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Press conference of the Investigation Commission on Maungdaw in Rakhine State in progress. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

No evidence of crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing

A GOVERNMENT commission looking into allegations by journalists and international human rights advocates that Myanmar's security forces have committed abuses

against Muslims in Rakhine State found those allegations to be groundless.

The Investigation Commission on Maungdaw in Rakhine State found there was no

possible evidence indicating any crime against humanity or any act of ethnic cleansing in support of allegations by the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner

for Human Rights (OHCHR), according to a press statement delivered by Vice President U Myint Swe yesterday in Yangon.

SEE PAGE-3



NATIONAL
Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than attends Shwe Parami Education Foundation's donation ceremony

PAGE-2



NATIONAL
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hosted dinner on board cruise ship

PAGE-7

NATIONAL
54th Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium closes second day of auctions

PAGE-7

OPINION
Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights

PAGE-8



LOCAL NEWS
4.8 million new housing units required by 2040

PAGE-4



The Republic of the Union of Myanmar State Counsellor Office

Thank you message to the people
14th Waxing of Wagaung 1379 ME
(6 August 2017)

1. Some members of the Sangha and persons under the name 'patriotic group' staged a sitting demonstration in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi from 2 August to 5 August with the intention of destroying peace and stability of the State and the rule of law.
2. People have not supported or participated in the demonstration. Besides, the governments of the regions and the state concerned have handled the problem in a gentle manner in accordance with the law.
3. We express heartfelt thanks to the people for their stance and conviction that serves the long-term interest of the State.

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Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than attends Shwe Parami Education Foundation's donation ceremony



Donation ceremony of Shwe Parami Foundation in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

STUDENTS in Thaton Township have been given school uniforms from scholars of Shwe Parami Foundation.

Uniforms sharing ceremony was held yesterday at Thuwana Bumi Thathana Beikman in Thaton, Mon State, with the presence of Shwe Parami Foundation Leader Sayadaw Ashin Sandda Deka, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Mon State Chief Minister Dr Aye Zan, scholars and students in Thaton.

Scholars bought school uniforms by saving Ks 1000 per month from their fund supported by Shwe Parami Foundation, it is learnt.

At the ceremony, U Win Shain, chairman of Shwe Parami Foundation explained about the sharing program. Then, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker and Mon State Chief Minister gave honor appreciation speeches to the scholars.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than added his praise to scholars that it was a very noble deed

of sharing money which used for poor people than personal uses.

Afterwards, scholars presented 573 school uniforms, 600 story books, 100 dozens of textbooks and 143 bicycles to 573 students from 15 schools in Thaton Township.

The attendees received the Dhamma administered by Shwe Parami Tawya Sayadaw Ashin Sandda Deka. —Thet Oo (Thaton) ■

Press Conference held by Maungtaw Investigation Commission



Dr Hla Maung.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

The answers to the questions raised in the press conference held in Yangon on the morning of 6 August by Maungtaw Investigation Commission is described below.

Q. Please explain what are in the commission's report concerning the plan how to undertake the development of Rakhine including northern Rakhine which is poverty-stricken and low in living standard.

A. By Dr Hla Maung, Rtd.



U Aung Kyi.
PHOTO: PHOE KHWAH

Ambassador, member of commission

The most important point of the root cause of conflicts often happened in Rakhine State including Maungtaw is found to be the extreme poverty and very low socioeconomic conditions of the above-said area. It is found out that if the socioeconomic condition of the Rakhine State is extremely low compared to that of the whole country. Rakhine is the second last in line

of poverty in Myanmar, Chin State being the last in the line. Moreover the agricultural sector and the sector of animal and fishery products, and other infrastructures such as transport, electricity, schools and hospitals are impoverished compared to other States and Regions.

Currently, agricultural sector and fishery sector take the vital part of the commodity production of the Rakhine State. If the means of production in those two sectors can be switched from the conventional to modern and scientific production, the production will become two to three times higher than the previous production. Likewise promoting the economic infrastructures including transport, electricity, schools and hospitals in Rakhine State should be planned and implemented accordingly.

SEE PAGE 10



INTERFAITH DIALOGUE - SAMVAD II FOR PEACE, HARMONY AND SECURITY OF THE WORLD

Sitagu International Buddhist Academy-SIBA (Yangon, Myanmar)
5 - 6 August 2017 (14th Waxing Day of Wagaung 1379 ME)

DECLARATION

The Interfaith Dialogue for Peace, Harmony and Security of the World, jointly organized by the Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Association (SIBMA), Myanmar; the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), India; and the Myanmar Institute of Strategic and International Studies (Myanmar ISIS) in association with The Japan Foundation, Japan, was held at the Sitagu International Buddhist Academy (SIBA) on 5 and 6 August 2017 in Yangon. The Spiritual Masters of Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Jainism, Sikh and more than 100 delegates from 30 countries participated in the Dialogue Prime Minister H.E. Shri Narendra Modi of the Republic of India and Prime Minister H.E. Mr. Shinzo Abe of Japan sent their video messages to the inaugural session of the Dialogue. H.E Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture of the Government of Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E. U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, H.E Shri Ram Naik, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh, India and H.E Mr Nobuo Kishi, State Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan delivered special addresses at the inaugural session. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, India Mahant Yogi Adityanath delivered a valedictory address.

Spiritual / religious leaders of all religions, and scholars of all the religions actively participated in the discussion. We unanimously agree and declare on this Sixth of the Month of August, Two Thousand and Seventeenth that:

1. All the people of the world have to cooperate and endeavour together, without any fear, in order to obtain harmonious social life with full security assurances.
2. We denounce all kinds of hate speech, false propaganda, conflict and war under the pretext of religion and strongly condemn those who provide support any such activities.
3. We, leaders of all religions of the world, resolve to be builders of the harmonious human society by religious teachings and involve ourselves in consolidating peace and security of the world.
4. We, members of different faiths, need to build mutual understanding, respect and trust among ourselves in order to obtain a peaceful, secure and prosperous human society.
5. We resolve to exercise restraint and refrain from interfering in matters of other religions and to cooperate in building bridges for world peace.
6. It is our inherent duty to conserve the environment before it is too late for the survival of humankind.
7. All religious leaders from India present at this Samvad II have unanimously decided to meet once in every four months (and as and when it is required), starting from 4 December 2017 to build bridges and harmony.
8. We shall collectively initiate programmes to enhance environmental consciousness and undertake awareness/ protection projects.
9. To strengthen understanding and trust, we shall organize an interfaith camp for meditation.
10. All the spiritual paths and religious traditions are equally valid.



No evidence of crimes against humanity, ethnic cleansing

FROM PAGE-1

The allegations of abuses by security forces came after an attack on a government checkpoint in October sparked a crack-down in Maungtaw region. A number of Muslims of northern Rakhine State left their homes.

The report of OHCHR Mission to Bangladesh interviewed 204 persons who fled Rakhine State for Bangladesh. Many of the stories of abuse included in the report were unsubstantiated.

The Vice President, who chaired the commission, said that accusations of genocide and ethnic cleansing were part of a smear campaign by “external forces.”

“Sadly, we found that OHCHR report fails to describe the brutal acts and murders by terrorist organizations against members of security forces in the first instance in the Maungtaw area in October last year, or the indiscriminate killing and intimidation of natives and Muslim villagers, or the terrorist trainings by terrorist organizations, or the arrival of domestic and international assistance to Maungtaw villages,” he said.

“Based on interviews with individuals who ran away from Maungtaw region, OHCHR’s report exaggerates the number of deaths and injuries and displaced persons, the amount of destruction, the amount of property loss and damage resulting from armed engagements between terrorists

and security forces – who were only trying to restore peace, stability and the rule of law – with the intention of tarnishing the image of Myanmar internationally,” said the Vice President.

The Vice President said that although OHCHR interviewed some ethnic people, who are minorities in Maungtaw, the UN’s report “ignored” their perspectives.

The Vice President also emphasized the gravity of the 9 October attack that sparked the area-combing operations. He described the attack against Border Guard Police Force Headquarters No. 1 and other police stations as an act of rebellion.

The Vice President said that foreign interference had worsened the situation and made its resolution more complicated. The commission’s report was completed on 31 January, but its publication was delayed in order to wait for the OHCHR report, which included interviews of Maungtaw Muslims who left Rakhine for Bangladesh, he said.

The government commission visited Maungtaw and refugee camps in Bangladesh to verify the OHCHR report, the Vice President said.

“Moreover, the government commission waited for all possible responses, so that anyone at refugee camps in Bangladesh filing lawsuits could make their claims. Hence, it took more than six months to complete the commission report,”



he said.

“The seizure of large caches of narcotic drugs in Maungtaw region indicates the likelihood of the rise of illicit drugs trafficking in the area in connection with the armed

insurgency and illegal business,” he warned.

The Vice President said that the commission report provides recommendations to improve the political, cultural and economic situation

in Maungtaw to prevent such challenges in the future.

