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Maungtau District Deputy Commissioner pledges to provide aid and security to Muslim villagers in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

## More Muslim villagers emigrate to Bangladesh of their own accord

Authorities meet with Muslim villagers gathering at border

PEOPLE from Muslim villages in Buthidaung Township gathered at the border area to emigrate from Myanmar to Bangladesh of their own accord yesterday.

Starting on Tuesday, they left their region, claiming that they felt insecure to remain because they were now living in

a sparsely populated area, as most of their relatives had left for Bangladesh. After friends and relatives in Bangladesh made contact and asked them to come, they decided to leave Myanmar.

Upon receipt of the information that Muslims who would emigrate from Buthidaung to Bangladesh arrived at Hmow-

in Chaungwa and Gordu Thara Chaungwa, nearby border fence of Panyaungpingyi village in Maungtau township, Maungtau district deputy commissioner and officials went there to meet the the villagers yesterday morning.

After learning of their plans, the district deputy com-

missioner explained that every individual living in the area who encounters difficulty to survive is being provided with rice, cooking oil, salt and peas, regardless of race and religion. He added that authorities are making efforts for peace and stability of the region for the whole populace.

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## BEST BANK IN MYANMAR

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# Attacks meant to harm sovereignty: MNHRC member



U Yu Lwin Aung, Myanmar National Human Rights Commission member.

PHOTO: MIN HTET

Due to the attacks by extremist terrorists from the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) which took place on 25 August in Maungtau, local residents experienced many kinds of difficulties and hardships, including many displaced people. Likewise, there were allegations and criticisms of evil-minded agitators from home and abroad so that the international community would get confused over Rakhine State affairs, even in such an atmosphere of peace and tranquility after passing a period of living in anxiety and fear. Accordingly, the news team interviewed U Yu Lwin Aung, a member of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, who visited the conflict areas for five days for an assessment of the situations on the ground from every point of view.

Following is the interview with U Yu Lwin Aung (Myanmar National Human Rights Commission Member)

**Q.** Concerning situation in the Maungtau region, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission members conducted a survey in the conflict areas for five days. Can you tell me the aims and objectives of the trip?

**A.** On August 25, there happened violent attacks of extremist terrorists in Maungtau and Buthidaung. There were many allegations in the international sphere that there were violations of human rights, excessive use of force and ethnic cleansing in fighting against them. Concerning these allegations, the MNHRC assigned us to study and assess the actual events and situations on the ground, assessing that it is necessary to ascertain whether these events were real or not. On September 25, we called on the Chief Minister of Rakhine State, explaining him the aims and ob-

jectives of the trip. On the very day, we accompanied the Chief Minister, knowing that the Chief Minister and party had arranged to view the site where Hindus were massacred. Upon arrival at the site, we found 28 dead bodies of Hindus killed by extremist terrorists near Yebawkyia village. At the place, not far from the site, another pit was found again in which 14 corpses were buried. Upon further search for bodies, security forces of the border security guard found three more bodies. On that day we witnessed 17 bodies before our eyes. If they are added to the former 28 ones, it would amount to 45. According to further inquiries, we found

with Hindus in Ngakhura. While meeting with many ethnic races, nobody said that Tatmadaw committed genocide. We found that terrorists entering from the neighbouring country organised naive Islamists with fear and other kinds of means. They attacked police outposts simultaneously after organising them.

**Q.** What is the view of the commission on the situation in Maungtau region?

**A.** These events are pre-planned terrorist acts with set aims rather than an impromptu terrorist act. Before these events, those who can inform the government and Tatmadaw like heads of wards were killed to breed fear.

to organise but they didn't involve themselves with the terrorists. Some say they don't like being called Bangali. While we were interviewing the Muslim villagers, we saw a Tatmadaw car entering the village. What is strange is a pole about a man's height was stuck in the middle of the gravel road to prevent entry into the village and Tatmadaw personnel had to remove it in order to enter the village. We asked the Tatmadaw personnel why they came and they said they came to give medical treatment to a family in the village. This is my first-hand experience of Tatmadaw providing medical assistance to a Muslim village instead of harming or caus-

health care. However we say they replied that they'll go to Bangladesh as it is more convenient there than here. They say they are afraid to stay. As they went on their own free will, we do not have the right to prevent them and we didn't. The strange thing about the whole incident was that they came from villages in the eastern side of Mayu Mountain range, south of Buthidaung where nothing happens. If they were fleeing from places where there were killings, it would have been understandable. Some sold off all their belongings so there seems to be no way they are ever going to come back. More strange is we heard of Muslims in Mrauk-U where everything is peaceful being called by phone from Bangladesh (to cross over). We saw people being carried over to Bangladesh by pre-arranged motorised boats from Bangladesh, so it means that they were being willingly invited in. This is really strange.

