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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint look at the body of U Aung Shwe, former chairman of the National League for Democracy, during his funeral in Yangon yesterday. **PHOTO: REUTERS/SOE ZEYA TUN**

U Aung Shwe laid to rest

THE funeral ceremony for U Aung Shwe, the former chairman and co-founder of the National League for Democracy, was held at Yayway cemetery in North Okkalapa, Yangon yesterday.

The veteran politician died on Sunday from age-related

health problems. He was 101.

U Aung Shwe, an Ambassador to several countries and a retired brigadier-general, began receiving titles of honour at a young age — Sithu, Tharay Sithu, Mawgun award (first grade) and Naingantgonyi award (first grade.)

Yesterday, colleagues, political party members, civil society representatives, friends and family members took part in the funeral procession.

At the funeral ceremony, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi delivered a eulogy in honour of the ex-chairman,

followed by speeches from U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw and U Jimmy, 88 Generation Peace and Open Society activist. Dr. Myo Nyunt, a central executive committee member for the NLD, then read out loud the biography of the deceased.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw addresses tax issues, Christian Marriage Act

Myo Myint, Aye Aye Thant
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win described to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday a bill that would amend a commercial tax law last amended in 2015.

The new amendment would reform Myanmar's laws to include a value added tax and new fines to improve enforcement of the existing commercial tax code.

The deputy minister also described the Revenue Appellate Tribunal Bill, which is intended to rationalize Myanmar's tax payment and establish a formal appeals process.

"The bill was drafted five

times between 2014 and July 2016 and comments and suggestions were obtained from Union Attorney-General office and relevant departments in numerous coordination meetings," said the deputy minister. "The bill will ensure high quality tax management in order to gain the trust of the tax payers and to give equal and fair opportunities to citizens and tax payers in paying tax," said U Maung Maung Win.

The deputy minister also pledged that the bill would allow the people to get the full rights provided under the law when it is enacted into a law. The hluttaw also decided to amend Christian Marriage Act, which had been marked up by the President. ■



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

2nd workshop on the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Cooperation Mechanism held



Ambassador of the Republic of the Korea Mission to ASEAN addresses the 2nd workshop on the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Mechanism. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

The 2nd workshop on the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Mechanism was hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in cooperation with the ASEAN Secretariat and the ASEAN-ROK Programme Management Team (AKPMT) at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar on 17 August 2017.

The workshop was officiated with the Opening Remarks by H.E. Suh. Jeong-in, Ambassador of the Republic of the Korea Mission to ASEAN and U Myint Thu, Director-General of the ASEAN Affairs Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The workshop was attended by 71 officials from the relevant Ministries and organ-

izations.

The workshop aims to promote awareness on the ROK-funded projects through the demonstration of best practices and capacity building of officials from the Ministries in preparing and implementing projects under the framework of ASEAN-Korea Cooperation fund.

During the 2nd workshop on the ASEAN-ROK Cooperation Mechanism, participants were able to exchange views on ways and means to develop project proposals, effective implementation and completion procedures for ASEAN-Korea Cooperation fund (AKCF) supported programmes.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

One more death from H1N1

THE Ministry of Health and Sports announced yesterday that medical examinations for 38 patients were carried out between 16 and 17 August and 15 cases were confirmed to have the H1N1 virus and one more death from the virus was reported.

The ministry announced that there have been a total of 725 cases of severe respiratory infections, and now 277 confirmed cases of the seasonal

influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 and 27 deaths from the virus.

The ministry announced that there have been no reported cases or deaths from the H1N1 virus in Kachin and Kayah States. There have been a total of 5 inpatients at Wabargi Specialist Hospital and 60 inpatients in hospitals in various regions and states receiving treatment for confirmed cases of H1N1. The ministry said the majority of patients are doing well. The

World Health Organization's FluNet Website announced that within the 7 months from 1 January to 5 August the Seasonal Influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 has affected 12,060 people in China, 1,318 people in India, 480 people in Nepal, 373 people in Sri Lanka, 289 people in Maldives, 274 people in Bangladesh, 109 people in Thailand, 59 people in Malaysia, 48 people in Bhutan and 2 people in Indonesia. —Myanmar News Agency ■

MOFA and British Embassy jointly organize workshop

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Myanmar and the British Embassy in Yangon jointly organized a "Workshop on Striking a Right Balance between Freedom of Expression and Hate Speech" at Grand Amara Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 17 August 2017. U Kyaw Moe Tun, Director-General, International Organizations and Economic Department from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Mr. David Hall, Charge' d' Affaire a.i. of British Embassy in Yangon delivered their opening remarks.

About thirty participants from Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of State Counsellor's Office, Ministry of Information, Ministry of Religious Affairs



Officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and British Embassy held a workshop. **PHOTO: MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

and Culture, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Union Attorney General's Office, Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, and invited experts attended the workshop.

At the event, the ex-

perts presented international norms and standards in exercising freedom of expression, preventing hate speech and countries good practices and domestic legislation in this regard and the participants took part actively in the discussion. —Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Opening of Honorary Consulate of Mexico in Myanmar

An opening ceremony for the Honorary Consulate of Mexico in Myanmar was held yesterday morning at the 5th floor of Maha Land Business Centre, No. 56 Kaba Aye Pagoda Road, Yangon.

First, U Kyaw Zeya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ambassador H.E. Mr. Nathan Wolf of the Embassy of Mexico based in Singapore delivered opening speeches.

Next, Ambassador H.E. Mr. Nathan Wolf and Honorary Consul-General of Mexico U Sit Taing Aung cut a ribbon

to open the ceremony and U Kyaw Zeya pressed a button to unveil the consulate-general sign board.

Later in the evening, a reception to mark the opening of the Honorary Consulate of Mexico in Myanmar was held at Melia Yangon Hotel and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein graced the event.

At the event Ministry of Foreign Affairs Strategic Studies and Training Department Director General Daw Kay Thi Soe, Ambassador H.E. Mr. Nathan Wolf and Honorary Con-

sul-General of Mexico U Sit Taing Aung gave speeches.

Afterwards Ambassador H.E. Mr. Nathan Wolf presented gifts to Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and Director General Daw Kay Thi Soe.

Diplomatic relations between Myanmar and Mexico was established in 1976 and Honorary Consulate of Mexico in Myanmar is being opened to increase bilateral and economic relations and to assist Mexican citizens visiting Myanmar. —Myanmar News Agency ■



President U Htin Kyaw shakes hands with Mr. Roland Kobia at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

EU Ambassador makes farewell call on President U Htin Kyaw

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received the Ambassador of the European Union to Myanmar H.E. Mr. Roland Kobia yesterday at 2 p.m. at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. The Ambassador was making a farewell call on President U Htin Kyaw. During this meeting they discussed foreign investments

in Myanmar; the peace building process and other matters of mutual interest between the European Union and Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin and other officials. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary U Kyaw Zeya delivers an opening speech at the opening ceremony of Mexico Honorary Consulate in Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

Fish breeding implemented in Yangon Region

By Ko Moe

Increasing the numbers of butterflyfish, or Nga-Myin, which fetch a good price in Japan and other countries, is being undertaken in a fish farming centre in Twantay Township, Yangon, according to the Fishery Department of Yangon Region.

At the fish farming centre, butterflyfish are being bred through artificial insemination, officials said. The hatched fish will then be released into lakes, streams and rivers.

"In Twantay, it is being done to conserve the Nga-Myin fish species, especially to have fish injected and then to release them after injection", said U Tun Win Myint, head of Yangon Region Fishery Department. "We must wait for one-and-a-half years or two years more for these small fish

to grow and reach the needed size." High-quality butterflyfish/ Nga-Myin fetches Ks15,000 to Ks20,000 per viss in the market, especially when exported to foreign markets.

The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), Japan University and Yangon University are working together to breed and propagate the butterflyfish species to the specifications of the Japanese, according to the Yangon Region Fishery Department.

"They took tissue samples in July for the conservation of the butterflyfish species. Japan is carrying out the task of breeding through their methods", U Tun Win Myint said.

The domestic breeding of profitable regional fish species —butterflyfish, catfish, snakehead fish and Nga-Gyee, has so far been termed a success, officials

said.

U Tun Win Myint noted that necessary reforms still need to be accomplished in accord with current situations to be able to export fish to foreign countries and for long-term development.

"Regarding fishermen, they need to abide by designated times and disciplines. And they need to change from their traditional fish breeding system into modern ones," said the head of the regional department.

The regional government is making efforts to upgrade the fishery industries, including fish breeding, production of feed for fish, and fish freezing storage rooms.

In the 2016-2017 financial year, exports from fisheries fetched US\$600 million. From the start of the current fiscal year until July, \$150 million has been earned. ■

Antiquities protection discussed by Myanmar officials and UNESCO

UNESCO officials met yesterday with Myanmar Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture officials at the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw about potential measures they can take to protect Myanmar's historical and cultural artifacts from degradation and theft.

UNESCO's convention against the illicit trafficking of cultural objects encourages governments to catalogue and track antiquities and cultural artifacts.

At the meeting, Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture addressed, said that Myanmar has joined UNESCO anti-trafficking conventions

since the 1970s. The minister also described efforts taken by the government to identify and preserve Myanmar's heritage through the protection of historical artifacts.

