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State Counsellor, Indonesian FM hold talk over issue in Rakhine State

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister Mrs. Retno L.P. Marsudi yesterday exchanged views on the matters pertaining to humanitarian assistance and development assistance in Rakhine State and strengthening bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

The delegation led by Mrs. Retno L.P. Marsudi called on the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Indonesian Minister also conveyed her Government's support to the efforts of the Government of Myanmar for peace, stability and development in Rakhine State.

Present at the meeting were U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor; U Thaung Tun, National Security Advisor; U Kyaw Tin, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Dr. Ito Sumardi, Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Indonesian Foreign Minister Mrs. Retno L.P. Marsudi in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO:MNA

ARSA burns down villages

GUNMEN affiliated with the extremist terrorist group of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) invaded villages in Maungdaw Township yesterday and Sunday and set fire to hundreds of houses, according to the information committee of the government yesterday.

On 3 September, govern-

ment security forces inspected suspicious activity near a bridge between Aukpyuma and Ngakuya villages in Maungdaw Township. Upon arriving at Ngakuya market bridge, ARSA extremist terrorists fired on the security force. The government forces pushed the ARSA extremist terrorists towards Aukpyu-

ma Village, where the terrorists burned down 50 houses. After the clash, security forces confiscated an improvised explosive device and other materials.

Yesterday morning, security forces conducted clearance operations in Maungdaw Township and discovered over 120 houses in West Ountaw Village had been

burned down by ARSA extremist terrorists.

Security forces heard that that 30 houses in Dingar, 50 houses in Sawkeenama and 10 houses in Hintarya villages in the Zawmatet Village tract were on fire and rushed to the scene to extinguish the blazes.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Myanmar parliamentary delegation visits China

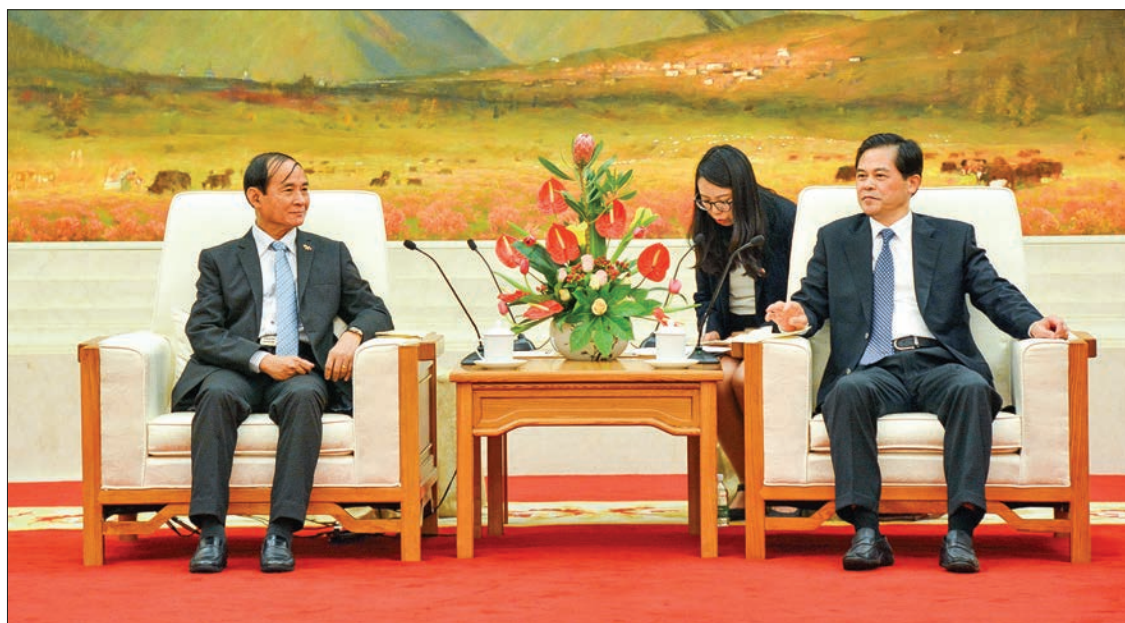
PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and party left by air yesterday afternoon to pay a goodwill visit to China at an invitation of H.E. Mr. Zhang De-jiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, the People's Republic of China.

The Myanmar Hluttaw delegation was seen off at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint, Hluttaw representatives, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and officials from Hluttaw office.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speak-

er was accompanied by Mahn Nyunt Thein, member of Pyithu Hluttaw Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Committee, U Than Nyunt, member of Investment and Industrial Development Committee, U Khun Than Htoo, member of Agriculture, Livestock and Rural Social Development Committee, Daw Wint War Tun, member of Economic and Financial Development Committee, U Tin Nu @ U Tin Nu Aung, member of Justice and Legal Affairs Committee and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.

The Hluttaw delegation arrived at Kunming International Airport in China at local standard time 3:45 pm and were



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint meets with Mr. Chen Hao, the Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province at Haigeng Garden Hotel yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

welcomed by Mr. Long Zhuangwei, Vice Chair of the National People's Congress Agriculture and Rural Affairs Committee, U Thit Lin Ohn, Myanmar Ambassador to China, Kunming-based Myanmar Consul-General U Soe Paing and officials.

The Pyithu Hluttaw Speak-

er met with Mr. Chen Hao, the Communist Party Secretary of Yunnan Province at Haigeng Garden Hotel at local standard time 5:00pm and discussed matters relating to bilateral friendship and cooperation.

The Communist Party Secretary then hosted a dinner for

the Myanmar Hluttaw delegation.

Afterwards, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker and party departed from Kunming International Airport by air to Shanghai at 8:25 pm local standard time.— Myanmar News Agency ■



Myanmar Red Cross Society's members help an elderly woman to evacuate. **PHOTO: MNA**

Myanmar Red Cross Society provides aids to people in northern Rakhine

The Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) is working with the Department of Health to help displaced people who were affected by the recent unrest in northern Rakhine State, according to a report yesterday by the Myanmar News Agency.

Displaced people are being evacuated to safety, treated for injuries, illnesses and mental trauma and provided with necessary supplies, including hygiene goods, food and water.—Myanmar News Agency ■

More hacking of government websites

A cyber attack defaced the website of the Central Bank of Myanmar yesterday. The hack was detected at 2:30 am and the website was restored by 5 am.

Director U Ye Naing Moe of the National Cyber Security Center, Department of Information Technology and Cyber Security said "We responded to the attack as soon as we learned about it and we were helped by young amateur information technology specialists."

Remarking on the earlier at-

tack on five websites announced on 1 September, he said "These five websites were on a single server. There were attempts to attack other departments as well. The relevant departments were monitoring and setting up safeguards. There may also be some cases that we didn't know about."

"When using the internet, people should not click on URL links or files sent from unknown sources or download them," he added. "Our department had informed relevant departments

while volunteers were working with us to defend us from cyber attacks and to recover as soon as there were attacks. Emergency plans were also drawn up for this." If other websites in Myanmar come under similar cyber attacks technical assistance can be obtained at mmCERT, National Cyber Security Center, Department of Information Technology and Cyber Security, phone 01-650891, 067-3422633 and e-mail: technicalteam@mmcert.org.mm — Myanmar News Agency ■

SWRR Ministry accepts donations for displaced people

Myat Cetana Foundation patron Dr. Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin donated Ks4.5 million yesterday to local people in northern Rakhine affected by the recent unrest in

Rakhine State, according to the Myanmar News Agency.

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye accepted the

donation at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) and will distribute the funds. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Ethnics fleeing from terrorist attacks arrive in MraukU

LOCAL residents from the Northern Rakhine townships of Maungdaw, Buthidaung and Yathedaung fled their homes due to terrorist attacks and arrived in Mrauk-U on 2 September.

They are currently taking shelter in the Lawka Mra Aung religious building in Mrauk-U city and in the Kyauktwint-gone villages in Myatyeikkyun

village tract.

A total of 37 people from Kanpyintharse village in Maungdaw Township, Theindaungpyin village and Ward 4 in Buthidaung Township fled to MraukU where they were welcomed by the Township Administrator U Bo Bo Min Thaik, department officials and village elders who provided them with

humanitarian aid.

The humanitarian aid included six sacks of rice, twenty mosquito nets, thirty blankets, thirteen sets of aluminum pots, four sheets of tarpaulin, three boxes of Family Kid diapers and Ks270,000 in cash. It is reported there are plans to provide healthcare to the IDPs.—MraukU IPRD ■

Profile of the Honourable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi

SHRI NARENDRA MODI was born on 17 September 1950 in a small town in Gujarat. The initial hardships of life not only taught the value of hard work but also exposed him to the avoidable sufferings of the common people.

In the year 2001, he became the Chief Minister of his home State Gujarat and went on to serve a record four terms as Chief Minister.