The press conference was attended by commission members including U Aung Kyi, U Tun Myat, Dr Aung Tun Thet, U Nyunt

Swe, Dr Daw Thet Thet Zin, Dr Hla Maung, U Zaw Win (retired Police Maj-Gen), U Saw Thalay Zaw, Daw Kyeik Ngaik Man, U Aung Naing and Dr Tha Nyan.—Myanmar News Agency ■



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ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader),
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnlm@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin,
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor),
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor),
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Sandar Soe
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTERS**May Thet Hnin,
mayreporter.mmm@gmail.com
Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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4.8 million new housing units required by 2040

Myanmar will need 4.8 million additional residential units throughout the nation by 2040, including one million new units in Yangon, said Assistant Director of the Housing Development Department's Ministry of Construction U Nway Hmu during a recent event hosted by House.com.mm, the online e-commerce site. The official said housing demand will be driven by Myanmar's growing population, which is estimated to rise from its current population of 51 million to 70.56 million by 2040.

The Housing Development Department plans to build 900,000 housing units within next 15 years. Yangon alone, will require one million new units by 2040. According to the 2014



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

census, there were 1.58 million housing units in the city.

The Housing Development Department plans to fulfill 20 per cent of the requirements by developing about 8,000 housing units each year, said U Nway

Hmu. The remainder of Myanmar's housing demand will be met by private sector developers and state and region government agencies. A Construction and Housing Development Bank official said plans are underway

to issue mortgage loans to citizens seeking low-cost private sector development projects. Currently, bank is providing long-term housing loans to buyers of government housing projects. —Swe Nyein ■

Illegal hardwood seized in Mawlaik Township

POLICE seized four tons of tanmalan, a rare hardwood, in Mawlaik, Sagaing Region, on Saturday and arrest a suspected trafficker, U Min Aung. Another suspect, identified as U Pho Soe, remains at large, police said.

After a tip-off to police from a member of public, law enforcement officials

searched a six-wheel truck alongside of Chindwin River in Swedaw Ward, Mawlaik Town, Sagaing Region and found illegal timber and tree-cutting tools.

Police confiscated wood, four vehicles including two motorcycles, two handsets and about Ks64 million in cash.

According to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, more than 16,000 tons of illegal timbers were confiscated in the first three months of this financial year. This year's confiscations so far, are the third highest level for this time of year for the past decade.—Mawlaik Tha Lay ■

Man arrested for possession of heroin, yaba pills

A MAN in Banmawk Township, Sagaing Region, was arrested by police after he was found in possession of a cache of illegal substances worth approximately Ks8 million on Saturday afternoon, according to anti-drug police. Acting on a tip-off, police from Banmawk Township Police Station raided the banana plantation of the



Kyaw Than arrested for illegal drug trafficking. PHOTO: KO MIN (INDAW)

suspect, identified by police as Kyaw Than, in Settaw Village. Police found 16 grams of white powder heroin, 25 grams of black opium, and 260 yaba

pills in the suspect's handbag. Banmawk Township Police Station charged the Kyaw Than with illegal drug trafficking.—Ko Min (Indaw) ■

Yaba pills and heroin seized in Kachin State and Mandalay Region

A combined team comprising police members of Anti-Drug Squad Unit -3 from Moenyin Township searched a motorbike driven by Myint Naing Win accompanied by Kyaw Thiha in Phakhtant Township,

Kachin State on 5 August, 2017 and seized 2000 yaba pills from them. On the same day, police members of Anti-Drug Squad Unit -18 of Mandalay (South) searched a motorbike driven by Thiha Zaw in Patheingyi Town-

ship Mandalay Region, and confiscated 4,095 yaba pills and 1.4 gram of heroin. Police has filed charge against the suspects under the Psychotropic Substance and Anti-Narcotic Drug law.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Three non-fatal accidents on Yangon-Mandalay expressway

NO fatalities were reported in connection with three separate traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay expressway on Sunday morning, according to highway police.

At about 1:15 am an express bus driven by U Win Tin, 45, from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon collided with a tollbooth gate causing damage worth approximately Ks3 million.

At 5 am a car driven by U Win Myint, 37, from Nay Pyi Taw toward Yangon hit concrete blocks on the same road near mile post No. 93/5 at 5 am and caused damage valued at Ks200,000.

Later during the same day a car driven by U Kin Maung Than, 57, from Nay Pyi Taw toward Yangon overturned after its tyre burst.

According to the police records, there were a total of 744 traffic accidents on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway last year, killing 167 and injuring 1,307.—Phyo Ko Lin (Nyaung Waing) ■



File photo shows the toll gate of Kanpikete. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF COMMERCE

External trade with ITCs tops Ks12 billion

EXTERNAL trade using the Individual Trading Card (ITC) reached over Ks12 billion for the current financial year, according to official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce in the first week of this month.

The import value of border trade using the Individual Trading Card (ITC) as of 21 July topped Ks11 billion in the current financial year, while export earnings amounted to about Ks770 million.

Border trade with ITCs was

more than Ks10 billion in Thailand-Myanmar border camps, over Ks8.9 billion in Sino-Myanmar borders and Ks620 million in India-Myanmar ports of entry. There were no border trade deals with Bangladesh over the past four months.

Of the total border ports of entry, the Myawady trade camp on the border with Thailand was reported to have the largest trade with a value of over Ks9 billion, followed by Kanpikete with Ks772m, Tachilek

with Ks536m, Mawtaung with Ks489m, Tamu with Ks407m, Kawthoung with Ks233m and Reed with Ks213m.

Both exports and imports through the Lwejel and Kengtung cross-border entries totalled less than Ks60 million, while trade via the Muse and Chinshwehaw border stations was no more than Ks7 million.

Since its beginning in late 2012 to date, the ministry issued a total of 1,320 ITCs to individual traders.—Shwe Khine ■

China imports 90 tonnes of coffee beans via Muse trade camp

CHINA imported 90 tonnes of coffee beans from Myanmar through Muse 105-mile trade zone in the third week of last month, according to the latest report of the Ministry of Commerce.

There was no export of coffee beans to China, Myanmar's largest neighbouring country, in the week before 15 July. In the last week of June, the country

sold 29 tonnes of the same product to the world's most populous country. Coffee growers, say that there are numerous vacant agricultural lands which are appropriate for coffee cultivation in the country, adding that they are seeking market and agricultural technology for commercial plantation.

One of coffee grower in Ywangan, a township in Shan

State, said that organic coffee has been developed on 78 acres of lands in the town. Ywangan coffee is officially recognised by the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA). There are about 50,000 acres of coffee farms, producing about 7,000 tonnes.

Myanmar's coffee has become precious crop among Myanmar agricultural products. The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation said it hopes to increase coffee acreage to 200,000 and export 60,000 tonnes by 2030.

Several tonnes of Myanmar coffee have been exported to Switzerland, China, Thailand, America, South Korea, Japan, Germany, Hong Kong and others.—Swe Nyein ■



Commerce Ministry intends to triple exports

The Commerce Ministry is attempting to triple exports by relaxing trade controls, forming a private sector development committee and increasing its cooperation with trade partners.

Exports from 1 April to 21 July earned more than US\$3.84 billion, an increase of \$645 million more than the same period last year.

Rice exports, a core agricultural export product, was worth US\$124 million during this period more than the same period last year.

Despite increase in rice trade, overall, agricultural exports declined \$36 million against last year.

Myanmar's agriculture is hampered by erratic weather, high input costs, lack of pedigree seeds, high cultivation costs, low capacity to produce value-added products, heavy reliance on international markets and lack of technical skills.

Myanmar agriculture is

also constrained by burdensome investment restrictions.

This financial year mineral exports have increased \$240 million over the same period last year.

Myanmar's minerals are exported to more than 10 countries, including China, Malaysia, Thailand and Viet Nam.

Garment exports on a cutting-making-packaging basis earned \$692 million so far this financial year.

Natural gas exports were valued at \$768 million. Fisheries, livestock and forest sectors increased slightly this financial year.

To boost exports, Myanmar has recently established commercial attachés in China, India, Thailand, Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, Switzerland, and Belgium.

There is also a permanent representative of Myanmar to the World Trade Organization.

— Ko Khant ■

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External trade value increased US\$2 billion this FY

EXTERNAL trade value in the first four months of the current financial year was estimated at US\$10 billion, an increase of \$2 billion compared to same period last year.

From 1 April to 28 July, exports earned \$4.3 billion from agricultural, minerals and manufactured goods, fisheries, live-stock and other forest sectors.

During the same period, import values were \$5.97 billion, primarily from three groups (i) capital goods including machinery, construction tools, including products used in telecommunication, vehicles and auto parts, (ii) raw industrial materials, including petroleum product, plastic raw materials, fertilizer, chemicals and (iii) consumer products, mainly

pharmaceuticals.

Myanmar's sea routes are used for the bulk of its trade, \$7.9 billion worth, trade at land ports of entry was worth \$2.39 billion.

Myanmar trades with China, Thailand, India and Bangladesh at 16 border checkpoints. Sino-Myanmar trade is conducted at Muse, Lweje, Chinshwehaw, Kanpiktee and Kengtung land ports of entry. Myanmar-Thailand border trade is seen through Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung and Maese land points of entry. Checkpoints between India and Myanmar are Tamu and Reed. Bangladesh and Myanmar trade is flowing in and out of Sittway and Maungdaw checkpoints.—Mon Mon ■



PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

Various pulses export 600,000 tons in this FY

MYANMAR earned US\$470 million from pulses exports in the first four months of the current fiscal year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

From April to July, Myanmar exported 600,000 tons of pulses.

A total of 1.43 million tons of various peas were exported in the FY 2016-2017, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Seventy per cent of Myanmar's pulses exports go to India, including mung bean and pigeon peas.

