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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Myanmar earns semifinal spot in SEA Games with victory over Brunei

Kyaw Zin Lin

MYANMAR's football team continued their stellar play at the 2017 SEA Games with a decisive 6-0 win over Brunei Darussalam yesterday at UiTM Shah Alam Stadium in Kuala Lumpur.

The victory over Brunei was Myanmar's third straight win in Group A play and assures them of a semifinal berth.

Myanmar showed itself to be the superior team from the start of yesterday's match, scoring the first goal at the 23-minute mark by striker Aung Thu, who kicked the ball straight into the net past Brunei's goalkeeper.

The opening goal seemed to give Myanmar confidence, as Myanmar's star Si Thu Aung scored the second goal at 40 minutes.

After a relatively quiet start in the second half, Myanmar jumped back into action as Aung Kaung Mann scored Myanmar's third and fourth goals at the 73rd and 85th minute marks.

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A crowd in Mahabandoola Park in Yangon watches the Myanmar/Brunei football match on a large outdoor screen. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH**

\$200m from World Bank

MYANMAR and the World Bank signed an agreement yesterday giving the country US\$200 million credit for a First Macroeconomic Stability and Fiscal Resilience Development Policy Operation.

This is the first time Myanmar is receiving direct financial support to the Union Budget, aimed at accelerating economic changes needed for long-term peace and prosperity, according

to a World Bank news release.

The agreement was signed by Daw Nwe Nwe Win, Director General of the Treasury Department, Ministry of Planning and Finance, and Ellen Goldstein, the World Bank Country Director for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR, in the presence of U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister of Planning and Finance.

The Government's programme supported by this

operation includes reforms to address rising inflation, public debt sustainability, efficiency of government spending, and strengthening of tax administration, officials said.

"We are pleased to sign this collaboration between the government of Myanmar and the World Bank. We are confident that our policy actions would help sustain growth and reduce poverty, and help improve public

access to services like electricity, education and health. The reforms would also help Myanmar attract high quality investments that create more jobs and give more benefits to the poor," said U Maung Maung Win, Deputy Minister of the Ministry of Planning and Finance.

The Development Policy Operation has two mutually-reinforcing pillars, according to the World Bank. **SEE PAGE-9**

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Immediate action by Union Government needed in Rakhine: MP

Swift administrative and security measures by the Union Government need to be taken in northern Rakhine State, an MP said in a motion put forward during yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

The motion was put forward by Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathaytaung, who urged the State Government to implement better regional administrative and security plans as soon as possible.

"Crimes committed by extremist groups in Maungtaung, Buthidaung and Yathaytaung townships in northern Rakhine State are harming national security, rule of law, area consolidation and depredation of the national people", she said.

Daw Khin Saw Wai said immigrants are infiltrating into the country almost every day and the population is booming, and as it is, the area is gradually becoming the one in which alien people are coming to live exclusively.

The MP outlined a series of events over the past year that she



Major-General Aung Soe. **PHOTO: MNA**

said warrant immediate action. Last year, extremists attacked three border outposts in Buthidaung and Maungtaung townships, killing 9 border security officers. During an area clearance operation, a senior military officer was killed.

More recently, a large man-made tunnel apparently used for



U Myo Zaw Aung. **PHOTO: MNA**

training terrorists was found in the May Yu hills, together with hand-made firearms, huts and provisions. Three men who attacked security forces were killed. On August 3, terrorists killed eight Mro nationals who were working on farms. On August 4, border guard forces who went to arrest RSO (Rohingya Solidarity



Daw Khin Saw Wai. **PHOTO: MNA**

Organisation) terrorists who had been in Auk Nan Yar village, Yathaytaung came under fire.

Due to these events, Daw Khin Saw Wai said, locals were becoming anxious and being displaced to other regions. Religion and race-based extremists in Maungtaung and Buthidaung are getting money and weapons

from international organisations, and are now conducting terrorist attack trainings systematically, she said.

The Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw announced that parliamentarians who would like to discuss the motion need to enroll their names.

Other issues discussed yesterday included a question raised by U Myo Zaw Aung of Kawlin constituency as to whether there are any plans to control moonshine which is being produced illicitly. Major-General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs, said the practice of distilling moonshine should be halted.

"Producing local moonshine should not be done. Instead, liquor produced in centrally controlled distillation factories should be encouraged more than ever. Moonshine which is locally produced should be levied heavily. Tax should not exceed imported liquors and numbers of liquor shops should be limited", he said.—MNA ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 45th day meeting

Thuya Zaw, Mi Mi Phyto
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Ministry of Education is planning to upgrade the schools in disaster-prone areas to be able to resist disasters, said Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun yesterday at Amyotha Hluttaw.

"Arrangements are being made recently to coordinate with state and region governments' social ministers together with Ministry of Construction to construct buildings that are appropriate to areas where there is heavy rain and flooding or weather is dry and hot or earthquake and natural disaster prone areas," said the deputy minister in his answer to a question raised by U Myo Win of Mon State Constituency-8 at the 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 45th day meeting was held yesterday morning at Amyotha Hluttaw meeting hall.

MP U Myo Win raised the question how did the ministry response to cases of new school buildings which are found inappropriate to local needs when



U Win Maw Tun. **PHOTO: MNA**

they are completed.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Tun said when the buildings were found inappropriate for the ground situation, the ministry sought recommendation from the regional governments and gave instructions to construction companies concerned to redesign the buildings.

Next, questions by U Zaw Hein of Taninthayi constituency 7, U Myo Htat (a) Salai Myo Htike of Chin State constituency 12 and U Myint Naing of Rakhine State constituency 5 were answered by Deputy Minister for Education U



U Myo Win. **PHOTO: MNA**

Win Maw Tun.

Afterward Amyotha Hluttaw bill committee report on bill to amend Farmland Law was read by committee member Daw Ohn Kyi of Mandalay Region constituency 4.

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker then obtained the confirmation of the hluttaw on the bill to amend Farmland Law section by section.

Hluttaw announced the approval of the bill after a motion to approve the bill was tabled by Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation U Hla Kyaw and U Win Tin of Chin State



U Maung Kyaw Zan. **PHOTO: MNA**

constituency 11 supported it.

U Maung Kyaw Zan of Rakhine State constituency 9, U Tet Tun Aung of Rakhine State constituency 2, U Sai Than Naing of Kayin State constituency 5, U Kyaw Thein of Rakhine State constituency 7 and U Kyaw Thaung of Sagaing Region constituency 1 discussed a motion tabled by U Khin Maung Latt, of constituency 3, Rakhine State, to take legal actions against violent attackers in Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships under the Anti-terrorism Law and to make arrangements for the survival of displaced national ethnic people.



U Kyaw Thein. **PHOTO: MNA**

Discussion ranges from taking care in amending, moderating and repealing rules and laws related to national security in establishing a democratic state to danger not only to Rakhine State but the entire country if terrorists are able to gain a foothold in Buthidaung, Maungtaung and Yathedaung, and a successful second step for the terrorists if local ethnic villagers abandoned their villages after terrorists first encroached and settled illegally in the country.

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session 46th day meeting is scheduled for 21 August. ■

First coordination meeting of Steering Committee to hold CONSAL XVII

A first coordination meeting of the Steering Committee to hold the 17th Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (CONSAL XVII) was held yesterday morning in Wunzin Minyarzar Hall of the National Library in Nay Pyi Taw. Vice President U Myint Swe who is Chairman of the steering committee delivered a speech at this meeting.

The meeting was attended by Steering Committee Vice Chairman and patron of the Myanmar Library Association Dr. Thaw Kaung, Steering Committee Secretary Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Steering Committee members, work committee members, sub-committee members and officials.

Vice President U Myint Swe said that the day's meeting was the first meeting of the Steering Committee to hold CONSAL XVII, as Myanmar would be hosting the said meeting in May 2018. At the meeting associated meetings such as CONSAL's third Executive Board meeting and 26th Conference of Directors of National Libraries in Asia and Oceania (CDNLAO) would also be held.

The President's Office had formed the steering committee and work committees for the successful holding of CONSAL XVII with its Notification No. 61/2017 dated 11 July 2017. The steering committee is composed of



Vice President U Myint Swe delivers a speech at the first coordination meeting of Steering Committee to hold CONSAL XVII. PHOTO: MNA

13 members with Vice President U Myint Swe as chairman and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture as Secretary. Similarly, a work committee with 13 members was formed with Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture as Chairman and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture as Secretary. For the successful holding of the congress, 14 sub-committees and a secretariat had been formed for cooperation and coordination with other ministries and organizations.

CONSAL XVII will be attended by ten ASEAN member countries and East Timor will also attend as an observer. The aim of

holding the congress is for libraries, library associations and chief librarians to setup a network and cooperate in the libraries development project. Four duties had already been assigned for the work committee. Myanmar had been the host country of the 17th CONSAL from 2016 to 2018. The first and second Executive Board meetings were held in Yangon on 28-29 July 2016 and 8-9 May 2017. The third Executive Board meeting will be held together with the congress. Furthermore 26th CDNLAO will also be held. The 17th CONSAL to be held in May 2018 is the first time Myanmar is hosting an international congress on library discipline. It will be

held in the same way as other countries as a national level congress. Ministries and responsible personnel are urged to cooperate and coordinate with good ideas for the successful holding of the congress and cooperate from all points of views, said the Vice President.

Next Chairman of work committee to hold 17th CONSAL Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko explained about preparation works to hold 17th CONSAL with a Power Point presentation.

Afterwards work committee Secretary Permanent Secretary U Tun Ohn of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture

explained about arrangements made to hold 17th CONSAL.

Responsible personnel from 14 sub-committees and the secretariat attending the meeting then explained about works done to hold the 17th CONSAL.

Later, committee member Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint and meeting attendants provided suggestions after which Chairman of the Steering Committee to hold 17th CONSAL Vice President U Myint Swe gave overall comments and suggestions based on the presentations made by the sub-committees and urged them to cooperate from all angles, after which the meeting was concluded.—MNA ■

Myanmar's improved human trafficking ranking discussed

By Chan Myae Thu

A recent discussion of Myanmar's human trafficking ranking by the Union's Central Committee on Anti-Human Trafficking revealed some of the challenges faced in trying to improve the country's effectiveness in dealing with forced labour.

