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# THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 142, 1<sup>st</sup> Waning of Tawthalin 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Wednesday, 6 September 2017



President U Htin Kyaw and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspect the honour guard at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Red carpet welcome for Indian PM

### President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with India's Modi

Visiting Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi started his three-day official visit to Myanmar with a red carpet welcome by President U Htin Kyaw at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Mr. Narendra Modi and

party arrived Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening for a visit from 5 to 7 September. Following the inspection of the Guard of Honour, the two leaders held talks at the Presidential Palace.

At the meeting, the

two sides discussed effective implementation of the current projects between the two countries, extending mutual support to each other at the regional and international fora and fighting terrorism.

Also present together with President U Htin Kyaw at the meeting were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Kyaw Tint Swe, Thura U Aung Ko, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr Than Myint and U Win Khaing, Minister of State

for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Ambassador of Myanmar to India U Maung Wai while the Indian delegation was accompanied by Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Shri Vikram Misri.

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## Terrorists attack security forces, burn Maungtau homes

THE ARSA Extremist terrorist group ambushed security forces on Monday at two villages in Maungtau, Rakhine State, leaving one terrorist dead.

About 20 extremists attacked security forces at

Ducheertan Village (East) at about 4:30 pm and set fire to houses in the village before retreating. According to a police source in Maungtau, this was done in order to make it appear as if security forces destroyed

the houses. This could not be independently confirmed.

The Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) extremist terrorists also set fire to more than 100 houses in Yaymyat-taung Village yesterday, ac-

cording to police sources.

Meanwhile, about 10 armed terrorists attacked security forces at Jintaw Village yesterday, according to a government information committee.—Myanmar News Agency

**LOCAL BUSINESS**

Yangon Stock Exchange value increased in August

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# Water resources committee holds coordination meeting

U Henry Van Thio, Vice President and Chairman of the National Water Resources Committee, attended and delivered a speech at the third future work programme coordination meeting of the National Water Resources Committee at the Presidential Palace yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The meeting was attended by Vice Chairman of the National Water Resources Committee and Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Sin Maung, Member and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt.Gen Ye Aung, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, states and regions ministers, permanent secretaries, director generals and officials.

In his speech, the Vice President said this is the third future work programme coordination meeting of the National Water Resources Committee as well as a general meeting attended by all committee members. The future work programme coordination meeting was held for nationwide development of water-related sectors and to discuss and coordinate effective management and utilisation of water resources. It was also held for effective coop-



U Henry Van Thio delivers a speech at the third future work programme coordination meeting of the National Water Resources Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

eration in water-related works conducted by relevant ministerial organisations, state and region governments and to discuss future work programmes.

The National Water Resources Committee successfully held a World Water Day event in March. Water-related works decided in coordination meetings were also being worked on by relevant officials, ministries and departments. Monthly progress and work done by ministerial departments related to a national-level water policy were assessed and requirements were coordinated. In order to systematically collect countrywide basic infrastructure

data related to water, relevant ministerial departments need to assess and send annual changes in data, said the Vice President.

The Vice President added that the committee needed to make investments for the people in the water-related sector; reduce water-related natural disasters, ensure sustainable water utilisation, cooperate with neighbouring countries in trans-national rivers, obtain water-related information and technology and cooperate for mutual benefit, compile, collect and distribute water related data and information, conduct water-related educational work

and capacity building work, support and participate in drawing and implementing projects and water-related cooperation with international organisations.

The committee is working together with the Asia Pacific Water Forum to successfully host the 3rd Asia-Pacific Water Forum from 11 to 12 December 2017, an important meeting for international cooperation within the Asia-Pacific region, he said. Forum organising committees and work committees were formed and duties assigned while sub-committees will also be formed, said the Vice President.

All must cooperate and work

together to implement an all-round management system for effective water resources and all are urged to cooperate and work together to protect, conserve and develop water resources in the country, he said. The Vice Chairman of the National Water Resources Committee later explained about completed work, future work programmes and the Ayeyawady River basin all-round management project.

Afterward, the committee secretary Director-General of the Department of Water Resources and Rivers Development U Tun Lwin Oo explained the work of the committee and future works.

National Water Resources Committee advisory group members then discussed and suggested how to determine potable water quality, draw up a national water law, and utilise above-ground and underground water for economic development.

Officials from ministerial departments, state and region governments and municipal committees who were attending the meeting explained water-related works and cooperation. Meeting attendees also suggested future work of the National Water Resources Committee. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat holds talks with UNICEF Myanmar representative in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker receives UNICEF Representative

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat received UNICEF Myanmar representative at office in the Pyithu Hluttaw Building, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the

two officials discussed cooperative efforts to implement UNICEF programs in Myanmar for education, health, nutrition, water and hygiene and child protection. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Search on for Tatmadaw G-4 jet trainer lost during flight

The Tatmadaw is searching for a military jet that went missing during a training flight yesterday about 36 miles northwest of Patheingyi, the capital of Ayeyawady Region, according to a statement by the

Tatmadaw Commander-in-Chief's Office.

The jet trainer, which was piloted by Major Kaung Htike, lost contact with flight control at approximately 9:18 am.

The Soko G-4, alternately

known as the Super Seagull or N-62, is a one-seat military trainer aircraft first introduced by Serbia in 1983.

The two-seater jets cost about \$4 million a piece. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Officials disburse aid to displaced people in Maungtau

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement and the Rakhine State government yesterday provided displaced people in Minkamaung Village, Maungtau Township, Rakhine with food and supplies.

The aid operation was been overseen yesterday by the deputy minister for the Office of the State Counsellor.



Myanmar Red Cross Society's members loading food aids. **PHOTO: MNA**

During the trip, a teacher, four women staff of General Administrative Department and a

child was taken back to Sittway by helicopter. — Myanmar News Agency ■





State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi (Right) welcomes Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi (Center) at the dinner hosted by President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



President U Htin Kyaw and Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi hold talks at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

## President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with India's Modi

### FROM PAGE-1

Following the meeting, President U Htin Kyaw and First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin hosted a dinner in honour of the Indian delegation at the Presidential Palace.

Also present at the dinner were State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice President U Hnery Van Thio and wife Dr Shwe Hlwan, Union ministers, deputy ministers and officials.

In his speech at the dinner, President U Htin Kyaw said Myanmar and India share more

than a common border as neighbours.

Not only have the two countries' historical and cultural linkages bonded them together but also their common experience in struggling for independence made the two countries closer, he said.

"This has been evident through close interactions between our founding fathers: Mahatma Gandhi and General Aung San, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Prime Minister U Nu during our struggle for independence and thenceforth," said U Htin Kyaw.

He also expressed thanks to the Indian government for all the support and assistance extended to Myanmar for socio-economic development, infrastructure development and capacity building in Myanmar.

The president continued to say that India's recent donation of H1N1 vaccines for the people of Myanmar and the renovation project of the Ananda Pagoda and an additional 92 pagodas in Bagan demonstrate the genuine goodwill of India.

On behalf of the Myanmar Government, President U Htin Kyaw appreciated India's Act

East Policy and Neighbourhood First Policy saying that these policies play an instrumental role in cementing not only our existing friendly relations, but also in expanding ASEAN-India dialogue relations.

"We also congratulate India for its endeavours to host the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi on 25 January 2018.

Speaking at the dinner, Mr Modi recounted the close linkages for the past 70 years between the two countries and common experiences the two countries have had in struggling for inde-

pendence.

He pledged to strengthen the current friendly bilateral relations and to make further cooperation in the infrastructure, communications, health and capacity building sectors.

Mr Modi also expressed India's willingness to assist in the socio-economic sector of Myanmar, appreciating the efforts of Myanmar for achieving peace in the country.

The Indian Prime Minister and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw International Airport at 4:47 pm and were welcomed by Union Minister for Construction and Electricity and Energy U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vikram Misri and wife.

The Indian Prime Minister arrived in Myanmar after attending the 9<sup>th</sup> BRICS Summit attended by the heads of state and heads of government from the five member states of Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The BRICS meeting was held in China from 3 to 5 September.

In 2014, the Prime Minister came to Myanmar to attend the ASEAN-India Summit. This is the Prime Minister's first official state visit to Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Indian Prime Minister Mr Narendra Modi speaks at the dinner hosted by President U Htin Kyaw in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**



GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com  
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the Global New  
Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at  
No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan  
Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light  
of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No.  
00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com  
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that do not exceed 500 words. Should  
you submit a text longer than 500 words  
please be aware that your letter will be  
edited.

A passenger gets on a circular train at Yangon Central Railway Station. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## Passengers suggest better train services

Train passengers were quoted in Myanma Railways (MR) complaining about the condition of decades old locomotives, coaches and signaling systems in Myawady Daily newspaper yesterday.

Passengers complained of frequent delays and poor upkeep and cleanliness of the circular trains.

"Passengers face train delays because MR uses locomotives and coaches man-

ufactured around 1960," said U Ba Myint, MR General Manager. "Passengers do not get timely information because MR has no information system. We plan to install an information system to provide timely information to passengers. Later on, when all systems are upgraded there won't be any train delays. All these will be implemented with the assistance of the Japanese engineers."

MR intends to begin upgrading its equipment and systems in October with the installation of alarm systems and the purchase of new coaches.

