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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the State Counsellor

Statement by the Office of the State Counsellor
on the Final Report of the Advisory
Commission on Rakhine State
24 August 2017

1. The Office of the State Counsellor expresses its sincere appreciation to Dr. Kofi Annan and the members of the Advisory Commission for their continued efforts to find constructive ways forward for Rakhine State.

2. As the Commission recognizes, the situation in Rakhine State is deeply complex and there are no quick fix solutions. The challenges have only been compounded by chronic underdevelopment – Rakhine is one of Myanmar's poorest states. Sadly, we have also seen a resurgence of violence in recent weeks and there have been very troubling signs of external interference aimed at aggravating an already difficult situation.

3. In this context, recommendations for meaningful and long-term solutions are very welcome. We will give the report our full consideration with a view to carrying out the recommendations to the fullest extent, and within the shortest timeframe possible, in line with the situation on the ground. We hope to set out a full roadmap for implementation in the coming weeks.

4. As an immediate step, a new Ministerial-led committee responsible for the implementation of the Commission's recommendations will be established. This will comprise representatives from across government and will be responsible for overseeing delivery and reporting regularly on its progress.

5. The new Committee will be assisted by an Advisory Board on Rakhine. The Board will include regional and international experts, as well as Myanmar nationals. It will provide an external perspective and advice to support the Committee in its work.

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi accepts the final report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State handed over by Mr Kofi Annan, the chair of the commission. **PHOTO: MNA**

Kofi Annan urges economic, social reform in Rakhine

MYANMAR should act urgently and with sustained action on a number of fronts to prevent violence, maintain peace, foster reconciliation and offer a sense of hope to the Muslim community in Rakhine, according to recom-

mendations by the Advisory Commission on Rakhine led by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan yesterday.

The final report of the Advisory Commission released yesterday puts forward recommen-

dations to surmount the political, socio-economic and humanitarian challenges that currently face Rakhine State.

"Unless concerted action led by the government and aided by all sectors of the government and

society is taken soon, we risk the return of another cycle of violence and radicalisation, which will further deepen the chronic poverty that afflicts Rakhine State", said Annan at a news conference yesterday.

The commission also called on the government to ensure freedom of movement for all people irrespective of religion, ethnicity, or citizenship status, and to that end reiterated

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Rakhine State security discussed at Pyithu Hluttaw

Kyaw Thu Htet, Hmwe Kyu Zin
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

The safety and security of Rakhine State was discussed at yesterday's meeting of the Pyithu Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

Hluttaw representatives discussed at length the motion submitted by Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency, Rakhine State, that urged the Union Government to promptly implement regional security and administration plans because Muslim extremists committing crimes in Maungtaung, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships were greatly harming national security, rule of law, area consolidation and people's lives and property, it was learnt.

"Due to extremists' propaganda, threats and atrocious killings local ethnic people were forced to be displaced and made village administrators too frightened to perform their administrative duties. This led to destruction to rule of law. Losing sovereignty and power is not only the affair of northern Rakhine, but also the affair of the State, the whole populace and the Union. So, extremist-related terrorist activities, monetary and weapons aid should be sought for legal

actions under the existing laws. Simultaneously, it must be found out who supported aid to these terrorist organisations by linking with international organisations, and it must be made known to the world", said U Sit Naing of Minpyar constituency, Rakhine State.

Major Aung Kyaw Hnin, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative said: "Bengalis started to have come to Rakhine after they were brought to work as coolies in farming since 1874 under the colonial rule. Senior General Min Aung Hlaing himself publicized to the world that there were no Rohingya race in Myanmar. Nowadays, Bengalis' terrorist attacks are gradually starting to harm not only Rakhine State but also sovereignty of the State, before we recognised it.

In dealing with the affairs of Rakhine State, security matters should be prioritised for protecting the national sovereignty and depredation towards local Rakhine nationals from terrorists' danger, instead of feeling fear of international pressure.

Lt Colonel Zaw Tun Oo, Tatmadaw Hluttaw representative said: "Atrocious deeds of Bengali extremists must be severely arrested under the existing anti-terrorism law. If prompt responses are not made against



Lt. General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs. **PHOTO: MNA**

these violent attacks, it may harm national sovereignty and area consolidation in the long run. So it must be submitted to the Hluttaw as an important motion, urging the Union Government as needed. It is urgently needed to bring about peace and stability, rule of law, better security system for local nationals and strengthening administrative machinery which is now in existence in Rakhine State."

Also discussing the motion were Daw Wint Wah Tun of Shartaw constituency, U Saw Tun Mya Aung of Phapon constituency, U Ba Shein of Kyaukphyu constituency, U Naing Htoo Aung of Natogyi constituency, U Lwin Ko Latt of Thanlyin constituency, U Yi Mon (a) Maung Tin Thit of



Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pubba Thiri constituency, Colonel Tun Myat Shwe, Tamadaw Hluttaw representative, Daw Pyone Kathy Naing of Kalaw constituency and U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency.

Lt. General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs, said action is already being taken. "The Union Government and the Rakhine State Cabinet are performing the tasks of dealing with conflicts happening between the local populace and Bengali people, as well as bringing about security, peace and stability of Rakhine State, rule of law and regional development in the State, by forming committees on Rakhine State. And Union Ministers and responsible officials of Rakhine State Cabinet frequent-

ly visit Maungtaung, Buthidaung and Yathedaung townships to manage the tasks of regional security and development. For Islamists from the neighbouring country not to enter illegally the country into Buthidaung, Maungtaung and Yathedaung townships abutting Bangladesh situated in northern Rakhine State, the No. 1 border guard security control team consisting of the Myanmar Police Force, National Registration and Citizenship Department and Customs Department were deployed", Lt. General Kyaw Swe said.

"Although the tasks of security and development are being carried out, extremist terrorists took the opportunity over the State Government's actions taken against their attacks in accord with the existing rules and laws in Maungtaung District. Therefore these violent attacks will be severely eradicated according to the law. Security is to be increased to protect innocent people from the danger of those terrorists and those who abetted those terrorists will also be arrested in accord with the law. And the motion should be put on record by the Hluttaw," said Lt. General Kyaw Swe. The Hluttaw decided to put the motion on record. ■



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets Viet Nam Communist Party General Secretary in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Viet Nam Communist Party General Secretary

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong yesterday afternoon at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting addressed Myanmar-Viet Nam cooperation,

including between the two nations' parliaments. Present at the meeting were Deputy Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, chairmen of Amyotha Hluttaw Permanent Committees, chairman, secretary and members of the Myanmar-Viet Nam parliamentary friendship group and other officials. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Home Affairs official briefs Amyotha Hluttaw on land claims and surveying efforts

Thura Zaw, Mi Mi Phyoe
(MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY)

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major General Aung Soe announced to the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday that lands confiscated by various government agencies cannot be returned until each case is subjected to scrutiny by a review committee.

The deputy minister said

training courses are being prepared for those review committees, which are organised by officials at the townships, states and regions and Union level.

Major-General Aung Soe also said that the Sagaing Region government allocated in FY2016-2017 Ks100 million budget to survey 266 land plots in Monywa Township, Sagaing Region.

In the Sagaing Region government's FY2017-2018 budget it allocated Ks239 million for Monywa, Ks16 million for Ayar-taw Township, Ks5.1 million for Budalin Township and Ks12 million for Chaung-U Township.

Major-General Aung Soe said the region government FY2018-2019 budget allocated Ks55 million to survey 152 land plots in Tamu Township. ■

Viet Nam Communist Party's General Secretary Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

Upon the invitation of President U Htin Kyaw, General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong arrived at Nay Pyi Taw International

Airport on a chartered plane yesterday for an official visit.

General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Socialist Republic of Viet Nam Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong and his delegation

were welcomed at the airport by Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Commerce U Kyaw Win and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■

President U Htin Kyaw welcomes Viet Nam Communist Party General Secretary

Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong, General Secretary of the Central Committee (CPVCC), Communist Party of Viet Nam who was on an official visit to Myanmar at the invitation of President U Htin Kyaw was welcomed by the President in a welcoming ceremony held at the Presidential Palace yesterday afternoon.

General Secretary of CPVCC Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong arrived at the Presidential Palace, Nay Pyi Taw at 3 p.m. and was cordially greeted by President U Htin Kyaw.

Afterwards, President U Htin Kyaw and General Secretary Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong received the salute of the guard of honor and inspected it. The two then introduced to each other the respective members who were attending the ceremony.

The visiting General Secretary then signed in the guest book and took a commemorative photo together with the President.

Next, President U Htin Kyaw and General Secretary Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong held discussions in the Hall for Envoys in the Presidential Palace.

Matters relating to Myanmar-Viet Nam relations and cooperation between the two countries, parties, parliaments, governments, peoples in all sectors, progress in bilateral relations, status of implementing the peace process, cooperation in the defence, energy, travel, trade sectors and investment were discussed and views exchanged on increasing bilateral and regional cooperation.

Present at the meeting together with President U Htin Kyaw were Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, Thura U Aung Ko, Dr. Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr. Than Myint, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi, U Kyaw Win, U Ohn Maung, Deputy Minister U Min Thu, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam U Kyaw Soe Win while the party led by General Secretary of the CPVCC Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong included the Vietnamese Ambassador to Myanmar H.E. Dr. Luan Thuy Duong.