PM Modi is a 'people's leader', dedicated to improving their well-being. Nothing is more pleasing to PM Modi than being among ordinary people, sharing their jobs and alleviating their sorrows. He is very active on social media, including Facebook, Twitter, Google+ and other forums.

On 26th May 2014, Narendra Modi took oath as the Prime Minister of India, becoming the first ever PM to be born after India attained Independence.

Ever since he assumed office in May 2014, PM Modi has embarked on a journey of all-round an inclusive development where every Indian can realize their hopes and aspirations.

Several new schemes have been initiated by the PM which bring direct benefits to the common man, like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana which aims to integrate every citizen in the financial system of the Nation; the "Make in India" complimented by a focus on making business easy has stimulated unprecedented vigour and enterprise among investors and entrepreneurs; labour reforms and dignity of labour under the "Shrameva Jayate" initiative has empowered several workers of small and medium industries, also providing a boost to our skilled youth.

On 2nd October 2014, Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Anniversary the PM launched "Swachh Bharat Mission" a mass movement for cleanliness across the Nation.

PM Narendra Modi's foreign policy initiatives have realized the true potential and role of world's largest democracy, India on the world stage.

Since taking over, PM Narendra Modi attended UN, BRICS, SAARC and G-20 Summits, where India's interventions and views on a variety of global economic and political issues were widely appreciated. In October 2015, a historic India Africa Summit was held in New Delhi, in which 54 African nations participated.

In November 2015, the Prime Minister joined the COP21 Summit in Paris, where he, along with several world leaders deliberated on climate change, Shri Modi and President Hollande of France unveiled the International Solar Alliance, a forum to harness energy of the Sun to light homes.

PM Narendra Modi's clarion call for marking one day as "International Day of Yoga" received an overwhelming response at the UN. In a first, a total of 177 Nations across the world came together and passed the resolution to declare 21st June as the "International Day of Yoga at the UN".

Beyond politics, PM Narendra Modi enjoys writing. He has authored several books, including poetry. He begins his day with yoga, which centers his body and mind and instills the power of calmness in an otherwise fast-paced routine.



VP U Myint Swe receives China's Special Envoy of Asian Affairs



Vice President U Myint Swe welcomes China's Special Envoy of Asian Affairs Mr. Sun Guoxiang in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Vice President U Myint Swe received Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

During the meeting, matters relating to terrorism, stability and rule of law in Maungdaw District, northern Rakhine State, quickly informing internationally the terrorist acts in Maungdaw District, bilateral relation and cooperation were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.— Myanmar News Agency ■

About 3,000 avoiding terrorism put in 17 temporary camps in Sittway

By Tin Maung Lwin,
Min Htat Aung

About 3,000 people displaced by recent unrest in Maungdaw District, Rakhine State are being housed at 17 temporary camps established by monasteries and Hindu temples in Sittway as of 3 September.

The camps were established at Dhammayama monastery, Adeikhtan monastery, Mahazayatheikdi Pahtan monastery, Thayetaw monastery, Pyigyimandine monastery, Dhammapala monastery, Yadana Beikman monastery, Yay Pike Sone monastery, Alodawpye monastery, Theikdikayone monastery, La Yaung Wun monastery, Lanmadaw North monastery, Maniyadana monastery, Sutaungpye monastery, Buddhawmaw mon-

astery and two Hindu temples.

Camp occupants include 914 households with 1,282 men, 1,716 women.

Deputy Head of Sittway Township General Administration Department U Min Thein said the state government is providing rice and cooking oil in addition to Ks 1,500 per person daily for livelihood expenses.

"We are conducting head counts everyday of people in the camps and organizing living spaces. In each camp, a head of each respective ward and a clerk from our department are being assigned. They report to us and we in turn report daily to the state government," he said.

Cooking and food utensils are being provided by the state government to some monasteries lacking supplies due to the

large number of people. Health professionals are also assigned to the camps.

"Nurses are assigned in each camp while doctors are going around in mobile team to provide health services," said U Min Thein. "If there is a need for hospitalization, arrangements are made. The main problem we face now is lack of toilet facilities at the monasteries. State government officials and companies are arranging to construct more toilets."

U Than Tun, a volunteer helping out in Mahazayatheikdi monastery said "There are about 300 people in Mahazayatheikdi monastery. Locals are providing food and other personnel items but there is a need for government officials to be more involved." ■



Displaced persons seen at Mahazayatheikdi monastery in Sittway, Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MAUNG HMWE**

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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Kyaw Myaing

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

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01) 8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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Rice transporters avoid flooded roads with Ayeyawady River route

HEAVY monsoon rains have flooded northern roads, leading rice transporters to take the unusual step of using the Ayeyawady River from Mandalay to Bahmo, about 50 miles from the Chinese border.

"Rice from Mandalay Region can be sent only to Muse, but not to China because of flooding of the Shweli River," said U Min Htet Aung, a rice merchant from Mandalay Region.

"Rice merchants are using the Ayeyawady River route to save transportation charges. Previously, the rice transportation costs over Ks100,000 per ton.

But now, rice transportation costs only Ks70,000 per ton."

Rice exports to China have declined due to tougher Chinese border controls

Workers unloading rice bags from the vehicle. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

and a weaker yuan.

"The rice market is still cool. Also, rice exports via sea

routes is better than trade at the border," said U Kyaw Naing, another local rice

merchant. "Emata rice is selling well." — Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Aid airlifted to northern Rakhine

Donation of foods and goods from Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) families and donors all over the country for local people displaced by ARSA extremists terrorist attacks were continued to be airlifted to Sittway airport by a transport aircraft said a statement by the information committee of the government. Yangon Command commander and officials observed the loading

Members of the Tatmadaw and volunteers unloading aid from the military transport plane in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

of a military transport plane with foods and goods and the plane reached Sittway airport yesterday afternoon. The foods and goods were then delivered to 1,383 ethnic villagers from

Thazinmyaing, Padaukmyaing, Pyinshay, Chutpyin and Aungzayya villages in Yathedaung Township by officials and security personnel.— Myanmar News Agency ■

India starts exporting diesel to Myanmar

NEW DELHI — India has started exporting diesel to Myanmar via a land route, in a boost to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's pledge to enhance hydrocarbon trade with neighbouring countries.

Modi, who is due to start a three-day visit to Myanmar on Tuesday, wants to expand ties with eastern neighbours to develop India's landlocked northeastern states.

Northeast India-based refiner Numaligarh Refinery

Ltd (NRL) delivered a trial consignment of 30 tonnes of diesel fuel to Myanmar's Parami Energy Group in Myanmar by land, the Indian government said in a statement on Monday.

NRL, which wants to treble its refining capacity to 180,000 barrels per day, is looking at further strengthening its business ties with Parami Energy Group after the trial, it said in a statement.

The refiner has already

exported 1,700 tonnes of paraffin wax to Myanmar.

Indian oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited Myanmar in February, scouting for opportunities in oil exploration, refining and products retailing.

NRL, a unit of state-run Bharat Petroleum Corp., reiterated that it is also exploring the possibility of laying a pipeline to export diesel to Myanmar and enter into retail sales.—Reuters ■

More than 10,000 tourists visit Myanmar via Tachilek this FY

MORE than 10,000 tourists entered Myanmar through the land port of entry at Tachilek, Shan State, on the border with Thailand this fiscal year, according to a report in the Myawady Daily on Sunday.

One-day visits were made by 3,380 tourists. Overnight visits were made by 3,761 tourists who went to destinations including Mongphyat and Keng Tung.

And visa runs were made by 2,889 visitors, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Many one-day visitors went to Tar Lot market, Bayintnaung statute, Mahar Muni pagoda, Shwedagon pagoda, the national ethnic village and Arr Khar market in Tachilek town.—GNLM ■



Fruit trading with around 200 truck-loads of watermelon and 50 to 70 truckloads of muskmelons entering Muse. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

China accounts for 95 per cent of Myanmar's fruit exports

CHINA accounts for 95 per cent of Myanmar's fruit exports, more than 200,000 tons worth, this financial year according to a representative of the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association quoted in Myawady Daily yesterday.

Watermelon are the lead-

ing fruit export to China, with an export volume of 139,400 tons and an estimated value of US\$12 million. Mangos were the second leading fruit exports at 30,523 tons, followed by muskmelon exports at 21,749 tons.

Myanmar's fruit export volume increased by 710,000 tons, year-on-year, in FY2015-2016

and by 940,000 tons in FY2016-2017.

China is Myanmar's main agricultural export market.

Total Sino-Myanmar bilateral trade in first three months of this financial year reached \$2.82 billion, including \$1.2 billion in exports and \$1.6 billion in imports. — Mon Mon ■

Commerce Ministry urges food producers to limit pesticide residue for European exports

THE Ministry of Commerce urged agricultural producers to endeavor to reduce pesticide levels in fruit and vegetable exports so they will be more acceptable to European markets.

