe.

At the meeting, they discussed preventive measures to be taken against H1N1 among the people. Representatives from the civil societies said they would

raise awareness against H1N1 flu joining hands with the health officials and staff, giving priorities to expectant mothers, schools and aged people. The meeting was participated by two representatives of Lewe, 14 departmental officials and doctors and representatives of the CSOs.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Abe to reshuffle Cabinet Thursday, top envoy Kishida likely to survive

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he will reshuffle his Cabinet and ruling party executives on Thursday, with sources saying Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida is expected to remain in his current post.

The Cabinet and Liberal Democratic Party leadership overhaul, the first in a year, is aimed at regaining public support following a recent plunge in Abe's Cabinet approval ratings due to a series of scandals.

Abe himself became ensnared by allegations he gave favorable treatment to a friend seeking approval for the construction of a new veterinary school in a special economic zone.

While Abe has decided to keep key members, including Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Taro Aso, he is working on the selection of other Cabinet posts, according to gov-

ernment and ruling party sources.

Speaking during an LDP executive meeting Tuesday morning, Abe officially announced the date of the overhaul and said, "I hope to rekindle public support" for the Cabinet.

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga quoted Abe as telling Cabinet ministers he will "implement various policies even more aggressively with new members" of his administration.

Kishida and Economy, Trade and Industry Minister Hiroshige Seko are likely to retain their posts, according to the sources. Kishida, who has remained in the portfolio since Abe returned to power in 2012, is viewed as a front-runner to become the LDP's next leader.

Toshimitsu Motegi and Itsunori Onodera, the

LDP's policy research council chairman and acting head of the body, respectively, are expected to be given key Cabinet posts, the sources said.

Attention has focused on who will become defense minister after Tomomi Inada resigned last week to take responsibility for a data coverup scandal involving Japanese ground troops dispatched as peacekeepers to South Sudan. Kishida has taken on the defense portfolio temporarily in the wake of her resignation.

Abe is considering bringing back someone who formerly served as defence minister, and Onodera is among the candidates, the sources added.

The prime minister has accepted a request from the LDP's junior coalition partner the Komeito party to retain Keiichi Ishii,



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe heads to a meeting of executives of his Liberal Democratic Party at the party's headquarters in Tokyo on 1 August, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

the only Cabinet member from the party, as transport minister; Komeito leader Natsuo Yamaguchi said on Monday.

Education minister Hirokazu Matsuno and regional revitalization minister Kozo Yamamoto, who have been under fire due to their jurisdiction over the vet school project, as well as Jus-

tice Minister Katsutoshi Kaneda are likely to be replaced, the sources said. LDP Secretary General Toshihiro Nikai said Tuesday Abe has asked him to stay on.

Masahiko Komura, the party's vice president, is also expected to remain in his post, according to the sources. —Kyodo News ■

North Korea to hold special events in mid-August in honor of Kim's family

BEIJING — North Korea will hold a set of events aimed at eulogizing three generations of the ruling Kim family in mid-August, its official media said on Tuesday.

The five-day "international" political and cultural events in Pyongyang and Mt Paektu will begin on 13 August, according to the Korean Central News Agency.

The celebrations will also be attended by foreign guests, including those belonging to political parties and organizations having had friendly ties with North Korea, it said.

The gatherings will take place as North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has made significant progress in consolidating his power and developing weapons technology.

North Korea unveiled last October its plans to hold a series of events in 2017 as this year coincides with the fifth anniversary of Kim becoming its top leader; the 105th birth anniversary of its late founder, Kim Il Sung, and the 75th birth anniversary of Kim Jong Il, the previous leader who died of heart failure in late 2011. —Kyodo News ■

China's Inner Mongolia region culls 66,500 chickens after bird flu outbreak

BEIJING — China's Inner Mongolia region has culled 66,500 chickens following an outbreak of bird flu that has affected 35,000 birds, the Ministry of Agriculture said on Tuesday.

The H5N1 strain of the virus was confirmed at a hen farm in Tongliao

city, which has 3 million people, and has killed 15,000 birds, the ministry said in a statement on its website.

The outbreak is now under control, the ministry said.

The last bird flu outbreak in March killed 134

birds at a duck farm in central Hubei province.

The most recent case is the first confirmed major bird flu outbreak among poultry after winter months and brings the total culled since October to more than 240,000 birds.

Additionally, the H7N9 strain of the virus has caused at least 281 deaths since October in China.

Live poultry markets were shut down in many provinces following human infections, forcing egg producers to keep

their hens beyond their prime time, as demand also plunged amid public fears over bird flu. Flocks are particularly vulnerable to avian flu during the winter months and outbreaks usually die down afterwards. —Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV X-PRESS YAMUNA VOY. NO (017)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV X-PRESS YAMUNA VOY. NO (017) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2017 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV DYNAMIC OCEAN 18 VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of BSW-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.

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Prevention Can Get Rid of Worries!

Khin Maung Oo

NATURALLY, humans easily tend to get worried whenever a serious public concern occurs. But, only if careful study of its cause and depth of people's worries is done will it be reasonable so that they will be well convinced as to what should be done and what should not be done.

These days, an increasing great concern among the people is the H1N1 flu case. With an outbreak of the disease, exaggerated and fabricated stories were added to the news of several fatalities officially released by health authorities concerned, igniting and increasing people's fear. Generally, people are infected with seasonal flus.

Meanwhile, to their great fear, they heard the news of H1N1 flu.

A rumor of H1N1 appeared during the night of 23rd July. On 24th July the health department officially informed the news. As regards the seasonal flus which break out in Myanmar, they can be categorized into three—Type A (H3N2) flu, A (H1N1) flu and A (H1N1) Pdm-2009. It has been learnt that the present flu belongs to A (H1N1) Pdm-2009. It broke out in Myanmar in 2001, claiming 9 lives out of 176 patients.

The disease also known as swine flu is the one we in Myanmar can be infected in the rainy season and in the period of early winter just after the monsoon season. Due to the information on indoor-patients and fatalities

which appeared on social website pages, there occurred an increasing concern among the people. But, we should not be excessively worried thanks to the transparent and timely news releases.