After the meeting, a signing ceremony of memoranda of understanding (MoUs) and Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance between the two countries was held and



President U Htin Kyaw (Left) and Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong (Right), General Secretary, Communist Party of Viet Nam's Central Committee (CPVCC), inspect the Honour Guard in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Htin Kyaw (Right) holds talk with Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong (Left) in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

witnessed by President U Htin Kyaw and General Secretary Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong. MoU on Cultural Cooperation between Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam for the Period of 2017-2020 was signed by H.E. Thura U Aung Ko, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture and H.E. Mr. Nguyen

Ngoc Thien, Minister for Culture, Sports and Tourism; MoU on Economic and Trade Cooperation between the Ministry of Commerce of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was signed by H.E. Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister of Commerce and H.E. Mr. Tran Tuan Anh, Minister for Industry and Trade; MoU between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam on Education Cooperation was signed by H.E. U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education and H.E. Mr. Bui Van Ga, Deputy Minister for Education and Training and Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Customs Matters between Ministry of Planning and Finance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Ministry of Finance of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam was signed by H.E. U Kyaw Soe Win, Myanmar Ambassador to Viet Nam and H.E. Mr. Tran Van Hieu, Deputy Minister for Finance.

After the signing of the MoUs and Agreement on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance, a joint press conference was

held where President U Htin Kyaw said an open and cordial discussion on bilateral relations and increasing bilateral cooperation and regional cooperation had been held.

General Secretary of CPVCC Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong said the visit has opened a new chapter in the history of Myanmar-Viet Nam relations. Myanmar has been putting much emphasis on relations with Viet Nam as well as ASEAN member countries and both Myanmar and Viet Nam firmly decided to continue the friendly relationship said the General Secretary.

The General Secretary said the two countries already had friendly relations and based on this, bilateral cooperation would be conducted. Much benefit had been gained from this cooperation and while cementing the bilateral friendship, bilateral cooperation in all sectors would be increased.

MoUs were signed for this and as a member countries of ASEAN, the two countries would conduct regional cooperation matters and was much honored and happy for the warm welcome accorded said the General Secretary.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Ferries mooring on the Chindwin River in Sagaing Region. **PHOTO: WIN OO (ZAYAR TIME)**

All Chindwin River ferries to resume service

Water transport along the Chindwin River in Sagaing Region will resume today after suspending operations for nine days due to flooding. "Water vessels, includ-

ing cargo vessels and passenger vessels, will resume service going from Hkamti, Homalin and Nant Taw townships in the upper part of the Chindwin River to

Monywa starting from 24 August. Upstream transportation from Monywa to other upper regions will resume 25 August," said an official from Monywa town pri-

vate vessels plying committee. Approximately 544 cargo vessels and 124 high-speed passenger vessels regularly ply the Chindwin River. — Win Oo (ZayarTime)

Suspected terrorist trainees arrested in Yathedaung

One man was killed and dozens arrested on Wednesday after suspected terrorists were confronted by authorities.

Acting on a tip-off that men who had completed terrorist trainings and those organising new recruits had entered the village of Ahtet Nanyar in Yathedaung, Rakhine State, a combined force consisting of Myanmar Police, Border Control officers and personnel from

the Immigration and Manpower Department, accompanied by Tatmadaw troops, arrived at the village early yesterday morning and encountered 200 people with sticks, knives and spears who initially hindered the combined force. A man identified as Karmar Lusaung was killed in the encounter. He was said to be an assistant of the ARSA terrorist group leader Koranban Nalie. He was in-charge of recruiting and

training terrorists, officials said. At the time of his death, he was holding a sword in his hand, officials said. After further investigation, 27 suspects were arrested under suspicion of organising for a terrorist attack, and they were learnt to have been under detailed investigation, it was learnt.

Authorities of the combined force summoned the village administrator, telling them to investigate the suspected terrorists

without harming them.

It was when a crowd of people suspected to be terrorists tried to hinder the combined team that the man assumed to be the leader was shot dead, it was learnt. Similarly, security forces are investigating 22 suspects at the Pyin Phyu Police Station, arresting for possible involvement in the killing of acting village administrator of Zula in Maungtaw Township. —MNA ■

Four injured in head-on collision on Yangon-Nyaungdon highway

Four people in two vehicles were injured in a head-on collision along the Yangon-Nyaungdon highway near Tha Htay Gone Village, Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region yesterday at 4:55 am.

A blue colour light truck driven by Zin Ko Ko, heading to Nyaungdon from Yangon allegedly cross the center median and crashed into a white Hi-Jet vehicle heading to Yangon from

Blue light truck headon collided with Hi-jet vehicle along the Yangon-Nyaungdon highway in Nyaungdon. **PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD**

Nyaungdon. Ko Ye Kyaw, who was in the blue truck, was critically injured, while Saw Pyae Maung, Ko Hein and Saw Htet Linn Aung, who were in the Hi-Jet, sustained minor injuries.

All the injured people were

taken to Farmer Hospital, Nyaungdon Township. Ko Ye Kyaw was later transferred to Yangon General Hospital.

Police said they suspect Zin Ko Ko was at fault. —Township IPRD ■

Authorities seize truck with illegal timber in Yinmapin Township

A 12-wheel tractor-trailer carrying illegal padauk wood was seized on 22 August in Yinmabin Township, Sagaing Region. Inspectors discovered the parked white truck loaded with about three tons of wood between Phoe Win Taung Village and Yaza Kyaw Village, Yinmabin Township. The owners of the truck were not present when it was seized. The Yinmabin Township's forestry department seized the wood and law enforcement officials are seeking the vehicle's owner. —Tun Ko Ko (Yin Mar Pin) ■



A file photo shows people gather around machines at a jade mine in Pharkant, Kachin state. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Environmental action shuttering precious mineral mines

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has announced an environmental plan that will regard former mining blocks in Khamti in Sagaing Region, Mogoke in Mandalay Region and Lonekhin, Mohnyin and Hpakant in Kachin State as vacant land.

No licences will be extended or renewed for mining operations at those sites and future usage of that land will be determined by the Union and state governments.

Licences for more than 2,500 jewellery mining blocks are expiring this month, according to the aforementioned

ministry.

Licences for more than 300 mining blocks for precious minerals and metals are due to expire in September.

Mining licences for approximately 2,210 precious minerals and metals have expired between 1 April and the end of July. —Ko Htet ■

Myanmar to cooperate with Bangladesh experts to boost hilsa production

MYANMAR fisheries officials are negotiating with Bangladesh experts to boost hilsa production under a four-year technical assistance project 2017-2020, according to a report of Myawady Daily, yesterday.

Hilsa is a popular variety of saltwater fish in Southeast Asia and one of Myanmar's leading fisheries products. The project has been proposed for set up in Maubin, Hinthada and

Pyapon townships. Among the techniques Myanmar would like to adopt is Bangladesh's method of avoiding catches with pregnant hilsa fish, which helps to conserve the species' population, which has been threatened in Myanmar. Myanmar wants to adopt Bangladesh's incentive-based Hilsa fish conservation and management to stabilize its fish supply, said U Tun Win Myint, head of Yangon

Region Fisheries Department.

Myanmar exported 430,000 metric tons of fisheries products last financial year, with an estimated value of US\$605 million; of those totals, Myanmar exported 12,000 metric tons of hilsa and earned \$28 million.

Myanmar exports hilsa to 36 countries including Japan, Australia, China, Malaysia and countries in European Union. —Htet Myat ■

Mineral exploration meeting held in Kayin State

A meeting to conduct initial research into enabling commercial exploration of minerals in Kayin State was held at the Kayin State Chief Minister's house yesterday.

The meeting was attended by Chief Minister Daw Nan Khin Htway Myint, Kayin State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Saw Pyi Tha, Pa Do Saw

Shwe Maung from KNU and U Kyi Thu Shein, the CEO of the Shein Group of Companies.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning the feasibility of commercial exploration of minerals in Kayin State. U Kyi Thu Shein explained that mineral exploration is not only meant for business purposes but also for creating job opportunities for

the local people. In this regard, Pa Do Saw Shwe Maung from KNU pointed out that coordination needs to be made with the region. Afterwards, the Chief Minister said that both local and foreign investments are welcomed, and that she would decide in coordination with her cabinet ministers when the feasibility study is completed. —Saw Myo Min Thein (IPRD) ■

Sesame seeds exports to China declining

Over 2,380 tons of sesame seeds with an estimated value of US\$2.7 million were exported to China through Muse from 5 to 11 August 2017.

During the previous week, Myanmar exported 3,230 tons of sesame seeds and were priced Ks10,000 to 20,000 per ton less.

About 70 per cent of Myanmar's sesame seeds for export went to China. At present, Myanmar exports sesame seeds

to 12 countries including Japan and Thailand. Myanmar exports more than 100,000 tons of sesame seeds to the foreign countries, annually.

However, Myanmar's sesame seeds face market barriers due to their relatively high level of pesticide residue and other quality factors. Sesame plantations are located mainly in Magway, Sagaing and Mandalay regions. — Mon Mon ■

UMFCCI and UN to establish Myanmar poverty reduction goals

The United Nations and Myanmar's chamber of commerce agreed during a meeting Monday to establish sustainable development goals and set a coordinated plan to accomplish them.

The Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) and the United Nations

will work together with local entrepreneurs and regional and state chambers to form and implement the plan. The United Nations' global sustainable development goals activities focus on elimination of poverty and hunger, improving health and education, and addressing climate change. —May Thet Hnin ■

Available @

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



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talk with Advisory Commission on Rakhine State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

State Counsellor receives Rakhine Advisory Commission

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs H.E. Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Kofi Annan, Chairman of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State and members of the Commission at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw at 11:00 hrs on 24 August 2017.

During the meeting, Mr. Kofi Annan officially presented the Final Report of the Rakhine Advisory Commission to the State Counsellor and briefed the findings and recommendations of the Commission.

The State Counsellor expressed her

appreciation to Mr. Kofi Annan and members of the Advisory Commission for their efforts and discussed the recommendations of the Commission.

Also present at the meeting were U Kyaw Thint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor; U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor; U Min Thu, Deputy Minister for the President's Office; U Khin Maung Tin, Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor and officials from Ministry of Foreign Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Statement by the Office of the State Counsellor on the Final Report of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State

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6. Details of both bodies are currently being finalised and will be released shortly.

7. This government is serious in its efforts to find a way forward for Rakhine. We have made rule of law and development in Rakhine State a priority since taking office.

8. While there is much still to do, progress has been made and a number of recommendations made in the Commission's August interim report have already been implemented.

(a) Healthcare access has been improved through new mobile clinics. We have upgraded schools and vocational and technical training programmes have begun.

(b) Hundreds of new jobs and opportunities have been created for local people through public-private partnerships and we are also assessing the viability of a new Special Economic Zone that would bring new jobs and businesses to the region.

(c) In terms of new infrastructure, electrification has been expanded and new roads and bridges built, including a new highway connecting remote areas previously only accessible by boat.

(d) We are working to promote religious harmony and communal relations by engaging interfaith groups. We plan to introduce a new curriculum in schools with a focus on moral, civic and peace education.

(e) We have developed a strategy and timeline to move forward the National Verification Process, as well as a strategy to close IDP camps in Rakhine State. Three IDP camps have been closed, and new houses are being built near the IDP camps.

(f) In cooperation with the EU and UN bodies, we are providing training and capacity building for police and security forces in the areas of human rights, child protection and gender-based violence.

9. As we seek a path forward for all the people of Rakhine, we must accept that there are difficulties that cannot be resolved overnight. We are working to change mind-sets and to build trust between all communities so that tolerance, respect, and eventually peace, may take hold. Now more than ever, it is important to focus on resolving, and not inflaming the issues in Rakhine.

Kofi Annan urges economic, social reform in Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

its earlier call for a mapping exercise to identify all existing restrictions on freedom of movement.

The report also provides recommendations on border security and bilateral cooperation with Bangladesh, including the pressing challenges of drug trafficking.

"Responsibility for the implementation of our recommendations now lies with Myanmar's leaders, institutions and people: the Union and Rakhine State governments; the national and state parliaments; religious and community leaders; and above all, the people of Rakhine," said Annan at the press conference.

He also urged the international community to continue to play a strong, generous and impartial role in support of the national efforts needed to help Rakhine move forward.

The final report also recommended that complaints regarding the verification process be addressed swiftly by a government authority independent of the institutions responsible for the process.

"Although the Muslim community has legitimate concerns about the verification process, I would urge them to work with the government to address those concerns," the commission said yesterday.

The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, formed last year by State Counsellor

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, said the response to the situation in Rakhine should combine "political, developmental, security and human rights approaches that address the root causes of violence and reduce inter-communal tensions", according to the commission's report released yesterday.

The final report also stated that both Rakhines and Muslims face movement restrictions, although Muslims - and in particular IDPs - are particularly affected.

Annan has visited Myanmar three times since his appointment, including two trips to Rakhine State. Yesterday, he presented his findings to Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and took part in a news conference later in the day.

In his remarks at yesterday's press conference, Annan admitted that some of the commission's recommendations would be deemed controversial.

"We are well aware that our recommendations on citizenship and freedom of movement touch on profound concerns of the Rakhine population. Nevertheless, the commission has chosen to squarely face these sensitive issues because we believe that if they are left to fester, the future of Rakhine State — and Myanmar as a whole — will be irretrievably jeopardised", Annan said at yesterday's news conference.

"This is a crucial step for Rakhines and Muslims alike. Only in this way can



Mr. Kofi Annan, the chair of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State. PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAH

they break out of the hostility that leads to the violence and despair that has blighted their lives for so long."

Myanmar should respond to the problems in Rakhine State in a "calibrated" way without excessive force, the commission said in their report, adding that radicalisation was a danger if problems were not addressed.

The commission made a host of other recommendations, ranging from a faster, more transparent citizenship verification process, to lifting restrictions on movement and equal access to healthcare for all residents.

Militants attacked three border guard outposts on 9 October in northern Rakhine, resulting in the deaths of nine policemen and sparking months of security clearance

operations by military troops and a surge of tens of thousands of Muslims fleeing across the border to Bangladesh.

The treatment of approximately 1.1 million members of Rakhine State's Muslim community elicited allegations of human rights abuses from the international community.

Annan's commission - appointed to come up with long-term solutions for the violence-riven, ethnically and religiously divided Rakhine state - said perpetrators of rights abuses should be held accountable.

But in order to bring about stability to the troubled area, brute force is not the answer, the commission said.

"While Myanmar has every right to defend its own territory, a highly militarised response is unlikely to bring peace to the area," the nine-member commission said in its final report.

Instead, a nuanced, comprehensive response was urgently needed to "ensure that violence does not escalate and inter-communal tensions are kept under control", it said.

The commission warned that if human rights were not respected and "the population remain politically and economically marginalised, northern Rakhine State may provide fertile ground for radicalisation, as local communities may become increasingly vulnerable to recruitment by extremists".—GNLM and Reuters ■

President hosts dinner for Viet Nam Communist Party General Secretary

President U Htin Kyaw and the First Lady hosted a dinner to honour the visiting General Secretary, Communist Party of Viet Nam's Central Committee (CPVCC) Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong at the Presidential Palace yesterday evening.

The dinner was attended by President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Union Ministers, Deputy Ministers and officials.

Before the dinner, the national band played the national anthems of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam and the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

At the dinner, President U Htin Kyaw and Gen-



Dancers perform at the dinner in honour of General Secretary, Communist Party of Viet Nam's Central Committee. **PHOTO MNA**

eral Secretary of CPVCC Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong gave speeches of greetings and then had dinner together.

In his speech, President U Htin Kyaw said during the last four decades Viet Nam has always been a trusted friend of Myanmar and assisted Myanmar in the international arena.

This was much appreciated and was expected to be continued. Matters of mutual benefit were discussed during his visit to Viet Nam and the General Secretary's current visit was indeed a historic one. Under the leadership of the General Secretary, Viet Nam was believed to have become

the latest progressing country in the South East Asia region. It was firmly believed that there would be more opportunities for cooperation between the two countries and Viet Nam was urged to continue the cooperation and assistance in the government and private sectors. He added that

in addition to increasing the bilateral friendly relationship, Myanmar would closely cooperate with Viet Nam to develop international peace, stability and development. General Secretary of CPVCC Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong in return thanked the warm welcome of the Myanmar people and spoke

about his belief in Myanmar government's ability to spur future development of Myanmar. He said Viet Nam would cooperate in many sectors for the development of Myanmar based on mutual understanding and this cooperation was incorporated as a priority in Viet Nam's foreign policy. Viet Nam planned to invest in the Myanmar trading sector and development would be achieved through people-to-people relations. He also added that the two countries would cooperate in regional stability, peace and development.

After the dinner, General Secretary of the CPVCC Mr. Nguyen Phu Trong and party were entertained with songs and dances by artists from the Department of Fine Arts. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Kofi Annan news conference

Ye Khaung Nyunt, Zaw Gyi, Myat Sandi

Mr. Kofi Annan, the chairman of the Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, answered questions from reporters yesterday during a news conference in Nya Pyi Taw after his commission submitted their final report.

Mr. Anna first clarified that the commission's job was to review the situation in Rakhine and to advise the government in Rakhine and its local residents on how to end conflicts and work towards achieving peace, prosperity and reconciliation.

Q: What do you think about the 1982 Citizenship Law?

A: The Advisory Commission views this as a good process. As Myanmar has the world's largest number of unregistered nationals, the situation should be addressed and not allowed to continue. National identity registration and the freedom to travel around the country are complicated but necessary issues.

The commission has given recommendations on how to deal with these issues and it is hoped they will be effective.

Q: How should the security concerns in Rakhine be dealt with?

A: The recommendations from the Advisory Commission are based on goodwill and when they are followed by those responsible, it will also be based on goodwill.

Since there are security concerns in Rakhine, these should be dealt with, but in a manner where the perpetrators are dealt with directly with no harm or loss inflicted on civilians. The commission's advice is not related to matters of security within Rakhine State.

Q: How can we ensure the effectiveness of the Advisory Commission's recommendations?

A: The commission only gives recommendations, but the implementation of them is up to the government of Myanmar and the State Counsellor will review the commission's recommendations.

Mr. Annan said during his meeting with the Commander-in-Chief, they discussed minimising civilian casualties during security operations and how to help local residents resume their daily lives when these operations are over.