During the discussion, Mr Etienne Clement, an international law expert discussed anti-trafficking legal frameworks recommended by UNESCO.

Officials with the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, the Office of the Union Attorney General, Myanmar's Police Force and Customs Department also participated in the discussion.—Myanmar News Agency ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markangeles@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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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Yangon Water Bus seen at Nan Thida Jetty. **PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN**

Two water taxis delivered to Nan Thidar Port in Yangon

Two water taxis which will serve Yangon River routes arrived at Ahlone International Port Terminal-1 on 15 August and are docked at Pansodan (Nan Thidar port), according to a report in the Myawady Daily.

The Australian-import water buses will official launch

from Yangon Water Bus jetty, said Daw Tint Tint Lwin, the chairperson of Tint Tint Myanmar Company.

The vessels will run between Hlaingthaya, Insein and Botahtaung, initially, with stops near Insein bridge, Bayintnaung bridge, FMI housing

estate, Hlaing Station street, Kyimyindaing (Zaygyi bridge, Latha (Lanthit bridge), Pansodan (Nan Thida) and Botahtaung (Pontoon bridge No.4). The water taxi fare is Ks500 for longer distances and Ks300 for short trips. — Thant Zin Win ■

DICA: Only public companies authorised to sell shares

Amid recent reports of illegitimate stock sales and pyramid schemes that have bilked Myanmar people out of intended investment funds, the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) issued a public warning yesterday in the Myawady Daily that it will prosecute unregistered companies that solicit investment through unauthorised channels, including Facebook.

"Some of the companies are selling their companies' shares despite not being public companies," said Daw Nilar Mu, a director of DICA. "The public are buying their shares without knowing that these companies have no right to sell shares to the public because they are not public companies. Selling the shares in an unlawful manner is against the law. Therefore, we will take legal

action against such companies."

"We are promoting awareness of illegal dealing so the public will not lose their money by buying illegal shares," said U Kyaw Win Tun, a director of DICA.

Only 55 public companies, the only entities allowed to sell shares in Myanmar, have registered with DICA as of July 31.—GNLM ■

Illegal timber confiscated in Shan State

LAW enforcement officials stopped seven different vehicles loaded with illegal goods at checkpoints in Shan and Mon states.

On 16 August, law enforcement officers stopped a vehicle at Yaypu checkpoint, Hsenwi Township and discovered Ks514,000 worth of illegal goods. Checkpoint officials discovered three more cases at Mayanchaung checkpoint, Kyaikto Township, Mon State carrying approximately Ks16 million worth of illegal goods.

On 15 August, law enforcement officers seized nearly 10,000 kilograms of poached lumber with an estimated worth of Ks99 million from three vehicles, a Nissan Wingroad, a Honda Odyssey and a Fuso 22-wheeler.— GNLM ■

Man in connection with violent attackers arrested in Maungtaung

Law enforcement authorities arrested a man yesterday in Maungtaung Township, Rakhine State on suspicion of participating in a violent attack.

Law enforcement officials arrested Marmat Sedate of Khune Khaune Village while on patrol in Taung Yin Village, Maungtaung.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Baby elephant rescued by Myanma Forestry Department in Pathein

A baby elephant was rescued by officials from the Myanma Forestry Department and Myanma Timber Enterprise in Pathein Township, Ayeyawady Region on Wednesday. The elephant was found trapped near jagged rocks in Phoe Lwun Creek in the Chaungtha forest and rescued and brought to Ngaleintalel Village in Pathein.

Officials from the Myan-

ma Forestry Department are nursing the baby elephant back to health and will eventually return it to its mother.—Myanmar News Agency ■





PHOTO: MYANMAR NATIONAL AIRLINE

MNA plans to fly more international routes

By Ko Moe

Myanmar National Airline (MNA) is preparing to expand its international network and currently prepping to fly to Chengdu, China, said U Than

Tun, Chief Executive Officer of MNA. MNA flies to 26 domestic destinations, and international routes including Singapore, Hong Kong, Bangkok, Chiang Mai and Gaya. "Our airline is trying to keep

up with international airlines flying between international airports of Myanmar since we are the oldest airline in the country," said U Than Tun. "MNA has the most extensive route network within our country." ■

Bamboo industry requires more capacity for value-added products

BAMBOO goods are increasingly attractive in international markets as an ecologically sustainable material with a variety of uses. Myanmar's bamboo industry has potential, but still lacks capacity to produce enough value-added products to fulfill international demand on a large scale, according to a

report of City News, yesterday. Myanmar's bamboo industry mainly targets the domestic market. Locally made bamboo handicrafts are exported to North America and European countries. Viet Nam, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia are regional competitors for bamboo products.

Export markets are aware of bamboo's utility for construction materials and a variety of other uses, but Myanmar's bamboo industry is still undeveloped. Myanmar is home to 30 bamboo varieties, but there exists no commercial bamboo farms.—GNLM ■

MFF plans to establish public company

The Myanmar Fishery Federation will set up a public company this year to invest in the fisheries industry, said MFF's U Min Oo to Myawady Daily.

The public company will adopt modern systematic fish farming methods and focus on export markets for a variety of freshwater and saltwater products.

MFF plans to select executives next month for the new company.—GNLM ■

Indian pulses quotas reduces overall Myanmar agricultural exports

Pulses export value declined by US\$250 million this financial year due, in large part, to tougher limits imposed by India. This financial year, Myanmar exported more than 700,000 tons of pulses worth \$500 million.

In total, agriculture exports were \$1.1 billion, a decrease of approximately \$31 million less than last financial year. Much of this year's shortfall was covered by higher rice and corn exports.

About 70 per cent of Myanmar's pulses exports are

destined for India, which recently imposed import quotas on pigeon peas and other bean crops under a new push to increase India's domestic pulses production. Traditionally Myanmar's mung bean and pigeon peas are popular in India, while green grams are more popular in China, Europe and Japan.

Rice export earned twice over same period of last FY, with export volume of more than 1 million tons. Similarly, corn export fetched \$30 million more than last FY.—Htet Myat ■

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South Korea's Moon says US to seek Seoul's approval before any action on North Korea

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in said on Thursday US President Donald Trump has promised to seek Seoul's approval before pursuing any option against nuclear-armed North Korea.

Trump's recent aggressive comments about deploying possible military options underscored his resolve to counter the threat from the North's nuclear weapons and missile programmes.

However, they do not appear to have been made with the intention to take military action, Moon said at a news conference to mark his first 100 days in office.

Moon urged North Korea not to make further provocations, saying it would face much tougher sanctions that the impoverished country would be unable to withstand if it persists with its nuclear weapons development.—Reuters ■



South Korean President Moon Jae-In, delivers a speech during celebrations of the 72th anniversary of Korea's Independence Day from Japanese colonial rule in 1945 in Seoul, South Korea, on 15 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Japan, China, S Korea environment ministers to meet 24-25 August

TOKYO — Japan, China and South Korea will hold a two-day trilateral environment ministers' meeting from 24 August in South Korea to discuss responses to alien species and air pollution, the Japanese Environment Ministry

said Thursday.

Japanese Environment Minister Masaharu Nakagawa will take part in the meeting in Suwon and on 24 August also hold separate talks with his Chinese and South Korean counterparts, Li Ganjie and Kim Eun

Kyung, respectively.

The two-day trilateral talks will focus on measures to deal with alien species, such as fire ants which recently have been found at major Japanese ports, and with air pollution involving high concentrations of PM 2.5,

or particles 2.5 microns in diameter or smaller.

The ministers plan to adopt a joint statement on the second day.

Environmental cooperation is one of the few realms that have not suffered a serious set-

back amid Japan's sometimes strained diplomatic relations with China and South Korea over differing views on history and territory.

The trilateral environment talks have been held annually since 1999.—Kyodo News ■

Japan to test alert system in likely flight path of North Korea missile

TOKYO — The Japanese government said Thursday it will carry out a drill of its emergency alert system the next day in areas in and around the likely flight path of a ballistic missile North Korea has recently threatened to launch toward Guam.

The drill of the satellite-based J-Alert system is set to take place at 11:00 am on Friday in nine prefectures in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions of western Japan, despite signs that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has decided to hold off on the launch for the time being.

North Korea threatened last week to simultaneously launch four ballistic missiles toward waters near the US territory of Guam in the western Pacific. The suggested flight path would take the missiles over Shimane, Hiroshima, Ehime and Kochi Prefectures.

But on Tuesday, North Korean state media quoted Kim as saying he will "watch a little more" the behavior of the United States.

The drill will take place in those four prefectures, plus the adjoining prefectures of Tottori, Okayama, Yamaguchi, Tokushima and Kagawa, the Fire and Disaster Management Agency said Thursday.

The drill will test the ability of municipalities receiving alerts to automatically broadcast them to residents, aiming to improve faults in the system discovered in a nationwide drill in November last year.

According to officials, the primary means of broadcast is a network of outdoor loudspeakers also used for alerts about natural disasters. Text messages to smartphones and other mobile phones will not be

used in Friday's drill, the officials said.