"Upon completion of the project, circular trains will complete their routes in only 1 hour and 50 minutes for 38 stations instead of running two hours 50 minutes," said U Thurein Win, the managing director of MR.—GNLM ■



Land market in Dala Township is still cool. PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR

## Real estate market still cool in Dala Tsp

Real-estate market in Dala Township is still cool despite the announcement of the Yangon-Dala bridge construction project, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Authorities issued notice letters to apply eminent domain to residences and businesses in the path of the construction project, which will begin in October. The bridge is scheduled for completion in 2018.

Dala real estate prices

increased after news of the project emerged, but soon stabilized with a 40 x 60 feet plot of land in Dala Township selling for approximately Ks110 million.

"We have interested real estate buyer and sellers. However, the land owners are not reducing the prices and buyers are waiting for prices to come down. Therefore, the real estate market is cool," said a real estate agent from Dala township.— GNLM ■

## Furniture Expo coming to Yangon

THE Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Entrepreneurs Association and the Wood-Based Furniture Association will organize a furniture exposition on 21-24 September at Tatmadaw Hall in Yangon.

The exposition is held twice a year. More than 160 showrooms from over 40 companies and about 8,000 visitors are expected to attend. The exhibition will feature lucky draw and a competition for the most original product among other contests. The upcoming show will be the fifth such exposition.—GNLM ■

## 12-wheel vehicle accident on Asia road in Myawady

The driver of a 12-wheel truck traveling toward Myawady from Kawkaeik lost control of the vehicle due to a brake failure and struck another vehicle between mileposts 158 and 159 on 4 September, causing no serious injuries. Truck driver Ko Ko Zaw, 31, of Ottarathiri Township was arrested by police on suspicion of reckless driving.—Tun Tun Htway (Hpa-an) ■

## Manufacturing exports worth US\$2.4 billion this FY, up \$509 million

Manufacturing exports were worth US\$2.4 billion from 1 April to 25 August, an increase of \$509 million compared to the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Manufacturing exports were \$1.9 billion during the same period of last fiscal 2016-2017. Of seven export categories only manufacturing increased in trade value.

Total exports were worth \$5.04 billion, an increase of \$484 million over last year. Agriculture exports were worth \$1.2 billion, animal product exports were worth \$5.8 million, fisheries exports were worth \$213 million, mineral sector exports were worth \$389 million and forestry exports were worth \$89 million. Other exports were worth \$682 million.—Zwe ■

## Illegal timber seized in Gwa Township, Rakhine State

A large amount of poached timber was seized on 3 September in Daught Chaung Village, Gwa Township, Rakhine State.

No tree poachers or smugglers have yet been identified in connection with the seized wood. Members of the Gwa township management com-

mittee discovered 264 pieces of wood at five locations within the township area.

The officials are attempting to estimate the weight and worth of the wood with help from Township Forestry Department and police officials. (IPRD) ■



## YSX value increased in August

VALUES of stock trading on Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in August reached 294,615 shares worth Ks2.29 billion, according to YSX statistics.

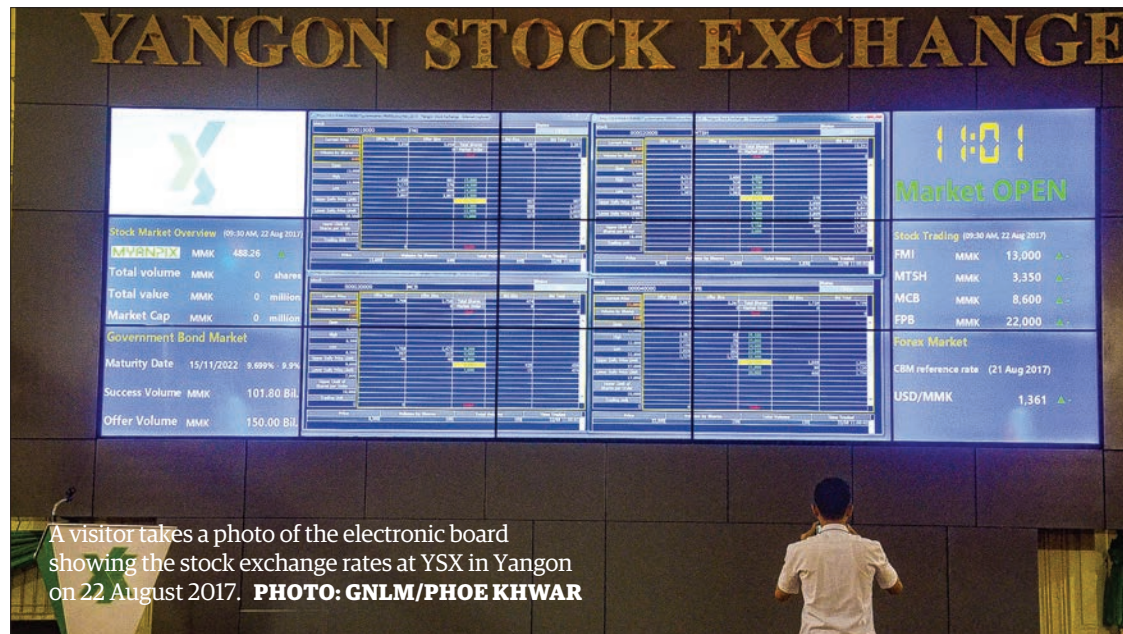
Last month YSX stock trades were worth Ks1.37 billion.

Four companies—First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and First Private Bank (FPB)—are currently trading their shares on YSX.

Last year, FMI traded shares worth Ks24 billion on YSX in March and Ks5.8 billion in April.

MTSH joined YSX on 20th May and FMI and MTSH stock trades were estimated at Ks16 billion in May, Ks6.8 billion in June and Ks3.7 billion in July.

After MCB joined the YSX, monthly stock trading values of FMI, MTSH and MCB were Ks2.9 billion in August, Ks2.4 billion in September, Ks4 billion



in October and Ks2.2 billion in November.

YSX stock trading fell to a record low of Ks1.5 billion in December.

When First Private Bank (FPB) joined YSX, the value of the YSX was Ks6 billion in Jan and Feb 2017, Ks3.3 billion in

March and Ks1.2 in April – an all-time low.

The YSX grew to Ks1.48 billion in May and to Ks1.54 billion in June. The Yangon Stock Exchange Expo will be held at the Park Royal Hotel in Yangon on 10 September and will include panels of economic and legal ex-

perts who will discuss the future of the exchange.

On 4 September 2017, a total of 10,015 shares were traded with estimated value of Ks133 million. Share prices at closing time were Ks13,500 for FMI, Ks3,400 for MTSH, Ks8,800 for MCB and Ks24,000 for FPB.—Ko Htet ■

### Trade value over sea routes US\$9.3billion this FY

Myanmar has done Ks9.3 billion in trade over sea routes between 1 April and 25 August, compared to US\$ 7.8 billion during the same period last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Exports through sea routes were US\$3.39 billion and imports US\$6.23 billion.

Comparatively, overland trade was \$ 2.77 billion, including exports of \$1.7 billion and imports of \$1.1 billion.

Total external trade values were \$12.4 billion, with an exports worth \$5 billion and imports of \$7.35 billion.

Myanmar's trade deficit is \$2.3 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

—Zwe ■



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## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Shanghai National People's Congress Standing Committee Vice Chairperson

During his visit to the People's Republic of China, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint met with Shanghai National People's Congress Standing Committee Vice Chair Mrs. Zhong Yanqun yesterday afternoon in the People's Mansion in Shanghai.

During the meeting, views were exchanged on matters relating to bilateral friendship and cooperation.

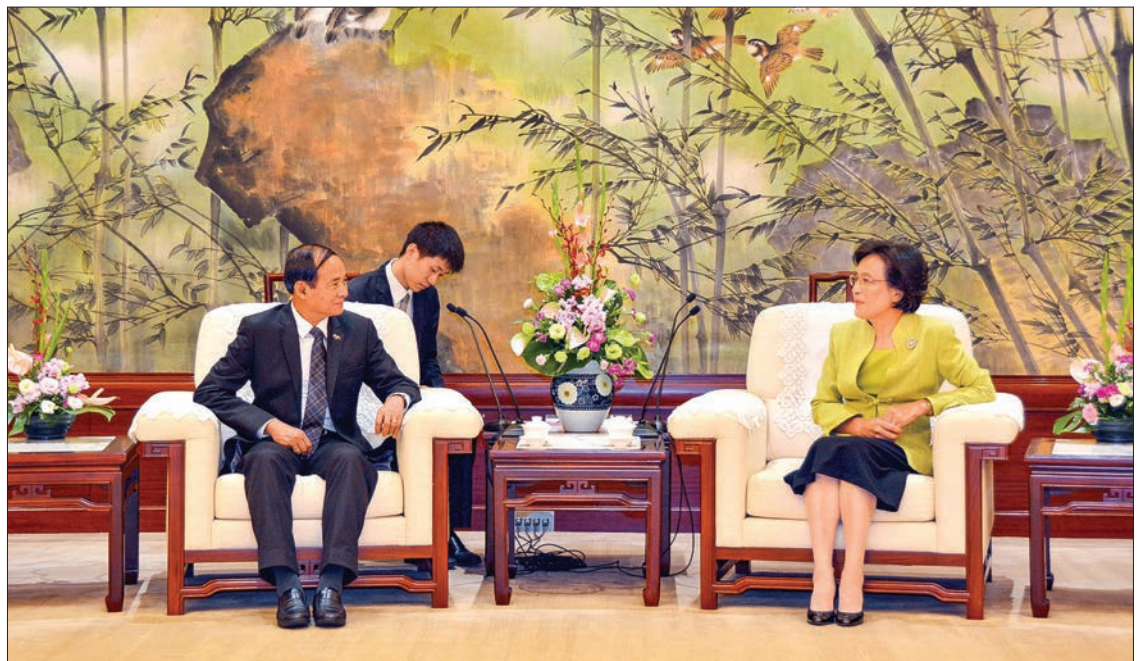
The meeting was attended by Pyithu Hluttaw affairs committee members Mahn Nyunt Thein, U Than Nyunt, U Khun Than Htoo, Daw Wint War Tun,

U Tin Nu @ U Tin Nu Aung, the Myanmar Ambassador to China U Thit Lin Ohn and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw office.