Myanmar remains on a watch list together with fellow ASEAN nations Laos and Thailand in an annual categorisation of countries by the US State Department. Members of the Central Committee of Anti-Human Trafficking, which operates under the Home Affairs Ministry, said regional, legal and economic hurdles have slowed or prohibited improvement in Myanmar's

ranking.

"Among the challenges we face regarding human trafficking, we can not expose or arrest human traffickers from neighbouring countries, though we rescue the victims," said Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, at the meeting of the Anti-Human Trafficking committee in Nay Pyi Taw on Thursday.

"Besides, we are still facing challenges to create jobs for the rescued victims".

Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe is also chairman of the committee.

The US government releases annual reports on human trafficking and categorises countries as Tier 1, for countries whose

governments fully meet the Trafficking Victims Protection Act's (TVPA) minimum standards; Tier 2, for countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards; Tier 2 Watch List, for countries whose governments do not fully meet the TVPA's minimum standards, but are making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance with those standards and for whom the number of trafficking victims is large or increasing, and who fail to provide evidence of increasing efforts to combat trafficking; and Tier 3, for countries whose

governments do not fully meet the minimum standards and are not making significant efforts to do so. For Tier 3 countries, it is possible that humanitarian aid and economic subsidies could be halted or withdrawn.

In 2017, out of 187 nations, 36 were categorized as Tier 1, 80 countries as Tier 2, 45 countries as Tier 2 Watch List, 23 countries as Tier 3, and three countries as Special Countries. Regionally, the Philippines was ranked as Tier 1, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam as Tier 2, and Myanmar, Laos and Thailand as Tier 2 Watch List.

Myanmar was ranked as a Tier 3 country from 2001 to 2011,

as Tier 2 Watch List from 2012 to 2015, as Tier 3 in 2016 and as Tier 2 Watch List in 2017. Though Myanmar was ranked as Tier 3 in 2016, actions to be taken were exempted under the special authority of the President, whereas in the 2017 annual report, Myanmar, Laos and Thailand of the ASEAN nations were categorised as Tier 2 Watch List.

The upgrade might be attributed to the transformation from the Tatmadaw government to a democratic government and Myanmar Tatmadaw's cooperation towards the prescriptions included in the report, according to the discussions in the meeting of central committee of anti-human trafficking. ■

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270 pearl lots sold by open tender at auction (August-2017)

Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win attended the Myanmar Pearl Auction organised by the Myanma Pearl Enterprise and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation held in the Myanma Gem Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Union Minister viewed the displayed pearl lots and the traders while Myanmar Pearl Enterprise Managing Director U Min Min Oo and officials explained the pearl auction process.

The Union Minister presented a Biggest Buyer award to Aung Zabu Aye Pearl Trading owner Daw Khin Myint Aye, who had bought 61 lots of pearls worth Ks678 million during the 35th Internal Myanmar Pearl Sales.

The pearl auction was attended by permanent secretaries of the ministry, director generals, managing directors, invited guests, and 180 local and foreign pearl and jewelry merchants.

Pearl sales using foreign currency were started in 1964 and a total of 90 sales events were held in which US\$114.78 million was obtained. Pearl sales events in Nay Pyi Taw were started in 2010.

Eighty local and foreign pearl merchants attended the



Merchants evaluate pearls at the Myanmar Pearl Auction in the Myanma Gem Museum, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Pearl Auction in July 2015, at which 3.11 million euros was earned. The 53rd Pearl Sales was attended by 78 local and foreign pearl merchants, at which 2.63 million euros was obtained.

The Myanma Pearl Enterprise has conducted a total of 125 local and international pearl sales in local and foreign currency resulting in earning of US\$114.78 million, 34.66 million euros, FEC 0.2 million and

Ks13.26 billion.

The current Myanmar Pearl Auction will be held from 18 to 20 August under an open tender system auctioning 86,904 pearls worth 1.23 million euros.—Myanmar News Agency

Indonesian embassy observes 72nd Independence Day



U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor, attended a ceremony to mark the 72nd Independence Day of Indonesia at the Novotel Yangon Max Hotel in Yangon on Friday. He was welcomed by Ambassador of Indonesia to Myanmar Dr Ito

Sumardi as he arrived the ceremony. The ceremony launched with greetings by Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe and Ambassador Dr Ito Sumardi.

Indonesian cultural troupe performed the guests with traditional dances.— Myanmar News Agency

Suspected violent attackers arrested in Buthidaung

TWENTY-three people suspected of involvement with violent attacks were arrested on Tuesday by security forces patrolling in Buthidaung Township, Rakhine State.

Security forces investigated 49 villagers including Rokein, also known as Phu

Han, in U Hla Pe (north) village, U Hla Pe village tract and found that 23 of them were suspected of being associated with those who were involved in recent violent attacks. They were arrested and a case is being opened against them.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Headless body found in Buthidaung

VILLAGERS found a headless body with multiple injuries on the shore of Tasin creek, Nwar Yone Taung Village in Buthidaung, on Thursday at about 3 pm and alerted authorities. Security forces secured the site and sent the decapitated body to Buthidaung Hospital.

On the same day in a sep-

arate incident, security forces on patrol caught a man with the first name of Mohamed suspected of involvement in an explosion at Pantawpyin (west) village.

A case was opened and investigation conducted on the suspect.—Myanmar News Agency ■



A worker washes a car at the old Thiri Mingalar automobile market in Yangon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

YCDC shuts down old Thiri Mingalar automobile market

YANGON City Development Committee (YCDC) has shut down the old Thiri Mingalar automobile market because the building is now over 20 years old and poses a great danger to the public, officials said.

“The building of Thiri Mingalar market was owned by the YCDC. We have also declared that the building is dangerous

for the local people on 17 August. Therefore, we have already ordered the automobile dealers to move out as soon as possible,” said an official from YCDC.

If the automobile dealers have difficulty finding a place for parking their cars, they can park them at Hlaing automobile market, Than Thumar

automobile market and Aung Mingalar highway bus terminal, officials said. There are three automobile markets in Yangon Region — Thiri Mingalar automobile market, Hlaing automobile market and Than Thumar automobile market. Currently, over 700 cars are being parked at Thiri Mingalar automobile market.—GNLM ■

Trade via sea increased by US\$1.77 billion

THE value of trade between Myanmar and other countries by sea routes has reached US\$8.8 billion this fiscal year, an increase of US\$1.77 billion when compared to last year, according to the statistics issued by the Ministry of Commerce.

As of 11 August, the value of external trade through sea routes was US\$3.07 billion, with

the import value amounting to US\$5.72 billion. The trade deficit was US\$2.6 billion.

Last fiscal year at this time, the total value of trade was US\$7.02 billion, including US\$2.53 billion from the export sector and US\$4.48 billion from the import sector, whereas the trade deficit amounted to US\$1.94 billion. Myanmar main-

ly exports agricultural products, aquatic products, mineral products, forest products and industrial goods. Myanmar also imported industrial raw materials, personal goods, construction materials, automobiles and other manufactured goods mainly from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, France and Hong Kong.—Min Thu ■

Agricultural exports decrease by US\$29.5 million

AGRICULTURAL export earnings as of 11 August reached US\$1.15 billion, a decrease of \$29.5 million compared to the same period last year, according to statistics released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar predominantly imports luxury products, personal goods, construction materials, agricultural machinery, raw materials, household goods, foodstuff and electronic devices from the neighboring countries. Myanmar exported nearly

US\$4.65 billion worth of products so far this fiscal year, including mineral products, aquatic products, animal products and agricultural products through sea routes and border trade camps, an increase of over US\$503 million compared to the same period of last year.

During fiscal 2017-2018, the export of jade and mineral exports increased by US\$110 million while the value of exports of aquatic products was found to increase of US\$16.3 million

when compared to those of the last fiscal year.

The value of exported forestry products was US\$82.8 million, while the export of the finished products earned US\$2.19 billion.

Experts said the country's exports cannot be dependent only on the agricultural industry, but also on other sectors such as aquatic products and garments, which should also play an important role in exports.—Zwe ■

Twenty-one markets to be upgraded in Yangon region

THE 21 markets in Yangon Region will be upgraded this fiscal year, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

The 21 markets to be upgraded in Yangon Region are: Mingalar market; Sanpya night bazaar; Mingalartaung Nyunt market; Yankin Myoma market; Baukhtaw market; Theingyi market-C and E Blocks; Boga-lay market; Tarmwe market; Nandawin market; Padamya market; Ngwe Yamone market; Thuwunna market; Mya Yadanar market; Pazundaung market; Than Lwin market; Hlaingzay gyi; Yadanar Theingi market; Hlaing Yadanar market; Myoma market and Theinbyu market.

The Pazundaung market and Theingyi market-C and E

blocks will be upgraded only in internal perspectives. The Pazundaung market is very close to the creek. Therefore, the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will make arrangements to enable the people to go shopping via the waterway. People will be more convenient to do the shopping after the water buses have started to run along Yangon River.

The Mingalar market will be constructed using funds of the YCDC, while the remaining 20 markets will be publicly owned.

To make the upgraded markets clean, the designs are being drawn by professional architects. The markets will include parking lots, coffee shops, parks, sport grounds and office units.—200 ■

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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean City SUPERCENTER **City Mart** Supermarket

Kyoto University experts detect large mammal species in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH — Experts from Kyoto University and the Wildlife Conservation Society have conducted a camera trap survey that detected a multitude of large mammal species in a protected area of northern Cambodia, the WSC said Thursday.

“The results confirm the continued occurrence of large mammals such as Eld’s deer, banteng (an endangered species of wild cattle), elephants and jungle cats in the CWS,” said Ai Suzuki of the Japanese university, referring to the 1,900-square-kilometer Chhep Wildlife Sanctuary in Preah Vihear Province, bordering Thailand and Laos.

Suzuki, the lead author of the study, said it “highlights the global significance of CWS for conservation of mammal assemblages in a lowland deciduous dipterocarp dominated landscape, a forest-type under-represented as protected area in mainland Southeast Asia.”