The remainder of Myanmar's pulses go to China, Viet Nam, European Union and other smaller trade partners.

Mung bean prices fluctuated in June and July. Overall, pulses prices have declined and are correlated to Indian demand.

Fair Average Quality (FAQ) mung beans were worth Ks750,000 per ton on 4 August and Special Quality (SQ) mung beans decreased to Ks897,000, compared to June FAQ prices of Ks900,000 per ton and Ks107,000 a ton of SQ. Prices in July were about Ks800,000 a ton of FAQ and more than Ks960,000 a ton of SQ.

Myanmar pulses are mostly cultivated in Sagaing and Magway regions.—Ko Khant ■



Rubber prices rise during end of harvest

PRICES for latex are Ks900 per pound and Ks1,000 for natural rubber latex during close season, in Ye Township, Mon State. This is compared to early harvest season prices of Ks550 per pound for latex in liquid form and Ks630 for natural rubber latex, in the form of rubber bales.

With prices having reached a seasonal high, some rubber

merchants who had stockpiled their previous harvests are selling now to take advantage of higher prices.

Mon State cultivates about 500,000 acres of rubber trees capable of producing about 100,000 tons of latex per harvest. There are over 150,000 acres of rubber farms in Ye Township and about 100,000 acres of rubber farms

are available for rubber tapping. Ye Township can produce about 40,000 tons of latex, according to U Maung Hin, the president of Mon State Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

Most of the rubber farms in Mon State will produce bales of purified rubber on demand as processing capacities are low in Myanmar.—Htut Htut (Ye) ■

Honey exports to China require certification, lab testing

HONEY exports to China requires a health certificate to ensure its quality and safety, according to the Commerce Ministry.

The health certificate procedure was set between Jan 2016 and 28 July 2017. The certification regime will begin during the second week of August. The

process includes a recommendation letter from a veterinarian vouching for the soundness of beekeeping practices and a laboratory examination to inspect the quality of the honey.

Honey is mainly cultivated in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions and in Shan State. There are a total of about 80,000

hives in Mandalay Region and about 150,000 hives across the country, according to the Apiculture Enterprise.

Myanmar's honey is exported to Japan, Thailand, China, America and Canada. Myanmar honey traders also intend to penetrate European markets in the near future.—Htet Myat ■

UMFCCI welcomes foreign chamber members to participate

UNION of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) at a meeting yesterday called on experts from other countries' Chambers of Commerce to participate sit on UMFCCI committees, especially bodies promoting trade and entrepreneurship.

UMFCCI members discussed a range of challenges

including kyat depreciation, tax problems and rules and laws complicating investment.

The members exchanged views to improve each and every sector of Myanmar's economy. Representatives from America, Europe, Australia, Germany, Japan, India, Hong Kong, China (Taipei) and Thailand Chambers of Com-

merce and Industry for Myanmar attended the meeting. Vice president of UMFCCI Dr Myo Thant, and UMFCCI Central Executive U Moe Kyaw, Dr Tin Lat and other private sector representatives attended the meeting, which will be a regular occasion every three months to promote foreign investment.—UMFCCI ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party pose for the photo. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hosted dinner on board cruise ship

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla and party who were in Kyoto, Japan on a working visit viewed State Guest House in the morning of 6 August.

After visiting Kinkakuji

(Golden Pavilion) Temple, the Senior General and party left Kyoto for Tokyo by Shinkansen bullet train and arrived at Tokyo at noon.

Afterwards, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Military attaché families at the

Myanmar embassy in Japan.

Later at night, the Senior General and party were hosted a dinner by Mr. Yohei Sasakawa, chairman of Nippon Foundation on the ferry cruise on the Sumida Gawa River. —Myanmar News Agency ■

54th Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium closes second day of auctions



Local and Foreign merchants viewed, display of Jade lots. PHOTO: MNA

THE annual Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium completed its fifth day yesterday at Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw.

This year the government is selling 20 lots of fine jade and 20 lots crude jade. Joint government and private sellers are selling 2,900 lots of crude jade. Private owners are selling 25 lots of fine jade, 3,545 lots of crude jade and 16 lots of other crude minerals.

Between 2-4 August, 105

out of 326 lots of jade were sold at set prices for proceeds worth Euros3.06 million.

Auction sales began on Saturday and by the end of business yesterday 1,100 lots out of a total of 6,561 lots were auctioned off.

The Myanmar Jade and Gems Emporium has been held since 1964 and will continue for a total of nine days.

The jade emporium is a reliable source of foreign currency for Myanmar, which

benefits from direct sales and by levying tax: 15 per cent for crude jade, 10 per cent for crude gems and three per cent for service fees. For fine gems and jade, a five per cent special commodity tax and a one per cent service fee were charged.

Incomes from gems comprised 56 per cent Myanmar's mineral trade for FY2011-2012 and 83 per cent for FY2016-2017. —Myanmar News Agency ■

146 patients found H1N1 positive

Of the 387 persons hospitalized during the period from 21 July to this day, 146 patients were found H1N1 positive, and of them 15 died.

Of the 387 persons 87 were under-fives, and two of them died. Two of the 26 infected persons between ages 5 and 12 died; and 11 of the 248 persons between ages 12 and 65 died. Twenty-six persons between 65 and above are also infected, but there is no death. Thirteen hospitalized persons found H1N1 positive died of other causes, and not of the effectiveness of the seasonal influenza. Majority of the H1N1 64 patients – 25 receiving treatment at Waibagi Hospital and other 39 at hospitals in regions and states –

are recovering from illness and may be discharged soon.

Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions are designated as priority areas because of their high infection rate.

The Ministry of Health and Sports held talks on H1N1 awareness in Yangon yesterday where discussions were held from the health and medical points of view. Participants sought means to raise health awareness, advise clinics to inform about the situation of flu patients, timely transfer the patients to hospitals and distribute the model procedures, work guidelines, treatment prescriptions of the central to hospitals around the country. —Myanmar News Agency ■

One village administrator killed in Maungtaw Township

A body near Shwe Zarr Kapakaung Village was discovered by Myanmar security forces on patrol in Maungtaw, Rakhine State yesterday morning.

During the area clearance, a body was found together with

cut and pierced wounds.

The victim was identified as Hu Saung, an administrator from Shwe Zarr Kapakaung Village and further investigation is ongoing. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Seven dead toll of seasonal influenza confirmed at the Waibargi Specialist Hospital

THE statement of Ministry of Health and Sports in Yangon Region said that the number of death toll has confirmed seven at 7am yesterday, total 178 patients were receiving treatment

for the severe acute respiratory infection at the Waibargi Specialist Hospital, of them 56 are contracted with the swan flu by the laboratory tests. _ Myanmar News agency ■

Sagaing University of Education students march in protest over unqualified teachers

AN estimated 300 Sagaing University of Education students went on strike in Mandalay yesterday to demand a greater role in setting qualifications and selecting teachers.

The students complained that the hiring process is not transparent and that unqualified teachers are offered positions

at the schools. The education students were also protesting hiring practices that will make it more difficult for them to find teaching jobs once they graduate. The students marched to the corner of 80 and 27 streets from 79th Street located between 32nd and 33rd streets. — Tin Maung (Man Ko Bwar) ■



Students from Sagaing University of Education protest in Mandalay. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (MAN KO BWAR)

Innovation and Intellectual Property Rights

Khin Maung Oo

THE protection of intellectual property rights is of great importance for a country, along with invention and innovation. In other countries of the world intellectual property is protected by its relevant laws and inventions and innovation are encouraged by making sure that the rights of people who invent new things are protected by law. The more inventions are created in a country, the more it gains in terms of innovation creations and designs. In this case, the inventor should be rewarded fairly for his invention.

Myanmar is a country that greatly needs protection for intellectual property for inventions. As for products, we greatly rely upon imported products from other countries due to scarcity of our own creations. That being so

we must exert our efforts to produce our own-created products—large and small, as much as we can. At the same time, inventors and people with new and practical innovations should be encouraged.

Producing a new product for the first time out of one's own idea is called an invention or creation. Production of the same thing by a third party by imitating the original is copying only. So as to avoid such copying, we need intellectual property rights entrusted by law to protect our creations such as music, lyrics, literature, poetry etc. Until now, we have not yet had any definite and strengthened intellectual property rights.

Intellectual property rights include various kinds, inter alia those in literature, artistic works, industrial inventions, designs and trade-marks. It can

be said that Myanmar still lacks those kinds of rights in industrial inventions and production of other products, compared to that of literary works. It requires enactment of laws and rules on intellectual property rights as well as encouragement and support to increase amounts of inventions, in order to lessen our existing weakness.

Presently, law on intellectual property rights of industrial designs is under legislation. Provided that the said law has effectively been implemented after approval, fruitful prospects will emerge in the country. Due to lack of access to rights and guarantees over own creations, the country is only satisfied with imitation and reliance over others' products, albeit abundant with technicians, skilled laborers and inventive youths.

Producers buy a new design of

excellence for their industrial trade mark for a tidy amount. Likewise, many prestigious companies from developing countries as well retain the service of inventors and the avant-garde. At the Expos held under the sponsorship or acknowledgement of respective governments belonging to WTO (World Trade Organization) or Paris Convention Countries, industrial designs are usually put on exhibitions which bring about benefits for inventors.