The industry warning was included in a report in yesterday's edition of Myanma Alin newspaper.

Agricultural imports are subject to strict quality stand-

ards in Europe, which are enforced by law and industry policies. Myanmar is striving to improve the quality of its agricultural exports under the government's National Export Strategy of 2013.

Among the criteria set by European markets is the European Union's maximum residue levels standard, which limits the amount of pesticide residue on

food. Some individual European markets also impose additional standards, said Dr Myat Min, an exporter. The European Union also imposes marketing standards that require fruit and vegetables to be appropriately ripe for sale and consumption.

And all European imports adhere to a standard of labeling and traceability.—Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Myanmar to pursue pulses deal with India's Modi

MYANMAR negotiators will attempt to advance a proposed trade deal with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi for millions of tons of pulses exports when he visits Myanmar today and tomorrow, according to a report in yesterday's edition of Myanma Alin.

Myanmar has been pursuing a pulses export deal with

India since last January 2016 when the two nations engaged in a government-to-government agreement. Myanmar followed up on that agreement with a draft MoU in October 2016, but India has not responded.

India's initial draft proposal included 5-year demand from Myanmar for 900,000 tons of mung bean in 2017, 925,000

tons in 2018, 950,000 tons in 2019, 975,000 tons in 2020 and 1 million tons in 2021.

U Min Ko Oo, the secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association said 500,000 tons of green grams and pigeon peas have been exported to India this financial year. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

Pig feed consumption grows this year

USE of pig feed by livestock farmers increased by 25 per cent this year, according to Mandalay Region group of swine production enterprises.

Although most of Myanmar's pig farms are small affairs, commercial pig farming operations are growing.

About 580,000 pigs from commercial farms and 2.9 million of small-holder pig farms

are sold in Myanmar annually. Pig farms consume 760,000 metric tons of feedstuff, according to Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Feed stock consumption increased for dairy cows and pigs increased five per cent year-on-year from 2015 to 2017. This year, dairy cows and pigs will consume 3.17 million metric tons of feed. —Zar Lin Thu (AMIA) ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း "Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

Three dead, one hurt in IED explosion in Maungtau Tsp

"Sunday Special" အချုပ်ပိုင် (၈) မျက်နှာ ပါဝင်သည်

နေပြည်တော်
မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့် ရွှေဘိုမြို့နယ်၊ ရွှေဘိုမြို့နယ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊ သတင်းနှင့် စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊ စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၄၁၂၁၁၈

နေပြည်တော်
နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ခရိုင်လမ်း၊ နေပြည်တော်၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇ ၃၆၀၄၈၊ ၀၆၇ ၃၆၀၂၉

ရန်ကုန်
The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊ ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဝေယျာသီရိမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၁ ၆၆၀၄၄၃၂၊ ၀၉၅၇၄၄၂၄၁၀၄

မန္တလေး
လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၁) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ မုလ်ဇွေ ရောင်ရမ်းမန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၇၂၉၂၊ ၀၂၃၇၂၉၁၀

တောင်ကြီး
ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၀၂၁၂၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၇၇

မကွေး
နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ဈေးအနီး၊ မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၇၇၀၂

ကျိုင်းတုံ
မြို့သစ် (၃-၈)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့နယ်လမ်း၊ ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး
အောင်ဇေယျာရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊ ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြစ်ကြီးနား
အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရောရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊ မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ
မိမိတပ်မလမ်းနှင့် တက္ကသိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊ မိမိတပ်မကြီးအနီး၊ မနန်းကျည်းမြိုင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

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မော်လမြိုင်
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မုံရွာ
နန္ဒဝန်ရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတာဝါတိုင်အနီး၊ မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၇၃၇၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၇၃၃

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The Government of Myanmar will ensure the effective provision of humanitarian assistance to all inhabitants displaced by terrorist attacks in Rakhine State

THE Government of Myanmar has the primary responsibility to ensure that humanitarian assistance is provided to all who have been displaced by the recent terror attacks in Rakhine State. Effective measures are being put in place by the Government to provide humanitarian assistance to all those affected by the terrorist attacks. To implement this, the Government will work together with the Red Cross Movement.

A Coordination Meeting was held on Monday at the Ministry of the Office of the State Counsellor.

The Meeting was attended by Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye, National Security Advisor to the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin, the Secretary of the Rakhine



Union ministers hold talk with diplomats and INGOs over providing displaced persons in Maungtaung with humanitarian aid. **PHOTO: MNA**

State government and responsible personnel. Also present at the Meeting were development partner countries represented by Ambassadors of United Kingdom, United States, Denmark and the Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Australian Embassy, the Charge d'Affaires a.i. of the Delegation of the European Union

and the UN Resident Representative, as well as representatives from the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC).

The Government's plan to provide humanitarian as-

sistance was intimated at the Meeting. The Meeting discussed how the international community could most effectively support the Government's efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to all inhabitants of Rakhine State who have been displaced since 25 August 2017 by terrorist attacks.—MNA ■

Government forces clash with ARSA extremist terrorists

GOVERNMENT forces clashed with about 30 extremist terrorists of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) while on patrol yesterday morning near Thinbawgwe Village, Maungtaung Township, Rakhine State, according to the information committee of the government.

After the clash, security forces found one body and a handmade gun.

On Sunday night, an estimated 20 suspected ARSA extremist terrorists attacked the Mitike Village guard post in Maungtaung Township with handmade guns.

After the attack, security forces discovered a body, a flintlock gun, lead bullets, two boxes of gunpowder, a sword and a flashlight.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor hosted a working lunch to the visiting Indonesian Foreign Minister

THE Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe hosted a working lunch for the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Indonesia H.E. Mrs. Retno L.P. Marsudi at Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The working lunch was attended by the National Security Advisor to the Union Government U Thaung Tun, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and the Ambassador of Indonesia to Myanmar H.E. Dr. Ito Sumardi.

The Union Minister explained that as the Government has the primary responsibility to provide humanitarian assistance to all inhabitants who are displaced by terrorist attacks in



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe hosts working lunch for Indonesian Foreign Minister Mrs. Retno L.P. Marsudi. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine State, effective plans are being made for provision of humanitarian assistance to all those affected by it. This assistance is to be provided without discrimination in accordance with the

basic principles of humanitarian assistance. The possible way by which the ASEAN member states can cooperate and assist the work of the Myanmar Government was discussed.—MNA ■

Rakhine State Gov't pledges greater support to displaced Maungtaung residents

RAKHINE State government held an emergency meeting yesterday to discuss how to normalize Maungtaung Township, Rakhine State, according to the Myanmar News Agency.

Chief Minister of Rakhine State government U Nyi Pu has called for greater cooperation to address the needs of displaced people, including transportation. The chief minister also demanded that departments collect better data on the situation in Maungtaung.

"The state government is subsidizing provisions as much as possible," he said. "Respective departments need to pay

close attention to death tolls and destruction caused by armed attacks and where they took place. The departments are required to help the displaced people." The meeting addressed the conditions of rescue camps, road conditions, communication infrastructure and the activities of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army extremist terrorists. Chief minister arranged for subsidies of rice, cooking oil, salt, pea, onion, potatoes, medicine, cigars and betel nuts for displaced people at rescue camps and delivery by military helicopter.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu addresses the emergency meeting with departmental officials in Sittway. **PHOTO: MNA**

ARSA burns down villages in Maungtaung

FROM PAGE-1

When government forces arrived at noon, the fires had already been extinguished.

At the same time security forces to find the extinguished fires, other government forces patrolling in Chainkarli Village in Maungtaung Township found

another house on fire in and reported that two explosive devices had detonated at the house. Another government security force patrolling in Thinbawgwe Village in Maungtaung Township reported that ARSA extremist terrorists burned 400 houses.

Government security forces

in Ward 5 in Maungtaung Township reported seeing a suspicious person near an MPT communication tower. Upon closer inspection, they found an improvised bomb near tower's fence connected to wires. Security forces disarmed and removed the bomb.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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Human Beings and Religion

Khin Maung Oo

AT the very advent of history of human beings, religion started from the fear of the awe-inspiring and miraculous powers of nature. Religions which human beings across the world are presently professing, in other words, the great religions emerged during the period when human civilizations reached higher stages respectively.

The followers of respective religions can be categorized into two groups. Some believe that their religions are different from others, while some hold the view that religions differ in outward appearances such as customs and traditions but in

essence the teachings of these religions are same. Sometimes the former kind tends to take an extreme position that only their religion is correct, and thus begin to look down upon other religions, oppose, denounce and even being destructive. Thus, they become religious extremists.