**Q.** What do you want to say about events in Maungtau region? What will be included in the commission's report?

**A.** There are some villages in Buthidaung and Maungtau region that remain where they were. Ethnic nationals are afraid of staying there if those villages remain there. There is fear. This is something we need to keep in mind. We will report our findings to the President. We will also report to Hluttaw and relevant departments. Some, we will announce to the public so that all will know. We want all to look first-hand on the ground instead of listening to comments from outside. This is not an ordinary event. It is an attempt to violate the sovereignty of the country using religion and race. From a human rights viewpoint, it can be seen that a number of ethnic nationals were massacred in groups. The Government needs to set up proper plans so that there is no recurrence of such events. If not, we conclude that there'll be more mass killings and killing of minority ethnic nationals.

Myanmar National Human Rights Commission committee members U Yu Lwin Aung, Dr. Myint Kyi and secretary U Bone Kywe visited and met with people from the two societies for five days from 25 to 29 September to study the events in Maungtau region. Their findings will be reported to the President in a few days.—Maung Sein Lwin (Myanma Alin) ■



Myanmar National Human Rights Commission members meeting with ethnic people from villages in Maungtau District. PHOTO: MIN HTET

bereaved families and relatives of the killed victims. Out of over 100 abducted, 8 girls and children were taken to Bangladesh and girls were raped on the way and forced to converted to their religion.

We came to know on the very first day of our trip that ethnic cleansing was made by extremist terrorists, absolutely not by the army as alleged and criticised by some people. In the human rights point of view, it was found that survival of a small amount of Hindus was being violated. It was learnt that forced conversion to their religion was violating their freedom of worship. And committing rape is a violation of women's rights.

**Q.** We have known that the commission visited villages in northern and southern Maungtau Region. Please share your experiences with us.

**A.** On the second day of the trip, we went to Kyikanpyin and Ngakhura in northern Maungtau via Maungtau. Over there we met

Those who reported the true happenings were also killed. Even a young woman clerk in the office of the head of district administrative department was killed as an informer. Muslims who had contact with government, Tatmadaw and administrative organisations were also killed. Afterwards, a number of ethnic Mro were killed. Then police posts manned by a few were attacked by mobs of hundreds and thousands with IEDs, machetes, and small arms. It is obvious that they plan to annihilate nearby minority ethnic nationals once these posts fell.

**Q.** (The committee) visited both ethnic national villages as well as Muslim villages. What are the differences?

**A.** The commission divided into two groups on the third day. My group visited villages south of Maungtau, while the group led by Dr. Myint Kyi visited Maungtau town and villages north of Maungtau. Some Muslim villagers say terrorists came to their village

ing problem to the village. What I want to say is that there were no signs of Tatmadaw conducting ethnic cleansing, rape and using excessive force.

**Q.** You met with Muslims who were illegally entering into Bangladesh. How did you meet them?

**A.** Yes. We heard of a group of Muslims preparing to enter illegally into Bangladesh gathering at a beach near Alethanyaw and together with Maungtau District General Administrative Department's Commissioner U Ye Htut, we went to talk to them. We saw more than a thousand Muslims provided with food and shelter by ICRC (International Community of the Red Cross) and the Myanmar Red Cross Society. We spoke with groups of Muslims in six different locations and they said they don't have security and they are afraid of reprisals. We told them that we'll provide police and Tatmadaw for security as well as food. The Tatmadaw will also send medical assistance for



## More Muslim villagers emigrate to Bangladesh of their own accord

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The villagers said they were well aware of the situation and of the authorities' efforts, but would still like to go to Bangladesh of their own accord.

Hundreds of thousands of Muslims fled to Bangladesh in the days and weeks after the 25 August attacks by the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) on dozens of border guard posts.