Now, check and examination health teams are carefully watching people coming in at ports, airports and border gates not only for the present disease but also for other infectious ones. As soon as a person knows that he has the flu, he needs to be tested to find out whether it is normal flu or swine flu. If he has swine flu, then he should get medical treatment under strict medical supervision. In fact, it can be protected and preventive measures should be done beforehand,

by following the procedures described below:

Using a mask, covering our mouths and noses with a mask or tissue when we cough, washing our hands with soap or alcohol-based hand sanitizer thoroughly and frequently, avoiding touching our eyes, mouths and noses, staying at home if we are sick, avoiding going to crowded places and rushing to a clinic or medical health center if we are infected with the disease.

Accordingly, every individual should take preventive measures in advance so as not to be infected with the disease as well as unnecessary ones. Prevention is better than cure and simultaneously prevention can get rid of worries. ■

The future of Asia's farms

To produce enough food to meet burgeoning demand, Asia's farms will need to undergo a twenty-first-century transformation. Asian Development Bank food and agriculture expert Mahfuz Ahmed explains how.



By Mahfuz Ahmed

FOOD shortages are a distant memory for many people in Asia. But as the region struggles to feed and nourish a booming population, they could become a painful fact of life again.

Asia is already the world's largest food market, and by 2050 its population is expected to grow to five billion – an increase of 900 million people. Owing to its expanding middle class, the region will likely account for half of the global increase in annual beef and poultry consumption and over three quarters of the rise in fish consumption between now and 2030.

And by then, more than 60 per cent of total cereal demand in the developing world will come from South and

East Asia. To keep up with this growing demand, food production will have to increase by 60-70 per cent compared to a decade ago.

Ideally, Asia's farms could simply expand their production. But they are woefully ill-equipped to do so. To produce a sufficient amount of food, Asia's farms will need to undergo a twenty-first-century transformation.

Helping Asia's farmers cope with climate change should be a central part of this effort. Although a warming planet could boost agricultural output in a few areas, it will severely limit production, and possibly trigger prolonged food crises, throughout the rest of the region.

As water becomes increasingly scarce in traditionally fertile zones such as the Indo-Gangetic Plain, rising seas will ruin vast swathes of farmland. If sea levels were to rise by one meter, the resulting saltwater intrusion would



A farmer works on a cabbage farm in a town near Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

threaten 70 per cent of Vietnam's coastal farmlands.

And as waters warm and tidal flows change, yields from the Mekong Delta's vast fishing grounds could plummet.

According to Asian Development Bank research, by 2050, irrigated rice and wheat yields could fall by as much as 20 per cent and 44 per cent, respectively. This would drive up the price for cereals, soybeans, and wheat by 70 per cent, causing the number of malnourished children in the region to rise by 11 million.

But this doesn't have to be Asia's future, if its farmers can adapt. Most farmers today oversee family-run subsistence plots, and lack the money and know-how to improve productivity and crop quality. In Myanmar, for example, only 16 per cent of farm households even use tillers or tractors to prepare the land for planting.

Moreover, environmental degrada-

tion has left huge swathes of land barren. According to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, various forms of desertification affect nearly 40 per cent of Asia's total land area. While governments cannot create new arable land, they can – and must – pursue policies to support, consolidate, and intensify farming operations on the land that is still available.

By using less labor, and more capital and technology, Asia's future farms can grow enough food to feed everyone in the region.

For starters, the region's governments can promote farm cooperatives. Not to be confused with old-style collectivized farming, today's cooperatives are thoroughly commercial, prioritizing efficiency and profits. They comprise agricultural enterprises as well as farmers, all of whom pool their resources to create economies of scale, reduce costs, and lift incomes. **SEE PAGE-9**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party leave for Japan

A Myanmar Tatmadaw delegation led by Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left for a working visit to Japan yesterday morning at the invitation of Nippon Foundation Chairman Mr. Yohei Sasakawa.

The Senior General and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, Lt-Gen Myo Zaw Thein of Commander-in-Chief (Army) office, Yangon Region Commander Brig-Gen Thet Pone, senior Tatmadaw officers, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi, Military Attache Col. Kei Tajika and officials.

The Senior General was accompanied by his wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Lt-Gen Soe Htut, Lt-Gen San Oo, Lt-Gen Nyo Saw



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and party leave for Japan yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

of Commander-in-Chief Army office and Tatmadaw officers.

During the visit, Myanmar's the Senior General will meet with Japanese government, including Japan's Self-Defence Forces Chief of Joint Staff

and Chiefs of Staff. Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services previously visited Japan at the invitation of JSDF Chief of Staff General Shigeru Iwasaki in 2014 and this is the second visit. — Myanmar News Agency

The future of Asia's farms

FROM PAGE-8

When bought in bulk by a cooperative, inputs such as fertilizer and equipment are less expensive, as is the harvesting process. By coming together to coordinate planting, cooperatives in India and Nepal have made it possible for every member's crops to be sown and harvested together by a machine, rather than individually by hand.

Cooperatives can also add value after the harvest, by streamlining crop cleaning, grading, packaging, storage, and transportation. This increases the supply of food and boosts farmers' incomes, especially in places such as Bangladesh, where more than one-third of perishables spoil before ever reaching the consumer.

China is already modernizing farms through cooperatives, and by using digital e-commerce platforms to tap into high-value markets. In Vietnam, a cooperative program has improved the quality of produce for urban consumers, and boosted tea, fruit, and vegetable revenues by nearly one third.

Although cooperatives are gradually catching on in Asia, they will need more support. Most of the region's cooperatives are fragile, informal arrangements. But with the right legal framework in place, they could become far more efficient and durable.

China's 2007 Farmers' Cooperative Law serves as a good model. By offering incentives such as value-added-tax exemptions, the law has encouraged cooperatives and other agricultural organizations to collaborate and create economies of scale. Within three years of the law's enactment, the number of cooperatives in China had increased ninefold, to nearly 400,000.

Cooperatives also help farmers manage the effects of climate change, by creating networks through which members can share knowledge about tricky adaptive strategies like switching from crops to fish or shrimp in saline-affected areas. And with the extra income that cooperatives provide, farmers can buy greenhouses to prolong

their production season, and shield against erratic weather.

Cooperatives also allow farmers to benefit from previously unavailable techniques such as fertigation – using irrigation to deliver liquid fertilizers.