After the meeting, Mrs. Zhong Yanqun hosted a lunch for the Myanmar Hluttaw delegation.

Afterward, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint and party arrived at the Shanghai Urban Planning Exhibition Centre, where officials conducted a guided tour.

The Myanmar Hluttaw delegation arrived at the Pudong New District at 2 pm and toured



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint meets with Vice Chairperson Mrs. Zhong Yanqun, Shanghai National People's Congress Standing Committee in Shanghai. **PHOTO: MNA**

the free trade office and had discussions with officials from the management committee.

The Myanmar delegation

also visited The Oriental Pearl TV and Radio Tower in the afternoon.

The delegation then arrived

at Oriental Pearl jetty last night and viewed the Huangpu river onboard. — Myanmar News Agency ■

### Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Office of the State Counsellor

#### Statement to prevent unwarranted tension and unrest

that could be incited by news of possible ARSA terrorist group's attacks  
(5 September 2017)

1. The Government security forces are undertaking security operations to maintain peace and stability that have been threatened by brutal attacks of the ARSA extremist terrorist group in the Northern Rakhine State. At the same time, the Government is providing emergency aid and relief to those who are displaced by terrorist attacks. Ensuring that those inhabitants who are innocent and not part of the terrorist movement be able to live without fear for their safety and security, it is also working to apprehend the terrorists to bring them to justice.
2. In the meantime, news about preparation being made by terrorists to stage bomb attacks against innocent civilians in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and other big cities in the country have been brought to our attention. The aim of such attacks will be to attract international focus on and to garner support for their activities in Maungdaw and Buthidaung in Rakhine State.
3. Government has already issued security alerts and instructions to all State and Division governments throughout the country and to the Nay Pyi Taw Council. It is important to remain vigilant of the fact that there is a possible danger of terrorist attacks being used to incite ethnic or religious tension or public unrest.
4. Hence, we urge the people to remain security conscious and report any suspicious person, activity, or irregularities in their areas to the nearest administration authorities or to security personnel. People also need to be on guard against those instigators who, for their own benefit and interest, will ferment ethnic or religious tension by using the possible threats of terrorist attacks. The people are urged to stand together with the Government and render their cooperation in the Government efforts to maintain peace and stability throughout the country.

## Col. Phone Tint encourages returning teachers and local ethnics in Rakhine State



Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Phone Tint meets and encourages teachers and local ethnics. **PHOTO: MNA**

Rakhine State Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col. Phone Tint met and encouraged teachers and local ethnics who are returning to their homes and schools in Rakhine State that

were temporarily closed.

Twenty-six teachers and 18 local ethnics from Kyeinchaung and Tarane villages and Taungpyo town arrived in Maungdaw Township in three military vehi-

cles yesterday morning.

Later, these people left for Buthidaung and will continue to Sittway on 6 September to return to their homes.— Myanmar News Agency

## Myanmar Writers Association condemns ARSA terrorist acts

The Myanmar Writers Association issued a statement strongly condemning the ARSA extremist terrorist group and the terrorist acts committed by them in the region, including Buthidaung and Maungdaw townships in Rakhine State.—GNLM

## Indonesian Foreign Minister departs Yangon

INDONESIA Foreign Minister Mrs. Retno L.P. Marsudi departed Yangon yesterday morning after being escorted to Yangon International Airport by Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials and Ambassador of the Republic of Indonesia to Myanmar Dr. Ito Sumardi.—Myanmar News Agency



# State Counsellor discusses issue of Rakhine State with President Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey

The State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received a telephone call from President Erdogan and discussed the issue of Rakhine. President Erdogan said that he is confident that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as a leader who has faced and overcome challenges and advocate of human rights will approach the situation with vision of a long term solution to the issue of Rakhine. He mentioned that there are concerns worldwide regarding the situation because of the news and photos that have been widely published.

The State Counsellor said that “ We know very well, more than most, what it means to be deprived of human rights and democratic protection. So we make sure that all the people in our country are entitled to protection of their rights as well as, the right to, and not just political but social and humanitarian defence.” The State Counsellor also said that the Government has already started defending all the people in Rakhine in the best way possible and expressed that there should be no misinformation to create trouble between

the two countries which have good friendly relations for a long time.

She also intimated to President Erdogan that his Deputy Prime Minister was subjected to a lot of fake news photographs taken elsewhere in the world and not in Burma. She said, that kind of fake information which was inflicted on the Deputy Prime Minister was simply the tip of a huge iceberg of misinformation calculated to create a lot of problems between different communities and with the aim of promoting the interest of the

terrorists.

She also expressed that Turkey which has faced the challenges of terrorism and has to cope with the PKK will understand the challenge that Myanmar has to face. She also said that for the country, terrorism is new but the Government will do its best to make sure that this does not expand and spread all over Rakhine.

She expressed her intention to cooperate with friends from all over the world to make sure that terrorism does not take root on Myanmar soil and said that

everybody in the country is entitled to and get all the security that they need.

She also informed President Erdogan that the Government is in the process of setting up an implementation committee to carrying out the recommendations of Dr. Kofi Annan’s Commission as soon as possible in line with the reality on the ground.

The President of Turkey expresses understanding of the challenges faced by Myanmar and the willingness to maintain the good relations with Myanmar.

—Myanmar News Agency

## Humanitarian aid provided to displaced people without segregation

The Information Committee of the government issued a news release on fatalities, the injured and destructions due to ARSA extremist terrorists’ attacks in Buthidaung and Maungtaw townships in northern Rakhine State yesterday evening.

In the release, it was described that—

In the morning of August 25, ARSA extremist terrorists made violent surprise attacks on 30 border guard police outposts, simultaneously, claiming security forces, government service personnel and innocent people with many injured.

Due to violent attacks and killings in sparsely populated villages, planting land mines on the entrance and exit ways to villages and consecutive arson attacks, innocent people are hiding and being placed to safer places.

Accordingly, the State Counsellor is holding negotiations with members of the Union Government and high-ranking officials of Tatmadaw, lifting up measures on security and rescue for innocent populace, by designating Maungtaw region as operation zone and imposing curfew—section 144.

Moreover, so as to resist with sufficient amounts of forces and to make displaced people secure, miniature police outposts were combined. Security forces are performing the tasks of searching for terrorists and fighting against them, evacuating local nationals to safer places, providing provisions and other commodities, giving medical care and treatment, releasing warning and organizing for combined living with a view to bringing about peace and stability in the region. And, due to violent attacks of extremist terrorists from August 25 to September 5, there occurred 97 armed conflicts, in all, between security forces and ARSA extremist terrorists, claiming 15 altogether—13 security forces and 2 government service men, and 28 civilians in all—14 local

nationals, 7 Hindu local residents and 7 Bengalis, with 22 injured—15 security forces, 3 government staff and 4 nationals. Similarly, 59 villages, 6842 houses were burnt down, with 8 bridges destroyed by planted mines. ARSA extremist terrorists amounting to 371 were killed in fighting.

Due to terrorist attacks, there are 26747 displaced people until now.

Under the current situations, the State Government will continue to perform the task of providing aids and subsidies to displaced people by laying down effective measures, on the assumption that it is incumbent upon the government to give humanitarian aids, together with the campaign, “Red Cross Movement.” Displaced people will be delivered subsidies without segregation, in accord with the fundamental principles on giving humanitarian aids for donors from home and abroad to take part in contributing the donation.—

Myanmar News Agency

### Donation from foreign countries to IDPs in Maungtaw

No	Date	Cash (Kyat)	Rice (Bag)	Oil (Lt)	Tuna (Tin)	T-Shirt	Remark
1	31-8-2017	54846000	-	-	-	-	-
2	1-9-2017	-	146	144	600	-	-
3	2-9-2017	-	85	108	400	-	-
4	3-9-2017	-	100	335	700	1	-
	Total	54846000	331	587	1700	1	

### Houses set fire by ARSA extremist terrorists in Maungtaw

No	People	Villages	Houses destroyed in the fire			
			Houses	Losses	Shops	Vehicle
1	Ethnic	4	116	11600000	13	
2	Kathae	1	49	4900000		
3	Hindu	1	36	3600000		
4	Bengali	53	6641	664100000	311	174
Total		59	6842	684200000	324	174

### Ethnic IDPS who fled homes due to terrorists attacks

No	Township	House-holds	Population			Re-mark
			Male	Female	Total	
1	Buthidaung	1957	3363	4443	7806	
2	Maungtaw	2824	6403	7850	14253	
3	Yathedaung	226	278	586	864	
4	Punnagyun	26	42	58	100	
5	Sittway	926	1282	1716	2998	
6	Kyauktaw	147	208	350	558	fled from Maung-taw
7	Minbya	37	46	72	118	
8	MrakU	15	19	31	50	
	Total	6158	11641	15106	26747	