This week, 168 Muslims from Gutarpyin village in Buthidaung Township reached nearby Ywathitkay on 26 September,

with 255 Muslims from Shwehtar and Zinkharma villages, 281 Muslims from Taungchaung and Pauktaw villages, 200 Muslims from Theintaungpyin and Karli villages, 35 Muslims from Duohthema village arriving at the beach near Layyinkwin village on 27 September. On 28 September, 895 Muslims from Taungchaung, Zinkharma, Boli and Ngwe Taung villages arrived at the beach nearby Layyinkwin village, with 530 Muslims from Gutarpyin village arriving between Panyaungpingyi and the border fence. —MNA ■



U Htun Htun Oo, Union Attorney-General delivers an opening speech at the 4th meeting of the coordination body of Rule of law department and judiciary fairness works in Nay Pyi Taw. Photo: MNA

## Coordination body for Rule of Law and Justice holds 4th meeting

4<sup>th</sup> meeting of the coordination body of Rule of law department and judiciary fairness works was held at the meeting room of the office of the Union Attorney General yesterday morning.

U Htun Htun Oo, Union Attorney-General and chairman of the coordination body of the Rule of law department and judiciary fairness works delivered an opening speech saying coordination sub bodies were formed in states and regions in order to effectively coordinate rule of law and judiciary fairness works.

A total of 95 cases submitted by the people were received in Kachin, Sagaing, Magway, Yangon, Bago, Ayeyawady, Rakhine, Shan and Mandalay. In response to the submissions, sub groups coordinated with relevant departments on the submitted cases, provided suggestions on right of appeal in accordance to the law and cases were opened in police stations.

The sub groups were formed

with government officials, representatives of civil society organisations and legal experts and if they work together in unity, rule of law will improve.

For the group works to succeed, it will work together with local and foreign organisations. Rule of Law and Justice Sector Forum is planned with an aim to setup future works for improvement and development of rule of law and preparations need to be made said the Union Attorney-General. Next, meeting attendees discussed widely on what ought to be done for rule of law and judiciary fairness works and preparation works for the forum.

The meeting was attended by chairman, vice chairmen and members of coordination body of Rule of law department and judiciary fairness works, advisory group members and invited guests from international organisations. — Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye and Ms. Victoria Kwakwa, the World Bank Regional Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific hold talks in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 September 2017. PHOTO: MNA

## World Bank Regional Vice President calls on Union Minister

MS. Victoria Kwakwa, the World Bank Regional Vice President for East Asia and the Pacific, called on Dr. Win Myat Aye, the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, at the ministry's Maykhalar hall yesterday afternoon.

During the call, matters relating to status of the World Bank proposal on cooperating with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement on the ministry's nutrition supplement programme for expecting mothers and newborn children up to 2 years of age under

the ministry's socio-protection program, and the status of appointing country directors in Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar after World Bank re-entered Myanmar five years ago were brought up by the World Bank representative.

The Union Minister explained the status of international aid being distributed with the Red Cross Movement to all who are facing difficulties. Then the committee to monitor the progress of the implementation of the Rakhine State Advisory Commission recommendations was set up on 12 September. The

committee had held three coordination meetings, conducted one site survey and identified priority works that can be conducted ministry-wise", said the Union Minister. The Union Minister also explained the status of drawing up a strategic plan to implement the recommendations and returning those who fled to Bangladesh according to the 1993 Myanmar-Bangladesh agreement and discussed the Myanmar government's systematic resettling, providing of humanitarian assistance and security to villages.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## 10,000 acres earmarked for fish breeding in Yangon Region

By Ko Moe

ACCORDING to the Myanmar Fisheries Federation (MFF), the Yangon regional government is setting aside 10,000 acres for fish breeding.

"The government had informed Yangon Region Department of Fisheries about setting aside 10,000 acres of land for fishery sector development. Region Government and MFF should coordinate in this matter. If the government digs up land to use (the earthwork somewhere else) and allows us to use this dug up land as fish ponds, it would be very convenient for us", said MFF Vice Chairman Daw Toe Nanda Tin.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said ground implementation work for development of the fish breeding sector in Yangon Region would start at the end of the rainy season this year. The Chief Minister also added that existing illegal fish ponds will be legalised and fishery-related factories and cold storages will be upgraded.

The region government will conduct this through cooperating with relevant ministry, MFF, local and foreign businesses, it is learnt. As the government is promoting the export sector, the fishery sector that can obtain foreign exchange directly has been evaluated as a sector to

be given high priority.

"The fishery sector will develop if the fish hatcheries, quality feed and technology that we need are provided" Daw Toe Nanda Tin said. In drawing up projects for fishery sector development, aquaculture zones, hatcheries, feed mills and laboratories were listed as necessities.