Inventions result in benefits. Had it been imitated just after its invention, it may cause great loss. In our country intellectual property rights on artistic works and literature are still being violated, causing a great hindrance for the development of art and literature. In brief, we must welcome and help the implementation of the intellectual property rights. ■

On Wakhaung Fullmoon Day Lord Buddha delivered Metta Sutta for Peaceful Co-existence

Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja,
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

In essence, Buddhism is the way to and the guide for liberating sentient beings from the whirl pool of Samsara, the endless cycle of birth and rebirth for sufferings, cravings and defilements. But Buddhism is also concerned with problems of daily life of mundane world. During his life time of 80 years and 45 years of Dhamma mission [Dhamma duta]. Lord Buddha personally participated in the peaceful settlements of international, inter-ethnic and inter-clanish disputes or assigned his disciples on his behalf to settle such disputes peacefully. His hagiography records the histories of such cases and events. All 12 fullmoon days of the 12 months of lunar calendar are sacred days on which either his Suttas [discourses] were delivered or important events took place which peacefully settled disputes.

These Suttas and events have significant relevance in the context of our present day life of the Age of Globalization. We have the United Nations Organization [UNO] marking the UN Days of solving our international problems and disputes. The World Environment Day, The World Peace Day, The World Water Day, The Old Age Day, The World Teachers' Day, The World's Mother Day, The World Father Day etc, etc, etc. Most of such UN Days of our time have their precedents in the time of living Buddha. To mention but a few —Maha Samaya Sutta Day

on Fullmoon of Nayone was The Water Day of Buddha's time. Wazo Rain Retreat and Dhammacakya Sutta Day on Fullmoon day of Wazo are the Environment Day of Buddha's time and Metta Sutta discoursed on the Fullmoon day of Wakhaung was the Peaceful Co-existence of all sentient beings of Buddha's time.

Since the topic and theme of this Article is Metta Sutta, the origin, the background history and profound and far-reaching beneficial effects of this Sutta are highlighted as follows.

During the lifetime of Lord Buddha, a party of Buddhist monks repaired into a forest for their Rain Retreat [Lent] for religious practices there. The guardian spirit of the forest and guardian spirits of trees [Yoke ka soes] had to come down and move away from their dwelling places for the monks. They thought that their habitats were invaded by these monks. So they created fearful visions to frighten the monks away. The monks reported the matter to Lord Buddha Whereupon Lord Buddha gave them Metta Sutta [Discourse on Loving Kindness to be recited or chanted so that all sentient beings humans, animals, spiritual worlds hear and listen to understand and appreciate the importance of living peacefully together without malice and harm, but only Loving kindness to one another. At Buddha's advice, the monks returned to the forest and chanted Metta Sutta. Upon hearing and understanding Metta Sutta the spirits of the

forest and trees realized that these monks were friends, not enemies who came there only for religious practices during Lent and they would leave after Lent. They had no intention to invade their domains and settle there. So human monks and guardian spirits of the forest and trees became friends. They peaceful co-existed.

Metta Sutta delivered in Pali language was translated into English by the late Rector Sayadaw Venerable U Silanandabhivamsa of the International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Mayangone Township, Yangon, Myanmar. English translation is reproduced as follows:

Metta Sutta [Loving Kindness Discourse].

1. By the power of this Sutta, the Yak-khas who do not show fearful visions and a person who makes efforts regarding this Sutta day and night [by reciting and practicing], sleeps comfortably and when he is asleep he does not have bad dreams oh good people. Let us recite this protective Sutta which is endowed with these qualities and others as well.
2. He who wants to dwell penetrating the state of calm [Nibbana] and who is skilled in his good, should practice the three kinds of training. He should be able, upright, very upright, obedient, gentle and not conceited.
3. He should be contented, easy to take care of have few activities, have light living, have few possessions and be controlled in his senses, he should be wise and not impudent and not be greedily

attached to the families [devotees].

4. He should not commit any anything wrong by doing which he might be censured by wise men. May all beings be happy, and safe. May their hearts be happy.

5. What soever living beings there be, feeble or strong, long or big, or medium, or short, small or fat [round] seen or unseen, those the dwelling far or near those who have been born and those who are yet to be born, may all beings without exception be happy.

6. Let none deceive another or despise any person in any place. Let him not wish any harm to another with insult or ill will.

7. Just as a mother would protect her only child at the risk of her own life even so let him cultivate a boundless heart toward all beings.

8. Let his thoughts of boundless love pervade the whole world, above, below, and across, making them unrestricted, free of hate and free of enemy.

9. Whether he is standing, walking, sitting or lying down as long as he is awake he should develop this mindfulness in loving kindness. This is the Noble Living here in the Dispensation of the Buddha, they say.

10. Not approaching [taking wrong views, being virtuous and endowed with vision the first Path Knowledge] and discarding attachment to sensual objects he definitely does not come again to lying in a mother's womb. [End of Metta Sutta]

SEE PAGE 9

Let the would be overwhelmed by cool and peace of Metta

Dhamma Dutta Ashin Say Kaneda

IN every year, the Buddhists specify the full moon day of Wakhaung as Day of Universal Loving Kindness according to Myanmar Era Calendar. While the Buddha was dwelling at the Jetavana Monastery in Savatthi, he gave the discourse of loving kindness – Metta Sutta as rooting in five-hundred monks frightened by guardian spirits of trees (Rukkhadevata). Therefore, many Myanmar Citizens as well as Buddhists have recognized the duration of giving the discourse of loving kindness – Metta Sutta as full moon day of Wakhaung, the very Day of Universal Loving Kindness.

First, the monks who will be dwelling in the service of the rainy season residence are used to ask for and obtain the ways to practice meditation from the Buddha during the period of rainy season residence. After the monks had received the suitable ways of meditation suitable with their characters and personality respectively from the Buddha, these monks went to the appropriate places and took meditation practice particularly and dwelling at this place as well.

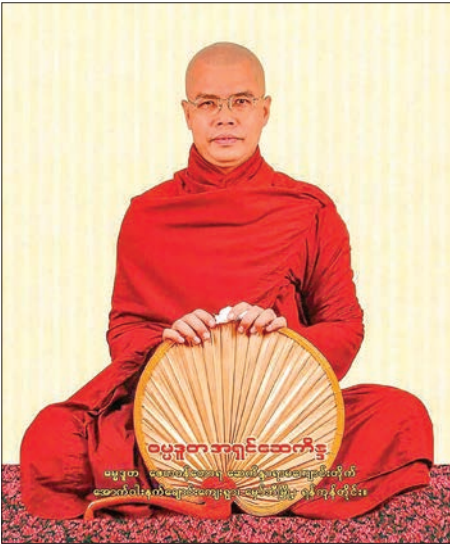
In this way, the five-hundred monks were taking meditation practice in a big forest near to the Hemavata Mountain after receiving the right meditation ways to practice. Consequently, the guardian spirits of trees (Rukkhadevata) had to stayed on the ground by moving from their living place of upper tree altogether with their families because of power and glory of these monks who were practicing the appropriate meditation. Two or three days later, as guardian spirits of trees (Rukkhadevata) wanted to live back in their living place of upper tree, these guardian spirits of trees (Rukkhadevata) frightened to the meditating monks with various things such as scary face, creepy sound and weird smell so as these monks no longer to say in this place. By the time, as these monks could not take meditation practice at all, they went to the Buddha and said about the situations they had met under the tree of a big forest.

When being asked by the monks, the Buddha replied, “o monks, there is no appropriate place to attain the noble mental state except this place so you should had gone back to this

place and took practice meditation again until to have become as the noble monks. If you want to avoid from the disturbance of guardian spirits of trees (Rukkhadevata), you must learn the discourse of loving kindness – Metta Sutta, recite and contemplate on it again and again because this discourse of loving kindness – Metta Sutta, the true meditation way to practice, will surely prevent you from all kinds of danger and finally make you attain the Nibana” and preached about discourse of loving kindness – Metta Sutta.

The discourse of loving kindness – Metta Sutta is one kind of discourse which the Buddhists used to recite in their everyday life with Pali Words. There are a few people who understand the meaning of Metta Sutta in Myanmar Words and it is easier to practice meditation for those kinds of people who understands the meaning of Metta Sutta in Myanmar Words than of others.

“The clever person who wants to reach the peaceful Nibana should practice the right ways mentioned in this Metta Sutta. This person must have the ability to practice on it as



Dhamma Dutta Ashin Say Kaneda.

having rectitude, good altitude, gentle and good-hearted personality as well as easily to be admonished with no arrogance.

For instance, be contented with the obtained results, having good communication with others, avoiding unbeneficial matters, doing stressless career, having calm and serious manners, having mature consciousness, having no rude behaviors and no bias. ■

On Wakhaung Fullmoon Day Lord Buddha delivered Metta Sutta for Peaceful Co-existence

FROM PAGE 8

By chanting or reciting Metta Sutta, you send out to all sentient beings message of your loving kindness, compassion and good will. All who receive your good message reciprocate the same to you. You are immune from all dangers. You have no enemies, you have only friends.