### Civilians killed, missing, injured due to terrorist attacks

No			Ethnic	Hindu	Bangali	Total	Remark
1	villages		4	2	4	10	
2	death		16	7	7	30	2 staff
	a	male	8	3	7	18	
	b	female	8	1	-	9	
	c	children	-	3	-	3	
3	missed		6	-	1	7	
	a	male	6	-	-	6	
	b	female	-	-	1	1	
	c	children	-	-	-	-	
4	injured		6	1	-	7	3 staff
	a	male	3	-	-	3	
	b	female	3	1	-	4	
5	detained		-	-	38	38	
	a	male	-	-	38	38	
	b	female	-	-	-	-	
	c	children	-	-	-	-	



## Power of Resolution

Maw Lin

WE can evidently see from exporting fresh agricultural produce to European Union Countries that privilege and responsibility co-exist. As EU is a huge market, the world exporters of agricultural produce fetch good prices. Had Myanmar agricultural produce been exported to EU market, it would remarkably help for the development of agricultural sector. Yet, European Union specifically deals with safety of food, hence the need for agricultural produce to be exported by Myanmar to meet the requirements designated by European Union. If we want to export Myanmar

agricultural produce to EU market, we must abide by rules and regulations of European Union.

In exporting our agricultural produce to EU countries, we are required to follow prescribed rules and laws as well as to fulfill other requirements, which are not classified as laws. For example, in growing for producing foodstuffs to be exported to EU, utilization of insecticides must be given special care. EU will never purchase those foodstuffs if they are found to exceed Maximum Residue Levels—MRLs in having them tested. Similarly, they must comply with standards of protection from pathogen microbial contaminants. Moreover, brand

labeling and standards of packaging need to be done unavoidably.

Just by seeing the above-said restrictions, it has been obvious that there are many things to be performed for exporting agricultural produce to European Union countries. So as to successfully implement myriads of the tasks, sharing knowledge among farmers is to broadly be performed. Sales of insecticides suitable for use should be permitted at markets, and concurrently supports of technical aids as to how to systematically use these insecticides are essentially to be provided. Plus, businesspersons who will export the agricultural produce to EU countries must be educated to be

well convinced of rules and regulations on EU import. Provided that these requirements are fully met, we will have an access to EU market. Furthermore, if we can successfully grow fruits and vegetables in organic way to export, we will surely have a strong market. We have many things to accomplish for entering a firm market, or vice versa. Accordingly, we would like to call for all persons concerned to exert our concerted efforts for the development of Myanmar agricultural sector, bearing a firm resolution that there is nothing impossible, in our minds. ■

(Translated by Khin Maung Oo)

## Helping Wild Elephants Where They Roam

### Why study Asian elephants?

One of our main projects focuses on Asian elephant populations in Myanmar, and our research estimates that there are less than 2,000 elephants left in that country. We wanted to learn about elephant behavior and movement. What elements make an animal likely to raid a crop, attack a house or engage in other types of human-elephant conflict?

It's important to recognize that Asian elephants, as the second-largest terrestrial mammal, need lots of space to roam. These animals live in the most populous place in the world. Somehow, they persist. Right now, we're in a downturn due to the recent poaching crisis, but the work that we and our partners are doing on the ground to detect and prevent poaching is helping, which is a positive step toward saving this species.

### What happened to the elephants that SCBI scientists collared earlier this year?

They started disappearing off our radar. We aren't sure about the status of certain animals because, over time, some of the collars just stopped working. By now, we have collared 19 elephants, and it appears that all of the ones that disappeared have been poached. The loss really started accelerating in the last year in areas where we see a lot of human-elephant conflict.

Part of our local outreach is to travel into townships to teach people how to reduce potential conflict with elephants. Luckily, many people in the community value elephants and do not want to poaching to continue, so they report incidents to us.

### Why are elephants being poached?

What is alarming about this latest poaching event is that it appears to be indiscriminate. We have found carcasses of adult males, adult females and calves—all of them skinned. These days, the illegal



Asian elephants get much less attention than African elephants, but there is less than a tenth as many left in the world. About 500,000 African elephants remain in the wild compared to 30,000-50,000 Asian elephants. Out of the two, Asian elephants are more endangered and face multiple threats from poaching, habitat loss and human-elephant conflict, says Peter Leimgruber, head of the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute's Conservation Ecology Center. Leimgruber and his team are tracking elephants via satellite collars in Myanmar, where their efforts to understand how elephants use their habitat has revealed a troubling rise in poaching.

wildlife product market is less concerned with ivory (only male Asian elephants sport tusks) and more concerned with turning skin into ointments and creams for the traditional Chinese medicine market. A square foot of elephant skin can earn a poacher \$120 USD. There is no evidence to support that these treat any ailments; rather, as people become more affluent it is a symbol of status to purchase products made from wildlife.

### What effect does this have on elephant populations?

It matters enormously when any elephant is killed. In the past, poaching for ivory only affected male Asian elephants. And while that is concerning, loss of males doesn't affect the demography as much as

the loss of females. Every female counts, because she may give birth to up to six calves over her lifetime. Losing them and calves is the fastest way to drive a population into extinction.

### What is being done to slow or stop poaching in Myanmar?

Because SCBI has formed partnerships with many governments around the world, we are able to connect our partners at the Myanmar wildlife department with our partners at the Kenya wildlife department. Together, they can discuss what has worked and what hasn't in terms of controlling poaching, and what resources are needed to put anti-poaching enforcement in place. On the Smithsonian side, we are going to continue our efforts to collar

elephants and expand into other areas of concern. Tracking them via GPS is the best way for us to assess how the elephants are interacting with the landscape. It also helps us pinpoint areas where human-elephant conflict and poaching are occurring. We partner with several non-governmental organizations that accompany us into the townships and help us teach people on the front lines about elephants. There are parts of Myanmar where it is possible to purchase elephant skin and ivory (ivory carving is a cultural tradition that is centuries old). So, our goal is to spread the word and raise awareness about how poaching is affecting elephant populations.

### How can people in the United States help elephants in Myanmar?

Although the U.S. is not the biggest consumer of ivory, it remains a major market. Likewise, habitat loss from large-scale agricultural practices—like non-sustainable palm oil plantations—have a big impact on elephants, which need a lot of space. Consumers can help prevent further elephant decline by being informed and checking the labels of the products they buy to ensure that they were sustainably sourced.

If you are passionate about elephants, one of the best ways to help is to support conservation efforts like ours that are working to save Asian elephants in their native habitats. ■

*This story appears in the September 2017 issue of National Zoo News. Help SCBI scientists track and save elephants in Myanmar! Scientists and in-country partners involved in this project include Peter Leimgruber, John McEvoy, Melissa Songer, Aung N. Chan, Christie Sampson, Aung Myo Chit, Christy Williams, Paing Soe, Mark Grindley, Naymyo Shwe, La Minn Yinyi, Zaw Min Oo, U Chay, and the Mahout tracking team.*



# Peace process to be implemented following NCA path: Senior General

Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr. Sun Guoxiang, Special Envoy of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in Bayintnaung Guest House, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

At the meeting the Senior General said that during the multi-party democracy era when peace process was started to be implemented, ethnic armed groups were invited to participate in "Our Three Main National Causes" and accept the "multi-party democracy system". The offer was accepted by ethnic armed groups and Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) was signed after the government, Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups discussed repeatedly. Thus the peace process will be implemented along



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Special Envoy of Asian Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of China. **PHOTO: MNA**

the NCA path.

With regards to the terrorist acts in Buthidaung and Maung-taw townships in Rakhine State, the Senior General said there were 39 clashes with ARSA extremist terrorists between 1 am to 5 pm on 25 August 2017.

In Taungbazar village, a local battalion was attacked by about 500 extremist terrorists while 30 police posts were attacked by around 100 to 200 per post. It is obvious that pre-planning is involved as the simultaneous attacks were launched. Police,

public servants, Tatmadaw personnel and local ethnic nationals were attacked viciously with swords, spears, hand grenades and arms, 8 bridges were destroyed with mines while villages were burnt indicating a strong proof of a terrorist attack. The attack with sticks, knives, spears, jingli (arrows shot by catapult) hand-made guns were done by young or youthful males of different ages but when the security personnel pursued the attackers, in some places, women and children were found to be used as human shields. Drug usage is suspected as the attackers use manpower to assault armed personnel with swords, spears and jingli. Security forces are using the least manpower and fire power to control the situation, said the Senior General.

H.E. Mr. Sun Guoxiang said China condemns the terrorist

acts that have occurred in Rakhine State, conveying Chinese government's condolence to the members of the Tatmadaw, police and public servants who were killed in the terrorist attacks.

He continued to say that the Government of China unequivocally supports Myanmar government's conduct on the peace process and strongly believed that Myanmar government is able to resolve the Rakhine State affairs. As a good friend and neighbour, China will stand with Myanmar for Myanmar's benefit and will closely cooperate with it. The meeting was also attended by high ranking officers of Commander-in-Chief (army) office while H.E. Mr. Sun Guoxiang was accompanied by Ambassador of China to Myanmar H.E. Hong Liang, military attache and officials. — Myanmar News Agency

## Myanmar pulses market examined

By Ko Moe

The permanent secretary of the Ministry of Commerce said that several strategies are being explored to restore the stability of Myanmar's pulses market.