Finally, cooperatives make climate-smart technologies more affordable. With new digital technologies, farmers can better manage their land, water, and energy use, and prepare for bad weather. For example, the Philippines has experimented with apps that give farmers news about plant and animal diseases, the best places to buy and sell farm supplies, and upcoming weather events.

By using less labor, and more capital and technology, Asia's future farms can grow enough food to feed everyone in the region. Cooperatives are one way to make this vision a reality. Only then will food shortages truly be a thing of the past.

Mahfuz Ahmed is an adviser at the Asian Development Bank on agriculture, rural development, and food security.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 21/2017

1379 ME, 9th Waxing of Wagaung
(1st August 2017)

Union Minister permitted to resign

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 235 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 68 (a) of Union Government Law, U Pe Zin Tun, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy has been permitted to resign of his own volition.

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the President Order 22/2017

1379 ME, 9th Waxing of Wagaung
(1st August 2017)

Union Minister appointed to second post

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 12 of Union Government Law, U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction, has been appointed concurrently as Union Minister for Electricity and Energy.

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

PRESS RELEASE

Appointment of ambassador agreed

The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of H.E. Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam as Apostolic Nuncio of the Holy See to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, with residence in Bangkok.

H.E. Archbishop Paul Tschang In-Nam was born on 30th October 1949 in Seoul, Republic of Korea. He was ordained to the priesthood on 17th December 1976 in Cheongju, Republic of Korea and consecrated as a Bishop on 6th January 2003 in Rome. He graduated from Catholic University of Kwang-Ju and obtained a Doctorate in Theology at Pontifical Lateran University in 1985. He earned a licentiate in Canon Law at Pontifical University of St. Thomas, Rome in 1984. He also graduated from the Diplomatic Institute of the Holy See, Rome in 1985. He joined the Diplomatic Service of the Holy See on 1st May 1985. He has served at the Apostolic Nunciatures in El Salvador, Ethiopia, Syria, France, Greece and Belgium in various capacities till 2002. He also served as the Apostolic Nuncio to Bangladesh from 2003-2007 and Uganda from 2007 to 2012. Since 2012, he has been serving as Apostolic Nuncio to Thailand and Cambodia and Apostolic Delegate to Myanmar and Lao PDR.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

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

US begins Russia drawdown after Kremlin retaliates for sanctions

MOSCOW — The United States began removing furniture and equipment from a diplomatic property in Moscow on Tuesday in the first sign of compliance with a Kremlin order to slash its presence in Russia as retaliation for new US sanctions.

President Vladimir Putin has ordered the United States to cut around 60 per cent of its diplomatic staff in Russia by 1 September, and said Moscow will seize two US diplomatic properties in response to sanctions approved by Congress last week.

The White House has said US President Donald Trump will sign the sanctions bill, meant as a response to alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 US presidential election and to further punish Moscow for its 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

On Tuesday, removal men began dismantling play equipment and barbecues at a US-owned dacha (country villa) on the outskirts of Moscow, after being refused access the day before, according to a Reuters journalist at the scene.

The dacha, which is being confiscated along with a US warehouse in the south of the Russian capital, was used by US diplomatic staff at the weekends and to host parties for students, journalists and other diplomats.

The removal men said they



Russian police cars block the entrance to the US embassy warehouse building in the south of Moscow, Russia on 1 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

arrived at around 7 am (0400 GMT) and were seen packing furniture, including beds and lamps, into three white removal vans before leaving the property three hours later. Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said US staff had to leave the dacha and warehouse by midday on Tuesday, TASS news agency reported. Ryabkov and the Kremlin said no one had obstructed US employees trying to access the property.

Putin said on Sunday Rus-

sia had ordered the United States to cut 755 of its 1,200 diplomatic staff in its embassy and consular operations, though many of those let go will be Russian citizens, with the United States allowed to choose who leaves.

The ultimatum issued by the Russian leader is a display to voters at home that he is prepared to stand up to Washington — but is also carefully calibrated to avoid directly affecting the US investment he

needs, or burning his bridges with Trump.

One person at the embassy, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorised to talk to the media, said staff there were feeling depressed and despondent as they came to terms with the Kremlin's order.

"The mood in the office is very pessimistic," the person said. "Everyone is just loitering, or sitting on job websites looking for a new job." —Reuters ■

Germany urges United States to talk to EU about Russia sanctions

BERLIN — Germany's economy minister appealed to the United States on Tuesday to talk to Europeans about the effects of tougher sanctions they plan to introduce against Russia, saying European companies must not be punished.

The White House has said US President Donald Trump will sign the sanctions bill, a response to Russian meddling in

the 2016 US presidential election and a further punishment for Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

The European Union fears new US restrictions could hurt some of its companies, especially those involved in the energy sector.

"The threat from the United States to also punish European companies by so-called

extra-territorial sanctions is not acceptable," said Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries.

"It would be very desirable for the US government to sit down with us at the negotiating table and to work through an acceptable solution for all parties," she said.

She also said the unilateral move had set off an escalation in a diplomatic tit for

tat, after Moscow ordered the United States to cut some 60 per cent of its diplomatic staff in Russia.

Germany's government and business leaders say the new sanctions could prevent German companies from working on pipeline projects they say are essential to the country's energy security. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Pakistani lawmakers elect Abbasi as PM to replace ousted Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani lawmakers on Tuesday elected former petroleum minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi as the country's new prime minister, replacing ousted veteran leader Nawaz Sharif.

Sharif's ruling PML-N party used its majority in the National Assembly to install Abbasi, after the Supreme Court last week ordered Nawaz Sharif disqualified from office over failure to disclose a source of income.

Abbasi's tenure is expected to be short, as Sharif has earmarked his brother Shahbaz as the successor once he becomes eligible. —Reuters ■

Etihad Airways says assisting Australian police with plane attack probe

SYDNEY — Abu Dhabi's Etihad Airways said on Tuesday it was helping Australian Federal Police with an investigation into an alleged plot to bring down a plane.

The disclosure comes after four men were arrested at the weekend in raids conducted across several Sydney suburbs.