Metta Sutta is depicted in Myanmar visual arts and performed in performing arts. Two hit songs of Metta Sutta are Metta Gone sung by a man singer of national fame Pyi Hla Pe and Aung Chin Shit Pa sung by a lady singer and film actress May Shin. Metta Gone is the song version of Metta Sutta. In Aung Chin Shit Pa song, how Lord Gotama Buddha won the hearts of eight of his

opponents by means of Metta [Loving Kindness]. Eight opponents were

1. Mara the Evil King
 2. Alavaka the great Ogre
 3. Nalagiri, The drunkard Elephant sent by Devadat
 4. Zeizamang the wicked woman
 5. Aungulimala, the cruel cutter of human fore fingers
 6. Thisakaparabike the infidel hermit who refused to believe impermanence, suffering and non-self-taught by the Buddha
 7. Power-monger Nantawpananda dragon king who thought he was most Power monger powerful and
 8. Baka Braham who believed he was immortal and permanent.
- Pancha Sila or Five Prin-

ciples of Peaceful Co-existence hammered out unanimously by the Afro-Asian Political Conference held in Bandaung in Indonesia in 1954 are the Five politico-moral Precepts by which all States, countries and peoples of the world, regardless of their race, religion, creed, political, economic and socio-cultural systems vow to live together in peace based on five principles

1. Nons aggression
2. None interference in internal affairs
3. Respect for each other's sovereignty
4. Respect for each other's territorial integrity and
5. Peaceful co-existence, similar to Metta Sutta. Live and Let live. ■

Government sector capital goods imports increased by US\$11 million Import of capital goods by government sector increased by US\$110 million

CAPITAL goods imports by the government were worth US\$178 million during the current fiscal year, an \$110 million increase compared to the same period of last year, the Ministry of Commerce reported on Friday through its website.

From April to July of this year, the private sector imported government sector capital goods worth \$2.03 billion, a decrease of \$27 million compared to the same time last year.

This year, the total import value between Myanmar and international trade partners was estimated at \$5.97 billion, including \$291 million

from the government sector and \$5.679 billion from the private sector.

The country imported capital goods worth \$2.20 billion, intermediate goods worth \$2.29 billion and consumer products worth \$1.48 billion.

According to the ministry's statistics, the total import figures are \$1 billion more than that of the same period last year.

Over the first four months of this fiscal year, the imports of intermediate goods rose by 675 million while the consumer products increased by \$285 million.— Shwe Khine ■

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

Press Conference held by Maungtaw Investigation Commission

FROM PAGE 2

Regarding the labour wages, Myanmar is much lower than those of other neighbouring countries and the wages in Rakhine State including Maungtaw area is the lowest in Myanmar. However the cheap labour wages can attract the investment of industrial works in Rakhine State. So, if the Special Economic Zones including Export Processing Zones and Small and Medium Scale industrial works can be established near the sea ports in Rakhine State, many foreign direct investments will come in and it can boost the GDP and export value resulting in the emergence of job opportunities. It then will raise the per capita income of the State and consequently conflicts become abated.

Q: UN accused Myanmar of racial discrimination and ethnic cleansing or genocide. If there is any response to that accusations? If any please explain. A plan for administration for Rakhine State is suggested, it is learnt. If it is true let us know the plan.

A: By U Aung Kyi, Union Minister (retired), member of commission

There is no special discussion denying the accusations. The rebellious acts of them can be legitimized according to the international law if there appear firm assessment on occurrence of genocide in an area. I can answer they have such an intention.

When we scrutinize the sequence of their action it is found that; firstly they collected the arms and attacked the security forces; they looted the arms and ammunition from the quarter of security forces; they employ different methods to prevent the arms from retrieving by government force; they tried to concoct a make-up story of existence of genocide or racial cleansing in Rakhine State using the media. Those sequence of actions indicate that they intend to fabricate a story in trying to support the accusations. That is my personal view.

Actually the mission of the commission includes the freedom and security of the people. Therefore we have taken immediate action on scrutiny



U Zaw Win. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAAR**

of nationalization works in accordance with the existing law. We have also strived to exercise the freedom of religion, freedom of worship, freedom of movements (travel), freedom of livelihood and freedom of trade.

Vice President himself went to the river port and supervise the opening of the port. When the local and foreign media visited the area of incidence they were granted the freedom of securing the information from the public.

Some people who had met direct with the media and had talk freely were later killed by the attackers of other side. News were also released in due course of time. Special judicial courts were also opened for quick trial in a proper way. Families of the arrested were also allowed to meet the arrested person concerned.

The crime of attacking a place like Border Guard Police Force headquarters which was taking the duty of enforcing the rule of law and security and taking away arms and ammunition equals to a terrorist act threatening the State sovereignty. In the video clip, terrorists said they were going to fulfill the years-long desire. It is a matter involving human rights, humanity, and other wider issues such as security and politics.

Internationally they declared themselves the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA). The leader is Habat Dula. Although he was a villager of Kyaukpyinseik Village in Maungtaw Township, he was brought up abroad. He had lived in Saudi Arabia and received military training together with armed militants in Pakistan and Bangladesh. Group trainings and funds are provided by some who are living in certain Mid-



Dr Tha Nyan. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAAR**

dle East countries after leaving Maungtaw. It is found that the financial management group is managing the monetary affairs systematically.

Persons coming from Bangladesh are providing military training. Definitely, there are foreign connections. But we cannot say exactly whether those organizations are terrorist groups or not. I clearly say that financial provisions and trainings have foreign connections.

They established their ideology since 1942. We have found that they are using four ways. The first one is that they launched attacks with the use guerrilla tactics even before the establishment of a firm unit. They attacked three places simultaneously at night, looted arms and then disappeared. In some engagements they used force. But in many cases they used guerrilla tactics.

The second is they applied the tactic of terrorist groups. They used car engines as mines. We had seized some of them. In May 2017, village militants demonstrated mine installation. They used international terrorist tactics in launching mine attacks.

The third is they intimidated the persons they thought were government supporters or non-supporters of their movement through the internet. They then murdered such persons day by day. Up to 30 June, they have already killed 44. They slit the throats of 27. They are applying those brutal methods with the intention of weakening the government administration, and terrifying the locals. They have long-term aims.

The fourth is propagandizing through social network which is dangerous. Some may become extremists by just read-



U Tun Myat. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAAR**

ing the ideologies on the social network. The recent incidents were aimed at attacking the government administrative machinery. It is worrisome for the nation in the long-term.

Q: Your view on the accusations saying that there are religious persecution and racial discrimination in Maungtaw area. Does the commission also face such accusations?

Dr Tha Nyan:

General Secretary of YMCA (commission member)

A: According to the Constitution Myanmar permits the freedom of worship for Buddhists, Hindus, Muslims, Christians and animists. There is freedom of worshipping and practicing religious deeds. We have not found any religious persecution in Maungtaw region and no accusation in connection with religion. We arrived at Myothugyi village in Maungtaw Township. Because of the lack of education and knowledge and fear, they misunderstood the Section 144. We allowed worshipping. They could say prayers at day time except in the early morning and evening under curfew. There were Arabic religious schools. Maungtaw region alone had 1278 Mosques and 1657 Mawlawis, 17 Hindu temples, seven churches, and 121 monasteries. These figures prove that there is no religious persecution and racial discrimination.

Q: What did the commission do for the security and for ensuring human rights of the people of Maungtaw Township and what are its future plans?

U Aung Kyi, Former Union Minister (commission member)

A: The first point is that human rights is a much broader issue. If there is weakness in a sector of human rights, we

must find the root cause. There must mutual respect of human rights between communities. If there is respect, they will be no problem. Likewise the administrative bodies and others must have respect for human rights. We need to understand it as a duty for every person. We need to further promote human rights in this region. We have already submitted the 48-point work program to the president. We have requested to form a body to implement the program. We have also made a request to always support the body to observe and safeguard human rights. I have already explained about the security. As it is a border area, the border guard will continue to take the security duty. So it should be reinforced. We have to hold discussion and put forward suggestions to beef up security at the areas where transport is poor. Our discussions were centred on securing the area mainly with the police force.

Q: Time and again we have heard that there is no genocide, ethnic cleansing or rape and that there are only invented accusations after the commission had looked into the matter thoroughly. But what we have heard is totally different from the points issued by watchdogs including the UN. Why?

A: It is difficult prove what really never exists. Let alone people living in Myanmar even the persons who know about Myanmar well will not believe exaggerated accusations such as the act of molesting, gang raping, kicking the belly of a pregnant woman, or killing parents right in front of their children. But we have never turned a blind eye to the matter. We are looking into the matter carefully.

Some of the cases are caused by misunderstanding, some are totally untrue and some are group-wise hatched lies. We are reluctant to make quick conclusions. But the international community is making hasty decisions. If OHCHR waited for our report, its own report would be helpful. Unfortunately the report was issued in haste. This has enlarged the problem rather than solving it. —News Team ■

Wildfire rages on Greek island of Kythera, homes evacuated

ATHENS — A forest fire was raging on the Greek island of Kythera on Saturday, fanned by strong winds and prompting the evacuation of dozens of homes.

A state of emergency was declared on the island, which sits between the Greek mainland and the island of Crete, on Saturday.

Changing winds and rugged terrain dispersed with small communities made the fire fighting task difficult, authorities said.

“The perimeter of the fire is very large,” fire brigade spokeswoman Stavroulla Maliri told Greece’s SKAI TV.

The fire brigade had called

in reinforcements from other areas. Water bombing by air halted in the evening as darkness fell.

The blaze broke out in the west of the island early on Friday, but flared again on Saturday and authorities said they ordered the evacuation of two villages as a precaution.

Late July and August traditionally sees a spike in forest and brush fires in Greece, where high temperatures contribute to tinder box conditions.