In May, the government revised the wording used in J-Alert warnings about ballistic missiles in light of developments in North Korea. Warnings now call for people in at-risk areas to take shelter underground or in robust buildings.

Following the latest missile threat, Japan has geared up its preparedness against a North Korean missile or debris falling on its territory by deploying Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile interceptor batteries in Shimane, Hiroshima, Ehime and Kochi.

The Self-Defence Forces have also deployed destroyers in the Sea of Japan armed with Standard Missile-3 interceptors, which are tasked with stopping missiles in the outer atmosphere.—Kyodo News ■

China says no risk of contamination from EU egg scare

BEIJING — China's Agriculture ministry said on Thursday no eggs from Europe have been imported into the country, leaving no risk of contamination from a scare sweeping Europe about the use of a potentially harmful insecticide.

In a monthly ministry briefing, Jin Fazhong, deputy director at the agricultural quality

and safety inspection bureau said: "There is no risk of eating poisoned eggs in China."

Millions of chicken eggs have been pulled from European supermarket shelves as a result of the scare over the use of the insecticide fipronil, which is forbidden in the food chain and can cause organ damage in humans.—Reuters ■



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

UN chief urges DPRK to fully implement international obligations

UNITED NATIONS — UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) should "fully comply with international obligations" and "engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue" in order to defuse tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

Speaking to reporters at the UN headquarters in New York, Guterres said "the Security Council was united in adopting Resolution 2371 on August 5," adding "this resolution sends an unambiguous message regarding the peace and security obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea."

"In particular, tensions related to the Korean Peninsula are at levels not seen in decades. We remember the enormous suffer-

ing caused by the Korean War that began 67 years ago," the UN chief noted.

The secretary-general stressed that over three million people were killed in the Korean War. Many nations were directly engaged and experienced heavy losses.

"We need to heed the lessons of history, not to repeat the mistakes," he stressed.

Guterres said that "it is obviously my role as UN Secretary-General to support the comprehensive implementation of Security Council resolutions, namely this last one."

He urged all member states to fully fulfill their related obligations.

"All concerned parties should also recognize that the unified adoption of Resolution

2371 represents an opportunity for diplomatic engagement and renewed dialogue to solve this crisis."

"I welcome the continued critical engagement by Member States and support the call of the Republic of Korea to the DPRK to engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue," he noted.

There are many possible avenues for this dialogue, from various bilateral formations to the Six-Party Talks, he said.

The Secretary-General disclosed that he conveyed this message Tuesday to the representatives of the Six-Party Talks, adding that "for my part, I want to repeat that my good offices are always available."

He also called on the international community to send a clear, coherent message to the



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks to the press during a media encounter at the UN headquarters in New York, on 16 August 2017. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Wednesday that the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) should "fully comply with international obligations" and "engage in a credible and meaningful dialogue" in order to defuse tensions on the Korean Peninsula. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

leadership of the DPRK: "fully comply with international obligations, work towards reopening communication channels and support efforts to deescalate the situation."

"The solution to this crisis must be political," he stressed, noting that the potential consequences of military action are "too horrific to even contemplate." —Xinhua ■

US says joint South Korea war games not on the negotiating table

BEIJING/SEOUL — The United States and South Korea will go ahead with joint military drills next week, the top US military official said on Thursday, resisting pressure from North Korea and its ally China to halt the contentious exercises.

North Korea's rapid progress in developing nuclear weapons and missiles capable of reaching the US mainland has fuelled a rise in tensions in recent months.

Pyongyang threatened last week to fire missiles towards the US Pacific territory of Guam and US President Donald Trump warned soon after that North Korea would face "fire and fury" if it threatened the United States.

Annual military drills involving tens of thousands of US and South Korean troops are due to begin on Monday. China, North Korea's main ally and trading partner, has urged the United States and South Korea to scrap the drills in exchange for North Korea calling a halt to its weapons programmes.

Joseph Dunford, Chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the exercises were "not currently on the table as part of the negotiation at any level".

"My advice to our leadership



South Korean Army K1A1 and US Army M1A2 tanks fire live rounds during a US-South Korea joint live-fire military exercise, at a training field, near the demilitarized zone, separating the two Koreas in Pocheon, South Korea, on 21 April 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

is that we not dial back our exercises. The exercises are very important to maintaining the ability of the alliance to defend itself," Dunford told reporters in Beijing after meeting his Chinese counterparts.

"As long as the threat in North Korea exists, we need to maintain a high state of readiness to respond to that threat," he said.

Fan Changlong, a vice chairman of China's powerful Central Military Commission, told Dunford that China believes the only effective way to resolve the issue is through talks.

"China believes that dialogue and consultations are the only effective avenue to resolve the peninsula issue, and that military means cannot become an option," China's Defence Ministry

cited Fan as saying.

North Korea, which denounces the drills as a preparation for war, has fired missiles and taken other steps in the past in response to the war games.

The United States and South Korea remain technically still at war with North Korea after the 1950-53 Korean conflict ended with a truce, not a peace treaty.—Reuters ■

Indian president pitches for world-class safety measures in mines

NEW DELHI — Indian President Ram Nath Kovind Thursday asked mining companies in the country to look after the safety of laborers and put in place world-class safety measures in mines to prevent accidents.

"The safety of people should be accorded top most priority. The mining sector gives employment to more than one million people daily. But it should be borne in mind that mining does not result in degradation of environment," Kovind said.

The president also asked the mining companies to take care of their laborers as well as their families and pitched for a policy for the same.

"Mining companies should also make a policy for the welfare of labourers and their families," he said while giving away the National Safety Awards (Mines) at a function in the Indian capital. In all, 37 winner prizes and 34 runner-up prizes were given to the winning mines. The award recognizes any notable and exemplary performance for prevention of accidents in mines, a labor ministry statement has said.—Xinhua ■

The role of Private Banks in the development of the Nation

By Khin Maung Win

THE Oxford Business Group made a remark in the 2017 Report on Myanmar that the main difficulty of the small-plot farmers is the inability of securing loans from banks. The report also pointed out the fact that farmers hardly get the loans in time for growing. According to that 2017 Report, it is said that the rate of obtaining bank service is very low in Myanmar. It said 90% of the total population is out of the bank service. Actually the report highlighted that the majority of people without any connectivity with

banking services is undesirable for the development of the country. A strong banking sector is sine qua non for the development of the country.

In the midst of the present unsatisfactory circumstances in the banking sector, State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with the Chairmen of the 22 private banks and other responsible personnel on 15 August at the meeting hall of the Ministry of the State Counsellor's Office. According to news media reports, the matter regarding mortgaging money from banks with farms as co-lateral is also included in

the agenda of the discussion. Moreover, the discussion over the role of banks in the development of small and medium enterprises was also made. Apart from those discussions, the policy of the Central Bank of Myanmar and the relationship between the Central Bank and private banks were also discussed at the meeting. To put in a nut shell the role of banks in the development of the country was the main subject discussed in the meeting.

According to the news report, the State Counsellor will meet again with responsible personnel including the

chairmen of the private banks in coming September. It is understood that the discussion in the meeting will boost the harmonious cooperation between the private banks and the Central Bank of Myanmar. The endeavour led by the State Counsellor to gain the harmonious cooperation between the Central bank and the private banks can be denoted as a significant step towards the economic development of Myanmar in future. It is advised that the private banks instead of working only for their self-interest should contribute their expertise and good ideas to develop the country. ■

IN developing economies such as Myanmar, microfinance is often viewed as a means for lifting people out of poverty. As of 2015, small and medium enterprises (SMEs) comprised 99 per cent of the country's businesses, and many of those are micro-businesses.

Microfinance is often cited as an essential tool in helping women in particular rise from poverty. The theory goes that when you empower women to grow their businesses, they're able to secure their families' finances and create pathways toward education and improved quality of life for their children.

Despite this optimistic premise, however, NPR wrote last year that "based on the economic studies that have been done to date, it doesn't appear that increasing access to microloans is an effective strategy for helping more women start businesses that will allow them to vault themselves out of poverty, at least not on a large enough scale to be detected." That doesn't mean that microfinance fails universally. But it does illustrate the complexities of getting microfinance right.

Microfinance options are often deployed to serve the underserved – people who lack credit or banking histories. These people are often poor and considered high-risk borrowers, too high-risk to interest traditional banks and lenders. In many cases, they turn to independent lenders who may charge extremely high interest rates on relatively small loans.

Micro-loans from qualified lending organisations can provide alternatives, though these come with their own sets of problems. They, too, can charge high interest rates and the group loan approach often applied to high-risk, micro-entrepreneur communities obscures whether the financing has benefitted individuals on a long-term basis.

From a lender's perspective, the tendency toward high interest rates is understandable. The borrowers are by definition high-risk, and their business ventures are susceptible to ruination by

The Long Game: How Developing Countries Can Get Microfinance Right

By Casey Hynes



A Myanmar couple make a pot in Twantay, about 50 miles south of Yangon. Microfinance initiatives – which provide small, low-cost loans to the poor – are seen by experts as a way to help alleviate poverty in one of the world's least-developed countries. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

climate disasters and economic or political upheaval, said Phyu Yamin Myat, managing director of Myanmar Development Partners in Yangon. She noted that most microfinance institutions (MFI) apply a "template" approach to lending. The template includes group-guaranteed loan systems that rely on peer monitoring to ensure repayment.