Among the species photographed were the critically endangered Sunda pangolin; two bear species; four civet species including the endan-

gered large-spotted civet; two mongoose species; the dhole, an endangered species of wild dog; and the gaur, a wild cattle species.

Besides the leopard, whose populations have declined severely across Indochina due in part to hunting, the presence of three medium or small cat species was recorded at the sanctuary, but there were unfortunately no tigers, according to the report.

Although there are historical records of tigers in Cambodia’s northern plains, including documentation showing at least 34 were killed as recently as 1998, the iconic cat species is “likely to have been extirpated” at CWS, it said.

The report was published in the latest issue of the Cambodian Journal of Natural History.

The journal carried another camera-trap study report concluding that both tigers and leopards have likely been extirpated in the Cardamom Rainforest Landscape, which covers 17,000 square km of protected areas in southwestern Cambodia.—Kyodo News ■

Flood situation worsens in eastern UP; Army help sought

GORAKHPUR — The flood situation worsened in eastern UP districts adjoining Nepal today following continuous rains and discharge of water in rivers with the district administration here seeking the help of Army in relief and rescue operations.

The movement of traffic on the Gorakhpur-Sonauli road towards Nepal has come to a standstill with the waters of Rohin river inundating Maniram township and the national highway, sources in the administration said.

In view of the situation, District Magistrate Rajiv Rautela has ordered closure of all schools till tomorrow and sought the help of the Army in relief and rescue operations.

After the authorities un-

dertook works to plug the breach in the embankment on Rohin river in Campierganj area two days ago to save water reaching some areas in the city, another breach was observed in it this morning leading to panic.

As many as 105 villages of the district have been hit by the floods of which 35 are totally submerged and the villagers have been shifted to safer places, they said.

Teams of NDRF are providing food and drinking water to the flood-hit people with the help of 169 boats.

According to a report from Siddhartnagar, Army helicopters assisted in extending relief material to the affected people yesterday.—PTI ■



Patriot Advanced Capability-3 missile interceptors are deployed at the Ground Self-Defence Force’s base in the city of Kaita on 18 August 2017, during an emergency drill in western Japan to prepare for a possible missile launch by Pyongyang. The area is beneath the likely flight path of a ballistic missile North Korea has recently threatened to launch toward Guam. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

Japan tests alert system in likely flight path of North Korea missiles

TOKYO — The Japanese government carried out Friday a drill for its emergency alert system in areas in and around the likely flight path of ballistic missiles North Korea has recently threatened to launch toward Guam.

The drill for the satellite-based J-Alert system covered 202 municipalities in nine prefectures in the Chugoku and Shikoku regions of western Japan, and tested the ability of municipalities receiving alerts to automatically broadcast them to residents.

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.

The drill took place in those four prefectures, plus the adjoining prefectures of Tottori, Okayama, Yamaguchi, Tokushima and Kagawa.

Some areas experienced technical glitches.

In the event of North Korea launching a missile that is feared

to fly over Japan or fall within Japanese territory, on land or at sea, the J-Alert system will transmit information to areas along the path of the missile.

Under the system, alert texts received from the central government are to be transmitted to outdoor loudspeakers also used for sending alerts on natural disasters, to mobile phones, and to cable TVs in the municipalities.

Warnings may also be issued for people in at-risk areas to take shelter underground or in robust buildings.—Kyodo News ■

China confirms bird flu outbreak at quail farms in Guizhou Province

BEIJING — China confirmed a bird flu outbreak at quail farms in the country’s southwestern province of Guizhou, according to a Ministry of Agriculture statement on Friday.

The outbreak in Luodian, a city of 345,000 people in southwestern Guizhou, was confirmed as the H5N6 strain of virus, the ministry said in the statement on its website.

The local government culled 8,110 birds after the outbreak, which infected 13,103 quails and killed 9,752 of the birds at some

quail farms, the statement said.

It was the second bird flu outbreak among poultry in China after the end of the northern hemisphere winter and brings the total culled to more than 248,000 birds.

This Chinese outbreak occurred as the Philippines reported a second bird flu outbreak on Friday, a week after reporting the country’s first case.

South Korea and Japan battled major outbreaks during the winter. The outbreak is now under control, the ministry said.

The last bird flu outbreak, of the H5N1 strain of the virus, killed 15,000 birds at a hen farm in northeastern Inner Mongolia province, the ministry reported on 1 August. The H7N9 strain of the virus has caused at least 281 deaths since October in China.

Live poultry markets were shut down in many provinces following human infections.

Flocks are particularly vulnerable to avian flu during the drier winter months and outbreaks usually die down afterwards.—Reuters ■

US top military officer meets Abe, SDF top officer, discuss North Korea

TOKYO — The chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff met Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the Japanese Self-Defence Forces' top officer in Tokyo on Friday, discussing with both the increase in tensions over North Korea.

At the outset of his meeting with Abe, Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford told the prime minister that "the nature of our bilateral relationship, particularly at the military level, is rock solid."

Abe told Dunford he wants to work together to bolster the Japan-US alliance, noting the threat from North Korea, which last week said it was considering launching ballistic missiles over the Japanese archipelago to waters near Guam, a US territory in the western Pacific.

"I highly appreciate the fact that (US) President (Donald) Trump has made clear that the United States will take



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) and Marine Corps Gen. Joseph Dunford, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, shake hands at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 18 August, 2017, before discussing the recent increase in tensions over North Korea. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

every necessary measure to protect its allies regarding the North Korea issue," Abe said.

Earlier Friday, Dunford

met with Adm. Katsutoshi Kawano, chief of the SDF Joint Staff, and the two affirmed the importance of cooperation be-

tween the Japanese defense force and the U.S. military to address the threat posed by North Korea.

According to a statement released by the Joint Staff, Dunford told Kawano in their meeting at the Defense Ministry that "the US commitment to the defense of Japan including extended deterrence remains ironclad."

In Washington on Thursday, Japanese and US foreign and defense ministers agreed in their "two-plus-two" talks to strengthen the Japan-US alliance to respond to the increased threat from North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile development efforts.

Before arriving in Japan, Dunford visited South Korea and China, meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae In and Chinese President Xi Jinping as well as military officials.—Kyodo News

Six South Korean soldiers hurt, seventh dies in training session, army official says

SEOUL — An explosion during an artillery exercise on Friday injured six South Korean soldiers and killed a seventh, a South Korean army official told Reuters.

The incident did not have anything to do with North Korea, said the official, who declined to be identified as he was not authorised to speak to the media. The blast took place during a regular training session, the official added.

A military spokesman could not immediately be reached.

The neighbours technically remain at war, since the 1950-1953 Korean War concluded in a ceasefire.—Reuters ■

North Korea tells UN chief nuclear programme not up for negotiation

UNITED NATIONS — North Korea's nuclear weapons programme will never be up for negotiation as long as the US government's "hostile policy and nuclear threat continue," Pyongyang's deputy UN ambassador told United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres.

Guterres spoke by telephone with Deputy Ambassador Kim In Ryong on Tuesday, the North Korean mission to the United Nations said in a statement on Thursday. North Korea's UN Ambassador Ja Song Nam is currently in North Korea, also known as DPRK.

"As long as the US hostile policy and nuclear threat continue, the DPRK ... will never place its self-defensive nuclear deterrence on the negotiation table or flinch an inch from the road chosen by itself, the road of bolstering up the state nuclear force," Kim told Guterres according to an account of the phone call given by the North Korea UN mission.



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres attends a news conference with Portugal's Foreign Affairs minister Augusto Santos (not pictured) at the Necessidades Palace in Lisbon, Portugal, on 3 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Guterres said on Wednesday it was time to "dial down rhetoric and dial up diplomacy" on North Korea and that he had told Russia, Japan, the United States, China and North and South Korea that he was available to help broker talks. US President Donald Trump warned North Korea last week it would face "fire and fury" if it threatened the United States, prompting North Korea to say

it was considering plans to fire missiles toward Guam.

But North Korean media reported on Tuesday that Kim delayed the decision while he waited to see what the United States did next, prompting Trump to praise Kim's "wise" decision.

"As the US launched full-scale provocation against the DPRK across all fields of politics, economy and military, nothing

can alter the will and resolve of the army and people of the DPRK to respond by taking resolute retaliatory measures," Kim told Guterres according to the North Korean statement. The UN Security Council unanimously a US-drafted resolution to impose new sanctions on North Korea on 5 August that could slash by a third the Asian state's \$3 billion annual export revenue.

Kim told Guterres the resolution "constitutes a flagrant infringement upon (North Korea's) sovereignty and an open challenge to it." North Korea has been under UN sanctions since 2006 over its ballistic missile and nuclear programmes and the Security Council has ratcheted up the measures in response to five nuclear weapons tests and four long-range missile launches.

"The DPRK will make the US pay dearly for all the heinous crime it commits against the state and people of this country," the North Korea UN mission said Kim told Guterres.—Reuters ■

Fire put out at major PetroChina refinery in Dalian

BEIJING — A fire that broke out on Thursday at state oil major PetroChina's plant in northeastern China, one of the country's largest refineries, has been put out with no reported casualties, state media reported.

The fire came just two months after the Dalian refinery finished a planned major maintenance.

More than 600 firefighters extinguished the blaze at the plant's 1.4 million-tonnes-per-annum catalytic cracker just after 9:00 p.m. (1300 GMT), and stayed on the scene to make sure equipment at the refinery remained cool, state broadcaster CCTV said on Friday.

The inferno, the latest industrial incident to rock the port city of Dalian, started at around 6:40 p.m. due to a broken seal in a feed pump, CCTV said.—Reuters ■

Peace and Stability in Rakhine State

By Khin Maung Oo

Geographically, Rakhine State is a fertile region for farming and it is rich in natural water resources. National ethnic people and local residents are earning their living there in peace. Being a coastal area, it abounds with scenes of natural beauty, which attract people as a permanent settlement. As the land abuts the neighboring country it became a promising border trade zone. Though being endowed with such virtues, Rakhine State has seen ugly and mischievous activities that harmed peace and stability of the region and national sovereignty.