In fact, all religious teachings point out their followers towards the noble and excellent goal for the present life and for the afterlife. As for human beings, in the present life, whether for himself or for society, they should work for the betterment of society, they should learn to live in unity and in peaceful co-existence among each other, between the individual and others and among different groups. They should

avoid the emergence of terrorist activities or conflicts that could harm the whole of human existence. In fact the world's great religions teach humankind to build a peaceful and harmonious world. These are indeed prescribed in the teachings of the world's great religions. We can thus say that these are the fundamental tenets of all religions.

No matter whatever race believe in whatever religion, if they are overcome by base and unwholesome thoughts and ill will, they will become bad and evil persons. On the other hand, if they are filled with noble and pure thoughts and good will, we can say that they are good and noble persons. A villain in one religion

cannot become a noble person in another religion. Giving donations, keeping the precepts, being dignified and straight forward, having good judgment, desiring the welfare of all beings, having compassion and tolerance towards others and acting with righteousness, are the common essence of all the religions. As and when followers of different world religions begin to follow the above teachings on a practical basis, the conflicts, terrorist acts and hatred will gradually become less and less and eventually be eradicated. Thus there will be peace in the whole world. This is what each and every one of the world's spiritual masters and leaders have taught us. ■

Full moon of Tawthalin, Garudhamma Sutta Day

Maha Saddhamma Jotika Dhaja,
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

IN Buddhism, and Buddhist literature there are three types of Garudhamma Sutta which Lord Buddha discoursed on the full moon day of Tawthalin. They are as follows in brief.

Firstly, eight Garudhamma Rules for Mahapajapati Gotami who was the foster mother of Prince Sidhartha [Buddha to be] who became a bhikuni [female monk] at her request and with the consent of Lord Buddha.

Secondly four Parajikas and 13 Samghadisesas is also called Garudhamma in Vinaya Discipline.

Thirdly Five Pancha Sila [moral Precepts] is also Garudhamma or Kurudhamma [Jataka athakatha. Vol.2.p.331.]

This article is on the third type. Garudhamma which Lord Buddha discoursed on full moon day of Tawthalin.

In the kingdom of Kalinga, there was frequent visits of natural disasters, flood, draught, too much rain, no rain, scarcity of food and outbreak of contagious diseases and crimes, armed conflicts and no peace and no security.

In the kingdom of Kuru, there was no natural disasters, good climatic condition, more than enough food, no diseases, no crimes, no armed conflicts only peace and security.

The King of Kalinga thought that because of the white Elephant in the kingdom of Kuru, they enjoyed peace security and plenty of food. The King sent his envoys to lend him the white Elephant to his kingdom. But to no avail, in spite of the white Elephant's presence there. Upon another equirey of the King for the real causes of peace, plenty, progress and security of the kingdom of Kuru, the King found out Five moral precepts then known as Garudhamma Sutta [Discourses on Five moral Precepts which we know very well as Pan-



cha Silla [၁၅၁၆]. So he issued a royal order that himself his entire court and his people should observe and practise Garudhamma Sutta. This Sutta in essence is nothing but to-day Pancha Sila.

1. Abstain from Killing
2. Abstain from taking what is not given you [stealing]
3. Abstain from Sexual misconduct
4. Abstain from telling lies and
5. Abstain from taking intoxicants of all Kinds.

After the king, the whole court and his people throughout the kingdom, observed and practiced. The precepts of Garudhamma Sutta, natural disasters ceased. Good rain, good harvest and plenty of food, contagious diseases disappear. No crime, no stealing no armed conflicts. The entire kingdom enjoyed peace, security and harmony.

Full moon day of the month Tawthalin [September] had been ceremonially held and observed as Garudhamma day successively by Myanmar Kings. King Thalun [1629-48 A.D] of Nyaung Yan dynasty [1605-1752 A.D] of Myanmar history issued a royal order to celebrate and observe and practice Garudhamma by the King at the top to the grass root people at the bottom. The happy impact of the observances and practice

of Garudhamma Sutta was his kingdom enjoyed, peace, progress and prosperity, politically, economically and socio-culturally. Agricultural production increased every year; trade and commerce boomed at home and abroad road. The Arabs (Moors) merchants and the Dutch traders came to his kingdom. King Tha Lun personally welcomed them by holding acrobatic and performing arts displays ahead of the business dialogues which followed.

The King personally conducted the auction of his country's main agriculture product—rice, and mineral products precious stone ruby, saphaire and jade and lead, bronze and silver. In the conduct of business the King proved a shrewd diplomat. When the Dutch East India delegation tried to bargain the price of rice, the King replied that rice buyers should know not only the quality of rice but also how to cook good quality rice. Regarding Myanmar rubies he said that he knew Myanmar rubies have demanding market in Europe. Ruby merchants obtain many fold gains. As to Myanmar rice it is on great demand and the price is rising in the Dutch. East Indies [Now Indonesia] where the Dutch had to feed farm workers on spice plantation.

The Dutch East India Company was

surprised to know that the King was well informed of current international relations. Later they found out the Arab merchants, brought information for which the King rewarded them handsomely.

Trade and commerce with China flowed through peaceful border areas. To gather with them, Myanmar domestic products easily went down to Hamsavadi Kingdom Lower Myanmar and thence to overseas countries like India, Lanka dipa and Europe by fleets of galleons.

King Tha Lun made a good monarch in Myanmar history. He carried out Tha Lun Sittan Revenue Inquest land, Gabe Land [religious land] Public Land were examined and systematically enlisted. Types of crop grown in three seasons and professions of the members of a family were recorded. He was very strict in using revenue tax and public money. He openly reprimanded his daughter princess who was leaning against an unclean post in the palace saying that her dresses were bought with public money. On one incognits occasion, as he was touring country side, he found a rural girl was draining off the boiling water in which she was cooking rice. She not only wasted the boiled rice water but also made the road dirty. She was given caning as punishment. After telling to her the mistakes the King pitied her and so gave her some cash.

Today some of pagodas, monument and villages Tha Lun had founded and built can still be seen in Sagaing. The famous Sagaing Kaung Hmutaw Stupa is a dome shaped on the model of Sanchi Stupa of Emperor Asoka. Close by in its precinct is Metta kan or water tank to supply water for the maintenance of the Pagoda. A big Lake emerged where earth was dug to make fired bricks for the Pagoda. It is now called Yey Myet Kyi In around which many fishermen villages cropped up.

SEE PAGE 9

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Indonesia FM Mrs. Retno LP Marsudi

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mrs. Retno LP Marsudi, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia at Zeyar Thiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

First, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services explained about the true situation of the ARSA extremist terrorist attacks that started in Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships in Rakhine State on 25 August. Afterward, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and the visiting Foreign Minister discussed about humanitarian assistance for conflict areas in Rakhine State. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing poses a documentary photo with Indonesia FM in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA

MNHRC welcomes dropping charges against journalists by Tatmadaw

Myanmar National Human Right Commission released the statement dated on 4th September, welcoming the drop of charges against 3 journalists by the Tatmadaw.

In the statement, it was described that on 26th June one senior reporter from Irrawaddy News Agency and two reporters from Democratic Voice of Burma were filed suit under section 17/1 of unlawful association Act by the Tatmadaw, being kept in Hsipaw penitentiary. MNHRC went to Hsipaw

penitentiary to inspect there in August, interviewing with them and sending reports to the Ministry of Defence, after reviewing over their statements.

On hearing that the Tatmadaw dropped charges against 3 journalists, releasing them, it has been described that the commission welcome it as the Tatmadaw's performance will help strengthen the mutual understanding with news media. —Myanmar News Agency ■

New species discovered along China-Myanmar border

POLYALTHIA yingjiangensis, known in Chinese as Yingjiang An Luo, was named after Yingjiang County in southwest China's Yunnan Province where it was discovered. It belongs to the same botanical family as the custard apple and ylang-ylang, a tree whose fragrant greenish-yellow flowers are used to distill perfume.

"The discovery enriches the diversity of the area," said Tan Yunhong, a botanist from Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Tan and other scientists from Southeast Asian Biodiversity Research Center and South China Botanical Garden discovered the plant during a field survey

in Hongbenghe close to the China-Myanmar border. They believe the new species could also be found in Myanmar.

The Chinese scientists only found 10 plants during the survey conducted in April, 2016. A paper on the finding co-authored by Tan was published in the latest issue of Nordic Journal of Botany.

The plant was originally seen in 1980, but not confirmed as a new species at that time and this was the first time it has been seen again in 36 years, according to Tan.

Polyalthia yingjiangensis has been designated an endangered species, according to classification by the World Conservation Union. Currently there are

only four samples available and the trees are known to grow in three localities, all in Yunnan.

Knowledge about the species is limited, however, scientists hope more field surveys can be done in areas that have not been studied, to help better understand the newly discovered plant.