Myat said many MFIs also emphasise quick scalability and cost-efficiency above allowing time for substantial economic change to take root. She said that the microfinance organisations need to work on longer time-scales, helping their borrowers become more financially literate and stable and accounting for cultural factors that have inhibited

growth thus far.

"The operation should be in accordance with [the] client protection principle," Myat said. She called for a strategy that ensures gradual improvement of creditworthiness, sustainable growth and avoidance of over-indebtedness. "It must understand very well that credit" alone cannot bring development of the people and the country," she said. "Know-how, patience and persistence are the keys."

Smita Ram, cofounder of the Indian peer-to-peer microlending platform Rang De, also criticised the focus on scalability among MFIs in her country. "I think it's about, 'How can we cookie-cut the whole thing? How do we bring

efficiency in the business?," Ram said. "What the sector seems to have done is master that, but without taking a step back to analyse how it's really impacted someone. Nobody wants to invest in that, because you're talking about costs, you're talking about 'Who has the time to do this?' and this means that we won't be able to scale that quickly."

For that reason, Ram said Rang De deliberately keeps its initiatives small so that it can work intensively with its borrowing communities. "For every sector we work with, we actually design the loan product to make sure that it works for them," she said. "Over time, we've also realised that it's not enough if we just give them access to credit. How do we actually work with them, hand-hold them, provide them access to financial literacy?"

When Rang De launched a pilot programme to study performance among micro-credit borrowers, the organisation saw a dramatic difference between those who received business mentoring during their loan cycles and those that did not. Repayment rates were high among both groups. But those that had been mentored were on track for sustained improvements. Ram said that many micro-entrepreneurs work on several income sources at a time. When they receive financing, they're unsure of how to use it effectively.

"They don't know where to apply this loan. Is it into their tailoring business, is it buying cattle, is it buying inputs for agriculture? In order to make these decisions, I think access to knowledge and information is extremely important. And that is grossly missing in the sector currently," Ram said.

She added that just because someone repays their loan does not mean they even used the money to enhance their businesses. "We don't know how much distress a borrower is in or how successful a borrower is until you actually get into the details," she said.

SEE PAGE-9

Viet Nam tourists take road into Myanmar

On 8 August, a Viet Nam tour group comprised of 25 members visited Myanmar through the Myawady border gate in a convoy of five vehicles.

Increasingly, tourists are visiting Myanmar from Viet Nam by car, motorcycle and bicycle for more scenic experiences.

The unusual tour was organized by Marvellous Memory Travels & Tours Co., Ltd. and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism. The tourists visited Myawady, Kyaikhto, Bagan, Yangon, Hpa-an and Myawady trips. The tourist-slept by the same Myawady border gate on 13 August.—MNA ■

The Long Game: How Developing ...

FROM PAGE-8

“Our repayment rates are very high but it isn’t until we actually go into the communities that we learn, oh, there was this medical emergency for which the money was used. They did not use it for their business. So repayment rates are very high, but there’s no data about the individual.”

Rang De recently redoubled its literacy efforts after discovering that a lack of understanding about products and widespread myths about traditional banking prevented people from advancing their financial well-being. Ram said a more targeted approach to financial literacy is crucial to microfinance’s effectiveness. High repayment rates mean little if people remain stuck in places of poverty and income insecurity.

Both Myat and Ram see traditional banks playing a role in financial inclusion, which is the ultimate goal for many microfinance initiatives. “The population of low income/poor [people] is huge in Myanmar as well as in other developing countries,” Myat said. “That population needs supportive financing services to upgrade their lives and to be successfully included in mainstream financing systems.” She said MFIs can offer stepping stones to inclusion by helping borrowers establish creditworthiness, develop their business and financial management skills and understand how to use traditional finance products effectively.

Rang De is also working to facilitate more and better usage of traditional banking services among its communities. Ram said that many borrowers who have bank accounts don’t use

them. Account holders who live in rural areas are often unaware of nearby service providers, and they can’t afford to travel to major banking centres. She noted that illiteracy is also a challenge, as many borrowers have low or nonexistent reading skills, which prevents them from fully understanding the products for which they’ve applied. Rang De recently established financial literacy kiosks in its target communities that are designed to suit local needs. For instance, they include voice-activated services for people who cannot read financial materials. Borrowers are asked to participate in lessons at the kiosks, after which they are eligible to apply for loans.

“We are full believers that credit is not equal to impact, but credit is an enabler to impact,” Ram said. “It needs to be complemented with a host of other services for it to actually work for the community.”

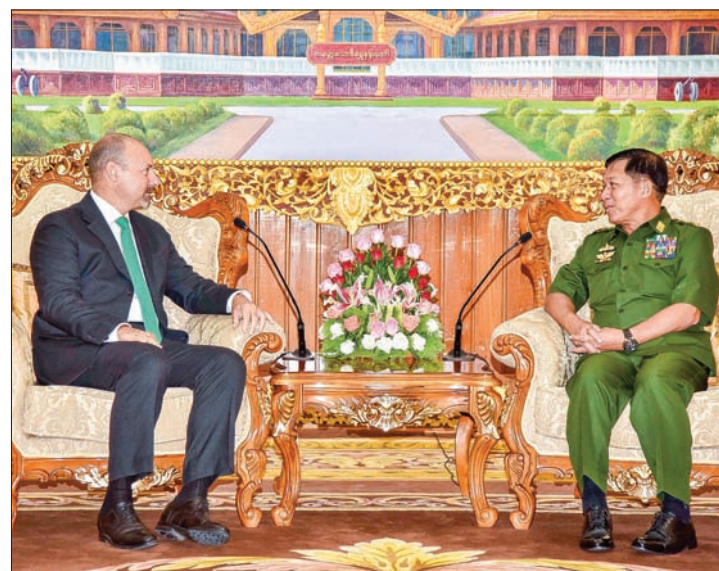
Microfinance is not a dead end for improving financial inclusion and reducing poverty. But as Myat noted, it is a long-term project, one that takes decades to unfold. MFIs will need to take the long view if they’re to achieve lasting change.

Casey Hynes is a freelance journalist and content marketing writer with extensive experience covering tech, entrepreneurship, and human rights in Asia. She graduated from Columbia Journalism School in 2008 and has written for The Wall Street Journal, Roll Call, South China Morning Post, Vogue India, and The Christian Science Monitor; among other publications throughout Asia.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives EU Ambassador

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr. Roland Kobia, European Union (EU) Ambassador to Myanmar, who is concluding his tour of duty, at Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

During the meeting matters relating to the opening of new relationships between Myanmar and the EU, the two militaries, Myanmar’s political, economic and administrative issues and view of the Tatmadaw on reforms and transitions were discussed.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talk with Mr. Roland Kobia at Bayintnaung guest house in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Aid reaches flood victims in Hkamti

Aid was delivered on Tuesday by a philanthropic organisation to flood victims who were forced to leave their homes because of rising floodwaters in Khamti as the Chindwin River overflowed its banks.

More than 2,500 people from 545 households abandoned their homes and sought shelter at monasteries after the river reached its highest level on Tuesday. Aid provided by KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation included 600 rice bags, 15 drums (52 gallons) of cooking oil, salt and 30,000 packs of dried noodles. The water level of the Chindwin River is expected to fall over the next three days, according to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.

The swelling Chindwin Riv-

er forced schools to close and watercraft services to cease last month.

According to weather agencies, the water level of the Chind-

win River in Hkamti is about four feet above its danger level and it may fall below the danger level over the next three days.

—Thura Lwin (Eco) ■



KBZ’s Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation official hands over aid to flood victims in Hkamti. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

U Aung Shwe laid to rest

FROM PAGE-1

“Especially, I would like to honour him for his former chairmanship of the NLD as well as being a leader in the struggle for democracy,” Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said. “The way to honour him is simple.

It would be best for him if we make a vow for collaboration to build a true democracy.”

U Aung Shwe was a member of the Central Executive Committee when the NLD was first formed along with co-founders Daw Aung San

Suu Kyi, U Tin Oo and U Kyi Maung in late 1988. He served as the party chairman from 1991 to 2010.

At the end of yesterday’s funeral ceremony, U Nyan Win, a member of the secretariat of the central committee for the NLD, read a valedictory message in honour of the ex-chairman.—MNA ■

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

WORLD
BRIEFSChinese, Thai air
forces to conduct joint
training

BEIJING — Six aircraft of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA) air force arrived at an air base in Thailand Thursday for a joint training exercise with the Thai air force from Thursday to 3 September.

The training, the second of its kind, is expected to test their combat tactics and weaponry, and to improve their actual combat training, according to the PLA air force.

The first joint training of the two air forces took place in Thailand in November 2015. — Xinhua ■

Man arrested after
taking woman hostage
at Dutch Media Park

THE HAGUE — Dutch police arrested a man suspected of taking a woman hostage at the Dutch Media Park in Hilversum on Thursday.

The man threatened a woman early Thursday morning with a knife. Later they entered the building of Dutch public broadcaster NPO.