The Union Government is systematically dealing with these events in deep and sober ways, with a view to

implementing national reconciliation, but the violent attacks of extremists are increasing more and more, committing atrocious killings of innocent local people and ethnic nationals almost every day. Accordingly, activities are being launched to protect people from being attacked and to take effective actions against terrorists and abettors.

Due to the increasing amounts of the victims, who amounted to 59 deaths and 33 missing ones till 9th August in Maungdaw district, Rakhine State people have been greatly frightened. The victims include ward and village administrators, old and new 10-and-100-household-group leaders, those who co-operated with the government and the villagers who disclosed news

and information to the media. Very recently, 7 Mro ethnic nationals were cruelly killed by extremist attackers. The whole populace denounces these inhumane massacres of terrorists.

These violent attackers committed cruel acts within our sovereign state. They took advantage of the fact that the Union Government has been dealing with these problems effectively according to the existing laws, rules and regulations. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the government to upgrade security in the state for the protection of innocent civilians as well as to stake legal actions against those who help terrorists.

Now that area clearance operations are underway to get rid of increasing violent attacks happening in

Buthidaung and Maungdaw regions, Rakhine State and for the establishment of peace and stability in the region. In combination with Tatmadaw forces and regional security forces, local people can protect their lives and properties by sending reports promptly to security forces about suspicious activities in the area.

Rakhine is a part of the Union, and the Union is like an extended family. Hence, the affairs of the Rakhine State are the ones of the Union. Accordingly, I hereby urge all the nationals residing in Myanmar, political parties, NGOs and INGOs, countries with friendly relations and the international community to denounce these violent terrorist attacks. ■

Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan

By U Khin Maung
(A retired diplomat)

Introduction

For me, a retired civil servant, only a few days shy of my eightieth birthday, it is really a heart warning news to read that “Civil Service Reform Strategic Action Plan” is launched by our democratically elected incumbent government. As regards the terms “the civil service, and civil servant” the “Oxford Advance Learner’s Dictionary” has defined as follows:

The civil service is the government departments in a country except the armed forces, and the people who work for them. (government departments). Civil servant is a person who works in the civil service. And from another point of view, the civil service is a branch of public services or a kind of public servants. The Penal Code, in “chapter II, General Explanation” defines the term public servant in section 21, as follows:

First – Every covenanted servant of the Government.

Second – Every commissioned officer in the Military, Naval or Air Forces of the State.

Third – Every judge, etc. According to the explanations made in the Penal Code, the civil service is certainly distinguished and different from the military, naval and air forces of the state.

2. Well, the civil service reform strategic action plan and its vision is a blue print for extensive reforms. By these reforms, the civil service system will be changed to become more ethical, more efficient and to better reflect the diversity of the country. As regards

this plan, Her Excellency, the State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has said inter alia as follows:

“The union government was committed to building the capacity of Myanmar’s Civil Servants and equipping them with the skills and expertise in a few years. Furthermore, H.E, the



The civil service is the government departments in a country except the armed forces, and the people who work for them. (government departments). Civil servant is a person who works in the civil service.

State Counsellor also said;

“We must take in a few years the issues that other countries have addressed gradually over many decades”. In this connection, it was also highlighted that “the Strategic Action Plan also notes the importance of “merit based and performance driven culture and systems”.

Civil Service System during the parliamentary democracy era.

3. After gaining back our independence and sovereignty from the British colonial rule, our mother land, Burma, (Myanmar) had applied the most

efficient and the cheapest administration system, left behind by the British colonial government, of course, with necessary adaptations, changes and reforms, so as to be in harmony with our traditions and culture.

In those days, the civil services, the backbone of the Executive Branch, was an independent, impartial, efficient and effective organ of the state.

4. Accordingly, the civil service personnel had to take the departmental examinations in four subjects, namely, criminal law, civil law, revenue and treasury. And for “Burma Civil Service B.C.S (Senior branch) officers, only when they had passed those departmental examinations by higher standard, they were appointed as “permanent”. For the B.C.S (Junior branch) officers, they must have passed those examinations by ordinary standard for being appointed as permanent.

5. Why? Under the then administration system, civil service personnel were entrusted with and empowered to serve as magistrates, treasury officers, revenue officers and general administration officers.

Well, no system is perfect. And our previous civil service system during the parliamentary democracy era was no exception, I think, So, we should take good aspects of our old service system and leave the out-dated aspects.

6. In my own opinion, the good aspects of our old civil service system, during the first parliamentary democracy government era, or during our first civilian government era, were many and varied.

To present only a few. In those days, there were many internationally renowned scholars, lawyers, civil

service personnel, diplomats etc. To honour those, who honour is due, may I mention only a few of them, And all those internationally renowned dignitaries, scholars, were in a wider sense of the term, civil service personnel or in essence, the right men, in the right places. They were, Dr. Htin Aung, the first Rector of Rangoon (Yangon) University, Ph.d, D.Litt, LL.D; Dr. Maung Maung, J.S.D (Yale) LL.D) (UTRE-CHT) of Lincoln’s Inn, Barrister-at-law; Chief Justice of the Union Supreme Court; U Thant, UN Secretary General; and Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja, Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt, Rector of Mandalay University, still hale and hearty, etc. etc.

Taking examples from all those highly distinguished civil service personnel, we could see that a highly educated, honest, hardworking, highly qualified and respectable civil servant could aspire and could have ambition and try his or her utmost to get to the highest career ladder. Nepotism, cronyism, prejudice and bias, and giving special preference to somebody or to some organization, were almost nil in those days. Meritocracy was just the rule, practiced and propagated for assignment and promotion in our old civil service system during the first parliamentary democracy era. So, we really hope and importance of merit-based and performance driven culture and systems.

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Speaker U Win Myint receives outgoing EU Ambassador



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint welcomes Mr. Roland Kobia, Ambassador of the European Union to Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received H.E. Mr. Roland Kobia, Ambassador of the European Union to Myanmar who completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at the Hluttaw Building Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the meeting, they discussed promoting EU-Myanmar cooperation and relations, fostering friendship and cooperation between EU and Myanmar parliaments and EU providing continued support and help toward Myanmar democracy transition.

Also present at the meeting were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Thura U Shwe Mann receives outgoing EU Ambassador

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann yesterday received H.E. Mr. Roland Kobia, European Union (EU) Ambassador to Myanmar, who is concluding his tour of duty in Myanmar, at the Hluttaw Building Hall in Nay Pyi Taw, at 3:00pm.

During the meeting, the Commission Chairman ex-

pressed thanks to the outgoing ambassador for his efforts for assisting Myanmar and exchanged views on the status of reform in Myanmar.

Also present at the meeting were U Ko Ko Naing, member of Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and officials from the office.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission Chairman Thura U Shwe Mann holds talk with Mr. Roland Kobia, European Union (EU) Ambassador to Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

\$200m from World Bank

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The macroeconomic stability pillar supports reforms to promote prudent public debt management, improved fiscal discipline of State Economic Enterprises and more effective budgeting processes. Reforms under the fiscal resilience pillar aim to increase tax collection, improve management of gas revenues, and strengthen public finance management. By providing funding directly to the Union budget to support these actions, the Development Policy

Operation provides long-term, soft financing for priority public investments.

“Budget support is an important tool to underpin key government reforms and implement priority government programmes” said Ellen Goldstein, the World Bank Country Director for Myanmar, Cambodia and Lao PDR.

“This first budget support will help Myanmar modernise economic management and build a more efficient State. This includes measures to main-

tain economic stability, which is essential for high levels of investment, inclusive growth and job creation, as well as fiscal measures that will allow for the expansion and improvement of public service delivery.”

The credit comes from the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank’s fund for low income countries. The terms for the IDA credit include a repayment period of 38 years, with a grace period of six years and a zero interest rate. —World Bank ■

Insect named after beloved naturalist David Attenborough

A NEWLY-IDENTIFIED, 100-million-year-old species of damselfly discovered in the Kachin State of Burma (Myanmar) has been named after iconic British broadcaster and naturalist Sir David Attenborough, according to the Asian Correspondent.

Attenborough’s name was chosen for the creature – found preserved in an amber fossil

from the mid-Cretaceous period when dinosaurs still roamed the earth – in honour of his recent 90th birthday and because of his passion for dragonflies.

“Dragonflies in amber are extremely rare and the recent discoveries by my Chinese colleagues are a new window on the past. It is tradition in taxonomy (the naming of a new species) to contact the person



Frisky insect trapped in 100-million-year-old amber found in Kachin State.

concerned,” said co-author of the study Professor Edmund A. Jarzembowski as quoted by the EurekAlert! science news outlet.— Asian Correspondent ■

H1N1 on the rise

The Ministry of Health and Sports announced yesterday also announced that medical examinations for 22 patients were carried out between 17 and 18 August and 5 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 747 cases of severe respiratory infections, and now 282 confirmed cases of the seasonal influenza A (H1N1) pdm09 and 29 deaths from the virus.

There have been 4 inpatients at Wabargi Specialist Hospital and 46 inpatients in hospitals in various regions and states receiving treatment for confirmed cases of H1N1 yesterday.

Various foreign and domestic companies, UN and other international organisations and donors have provided medicine, medical equipment and protective equipment to Myanmar. Nanova Co. Ltd (3M Authorized Distributor) donated Ks 3 million to the Ministry of Health and Sports yesterday.

The ministry urged in its report for the elderly, children, pregnant women, people with chronic illnesses and low immune systems to follow the ministry’s guidelines to protect against the seasonal influenza and to receive medical examinations at the nearest health department if they experience any of the virus’ symptoms. — Myanmar News Agency ■

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

Spanish police shoot five suspects dead after driver kills 13 in Barcelona

BARCELONA—Spain launched a sweeping anti-terrorism operation on Friday, shooting dead five would-be attackers after a suspected Islamist militant drove a van into crowds in Barcelona, killing 13 people and wounding scores.

Islamic State said the perpetrators had been responding to its call for action by carrying out Thursday's rampage along Barcelona's most famous avenue, which was thronged with holiday-makers enjoying an afternoon stroll at the peak of the tourist season.