"The Etihad Airways aviation security team is assisting the Australian Federal Police with its investigation and the matter is ongoing," the Etihad statement said. —Reuters ■

Venezuela opposition leaders Lopez, Ledezma taken from homes: family

CARACAS — Venezuela opposition leaders Leopoldo Lopez and Antonio Ledezma have been taken from their homes, where they were serving house arrest, family members of the two said via Twitter on Tuesday.

The wife of Lopez and the daughter of Ledezma said they were holding President Nicolas Maduro responsible for the fate of the two men. —Reuters ■

SDF advances against Islamic State in southern Raqqa

BEIRUT — The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are on the verge of seizing full control of the southern neighbourhoods of Islamic State-held Raqqa, a Kurdish official said on Tuesday.

The US-led coalition said SDF fighters advancing from the east were within 300 metres (330 yards) of meeting up with those advancing from the west. The SDF was making “consistent gains” every day, the coalition spokesman said.

The SDF launched its US-backed campaign to seize Raqqa in early June. The assault on Islamic State’s de facto capital in Syria overlapped with the campaign to drive IS from the Iraqi city of Mosul, where IS was defeated last month.

The Kurdish official told Reuters SDF fighters advancing from the east and the west remain separated by a few streets where fighting continued.

Full control of the southern districts would sever Islamic State’s last remaining path to the Euphrates River which is to the south of the city.

“There is a fierce resistance from Daesh, so we can’t determine when exactly we’ll take (full control),” said the official, referring to Islamic State. “Around 90 per cent of the southern neighbourhoods are liberated,” the official added.

The spokesman for the US-led coalition said SDF fighters had also captured around 10 square km (4 sq miles) of territory from Islamic State north of



A US military demining vehicle leads a convoy on the main road in Raqqa, Syria on 31 July, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Raqqa in the last two days.

“We’ve seen a less coherent ISIS defense in Raqqa compared to Mosul. ISIS is still using car bombs, booby traps, and civilians to hide behind, but their inability to address the multiple advances from the SDF is apparent,” coalition spokesman Col Ryan Dil-

lon said in response to emailed questions from Reuters.

The SDF is dominated by the Kurdish YPG militia, and is the main partner for the US-led coalition against Islamic State in Syria.

Last week, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights

reported that the SDF has captured half of Raqqa.

Islamic State has lost large expanses of territory in Syria over the last year to separate campaigns waged by the SDF, the Russian-backed Syrian military, and Turkey-backed Syrian rebels. —Reuters ■

Iran says new US sanctions breach nuclear deal — Tasnim news agency

LONDON — Iran has complained to the UN Security Council about sanctions the United States imposed on Iran in July, saying they breached Tehran’s nuclear deal with major powers, the speaker of parliament was quoted on Tuesday as saying.

The nuclear deal (also referred to as JCPOA), signed in 2015 by Iran and the six powers including the United States, led to the lifting of most sanctions against Tehran in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

However, the US Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control imposed sanctions on six Iranian firms in late July for their role in development of ballistic missile program after Tehran’s launch of a rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit.

The US Senate also voted on the same day almost unanimously to impose new sanctions on Iran, Russia and North Korea. The sanctions in that bill also target Iran’s missile programs as well as human

rights abuses.

“Iran’s JCPOA supervisory body assessed the new US sanctions and decided that they contradict parts of the nuclear deal,” Iran’s speaker of parliament Ali Larijani was quoted by the Tasnim news agency as saying.

“Iran has complained to the UN Security Council for the breach of the JCPOA by America,” he added.

Iranian media said on Monday that the government has decided on measures in reaction to the US sanctions and that President Hassan Rouhani will be announcing them soon to related ministries.

US President Donald Trump issued a veiled threat against Iran last week, warning Tehran to adhere to the terms of the nuclear accord or face “big, big problems.” The Trump administration certified Iran as being in compliance with the nuclear deal, even though Trump has called the agreement negotiated by his Democratic predecessor “the worst deal ever.” —Reuters ■

Protesters demand rapid inquiry into murder of Kenya vote official

NAIROBI — Protesters marched on the offices of Kenya’s election commission on Tuesday, demanding a speedy enquiry into the murder of a senior official that has raised fears over the legitimacy of next week’s national vote.

Chris Msando, the election board’s head of information, communication and technology, was tortured before he was killed, authorities said.

He oversaw the live transmission of election results, a contentious area that the opposition has said could be used to rig next Tuesday’s presidential and parliamentary polls.

“It is important that security agencies expedite investigations as a matter of utmost urgency,” prominent anti-corruption campaigner John Githongo said on the march, flanked by about 25 protesters.

“The timing of his torture and murder serves to undermine Kenya’s election management body,” he added as the group sang and held up banners denouncing the killing.

Police found his body and took it to the mortuary on Saturday, officials said. The election board announced his death on Monday.

Msando’s body had deep lac-

erations on his hands and arms and he had been “unmistakably” tortured, an official at the commission told Reuters.

A woman who had been shot in the head was found next to him, the official said, without identifying her.

Authorities did not say where he was found or suggest a motive. The opposition called for outside experts to help ensure the credibility of the elections.

“This murder has jeopardised Kenyans’ faith in the credibility of the electoral process,” Musalia Mudavadi, a key ally of opposition leader Raila Odinga, told journalists. —Reuters ■

Afghan politicians demand return of Vice President Dostum

KABUL — Two influential Afghan politicians urged President Ashraf Ghani on Tuesday to allow embattled Vice President Rashid Dostum to return home from Turkey, in comments that underlined the tensions threatening the Kabul government.

“We ask for the unconditional return of the first Vice President to Afghanistan and for

him to resume his office,” Atta Mohammad Noor, the powerful governor of Balkh province, on the border with Uzbekistan, told a demonstration in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif.

Dostum has been in Turkey since May when he left for medical treatment amid accusations that he ordered a political rival to be tortured and sexually abused

in a case that drew widespread condemnation from allies including the United States. No comment was immediately available from Ghani’s office. A powerful ethnic Uzbek leader with decades of experience in Afghanistan’s turbulent politics, Dostum has denied the accusations but has so far been unable to return home. —Reuters ■



PHOTO: TASS

Russia leads in tank biathlon at 2017 International Army Games after half of races

ALABINO RANGE — Russia is still leading in the tank biathlon at the 2017 International Army Games after a half of the races, the competition's chief judge Colonel Roman Binyukov told reporters.