Soon police arrived, and a negotiator entered the building to try to make contact with the man, who was later arrested. — Xinhua ■

Hundreds still missing
in Sierra Leone
mudslide as search
intensifies

FREETOWN — Soldiers and volunteers with shovels and pickaxes dug through the perilous site of a mudslide in Sierra Leone on Thursday in search of hundreds of bodies believed still buried days after the disaster.

Approximately 600 people are missing after a torrent of mud on Monday swept away homes on the edge of the capital, Freetown, the Red Cross said, in one of Africa's worst flood disasters in living memory.

Around 400 bodies have been found. — Reuters ■



US President Donald Trump is flanked by (L-R) Director of the National Economic Council Gary Cohn, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao and Director of the Office of Management and Budget Mick Mulvaney as he speaks about the violence, injuries and deaths at the "Unite the Right" rally in Charlottesville while talking to the media in the lobby of Trump Tower in Manhattan, New York, US, on 15 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Trump digs in against critics of his
Charlottesville violence response

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump hit back on Thursday at critics of his response to racial violence in the Virginia city of Charlottesville, and defiantly reiterated his opposition to the removal of monuments to the pro-slavery Civil war Confederacy.

Trump has been engulfed in controversy, strongly rebuked by members of his own Republican Party and snubbed by a string of American business leaders, over his reaction to the unrest in Charlottesville on Saturday.

In a series of Twitter posts on Thursday, Trump showed no sign of backing down.

He criticized efforts in a growing number of US states, including Florida, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas, to remove statues honoring Confederate leaders.

"Sad to see the history and culture of our great country being ripped apart with the removal of our beautiful statues and monuments. You can't change history, but you can learn from

it," Trump wrote.

The clashes flared in Charlottesville when a white nationalist rally called to protest the planned removal from a park of a statue of Confederate army commander General Robert E. Lee was met with anti-racist counter-protesters. A woman was killed when a suspected white nationalist crashed his car into the counter-protesters.

Confederate symbols and monuments are viewed by many Americans as symbols of hate.

Trump had also expressed distaste for removing statues of Confederate commanders in a heated news conference on Tuesday during which he blamed the violence in Charlottesville on not just the white nationalist rally organizers but the counter-protesters, and said there were "very fine people" on both sides. His comments ignited a storm of criticism.

Trump lashed out on Thursday at Republican US Senators Lindsey Graham and Jeff Flake, two leading critics, as well as the media, and said he not had

drawn any moral comparisons between white supremacists and those who opposed them.

Graham said on Wednesday that Trump's words suggested "moral equivalency" between the two sides and called on the president to use his words to heal Americans.

"Publicity seeking Lindsey Graham falsely stated that I said there is moral equivalency between the KKK, neo-Nazis & white supremacists and people like Ms. Heyer. Such a disgusting lie. He just can't forget his election trouncing. The people of South Carolina will remember!" Trump wrote.

Trump was referring to 32-year-old Heather Heyer, the woman killed in Charlottesville.

In a separate tweet, Trump called Flake "WEAK on borders, crime and a non-factor in Senate. He's toxic!" and appeared to endorse Kelli Ward, Flake's Republican challenger in his 2018 re-election race.

Graham responded with a statement telling the president to fix what he done.

"Because of the manner in which you have handled the Charlottesville tragedy you are now receiving praise from some of the most racist and hate-filled individuals and groups in our country. For the sake of our Nation — as our President — please fix this," Graham said. "History is watching us all."

Trump's attacks on lawmakers in his own party could further complicate his ability to get key policy objectives such as tax cuts and pressing government spending bills through the Republican-controlled Congress when lawmakers return to Washington next month.

Representatives for Flake and Ward did not reply to requests for comment.

The fallout from Trump's response to the violence in Charlottesville led to the disbanding of his CEO advisory panels on Wednesday as a growing number of chief executives from some of the nation's largest companies resigned in protest against the president's response. — Reuters ■



Car attack victim Heather Heyer's coworker Alfred Wilson speaks about her during a memorial service for Heyer at the Paramount Theater in Charlottesville, Virginia, US, on 16 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Virginia rally victim's message 'magnified,' mother tells memorial

CHARLOTTESVILLE, (Va.) — With tears and defiant tributes, hundreds of purple-clad people packed an historic Charlottesville theater on Wednesday to remember the 32-year-old woman killed when a suspected white nationalist crashed his car into anti-racist demonstrators.

Heather Heyer, a paralegal whom colleagues said was devoted to social justice, was killed after clashes on Saturday between white nationalists attending a "Unite the Right" gathering and counter-protesters. James Fields, a 20-year-old Ohio man, has been charged with her murder.

"They tried to kill my child to shut her up. Well guess what? You just magnified her," Heyer's mother Susan Bro said to long and loud applause from those

gathered at the city's 1930s-era Paramount Theater.

Bro told the audience that her daughter's favorite Facebook post was "If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention."

"She paid attention. And she made a lot of us pay attention," Bro said. "I want this to spread. I don't want this to die. This is just the beginning of Heather's legacy."

The crowd later fell silent for the hymn "Amazing Grace", sung while the sound of the sea played in the background. The singer, Barbara Edwards, wife of the pastor of the city's Mt. Zion First African Baptist Church, said it evoked the singing of the anthem in the belly of a slave ship.

In the crowd were Virginia Governor Terry McAuliffe, US

Senator Tim Kane and Charlottesville Mayor Mike Signer. Many of those in attendance wore purple, her favorite color, at the request of Heyer's family.

The theater's marquee outside read: "Heather Heyer, gone but not forgotten."

Wearing a violet polo shirt, his voice breaking with emotion, Heyer's father, Mark Heyer, told the gathering how truly proud he was of his daughter.

"I came here today and I was overwhelmed by the rainbow of colors in this room," he said. "That's how Heather was."

Hundreds of people held lit candles and sang songs of love and fellowship in Charlottesville later on Wednesday evening to remember Heather Heyer at what was billed as a vigil for unity.—Reuters ■

UN hopes for Syria peace talks in October or November

GENEVA — The United Nations hopes for a "serious negotiation" between the government and a still-to-be-formed unified Syrian opposition in October or November, UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura said on Thursday.

After seven previous rounds that have failed to persuade the adversaries to hold face-to-face talks, let alone make progress, the veteran diplomat outlined a new timetable for talks to end the six-year war in which hundreds of thousands of people have been killed.

He said he expected a meeting in October, possibly in Riyadh, among the three opposition delegations "to take stock of the realities on the ground", with a view to consolidation.

Before that, he planned a brief UN round of diplomacy with the oppositions and government around mid-September in Geneva.

"We may be eventually focusing basically on the agenda for the real substantive talks that we hope will take place in October," he told reporters.

"Regarding the (Syrian) government, we are counting very much on Russia, on Iran, on anyone who has got major influence, and on the government of Syria to be ready finally to initiate when they are invited to Geneva, a genuine, direct negotiation with whatever (opposition) platform comes out."

The main opposition is the High Negotiations Committee (HNC) but there are two other dissident groupings, the "Moscow" and "Cairo" platforms.

The two, much less opposed to President Bashar al-Assad than the HNC, each comprise some activists but do not control territory or have strong links with armed groups.

De Mistura also said that a letter from Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu in early August had paved the way for Russian military police to be staged along the route of a UN-Red Cross convoy which reached the besieged rebel-held town of Douma, in eastern Ghouta near Damascus, on Thursday.

The successful convoy, the first since May, consisted of 50 trucks carrying relief items for 35,000 people. "We are seeing just today one of those examples, and I am expecting and hoping that this will become a pattern," De Mistura said.

Jan Egeland, UN humanitarian adviser, said that the convoy to Douma, one of 11 besieged areas, was "hugely symbolic".

"It took a lot of effort, a lot of negotiations and a lot of help from Russia and others to make it happen," he said.

Assad is extending his military advantage, helped by the capture of swathes of territory from Islamic State with the help of his Russian and Iranian allies. IS has also lost ground to the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), dominated by the Kurdish YPG militia. US-backed forces have Islamic State fighters surrounded in central Raqqa, a Syrian Kurdish commander said last week.—Reuters ■

37 inmates killed in Venezuela prison riot

CARACAS — As many as 37 inmates were killed in a prison riot in the southern Venezuelan state of Amazonas, the Prosecutor General's Office said on Wednesday. The deaths at a state detention center resulted from a clash between inmates and police officers, which also left 14 officials injured, officials said.

In a Twitter post, the governor of Amazonas, Liborio Guarulla, confirmed that the "massacre" took place at the facility in the

town of Puerto Ayacucho.

He blamed the deaths on an operation by "special forces of the FAN," or the National Armed Forces. Authorities are investigating the incident.

Venezuela has witnessed several deadly prison riots in recent years. In April, at least 12 people died and another 11 were injured in violence at the Jose Antonio Anzoategui prison in the eastern state of Anzoategui.

In January 2013, clashes be-

tween prisoners and guards in Uribana prison in northwestern Venezuela left 61 people dead.