Bodies, many motionless, were left strewn across the avenue and authorities said the toll of dead, which included several children, could rise, with more than 100 injured.

Hours later in the early hours of Friday, as security forces hunted for the van's driver, police said they killed five attackers in Cambrils, a town south of Barcelona, to thwart a separate attack using explosive belts.

Details of the Cambrils incident, which police linked to the Barcelona attack, were still sketchy.

But police said six civilians and a police officer were injured when the attackers ran them over in a car, before police shot them dead and carried out controlled explosions.

Authorities later said the explosive belts were fake.

Shortly before midnight on Wednesday, the day before the van ploughed into the tree-lined walkway of Barcelona's Las



People attend to injured persons at the scene after a van crashed into pedestrians near the Las Ramblas avenue in central Barcelona, Spain, on 17 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Ramblas avenue, one person was killed in an explosion in a house in a separate town southwest of Barcelona, police said.

Police said they had arrested a Moroccan and a man from Spain's north African enclave of Melilla, though neither of them was the van driver. He was seen escaping on foot and was still at large. A third man was arrested in the town of Ripoll on Friday.

A judicial source said investigators believed a cell of at least eight people, possibly 12, may have been involved in the Barcelona attack and Cambrils plot and that it was planning to use gas canisters.

On Las Ramblas, residents and tourists trickled back to the famous promenade where hours earlier a white van had zigzagged at high speed through throngs of

pedestrians and cyclists, leaving bodies strewn in its wake.

Residents walked dogs and curious tourists reclaimed the street, along with media crews, despite the driver still being at large. Some areas remained cordoned off by police.

"Those that live here can't believe it, because we live here, we walk here, this is our neighbourhood," Sebastiano Palumbo, 47, an Italian architect working in Barcelona, said as he walked his dog. "I think the best thing would be to continue, every day, doing what do."

The injured and dead came from 24 different countries, the Catalan regional government said, ranging from France and Germany to Pakistan and the Philippines. Spanish media said several children were killed.

Islamic State's Amaq news agency said the attackers had carried out the operation "in response to calls for targeting coalition states" - a reference to a U.S.-led coalition against the Sunni militant group. Spain has several hundred soldiers in Iraq training local forces in the fight against Islamic State.

There was no immediate indication though that Islamic State had directed or organised the attack, although some of those responsible for similar attacks in Europe have been inspired by the jihadist group.

Islamist militants have staged a string of attacks across Europe in the past 13 months, killing well over 100 people in Nice, Berlin, London and Stockholm.

The Barcelona attack was the deadliest in Spain since March 2004, when Islamist militants placed bombs on commuter trains in Madrid, killing 191 people and wounding more than 1,800.

Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy announced three days of official mourning for what he called a "jihadist attack" while the Spanish royal household said on Twitter: "They are murderers, nothing more than criminals who are not going to terrorise us. All of Spain is Barcelona."

US President Donald Trump said: "The United States condemns the terror attack in Barcelona, Spain, and will do whatever is necessary to help." He added: "Be tough & strong, we love you!" —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Over 24 hospitalized after gas leak in northern India

NEW DELHI — Over 24 people have been hospitalized following a gas leakage at a water treatment plant in the northern Indian hilly state of Uttarakhand Friday, Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat said.

The incident took place at Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan, the main water treatment plant, in the state capital of Dehradun.

"More than two dozen people have been admitted to the hospital due to the leak of chlorine gas at Uttarakhand Jal Sansthan located at Dehradun, the situation is under control," Chief Minister Rawat tweeted.

The chlorine gas leaked from cylinders kept at the plant to purify water before it is supplied to the city.—Xinhua ■

Terrorism will never defeat us, Merkel says after Barcelona attack

BERLIN — Germany stands united with Spain in its determination not to allow terrorist attacks stop people living their lives, Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Friday, after a suspected Islamist militant killed 13 people in Barcelona.

"These murderous attacks have once again shown us the full contempt for mankind involved in Islamist terrorism," Merkel said.—Reuters ■

Russian, German foreign ministers discuss North Korea crisis on phone

MOSCOW — Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov spoke on the phone with his German counterpart Sigmar Gabriel on Friday to discuss the North Korea crisis, Russia's Foreign Ministry said.

Germany on Wednesday vowed to do all it could to defuse tensions between the United States and North Korea. But Berlin played down the idea that Germany could be a significant mediator between Pyongyang and Washington, after hosting talks between the two a decade ago.—Reuters ■

UN Security Council condemns Barcelona terrorist attack

UNITED NATIONS — The United Nations Security Council condemned "in the strongest terms" Thursday's terrorist attack in the Spanish city of Barcelona that left at least 13 people dead and more than 100 others injured.

In a statement, the council members expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims, as well as to the government of

Spain. They wished a speedy recovery to those injured.

They reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. They expressed their solidarity with Spain in its fight against terrorism and stressed the need to intensify international efforts to combat terrorism and violent extrem-

ism, which may be conducive to terrorism.

The council members reiterated that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed. They reaffirmed the need for all states to combat, by all means, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

The council members underlined the need to bring the perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of these reprehensible acts to justice, and urged all states, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Spanish government and all other relevant authorities in this regard.—Xinhua ■

‘Guardian angel’ need for advisers in Afghanistan drives call for more troops

KABUL — Navigating a chaotic maze of cars and people, the convoy of British army armoured vehicles weaves slowly through Kabul. The job of about a dozen soldiers is to protect just two international advisers on their way to meet Afghan soldiers.

While every mission varies, for every adviser deployed in Afghanistan as part of a NATO-led multinational force, many more soldiers are tasked with providing security and support.

The minimum security requirements mean that providing even just a few thousand advisers for Afghan security forces is a monumental task that, if continued, will keep many thousands more international troops and contractors facing

daily threats.

That calculus will factor into arguments put before US President Donald Trump on Friday as he and advisers meet ahead of a long-awaited decision on strategy and troop levels for the United States’ longest war.

Fewer than 25 per cent of coalition troops in Afghanistan are dedicated advisers — with the rest either in a security, support or a combined role.

The need to balance the force with more advisers is a driving factor behind the military’s request for more troops, which has met with scepticism in Washington, where Trump was elected on a platform of reducing American commitments overseas.—Reuters ■



Soldiers with the British army’s Royal Irish Regiment provide security for a meeting between international military advisers and Afghan officials at a base in Kabul, Afghanistan, on 12 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Saudi coalition to blame for half of Yemen child casualties: draft UN report

UNITED NATIONS — A Saudi Arabia-led military coalition was responsible for an “unacceptably high” 51 per cent of child deaths and injuries in Yemen last year, according to a draft United Nations report seen by Reuters on Thursday.

The draft report on children and armed conflict, which still has to be approved by UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres and is subject to change, blamed the Saudi-led coalition for more than 680 child casualties and three-quarters of the attacks on schools and hospitals in Yemen.

“Attacks carried out by air caused over half of all child casualties, with at least 349 killed and 333 injured,” the draft report found. The Saudi-led coalition began an air campaign in Yemen in March 2015 to defeat Iran-allied Houthi rebels. It will be up to Guterres to decide whether to return the Saudi-led coalition to a child rights blacklist annexed to the report. The coalition was briefly added last year and then removed by then-UN chief Ban Ki-moon pending a review.

At the time, Ban accused Saudi Arabia of exerting “unacceptable” undue pressure after sources told Reuters that Riyadh threatened to cut its funding of UN programmes. Saudi Arabia



A Houthi militant walks in front of a government compound, destroyed by recent Saudi-led air strikes, in Yemen’s northwestern city of Amran, in July 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

denied threatening Ban.

The Saudi-led coalition had been named on the blacklist last year after the UN report blamed it for 60 per cent of child deaths and injuries in Yemen in 2015 and half the attacks on schools and hospital. Saudi Arabia’s UN mission said in a statement on Wednesday that there was “no justification whatsoever” for including the coalition’s name on the blacklist. It declined to comment on the findings in the draft report for 2016.

The report, which officials say is likely to be published next month, is issued in Guterres’ name but was drafted by his

special envoy for children and armed conflict, Virginia Gamba. It is produced at the request of the UN Security Council.

“The United Nations was informed of measures taken by the coalition in 2016 to reduce the impact of conflict on children,” according to the draft report. “However, despite these measures, grave violations against children continued at unacceptably high levels in 2016.”

The draft report said the Houthi rebels and affiliated forces were responsible for nearly a third of the total 1,340 child casualties verified by the United Nations.—Reuters ■

Suspected al Shabaab attackers kill three in Kenya’s Lamu

MOMBASA, (Kenya) — Suspected members of Somalia’s al Shabaab Islamist group beheaded at least three men overnight in an attack on a Kenyan village, authorities said on Friday, a month after nine were killed in a similar way nearby.

“They were slaughtered. Their heads were cut off from the rest of their bodies,” said a police source, asking not to be named.

Police said four bodies had been found at Maleli village in Kenya’s coastal county of Lamu. Area county commissioner Gilbert Kitiyo said he

was aware of three deaths.

“A group of armed suspects raided and killed three locals. All the three were men,” Kitiyo told Reuters by phone, adding the suspects set houses ablaze before disappearing into a nearby forest.

“We cannot speculate, but from previous attacks, the nature and style of this attack can only be associated with these al Shabaab criminals.”

In July suspected al Shabaab attackers fighters beheaded nine men in villages near Maleli, and killed three police officers in another attack in the area. —Reuters ■

Key Assad adviser accuses US-led coalition of trying to fragment Syria

DAMASCUS — A key political and media adviser to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Thursday accused the US-led coalition of seeking to fragment Syria, saying the plan will fail.

In an interview with pan-Arab al-Mayadeen TV aired late Thursday, Bouthaina Shaaban said “the targeting of civilians in Raqqa (the de facto capital of the Islamic State group) and the crimes

committed against them...is something that sparks questions and it’s most likely that the United States is trying to terrorize the Arab citizens in Raqqa into leaving their areas to establish a suitable ground for federalization or the (creation of) Kurdish entity” in northern Syria.

The United States will fail to fragment Syria “because the Syrian people are one,” she noted.—Xinhua ■

US warship commander dismissed for fatal collision off Japan

WASHINGTON — The US Navy said Thursday it will remove the commander and two other senior officers of US destroyer Fitzgerald over the fatal collision with a Filipino container ship off the Japan coast in June.