"We had seven races yesterday, and the leaders have been determined. These are the crew of the Russian Federation (the first place), the People's Republic of China (second) and then the Republic of Belarus and the Republic

of Kazakhstan," Binyukov said.

On Tuesday, the second crews from Belarus, Zimbabwe, Kazakhstan and Iran are taking part in Race 8. Crews from Russia, Serbia and Kyrgyzstan will also take part in Race 9.

Binyukov noted that all the teams had almost tripled their hit percentage. "This is a real result, when, at the 100 hit percentage, many teams fight in the correct obstacle crossing," he said. The

Games' chief judge Major General Dmitry Gorbatenko also pointed to the grown mastery of the tank biathlon participants. "We all note the growing level of the teams that come to us for the competitions," he said, noting that the mastery was improving and the crews had reached a high level at which they fought with just seconds separating them.

The Tank Biathlon international completion started at the Alabino

Range on 29 July as part of the 2017 International Army Games. The semifinal races will be held on 8-10 August. After the semifinal results, the best four teams will enter the final that will be held on 12 August, on the Games' closing day.

This year's Army Games are being held at 22 ranges in Russia, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan and China from 29 July to 12 August, with 28 countries participating.—Tass ■

North Korea can hit most of United States — US officials

WASHINGTON — North Korea's latest test of an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) has shown that Pyongyang now may be able to reach most of the continental United States, two US officials told Reuters on Monday.

The assessment, which the officials discussed on condition of anonymity, underscored the growing threat posed by Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programmes, and could add pressure on President Donald Trump's administration to respond.

North Korea said on Saturday it had conducted another successful test of an ICBM that proved its ability to strike America's mainland.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un supervised the midnight launch of the missile on Friday night and called it a "stern warning" to the United States that it would not be safe from destruction if it tried to attack, the North's official KCNA news agency said.

However, two US intelligence officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said on Monday Kim wants to develop a nuclear-capable ICBM to deter any attack on his country and gain international legitimacy, not to launch an attack on the United States or its allies that he knows would be

suicidal. The Pentagon declined to comment on the US assessment of the missile launch, even as it acknowledged that the latest test represented the longest test flight of any North Korean missile.

"The specifics of our assessment are classified for reasons I hope you understand," Pentagon spokesman Navy Captain Jeff Davis told a news briefing, acknowledging only that the missile could fly at least 5,500 km (3,420 miles), the minimum range for what the Pentagon classifies as an ICBM.

Two separate US officials who discussed the latest test, which lasted about 45 minutes, said it showed greater range than the 4 July ICBM launch, which North Korea said lasted 39 minutes. One of the officials said it had greater height, range and power than the previous test because it used force stabilizing engines, which counter the effects of winds and other forces that can knock an ascending rocket off course. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe spoke with Trump on Monday and agreed on the need for more action on North Korea hours after the US Ambassador to the United Nations said Washington is "done talking about North Korea".—Reuters ■

(ICD-1) Invitation to tender (1/2017)

Tenders for the supply of KONECRANES Empty Container Handler with 9 ton lifting and 7 High stacking capacity, in local kyat are invited by MPA-Allied Yangon Inland Container Depot Ltd. (ICD - 1). Tender documents shall be available during office hour from 8:00AM to 5:00PM commencing from 1st August to 10th August 2017, at MPA-Allied Office, Botataung Zay Street, Seikkan Township, Yangon, Myanmar. Detailed information's are available contacting with MPA-Allied office.

MPA-Allied Yangon Inland Container Depot Ltd.
(ICD-1)
Tel: 01291939, 290204, 290178.

UK must rescue itself from abrupt Brexit 'disaster', Hague says

LONDON — Britain is heading towards a Brexit disaster that could amount to the biggest muddle in its history unless finance minister Philip Hammond succeeds in achieving a less abrupt exit from the EU, former Conservative Party leader William Hague said.

Since May's failed gamble on a snap election last month, the future of Brexit has been thrown into question with squabbling between her ministers over the pace, tone and terms of Britain's departure from the club it joined in 1973.

May has faced public pressure to temper her

plans for a clean break from the EU.

Hague, also a former foreign minister, said that there was a danger that some Brexit supporters were underestimating the risks of a sharp economic slowdown or even the possible stalling of Brexit talks with the EU.—Reuters ■

Former Thai PM Yingluck pleads innocent in rice-pledging scheme

BANGKOK — Former Thai Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra declared her innocence on Tuesday at the Supreme Court over allegations of mishandling a multibillion dollar rice subsidy scheme, saying she is a “victim” of political persecution.

Yingluck insisted in her closing statement at the courtroom that she did nothing wrong and was being treated unfairly over the case, in which she could face up to 10 years in jail if found guilty. The court’s Criminal Division for Holders of Political Positions is set to hand down a verdict on 25 August.

“I am the victim of a deep political game,” she said, and argued the

scheme was designed to help farmers with debt problems and that the country’s economy benefited from it.

Yingluck was charged with negligence of duty for failing to prevent corruption in the rice-pledging scheme, her government’s flagship policy.

The former premier dismissed allegations that she was negligent in her duties and said she had instructed relevant officials to oversee the scheme to prevent corruption.

Yingluck accused the National Anti-Corruption Commission — which conducted the probe and indicted her over the scheme — of treating her unjustly. She said the an-



Former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra receives red roses from her supporters as she arrives at the Supreme Court in Bangkok on 1 August, 2017 to deliver her closing statement in her trial over alleged mishandling of a multibillion dollar rice subsidy scheme. The court is set to hand down a verdict on 25 August. Yingluck faces up to 10 years in jail if found guilty. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ti-graft body conducted the probe hastily and fabricated some documents.

Critics say farmers were paid an inflated price for their rice under the scheme, which is estimated to have resulted in losses of some 500 billion baht (\$15 billion) for the country.

She also faced the seizure of assets worth 35 billion baht over the scheme’s losses.

Yingluck, who reportedly cried during her statement, urged the court for “mercy” and to make a ruling on her case based on the facts and evidence.

More than 1,000 of her supporters gathered at the court on Tuesday morning, prompting tight security in the area. Nearly 400 police personnel were deployed.