Tan suggested conservation areas be set up to help preserve the rare species and public awareness be raised to save the plant from extinction. Yingjiang, located in the transitional zone between India-Myanmar and East Himalayan flora, is rich in biodiversity. A large number of new species have been discovered in the region in recent years. —Xinhua ■



Full moon of Tawthalin, Garudhamma Sutta Day

FROM PAGE 8

For division of labour needed for the annual festival of Kaung Hmutaw Pagoda three villages were founded,

1. Siti village which provided music and musical performance at the Pagoda festival,
2. Lethlote village which provided dancers and
3. Swan chet village which

provided rice cookers for donating cooked rice to the monks during the festival.

Rajah mani culla is the official name King Tha Lun gave to the Pagoda. Stone Inscription the King set up at the western entrance of the Pagoda gives a full account of why, when, how and total cost of the building of the Stupa.

We can glean political, economic

and socio cultural data of that time. In the time of King Bodawpaya [ME 1146 — 1784 A.D] royal order of Garudhamma Sutta Day was proclaimed by an officer on the back of the elephant at all corners and directions of inside and outside of the Palace City and across his kingdom to the public [both clergy and laity] to observe and practice.

The happy results of if there

were peace, progress and prosperity. His reign was long lasted. Many foreign envoys arrived including English and French who witnessed peace, progress and prosperity of the country. Four colossi of this King which survive till today are

- (1) the biggest monument Mingun Pagoda
- (2) two gigantic Lion statues
- (3) the biggest ringing Bell

in the world [Mingun Bell] and

(4) the largest water tank into which water is pumped by means of Myanmar traditional mechanism at high tide.

The message of Garudhamma Sutta is that if Pancha Sila is observed and practised by the highest authority at the top [King] to the grass roots peace, progress, prosperity and security would reign. ■

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



Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov. PHOTO: TASS

Russian diplomat warns any misstep in Korean Peninsula area may lead to military outbreak

XIAMEN /China — Any missteps in the Korean Peninsula area may lead to a military outbreak, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told reporters on Monday.

“There should be no room for escalation,” he said. “Those who are smarter and stronger should show restraint. In the current situation, any misstep may lead to a political or military outbreak, rather than to the nuclear test conducted recently, which actually reflects the deteriorating situation in Northeast Asia,” the senior Russian diplomat added.

Ryabkov also said that the

use of political and diplomatic means was the only way to resolve the North Korea issue.

“We believe that Pyongyang should stop its provocative actions, which destabilize the situation, but after saying this, I cannot but point out that this protracted crisis can only be resolved through political and diplomatic means,” he pointed out.

Besides, in Ryabkov’s words, during its contacts with Washington, Moscow continues to emphasize the uselessness of sanctions against Pyongyang. The Russian deputy foreign minister noted that many

of those taking part in discussing the North Korea issue were capable of influencing Pyongyang. According to him, it is possible to affect North Korea by making realistic dialogue suggestions, “in this regard, much depends on our US counterparts, who, unfortunately are still more inclined to use the language of sanctions and threats rather than to search for solutions through diplomatic means.” “This is why it is wrong to make everyone believe that some may exert more pressure while others can exert less, as it will damage efforts to find a political

solution,” the Russian diplomat said. “We speak about it openly, particularly at meetings with our US counterparts,” Ryabkov added.

He pointed out that Russia and China had put forward a number of suggestions aimed at resolving the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The BRICS summit’s final declaration also includes some serious statements condemning the nuclear test, Ryabkov said. “The declaration also says that building a dialogue between all the interested parties is the only way to move forward,” he added.—Tass ■

Norway’s wealth fund seeking to narrow bond portfolio

OSLO — Norway’s \$990 billion sovereign wealth fund, the world’s largest, on Monday proposed to streamline its fixed-income portfolio by shortening maturities and cutting corporate bonds and some 20 currencies from the benchmark it tracks.

If approved by Norway’s Finance Ministry, the changes

would leave only government bonds in US dollars, euros and British pounds as part of the index, which already represents more than 80 per cent of the fund’s fixed-income investments.

The switch would reduce transaction costs and volatility, while having little impact on overall risk, the central

bank, which manages the fund, wrote in a letter to the ministry.

The change would not trigger immediate asset sales, but could lead to a gradual move away from the currencies that are cut from the benchmark, including bonds denominated in Japanese yen, Canadian dollars, Swedish crowns and

Swiss francs, it said.

The fund’s focus has gradually shifted away from government bonds, which represented 100 per cent of its holdings in the 1990s and now stand at 32 per cent.

The plan is to shrink this further in the years to come to give the equities portfolio room to grow.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Swiss ready to play mediator role in North Korea crisis, president says

BERNE — Neutral Switzerland is prepared to act as mediator to help resolve the North Korea crisis, including by hosting ministerial talks, Swiss President Doris Leuthard said on Monday.

Leuthard said Swiss troops were deployed on the demarcation zone between South Korea and North Korea and the country had a long history of neutral diplomacy. But China and the United States had to take their share of responsibility, she added.—Reuters ■

UK ready to intensify Brexit talks — PM May’s spokeswoman

LONDON — Britain is ready to intensify Brexit talks with the European Union but nothing has been formally agreed yet, Prime Minister Theresa May’s spokeswoman said on Monday.

After the end of a new round of talks last week, EU officials said progress had fallen short of what was needed to move negotiations on from divorce issues to discussion of the future relationship between Britain and the bloc.—Reuters ■

.EU executive says Turkish actions rule out membership

BRUSSELS — The actions of the Turkish authorities are making it “impossible” for the country to join the European Union, the EU executive said on Monday after German Chancellor Angela Merkel called for ending accession talks. Quoting European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker from last week, before Merkel’s election campaign comment, the Commission’s chief spokesman told a regular news briefing: “Turkey is taking giant strides away from Europe and that is making it impossible for Turkey to join the European Union.”—Reuters ■

China pledges new funding for BRICS as group opposes protectionism

XIAMEN, China — China will give \$80 million in funding for BRICS cooperation plans, Chinese President Xi Jinping said on Monday, while the bloc of five emerging countries pledged to oppose protectionism.

Xi offered 500 million yuan (\$76.4 million) for a BRICS economic and technology cooperation plan, and another \$4 million for projects at the group's New Development Bank (NDB) during a three-day leaders summit in the southeastern city of Xiamen.

China's new contributions to BRICS pale in comparison to its \$124 billion pledge earlier in May for Xi's own Belt and Road initiative, which aims to expand links between Asia, Africa, Europe and beyond as a new way to boost global development.

The announcement came amid questions over the relevance of BRICS and China's commitment to the NDB in light of the Belt and Road initiative and the China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, both key efforts by Beijing to bolster its global influence.

Xi said during a plenary session at the BRICS leaders' summit that the five emerging economies — Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — should increase cooperation in sectors such as trade and investment, monetary policy and finance, and sustainable development.

"We should redouble our efforts to comprehensively deepen BRICS partnerships and open



(L-R) Brazil's President Michel Temer, Russia's President Vladimir Putin, China's President Xi Jinping, South Africa's President Jacob Zuma and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi take part in a ceremony opening the BRICS Cultural Festival in Xiamen, China on 4 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRICS cooperation," he said.

Set up in 2015 as an alternative to the World Bank, the Shanghai-headquartered NDB was seen as the first major BRICS achievement after the group came together in 2009 to press for a bigger say in the post-World War Two financial order created by Western powers.

The BRICS leaders will gather in Xiamen through Tuesday, giving host China its latest chance to position itself as a bulwark of globalisation in the face of US President Donald Trump's "America First" agenda.

A draft "Xiamen Declaration" seen by Reuters, a formal version of which is expected to be issued later, said BRICS countries will continue to firmly oppose protectionism as they are committed to an "open and inclusive" multilateral trading system.

The communique emphasised the need to be vigilant in guarding against "inward-looking policies" that could hurt global market confidence, and called upon all countries to fully implement the Paris climate agreement.

The summit has been overshadowed by North Korea's sixth and most powerful nuclear test, which came on Sunday just hours before Xi opened the meeting with a keynote speech, and prompted a vow of a "massive" military response from the United States if it or its allies were threatened.

Though China's Foreign Ministry has condemned the test, Xi did not mention North Korea during that 45-minute address or in his televised remarks during Monday's plenary session.

The BRICS grouping said

in its draft communique that it strongly deplored Pyongyang's test, but that the problem over its nuclear programme should only be settled through peaceful means and dialogue.

"We express deep concern over the ongoing tension and prolonged nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula," it said.

North Korea tested two ICBMs in July that could fly about 10,000 km (6,200 miles), putting many parts of the US mainland within range and prompting a new round of tough international sanctions. —Reuters ■

New Zealand's trade with ASEAN prosperous: statistics

WELLINGTON — New Zealand's two-way trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) was 15.2 billion NZ dollars (10.9 billion US dollars) in the year ended June 2017, the statistics department Stats NZ said on Monday.