Security has deteriorated in the oil-rich country following a severe economic crisis due to low oil prices.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro has formed the National Constituent Assembly, aiming to amend the constitution in order to carry out reforms. This, however, is rejected by opposition parties.—Xinhua ■



Image taken on Aug. 16, 2017 shows members of the security force standing guard outside a detention centre in Puerto Ayacucho, Amazonas state, Venezuela. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Thousands of Mexicans march to scrap NAFTA, as government fights to save it

MEXICO CITY — While Mexican government negotiators fought tooth and nail to save the North American Free Trade Agreement during talks in Washington, thousands of Mexican farmers and workers took to the streets on Wednesday demanding the deal be scrapped.

Carrying banners that read "No to the FTA," and decorated with images of the distinctive hairstyles of US President Donald Trump and Mexican counterpart Enrique Peña Nieto, the protesters said the 1994 deal had devastated Mexican farms.

"We are against the treaty and the renegotiation because it has not



Union workers and farmers protest as NAFTA renegotiation begins in Washington, DC, in Mexico City, Mexico, on 16 August 2017. The placards read "FTA hurts, Mexico better without FTA". **PHOTO: REUTERS**

benefited the country," said university union spokesman Carlos Galindo, reflecting views widely

held in the early years of the trade pact.

In a sign of that mistrust, on 1 January 1994

the Zapatista guerrilla army launched an armed uprising opposing free trade to mark the first day

of NAFTA.

The fervour has faded and most Mexicans, including leading leftist Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador who will run for president next year, now broadly support a deal which has led to job growth, especially in the auto manufacturing sector.

A recent poll found most Mexicans wanted to save NAFTA. Mexico's government is keen to maintain preferential access to the United States and Canada, where nearly 85 percent of its exports are shipped. However, much like in America's rust belt, Mexico's small, mainly indigenous farmers have not forgotten painful competition they blame on the free

trade deal.

"The great loser in these last 23 years has been Mexico, above all, the small farmers," said Ernesto Ladrón de Guevara, speaking for one peasant farmers union at a park across from Mexico's Foreign Ministry.

His union is pushing for NAFTA's fate to face a public vote, possibly to coincide with next year's July presidential election and, if the deal survives, wants it to exclude anything related to agriculture and food production. Mexico now imports some \$18.5 billion of agriculture products every year, making it one of the most important markets for US farmers. —Reuters ■

Britain "confident" of new phase in Brexit talks by October

LONDON — Britain said on Thursday it was "confident" talks with the European Union would move towards discussing their future relationship by October, in contrast to warnings from the top EU negotiator that the target is receding. Prime Minister Theresa May's government wants to push the discussion beyond the divorce settlement soon, to offer companies some assurance of what to expect after Britain leaves the EU in March 2019. She said that despite a lot left to do, she was confident of securing "a deep and special relationship". But the bloc has repeated that until there is "sufficient progress" in

the first stage of talks on the rights of expatriates, Britain's border with EU member Ireland and a financial settlement, officials cannot consider future ties.

Last month, the EU's top Brexit negotiator, Michel Barnier, said talks on future relations had become less likely to start in October because of a lack of progress on the "divorce".

"Government officials are working at pace and we are confident we will have made sufficient progress by October to advance the talks to the next phase," a spokeswoman for Britain's Department for Exiting the European Union said in a statement on Thursday.

"As the Secretary

of State (Brexit minister David Davis) has said, it is important that both sides demonstrate a dynamic and flexible approach to each round of the negotiations." May said the government had shown the work it was putting into the talks with this week's release of papers, including those with proposals for a future customs arrangement and for the border between Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland. "It's good that we've had a constructive, positive approach to the negotiations so far, and those negotiations are continuing ... There's a lot to be done," she told local television.—

Reuters ■

Firefighters contain destructive wildfire near Athens



A firefighting helicopter makes a water drop as a wildfire is being contained after four days near the village of Kapandriti, north of Athens, Greece, on 16 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ATHENS — Firefighters on Wednesday contained a wildfire burning for nearly four days near Athens after it destroyed thousands of hectares of pine forest and dozens of homes.

The fire broke out on Sunday in Kalamos, a coastal holiday spot some 45 km (30 miles) northeast of the capital, and spread quickly to three more towns, stoked by strong and changing winds.

By Wednesday afternoon, the blaze had decreased in intensity and the perimeter contained by firefighters was expanding, Fire Service Spokeswoman Stavroula Maliri said. Rugged terrain dotted with small com-

munities had made the fire-fighting in the towns near Athens difficult, with winds rekindling the blaze at many spots.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, who visited the scene on Wednesday, said Greece had "avoided the worst ... and we have to be alert." Greece withdrew its request for help from its European partners after conditions in Athens improved, but authorities were on alert for new outbreaks. Late July and August often see forest and brush fires in Greece, where high temperatures help create dangerous conditions. Across Greece, firefighters were battling more than 33 forest fires,

an outbreak fed by dry winds and hot weather that fanned blazes in the Peloponnese and on the Ionian islands of Zakynthos and Kefalonia.

Wildfires raging on the island of Zakynthos for six days were "improving," Maliri said.

In the Peloponnese region of Ilia — the site of Greece's worst fires in 2007 when more than 70 people died — blazes that broke out in three areas on Monday had been tamed.

"Today and tomorrow, the prevailing (weather) conditions favor the onset and development of forest fires in several regions across Greece," Maliri added.—Reuters ■

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|---|
| (a) DATE & TIME | - (25-8-2017) (12:00) Noon |
| | - (28-8-2107) (12:00) Noon |
| (b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME | - TEAK LOGS ABOUT (1615) TONS |
| | - TEAK CONVERSION ABOUT (363) TONS |
| | - HARD WOOD LOGS |
| | - PADAUK LOG (72) ABOUT TONS |
| | - PYINKADO/KANYIN/HNAW/THITYAR/ |
| | - INGYIN/YEMANE/THINWIN/SAGAWA |
| | - HTUK KYAN ABOUT (9860) TONS |
| (c) PLACE | - TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON. |

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Hyundai plans long-range premium electric car in strategic shift

SEOUL — Hyundai Motor Co (005380.KS) said on Thursday it was placing electric vehicles at the centre of its product strategy — one that includes plans for a premium long-distance electric car as it seeks to catch up to Tesla (TSLA.O) and other rivals.

Like Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T), Hyundai had initially championed fuel cell technology as the future of eco-friendly vehicles but has found itself shifting electric as Tesla shot to prominence and battery-powered cars have gained government backing in China. Toyota is now also working on longer distance, fast-charging electric vehicles, local media have reported. The South Korean automaker is planning to launch an electric sedan under its high-end Genesis brand in 2021 with a range of 500 km (310 miles) per charge. It will

also introduce an electric version of its Kona small sport utility vehicle (SUV) with a range of 390 km in the first half of next year.

“We’re strengthening our eco-friendly car strategy, centering on electric vehicles,” Executive Vice President Lee Kwang-guk told a news conference, calling the technology mainstream and realistic.

The automaker and affiliate Kia Motors Corp (000270.KS), which together rank fifth in global vehicle sales, also said they were adding three plug-in vehicles to their plans for eco-friendly cars, bringing the total to 31 models by 2020. Underscoring Hyundai’s electric shift, those plans include eight battery-powered and two fuel-cell vehicles — a contrast to its 2014 announcement for 22 models, of which only two were slated to be battery-powered.



Hyundai Motor’s new fuel cell SUV is seen during a media event in Seoul, South Korea, on 17 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hyundai also confirmed a Reuters report that it is developing its first dedicated electric vehicle platform, which will allow the company to produce multiple models with longer driving ranges.

Last year, it launched its first mass-market pure electric car IONIQ, but the

vehicle’s per-charge driving range is much shorter than offerings from Tesla and General Motors (GM.N).

Hyundai unveiled a near production version of its new fuel cell SUV with a driving range of more than 580 km per charge, compared with the 415 km for

its current Tucson fuel cell SUV. The mid-sized SUV will be launched in Korea early next year, followed by US and European markets.

A fuel cell electric bus is slated to be unveiled late this year, while a sedan-type fuel cell car is also planned. Even so, analysts noted that gaining traction

with fuel cells was going to be a long hard slog partly due to a lack of charging infrastructure.

“Hyundai will achieve economies of scale for fuel cell cars by 2035 at the earliest,” said Lee Hang-koo, a senior research fellow at Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade.

“Before that, Hyundai has no choice but to rely on battery cars,” he said.

Hyundai launched the world’s first mass-produced fuel cell vehicle in 2013, dubbed the Tucson Fuel Cell, but sales trailed Toyota’s rival offering, Mirai. Hyundai has sold about 862 of Tucson Fuel Cell vehicles since its 2013 launch, while Toyota sold some 3,700 Mirai Fuel Cell vehicles since its 2014 launch. In Korea, there are 10 fuel cell charging stations, only one tenth of 100 in Japan, Hyundai said.—Reuters ■

Oil steady as high US output balances crude stock draw

LONDON — Oil prices steadied on Thursday after US data showed a big fall in crude stockpiles but also an increase in production, taking US crude output to its highest in more than two years. Brent crude LCOc1 was unchanged at \$50.27 a barrel by 0845 GMT. US light crude CLc1 was 5 cents lower at \$46.73.