The Myanmar pulses market was sent into disarray last month when India, the largest buyer, put severe restrictions on imported pulses in an attempt to protect the price of their own supply market.

At a special co-ordination meeting held at the UMFCCI yesterday, U Toe Aung Myint said his ministry is examining ways to expand and re-classify Myanmar's pulses destined for export.

"So as to solve the present problems, many ways will be sought. Markets for mung bean and toor whole are presently narrow. Previously, mung beans were exported to India and the Middle East as FAQ, without classifying as special quality. Now that classification has been made, bilateral negotiations were held and the other side had to make concessions.

In the future, by classifying as special quality, pulses will be exported so that foreign markets can be sought more than ever."

In addition, acquisition of investment and technical aid will be sought out so as to be able to diversify and export products to foreign markets, after producing agricultural produce as high-value products.

"Since last year, changes of the pulse's prices were warning us as if tolling a bell to amend the narrow markets for Myanmar's pulses. Necessary arrangements will be made in consultation with authorities concerned to grow other pulses and crops, in substitution, which can gain market shares in the global market, instead of mung beans and toor whole," the permanent secretary said.

In spite of the recent restriction of pulses by the government of India, the amount of pulses to be exported to India was re-granted as agreed upon in the contract signed after giving advance payment, under the bilateral negotiation. The statement informing the re-granting of the

imports as previously agreed was issued via the Embassy of India in Myanmar on 30 August, it was learnt. But the damage to the Myanmar market was done, and exposed the weaknesses of the pulses market.

"(The industry) needs to produce high-price products concerning pulses and to grow substitute crops. Moreover, it is necessary for farmers to be resilient as well as to grow other crops which can gain market shares instead of pulses," said Dr. Ye Tin Tun, Director-General of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. As regards the future export of pulses, arrangements will be made with a view to signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Myanmar, it has been learnt. And, for the stability of the local market over the pulses left to be exported, the government, private sector and farmers will cooperate and determine appropriate ways and means of effectively dealing with surplus pulses.

U Tun Lwin, chairman of Myanmar pulses and sesame

merchants' federation said that they are making efforts for the market stability. For farmers not to suffer losses for toor whole that will be harvested very soon, preparations are being made under the law on protection of farmers' rights and upgrading their benefits.

In Myanmar, there are 2.6 million acres of mung beans. The price for one ton was Ks1 million in April, but the current price is Ks0.59 million.

Myanmar is mostly exporting its mung bean and green gram to India and China, with lesser amounts being exported to the EU and the Middle East.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar exported 1,398.905 metric tons of pulses to foreign countries — 672.289 metric tons of mung beans, 349.802 metric tons of green gram and 159.788 metric tons of toor whole in the FY 2016-2017. Until 11 August of the present fiscal year, 517.752 metric tons of pulses — 215.188 metric tons of mung bean, 147.598 metric tons of green gram and 75 metric tons of toor whole — were exported. ■

## Independent journalists to visit Maungtaw

A group of independent journalists from local and foreign media will visit Maungtaw, northern Rakhine State, where ARSA extremist terrorists attacked police outposts last month, resulting in over 70 deaths.

The 21-member group is comprised of journalists from the Associated Press, NHK, BBC, TBS, RFA, EPA, Swiss TV, Al Jazeera, CNA, Mizzima, the Myanmar Times, CNB, Seven Day and MDN.

The trip is the second to northern Rakhine State for independent journalists following the 25 August terrorist attacks and the fifth visit since the 16 October 2016 terrorist attacks in northern Rakhine. Extremist terrorists staged a coordinated series of attacks dozens of police outposts in northern Rakhine State, leaving 77 extremist terrorists, two arrested and 12 members of the security forces dead. — Myanmar News Agency ■

## Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to [dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com](mailto: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



Emergency aid provided by Rakhine State Government to IDPs fled from Maungtaw

No	Date	Township	Village	Vehicle	Aids													
					Rice (bag)	Oil (viss)	Salt (bag)	Pulses (bag)	Potato (bag)	Onion (bag)	Chili (bag)	Fish paste	noodle (box)	Tuna (box)	dried fish (viss)	medical kit (box)	betel (box)	Cherrot
1	30-8-2017	Maungtaw	Khamaung Seik	aircraft	30	50	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
2	30-8-2017	Maungtaw	Kyaingchaung	aircraft	30	50	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
3	31-8-2017	Maungtaw	Taungpyo	aircraft	30	50	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
4	31-8-2017	Maungtaw	Kyaukpandu	aircraft	30	50	2	10	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	1-9-2017	Maungtaw	Aungzu	aircraft	30	48	2	-	-	2	2	2	-	2	2	2	-	-
6	1-9-2017	Maungtaw	Khamaug Seik	aircraft	5	50	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
7	2-9-2017	Buthidaung	KaHtila	aircraft	30	48	2	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	1	1	1
8	2-9-2017	Buthidaung	Pyinkhaung	aircraft	1	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
9	2-9-2017	Maungtaw	Yanaungpyin	aircraft	25	50	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
10	2-9-2017	Maungtaw	Mingyi village	aircraft	20	48	2	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1
11	3-9-2017	Maungtaw	Ywaknyotaung	aircraft	30	48	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	1	1	1
12	3-9-2017	Maungtaw	Hamantha	aircraft	20	50	2	5	2	1	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
13	3-9-2017	Maungtaw	Kaungdon	aircraft	20	50	2	5	2	2	1	1	-	-	-	1	1	1
			Total		301	592	25	68	4	6	5	5	-	6	2	8	6	6

List (1) of Aid delivered to IDPs from 25th August to 4th September

No	Department	Aids																					
		Rice	Oil				Salt		Pulses			Pulses	Sausage	Potato		Onion		Fish paste	Chilli	Noddle		Soap	Clothes
		Bag	Viss	Litre	Bag	Cans	Viss	Bag	Viss	Bag	Box	Viss	Viss	Viss	Bag	Viss	Bag	Bag	Bag	Packs	Box	Cake	Items
1	Tatmadaw	671	416	-	-	675	1340	-	1974	-	640	1930	1463	684	-	1035	-	-	-	115830	35	-	-
2	Social Welfare, Relief and Re-settlement	111.5	-	143	120	-	35.75	5	70.50	17	-	-	-	-	10	-	8	-	7	-	100	1000	-
3	Home Affairs	-	-	-	20	-	-	5	-	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	-	60	-	510
4	State Govern-ment	2128	3639	-	-	-	-	80	-	248	-	-	-	-	10	-	9	7	8	-	100	-	-
Total		2910	4055	143	140	675	1376	90	2046	290	640	1930	1463	684	20	1035	27	7	15	115830	295	1000	510

List (2) of Aid delivered to IDPs from 25th August to 4th September

No	Department	Aids															
		Dried fish		Dired fish		Snack	Egg	Coffee	Boiled rice	Medical kit	Bread	Fish can		Blanket	Tooth brush	Tooth paste	Tarpaulin
		Viss	Box	Viss	Box		Egg	Pack		Box	Pack	Cans	Box		Piece	Tube	Roll
1	Tatmadaw	1866	-	-	-	-	89696	33350	-	-	195	750	-	1350	-	-	-
2	Social Welfare, Relief and Re-settlement	-	9	-	15	6	1300	-	4	2	-	-	-	-	1847	1800	21
3	State Govern-ment	2	-	150	-	-	-	-	-	10	-	-	608	-	-	-	-
	Total	1868	9	150	15	6	90996	33350	4	12	195	750	608	1350	1847	1800	21

Rakhine State Government

Russia reserves right to further cut number of US diplomats — Putin

XIAMEN/China — Russia has the right of further cutting the number of US diplomats in the country, but won't do this now, Russian President Vladimir Putin told reporters after his visit to China.

Putin recalled that Moscow and Washington had agreed to have an equal number of diplomats in Russia and the US. Some 1,300 US diplomats worked in Russia, and 455 Russian diplomats were in the US. Among these 455 Russian diplomats

there are 155 people working for the UN, he said. These are not diplomats accredited by the US State Department, they are staff members of an international organization. According to the Russian president, the US had struggled to have the UN headquarters in New York and undertook commitments to ensure the work of this organization.

“Strictly speaking, if we talk about full parity, there should not be 455 US diplomats in Moscow but rather minus 155. So, we re-

serve the right to make a decision also on the number of US diplomats, but we won't do this now. We'll keep an eye on how the situation develops further,” the president stressed.

Putin said the Americans cut the number of Russian diplomatic missions, and this was their right, “but what's different here is that this was apparently done in an uncivilized manner, and this doesn't put our American partners in a good light.”

“It is difficult to hold dialogue

with those people who mix up Austria with Australia. There's nothing that can be done about this now, that's apparently the level of political culture of a certain part of the American establishment. The American people are really a great nation if they put up with such a large number of people who have such a low level of political culture,” Putin said.

Putin will issue instructions to the Russian Foreign Ministry to file a lawsuit with a US court over the seizure of the Russian

diplomatic property in the United States. “As for the buildings and facilities (of the Russian diplomatic mission in the US), this is really an unprecedented incident,” Putin said.