He said the recent security operations were conducted on hilly regions where there were few civilians.

Q: How do you respond to comments from people who do not want foreign experts advising on Rakhine's issues?

A: The commission should be viewed as Myanmar's commission, as it was formed by the State Counsellor after approval from the Hluttaw.

U Win Mra, a member of the Advisory Commission, said the commission is made up of three foreign experts and six local experts who have to report to the State Counsellor, so it is effectively a Myanmar commission and shouldn't be viewed as interference from foreign entities. ■

Three arrested in Shan State on suspicion of drug trafficking

Three drug traffickers were arrested together with drug and arms in Kengtung, Shan State, on Wednesday according to police source.

A local anti-drug squad intercepted a vehicle in Kengtung on Wednesday on suspicion of drug trafficking and discovered 40 kilos of ice crystal.

The police arrested Kyaw Hein Zan, the driver of the vehicle, and Than Tun who were on board.

Following the interrogation, the police searched the house of Ar San in Tawkaw Village in Tachilek Township, and more than 100 kilos of ice crystal hidden in vehicles parked at the house and seized 300,000 Thai currency. The police arrested Ar Kai Phan who was found at the house, but Ar San managed to escape. With the help of vehicle experts, the police searched the seven vehicles seized from Ar San next day and

found further 35 kilos of ice crystal, 29,900 pills of ecstasy and five blocks of heroin and a pack of heroin powder weighing 2.1 kilos, 34,400 of stimulant tablets and other drugs, one point 22 arm, one cartridge with its 19 bullets, one point 45 pistol with its five bullets and 53 9mm bullets. Actions are being taken against them under the Anti-narcotic drug and psychotropic substance law.—Myanmar News Agency

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (15/ 2017)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	DMP/L-062(17-18)	Spares for Cummins Engine (KTA-230C-1050) (29) Items	Ks
(2)	DMP/L-063(17-18)	Spares for 273 KW Caterpillar Gas Engine Lighting Set (1) Item	Ks
(3)	DMP/L-064(17-18)	Spares for Oxygen Plant (4) Items	Ks
(4)	Container (2/2017)	ကွန်တိန်နာ သယ်ယူပို့ဆောင်ခြင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရန်ကုန်ဆိပ်ကမ်းများမှ သာကေတရေနံအခြေစိုက်စခန်းသို့ အသွား / အပြန်) (၁-၁၀-၂၀၁၇ မှ ၃၁-၃-၂၀၁၈ ထိ ၆ လအတွက်)	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time- 11-9-2017, 16:30 pm

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 23 August 2017 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411206

Positive discrimination urgently needed for building up a peaceful nation

By Khin Maung Oo

The moment we hear the commonly used word, “Discrimination” we feel displeased with it because it means the practice of treating somebody or a particular group in society less fairly than others. Especially, we get involved with age, racial, sex, educational and social discrimination in some way or the other. We accept it as a loathsome deed but it is necessary for all of us not to practise it ourselves. The poor, the uneducated, the unemployed naturally tend to feel inferiority complex about their present status among their different circles, if ever. What is worse if they are despised or unfairly treated or

suppressed, disappointments, hatred and unnecessary responses always emerge. As a consequence, crimes and offences are more and more increasing in our society.

We were born to our parents without any rights to choose into which family we will enter, as were our parents to which families. So, our rights may vary at the time of birth. Though we were born poor or in miserable conditions, it was our duty to improve ourselves. Yet, there are many people in our country who find it difficult to give their children even a primary education. Not every child born to such a difficult family is doomed to failure in his life. Undeniably, however, they

lack even a fundamental right to enter class-rooms like other school-age children. Nowadays, we are still seeing children wandering about the town for their daily earnings. As a matter of fact, we all are responsible to help them improve their lives, as much as we can, assuming that the betterment of our society can bring about peace and stability in our world.

Being well convinced of the importance of the role of these children—labor forces, the incumbent government is planning to give vocational training to children in suburban areas. The State Counsellor herself repeatedly said that the country needs vocational training schools likewise academic learning

centers and institutes, in such a time when we are building up our nation into a developed one. Had such programs been implemented nationwide with a great momentum, the country would surely develop in the near future as hoped. Without the program, who will uplift the lives of these children? Though not having an access to academic learning, they will become an important labor force for the country by using their labor and skills that would otherwise be all too easily dissipated. Paving a way for such children to be able to enjoy happiness like their peers learning in class-rooms is really a positive discrimination towards youths who lost their hopes and futures. ■

Indochinese tiger: A sub species that need more research for successful conservation

Saikat Kumar Basu
Lethbridge AB Canada

It is quite interesting to mention that Myanmar, the gateway to SE Asia also is a biogeographic realm that represents a merger or overlap of the Indian and Chinese biogeographical realms. Being the meeting point of two major and highly biodiverse biogeographic realms, Myanmar also represents another highly biodiverse region of SE Asia.

The region further expand beyond the boundaries of Myanmar and Thailand vast tropical and sub-tropical forests of SE Asia of the Indo-Chinese region constituting three modern day nations of Cambodia, Vietnam and Laos. Three important predatory species extending from SW China across Myanmar and Thailand into Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos include the Clouded leopard (*Neofelis nebulosa*; IUCN status-Vulnerable), Indochinese leopard (*Panthera pardus delacouri*; IUCN status-Near Threatened) and the Indochinese tiger (*Panthera tigris corbetti*; IUCN status-Endangered).

All the species are threatened with anthropogenic pressures resulting in illegal encroachments that have destroyed and fragmented their wild habitats and made them extremely vulnerable to poachers and indigenous hunters. Rapid deforestation in these areas are wiping out the majestic predatory species and the worse impacted is the Indochinese tiger.

The sub species is unofficially extinct in the wild throughout its former range with the exception of Myanmar

and Thailand; the last two major habitats for the sub species.

The Indian tiger or the Bengal tiger or the Royal Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris tigris*, IUCN status-Endangered) is distributed across specific habitats of the Indian subcontinent across India, Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The eastern most limits of the Bengal tiger is restricted to Assam and Arunachal Pradesh in the north east India and the Chittagong hill tracts of Bangladesh that is biogeographically contiguous to NE India as well as to eastern and SE Myanmar. The interesting point to note is the fact that it is in these regions the habitats of the two majestic sub species of tigers-Bengal tiger and the Indochinese tigers of Myanmar tend to overlap.

The region being not surveyed exclusively with modern gadgets and highly trained ground force for decades and problems of extremely difficult terrain, dense forests and dangers of ambush from various insurgents groups active in the region make this biogeographically interesting as well as biodiverse region is actually data deficient. As a consequence it is quite difficult to suggest where the habitats of the Bengal tigers end and where that of the Indochinese tigers start; or if there are overlapping regions where natural hybridization between the two sub-species have occurred in the past or is still happening now.

On a second note, a recent alarming report featuring the death of an endangered tigress in the Nagaland

state in India adjoining Myanmar border has been extremely sad and morbid.

The incident clearly highlights the sorry state of wildlife conservation and conservation awareness in India. However, what has been important to note that this is the first time a tigress or for that matter a tiger species was reported and poached in Nagaland adjoining Myanmar.

There has been no report of existence of tiger in this state even from the British colonial period. The Indian government suggested that possibly the tiger migrated from the adjoining state of Assam that has substantial tiger population (Bengal tiger).

However, what everyone has been missing that this could be an Indochinese tigress that may have moved across Myanmar into the Nagaland state of India. It is extremely sad if a rare species like Indochinese tiger (?) has been poached by the villagers in Nagaland. There needs to be collaboration and joint management of forests around the highly biodiverse Indo-Myanmar border region. Unless stringent measures are adopted nationwide more such sad incidents like the recent one in Nagaland are expected.

It is important to make through investigation and surveys to get a clear scientific idea about this along the Indo-Myanmar and the Myanmar-Bangladesh border regions. If the two sub-species are genetically distinctly identified in these regions and natural hybrids are also detected; the idea of overlapping ranges of

these two majestic sub species could be easily identified. It could be quite possible that once the Indochinese tigers were quite common in the NE India but with time has shifted and got restricted more towards the Myanmar side.

Since India has made some remarkable success with respect to conservation of the Bengal tiger population; it may not be a bad idea to rear and captive breed Indochinese tigers and later release them in suitable forest habitats in NE states sharing border with Myanmar. These could help in enriching the gene pool as well as increase the numbers of the sub populations of Indochinese tigers as these sub species has not been doing as good as their Bengal tiger cousins. Hence any attempts of multiplication in the wild will be greatly appreciated.

Furthermore, it will help in bringing back and introducing another sub-species within Indian boundaries and enrich the biodiversity if the nation.

Both India and Myanmar need to come forward and jointly initiate a captive breeding program for the highly endangered Indochinese tiger in the NE Indian states bordering Myanmar and in eastern Myanmar. The Indochinese sub species has such a close range distribution adjoining India yet very few in the entire subcontinent know about them.