Goods and services exported to ASEAN countries totaled 6.3 billion NZ dollars, and imports totaled 8.9 billion NZ dollars, Stats NZ said.

Dairy products, including milk powder and cheese, were the main goods exported from New Zealand to ASEAN, fol-

lowed by meat, logs, fruit, and wood pulp and waste paper, Stats NZ said.

Petroleum and related products was New Zealand's largest goods import from ASEAN in the year, with most of these petroleum imports coming from Singapore, it said.

Since 2013, the value of vehicles and parts imported from ASEAN has doubled to reach 1.3 billion NZ dollars in the year ended June 2017, the majority of which were from Thailand, Stats NZ said. —Xinhua

China, Malaysia aim for bigger trade volume with port alliance

KUALA LUMPUR — China-Malaysia Port Alliance, which was established in 2015 to facilitate connectivity under the Belt and Road Initiative, accepted five new members on Monday as both countries aim for bigger trade volume.

Port authorities from China's Qingdao and Tianjin as well as from Malaysia's Kemaman, Sabah and Kuching were added to the 16-member organization, bringing the total number of members to 21. Liu Peng, a senior official with China's transport

ministry, said the alliance has become a platform for ports from both countries to share information and learn from each other.

He cited the new shipping routes between the two countries, higher throughput capacity and higher investments in each other's ports such as China's investment in Melaka Gateway and Kuantan Port and Malaysia's investment in Weifang Port.

The formation of the port alliance between six Malaysian ports and 10 Chinese ports was intended to pave the way for co-

operation in various disciplines including port studies, training and apprenticeship, technical assistance, exchange of information, traffic development and promotion of trade services between ports, said Malaysia's Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai when launching the annual meeting.

The port alliance can become "an avenue for both countries and our ports to learn and share best practices and knowledge which will enhance operational efficiency and reduce the cost of doing business," said Liow. —Xinhua

Merkel survives challenger's onslaught to win election TV debate

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel appeared to hold her ground in a television debate ahead of German elections, under attack from her Social Democrat (SPD) rival on refugee policy, ties with Turkey and her handling of US President Donald Trump.

Merkel was some 14 points ahead of Martin Schulz in opinion polls before the debate. A survey by Infratest Dimap for ARD television showed her overall performance was viewed as more convincing by 55 per cent, compared to 35 per cent for Schulz.

Three weeks from voting day, centre-left contender Schulz went on the offensive from the outset of the

97-minute debate - his only televised duel with Merkel, who looked rattled at times but showed enough authority to win.

Schulz, 61, outfoxed Merkel on ties with Turkey and bounced her into beefing up her rhetoric by vowing to stop Ankara's bid to join the European Union if he was elected chancellor.

After initially cautioning against pulling the plug on accession talks right now, Merkel returned to the issue of Turkey even when the moderators had moved on to a question about US President Donald Trump's policy towards North Korea.

"It is clear that Turkey should not become a member of the EU," she



German Chancellor Angela Merkel of the Christain Democratic Union (CDU) and her challenger, Germany's Social Democratic Party SPD candidate for chancellor Martin Schulz, take part in a TV debate in Berlin, Germany on 3 September, 2017. —Reuters

said after Schulz made his pledge to stop Ankara's accession bid.

"I'll speak to my (EU) colleagues to see if we can reach a joint position on

this so that we can end these accession talks," Merkel, 63, added in comments likely to worsen already strained ties with Ankara. In their exchange

on Trump and North Korea, Schulz accused the US president of "bringing the world to the brink of crisis with his tweets" and said Germany should work with its European partners, Canada, Mexico and Trump's domestic US opponents. Merkel, seeking a fourth term, responded by deploying her credentials as a global stateswoman, saying she had spoken to French President Emmanuel Macron about North Korea on Sunday and would talk to Trump as well as leaders from Russia, China, Japan and South Korea in the coming days.

"I don't think that one can solve this conflict without the American President," she said. "But

I think one must say in the clearest terms that for us, there can only be a peaceful diplomatic solution."

Her show of experience appeared to work with voters. The ARD poll showed that 49 per cent of those surveyed viewed Merkel as being more credible while 29 per cent favoured Schulz.

Merkel has been chancellor since 2005 and is widely seen as Europe's most influential politician.

She has weathered storms over mass immigration and financial and political turmoil in the European Union, while the SPD, Germany's oldest party, has struggled to promote a strong rival. —Reuters ■

McDonald's workers stage company's first strike in Britain

LONDON — Workers at two McDonald's restaurants staged the first strike to hit the company in Britain in a protest over pay and other issues on Monday.

Fourteen workers at restaurants in Cambridge and Crayford, in London, went on strike to demand an increase in pay to 10 pounds (\$13) an hour, an end to so-called zero-hour contracts which offer no fixed hours, and more trade union recognition.

A spokesman for McDonald's, which has operated in Britain since 1974, said the strikers represented less than half of the 33 union members who were balloted and the stated reason for the strike related to internal grievance procedures and not pay or contracts.

He said the company and its franchisees were offering staff the option of a guaranteed hour contract but so far 86 per cent of its employees had chosen to



People walk past a McDonalds restaurant in Dartford, southern Britain on 4 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

stay on flexible contracts.

A union representing the workers said it also wanted trained shop stewards to monitor stores across Britain.

Two managers in the Cambridge branch of the restaurant were suspended this year for bullying and harassment,

the union said.

Monday's action coincides with strikes in the United States and Belgium.

Small demonstrations in support of the striking McDonald's workers were taking place in 14 locations in Britain.

Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of Britain's main opposition Labour Party, said he supported "the brave McDonald's workers, who are making history today. They are standing up for workers' rights by leading the first ever strike at McDonald's in the UK." —Reuters ■

Brazilian police target gangs shipping cocaine to Europe

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazilian authorities were serving 127 arrest warrants in six states on Monday as part of a year-long investigation into international drug traffickers who have shipped at least six tonnes of cocaine to European cities, federal police said.

Operating out of the Brazilian ports of Santos, Salvador and Itajaí, the drug gangs sent the co-

caine to Antwerp in Belgium, Gioia Tauro in Italy and Valencia in Spain, police said. The US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) collaborated in the investigation, Brazilian police said in a statement.

The warrants were being served in the states of São Paulo, Minas Gerais, Santa Catarina, Paraná, Rio Grande do Sul and the Federal District. —Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV LEADER SW VOY. NO (EAL V3)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LEADER SW VOY. NO (EAL V3) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.9.2017 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 ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301191, 2301178



Damaged buildings and houses are seen as government troops continue their assault on its 105th day of clearing operations against pro-IS militants who have seized control of large parts of Marawi city, southern Philippines on 4 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Philippine army says taking fire from women, children in Marawi battle

MARAWI CITY, (Philippines) — Philippine troops fighting Islamic State-linked rebels in a southern city have encountered armed resistance from women and children, the military said on Monday, as troops make a final push to end a conflict that has raged for more than 100 days.

Ground forces were braced for higher casualties amid fierce fighting in Marawi City on the island of Mindanao, where the field of battle has shrank to a small area in a commercial heart infested with snipers, and littered with booby traps.

“We are now in the final phase of our operations

and we are expecting more intense and bloody fighting. We may suffer heavier casualties as the enemy becomes more desperate,” Lieutenant General Carlito Galvez, who heads the military in Western Mindanao, told reporters.

He said the number of fighters was diminishing and a small number of women and children, most likely family members of the rebels, were now engaged in combat.

“Our troops in the field are seeing women and children shooting at our troops so that’s why it seems they are not running out of fighters.”

More than 800 people have been killed in the

battle, most of them insurgents, since 23 May when the militants occupied large parts of the predominantly Muslim town.

The battle is the biggest security challenge in years for the mostly Catholic Philippines, even though it has a long history of Muslim separatist rebellion in Mindanao, an island of 22 million people that has been placed under martial law until the end of the year. The protracted clashes and resilience of the rebels has fanned fears that Philippine groups loyal to Islamic State, and with ties to Indonesian and Malaysian militants, have formed an alliance that is well-organised, funded and

armed, and serious about carving out its own territory in Mindanao. Citing information provided by four hostages who had escaped from the rebels, Galvez said there were some 56 Christian hostages — 2 most of them women - and about 80 male residents may have been forced to take up arms and fight the military.

The fighting was concentrated in an area around a mosque about a quarter of a square kilometre. He said soldiers were taking control of an average 35 buildings a day and at that rate, it could be three weeks before the city was under government control.—Reuters ■

N Korea ready for more missile, nuclear tests: South Korean spy agency

SEOUL — South Korea’s spy agency said Monday it believes that North Korea is ready to carry out another nuclear test at any time, and may test-launch an intercontinental ballistic missile again around key anniversaries including one at the weekend. The National Intelligence Service said during a briefing to parliament’s intelligence committee that analysis based on two of the four tunnels of the North’s Punggye-ri nuclear test site in the northeast showed that a nuclear test is always possible, according to lawmakers who attended the briefing.