Both benchmarks fell more than 1 per cent on Wednesday.

Energy Information Administration (EIA) data showed commercial US

crude stocks C-STKT-EIA have fallen by almost 13 percent from their peaks in March to 466.5 million barrels. Stocks are now lower than in 2016.

But US oil output is rising fast as shale producers take advantage of a recent increase in prices.

US production jumped by 79,000 barrels per day (bpd) to over 9.5 million bpd last week, its highest level since July 2015, and 12.75 percent above the most recent low in mid-2016.—Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OEL MALAYSIA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S BLPL SHIPPING LINE**

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CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV SAN GIOGRIO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SAN GIOGRIO VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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(S’PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV KORALIA VOY. NO (772)

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

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

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Myanmar Port Authority "Notice of High Tide"

Exceptionally high spring from 20.10 feet to 21.10 feet high above the chart datum are expected to occur in Yangon River during the period of August 20th to August 25th, 2017.

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

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Department of Rural Development Myanmar: National Electrification Project (NEP) CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR MINI-GRID PROJECTS (CFP2: NEP FY 2017/18)

The Project Management Office (PMO) at the Department of Rural Development (DRD) is inviting interested companies to submit mini-grid proposals for consideration to receive construction subsidy and technical assistance in the financial year (2017-2018).

- Target group: interested mini-grid developers and associates (off-grid solar, hydro, biomass, wind or hybrid projects below 1 MW)
- Submission deadline: 4:30 PM local time on 30 October 2017

Interested companies should visit the NEP mini-grid homepage (www.drdmyanmar.org) or contact the PMO directly for more information:
NEP Project Management Office
Office Number 14, Department of Rural Development, Nay Pyi Taw
Tel/Fax: +95-67-409529, E-mail: drdnepmg@gmail.com

Tom Cruise breaks ankle in stunt, halts production on 'Mission' film

LOS ANGELES — Tom Cruise broke his ankle while performing a stunt on the set of the upcoming "Mission: Impossible 6," causing production on the film to go on hiatus while the actor recovers, Paramount Pictures said in a statement on Wednesday.

Paramount, a unit of Viacom (VIAB.O), said the action movie, which is one of its biggest franchises, remains on schedule to open on 27 July, 2018.

Cruise, 55, who is known for doing his own stunts, was seen in a video on celebrity news website TMZ trying to jump between the roofs of two high-rise buildings and landing hard against a wall during filming in London at the weekend. He was later seen limping off the set.

"During production on the latest 'Mission: Impossible' film, Tom Cruise broke his ankle while performing a stunt. Production will go on hiatus while Tom makes a full recovery," Paramount said. "Tom wants to thank you all for your concern and support and can't wait to share the film with everyone next summer."

Paramount did not say how long production would be delayed. Hollywood trade paper Variety said filming could be halted anywhere from six weeks to three months while Cruise recovers.



US actor Tom Cruise arrives for the world premiere of "Mission Impossible - Rogue Nation" in front of the State Opera House in Vienna, Austria, in 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Variety said the actor also injured his hip.

"Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation," in which Cruise reprised his role as agent Ethan Hunt, made more than \$680 million at the worldwide box office in 2015, according to movie tracker BoxOfficeMojo.com

Cruise has carved a career as one of Hollywood's top-earning and longest-running action stars, much of it built on his reputation for doing his own stunts, including swinging around a Dubai skyscraper and hanging off a plane as it taxied down a runway

and took off.

"I just don't sleep, I just keep going," he told Reuters in 2015 while promoting "Mission: Impossible — Rogue Nation."

"Mission: Impossible 6" director Christopher McQuarrie told Britain's Empire magazine in an interview posted on Wednesday that the production schedule would be rearranged to shoot around Cruise while he recovers. McQuarrie said he did not know how long the immediate hiatus would be and said there are still seven or eight weeks left of filming.—Reuters ■

Emma Stone ascends to top of Forbes' highest-paid actresses

LOS ANGELES — Fresh off winning her first Oscar, actress Emma Stone ousted Jennifer Lawrence on Wednesday to claim the top spot on Forbes' 2017 list of the world's highest-paid actresses.

Stone, 28, who won best actress for her role as a struggling actress in "La La Land," made \$26 million in pre-tax earnings, according to Forbes' calculations over a 12-month period from June 2016 to June 2017. She outpaced Jennifer Aniston, 48, who came in at No. 2 this year with earnings of \$25.5 million, with residual income still coming in from the television sitcom "Friends" and endorsement deals with brands such as SmartWater and Emirates Airline EMIRA. UL.

Lawrence, 27, who topped the Forbes list for two consecutive years, dropped to No. 3 this year with earnings of \$24 million, almost half of her prior year's earnings of \$46 million.

The actress, who has spoken out on equal pay for women in Hollywood, saw her earnings dip this year after the conclusion of the "Hunger Games" franchise, but continues to make money from movie deals and an endorsement deal with



Actress Emma Stone. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

fashion brand Christian Dior (DIOR.PA).

Forbes compiles its annual celebrity earnings lists from box office and Nielsen data, as well as from interviews with industry insiders.

The top-ten list also includes Charlize Theron, Emma Watson and Melissa McCarthy. Forbes said no stars from Asia made the cut this year.

Forbes said the cumulative total earned by the world's top ten highest-paid actresses - \$172.5 million - was down 16 per cent from the previous year.

Last year, Dwayne "The Rock" Johnson topped Forbes' list of highest-paid actors at \$64.5 million, more than double the amount made by Stone this year. Forbes is expected to release its list of top-earning male actors later this week.—Reuters ■

Fans flock to Graceland on 40th anniversary of Elvis Presley's death

MEMPHIS, (Tennessee) — Thousands of Elvis Presley fans from around the world gathered in Memphis on Wednesday to commemorate the American rock 'n' roll icon on the 40th anniversary of his death.

A candlelight vigil from Tuesday night into the early hours Wednesday drew as many as 60,000 visitors, according to an estimate by local media, with crowds gathering at the Graceland estate where Presley's grave is located.

Later in the day, fans congregated at the University of Memphis for a memorial service hosted by George Klein, a disc jockey who was a close friend of Presley's since their school days together in the city.

Speakers at the 38th annual service included Cynthia Pepper, Presley's co-star in the 1964 mov-



Fans of Elvis Presley, the king of rock and roll, visit his grave in Memphis, Tennessee, on 15 August 2017, a day before the 40th anniversary of his death. A candlelight vigil from the evening of 15 August into the early hours of the next day is estimated to have drawn as many as 60,000 visitors. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

ie "Kissin' Cousins," songwriter Mark James, who penned the hit "Suspicious Minds," and others who shared memories of "The King" from before and during his worldwide fame.

"All that you people think about Elvis is great — but if you ever met him, you would think more of him," longtime friend Will McDaniel told the audience. "He was that good."—Kyodo News ■

Television gets its own festival in New York's Tribeca

LOS ANGELES — The organizers of New York's annual Tribeca Film Festival are launching a standalone television event to recognize the vast and varied content now available on broadcast, cable and streaming platforms. Organizers said on Wednesday the inaugural three-day Tribeca TV Festival will take place on 22-24 September in New York, and is aimed at bringing new shows and returning favourites to the public.

The lineup for the festival includes screenings and celebrity talks for the return of comedy "Will & Grace," the upcoming season premieres of dramas "Queen Sugar," "Designated Survivor" and "Gotham," and the world premiere of "Look But With Love," a virtual reality series about life in Pakistan.

More than 400 scripted TV



Actor Robert De Niro. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

shows are currently produced every year in the United States across traditional broadcast and cable networks and services such as Netflix, Amazon and Hulu, leading to what has been dubbed a golden age of television. "Ten years ago we wouldn't have needed a TV festival. Now, with the change in the TV landscape, both the quality and quantity of shows, it makes sense," actor Robert De Niro, who co-founded the Tribeca Film Festival in 2002 to rejuvenate lower Manhattan, said in a statement.—Reuters ■



Jockey Giuseppe Zedde of the "Aquila" (Eagle) parish rides his horse during the Palio of Siena horse race, Italy, on 16 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Blood and passion fuel Siena's street horse race

SIENA, (Italy) — The sounds of thundering hooves and a roaring crowd have filled Siena's Piazza del Campo almost every year since the mid-1600s.

The passion that surrounds the bareback horse race between riders from competing city districts — the Palio di Siena — is palpable to the point of sometimes being violent.

The race, which is held twice a year in July and August, is contested by 10 riders, each representing one of the city's 17 contrade, or parishes, racing around a makeshift earth track in the square.

The lure of local glory means that the rivalries between riders and fans is fierce.

Violence between rival supporters is not unknown but, for the winning jockey and his contradaioi — or parish members — a win is a cause for major celebration.

"When you win the Palio inside the parish there's an explosion of joy and madness which is something incredible, all the contradaioi standing in the street, singing and crying," said Massimo Castagnini, an official with Onda parish.

With the three-lap race lasting around only 90 seconds, the rest of the day is filled with pomp and pageantry. It features an elaborate parade and ceremony, with members of each of the contrade in medieval garb, toting flags

and coats of arms.