Temperatures can occasionally exceed 40 degrees Celsius (104 Fahrenheit), and there have been several heatwaves this summer.

—Reuters ■

France has seen 271 jihadi militants return

PARIS — France has seen 271 jihadi militants return from war zones in Iraq and Syria and all of them are subject to investigation by public prosecutors, the country’s interior minister said in a newspaper interview.

Some 700 French nationals are estimated to have fought in Islamic State ranks in Iraq and Syria, and like other European countries France has been wrestling with how to handle the flow of so-called returnees.

The number of jihadis to have returned to France included 217 adults and 54 minors, with some of them currently in detention, Gerard Collomb said in an interview with *Le Journal du Dimanche*.

Asked how many French jihadis had been killed in Iraq and Syria, Collomb told the Sunday newspaper that it was difficult to corroborate information.

The head of France’s special forces said in June that his units were directly involved in street battles in the Iraqi city of Mosul but denied they were specifically targeting French-born jihadis fighting for Islamic State.

France has participated in a US-led coalition battling

Islamic State in Iraq, and it also intervened in Mali to push back an Islamist rebellion in the west African state.

French military interventions overseas have exposed it to attack by Islamist militants at home. Gunmen and suicide bombers killed 130 people in and around Paris in November 2015 and over 100 were killed in other Islamist attacks in France in the past two-and-a-half years.

Collomb said the threat of militant attacks was “very high”, citing two incidents targeting police on Paris’ Champs Elysees and seven foiled plots so far this year.

An increasing number of people were being flagged under a preventative monitoring system for radicalized behaviour, with more than 18,500 people reported, he said.

France has been subject to state of emergency legislation, giving police extended powers, since the November 2015 attacks, and the government plans to incorporate some of these measures into ordinary law through a counter-terrorism bill to be put before parliament in the coming months. —Reuters ■



People shop along a street in the city of Homs, Syria in this handout picture provided by SANA on 7 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Syrian army takes last IS-held town in Homs

BEIRUT — Syrian government and allied forces have taken the last major town in Homs Province from Islamic State, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said on Saturday, as the army advances towards militant strongholds in the east of the country.

The town of al-Sukhna lies some 50 km (30 miles) northeast of the ancient city of Palmyra, which was captured by government forces in March.

al-Sukhna is some 50 km from the administrative frontier

of Deir al-Zor province, which is almost entirely under Islamic State control.

A Hezbollah media unit said government and allied forces were making considerable progress inside the city of Sukhna. Lebanon’s Hezbollah group fights on the side of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in the Syrian conflict.

Syrian state news agency SANA reported earlier on Saturday that the army was advancing into al-Sukhna from three directions.

Islamic State is losing ground fast in Syria to separate campaigns waged by the Russian-backed Syrian government on the one hand, and to US-backed Kurdish forces and their allies on the other.

Government forces, backed by the Russian air force and Iran-backed militias, have also been advancing against IS in Hama province and in southern areas of Raqqqa Province. US-led operations against IS are currently focused on taking Raqqqa city in northern Syria. —Reuters ■

Panic stirs as Dubai 78-storey residential building catches fire

DUBAI — A blaze was reported early Sunday in the 78-storey residential building “Tiger Tower,” and was quickly extinguished, said the state-run Dubai Media Offices via Twitter.

Panic broke out in the Dubai Marina district when a blaze was reported on a balcony in the upper floors of Tiger Tower, which happens just two days after a fire caused minor damages in the adjacent Torch Tower.

The Dubai Media Offices confirmed no injuries were reported.

Other Twitter users said residents were evacuated in plain daylight with an outdoor temperatures of above 40 degrees Celsius, but allowed to return shortly after, as civil defense extinguished the flames quickly.

Footages posted on Twitter suggest that smoke was visible seen from the street.

The Tiger Tower, also known as the Pinnacle Tower, is 280 meters high, and was completed in 2010, according to the website of the developer Tiger Group.

Last Friday, the nearby towering residential skyscraper Torch Tower caught fire, and had been “successfully evacuated” with no casualties reported, local authority said.

The Torch Tower was already a victim of a blaze back in 2015.

Fire incidents have happened several times in Dubai’s high rise buildings in recent years, pushing insurance costs higher for apartments and property in general in the Gulf Arab sheikhdom. —Xinhua ■

Germany concerned Belgium withheld data about contaminated eggs

BERLIN/BRUSSELS — German Agriculture Minister Christian Schmidt on Saturday expressed concern about news that Belgian authorities first learned about the possible contamination of eggs with an insecticide in June, a month before the issue became public.

Schmidt planned to call his Belgian counterpart on Monday to discuss the current situation and “particularly the new information,” a ministry spokesman said.

“Agriculture Minister Schmidt would have expected notification from officials in Belgium in a timely and comprehensive manner,” the spokesman said.

Millions of eggs have been pulled from supermarkets in Germany and the Netherlands in a widening scandal over possible contamination by the insecticide fipronil that has triggered investigations by prosecutors in Belgium and the Netherlands, and the temporary shutdown of some poultry farms.

The issue has drawn widespread attention in Germany and discount supermarket chain Aldi on Friday said it was withdrawing all eggs from sale at its more than 4,000 stores in Germany as a precaution.

The Belgian food safety agency this week said it first learned of the issue at the start of June when one poultry company alerted them to the fact that they had found elevated



Eggs are pictured in this illustration photo in Bad Honnef, Germany, on 4 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

levels of the insecticide fipronil in its products.

The World Health Organisation considers fipronil to be moderately toxic and says very large quantities can cause damage to the kidneys, liver and lymph glands.

Schmidt was responding to a report on Belgian broadcaster VRT which cited the food safety agency as saying it had not disclosed the possible contamination because it was investigating possible fraud.

A spokeswoman for the Belgian food agency said she could not provide further information as Belgian law prohibits commenting on judicial investigations.

While some individual producers have been blocked,

Belgium has not recalled eggs from supermarket shelves as the levels of fipronil found were far below legal limits.

Blocked companies may only restart selling eggs if they can show that no more fipronil is found in their products.

A spokeswoman for the European Commission on Friday said the case was under investigation by Belgian and Dutch prosecutors.

She said the Belgian public prosecutor had opened a criminal investigation against the Belgian poultry service provider that is suspected of adding the substance to his products. Belgium has also opened a case on the EU Food Fraud Network asking assistance from the Netherlands.—Reuters ■

Mercosur suspends Venezuela, urges immediate transition

SAO PAULO — South American trade bloc Mercosur suspended Venezuela indefinitely on Saturday, adding more international pressure on President Nicolas Maduro to dismantle a newly created pro-government constituent assembly and restore democracy.

Foreign ministers of Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay and Brazil announced the decision in Sao Paulo, urging Maduro to release prisoners and immediately start a political transition.

“We are saying: Stop with this! Enough with the deaths, enough with the repression. It is not possible to inflict such torture on the people,” Brazilian Foreign Minister Aloysio Nunes said after the meeting.

As the suspension was announced, the constituent assembly removed dissident state prosecutor Luisa Ortega from her job. Asked to comment on Ortega’s dismissal, Nunes replied with a Latin proverb: “Whom the gods would destroy they first drive mad.”

Mercosur has no provision for expulsion. It had suspended Venezuela temporarily in December for not complying with the bloc’s regulations, and toughened its stance following the controversial election of the constituent assembly on Sunday and the arrest of several

opposition leaders.

Countries around the world have condemned the vote, calling it a bid to extend Maduro’s rule indefinitely. Argentina’s Foreign Minister Jorge Faurie labelled Venezuela a dictatorship.

“It is very bad to push a brother out of the door, but it did so with conviction because we are watching a situation that causes us great pain,” Faurie said.

On Tuesday, some 14 foreign ministers from across the Americas will meet in Lima to discuss Venezuela and the group could become a permanent monitoring body, Peru’s Foreign Minister Ricardo Luna said.

“We will study a sequence of 14 or 15 collective or individual measures that our countries could take to confront the crisis,” Luna said on Saturday.

Although Venezuela sits on the world’s largest-known oil reserves, millions are suffering food shortages and soaring inflation. Months of anti-government unrest have killed more than 120 people.

The Mercosur suspension will not affect trade and migration policies to avoid worsening the humanitarian crisis, Nunes said. “Venezuelans who want to come to Brazil will be welcome.”—Reuters ■



An Emirates Airline flight is seen after it crash-landed at Dubai International Airport, the UAE, on 3 August 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Investigators say Emirates Boeing plane in 2016 crash had no mechanical faults

DUBAI — UAE investigators looking into the cause of the 2016 Emirates [EMIRA.UL] crash at Dubai International Airport have found no mechanical issues with the aircraft prior to the incident.

Investigators were “working to determine and analyse the human performance factors that influenced flight crew actions during the landing and attempted go-around”, a United Arab

Emirates General Civil Aviation Authority report said on Sunday.

The 3 August, 2016 crash was the first major incident in Emirates’ more-than-30-year history. All 300 passengers and crew safely evacuated the jet but a firefighter died tackling flames after the Boeing (BA.N) 777-300, caught fire after skidding along the Dubai airport runway on its fuselage.—Reuters ■

Government launches review to cut long-term energy costs

LONDON — The government launched a review on how best to reduce long-term energy bills for households and business on Sunday, prompted in part by concern that high electricity costs could damage industrial competitiveness.