The MFF has asked the region government to systematically set up aquaculture zones, hatcheries, feed mills and laboratories when drawing up projects for fishery sector development. In FY 2016-2017, the fishery sector had exported about US\$600 million worth of products, it is learnt. ■



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# Myanmar to celebrate World Tourism Day on 9 October

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism announced that it will officially celebrate World Tourism Day 2017 on 9 October at the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw on a grand scale.

World Tourism Day is commemorated yearly on 27 September in most countries across the globe, with the purpose of fostering awareness among the international community of the importance of tourism and its social, cultural, political and economic value, while mobilising all stakeholders to work together in making tourism a catalyst for positive change.

World Tourism Day has been celebrated since 1980.

This year's World Tourism Day will be celebrated under the theme "Sustainable Tourism — a Tool for Development."

The Hotels and Tourism Ministry is putting continuous efforts to explore new travel



Tourists taking the bullock carts for sightseeing in Bagan, Mandalay Region. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

destinations whereas it is implementing community-based tourism and ecotourism in resource-rich areas in collaboration with relevant government departments and tourism organizations.

According to the ministry, it is expected to receive around 3.5 million tourist arrivals this year. Between January and July, the country hosted more than 2 million tourists, an increase of 20 per cent when

compared to the same period last year.

Thailand tops the list of foreign visitors to Myanmar from Asia, while the United States is ranked first among Western travellers.—Shwe Khine ■

## Yangon's suburb needs more tube-wells for drinking water

"MORE tube-wells are needed to be dug in Letkhokkon Village, Kungyangon Township, in Yangon Region for their drinking water supply," said U Hla Kyi, administrator of the village.

According to the Myawady Daily's Friday edition, the village has only six tube-wells donated by non-governmental organisations since 2010. The villagers obtain drinking water mainly from lakes. To fulfil their drinking water needs, they also collect rainwater in the wet season.

Villagers experienced a shortage of drinking water after Cyclone Nargis hit in 2008. This greatly affected villagers' access to safe drinking water, as salt water contaminated the wells and lakes.

"Natural disasters often cause damage to hand-dug wells and lakes. Construction of more tube-wells is expected to resolve the drinking water problem during disasters," said U Hla Kyi.

The 9,092-acre wide Letkhokkon Village is near the coastline.—GNLM ■

## MoHT to issue certificates to local pilgrimage tour operators

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism said it is working to issue certificates to domestic pilgrimage tour operators beginning next month for the purpose of systemising this kind of service business, according to a report Friday of the Myawady Daily.

This is the first time the ministry will issue such certificates, which are valid for one year for domestic pilgrimage tour operators, said a member of Myanmar Domestic Pil-

grimages and Tour Operators Association. U Maung Maung Aye, an officer from the association, said the ministry will issue certificates not only to domestic pilgrimage tour service operators but also to pilgrimage transporters, adding that operators first have to apply for a recommendation from the association, which will help them to obtain the certificate issued by the ministry.

Tour operators may apply for the certificate starting on 1

October. At the present time, there are about 30 applicants who have sought a recommendation from the association.

Pilgrimage tour operators need to meet certain criteria, including sufficient capital for the business as well as quality of service to attain the one-year certificate.

According to the ministry's regulations, the one-year certificate is required to be renewed within 30 days before the expiration date.—GNLM ■

## Dried tea leaves sell well in Lashio prior to Thindingyut Lighting Festival

DRIED tea leaves have been selling well in Lashio, the largest town in northern Shan State, prior to the Thindingyut Lighting Festival, the religious festival to be held in the first week of next month, according to a report of the Myawady Daily's Friday edition.

"When compared to last year, locally produced dried tea leaves are selling very well this year, especially before the

period of Thadingyut Festival, distributing dried tea leaves with the use of good packaging throughout the country," said a female wholesaler in Lashio's Myoma Market.

Dried tea leaves produced in northern Shan State have been sent mainly to Pyin Oo Lwin, Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw as well as in other parts of states and regions.

In Shan State, Pindaya

Town is also famous for its commercial tea plantations, with approximately 30 villages in the town able to mass produce tea leaves with the use of modern equipment.

Myanmar exports this kind of product predominantly to China and Thailand. Efforts are being made by trade authorities, tea producers and exporters to penetrate the international market.—GNLM ■



## Export value shows increase of US\$1.1 billion in past six months

THE value of exports in the first half of the current fiscal year increased US\$1.1 billion compared to the same period last FY, according to the Commerce Ministry.