On the same day of Yingluck’s ruling, the court will also rule on fake rice deals involving former ministers and government officials in her administration. Yingluck was ousted from office by the Constitutional Court over the scheme, ahead of a military coup led by Prime Minister Prayut Chan-o-cha, then head of the army, in May 2014 that overthrew the Pheu Thai Party government. —Kyodo News ■

Nearly 70 people hurt trying to cross border into Spanish enclave

MADRID — Around 70 sub-Saharan African migrants were injured when they tried to cross through the razor-wire-topped fence separating northern Morocco from the Spanish enclave of Ceuta on Tuesday, the Red Cross said.

Local police said 200 people rushed the border in a bid to reach Europe. Around 60 managed to enter the territory.

Migrants frequently jump or cut through the fences of Spain’s two enclaves in northern Africa, Ceuta and Melilla, or attempt to reach them by swimming along the Moroccan coastlines.

The number of migrants entering Spain via Ceuta and Melilla more than doubled in the first six months of the year from the same period last year to 3,200 people, according to Spain’s In-

terior Ministry.

Once within the enclaves, migrants are either returned to their country of origin or moved to the Spanish mainland, which many use as a jumping-off point for the rest of Europe.

The migrants used wire cutters to breach a gate, according to a spokesman from the Ceuta government. Between 1,000 and 1,500 people are camping out in the scrub and woods around the enclave waiting for the opportunity to rush the border, he said.

The Red Cross said 14 people had to be hospitalised.

The last major push in to one of the enclaves was in May when some 300 migrants attempted to jump the fence in Melilla. Around 100 successfully crossed the border. —Reuters ■

“Invitation for Bid”

Date: 2nd August, 2017
IFB No: IFB-MR/YCR/UG/CP201 (T) 2017-18, and MR/YCR/UG/CP202 (T) 2017-18

1. The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received a loan from Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) towards the cost of the Yangon Circular Railway Line Upgrading Project. The Bids are invited by Myanma Railways as follows:

Contract No.	Closing Date/Time for Submission of Bid	Non-refundable Document Fee
MR/YCR/UG/CP201(Signaling works)	31 st October,2017/10:00 a.m.	MMK 1,350,000 or USD 1,000
MR/YCR/UG/CP202(Rolling Stocks Procurement Works)	31 st October,2017/2:00p.m.	MMK 1,350,000 or USD 1,000

2. Bidding will be conducted through procedures in accordance with the applicable Guidelines for Procurement under Japanese ODA Loans, and is open to all Bidders from eligible source of countries, as defined in the Loan Agreement. The Eligible Nationality of the Bidders shall be Japan in the case of the prime contractor. In case where the prime contractor is a joint venture, such joint venture will be eligible provided that the nationality of the lead partner is Japan, that the nationality of the other partner is Japan and/or the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and that the total share of work of Japanese partners in the Joint venture is more than fifty percent (50%) of the contract amount.

3. The Myanma Railways now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the design, execution and completion of the Signaling Works and Rolling Stock Procurement Works as described below (“the Works”). International Competitive Bidding will be conducted in accordance with JICA’s Single-Stage Bidding Procedure.

IFB-MR/YCR/UG/CP201 (T) 2017-18 Signaling Works	IFB-MR/YCR/UG/CP202 (T) 2017-18 Rolling Stock Procurement Works
Installation of all brand new electronic - interlocking and relay-interlocking systems, automatic block signal (ABS) system, multiple aspects color variations light signals, electric points machines, safety equipment at level-crossings, automatic train protection (ATP), signal cabling for signaling system, electric power supply works for signaling system, replacement the insulated rail joints and signal bonding wires, installation of turnouts, etc.	Type of Train: Brand new Diesel Electric Multiple Units (DEMU’s). Total number of cars: 66 cars (6 cars/train x 11 train-sets), which shall be delivered to the INSEIN Depot.

4. Interested eligible Bidders may obtain documents on the submission of a written application to the Tender Office in the Head office of Myanma Railways at Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, PobbaThiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar during the office hours from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on business days.

5. Bids must be delivered to the address above mentioned on or before the closing date and time.

6. Technical Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend at 10:10 a.m. and 2:10 p.m. respectively on 31st October,2017 at the Tender Office as stated above.

Managing Director, Myanma Railway, Ministry of Transport and Communications,
Nay Pyi Taw Railway Station Compound, Pobba Thiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar
Telephone: +95-67 77024, Facsimile number: +95-67-677164
Email address: dgmplan.rail@mrt.gov.mm/ dgm.planning.mr@gmail.com (not for submission but for clarification)



US Actor and UNHCR
Special Envoy Angelina
Jolie. PHOTO: REUTERS

Angelina Jolie 'upset' over backlash to Cambodia film casting process

LOS ANGELES — Angelina Jolie responded to growing backlash over the casting process for her latest film, saying she was “upset” that an improvised scene during auditions had been misconstrued as taking real money away from impoverished children.

In a Vanity Fair interview published last week about her film “First They Killed My Father,” Jolie described a game played by the casting directors with the young Cambodian children auditioning for the lead role of Loung Ung.

Jolie, a special envoy for the United Nations refugee agency, told Vanity Fair she looked for her lead star in orphanages, circuses and slum schools.

In the casting, a child was placed in front of money on a table, asked to think of what they needed it for and to snatch it away. Jolie would then pretend

to catch them, and the child would have to lie about why they stole the money.

“I am upset that a pretend exercise in an improvisation, from an actual scene in the film, has been written about as if it was a real scenario,” Jolie, who directed the film, said in a statement on Sunday.

“The suggestion that real money was taken from a child during an audition is false and upsetting. I would be outraged myself if this had happened.”

Users on social media slammed Jolie’s casting game as cruel and exploiting impoverished children. Vanity Fair reporter Evgenia Peretz called the casting game “disturbing in its realism” in the profile, while Kayla Cobb at pop culture website Decider.com compared the game to a psychological thriller.

“Everyone should know bet-

ter than to literally dangle money in front of impoverished children ... no movie is worth psychologically traumatizing multiple children,” Cobb wrote.

“First They Killed My Father” is about the 1970s Khmer Rouge regime under which more than 1 million people died. It is due to be released globally and on Netflix in September.