The government said it was still committed to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases in line with its existing legal commitments, but also wanted to reduce Britain's energy costs to the lowest in Europe.

"We want to ensure we continue to find the opportunities to keep energy costs as low as possible, while meeting our climate change targets," Business and Energy Secretary Greg Clark said. The review was first planned in January as part of a revamp of British industrial policy. Since then there have been growing concerns about rising household energy costs, although Prime Minister Theresa May's government has backed away from its pre-election proposals to cap some households' energy bills.



Electricity pylons are seen in London, Britain, on 1 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The report will look into electricity generation, transmission, distribution and supply at a time when coal power stations are closing, nuclear plants are ageing and electric vehicles risk creating a big long-term increase in de-

mand. Detailed tax changes or more government spending are not on the agenda, and any cost savings will need to come from changes energy and carbon pricing, energy efficiency, network regulation or new technology.

The review is due to conclude by the end of October, and will be chaired by Dieter Helm, an economics professor at the University of Oxford who has advised the government previously.—Reuters ■

Frequent fires engulf 2,000 hectares of land in Tunisia

TUNIS — Frequent fires amid heat waves erupted across eight provinces in Tunisia, crushing 2,000 hectares of land, local media reported on Sunday.

The Secretary of State for Agriculture Omar Bahi said that the figure is hitting a record as "anxious and exceptional," with the average annual damage caused by fires stays at about 1,300 hectares.

Almost all the fires were controlled except for four provinces, namely Bizerte in the north, Beja and Jendouba in the northwest, and Kasserine in the centerwest, said Bahi during a joint press briefing with representatives of the National Guard and Civil Protection.

The official spokesman of the Tunisian National Guard Khalifa Chibani confirmed the evidence of natural causes referring to the over-week-long heat wave in Tunisia, with 47 degrees Celsius in the shade and 59 degrees Celsius under the sun.—Xinhua ■

Hiroshima marks 72nd A-bomb anniversary with eyes on ban treaty

HIROSHIMA — Hiroshima marked the 72nd anniversary of the US atomic bombing on Sunday at its annual memorial ceremony, with Mayor Kazumi Matsui calling on the Japanese government to help realize a treaty banning nuclear weapons.

This year's ceremony at the Peace Memorial Park near Ground Zero follows the adoption by 122 United Nations members of the world's first treaty to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons.

The pact's preamble uses the Japanese term "hibakusha" in its mention of the "the unacceptable suffering" of survivors of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings that killed an estimated 214,000 people by the end of 1945.

But Japan refused to participate in the treaty, along with the world's nuclear weapon states and other countries under the US nuclear umbrella.

In the city's annual Peace Declaration, Matsui stopped short of demanding that Japan join the treaty, but urged the government to "manifest the

pacifism in our Constitution by doing everything in its power to bridge the gap between the nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states, thereby facilitating the ratification."

He said the countries that adopted the treaty "demonstrated their unequivocal determination to achieve abolition," and that now is the time for all governments to "strive to advance further toward a nuclear weapon-free world."

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe avoided any mention of the ban treaty in his speech at the ceremony.

"For us to truly realize a 'world without nuclear weapons,' the participation of both nuclear weapon states and non-nuclear weapon states is necessary," he said. Having met representatives of seven local hibakusha groups who protested Japan's lack of participation later Sunday, Abe defended the decision to stay out of the ban treaty, saying "a realistic approach" is needed to draw close to a world without nuclear weapons.



People pray in front of the Cenotaph for the A-bomb victims at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, western Japan, on 6 August, 2017, as the city marks the 72nd anniversary of the US atomic bombing. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

"We think (the treaty) must not result in the distance between the nuclear weapon and non-nuclear weapon states being further widened and the realization of a world without nuclear weapons getting further away," Abe told a press conference.

About 50,000 people assembled in the park for the ceremony, at which 80 nations plus the European Union were represented.

The nuclear states Britain, France, the United States and Russia sent representatives, as did India, Israel and Pakistan, which are also known to possess atomic weapons.

UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres called for all states to work toward a world free of nuclear arms "in their own ways" in a message read on his behalf by Izumi Nakamitsu, UN

undersecretary general and high representative for disarmament affairs.

"Hiroshima's message of peace and the heroic efforts of hibakushas have reminded the world of the devastating humanitarian consequences of nuclear weapons...The United Nations stands with you in our shared pursuit of a world free of nuclear weapons," the message said.

A moment of silence was observed at 8:15 am, when a uranium-core atomic bomb named "Little Boy" dropped by a US bomber exploded about 600 meters above Hiroshima on 6 August, 1945, killing an estimated 140,000 people by the end of that year.

A second atomic bomb was dropped on Nagasaki on 9 August and Japan surrendered six days later, bringing an end to World War II.

The combined number of "hibakusha," people who survived either bombing, stood at 164,621 as of March, down 5,530 from the year prior. Their average age was 81.41.—Kyodo News ■

‘Step’ becomes the voice of black Baltimore teens facing adversity

LOS ANGELES — A group of black teenage girls stomp, clap and shout in unison in step dance routines, channeling their anger, frustration and hopes into powerful performances in a new documentary “Step,” out in US theaters this week.

The journey of the founding class of the step troupe at the Baltimore Leadership School for Young Women shows the girls’ struggles in the aftermath of protests and rioting in the city where 25-year-old black man Freddie Gray died after suffering a broken neck in a police van in April 2015.

Stepping is not actually a dance, said Cori Grainger, one of the film’s lead subjects, because it does not use a beat. Instead, “you are the beat, you are the music, you use your hands, you stomp your feet, you clap, it’s spoken word,” Grainger told Reuters.

As the girls juggle their academics with competing in step tournaments, they visit Gray’s memorial where their step coach



Amanda Lipitz, the director of the documentary film “Step”, and cast member Cori Grainger are photographed in Los Angeles, California, US, on 27 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

tells them, “as African American women, we are considered bottom of the barrel.” The visit inspires the girls to perform a Black Lives Matter routine, which they end with their fists in

the air, chanting “It could have been us.”

“We began to use step as a platform to talk about things that were most important to us, so we used our themes to educate peo-

ple while we entertained them,” Grainger said.

“There are just rampant misunderstandings about the Black Lives Matter movement in this country and seeing these

young women stand up and say ‘it could have been me,’ it feels different,” added the film’s director Amanda Lipitz.

The charter school attended by the girls aims for a 100 per cent graduation and college acceptance rate, a goal that challenges some of the film’s protagonists.

Grainger hinges her hopes on a full scholarship to Johns Hopkins University as her family struggles financially while another girl, Blessin Giraldo, has to face the consequences of her low grades amid a difficult home life. Tayla Solomon clashes with a mother determined to keep her on the right track.

“I think a common misconception is that urban communities don’t really have kids in them who have big dreams and hopes,” Grainger said.

“So many of us are capable of doing big things, but how can we make a change in the world if we’re never given the experience or the opportunity to?”—Reuters ■

Natalie Portman in talks to join ‘Bronco Belle’

LOS ANGELES — Actor Natalie Portman is in early negotiations to star as an aspiring bull rider in “Bronco Belle”.

Anna Rose Holmer is in discussions to direct the film from Khurram Longi’s script, reported Deadline.

Mad Chance’s Andrew Lazar is producing the story about a waitress with dreams of riding on the rodeo circuit.

Portman was last seen in “Jackie,” for which she received her third Academy Award nomination after “Closer” and “Black Swan,” which won her a best actress trophy.

She has wrapped on Alex Garland’s sci-fi thriller “Annihilation,” which Paramount has set for a February 23 release.

Holmer directed “The Fits.”—PTI ■

I am old-fashioned about relationships: SRK

KOLKATA — Superstar Shah Rukh Khan says relationships nowadays have become too practical and he still believes in the old-fashioned, unreasonable love.

“What does a relationship mean? It appears that these days relationships are based on practical considerations. You should love unreasonably. Don’t you love your children without any reason?” Shah Rukh told reporters during the promotion of his new film “Jab Harry Met Sejal” here last evening.

“However, in the present age where everyone has so less time, I might be called old-fashioned,” he says.



PHOTO: PTI

“Jab Harry Met Sejal” has been directed by Imtiaz Ali and the film, which released this Friday, has received mixed re-

sponse. On whether the filmmaker, who has helmed films like “Jab We Met” and “Rockstar”, has lost his magic touch, Shah

Rukh says, “I have not watched any of Imtiaz’s previous films. “But you are right, a film should go beyond the subject and create magic. But again speaking on his (Imtiaz) behalf, I think one should always try something new. And I think it is a wonderful film.”

Shah Rukh, in recent years, has experimented with films like “Fan” and “Raees”.

“I have tried formula films. But sometime back I understood that I can’t keep recreating the same magic.” Shah Rukh’s “Jab Harry Met Sejal” co-actor Anushka Sharma and Imtiaz were also present at the press meet. —PTI ■

US cable firms embrace former foe Netflix as TV viewing shifts

NEW YORK — A growing number of US cable operators are forming alliances with Netflix Inc NFLX.O, a shift that is helping the streaming pioneer add customers as its largest single market matures.

No. 3 distributor Charter Communications Inc CHTR.O is expected to make Netflix available through its set-top boxes,

joining more than a dozen top US pay television operators adopting a model first rolled out in Europe. Some US providers could start selling the streaming service as part of their Internet and video packages.