“The American side stripped Russia of the right to use our property. This is a clear violation of Russia's property rights. That's why, to begin with, I will instruct the Russian Foreign Ministry to take legal action. Let's see how the much-lauded American judicial system works.”—Reuters



## Russian frigate hits terrorist command centers in Syria with missiles

MOSCOW — Russia's frigate The Admiral Essen, currently on a mission in the Mediterranean Sea, has launched cruise missiles to wipe out terrorists' command centers and a communication facility, as well as armored vehicles repair plant of the Islamic State (outlawed in Russia) near Deir ez-Zor, the Russian Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

"The Kalibr cruise missiles were launched against IS targets identified and confirmed through several channels.

The missile strike destroyed command centers and a communication facility, weapons and ammunition depots, an armored vehicles repair plant and a large group of militants," the Defence Ministry said.

— Tass ■



The missile strike also destroyed an armored vehicles repair plant and a large group of militants. **PHOTO: TASS**

## UK police arrest four men suspected of planning far-right terrorism

LONDON — Four men suspected of belonging to a banned far-right group and planning terrorist attacks were arrested in Britain on Tuesday, police said.

The men, aged 22 to 32, were detained on suspicion of being involved in the commission, preparation and instigation of

acts of terrorism and of being members of the group National Action.

The neo-Nazi organization became the first far-right group to be outlawed in Britain last year after the murder of member of parliament Jo Cox, whose killing the group had praised.

The four arrests were made by counter-terrorism officers in the English cities of Birmingham, Ipswich and Northampton and in Powys, Wales.

"The arrests were pre-planned and intelligence-led; there was no threat to the public's safety," West Midlands

Police said. Britain is on its second-highest threat level, "severe", meaning an attack is highly likely. Suspected Islamists have killed 35 people this year in attacks in London and Manchester, and a man died in June after a van was driven into worshippers near a London mosque.

Last month, a senior police chief said the number of referrals to the authorities about suspected right-wing extremists had doubled since the murder of Cox, who was killed in June last year by a loner obsessed with Nazis and white supremacist ideology. — Reuters ■

## Kidnapped Red Cross staff released in Afghanistan after seven months

KABUL — Two Red Cross staff members kidnapped early this year in Afghanistan have been released, the International Committee of the Red Cross said on Tuesday.

The two were abducted on 8 February while delivering assistance in Jawzjan province, in the north of the country, on the border with Turkmenistan.

Six of their colleagues were killed in the attack, which prompted the ICRC to suspend operations in Afghanistan for a time.

"We are relieved and grateful that our colleagues are now back with us un-

harmed," the ICRC head of delegation in Afghanistan, Monica Zanarelli, said in a statement.

At the time of the attack, officials in the area blamed Islamic State gunmen but the ICRC said it would not comment on the identity of the abductors, their motives or details of the release.

Kidnapping has been a major problem in Afghanistan for many years.

Most victims are Afghans abducted for ransom but foreigners or Afghans working for foreign organisations have also been targeted. — Reuters ■

## Syrian army breaks Islamic State siege in eastern city — state media

BEIRUT — Syrian government forces advanced against Islamic State on Tuesday to reach troops surrounded for years by the jihadists in a government-held enclave in the eastern city of Deir al-Zor, pro-Damascus media outlets and a monitoring group reported.

"The Syrian army and its allies break the siege on Deir al-Zor," a military media unit run by Syria's ally Hezbollah said.

State television and the Brit-

ish-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported that advancing Syrian forces had linked up with government troops in Deir al-Zor. The army and its allies had made lightning advances in recent days and pushed through Islamic State lines to within kilometres of Deir al-Zor.

Islamic State had since 2014 besieged the government-held enclave, where some 93,000 civilians live and an army garrison

is stationed.

Deir al-Zor is located south-east of Islamic State's former stronghold Raqqa, most of which has been captured in a separate offensive by US-backed Syrian militias. Islamic State fighters are believed to have fled to areas around Deir al-Zor as the group loses areas of Raqqa.

Both cities lie in oil-rich areas on the Euphrates river. — Reuters ■

## Indonesia backs establishment of joint special forces

JAKARTA — Indonesia is ready to discuss a plan for setting up joint special forces to fight the Islamic State (IS) militants and pirates in the region, a government official said on Tuesday.

The plan, which is aimed at combating the IS militants

in the borders of Indonesia, the Philippines and Malaysia, was initiated by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte.

"Indonesia is ready at any time to guard this region," Indonesian Cabinet Secretary Pramono Anung said.

The official said talks could be undertaken at any time or during the upcoming ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) summit in November in the Philippines, where some of world leaders will also be present. — Xinhua ■



# Trump agrees "in principle" to scrap S Korean warhead weight limit—White House

WASHINGTON/SEOUL — US President Donald Trump agreed "in principle" to scrap a warhead weight limit on South Korea's missiles in the wake of North Korea's sixth nuclear test, the White House said on Monday.

During a call with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, Trump also gave "conceptual approval" for South Korea to buy billions of dollars of weapons from the United States, the White House said in a statement.

Separately, South Korea's presidential office said the two leaders had agreed to scrap the weight limit and to apply the strongest sanctions and pressure on

North Korea through the United Nations.

In a separate phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin also on Monday, Moon said the UN Security Council should seek ways to sever North Korea's foreign currency income, including from its workers employed abroad and oil shipments, according to the South Korean statement.

Under the existing missile pact between the United States and South Korea, Seoul's warheads currently face a cap of 500 kg (1100 lb). The agreement, last amended in 2012, was in the process of being changed in the wake of a series of missile tests

by North Korea this year after Moon took office in May, including two intercontinental ballistic missile launches. North Korea said it tested an advanced hydrogen bomb for a long-range missile on Sunday, prompting global condemnation and a US warning of a "massive" military response if it or its allies were threatened.

An unlimited warhead weight allowance would enable the South to strike North Korea with greater force in the event of a military conflict.

The missiles would still be bound by a flight range cap of 800 km. No changes to the flight range were mentioned in the Blue



US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: REUTERS

House statement.

Most analysts and policymakers agree cutting off supplies of oil to North Korea would hurt its economy. It remains to be seen

whether China, the North's biggest ally and trade partner, would cooperate.

South Korea said earlier in the day it was talking to the United States about

deploying aircraft carriers and strategic bombers to the Korean peninsula after signs North Korea might launch more missiles. —Reuters ■

## German police recover stolen artworks worth 2.5 mln euros

BERLIN — German authorities have recovered a cache of stolen artworks by neo-expressionist painter Georg Baselitz worth 2.5 million euros (\$2.97 million) after the thieves tried to sell some of them, police said on Tuesday.

Prosecutors have retrieved 15 of a total 19 paintings and drawings

stolen between June 2015 and March 2016 by a gang whose 39-year-old ringleader was a courier specializing in transporting art, the police said.

The two other suspects, a 51-year-old truck driver and his 26-year-old son, have been charged as accomplices.

Police declined to give

any details about the works in the haul, Germany's largest in years, at the owner's request. They also gave no information about the owner or about how the art came to be stolen over a period of time.

Anne Leiding, spokeswoman for Munich prosecutors who carried out the recovery operation, said

the recovered artworks were being kept in a safe place but declined to say where.

The theft only came to light when the father and son attempted to offer some of the works for sale for less than their market value. An insurer got wind of one of these attempts and informed police, lead-

ing to the 51-year-old suspect being located in Spain.

The three suspects have yet to make a statement to police.

The four pictures still missing are estimated to be worth around 130,000 euros.

Born in 1938 and still active, Baselitz, a painter and sculptor, trained first

in the state-backed socialist realism of Communist East Germany before discovering abstract art in West Berlin.

Baselitz then gained international fame by spearheading a revival of neo-expressionist art, which had been rejected by Adolf Hitler's Nazi dictatorship.—Reuters ■

## Brazil police probe suspected vote-buying for 2016 Olympics

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil's federal police on Tuesday said they raided the home of Carlos Arthur Nuzman, the national Olympic committee's president, to probe a suspected international vote-buying scheme to secure Rio de Janeiro's selection as the host of the 2016 Games.

Police were also serving two arrest warrants and conducting search and seizure operations as

part of the investigation started nine months ago in cooperation with French authorities, a police statement said.

French newspaper Le Monde in March said a company linked to Brazilian businessman Arthur Cesar de Menezes Soares Filho paid \$1.5 million to Papa Massata Diack, son of Lamine Diack who was then International Association of Athletics Federa-

tions president, three days before the 2009 IOC vote to choose the host city for the 2016 Games. Rio lost the first vote to Madrid but bounced back to win the nomination on a third ballot, by 66 votes to 32. After the publication of the Le Monde report, the IOC said it had started investigating the allegations, and a Rio 2016 Games spokesman said the 2009 IOC vote was clean.

On Tuesday, a spokesman for the Rio Olympics declined to comment on the federal police statement.

An IOC media representative said, "The IOC has learned about these circumstances from the media and is making every effort to get the full information," "It is in the highest interests of the IOC to get clarification on this matter," the representative added.—Reuters ■

## French magazine found guilty over topless photos of British Duchess

PARIS — A French court on Tuesday found six people associated with the celebrity magazine Closer guilty of invading the privacy of Britain's Duchess of Cambridge, Kate Middleton, when it published topless photos of her in 2012.

The court ordered the individuals, including two photographers, the then-editor of Closer and

the chief executive of the Italian publishing group, to pay damages.