Tensions remain high on the Korean Peninsula following Pyongyang’s sixth and most powerful to date nuclear test on Sunday, sparking calls for stronger sanctions against North Korea, which continues to defy international warnings not to launch missiles or nuclear tests.

Citing the spy agency’s assessment, Yonhap News Agency reported that North Korea may fire an ICBM “on a standard trajectory toward the North Pacific around its key anniversary.” The agency told the committee that the ICBM may be fired around 9 September, the anniversary of North

Korea’s founding, or 10 October, the anniversary of the founding of the ruling Workers’ Party of Korea. “There is a possibility that the North would fire an ICBM on a standard trajectory,” the agency was quoted as saying by lawmakers, according to Yonhap. According to the lawmakers, who told the media about the agency’s assessment during the closed-door session, the latest nuclear test took place in the same tunnel as that of the second to fifth nuclear tests, and there is information that the tunnel has collapsed.

But the intelligence agency said that it is closely watching relevant activities, as there are other tunnels that could be used to carry out nuclear tests.

The lawmakers said the test is estimated to have had a yield of around 50 kilotons. Whether North Korea successfully detonated a hydrogen bomb, as it claims, is still being investigated.

North Korea has repeatedly defied international warnings to launch missiles. Pyongyang fired two ICBM tests, both in July, on a lofted trajectory. According to Yonhap, the North fired them on a “lofted angle to prevent them from crossing over other countries including Japan.”—Kyodo News ■

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 5.9.2017 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 MCC MERGUI VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV CONTI LAPISLAZULI VOY. NO (0682)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CONTI LAPISLAZULI VOY. NO (0682) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 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 CHUN AN SHIPPING
PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

Britain's Royal Mail unveils new stamps celebrating Star Wars movie

LONDON — A set of official British postage stamps that are out of this world landed on Monday to celebrate the latest Star Wars movie.

Droids and aliens from Star Wars: The Last Jedi are featured in the eight special stamps unveiled by Royal Mail.

Four "droid" stamps use special fluorescent ink to feature secret details that will only become visible under an ultra violet light.

The stamps feature images that appear in the iconic film series, including a mix of new and classic characters, Maz Kanata; Chewbacca; Supreme Leader Snoke; Porgs; BB-8; R2-D2; C-3PO; and K-2SO.

They have been illustrated by British artist Malcolm Tween who also designed the hugely popular Star Wars stamp set is-

sued in 2015.

Each stamp shows a scene created by Tween especially for the stamps that also includes the hero character as well as an iconic spaceship or vehicle.

A spokeswoman for Royal Mail said the stamps hail the British expertise behind the Star Wars films as each episode was made with a large British cast and crew.

Star Wars fans can pre-order the stamps from Monday, but they will not go on sale at Britain's 7,000 post offices until 12 October.

Added the Royal Mail spokeswoman: The new stamps

reflect the passion of the British public. Characters featured in the stamps include the wise, boisterous figure of Maz Kanata,

over a thousand years old and an ex-pirate herself. She holds court within the galaxy's underworld: smugglers, bounty hunters and thieves.

Another stamp focuses on small, flightless birds called Porgs, native to the remote planet Ahch-To, where Luke Skywalker is living in exile.

Meanwhile, the trusty little droid R2-D2 gets his own stamp after an adventurous life, first on board Queen Amidala's ship during the Battle of Naboo, then in the Clone Wars alongside Anakin Skywalker, and with Luke Skywalker in the fight against the Empire. —Xinhua ■



A woman dressed as Rey from the upcoming Star Wars movie "The Last Jedi" poses for a photograph in front of an image of a solar eclipse. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Rap star Lil Wayne suffers seizures, is hospitalized: reports



Rap star Lil Wayne. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

CHICAGO — Grammy-winning rap star Lil Wayne was taken to hospital on Sunday after suffering a seizure and being found unconscious in his Chicago hotel room, TMZ said on its web site.

Lil Wayne, 34, who has become one of the biggest names in rap music over a two-decade career, suffered a second seizure at the hospital, TMZ added, and his representative confirmed to the site that he had suffered multiple seizures.

Reuters could not reach representatives of the rapper to confirm the report.

The incident comes more than a year after the rap star, whose Grammy wins include the best rap album award in 2008 for "Tha Carter III," was treated after suffering what his representatives called two minor seizures.

Four years ago Lil Wayne, whose given name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr, spent several days at a Los Angeles hospital, after which he told radio station Power 106 he was epileptic and prone to seizures.

Lil Wayne had been set to perform in Las Vegas late on Sunday night. The New Orleans-born rapper began his professional career aged nine, when he became the youngest artist to be signed by Cash Money Records. —Reuters ■

Walter Becker, Steely Dan's jazz-loving co-founder, dead at 67

LOS ANGELES — Walter Becker, co-founder of the influential jazz-rock band Steely Dan, died on Sunday at age 67, according to his website, which did not disclose the cause of death.

Becker, who played lead guitar, formed Steely Dan with Donald Fagen, its keyboardist and lead vocalist. In its heyday in the 1970s, the band scored hits with "Reelin' in the Years," "Do It Again," "Rikki Don't Lose That Number" and "Deacon Blues."

Born in New York City in 1950, Becker grew up revering the jazz giants Charlie Parker, Duke Ellington and John Coltrane. He and Fagen would bond over their love of this music after meeting as students at Bard College in New York in 1967.

"We started writing nutty little tunes on an upright piano in a small sitting room in the lobby of Ward Manor, a moldering old mansion on the Hudson River



Steely Dan members Walter Becker (L) and Donald Fagen (R) won Best Pop Vocal Album for "Two Against Nature" at the 43rd annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles on 21 February, 2001. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

that the college used as a dorm," Fagen said in a statement on Sunday published by Variety.

After working as touring musicians they moved to Los Angeles, releasing the first Steely Dan album in 1972, "Can't Buy a Thrill." The band took their name from a fanciful dildo that

appears in the beat novelist William S Burroughs' "Naked Lunch."

The band was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland in 2001, where their official biography describes their 1970s albums as "wry, nuanced and hyper-literate" that are

"highly regarded by connoisseurs of pop hooks, jazz harmony and desiccating wit."

Fagen described his bandmate on Sunday as "cynical about human nature, including his own, and hysterically funny."

"Like a lot of kids from fractured families, he had the knack of creative mimicry, reading people's hidden psychology and transforming what he saw into bubbly, incisive art," Fagen's statement said.

After a long hiatus, the band reunited in the late 1990s to record its first studio album in 20 years, according to the Steely Dan website. That album, "Two Against Nature," would go on to win Album of the Year in 2000 at the Grammy Awards.

Becker missed concerts earlier in the year as he recovered from an unspecified medical procedure, Fagen told Billboard. —Reuters ■

Chinese young filmmakers in spotlight at Venice Film Festival

VENICE, Italy — Chinese young filmmakers were in the spotlight at the Venice Film Festival within the second edition of the "Focus on China" forum, a side event running from Thursday to Sunday here at the Lido island.

Aimed at further promoting the Chinese film industry at global level, and boosting co-productions, the initiative this year offered a specific "Young Filmmakers Training Programme".

The whole forum was co-or-

ganized by Xinhuanet and Italian National Association of Film, Audiovisual, and Multimedia Industries (ANICA), and the program targeting towards Chinese young talents received some 200 films and about 300 scripts, ac-

cording to general manager of Xinhuanet Europe Pan Zhi. "The idea of getting young talents involved came from Xinhuanet, and I think it was indeed successful," director of ANICA International Dept. Roberto Stabile said at a

themed symposium organized on Saturday. Young filmmakers would better understand the crucial importance of co-productions in the film industry compared to prominent authors, according to the official. —Reuters ■

Japan Post mulls drone parcel transportation between post offices

TOKYO — Japan Post Co said on Monday it is considering using drones to move packages between post offices, possibly from next year, amid an increasing shortage of delivery workers. The envisioned project by the mail and package delivery unit of state-owned Japan Post Holdings Co comes in the wake of e-commerce operator Rakuten Inc and major parcel delivery provider Yamato Holdings Co testing drone deliveries, but safety concerns remain about the new delivery method.