Jolie said the young girl who won the part, Srey Moch, was chosen after “she became overwhelmed with emotion” when forced to give the money back, saying she needed the money to pay for her grandfather’s funeral.

“The children were not tricked or entrapped, as some have suggested,” Rithy Panh, a Cambodian producer on the film, said in a statement. They understood very well that this was acting, and make believe.” —Reuters ■

HBO urges critics of slavery drama to hold fire after Twitter outcry

LOS ANGELES — Cable channel HBO urged critics of its planned slavery-themed drama “Confederate” to reserve judgment until the show develops further, in response to an intense social media campaign demanding that the project be axed.

The hashtag #NoConfederate was a top-trending Twitter topic worldwide on Sunday after April Reign, the woman behind the #OscarsSoWhite campaign two years ago, urged people to send a message to HBO objecting to the show.

Critics of the concept have deemed it both offensive and inappropriate, especially coming from two white male creators, David Benioff and DB Weiss, the creators of HBO’s medieval fantasy series “Game of Thrones.”

“We believe the time to speak up is now, before the show has been written or cast. Before @hbo invests too much money into #Confederate,” Reign tweeted, as #NoConfederate became a trending topic during Sunday night’s episode of “Game of Thrones.”

HBO announced last week that “Confederate,” in the early

stages of development, would be set in an imaginary world where slavery still exists in the United States and the nation is on the brink of a third civil war.

HBO said on Sunday that while it had “great respect for the dialogue and concern being expressed around ‘Confederate,’ it had faith in creators Benioff, Weiss and their black writing partners, Nichelle and Malcolm Spellman.

“The project is currently in its infancy so we hope that people will reserve judgment until there is something to see,” HBO said in a statement.

Responding to the backlash, the “Confederate” creators said last week that neither they nor the show endorse slavery. Malcolm Spellman acknowledged that the premise was “weapons-grade material,” but said the series would provide an opportunity to examine how racism and white supremacy are “alive and real” in the United States, more than 150 years after slavery was abolished.

Reign’s Twitter campaign, however, suggested the controversy is unlikely to go away any time soon.—Reuters ■



David Benioff (L) and Dan Weiss, creators and executive producers, arrive for the season premiere of HBO’s “Game of Thrones” in San Francisco, California, on 23 March 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ASEAN music festival to open in Viet Nam

HANOI — ASEAN Music Festival will take place in Viet Nam’s northern Vinh Phuc province on 20-24 August with participation of seven Southeast Asian nations.

Art troupes from Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam will stage music and dance

performances at the five-day event, the provincial authorities said on Tuesday. During the festival, one of the events designated to celebrate the 50th founding anniversary of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), art troupes will also attend relevant seminars and tour Vinh Phuc.—Xinhua ■

‘Quantico’ star Priyanka welcomes Marlee Matlin on board

LOS ANGELES — Priyanka Chopra is excited as her Hollywood show “Quantico” has tapped Academy Award-winning actress Marlee Matlin for its new season.

Priyanka, 35, shared the news with fans on Twitter and welcomed Matlin on board.

“Welcome to #quantico @MarleeMatlin we can’t wait to

have u on board,” Priyanka wrote.

Matlin, who is best known for her performance of a young deaf woman, Sarah Norman, in “Children of a Lesser God”, also expressed her excitement by tweeting, “Can’t wait to work with Priyanka Chopra, Johanna Braddy, Jake McLaughlin, my old friend Blair Underwood and of

course Michael Seitzman.”

Matlin, 51, has joined “Quantico” as a series regular for the upcoming third season. She will play Jocelyn Turner, an ex-FBI agent who was known at one time as the best undercover agent in the field until a bomb blew up near her and rendered her deaf, reported Variety.—PTI ■

Royals and relatives mark centennial of WWI battle of Passchendaele

PASSCHENDAELE, (Belgium) — Relatives read letters and diary excerpts from soldiers who died in the World War One battle of Passchendaele when they gathered on Monday for a ceremony to mark 100 years since the start of one of the war's bloodiest offensives.

Politicians and royalty joined relatives of the dead for the centenary of the 103-day battle in western Belgium in which more than half a million Allied and German troops were killed or wounded.

The brutal clash, which became a symbol of the horrors of the war, began on 31 July, 1917 when Britain launched an assault against German forces who were holding the plateau over-

looking the Belgium city of Ypres.

Hit by heavy rain, the campaign transformed the Flanders lowlands into a mud-churned swamp rendering tanks immobile and virtually paralysing the infantry.

Some 4,000 relatives of the soldiers who fought there gathered at the Tyne Cot Cemetery near Ypres, where nearly 12,000 Commonwealth dead are buried. They were joined by Britain's Prince Charles, Prince William, his wife Kate, Prime Minister Theresa May, and Belgian King and Queen Philippe and Mathilde.

At the service, Prince Charles honoured the "courage and bravery" of



Britain's Catherine the Duchess of Cambridge, Prince Charles, Prince William and Belgium's King Philippe and Queen Mathilde, and Prime Minister Theresa May attend commemorations for the 100th anniversary of the battle of Passchendaele at Tyne Cot cemetery near Ypres in Belgium, on 31 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

those killed and said the gathering was "to promise we will never forget."

Military personnel and descendants read out letters and diary excerpts penned by many of those who died. The ceremony concluded with a fly-past by the Belgian air force in a "missing man" formation.

Prince William paid tribute on Sunday at the Menin Gate Memorial in Ypres to those "who sacrificed everything for the lives we live today."

As he spoke, thousands of paper poppies were dropped from the roof of the gate, which is engraved with the names of 54,391 British soldiers who have no known grave. —Reuters ■



Tourists pose for photographs at the Han river park in Seoul, South Korea on 1 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Malta restores forgotten war rooms, hewn into the rocks in WWII

VALLETTA (Malta) — In a vast network of tunnels carved into the rocks under the Maltese capital Valletta, faded maps of the Mediterranean hint at the place's role in directing key battles in World War Two.

Malta is now restoring the 28,000 square meters (300,000 square feet) of tunnels, planning to open a huge section to the public.