Closer magazine, a weekly round-up of gossip about the rich and famous, published a series of photos of Middleton, the wife of Prince William, second-in-line to the British throne, topless while on holiday in southern France. —Reuters ■



## Malaysian police say they foiled attack on SEA Games closing ceremony

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian police thwarted a plan by a member of the Islamic-State linked Abu Sayyaf militant group to attack the closing ceremony of the Southeast Asian Games in Kuala Lumpur last week, the top police official said on Tuesday.

The suspected attacker, a 25-year-old Philippine national, had been involved in fighting, kidnapping and beheading of foreign hostages in the Philippines, Inspector-General of Police Mohamad Fuzi Harun said in a statement.

The arrest will raise concern about increasing cooperation among militants within Southeast Asia and what governments fear is the spreading influence of Islamic State as it loses ground in the Middle East.

Mohamad Fuzi did not identify the suspect but said he had planned to attack the closing ceremony of the games at the Bukit Jalil National Stadium, as well as an Independence Day parade the next day. He gave no detail of the plans. The man was arrested in a raid on 30 August, the day of the ceremony, along with seven other suspected members of the hardline Abu Sayyaf, including another Philippine national.

Authorities said earlier they had detained Phil-

ippine Abu Sayyaf leader Hajar Abdul Mubin, 25, also known as Abu Asrie, in the 30 August raid.

Abu Asrie was arrested with six Malaysians and another Philippine national, aged between 20 and 52, police said earlier.

Eleven other suspected militants, including nine foreigners, were picked up in a two-month security operation before the games. The arrests were the latest in a crackdown on militancy by Muslim-majority Malaysia. Since 2013, Malaysia has arrested more than 250 people on suspicion of links to Islamic State.

Among those picked up were two Iraqi brothers, aged 41 and 63, who were suspected to have served as commanders for Islamic State, Mohamad Fuzi said. They were working as technicians and were arrested in a Kuala Lumpur suburb on 11 August. The Iraqis had arrived in Malaysia separately and were detained on information from foreign intelligence agencies, a Malaysian police source told Reuters. "One arrived last year, while the other came in early August. We're still investigating what their activities were in Malaysia," said the source, who declined to be identified because he is not authorised to speak to media.—Reuters ■

## Philippine police chief says no state policy to kill drug suspects

MANILA — The Philippine police chief denied on Tuesday any policy to kill drug suspects, telling a Senate hearing into the bloodshed that President Rodrigo Duterte had never told him to "kill and kill".

Duterte took office in June last year after winning an election on a vow to get tough on drugs and crime. He soon launched a "war on drugs" in which thousands of people have been killed.

Duterte and his campaign remain popular but opposition to the bloodshed, including from within the influential Catholic church, has begun to build.

The death of 17-year-old boy, Kian Loyd delos Santos, last month, after he was dragged off by plain-clothes anti-drug policemen into a dark alley, has stirred public outrage.



Philippine National Police chief Ronaldo dela Rosa testifies during a senate hearing on the killing of 17-year-old Kian delos Santos, in Pasay, Metro Manila, Philippines on 5 September, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

National police chief Ronald dela Rosa, called to testify at a Senate inquiry, dismissed any suggestion there was an official policy to summarily kill suspects.

"We will die for the innocent people. It's painful to say there's a policy of widespread killings," Dela Rosa, appearing to fight

back emotion, told the televised hearing.

"The president never told me to kill and kill."

The stocky police general, nicknamed "Bato", or the rock, was responding to questions about the killing of delos Santos.

Police say they acted in self defence after delos

Santos opened fire on them.

Senator Risa Hontiveros, a staunch critic of Duterte, told the hearing the police "should never be used as a killing machine".

"There's a wide policy that allows the killings in the name of war on drugs," Hontiveros said.

Dela Rosa said he would step down if she could prove her accusation.

According to police records, more than 3,800 people, most of them drug suspects, have died in police operations since July last year. Police say most were killed resisting arrest. Thousands of other people have been killed by unknown assailants. Human Rights Watch said last month the drug-war death toll was at least 7,000.—Reuters ■

## Cambodian opposition leader charged with treason

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian opposition leader Kem Sokha, who was arrested over the weekend on charges said to be politically motivated, was on Tuesday officially indicted with treason.

Ly Sophana, spokesman of the Phnom Penh Municipal Court, said that prosecutors found sufficient grounds to charge Kem Sokha, president of the Cambodia National Rescue Party, with "con-

spiring with a foreign power." If found guilty, he faces up to 30 years in prison.

Kem Sokha, 64, was arrested at his home in Phnom Penh in the early hours of Sunday.

The government of Prime Minister Hun Sen alleges that he hatched a secret plan with foreigners to harm Cambodia, citing as evidence a four-year-old video that recently surfaced in which he

says in a speech that he received advice from the United States on building an opposition movement.

The US State Department issued a statement saying it notes "with grave concern the Cambodian government's arrest of Kem Sokha, respected leader of the political opposition, on a number of charges that appear to be politically motivated."

"This government move follows a number

of troubling recent steps, including the imposition of unprecedented restrictions on independent media and civil society. These measures undercut Cambodia's progress in recent decades and raise serious questions about the government's ability to organize credible national elections in 2018 which produce an outcome that enjoys democratic legitimacy," it added.—Kyodo News ■

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (153)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (153) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.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 INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of HPT 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 NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV LE TAI VOY. NO (127)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LE TAI VOY. NO (127) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.9.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 COSCO SHIPPING  
CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928





Tennis players Sweden's Bjorn Borg (L) and John McEnroe of the US stand during the presentation ceremony of masters senior tennis tournament in central Madrid on 13 April, 2007. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Film on rivalry of tennis greats Borg and McEnroe premieres in Stockholm

STOCKHOLM — The film “Borg McEnroe”, which traces the fierce rivalry between tennis greats Bjorn Borg and John McEnroe on and off the court, premiered in Swedish capital Stockholm on Monday.

The movie, starring Swedish actor Sverrir Gudnason as Borg and American Shia LaBeouf as McEnroe, centers

on the battle between the two in the 1980 Wimbledon men's singles final.

That hard-fought duel, which was won by Borg in the fifth and final set, is widely considered to be one of the greatest tennis matches in history.

Borg and McEnroe were often seen as polar opposites in terms of on-court personali-

ty. While Sweden's Borg always remained calm and focused, his fiery American rival was famed for his on-court tantrums and tirades at tournament umpires.

“I think the actors did a great job,” Borg told Reuters at the premiere in Stockholm. “It's strange to see yourself on the screen, but I'm really happy with the movie.” The film opens

to the general public in Sweden on Friday and will be screened at the Toronto Film Festival this week. Veteran Swedish actor Stellan Skarsgard also star as Borg's coach Lennart Bergelin, while Borg's son Leo plays his father as a boy. In the Nordic region the film's title will be simply “Borg”, a spokeswoman for the distributor said. —Reuters ■

## Putin: no censorship or pressure behind arrest of prominent director

XIAMEN (China) — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday that neither censorship nor pressure was behind the arrest of prominent Russian film and theater director Kirill Serebrennikov, who has a history of criticizing authority.

Russia's Investigative Committee has said it suspects Serebrennikov of embezzling at least 68 million roubles (\$1.17 million) in state funds earmarked for an art project. Serebrennikov, under house arrest awaiting trial, denies the charges.

“Others will also be brought to justice if there are any (material) claims to them,” Putin told a news conference after a summit of the BRICS nations in China. —Reuters ■



Russian theatre director Kirill Serebrennikov, who was accused of embezzling state funds and placed under house arrest, gestures after a court hearing in Moscow, Russia on 4 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## ‘Thriller’ was made because Michael Jackson wanted to be a monster

VENICE — Music video “Thriller” was not the product of a brilliant idea but was made because pop star Michael Jackson wanted to be a monster, director John Landis said at the Venice film festival on Monday.

Landis was in Venice to present the 3D version of the video, which was made 35 years after the original. It was screened as a special event in the out-of-competition section.

“(Thriller) was nobody's good idea, it was no brilliant business plan,” John Landis told journalists.

“It was a vanity video because Michael wanted to be a monster. And everything that came, evolved from that, was

spectacularly successful and I was totally surprised.”

Landis said Jackson first approached him about making the video because he liked his work on “An American Werewolf in London” and the two, along with make-up artist Rick Baker, met to look at photographs from old monster movies.

“Turns out he hasn't seen many horror films, they were too scary. I found him great,” Landis said, laughing. “He wanted zombies, but the big thing for Mike was turning into a monster.”

Asked about his first meeting with Jackson, the child star turned King of Pop who set the world dancing but died in 2009 at the age of 50, Landis said he



Director John Landis poses during a photocall for the movie “Michael Jackson's Thriller 3D” at the 74<sup>th</sup> Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy on 4 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

was “joyful” and “childlike” and quickly became a close family friend.

“Michael was very deter-

mined that everything had to be the best, the greatest,” he said. “He had a spectacular work ethic, but he was an old pro, the guy has been performing since he was 8 years old.”

While making “Thriller” Jackson was happy to “show up and do whatever I wanted,” Landis said. It was different when they met again to produce “Black or White” in 1991.

“On ‘Black or White’ I was working for Michael. It was different. We were still fine, but ... he was much more guarded,” Landis said.

“I know it's not easy being a celeb, but to be the most famous person in the world, to have that kind of celebrity is bizarre.”