In the geological past, the sub species must have roamed throughout the virgin forests along the Indo-Myanmar border and will be great to return this majestic species back to their wild habitat. ■

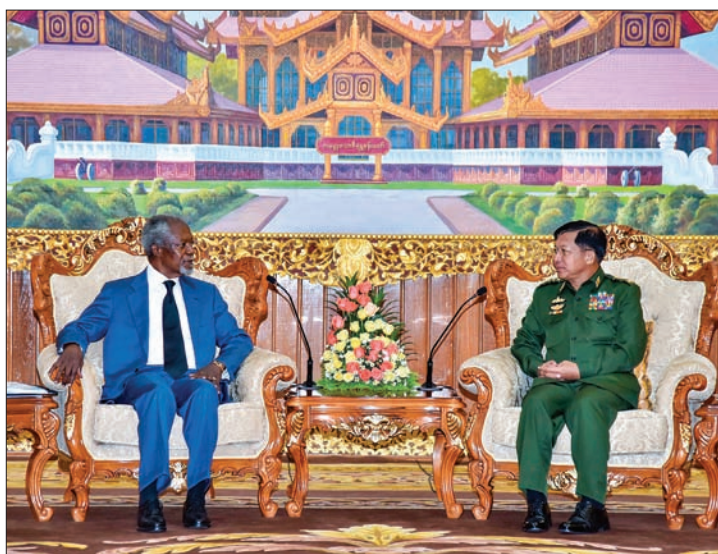
Senior General meets Mr. Kofi Annan

Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a delegation led by Mr. Kofi Annan, chairman of the The Advisory Commission on Rakhine State, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, the Senior General remarked on how everyone is interested about the situation in Rakhine and how Myanmar culture places emphasis on written records and advised the delegation to carefully scrutinise their report.

Mr. Kofi Annan said the commission's report recommends socio-economic development in Rakhine, attracting more investment and providing basic necessities. An important factor, the report said, is providing national identification documents and registration. Annan also said there should be more dialogue between villages and communities to reduce tension and promote reconciliation. The report also advises cooperation with Bangladesh for better border security and fighting drug trafficking.

In response to Mr. Annan's recommendations, the Senior General said National Verification Cards (NVCs) are required according to the 1982 Citizenship Law as proof of



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Chairman of the Investigation Commission on Rakhine Mr. Kofi Annan. **PHOTO: MNA**

identity. Being verified also allows access to basic education and healthcare. He said there are still cases of murder and disappearances among local residents in Rakhine, so the situation needs to be contained before it becomes worse, the senior general said. There has also been news of armed groups arriving near the border areas, and area clearance operations on May Yu Mountain are still not complete, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing said.

The Senior General said both domestic and foreign journalists and reporters are allowed entry into Rakhine

State, but they need to report the true facts. He said the Tatmadaw provides assistance in humanitarian programmes, but he said there needs to be a careful review of how aid is able to reach the training camps of violent attackers.

Schools have been opened in Buthidaung and Maungdaw, but some religious leaders prevent people from attending the schools for various reasons, the senior general said. There are also Bengali students from Buthidaung and Maungdaw currently attending the University in Sittway, he said. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Republic of the Union of Myanmar Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office Notification No. 1/2017

1379 ME, 3rd Waxing of Tawthalin
24 August 2017

Notification regarding Open Myanmar Initiative's missing law

1. Open Myanmar Initiative (OMI) printed and published an article entitled "missing law" regarding a bill amending Constitutional Tribunal Law for the third time in its Hluttaw Affairs Research Paper No. 3 of July 2017. On 3 August 2017, it invited members of the news media to introduce and explain about the research paper and this was broadcast in MNTV and published in The Speaker journal as well as being posted on the OMI Facebook page.
2. The bill only had one amendment saying "party organizational works related to election" in Section 11 of Constitutional Tribunal Law to be replaced by "organizational works related to election" to which the President had commented that the word "party" should not be omitted. (In view of the comment of the President, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw decided that it was a draft bill that does not need to be enacted into a law.)
3. However, without knowing accurately about the work process on the bill, the act of OMI described in section 1 is an act of contempt towards the legislative functions being performed by the respective hluttaws as well as misleading the people and creating misunderstanding regarding the hluttaws.
4. Therefore, OMI is hereby informed to hold a press conference to retract its incorrect announcement on the draft bill, and also state that it would send a letter of apology to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Office within 7 days failing which legal action would be taken in accordance with the law.

By order,

Kyaw Soe
Director General
(Unofficial Translation)

PRC Donates H1N1 vaccines, medical equipment to Myanmar

A ceremony for donating H1N1 vaccines and related medical equipment to Myanmar from the People's Republic of China was held at the Yangon International Airport's Special Guest Lounge yesterday morning.

At the ceremony, the document allowing the handover of H1N1 vaccines and equipment — disease protection suits, ventilators and breathing machines worth of US\$ 3.7 million — was signed by the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar and the permanent secretary of the



Airport staff unloading H1N1 vaccines donated by PRC from a cargo plane at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Ministry of Health and Sports. Present at the ceremony were H.E. Mr Hong Liang, the Chinese ambassador to Myanmar; Mr Xia Guanxiang, the consul of commerce, responsible officials from the embassy of PRC in Myanmar; Professor Dr. Thet Khaing Win, the permanent sec-

retary of the Ministry of Health and Sports and responsible personnel. The H1N1 vaccines and related medical equipment donated by the People's Republic of China arrived at Yangon International Airport yesterday by the chartered plane, it was learnt. —Myanmar News Agency ■



A hog badger is undergoing veterinary treatment. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Endangered species seized in Mohnyin

A hog badger which is native to Central and Southeast Asia was seized by market security personnel at the Mohnyin Township municipal market in Kachin state on 23 August.

"The hog badger is an endangered species", said U

Maung Win, the administrator of the Indawgyi wildlife sanctuary. "It is now undergoing veterinary treatment in the forest."

The hog badger is omnivorous, active by day and not very wary of humans. —Mya Moe Hnyin ■

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



A Tupolev Tu-95MS strategic bomber, the carrier of nuclear rockets, lands at the Yemelyanovo airport near Russia's Siberian city of Krasnoyarsk, in 2011. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Russia sends nuclear-capable bombers on mission near South Korea, Japan

MOSCOW — Russian nuclear-capable strategic bombers have flown over the Pacific Ocean, the Sea of Japan, the Yellow Sea and the East China Sea, prompting Japan and South Korea to scramble jets to escort them, Russia said on Thursday.

Russia's Defence Min-

istry said in a statement the Tupolev-95MS bombers, code named "Bears" by NATO, flew over neutral waters and were accompanied by Russian Sukhoi-35S fighter jets and A-50 early warning and control aircraft.

It gave no details about the overall number of aircraft that had taken part in what it called

a pre-arranged flight and did not say when or why the mission took place.

The TU-95MS bombers were refueled in mid-air during the mission, the ministry said.

During parts of the route, the bombers were escorted by South Korean and Japanese military jets, it added.

Russia, which shares a border with North Korea, has repeatedly voiced concerns about rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula caused by Pyongyang's nuclear missile programme, and has complained about Japan's plans to deploy a US anti-missile system on its soil. —Reuters ■

Top US general in Afghanistan says Trump's plan means long-term US commitment

KABUL — The top US military commander in Afghanistan said on Thursday President Donald Trump's new strategy is a sign of a long-term commitment to what is already America's longest war and called on Taliban insurgents to agree to peace talks.

"The Taliban cannot win on the battlefield, it's time for them to join the peace process," General John Nicholson told reporters in the Afghan capital, Kabul. "We will not fail in Afghanistan, our national security depends on that as well."

Critics, including Trump himself during the 2016 campaign for the US presidency,

have argued that Afghanistan is no closer to peace despite billions of dollars spent on aid and nearly 16 years of US and allied military operations.

In February, Nicholson told the US Congress he needed "a few thousand" more troops in Afghanistan, mostly to help advise Afghan security forces that are battling Taliban, Islamic State and other Islamist insurgents.

Trump has now approved an extended American presence in Afghanistan, although neither he nor his military leaders have provided any specifics about troop numbers or timelines.

The current US force for the

predominantly advise-and-assist mission in Afghanistan stands at around 8,400, well down from around 100,000 during the "surge" decided on by Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama.

Several thousand more troops are often in the country on "temporary" or other uncounted missions.

Nicholson said new advisers from the United States and NATO coalition allies would increase the training missions, including at specialised military schools and expanding the Afghan air force and special forces.

He also praised Trump's decision not to impose "arbitrary"

deadlines on the American mission in Afghanistan.

"This policy announcement ... is proof of our continued commitment," he said.

The Taliban government was overthrown by US-backed Afghan forces in late 2001 but US forces have been bogged down there ever since. About 2,400 US troops have been killed in Afghanistan.

US military and intelligence officials are concerned that a new Taliban victory would allow al Qaeda and Islamic State's regional affiliate to establish bases in Afghanistan. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Up to 14 people missing after Swiss landslide

ZURICH — Rescue crews are searching for up to 14 people including Germans, Austrians and Swiss missing for more than a day after a landslide struck a remote Swiss mountain valley near the Italian border, police said on Thursday.

Authorities evacuated around 100 people from the village of Bondo and airlifted hikers from nearby huts in the eastern canton of Grisons after rocks and mud hit the area on Wednesday. —Reuters ■

Dutch police detain second suspect after Rotterdam concert threat

AMSTERDAM/MADRID — Dutch police detained a second suspect on Thursday after a Spanish tip-off about a possible attack caused the cancellation of a rock concert in Rotterdam a day earlier.