"Clearly at some point the (ship's) bridge team lost situational awareness," Adm. Bill Moran, vice chief of naval operations, said as the Navy released an investigation of the 17 June accident that killed seven crew members and led to flooding in a section of the Aegis combat system-equipped ship.

The three-member leadership of the destroyer will be detached because "we've lost trust and confidence in their ability to lead in those positions," Moran said. In total, about a dozen sailors will be punished over the accident, according to the Navy.

According to the report, the Fitzgerald was off the coast of Ja-

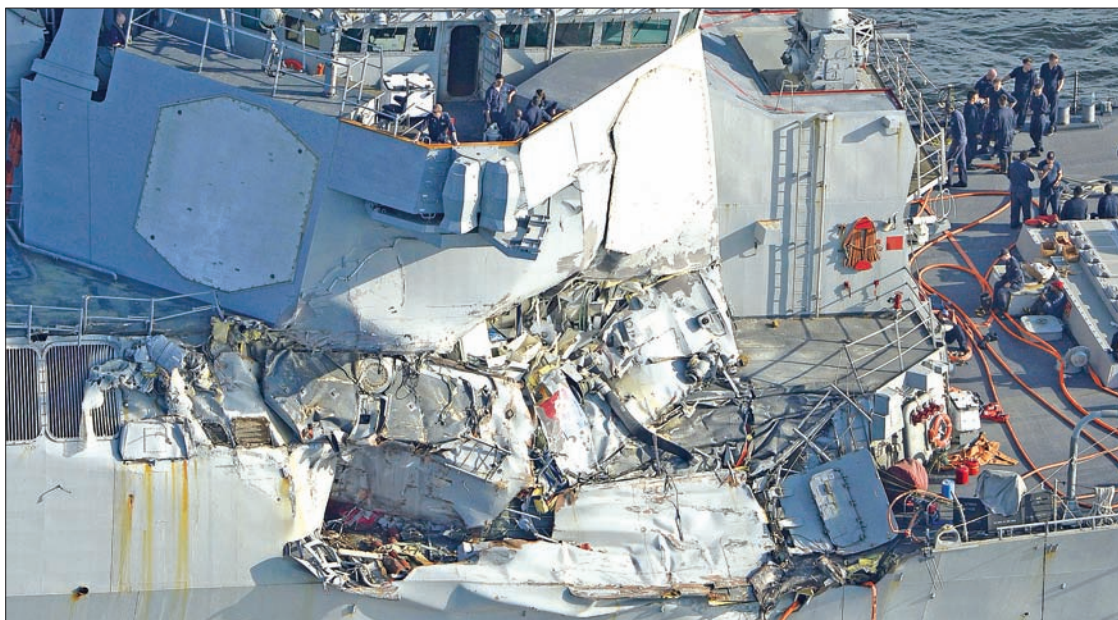


Photo taken June 17, 2017, from a Kyodo News helicopter shows the damaged part of the US Navy's guided-missile destroyer Fitzgerald, which collided with a Filipino container vessel off Yokosuka, south of Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

pan's Izu Peninsula, within sight of land, when it collided with the Philippine-flagged container ship at around 1:30 am on 17 June.

The seas were calm, the

moon was relatively bright and visibility was "unrestricted." The Fitzgerald was operating in a "standard condition" at night, with all exterior lighting off ex-

cept for navigation lights and all interior lighting switched to red, the report said. The seven who drowned were all assigned to a crew area called "Berthing 2,"

where a huge volume of water quickly entered after the ship's hull was punctured in the collision, according to the report. As many crew members were asleep at the time of the crash, some had to wake shipmates who had slept through the initial impact before climbing a ladder to evacuate flooding. The bunks of the seven deceased sailors were located in the area "closest" to the damaged portion of the ship and "directly in the path of the onrushing water," the report said. Investigations are still continuing, the Navy official said. The 8,315-ton destroyer armed with Standard Missile-3 interceptors had been sailing in Japanese coastal waters following a series of ballistic missile launches by Pyongyang.

The Filipino container ship, the 29,060-ton ACX Crystal, is operated by Japanese shipping firm Nippon Yusen K.K. —Kyodo News ■

Peru minister warns of new drug hotspot at border with Brazil, Colombia

LIMA — A new cocaine-producing hotspot is taking root in Peru near its border with Colombia and Brazil, and local authorities worry that dissident FARC guerrillas may join forces with drug traffickers there, Peru's defence minister said Thursday.

Coca growing and cocaine production is expanding in the triple border region mainly because Peru stepped up efforts to crack down on drug-traffickers in the Vraem, a bundle of jungle valleys where more than half of Peruvian cocaine is now made, said Defence Minister Jorge Nieto.

"If we're successful in one place, they go elsewhere," Nieto told a news conference with foreign media, lamenting what he called the "cockroach effect."

Peru and Colombia are the world's top two cocaine producers and coca growing in the Colombia-Brazil border region has tripled to about 20,000 hectares (49,000 acres) in recent years, according to a report this year by Peru's drug agency Devida.

"We have a very complicated situation there," Nieto said.

Cocaine production in the region is not yet on the scale of the Vraem, Nieto said, but Peru worries that fighters with the Marxist Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) who



Peru's Defence Minister Jorge Nieto talks to the media during a news conference at the Defence Ministry in Lima, Peru, on 17 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

have refused to turn in their weapons may venture into the growing drug trade there.

Nearly 7,000 FARC rebels have demobilized as part of a peace deal with Colombia's government. But some units have refused to lay down their arms and are expected to remain involved in illegal activities.

"These are people who were trained to use weapons and have been doing so for 20-30 years. It's a way of life, and that's why we're worried," said Nieto. "We have to strengthen our mechanisms on that border."

Peru has struggled with its own dissident band of rebels, which refused to heed the Maoist-inspired Shining Path's order

to down arms in the 1990s and now helps drug traffickers control the Vraem.

Nieto declined to estimate how many dissident Shining Path fighters operate in the Vraem. The previous government put their numbers at between 200 and 500 in 2014.

Nearly 10,000 military officers in the Vraem are seeking to wrest control of the region from rebels and drug traffickers, said Nieto. Nieto said Peru is also evaluating restoring civil liberties in eight out of 46 districts in the Vraem where a state of emergency has been in force for years. But residents who fear an end to emergency funding have opposed the move.—Reuters ■

Canada sees 'unsustainable' spike in asylum seekers at US border

TORONTO/MONTREAL — The number of asylum seekers who illegally crossed the US border into Canada more than tripled last month, according to Canadian government data released on Thursday, as migrants worried about the US administration's immigration crackdown head north.

More than 3,100 people walked across the border illegally in July to file refugee claims and were arrested, up from 884 in June, the federal government said.

Ninety-six per cent of them went to Quebec, where an influx of asylum seekers, primarily Haitians, is sparking a backlash from opposition politicians and anti-immigrant groups in the primarily French-speaking province.

In the first 15 days of August, an additional 3,800 asylum seekers were arrested crossing the US border into Quebec, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police said. More than 1,000 people are living in tents and government facilities at a Lacolle, Quebec border crossing across from upstate New York.

"It's not a crisis. It's a situation that is extraordinary. But it's well-managed," Transport

Minister Marc Garneau told reporters in Lacolle on Thursday.

Canada is struggling to house and provide social assistance for the influx of asylum seekers as its refugee system faces the worst delays in years.

The Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB), which is responsible for hearing all asylum claims, has redeployed resources to deal with the Quebec arrivals.

"The IRB had to make adjustments to be in a position to respond to the current situation that is clearly unsustainable," spokeswoman Anna Pape said in an email.

Canada has launched a campaign to counter misinformation about the country's refugee policy, which is believed to be one reason for the influx of refugees.

"Asking for asylum in Canada is not a guarantee for permanent residence in Canada, and it's extremely important we stress that," immigration ministry spokesman Louis Dumas told reporters.

Conservative parliamentarian Michelle Rempel, her party's immigration critic, said the government steps are a "band aid" solution.—Reuters ■

Oil torn between broader market selloff, signs of tightening supply

SINGAPORE — Oil prices were largely steady on Friday, torn between a broad-based selloff across markets and signs that crude supplies are gradually tightening.

Brent crude futures, LCOc1 the international benchmark for oil prices, were at \$51.12 per barrel at 0711 GMT, up 9 cents from their last close but still set for a weekly drop of some 2 per cent.

US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude futures CLc1 were at \$47.17 a barrel, up 8 cent but also on track to fall over the week, down over 3 per cent.

Oil prices have been weighed down amid a selloff across markets, including US and Asian stocks, where investors voted with their feet amid growing scepticism that US President Donald Trump, embroiled in controversy, would achieve his economic agenda.

The overall softness in financial markets added to the perception that oil supply remains higher than demand despite producer efforts to reduce output. The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), together with non-OPEC producers like Russia, has pledged to restrict output by 1.8 million barrels per day (bpd) between January



Unused oil rigs sit in the Gulf of Mexico near Port Fourchon, Louisiana in 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

this year and March 2018.

“Sentiment in oil markets remains weak,” US investment bank Jefferies said.

Oil is declining even amid signs that crude markets are tightening.

The Brent forward curve <0#LCO:> has moved from contango into backwardation, where prices for immediate delivery are higher than those later on, for the three months of futures. A so-called backwardated market is

considered a bullish sign for prices since it indicates that demand is outpacing supply.

Signs of supply tightness are also appearing in the United States, the world’s biggest oil consumer. Despite a 13 per cent jump in production C-OUT-T-EIA since mid-2016 to 9.5 million bpd, the country’s commercial crude inventories C-STK-T-EIA have fallen 13 per cent from their March records to below 2016 levels.

On the demand side, Asia in particular could see some stronger crude orders going into the second-half of the year.

Driven by the start-up of a refinery in Yunnan province in southern China and the completed expansion of a fuel processing facility at Huizhou, Chinese crude oil imports are expected to pick up.

“We expect Chinese crude imports to increase by 700,000 bpd year-on-year on average in 2H 2017,”

said energy consultancy FGE.