"The day of the Palio there's really a big tension, the time goes too slowly or us," said Castagnini. "You just want to go in the square stay with your people and thinking that will be the right time for your victory." If victory is beyond a rider's grasp the next best thing is preventing a rival from winning — and to that end almost anything, including punching and kicking other riders, is permitted. This year's race, run on Wednesday afternoon, was won by Carlo Sanna of the Onda parish — who was carried on the shoulders of supporters after his victory. The race began after a local aristocrat banned bullfighting in 1590. It was replaced with

buffalo races, before the first race of Palio races was held in mid-1600s.

With riders frequently thrown from their horses, and horses regularly suffering serious injuries, animal rights groups have called for the race to be banned. Around 50 horses died in the event between 1970 and 2015, according to Italy's Anti-Vivisection League, an animal rights group. However, change appears unlikely any time soon, as the race is tightly woven into the city's cultural and social fabric.

"It's not just the race," said Castagnini. "When you are born in a contrada, your people will take you from baptism till the end of your days," Castagnini said. —Reuters ■

Wild otter filmed alive in Japan, 1st sighting in 38 yrs

TOKYO — A wild otter was caught on film on Tsushima Island in southwestern Japan in February, marking the first sighting of the mammal in Japan in 38 years, a University of the Ryukyus team said Thursday.

It is not known whether the observed otter was a Japanese river otter, which used to be found across Japan but is believed to have gone extinct, according to the team of researchers. A river otter was last spotted in 1979 in the western Japan city of Susaki, Kochi Prefecture.

The Environment Ministry said an analysis of excrement samples collected on Tsushima Island during a survey there in July suggested they came from two Eurasian otters on the island. One of them is believed to have come from South Korea or Sakhalin in Russia, but the origin of the other remained unknown.

The team said a camera set up for an ecological survey of the Tsushima leopard cat captured the otter on the island in Nagasaki Prefecture.

The filmed otter is of adult size and appears to be in good health and nutritional status, the research-

ers told a press conference at the ministry.

The team said the animal could either be a Japanese river otter that has survived, a Eurasian otter that has crossed the sea from South Korea some 50 kilometers away from the island, or a species that has been brought by human.

"I hope (local residents) will not feed the (observed) otter and offer information on the animal if they obtain any," said Masako Izawa, professor of animal ecology at the university.

There are more than 10 species of otter in the world. The mammal lives on fish and shrimp and records show that Japanese river otters lived all over Japan until the Meiji era through 1912 and on Tsushima Island during the Edo period between 1603 and 1868.

The ministry said in 2012 the Japanese river otter was designated as extinct species because it had not been seen alive for more than 30 years. The animal's population declined sharply because of hunting for their fur and because their river habitats became polluted. — Kyodo News ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(18-8-2017 07:00am -19-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "Astir about of Rainbows"
07:49	Am	A Pretty Custom of Kandyawady Asia Vut A @ Rice Pounding Competition
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-6) In Pursuit of a dream
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Buddha Image Built Of Bamboo Strip
09:38	Am	Sons of the lake
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Simple Living With High Spirit
10:39	Am	Myanmar Childhood Games (Episode-I)


10:48 Am Shop Shop Shop - Bogyoke Market

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day In Bagan
07:51	Pm	A Star for Great Achievement
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-1) In Memory of Him & His Childhood
08:51	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: ARTIST SOE HNIN AUNG

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Programme Schedule

(18-8-2017, Friday)

6:00 Am
♦ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadsaw

7:00 Am
♦ Breakfast News

7:35 Am
♦ MRTV Travelogue

8:35 Am
♦ Interview with Viet Nam Ambassador of Myanmar

9:05 Am
♦ Current Affairs

9:35 Am
♦ MRTV Worker's Programme

10:30 Am
♦ Socio Economic Scenes

12:30 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series

1:00 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series

2:15 Pm
♦ 29th SEA Games Football match (Live Broadcast) (Myanmar Vs Brunei)

4:35 Pm
♦ World of Innovations

4:50 Pm
♦ Documentary (Healthy)

5:05 Pm
♦ Documentary (Healthy)

5:35 Pm
♦ Weekly Sport Info

6:20 Pm
♦ Documentary (ASEAN)

6:40 Pm
♦ Documentary

7:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series

7:45 Pm
♦ CHOICE (Part-2)

7:50 Pm
♦ Myanmar Series (YBS)

8:00 Pm
♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report

8:35 Pm
♦ Interview with Philippine Ambassador of Myanmar

TV Drama Series

The second gold medal of Myanmar in Chinlone, a performative at SEA Games

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar beat Laos 149-148 in a Chinlone final, the team's second gold in what many consider to be the country's national sport, yesterday, at Titiwangsa Indoor Stadium at the SEA Games in Kuala Lumpur.

In the first round, both teams with highly experienced players ended up with 70 points each.

The second round saw a see-saw fight but in the end Myanmar edged Laos to clinch the gold medal.

Malaysia and Cambodia, the losing semifinalists, shared the bronze together. Only five teams took part in the Chinlone Competition.

Myanmar had also won the gold in event 2 of Chinlone Competition yesterday with Thailand took the silver while Malaysia and Laos shared the bronze.

Chinlone is a game of six



Members of Myanmar Chinlone team who took Myanmar's second gold medal competing at the 29th SEA Games Chinlone Competition at Titiwangsa Indoor Stadium. **PHOTO: PUBLIC SPORTS & EDUCATIVE DEPARTMENT**

players who keep a cane ball aloft as long and as creatively as possible without using their

hands. The game is usually cooperative and not competitive, but the SEA Games has adopted

a competitive model with judges who score teams based on their bold moves. ■

Nadal tops Gasquet again, Tiafoe upsets Zverev

MASON, (OH) — Rafa Nadal extended his spotless record against Richard Gasquet, while unseeded American teenager Frances Tiafoe upset Alexander Zverev to reach the third round of the Cincinnati Open on Wednesday.

It must have felt like déjà vu for the Frenchman, who fell 6-3, 6-4 to drop to 0-15 against Nadal. Gasquet last won a set against the Spaniard in 2008.

Nadal, who repelled the only breakpoint he faced in the match, served out the match at love in the 10th game, firing in three aces, including the finishing point.

"I work every day to play better. It's obvious that was an important start for me, a good one," said French Open champion Nadal, who will claim the world number one spot on Monday.—Reuters ■

Myanmar women's football team trounces host Malaysia in SEA Games

Kyaw Zin Lin

The Myanmar women's football team secured their first win in the 2017 SEA Games with a decisive 5-0 triumph over Malaysia at UiTM Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Myanmar used key players including Win Theingi Tun and Khin Moe Wai in the match.

Myanmar and Malaysia both needed a victory to maintain a good chance at the gold medal after suffering opening day defeats to Thailand and the Philippines, respectively.

Malaysia did well to keep the first half scoreless, but three minutes into the second half, Myanmar's Nur Athirah's score from the penalty box broke the deadlock and gave Myanmar the first goal of the match.

Win Theingi Tun then quickly scored the second goal for Myanmar, heading home a long range pass.

Khin Moe Wai scored the third goal for Myanmar after



Striker Khin Moe Wai seen after scoring fifth goal for Myanmar. **PHOTO: AFC**

dashing past the Malaysian defence to chip the ball over Nurul Azurin's grasp to further their lead in the 72nd minute.

Win Theingi Tun scored the fourth goal for Myanmar in the 77th minute, then Khin Moe Wai

added the fifth and final goal two minutes later.

Myanmar now tops the standings, while Malaysia languishes in last place.

Myanmar will next play Vietnam on Sunday.

Lighter gloves spell quick end of Mayweather, says McGregor

LAS VEGAS — Mixed martial arts champion Conor McGregor is happy about the switch to lighter gloves for his 26 August fight against undefeated boxer Floyd Mayweather and says his opponent will now struggle to make it past the second round.

The Nevada State Athletic Commission on Wednesday, just 10 days before the hotly anticipated Las Vegas fight, approved requests from Mayweather and McGregor to wear eight-ounce gloves rather than 10-ounce ones.

"That was a good thing for me. I'm very happy with it," McGregor told reporters on a conference call.

Mayweather had nearly all of his 49 professional wins using eight-ounce gloves, which may accentuate one of his advantages - his hand speed.

McGregor preferred the lighter gloves since he is used to the fingerless, four-ounce gloves typically worn in MMA.

"That's it in a nutshell, you've got pros and cons on both sides," he said. "Favours

us both in certain ways.

"I believe now that the gloves are eight ounces, I don't believe he makes it out of the second round," McGregor added.

"Part of me ... kind of wants to show some skills and dismantle him that way. (But) I do not foresee him absorbing the blows in the first two rounds."

While most pundits have McGregor, who has never boxed professionally, as a heavy underdog, the Dubliner said he was determined to prove the doubters wrong.

"I'm just looking forward to 26 August, going in and proving what I'm saying and educating the world on what martial arts is," he said. "And earning my respect in this game also."

The Irishman said his gruelling preparations for the fight would enable him to triumph no matter how the fight develops.

"There is no way in hell that I am not ready to fight in the deepest of trenches in this contest," McGregor added.

—Reuters ■