The 22-year-old man was arrested during police raids in the southern province of Brabant early on Thursday and was being questioned about the Rotterdam attack threat, the police said. —Reuters ■

Afghan president signs decree for launch of implementation of strategic agreement with US

KABUL — Afghanistan and the United States have launched the implementation of a partnership agreement signed previously by Kabul and Washington, the Afghan presidential palace said Thursday.

On Wednesday, Afghan President Ashraf Ghani chaired meeting of Bilateral Compact Executive Committee, known as Compact as the meeting marked start of the implementation of US-Afghanistan Strategic Partnership Agreement. During the meeting, Ghani signed a decree for the implementation of the Compact regarding the mutual cooperation between the two countries, the palace said in a statement. —Xinhua ■

Iraqi forces make gains in Islamic State stronghold of Tal Afar

BAGHDAD — Iraqi forces made fresh gains on Wednesday in an offensive to dislodge Islamic State from the city of Tal Afar, a militant stronghold in the northwest of the country, the military said.

On the fourth day of the offensive, Iraqi units seized two neighbourhoods on the western outskirts of the city, al-Kifah north and south, according to statements from the Iraqi joint operations command.

On Tuesday, army and counter-terrorism units broke into Tal Afar from the east and south.

The city is the latest objective in the US-backed war on Islamic State, following the recapture of Mosul after a nine-month campaign that left much of the city in ruins.

The fall of Mosul effectively marked the end of the self-proclaimed caliphate Islamic State declared over parts of Syria and Iraq in 2014.

About three quarters of Tal Afar remains under militant control including the Ottoman-era citadel at its centre,



Shi'ite Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF) gather with Iraqi army on the outskirts of Tal Afar, Iraq. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

according to an operational map published by the Iraqi military.

Located 80 km (50 miles)

west of Mosul, Tal Afar lies along the supply route between Mosul and Syria. It has produced some of IS's most senior

commanders and was cut off from the rest of IS-held territory in June.

Up to 2,000 battle-hard-

ened militants remain in Tal Afar, according to US and Iraqi military commanders. —Reuters ■

As Syria war tightens, US and Russia military hotlines humming

AL UDEID AIR BASE, (Qatar) — Even as tensions between the United States and Russia fester, there is one surprising place where their military-to-military contacts are quietly weathering the storm: Syria.

It has been four months since US President Donald Trump ordered cruise missile strikes against a Syrian airfield after an alleged chemical weapons attack.

In June, the US military shot down a Syrian fighter aircraft, the first US downing of a manned jet since 1999, and also shot down two Iranian-made drones that threatened US-led coalition forces.

All the while, US and Russian military officials have been regularly communicating, US officials told Reuters. Some of the contacts are helping draw a line on the map that separates US- and Russian-backed forces waging parallel campaigns on Syria's shrinking battlefields.

There is also a telephone hotline linking the former Cold War foes' air operations centres. US officials told Reuters

that there now are about 10 to 12 calls a day on the hotline, helping keep US and Russian warplanes apart as they support different fighters on the ground.

That is no small task, given the complexities of Syria's civil war. Moscow backs the Syrian government, which also is aided by Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah as it claws back territory from Syrian rebels and Islamic

State fighters.

The US military is backing a collection of Kurdish and Arab forces focussing their firepower against Islamic State, part of a strategy to collapse the group's self-declared "caliphate" in Syria and Iraq.

Reuters was given rare access to the US Air Force's hotline station, inside the Qatar-based Combined Air Operations Area, last week, in-

cluding meeting two Russian linguists, both native speakers, who serve as the US interface for conversations with Russian commanders.

While the conversations are not easy, contacts between the two sides have remained resilient, senior US commanders said.

"The reality is we've worked through some very hard problems and, in general, we have found a way to maintain the deconfliction line (that separates US and Russian areas of operation) and found a way to continue our mission," Lieutenant General Jeffrey Harrigian, the top US Air Force commander in the Middle East, said in an interview.

As both sides scramble to capture what is left of Islamic State's caliphate, the risk of accidental contacts is growing.

"We have to negotiate, and sometimes the phone calls are tense. Because for us, this is about protecting ourselves, our coalition partners and destroying the enemy," Harrigian said,

without commenting on the volume of calls.

The risks of miscalculation came into full view in June, when the United States shot down a Syrian Su-22 jet that was preparing to fire on US-backed forces on the ground.

US officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said those were not the only aircraft in the area. As the incident unfolded, two Russian fighter jets looked on from above and a American F-22 stealth aircraft kept watch from an even higher altitude, they told Reuters.

After the incident, Moscow publicly warned it would consider any planes flying west of the Euphrates River to be targets. But the US military kept flying in the area, and kept talking with Russia.

"The Russians have been nothing but professional, cordial and disciplined," Army Lieutenant General Stephen Townsend, the Iraq-based commander of the US-led coalition, told Reuters. —Reuters ■



A boy rides a bike along a damaged street in a rebel-held area, in the town of Dael, Syria, on 22 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Firefighters battle blaze at store in east London

LONDON — The London Fire Brigade said on Wednesday that 15 fire engines and 97 firefighters and officers were tackling a huge blaze in a discount store in the east of the city.

The whole of the first floor and roof of a Poundland discount store in Chingford had been gutted by the fire, the London Fire Brigade said in a statement.

It added that there were no injuries.

"Firefighters are working hard to contain the fire and stop it from spreading," Station Manager Danny Meakin said. "Crews will be at the scene throughout the night damping down pockets of fire."

"A mother and daughter in an adjacent flat saw smoke and evacuated the



Firefighters battle a fire at a department store in Chingford, London, Britain, on 23 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

property unhurt," Meakin added. The website of the London Evening Standard quoted police as saying an investigation had

been launched. "At this early stage, the fire is being treated as suspicious. Three suspects were seen to leave the area soon

after the fire started," a police spokesman said. Police said homes nearby had been evacuated. —Reuters ■

Clashes in Rome as police evict refugee squatters from square

ROME — Police using water canon and batons clashed on Thursday with refugees who had occupied a small Rome square in defiance of an order to leave a building where they had been squatting.

Television images showed some of the refugees screaming and trying to hit police, who were dressed in riot gear, with sticks. The square, just one block from Rome's main train station, was strewn with mattresses, overturned rubbish bins and broken plastic chairs. Some 100 refugees had occupied the square since Saturday when most of about 800 squatters were evicted from an adjacent

office building they had occupied for about five years. Hung on the building was a sheet with writing reading "We are refugees, not terrorists" in Italian. A small fire burned on the pavement and a sheet hanging from a first-floor window was set alight by squatters inside. Most of the squatters were Eritreans who had been granted asylum. Police said they had refused to accept lodging offered by the city. In a statement, the police said the refugees had gas canisters, some of which they had opened, and officers had been hit by rocks, bottles and pepper spray. Two people were arrested. —Reuters ■



A refugee protests in the street after being forcibly removed from a building where he had been living, in central Rome, Italy, on 23 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

US Navy says remains found by Malaysia not of a USS McCain sailor

SINGAPORE — The US Navy said on Thursday human remains found by Malaysia were not one of its 10 sailors missing after a collision between one of its guided-missile destroyers and a merchant vessel east of Singapore this week.

Medical examination of the remains, which the Malaysian navy discovered about eight nautical miles northwest of where the USS John S. McCain and a merchant vessel collided on Monday, confirmed it was not one of the 10 sailors, the US Seventh Fleet said in a statement. The

body would be returned to Malaysian authorities. An international search-and-rescue operation involving aircraft, divers and vessels is looking for the missing sailors over an area of about 5,500 square kilometres around the crash site. On Tuesday, US Navy and Marine divers found remains of missing sailors inside sealed sections of the damaged hull of the John S. McCain, which is moored at Singapore's Changi Naval Base. The Navy has not announced the identity or number of those found in the ship. —Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV UNI-AMPLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.8.2017 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 MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK WARSAW VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.8.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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We United Nilar Agribusiness Co., Ltd will distribute the Insecticide "Ozoneem Trishul (Azadirachtin 1% E.C) which is manufactured by Ozone Biotech A Div of Shivanshu Sintered Products Pvt.Ltd in India. This product will be remanded as OzoGro Bio insecticide which is registered under the Myanmar Pesticide Registration Board with Registration Number P 2017-3592. If you have any objection to this products, you may submit it with sound justification and proof to the following address within (7) days from announcement date. If there is no objection during this period. We will proceed accordingly.

United Nilar Agribusiness Co., Ltd
NO.56, U Shwe Bin Street, Industrial Zone (1),
Yangon, Myanmar.
Contact No: (959)977223290

management@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Asia stocks brush off Wall Street slide after Trump's comments, dollar revives

SINGAPORE — Asian stocks and the dollar edged up on Thursday, shaking off the risk aversion that gripped financial markets overnight after President Donald Trump threatened to shut down the US government and end the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Financial spread-betters expect Britain's FTSE 100 .FTSE, Germany's DAX .GDAXI and France's CAC 40 .FCHI to open marginally higher. MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS rose 0.45 per cent. Japan's Nikkei .N225 pulled back 0.3 per cent, with steelmakers slumping after the Nikkei business daily reported that Toyota Motor Corp (7203.T) was looking to cut the price of steel supplied to component makers in the October-March period.