New oil demand is also coming from Viet Nam, which will see record crude oil imports in August as it readies its second refinery for start-up.

“As domestic crude production continues to fall, Viet Nam’s historical surplus in crude oil will come to an end by 2019, turning the country into a net importer,” said Peter Lee, oil analyst at BMI Research.—Reuters ■

Red Cross says floods affect 16 million in Nepal, India and Bangladesh

GENEVA — A humanitarian crisis is unfolding across large areas in South Asia, with more than 16 million people affected by monsoon floods in Nepal, Bangladesh and India, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) said Friday.

The agency cited local authorities as saying that flood levels have already reached record highs in Bangladesh, and water of major rivers such as the Jamuna has surpassed warning levels set in 1988, the deadliest floods the country has ever faced.

“This is fast becoming one of the most serious humanitarian crises this region has seen in many years and urgent action is needed to meet the growing needs of millions of people affected by these devastating floods,” the IFRC said in a statement Friday, citing its staff for Asia Pacific region. According to the statement, more than one third of Bangladesh and Nepal have been flooded, and the humanitarian crisis could get worse in the days and weeks ahead.—Xinhua ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV PINYA STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PINYA STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (021)

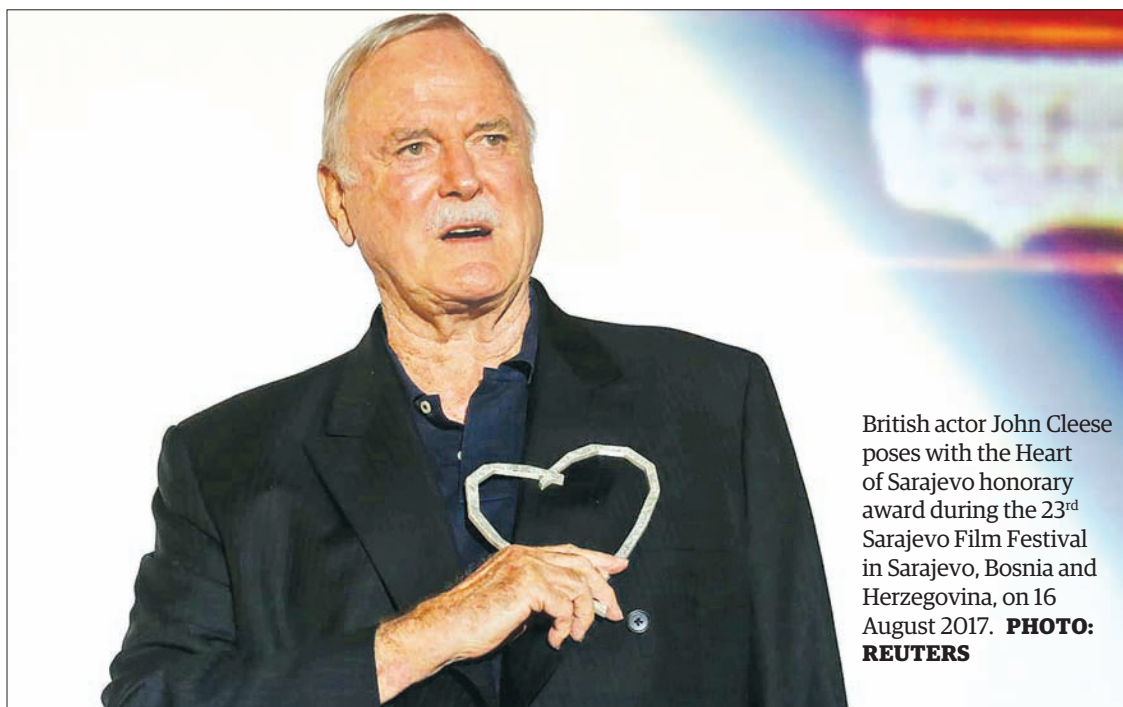
Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CRUSADER VOY. NO (021) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185



British actor John Cleese poses with the Heart of Sarajevo honorary award during the 23rd Sarajevo Film Festival in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, on 16 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Georgian film wins top Sarajevo film fest award, Cleese and Stone honored

SARAJEVO — A Georgian film about a woman struggling to reconcile family life and her passion for writing has been chosen as the best movie at the 23rd Sarajevo Film Festival.

Three-time Oscar-winning US film-maker Oliver Stone and British actor John Cleese were also awarded with lifetime achievement awards during a week-long festival which has shown 235 films from 54 countries to an audience of about 100,000.

An international jury chaired by Mexican film-maker

Michel Franco awarded “Scary Mother”, a debut movie by 27-year-old Georgian director Ana Urushadze, with the Heart of Sarajevo, the festival’s main award.

It described the film as “provocative and elegantly directed”. This was the second time a Georgian film has triumphed in Sarajevo after “In Bloom” by directors Nana Ekvimishvili and Simon Gros won the main prize in 2013.

Romanian film-maker Emanuel Parvu was awarded best director for his movie “Meda,

or the Not So Bright Side of Things”, and Serban Pavlu won the best actor award for his role in the movie.

The best actress award went to Canadian actress Ornela Kapetani for her role in “Daybreak”, a debut feature by Albanian director Gentian Koci.

The Sarajevo Film Festival, founded as an act of defiance toward the end of the 1992-95 siege during the Bosnian war, has grown into the largest industry platform for the region stretching from Austria to Russia and Turkey.—Reuters ■

Taylor Swift donates to assault victims group after groping win

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Taylor Swift has made good on her pledge to support groups that help sexual assault victims following her victory in a Colorado groping trial this week.

The 27-year-old “Fearless” singer on Wednesday made what officials described as a generous donation to the US Joyful Heart Foundation, whose mission is to educate, support and campaign on sexual violence issues.

“Joyful Heart is honoured to be recognised by Taylor Swift for our work on behalf of and in service to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, and child abuse,” the organisation said in a statement.

Swift on Monday was awarded the symbolic \$1 (77p) in dam-



Singer Taylor Swift. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ages that she had sought after a federal jury in Denver found that a radio DJ had grabbed her bottom while posing for a photo with her in 2013.

The pop star delivered unflinching testimony describing the incident, saying she wanted to help other women make their

voices heard. She said she would donate to organisations that help sexual assault victims defend themselves.

Joyful Heart’s chief executive, Maile M. Zambuto, told the Huffington Post that Swift’s donation was “very generous,” but she did not disclose the amount.

The Joyful Heart Foundation was launched by former “Law & Order: Special Victims Unit” television star Mariska Hargitay in 2004 with the aim of alleviating the isolation felt by domestic abuse and sexual assault victims.

The actress has said she was inspired by her role as Detective Olivia Benson on the crime series and the letters sent to her by female viewers.—Reuters ■

Katy Perry’s ‘Witness Tour’ delayed due to production issues

LOS ANGELES — Singer Katy Perry’s upcoming “Witness Tour” has been postponed due to “unavoidable production delays”.

The concert, which was originally planned to begin on 7 September in Columbus, Ohio, will now open on 19 September in Montreal, Canada.

The 32-year-old musician

took to Instagram to make the announcement.

“Due to unavoidable production delays, major elements of my tour stage design could not be available for me to rehearse on until this week. I’ll be spending the next few weeks taking the time to properly prepare the show to be an experience I am proud to share with you.”—PTI ■

Obi-Wan Kenobi may get his own ‘Star Wars’ movie

LOS ANGELES — Walt Disney Co is developing a “Star Wars” standalone movie based on the beloved character of Obi-Wan Kenobi, the wise and noble Jedi master, The Hollywood Reporter and Variety reported on Thursday.

The Hollywood trade publications cited unnamed sources as saying that the project was in the early stages of development by Disney and Lucasfilm.

The project has no script yet but British filmmaker Stephen Daldry, best known for 2000’s ballet movie “Billy Elliott,” is in early talks to direct it, the publications said.

Disney declined to comment. Disney bought “Star Wars” creator George Lucas’ Lucasfilm in 2012 in a \$4 billion deal and announced a new trilogy of films following the space saga as well as three standalone “Star Wars” projects that focus on stories outside of the central tale of the Skywalker family.

Disney debuted the first standalone “Star Wars” story with 2016’s “Rogue One,” which featured new characters and a storyline tied loosely to the ongoing saga.

A Han Solo movie is in production featuring a younger version of the freewheeling space smuggler played by Harrison Ford in the original “Star Wars” trilogy of films.

Kenobi, a recluse played by the late British actor Alec Guinness, was the mentor to Luke Skywalker and introduced the young warrior to the Force in the first “Star Wars” movie in 1977. Kenobi was later killed by his old pupil, the evil Darth Vader.

Actor Ewan McGregor played the character in the second trilogy of “Star Wars” films from 1999 to 2005. The Hollywood Reporter said no actor was attached to the standalone project.

“Star Wars: The Force Awakens,” Disney’s first installment of the new trilogy in the revamped franchise, brought back beloved characters Princess Leia, Luke Skywalker and Han Solo as well as introducing a new generation. It took more than \$2 billion at the world box office after its 2015 release.

The next film, “Star Wars: The Last Jedi,” is scheduled for release in December.—Reuters ■



Characters of Star Wars take part in an event held for the release of the film “Star Wars: The Force Awakens” in Disneyland Paris in Marne-la-Vallée, France in 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Rare trio of stinky corpse flowers to bloom at Washington garden

WASHINGTON — A botanic garden on the grounds of the US Capitol is expecting a stinky first in coming days as a trio of so-called corpse flowers is due to open and release an odor likened to the smell of rotting flesh.

The event would mark the first time that three of the giant plants, also known as titan arums, have bloomed close to the same time at a North American institution, U.S. Botanic Garden spokesman Ray Mims said on Wednesday.

The biggest plant has surged to about 7 feet (2.13

meters) in height and is forecast to open between Thursday and Tuesday. The Botanic Garden, at the foot of Capitol Hill, will be open until 10 pm once the flower blooms to handle crowds.

"When you're above it, you need a gas mask. This is really one of the rock stars of the plant kingdom," said Todd Brethauer, a volunteer who carries a jar with a sample of the odor to give garden visitors a whiff.