Altice NV ATCA.AS is trying that approach in France, and the company aims to extend the deal to the United States, two source-

es with knowledge of the matter said during the past three weeks. They requested anonymity because the discussions are private.

“Our whole model is about cooperation with many of the (streaming) providers,” Altice USA ATUS.N Chief Executive Dexter Goei told reporters in May. Netflix also indicated it wants to take the arrangement

elsewhere, though the timing of any new deals is uncertain.

“We’re now looking at proposals for including Netflix in some services and beginning to learn the bundling part of the business,” Netflix CEO Reed Hastings said during a post-earnings webcast in July. “We’re interested in expanding that.” —Reuters ■

Yangon ART EXPO 2017 to be held on 4 – 14 November in Yangon

In November the Myanmar contemporary art will take off from the top of Junction City Tower in Yangon to fly all over the Golden Country heading to international skies.



Painting by artist Maung Maung Oo . **PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN**

The NGO Culture2All – Mauro Salvemini will organise Yangon ART EXPO 2017 in a new exhibition space at the top of Junction City Tower. The ART EXPO exhibited in more than 1.500 square meter space will

feature works by celebrated and emerging artists of Myanmar. More than fifty invited artists and more than one hundred artworks will represent, in an unique way, the status, the influences and the changes occurred

recently in Myanmar artistic, cultural and social context. Yangon ART EXPO 2017 inaugurates on 4 November and it will last up to 14 November 2017. The participation of the artists is free of charge as the visiting of exhibition as well. The exhibition, outlining different art techniques, styles, approaches and ideas from the most realistic to the abstract, presents a constellation of artistic perspectives by artists and galleries and provides information about important Myanmar art movements and styles of the 21st century.

“The great venue in Junction City Tower at the highest location ever used in Yangon for an art show is a pluralistic space where autonomous Myanmar artistic perspectives, carefully individuated by Culture2All NGO, will enter into dialogue and debate taking off for flying on the city of Yangon and the whole nation aiming to consolidate again the outstanding position already covered in the past in Southern Asia and globally

.” says Mauro Salvemini, president of the NGO. “This pioneering exhibition draws together a unique range of artists and artworks to reflect upon the current and emerging approaches that characterize contemporary art in Myanmar today. Yangon ART EXPO 2017 born as an independent event run by the NGO who fully dedicated last few years to show and promote Myanmar artistic culture in Italy and in Europe, is a platform that actively promotes diversity, freedom and experimentation highlighting the peculiarities of traditional and unique culture of Myanmar.” Says the curator Ms. Eugenia Battisti, PhD in art and critic. Yangon ART EXPO 2017 concept defines a place where people go to relax and enjoy art in this sense it aims to cultivate collaborations, to create infrastructures and strategies for the benefit of Yangon, for Myanmar and for international society as well. The ART EXPO poses questions, and proposes answers to reflect on the conditions how to aim at a free art

world in a nation currently being invested with larger institutional, societal and economic changes and still characterised by lesser infrastructures. The ART EXPO will be also a laboratory aiming at further development projects involving international interlocutors from culture and enterprise.

According to NGO’s mission “The ART EXPO 2017 is aiming at fund raising for running four educational happenings (to be held in 2018) for young people living in villages nearby or containing cultural heritage sites (four villages have been individuated so far : Kakku Pagodas in the Shan State; Sa Lay in Magway Region; Mrauk U in Raikine State; Kyaukpadaung, Mandalay Region). The four happenings (lasting for few days with audio-visual presentations, artistic awareness raising workshops, classes and discussions) aim at sustainable exploitation of cultural heritage by giving to young generations of villages in cultural heritage areas of Myanmar, basic awareness tools for using the resources, located in their territory, for sustainable tourism activities.



Junction Square. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Prof. Eng. Mauro Salvemini
President NGO / ONLUS
Culture 2 All - www.culture2all.com
Distinguished Professor of
Sapienza University Roma
President Emeritus AMFM
GIS Italia - www.amfm.it

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

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

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Exquisite Myanmar Silk
07:45	Am	Shwe U Min Natural Cave In Kalaw
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Katthapha
08:44	Am	Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Chaw Dwin Gone
09:03	Am	News
09:25	Am	Rakhine Tourist Area
09:56	Am	Waso on the Buddhist Lent
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Than Kywe
10:39	Am	Oboist and His Life

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip(Ep-3)
07:502	Pm	Now In Yangon
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes "Gaybar Kayin" (Part-3)
08:47	Pm	Black Gold (P - II)
08:53	Pm	Entrepreneur - U Than Myint
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)- Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)		

Series of art exhibition projected to hold

A GROUP of eight male artists have been staging a Yangon art exhibition in Yangon since 4 August at the S8 Art Exhibition at Bo Aung Kyaw Art Gallery in Kyauktada, according to the Myawady Daily yesterday. The event will run between 9 am and 5 pm daily until 8 August. Exhibition pieces are priceave been sold at a price ranging from US\$300 to \$1,000. Wunna Aung, one of eight artists, said visitors can learn more about local painting techniques and Myanmar culture and history at the exhibition.—GNLM

Myanmar final footballers chosen for 29th SEA Games

TWENTY Myanmar national footballers have been chosen as the final player list in preparation for the SEA Games.

Myanmar's shining player Nyein Chan Aung, Zin Phyto Aung and Wai Lin Aung were also included in the unchosen players' list.

Although Nyein Chan Aung played brilliantly in the previous matches, he's not well enough to play for all the matches in the SEA Games thus he was degraded. Nyein Chan also got injuries and Wai Lin Aung was being in falling performances.

The team comprises Man-

ager U Thann Toe Aung, Head Coach Gerd Friedrich, Assistant-Coaches U Kyi Lwin, U Zaw Win Tun and U Myint Ko, Goal Coach U Aung Kyaw Kyaw and selected 20 players including Aung Thu, Si Thu Aung, Thann Paing and Hlaing Bo Bo.

Myanmar U-22 team has been placed in the Group (A) together with host Malaysia, Singapore, Laos and Brunei.

Myanmar team will play with Singapore on 14 August as an opening match, Laos on 10 August, Brunei on August 18 and host Malaysia on 21 August respectively.

—Shine Htet Zaw ■



Myanmar star player Si Thu Aung kicking the ball forward during a match. **PHOTO: SOE NYUNT**

Gatlin stuns Bolt to win 100m world title

LONDON — Justin Gatlin ruined Usain Bolt's farewell party when the 35-year-old American won the world 100 metres title on Saturday, beating the Jamaican superstar into third and sparking a chorus of boos from a London crowd unhappy with his doping past.

What was meant to be a glorious celebration of the departure of the sport's greatest showman turned into a condemnation of its biggest pantomime villain as Gatlin, twice banned for drug offences, rolled back the years to win a second world title 12 years after his first and 13 after claiming Olympic 100m gold.

As so often before Bolt made a terrible start but for once could not make it up as Christian Coleman, the 21-year-old American who beat him in the semi-finals, looked set for victory.

But Gatlin, who stumbled at the death to lose the 2015 world final to Bolt by a hundredth of a second, on this occasion timed his surge and dip to perfection to win in 9.92 seconds.

Coleman, who has run over 40 races this year but turned professional only a few weeks ago, took silver in 9.94.

Bolt, straining every sinew, fought all the way to the line but the pace and grace that took him to his world record of 9.58 eight

years ago has withered with age and perennial injury battles and this time he ran out of track.

"It's just one of those things," Bolt said. "My start is killing me. Normally, it gets better during the rounds but it didn't come together."

When the results flashed up on the giant screen the crowd immediately began repeating the booing with which Gatlin's name had been greeted since the heats on Friday.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, his

first response was to put his finger to his lips to indicate silence.

The crowd reacted by chanting Bolt's name and the Jamaican hugged Gatlin and told him he did not deserve the disrespect.

"I tuned it out (the boos) through the rounds and stayed the course. I did what I had to do," said Gatlin, who served a four-year ban from 2006 for a second doping offence - which he always denied.

"The people who love me are here cheering for me and cheer-

ing at home. "It is Bolt's last race and he's the man so it's not about beating him. I have had many victories and many defeats down the years, he's pushed and inspired me to be the athlete I am today.

"It's surreal really to come across the line first - it's still his night. "We are rivals on the track but in the warm-down area we joke and have a good time. The first thing he did was congratulate me and say that I didn't deserve the boos. He is an inspiration." —Reuters ■



Usain Bolt of Jamaica, Justin Gatlin of the US and Christian Coleman of the US compete during men's 100 metres final, London Stadium, London, Britain, on 5 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Myanmar's Karate-Do team ready for 29th SEA Games

MYANMAR'S selected Karate-Do athletes have been undergoing training in Yangon since last year and ready for the SEA Games said Myanmar Karate-Do Federation official page.

There are 8 men athletes and 9 women athletes chosen for the Karate-Do in 29th SEA Games. There are 3 elements, kihon (basics), kata (forms) and kumite (sparring) of Karate-Do in the upcoming SEA Games.

Myanmar will compete in all the elements of game and will compete in men's individual, women's individual, men's team and women's team respectively. Officials will award 16 gold medals, 16 silver medals and 32 bronze medals for the athletes at the competition.

Myanmar Karate-Do team will leave for Malaysia on 20 August.

Karate-Do is a martial art of Japanese origin that deals with attacks through evasive body movements or blocking, and counter attacks using kicks, punches and strikes. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■