The compound, hidden under the picturesque port city perched on cliffs above the sea, was built by the British and served as the staging ground for major naval operations. The British military withdrew in 1979 and the compound was abandoned for almost 40 years. German and

Italian forces bombarded Malta intensively between 1940 and 1942 to try gain control of the Mediterranean, but did not manage to force the British out. During the Cold War, the tunnels were used to track Soviet submarines.

Over the years, water and humidity have let rust and mould spread. Some rooms have been vandalized, but traces of the military apparatus that once occupied the complex still remain. Military cot beds, tangled cables and dust-covered rotary phones litter the rooms.

The Malta Heritage Trust, a non-governmental preservation group, began the multi-million dollar restoration of the site in 2009. —Reuters ■



A rotary dial telephone set and clock are seen in the NATO tunnels dating back to the Cold War in the War Headquarters tunnels beneath Valletta, Malta, on 28 March, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(2-8-2017 07:00am ~ 3-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2) (Jivitadana Hospital)
07:51	Am	Sagaing: Guitars
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Home Grown Treasure
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
09:39	Am	Kambawzathardi Golden Palace - A Treasured Legacy of Golden Days
09:55	Am	Paper Flower
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Beauty In The North of Myanmar

10:43 Am Image of The Monks

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Family of Toys
07:46	Pm	Chinlone and the dreams of the player
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Tapestry-A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship
08:45	Pm	Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant

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

Myanmar U-22 national football team and Japan Ryutsu Keizai University FC to play another friendly match

Shine Htet Zaw

As a friendly match, Myanmar U-22 national football team will play against Japan Ryutsu Keizai University FC today, 2 August. It is the 10th and last friendly match of Myanmar U-22 national football team before 2017 South east Asia, SEA Game. It is also the second friendly match against Japan Ryutsu Keizai University FC.

In the first friendly match with Japan Ryutsu Keizai University FC on 30 July, Myanmar U-22 national football team was defeated 1-4.

As 2017 SEA Game to open on 19 August, the preparation times for Myanmar U-22 nation-

al football team is very limited.

Of the 10 friendly matches of Myanmar U-22 national football team, Myanmar team won five matches and was defeated in four matches.

As a preparation for 2017 SEA Game before 2017 SEA Game, Myanmar U-22 national football team participated in KBZ Bank Cup 2017 and 2018 AFC Champion Qualification and also played against Myanmar National League, MNL All Star team, Malaysia U-22 national team and Japan Ryutsu Keizai University FC.

After today match, Myanmar U-22 national football team will make its final players selection for the SEA Game.



Myanmar footballers are seen during the training session. **PHOTO: MFF**

U-18 Myanmar national football team to play the friendly matches against U-18 Inter Milan and U-19 Thailand

Kyaw Zin Tun

Myanmar's U-18 national football team will play a series of friendly matches against U-18 Inter Milan and

U-19 Thailand in preparation for this year's Asian Football Federation (AFF) Youth Championship.

The Inter Milan match will

take place at 6pm on 11 and 13 August at the Thuwanna Stadium, Yangon. The Thailand match is planned for 27 August in Bangkok, Thailand.

Myanmar to host the 2017 AFF Youth Championship

Kyaw Zin Tun

Myanmar will host the ASEAN Football Federation U-18 Youth Championship. The tournament, which will feature 11 of 12 AFF teams, will be the second time Myanmar has hosted. The championship tournament will feature two competition groups: Group A will include Thailand, Malaysia, Timor-Leste, Laos, Cambodia and Singapore; Group B will

include Myanmar, Viet Nam, Indonesia, Philippines and Brunei. Aung San Stadium in Yangon, with a capacity of 40,000 and Thuwanna Stadium, Yangon, with a capacity of 50,000, will host matches between 4 to 13 September.

Winners and runners-up of both groups will advance to semi-final tournaments at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon on 15 September and final and third place matches on 17 September.

Klopp confident Liverpool can target title campaign

LONDON — Liverpool are working hard towards their aim of winning the Premier League title, manager Juergen Klopp said ahead of the side's pre-season friendly against German champions Bayern Munich at the Allianz Arena on Tuesday. The Merseyside club were in early title contention last season, just six points behind leaders Chelsea at the halfway stage, but faded in January to finish 17 points behind the champions in fourth place.

"Yes, we will be playing for the championship," Klopp told reporters. "We don't start a season by not having any ambitions. We have to have our goals and I think we have a very good team now. We did have a bit of bad luck last season. I think we can play a little bit better. "Let's hope everything will work very well and that there isn't much more to improve. We have to work very hard on it and we're doing that."—Reuters

Man United sign midfielder Matic from Chelsea

LONDON — Manchester United have signed Serbia midfielder Nemanja Matic from Premier League champions Chelsea on a three-year contract with an option to extend for a further year, both clubs said on Monday.

Financial terms of the deal were not disclosed, but British media reported that United paid between 40 million and 50 million pounds to reunite the 28-year-old midfielder with manager Jose Mourinho.

"Nemanja is a Manchester United player and a Jose Mourinho player. He represents everything we want in a footballer; loyalty, consistency, ambition, team player," Mourinho said in a statement.

"I would like to thank him for his desire to join us because without that, it would be impossible to have him here. I am sure our players and supporters will love him. A big welcome to our new number 31."

Mourinho signed Matic when he was in charge of Chelsea in 2014. Matic, who originally joined Chelsea in 2009 before moving to Benfica in 2011, became an influential part of Chelsea's title-winning side under

Mourinho in 2014-15.

"To work with Jose Mourinho once again was an opportunity I couldn't turn down," Matic said. "This is a very exciting time for the club and I am looking forward to playing my part in creating more history for this great club." Matic's arrival followed Mourinho's unsuccessful move for Tottenham Hotspur's Eric Dier as United seek to mount a serious Premier League challenge for the first time since the departure of Alex Ferguson as

manager in 2013. Matic made 40 appearances in all competitions for Chelsea last season as Italian Antonio Conte marked his first season in charge of the London-based club by winning the league. However, Chelsea's signing of Monaco midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko in this transfer window was an indication that Matic could have struggled for game time next season. United have also signed defender Victor Lindelof from Benfica and striker Romelu Lukaku from Everton. —Reuters ■



Chelsea's Nemanja Matic in action with West Bromwich Albion's Craig Dawson during the match of Premier League at The Hawthorns on 12 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**