The stench from the opened corpse flower, or *Amorphophallus titanum*, has been called a combina-

tion of rotting flesh, smelly socks, garlic and dirty diapers. It is a great draw for pollinating carrion beetles and flies.

Corpse flower blooms, once rare, have become more prolific, with seven occurring this summer in the United States. The increase resulted from the greater number of flowers in US institutions, including 15 or 16 plants at Washington's Botanic Garden, Mims said.

The reek's main ingredient, dimethyl trisulfide, is known for its high potency and is added to normally odorless natural gas to

give it a distinctive smell.

"People think flowers are pretty, they smell good. A lot don't," said Jim Adams, the Garden's horticultural manager.

The interior temperature on a fully blooming flower reaches 115 Fahrenheit (46 Celsius), heat that helps spread the smell, Adams said. Simultaneous blooms are very rare since blooms occur only when individual plants have accumulated enough energy in their underground storage organs.

The plant is the world's largest unbranched inflorescence, or cluster of multiple flowers that looks like a single one. It is native to the Indonesian island of Sumatra, and the three at the Botanic Garden were raised at one of its facilities.

The enormous spadix, or central spike, on the biggest of the three plants riveted passersby on Wednesday with its ashy maroon color and the glossy green leaf sheathing the base.

"It looks prehistoric ... like something out of a movie," said Julie Spack, 30, of Peterborough, New Hampshire, before she snapped a selfie with it. —Reuters ■



Tourists look at a seven year old 250 pound titan arum (*Amorphophallus titanum*) after it bloomed for the first time ever at the US Botanic Garden in Washington, DC, US, in 2013. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Forest rangers, fire crews brace for eclipse watchers to descend on US West



A parking sign for people visiting for the Solar Eclipse is shown in Depoe Bay, Oregon, US, on 9 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

SALMON, (Idaho) — Forest rangers and fire managers across the US West will be on high alert as motorists flock to Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming for next week's total solar eclipse, clogging roads and straining scarce resources at the height of summer wildfire season.

The rare spectacle of the moon passing directly in front the sun, combined with the appeal of the West's great outdoors, is expected to draw tens of thousands of eclipse enthusiasts to rugged, remote national forests and rangelands from the Cascades to the Northern Rockies.

Authorities face an unprecedented challenge from the throngs in a region swathed in tinder-dry vegetation vulnerable to ignition from unattended campfires, discarded cigarettes and hot tailpipes.

"It's all hands on deck," said US Forest Service ranger Kurt Nelson, who works in the Sawtooth National Forest near the affluent resort of Sun Valley in central Idaho.

Even without the added threat of care-less humans, lightning-sparked wildfires are common at this time

of year, raising fears that larger-than-normal crowds of tourists may end up in harm's way and need to be evacuated.

US fire managers last week elevated the nation's wildfire readiness status to its highest for the first time in two years, citing heightened danger from thunderstorms.

Besides public safety issues confronting officials, drifting plumes of smoke, even from distant blazes, could end up obscuring the views of eclipse watchers on an otherwise clear day.

The 21 August event marks the first total solar eclipse visible anywhere in the lower 48 states since 1979.

And it will be the first in 99 years spanning the entire continental United States, offering a brief glimpse of the sun completely blotted out - except for the corona of its outer atmosphere - across a 70-mile- (113-km-) wide, coast-to-coast path through 14 states.

Oregon, Idaho and Wyoming are the first three states traversed by the narrow 2,500-mile (4,000-km) "path of totality," mostly through rural areas unaccustomed to heavy traffic. —Reuters ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(19-8-2017 07:00am ~20-8-2017 07:00am) MST

| | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:26 | Am | Great Shwedagon-The Exhibition Hall Of The Great Chronicle Of Buddha |
| 07:54 | Am | Dengue Fever |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Lantern Floating Festival in Kyauk Kyi Township |
| 08:42 | Am | Heaven-Earth Continuum: Kaung Su |
| 08:55 | Am | Traditional Snacks |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Concrete Friendship Between Japan-Myanmar |
| 09:54 | Am | Made in Myanmar "Mixxo" |
| 10:03 | Am | News |

| | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 10:26 | Am | Next Generation "Sammy Tin (Clarinetist)" |
| 10:35 | Am | Caves of Myanmar |

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Friday 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 | Travelogue: "Anyar Myay" or Upcountry (Part- I) |
| 07:50 | Pm | Today Myanmar: Father of Art (Artist U Ba Nyan) |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:25 | Pm | Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-2) Student Life & Early Literary Career |
| 08:51 | Pm | Myanmar Masterclass: ARTIST SOE HIN AUNG |

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

Myanmar earns semifinal spot in SEA Games after victory over Brunei

FROM PAGE-1

Mg Mg Lwin and Than Paing, who showed great tactics at the 2015 FIFA U-20 World Cup in New Zealand, scored the fifth and sixth goals, respectively, for Myanmar just before the game's finish, resulting in thunderous applause from the sizable Myanmar crowd at UiTM stadium.

Myanmar remained very much in control of not only the match but also their bid to win the SEA Games gold after finishing as runners-up in 2015.

Myanmar will play against host Malaysia on Sunday to decide Group A's top team. ■



Myanmar's Aung Thu carries the ball by passing the Brunei defenders at the UiTM Shah Alam Stadium in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. PHOTO:MFF

Mayweather on putting legacy on the line — 'It's worth it'

LAS VEGAS — With his super-fight against Conor McGregor a little over a week away, Floyd Mayweather struck a reflective tone on Thursday as he discussed the risk of coming out of retirement for a massive payday.

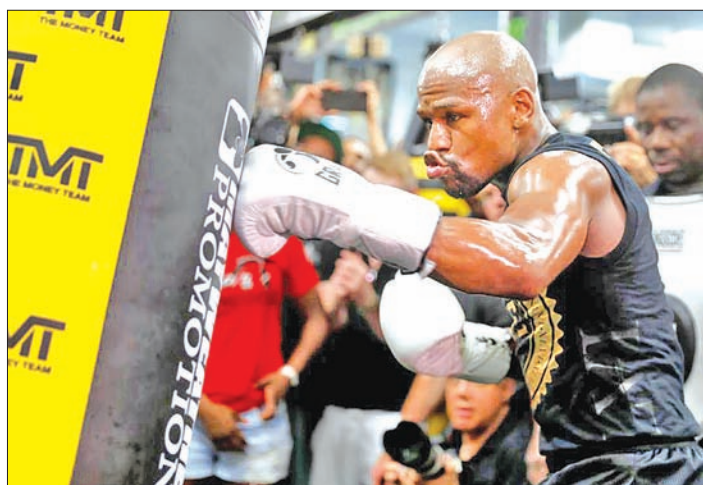
Mayweather, who has not fought in nearly two years, needs a win next week to surpass Rocky Marciano's record and reach 50-0 for his career, while McGregor, who is making his professional boxing debut, is 21-3 in mixed martial arts.

"When a fighter has lost before, if he loses again they say 'oh, it's nothing, he's lost before,'" Mayweather told a conference call. "But when a fighter has been dominating for 20-some years and never lost, everything is on the line."

"My legacy. My boxing record. Everything is on the line."

The fight, which the two combatants promoted with a four-city international media tour stretching across three countries, has garnered plenty of interest despite scepticism about how competitive it will be.

Mayweather, a master defensive technician and tactician, is heavily favoured to win the Aug. 26 fight in Las Vegas but the 40-year-old has said that, on paper, everything leans toward



Floyd Mayweather Jr. of the US hits a heavy bag during a workout at the Mayweather Boxing Club in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 10 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

the 29-year-old Irishman, who is taller and has a longer reach.

Mayweather acknowledged the physical demands of training for a fight had become much harder on his body than when in his prime, but said he did not let negative thoughts enter his mind.

"I try not to think about losing or taking the 'L'. That's not really my focus. Every day I tell myself I am a winner. I was born to be a winner at life. Not just in the ring but I was born to be a winner," said Mayweather.

"It's all about taking risk. I wouldn't be where I'm at if I didn't take risks so I don't mind putting a 49-0 record on

the line, putting everything on the line for this fight. I feel like it's worth it." Mayweather may be far from his prime but feels his sheer experience in the ring will carry him through what he says will be his last fight, one that is expected to be the most lucrative event in the history of combat sport.

"I don't think that I'm the same Floyd Mayweather that I was 21 years ago. Of course not," he said.

"I don't think that I'm the same Floyd Mayweather that I was 10 years ago. I'm, not even the same Floyd Mayweather that I was five or two years ago. —Reuters ■

Sepaktakraw team ready for 29th SEA Games

KyawZin Lin

MYANMAR's Sepaktakraw (kick volleyball) team, which has been training in Myanmar since last year, aims to do their best to win gold medals at the SEA Games underway in Malaysia.

In Men's Team Doubles, Myanmar will play Indonesia on Sunday and the Philippines on Monday. In the Men's Team Quadrant, Myanmar will play against Brunei on Wednesday and

host Malaysia on Thursday. In Men's Doubles, Myanmar will play the round-robin system together with the Philippines on Friday, Laos and host Malaysia on 26 August and Cambodia on 27 August. In the Women's Quadrant, Myanmar will also play the round robin system along with Indonesia on Wednesday, Laos and host Malaysia on Thursday and Vietnam on Friday. In Women's Doubles, Myanmar will play the Philippines on Friday and host Malaysia on 26 August. ■

Myanmar archery team wins silver at SEA Games

Myanmar won a SEA Games silver medal in the Compound Mixed-team Archery competition hosted at the National Sports Center in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia yesterday.

Yesterday, Myanmar's Ye Min Swe and Aung Ngein met the host Malaysia in the finals, having beaten Indonesia and the Philippines at the quarterfinal and semifinal stages. In the final, Myanmar was defeated by the

host team by a score of 142-152 and had to settle for the silver medal. The second-place in archery helped Myanmar's overall team standing at three in the SEA Games, with one silver medal achieved by the Archery team and two gold medals won by the Myanmar Chinlone team.

The Recurve Archery Competitions for both men and women will be held on Sunday. —Ye Yint Shine ■