That is the result of lower rates, agreed for the six months through September with steelmakers such as Nippon Steel



People walk past an electronic board showing Japan's Nikkei average outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan, on 20 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

& Sumitomo Metal Corp. Three of the five biggest decliners on the index were steelmakers. Chinese blue chips .CSI300 were down about 0.3 per cent, shrugging off a 23 per cent jump in profits for Chinese state-owned firms in the first seven months of 2017 from a year earlier.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng .HSI climbed 0.5 per cent.

South Korea's KOSPI .KS11 added 0.4 per cent

and Australian stocks gained almost 0.1 per cent.

Overnight, US stock indexes closed between 0.3 per cent .IXIC .SPX and 0.4 per cent .DJI lower.

Trump said at a Tuesday night rally in Arizona that he would be willing to risk a government shutdown to secure funding for a wall along the US-Mexico border. Those comments came ahead of a late-September deadline to raise the US debt ceiling or risk

defaulting on debt payments. Fitch Ratings said on Wednesday that a failure to raise the federal debt ceiling in a timely manner would prompt it to review the United States' sovereign rating "with potentially negative implications."

"Asian stocks largely weathered the unexpected shutdown comments...feeling removed from concerns of a government shutdown in the US," Jingyi Pan, market strategist at IG in Sin-

gapore, wrote in a note.

"That being said, any pressure within US bourses could still trickle to regional markets and would be one to track in the near term," she said.

The dollar added about 0.1 per cent to 109.11 yen JPY=D4, having lost 0.5 per cent overnight, after managing to contain losses on Wednesday in Asia following Trump's comments. The dollar index .DXY, which tracks the greenback against a basket of six major peers, also gained 0.1 per cent to 93.226 on Thursday, following the previous day's 0.4 per cent slide. Trump "is using one of his tricks to get what he wants and does not seem to care what could be the consequence for the US shut-down on the economy," said Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst at Think Markets. "What matters the most for Mr. Trump is to build the wall, which he promised throughout his campaign."—Reuters ■

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Htain Lin Oo LL.B Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND
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Yangon. 25th August 2017

EU worker exodus threatens UK food industry, some leaving already

LONDON — Nearly half of businesses operating in Britain's food supply chain say European Union workers are thinking about leaving because of uncertainty around Brexit, an industry survey showed on Thursday. Food processing makes up the biggest chunk of British manufacturing and relies heavily on immigrants, all though much of debate so far around Britain's departure from the EU has focused on sectors like car production and aerospace.

Forty-seven per cent of companies in Britain's food supply chain — which includes farms, food processors, supermarkets and restaurants — said their EU workers were

considering their future as a direct result of the June 2016 Brexit vote, according to the survey compiled by several trade bodies.

Nearly a third of respondents to the survey, conducted between March and May, said some EU staff had already departed.

While Britain's economy has slowed sharply this year, evidence that the Brexit vote made an impact on the labour market is less clear. Still, official data last week showed the number of EU-born people working in Britain rose just 1.6 per cent year-on-year in the second quarter, the weakest increase in seven years.

"An abrupt reduction in the number of EU work-

ers eligible to work in the UK after Brexit would result in significant disruption for the entire food supply chain," said Andrew Opie, director of food and sustainability at the British Retail Consortium. He added that this would have consequences for the availability and price of food in Britain. Around a fifth of the 2 million EU nationals working in Britain are employed in the food and drink supply chain. Thirty-six per cent of companies in the survey said their businesses would be unviable without access to EU workers. Prime Minister Theresa May has said the government will guarantee the rights of EU citizens already in resident in

Britain, but the details of a future immigration system are still unclear.

"We must stress the urgency for more detailed information about a new system before 2019, if it is to be implemented once the two-year Article 50 period ends," the report said.

The future of the border between the British province of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland was another worry cited by respondents in the survey.

Britain wants no border posts or immigration checks between Ireland and the British province of Northern Ireland after Brexit, but critics have said this goal may be unworkable.—Reuters ■

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Ph:0943151814
Dated: 25.8.2017

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Yangon. 25th August 2017

Disney taps augmented reality for 'Star Wars' toy event

LOS ANGELES — Walt Disney Co will send "Star Wars" characters into the realm of augmented reality next week to draw fans into stores as they release new merchandise tied to upcoming movie the "The Last Jedi," the company said in a statement on Thursday.

Starting at 12:01 am PDT (3.01 am ET) on 1 September, more than 20,000 retail locations in 30 countries will feature displays that fans can scan with their smartphones to reveal characters such as Rey or Chewbacca. Using augmented reality technology, users will see the characters overlaid on their surroundings by looking through their phone's cameras, and can take photos or videos with them.

Disney is tapping into the trend of augmented reality, or AR, which first gained mass adoption in July 2016 with the

release of Niantic Inc's Pokemon Go game.

The hunt for "Star Wars" characters is scheduled to last three days and will coincide with "Force Friday II," the day retailers start selling toys and other products tied to "The Last Jedi" with midnight openings around the world. The retailers include Wal-Mart Stores Inc, Target Inc, Best Buy Co Inc and Apple Inc stores. "Last Jedi" merchandise will also be sold online, and the AR characters will be accessible via some websites.

"Star Wars," one of Disney's most important franchises, was the US toy industry's top-selling property for 2015 and 2016, with \$1.5 billion in sales over the two years, according to research firm NPD. "The Last Jedi," the eighth movie in the "Star Wars" film saga, arrives in theaters in December. —Reuters ■



A fan dressed up as Luke Skywalker picks new toys from the upcoming film "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" on "Force Friday" after the launch of the film's new toys in Hong Kong, China, in 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Melissa Leo and Bill Pullman join 'Equalizer 2'

LOS ANGELES — Melissa Leo and Bill Pullman have sealed the deal to reprise their roles as Susan and Brian Plummer, respectively, in "The Equalizer" sequel.

Melissa and Bill will reunite with Denzel Washington, who is set to reprise his role as Robert McCall in the follow-up to the 2014 neo-noir vigilante action thriller, reported Deadline. The returning actors join newcomer Pedro

Pascal in the cast.

The "Narcos" star has been tapped to play the antagonist in the sequel. Filming is expected to begin on 14 November with Antoine Fuqua and Richard Wenk returning as director and screenwriter, respectively.

The film is scheduled to open in theatres across the United States on 14 September, 2018. —PTI ■

I do films that appeal to the human side of me: Hrithik

MUMBAI — Hrithik Roshan said he takes up a film only when the story appeals to him on an emotional level.

"I keep my instincts in mind. I must do a film that appeals to the human side of me and not to the star (side). If it connects with me then it will connect with the fans and audiences," he said in an interview here when asked about his process of choosing a film. For the 43-year-old actor, the basic emotions of a story should strike a chord with him first. "There are times when the scene is supposed to be emotional and you imagine the audience

crying but are you crying? The scenes in the film might seem very beautiful, but if the script has not moved me then it will not work (with the audience as well)." He was talking on the sidelines of an event here last evening where he unveiled the Rado 'sports collection' as the global ambassador of the Swiss watch brand. To a question about the influence of sport in his and his children's lives, he said, "I am going to push my kids to adopt some sports as it builds sportsmanship, character. It teaches you a lot of things, it teaches you survival." —PTI ■

Taylor Swift announces 'Reputation' album after court victory

LOS ANGELES — Taylor Swift announced a new album titled "Reputation" on Wednesday, just over a week after scoring a court victory at a high-profile groping trial in Colorado.

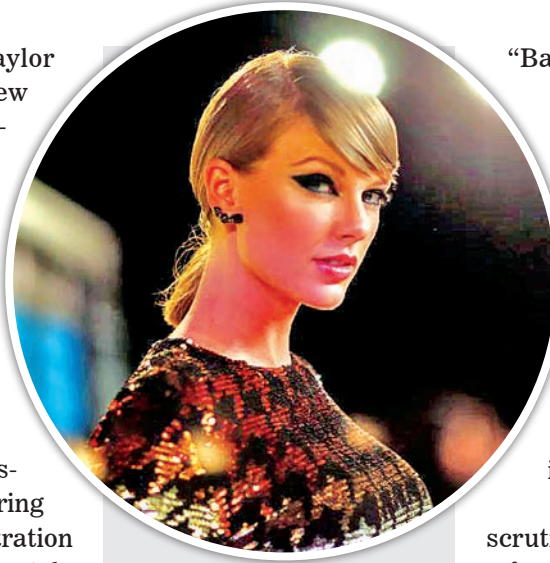
The singer made the announcement in a series of Instagram images, including a possible album cover featuring a black and white illustration of Swift with newspaper-style headlines overlapping part of her face.

The album will be released 10 November, and the first single will debut on Thursday.

Swift, 27, ended a six-month absence from the spotlight to deliver unflinching testimony against a radio DJ in a Denver court earlier this month.

She was awarded the symbolic \$1 in damages that she had sought after a federal jury in Denver found the DJ had grabbed her bottom while posing for a photo with her in 2013.

The singer, one of the most



Singer Taylor Swift arrives at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, California, US in 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

"Bad Blood."

Swift, who broke out at the age of 16 with her debut album and has become one of pop music's best-selling solo artists, carved a career writing songs that delve into her own experiences of love, friendship and growing up in the public eye.

Her lyrics are often scrutinized by eager fans for references to former flames or friends such as her relationships with singers such as John Mayer and Harry Styles and feud with fellow pop star Katy Perry.