“And here's someone who was already working from a young age ... he never had a childhood. That's one of the reasons he was so interested in pursuing one as a grown up.”

Landis, an American film director, screenwriter, actor and producer, jumped at the idea of converting “Thriller” into 3D, because “I really wanted you to experience it the way Michael wanted you to experience it”. “We went through the whole movie frame by frame, and it was not intended to be in 3D, so we are not throwing anything at you or anything like that, but it does enhance certain parts of it tremendously ... the dance is much improved,” he said. —Reuters ■



## "Lat Khat Than" exhibition kicks off in Yangon

"Lat Khat Than" exhibition kicks off at the National Museum in Yangon on 5th September 2017, showcasing products from Myanmar traditional weaving.

The exhibition is aimed at promoting the role of Myanmar traditional weaving the country's intangible art, in attempts to create jobs for women. **PHOTO: GNLM/ PHOE KHWAH**



## South Korea's Lotte hotel opens in Yangon



Hotel Lotte Yangon, overlooking Yangon's Inya Lake, opened on Friday as part of the hotel division of South Korea's Lotte Group.

"The Hotel Lotte Yangon is comprised of a hotel building with 343 guest rooms, the Mugunghwa Korean Restaurant, the Toh Lim Chinese Restaurant, a bakery, bar and BBQ, a

fitness centre, swimming pool and a 29-storey serviced apartment building with 315 units. The hotel is a five-star establishment," said Marketing Director Ma Mikon. The Lotte Group operates its businesses in the food & service, tourism, financial services as well as chemical / construction sectors.—GNLM ■

## For Chinese millennials, despondency has a brand name

BEIJING — Chinese millennials with a dim view of their career and marriage prospects can wallow in despair with a range of teas such as "achieved-absolutely-nothing black tea", and "my-ex's-life-is-better-than-mine fruit tea".

While the drink names at the Sung chain of tea

stalls are tongue-in-cheek, the sentiment they reflect is serious: a significant number of young Chinese with high expectations have become discouraged and embrace an attitude known on social media as "sang", after a Chinese character associated with the word "funeral" that

describes being dispirited.

"Sang" culture, which revels in often-ironic defeatism, is fueled by internet celebrities, through music and the popularity of certain mobile games and TV shows, as well as sad-faced emojis and pessimistic slogans. It's a reaction to cut-throat

competition for good jobs in an economy that isn't as robust as it was a few years ago and when home-ownership — long seen as a near-requirement for marriage in China — is increasingly unattainable in major cities as apartment prices have soared.—Reuters ■



Customers take pictures of cups of tea named in the fashion of the Sang subculture at the Sung Tea shop in Beijing on 24 August, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

### OBITUARY

**Eric Bertie Abel (Ex; BPI)**  
**Age(78)**

Son of Mr. A.T Abel & Daw Chai of Insein fell asleep in Jesus on the 4<sup>th</sup> September 2017 at 18:05 PM in Fremantel, Western Australia. Sadly mourned by his brothers & sister. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



Retired Jamaican sprinter Usain Bolt (3rd from L on back) poses with local children during an event for Swiss luxury watchmaker Hublot in the traditional Gion district of Japan's tourist city of Kyoto on 5 September, 2017. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Sprint legend Bolt delights crowd at Kyoto event

KYOTO — The world's fastest man Usain Bolt delighted local children and "maiko" (young apprentice geisha) in Kyoto on Tuesday, with his trademark "lightning bolt" pose as he attended a promotional event for Swiss watchmaker Hublot.

The Jamaican sprint legend is on his first trip to Japan since retiring in August following the world athletics championships in London. Bolt, dressed in a stylish suit, struck a pose with five local youngsters in athletic wear and received a roar of applause from the crowd.

Hublot, with which Bolt has signed an endorsement deal to represent its brand, opened a new store last month in Kyoto's Gion district famous for geisha culture.

The 31-year-old multiple world record holder and gold medal winner said he gave his all in competitive sprinting and that he would like to try something new from now on. Among his record shattering performances, Bolt set world records in the 100 meters and 200 meters, clocking 9.58 seconds and 19.19 seconds, respectively, in Berlin in 2009.—Kyodo News ■



## Myanmar defeated by Indonesia in opening match

Kyaw Zin Tun

The Myanmar U-18 football team lost to Indonesia by a score of 1-2 at the Asean Football Federation (AFF) U-18 Youth Championship yesterday at Thuwanna Stadium, Yangon.

The Myanmar team included Htet Wai Yan Soe (GK), Naing Ko Ko, Aung Wanna Soe, Win Naing Tun, Soe Moe Kyaw, Pyae Sone Aung, Myat Kaung Khant, Thet Paing Htwe, Pyae Phyo Maung and Eant Maw Oo.

The Myanmar team played well at the beginning of the match, with midfielder Myat Kaung Khant scoring the opening goal at the 27-minute mark. In the second half, In-



Myat Kaung Khant scored the opening goal for Myanmar U-18 team in this match as he vies the ball against two Indonesian players Hanis Sagara Putra, 19 and Muhammad Luthfi Kamal Baharsyah, 7 at Thuwanna Stadium yesterday. **PHOTO: MFF**

donesia's Egy Maulana Vikri scored the equalising goal at 71 minutes and the winning goal at 90 plus 3 minutes. In other action yesterday in Group B, Brunei beat the Philippines 3-2. The Philippines scored the opening goal at 32 minutes, but Brunei scored equaliser at 33 minutes. The first half ended

in a draw. In the second half, Brunei's Norsamri scored at 49 minutes, the the Philippines player Tacardon scored the equaliser at 54 minutes. At the 65-minute mark, Brunei player Ramli scored the winning goal.

Today's schedule of play in Group A will pit Malaysia against Singapore at 3pm at

Aung San Stadium and Cambodia versus Timor Leste at 3pm and Laos against Thailand at 6pm at Thuwanna Stadium.

The Myanmar team's group B matches will be on Saturday against Brunei, on Monday against the Philippines and on 13 August against Viet Nam. ■

## England hit back to beat Slovakia with Rashford winner

LONDON — England closed in on qualification for next year's World Cup finals as Marcus Rashford's first competitive international goal earned them a 2-1 win over closest Group F rivals Slovakia at Wembley on Monday.

Slovakia, who began the night only two points adrift of Gareth Southgate's England, stunned their hosts in the third minute when Stanislav Lobotka punished some slack defending to prod the opener past keeper Joe Hart. England were wob-

bling but midfielder Eric Dier calmed the home jitters with a well-taken 37<sup>th</sup> minute equaliser.

Manchester United youngster Rashford, who had been at fault for Slovakia's opener, then showed why he was selected ahead of Raheem Sterling with

a stunning 59<sup>th</sup> minute effort, beating Martin Dubravka with a fierce drive. Victory put England five points ahead of second-placed Slovakia with two matches remaining and means they are almost certain of at least a playoff spot.—Reuters ■

## Williams leads American charge at US Open

NEW YORK — Venus Williams, looking to win her first grand slam title since 2008, leads the American charge at the US Open as quarter-final action starts in Flushing Meadows on Tuesday.

The ninth seed, on a renaissance path as she reached major finals this season for the first time since 2009, faces Czech Petra Kvitova, who knocked out pre-tournament favourite Garbine Muguruza in the previous round three months after coming back from a career-threatening injury. Kvitova, seeded 13<sup>th</sup>, was stabbed in her left playing

hand by an intruder at her home in December. "What she's gone through is unimaginable, unreasonable. The world we live in is just shocking," said Williams.

"So for her, I think to be playing well is such a blessing. To be able to come out here and do what she needs to do, to clear her head, it's such a beautiful thing to see. What else can I say except I'm glad to see her back."

American Sloane Stephens, back to her best after a year out because of a foot injury, faces Latvian 16<sup>th</sup> seed Anastasiya Sevastova, who beat Maria



Venus Williams of the US takes a break in her match against Carla Suarez Navarro of Spain during their fourth round match of US Open in New York, US on 3 September, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Sharapova in the previous round.

She will be followed on Arthur Ashe Stadium by Williams, with Sam Querrey, the only

American male player left in the draw, closing proceedings against big-serving Kevin Anderson.—Reuters ■

## Bartomeu says Messi's new contract has been signed by his father



Barcelona President Josep Maria Bartomeu. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

MADRID — Barcelona president Josep Maria Bartomeu has reassured his club's supporters that Lionel Messi's new contract has been signed, albeit by the player's father.

The Catalan side announced an agreement with Messi, their all-time leading goalscorer, in July to extend his stay to 2021 but the Argentine has not yet put pen to paper, prompting fears he might leave at the end of the season when his previous contract expires.

In an interview with newspaper *Diario Sport*, published on Tuesday, Bartomeu said Messi's father Jorge had signed the contract and the only outstanding matter was to take a photo of Messi doing it himself.

"It's all agreed and signed. There are three contracts," said Bartomeu. "One with the Messi Foundation, which is signed by its president and the player's brother, an image rights contract with Messi signed by his father, who is the administrator of his company, and his employment contract, which his father signed — he has the power to do so.

"(What remains is) that Leo arrives and we have the official photograph and the protocol of the signature. The contract is signed and it's valid from the month of June, 30 June, the same day he got married." Bartomeu also spoke about Andres Iniesta's new contract, with Barcelona's veteran playmaker on a deal which expires at the end of the season.—Reuters ■