Japan Post is considering using drones in step with the Japanese government's pro-growth plan under which drone use is eyed for parcel delivery in mountainous regions in 2018 and in urban areas in the 2020s. "We are aiming to fly drones between post offices in mountainous areas and remote islands," Japan Post Executive Vice President Seiki Fukuda said at a press conference on Monday. In order for drone delivery to be put to practical use, Fukuda said, "how far regulations will be loosened"

will be important. Japan Post is planning drone delivery in rural areas because there is a smaller risk of the machine falling on people on the ground and because at post offices, workers will be able to receive packages directly. But the company will also need to ensure that drones do not hit electricity wires or lose packages. In fiscal 2016, Japan Post carried out experimental drone deliveries, aiming to deliver packages to doorsteps at some point in the future. On Monday the company also started

seeking innovative business plans including drone delivery for startup firms. It will offer locations to test drones and consider providing capital. In 2016, Rakuten tested drone delivery in Chiba city near Tokyo, flying drones loaded with packages between condominiums. Rakuten is aiming to eventually deliver products ordered through its online shopping mall. Yamato Holdings also tested delivering small packages in Fukushima Prefecture in north-eastern Japan in March. —Kyodo News ■

Laughing in crisis, Venezuelan acts out dissident Ortega's tale

CARACAS — Laughing at their own tribulations, Venezuelan theatergoers have been enjoying a new satire about a senior official who broke with President Nicolas Maduro and fled the socialist-ruled country in a boat. Former chief state prosecutor Luisa Ortega has been one of the protagonists in this year's political crisis in Venezuela, denouncing rights abuses and corruption before finally going into hiding and moving to Colombia in mid-August.

ty forces surrounded the building. Jokes fly about corruption, Maduro, and Ortega's own precipitous fall from power. "We use humor as a defense mechanism," Benmoha, 35, told Reuters on Friday night, minutes before going on stage for her sellout show. "It's our way to survive, to breathe, to entertain ourselves but also to reflect." Venezuelans have had little to laugh about this year. A fourth year of recession and runaway inflation have pummeled households, with shortages and hunger widespread. Months of opposition-led protests led to about 130 deaths and thousands of injuries. Having first fled to Aruba in a speedboat, Ortega has been traveling round Latin America denouncing the Maduro government, which in turn has accused her of corruption. While Venezuela's opposition has applauded her stance against Maduro, activists also remember she was until recently a pillar of the socialist government and that her office had spearheaded its jailing of political foes.—Reuters ■

Mexico breaks world record with 3-tonne guacamole

CONCEPCION DE BUENOS AIRES, (Mexico) — The recipe for a record-breaking guacamole?

25,000 avocados and 1,000 people to mash them. That is what avocado growers in Mexico's

Jalisco state mobilized on Sunday to break the world record for the biggest guacamole, a whopping 3 tonnes (6,600 lbs) of delicious dip made from "green gold."

United States were meeting in the Mexican capital this weekend to revamp the 23-year-old NAFTA accord that Trump has threatened to end if he does not get concessions to curb a trade deficit with Mexico.



Volunteers from a culinary school mix mashed avocados as they attempt to set a new Guinness World Record for the largest serving of guacamole in Concepcion de Buenos Aires, Jalisco, Mexico on 3 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

The mass mash-up was part entertainment and part politicking, as growers and Mexico make the point that they — and the guacamole loving Americans — have benefited from the North American Free Trade Agreement that is now under threat from US President Donald Trump. Negotiators from Canada, Mexico and the

Some 80 per cent of US avocado consumption comes from Mexico's growing expanse of orchards. Jalisco has become the second biggest producer of the Hass variety in Mexico behind Michoacan state, according to producers. —Reuters ■

Dressed in a blonde wig and Ortega's trademark office suit, actress Mercedes Benmoha recreates some well-known scenes — and imagines others — in a 15-minute show called "The Prosecutor," which is proving popular at a small venue in a mall. Benmoha, who happens to be a lawyer like her subject, acts out a news conference and an imaginary phone call with Ortega's nemesis, state election board head and diehard Maduro ally Tibisay Lucena. She also recreates the once-powerful Ortega's attempt to re-enter her office after authorities fired her and securi-



Mercedes Benmoha dressed as Venezuela's former chief prosecutor Luisa Ortega speaks to a colleague before the play "La Fiscal" (The Prosecutor) in Caracas, Venezuela on 1 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(4-9-2017 07:00am -5-9-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	The Longest Living Siblings (Part-2)
07:46	Am	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part-I)
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	19 Hours
08:49	Am	Mobile House
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw
09:44	Am	Young Talents: Animator Swan Thura Htun
09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: Communication for Development

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Gardener: King Orange Plantation
10:40	Am	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture The Golden Land

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day out With Sarah (Ep-4)
07:50	Pm	Now in Yangon
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad)
07:44	Pm	Young Lady Musician: Nge Nge Lay

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

Marvelous start of Thailand and Malaysia, struggling win of Singapore

Kyaw Zin Lin

Thailand and Malaysia made a fabulous start to their campaign in Group A of the AFF Under-18 Championship in Yangon, Myanmar with overcoming their opponents easily.

Thailand trounced Timor Leste 3-0 at the Thuwunna Stadium while Malaysia dumped Laos 4-1 at the Aung San Stadium.

Thailand gained the victory over Timor Leste as they rarely allowed the latter a real crack at goal.

Bounphachan Bounkong pulled a goal back for Laos with

a strike after three minutes into the second half.

In the meantime, the Malaysians gained the victory with Muhammad Hadi Fayyadh Abdul Razak 28 and 90 minutes and Muhammad Akhyar Abdul Rashid 45 and 90 grabbing a brace each.

It was also a bruiser of a match as Singapore overcame Cambodia 5-3 in the late game of the evening in Group A at the Thuwunna Stadium which saw the rain mercilessly pouring throughout the encounter.

Host Myanmar will play against Indonesia today 6pm at Thuwunna Stadium. ■



Thailand and Timor Leste players vying for the ball in yesterday match. **PHOTO: AFF**



Members of chinlone team showing their skillful performance at Wunna Theikdhi Indoor Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: PUBLIC SPORTS AND EDUCATIVE DEPARTMENT**

Regions and States chinlone competition 2017 holds in Nay Pyi Taw

In promoting the skills of chinlone athletes in Myanmar, Regions and States chinlone competition was started at Wunna Theikdhi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Officials from Sports and Physical Education Department and Myanmar chinlone Federation attended the opening ceremony of chinlone competition.

The competition is intended to produce of good chinlone athletes, to promote the inter-

est of chinlone in Myanmar and to attain the success in chinlone in international competition. Myanmar chinlone teams have won 2 gold medals in 29th SEA Games and 8 gold medals in 28th SEA Games

"Chinlone has taken a prominent role in Myanmar for about 1,500 years. Chinlone is purely Myanmar traditional sport. Its style is performance-based because it was first created as a means of entertaining Burmese royalty.

The understanding among the chinlone players is the most important thing while playing chinlone," said U Myo Hlaing, Director General for Sport and Physical Education Department.

A total of 109 chinlone athletes from the different regions and states have been participating in the competition.

The competition will be ongoing till 7 September. — Public Sports and Educative Department ■

Myanmar-Kyrgyzstan AFC Asian Cup 2019 Qualifier called off

Kyaw Zin Lin

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) has been informed by the Football Federation of the Kyrgyz Republic that the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic has advised them that the AFC Asian Cup 2019 Final Round Group (A) qualifying match between Kyrgyz Republic and Myanmar should not take place in Bishkek today due to increased security concerns.

The match was canceled by the decision of Prime Minister Sapar Isakov and because of the potential threat of a ter-

rorist act according to Kyrgyzstan's football federation.

The head of Kyrgyzstan's football federation Semetei Sultanov said the match may be held in another country.

The AFC has decided to postpone the match following this advice to protect safety and security which can never be compromised and will now discuss the situation with the relevant AFC Committees.

On March 29, Kyrgyzstan in the first match defeated the national team of Macau with a score of 1: 0, in the second match, lost to the team of India with a score of 0: 1. ■

Lukaku sends Belgium to World Cup with 2-1 win in Greece

ATHENS — Belgium became the first European team to qualify for next year's World Cup when a Romelu Lukaku header gave them a 2-1 win away to Greece on Sunday with the goals coming in a five-minute second-half spell.

Belgium became the sixth team to make sure of their place at the 2018 tournament alongside Brazil, Japan, Iran and Mexico, plus Russia who qualified automatically as hosts. The win left Belgium with 22 points from eight games at the top of Group H, eight clear of Bosnia who won 4-0 away to Gibraltar. They each have two games to play.

The winners of the nine European groups qualify directly



Belgium's Romelu Lukaku. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

and the best eight runners-up play off for four more places. Belgium were missing defender Vincent Kompany after he took a knock in the 9-0 win over Gibraltar on Thursday while Eden Hazard started on the bench. Greece managed to stifle Belgium with a five-man defence

in the first half and twice came close to scoring on the break. Anastasios Donis surged forward from midfield and tested Thibaut Courtois, then Konstantinos Stafylidis produced a thumping drive which was heading for the top corner until the goalkeeper tipped it away.—Reuters ■