"Reputation" may focus on the singer's struggle with media scrutiny of her private life, which she has spoken about in previous interviews.

Swift largely dropped out of public view earlier this year after a highly publicized breakup from British DJ Calvin Harris, a short-lived 2016 summer fling with British actor Tom Hiddleston and feuds with Perry, Kim Kardashian and Kanye West. —Reuters ■

followed people on social media, followed her court victory by deleting posts from Instagram, Twitter and removing her avatar from her Facebook page, sending fans into a frenzy speculating about whether Swift had been hacked or was preparing to launch new music or reinvent herself.

"Reputation" will come three years after Swift's 2014 best-selling album "1989," which spawned hits such as "Shake It Off" and

Powerball ticket sold in Massachusetts wins \$700 million jackpot

NEW YORK — The owner of a Powerball ticket sold in Massachusetts won an estimated \$700 million on Wednesday, one of the largest prizes in the lottery's history.

Powerball said on its website the single ticket matched all six numbers in drawn on Wednesday night: 6, 7, 16, 23, 26 and the Powerball of 4.

The winner will get annual payments over 29 years, totaling at least \$700 million, or \$443.3 million in a lump sum payment, before taxes.

The odds of a ticket having all six winning numbers are 292.2 million-to-1, according to the Multi-State Lottery Association.

Powerball tickets are sold in 44 US states, and Washington, DC, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

No one had won the Powerball's top prize in the twice-a-week drawings since 10 June, when a California man won a jackpot valued at \$447.8 million.—Reuters ■



A screen displays the value of the Powerball jackpot at a store in New York City, US, on 22 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Depopulation turns Serbian villages into ghost towns

REPUSNICA, (Serbia) —Repusnica was once a bustling village on the slopes of Mount Stara Planina in Serbia. Now its bars lie empty, its houses stand shuttered and nobody walks its streets.

Authorities declared the village near the border with Bulgaria closed in 1998 due to depopulation caused by mechanization of the economy, the closure of state factories and an exodus from Serbia linked to the Balkan wars of the 1990s.



A man holds his bicycle in front of his home in the village of Gornja Kamenica, near the south-eastern town of Knjazevac, Serbia, on 14 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

In many nearby villages, the population has dwindled and sometimes just an elderly couple or a single person is left. Schools, clinics, veterinary stations and shops are closed. Visitors are rare. Roads are peppered with potholes.

"Some people left, moved away ... to seek better living standards. The village was neglected and ignored especially when it came to infrastructure," said Rade Bogdanovic, a retired veterinarian in Kalna, which is part of the Knjazevac municipality that also includes Repusnica.

"Only the elderly stayed behind, the parents of those who left, and

over time they grew older and died," he said as he stumbled across rubble to reach his dilapidated former office. He said Kalna's population had shrunk from 4,000 to 1,000.

Between 2002 and 2011, Serbia lost more than 377,000 people or 5 per cent of its population of around 7 million, according to the census. Numbers have fallen in 86 per cent of the country's 4,600 villages, according to the Serbian Academy of Science.

A similar situation exists in some other countries in the Balkans and southeastern Europe.

In the past 50 years the eastern Serbian municipality of Knjazevac fell by half to 30,000 people.

"We now have a population in line with what we had after World War I," said Marija Jelenkovic, a municipal official.

In the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s around a million left to seek jobs in the West. An estimated 700,000 people left Serbia during the Balkan wars of the 1990s.

The outflow continued after the fall of President Slobodan Milosevic in 2000. A transition to a market economy saw many state factories

close and a trend towards smaller families has seen the average age rise to 42 according to the 2011 census, up from 40 in 2002. The Serbian government has sought to tackle the problem by improving infrastructure and offering incentives to younger people to stay in villages. The effort is yet to yield results.

In 2015, a human rights official appointed by parliament said the country should ask migrants flooding through the Balkans from the Middle East to settle in empty villages but the idea was abandoned.—Reuters ■

MRTV

Programme Schedule
(25-8-2017, Friday)

6:00 Am	3:15 Pm
♦ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadsaw	♦ Myanmar Series
7:00 Am	4:35 Pm
♦ Breakfast News	♦ World of Innovations
7:35 Am	5:05 Pm
♦ MRTV Travelogue	♦ Documentary (Healthy)
8:35 Am	5:35 Pm
♦ Documentary	♦ Weekly Sport Info
8:45 Am	6:20 Pm
♦ Documentary	♦ Documentary
9:10 Am	7:15 Pm
♦ Current Affairs	♦ TV Drama Series
9:35 Am	7:45 Pm
♦ MRTV Worker's Programme	♦ CHOICE (Part-4)
10:30 Am	7:50 Pm
♦ Socio Economic Scenes	♦ Teleplay (YBS)
11:15 Am	8:00 Pm
♦ Teleplay	♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report
12:30 Pm	8:35 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series	♦ Documentary
1:00 Pm	♦ 29 th SEA Games Programme
♦ Myanmar Movie (Part-2)	♦ TV Drama Series
2:15 Pm	
♦ TV Drama Series	

mitv

Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(25-8-2017 07:00am ~26-8-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Glance At A Naga Family Life
07:45	Am	The Recycle Art: Tyre
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive
08:53	Am	A Traditional Doctor
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Marketable Goods (Straw painting)
09:45	Am	Talking Shwe Thway (Children Journal)
09:56	Am	Dances of Myanmar "Muun Traditional Dance"
10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	The Green Corner (Epi-19) Floating Lotus

10:36 Am Coconut Shell Artist

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Visit To Ye
07:47	Pm	Monk's Robe
07:53	Pm	Independent Filmmaker
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-4) Political Life & Remembrance
08:52	Pm	Maha Muni Pagoda

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am)-Thursday Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am)-Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Myanmar's Sepak takraw team in reach of gold at SEA Games

Myanmar's Sepak takraw men's doubles team reached the finals after beating Indonesia with decisive sets of 21-15 and 21-16 in the semifinal match.

In the other semifinal, Thailand beat host Malaysia decisively and will face Myanmar in the final.

At the SEA Games, Sepak takraw differs from the similar sport of footvolley in its use of a rattan ball and only allowing players to use their feet, knees, chest and head to touch the ball. Sepak takraw is now a regular sport event in the Asian Games and the Southeast Asian Games. The final will be played today at Titiwangsa Indoor Stadium in Kuala Lumpur, with the winning team earning gold and the losing team earning the silver medal.—Ye Yint Shine ■



Myanmar striker in action during the Sepak Takraw men's double match against Indonesia squad at the 29th SEA Games, Malaysia. **PHOTO SOE NYUNT**

Myanmar men to meet Thailand in semifinal football match at SEA Games

Kyaw Zin Lin

The Myanmar men's national football team, which has already stepped up to the semi-final stage with a second-place showing in Group A, will play against Thailand, which beat Vietnam 3-0 yesterday and claimed first place in Group B.

In the meantime, Indonesia beat Cambodia 2-0, placing Indonesia in second place in Group B and will face host Malaysia in the other semi-final match.

Both matches will be played on Saturday at Shah Alam Stadium. Myanmar will likely use star player Aung Thu, Si Thu Aung and Thann Paing at the match against Thailand.

The final match, which will determine the order of the medal winners, will be held on Tuesday at the National Stadium, Bukit Jalil or Shah Alam Stadium. ■

Myanmar women's football team wins bronze medal at 2017 SEA Games

Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar settled for the bronze medal in women's football competition at the 2017 SEA Games as the Viet Nam won gold medal and Thailand

won silver, it was announced yesterday. Under new head coach Roger Reijners, the Myanmar women's footballers started out well with wins over the host country Malaysia (5-0) and then the Philippines (6-0), but then stum-

bled 3-2 to defending champion Thailand and also lost 3-1 to Vietnam. "We came here with very high hopes of winning the gold medal, but I think that the bronze is OK considering that we lost to the two favourites here," said

Myanmar head coach Reijners.

"To be a powerhouse in the region, we need to be able to beat Thailand and Vietnam. And that is something which we need to strategise for the long term", he added. ■

Ronaldo wins UEFA Player of the Year award

MONACO — Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo was named UEFA's Player of the Year, beating Lionel Messi and Gianluigi Buffon to the prize, European soccer's governing body announced during the Champions League group stage draw in Monaco on Thursday.

Ronaldo helped Real to a second consecutive Champions League title and finished as the tournament's top scorer with 12 goals last season. He has now won the award three times, one more than Messi. The three-player shortlist was chosen by a panel

of 80 coaches of clubs that participated in the group stages of the 2016/17 Champions League and Europa League and 55 journalists selected by the European Sports Media (ESM) group, representing each of UEFA's member associations.—Reuters ■

Martens named UEFA women's Player of the Year

MONACO — Barcelona winger Lieke Martens was named UEFA women's Player of the Year, beating VfL Wolfsburg striker Pernille Harder and Olympique Lyon midfielder

Dzsenifer Marozsan, European soccer's governing body announced during the Champions League group stage draw in Monaco on Thursday.

Martens guided the Dutch

women's team to their first international title when they won the European championship this year. The 24-year-old was named player of the tournament.—Reuters ■



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo and Barcelona's Lieke Martens hold their trophies after winning the UEFA Men's and Women's Player of the Year award at the UEFA Player of the Year Awards, Monaco on 24 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**