As of 22 Sep in the current FY, the country's exports hit \$6.46 billion, comprised of \$2 billion from the government sector and about \$4.3 billion from the private sector.

Only forestry exports show a slight decline, but other export sectors increased in trade value. Exports from finished industrial goods earned \$2.87 billion, followed by agriculture exports with \$1.43 billion. Minerals exports fetched \$634 million. Fisheries exports hit \$274 million and the export values of livestock and animal products were about



Workers sort fish at a fish market in Yangon on 21 September. Photo: GNLM/Phoe Khwar

\$11 million. Other products worth \$1.13 billion were also traded. Myanmar exports the goods via sea routes and border trade gates. Exports through sea routes fetched \$4.4 billion, while \$2 billion worth of export goods flowed into neighbouring countries via border trade gates.—Mon Mon ■

## Domestic gold price hovering above Ks930,000 these days

With the global gold price declining, domestic gold price has also fallen. The pure gold price is currently hovering above Ks930,000 per tical (0.578 ounce).

The gold price reached a peak in early September with a high price in the global market.

On 15 September, it reached its all-time highest price of over Ks957,000 per tical. But shortly thereafter, the domestic gold price slipped gradually when the global gold price started fluctuating in the market.

On 29 September, the domestic pure gold price was

Ks936,000 per tical, while global gold fetched US\$1,286 per ounce, according to Aung Thamadi Gold and Jewellery Shop. Transactions in gold and jewellery shops are currently declining as buyers and sellers are waiting and observing the fluctuating market.—GNLM ■

## More than US\$4.3 billion of FDI flows into Myanmar in six months

FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) in the first half of this fiscal year amounted to more than US\$4.3 billion, an increase of about \$3 billion when compared to the same period last year, according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily.

Meanwhile, domestic investments have reached Ks4.1 billion, which shows a significant increase from that of the previous FY.

Nine foreign enterprises permitted this month will create over 3,200 job opportunities, with estimated investments of \$403 million.

There are still 27 proposals which need to be verified at the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), with 15 foreign enterprises and 12 domestic projects.

Foreign investments flow into the agricultural, livestock and fisheries, manufacturing, power, transport and communication, hotel and tourism and real estate sectors.

The MIC set ten prioritised sectors for investment: agriculture and its related services; value-added production of agricultural products; livestock production, breeding and production of fishery products; export

promotion industries; import substitution industries; the power sector; logistics industries; education services; the health care industry; construction of affordable housing and establishment of industrial estates. The MIC will grant permits for investment proposals of these sectors as soon as possible.

The MIC endorsed proposed enterprises only after verifying sector-specific development, innovation, domestic consumption needs, market conditions, technical sharing, EIA, SIA and compliance under existing law.—GNLM ■

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## Mangroves for the Future holds 14th Regional Steering Committee Meeting

REGIONAL coastal initiative Mangroves for the Future (MFF) is currently holding its 14th Steering Committee meeting in Yangon over the next three days to assess the programme's achievements over the past year and discuss plans for the years ahead.

The meeting kicked off with the inauguration of the Forest Department, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation into the MFF programme.

Guests of honour at the inauguration ceremony included Mr Khin Maung Ye, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation; Dr Nyi Nyi Kyaw, Director General for the Forest Department; Ms Aban Marker Kabraji, Regional Director of IUCN Asia; Mr Gordon Johnson, Regional Cluster Leader for UNDP in Asia and the Pacific and Dr Steen Christensen, MFF Coordinator.

"Becoming a full member of Mangroves for the Future marked an important milestone as we work towards the effective conservation and management



Participants of the MFF 14th Regional Steering Committee meeting pose for photo. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

of coastal resources in Myanmar," said Mr Khin Maung Ye. "We thank MFF, IUCN and the Board of MFF, including the institutional and funding partners and the MFF full member representatives for having unanimously endorsed Myanmar as a full MFF member at the 11th Regional Steering Committee Meeting,

which was held in Cambodia."

"Today we are all fairly clear about the issues facing the long-term sustainable management of Myanmar's coastal resources, and the need for coordinated collective action to address them. This is not only for the long term interests of Myanmar, but for the interests of the global en-

vironment as a whole," said Aban Marker Kabraji, in her opening remarks.

Following the inauguration, the Steering Committee reviewed the progress made by Mangroves for the Future – both at the regional and national levels – and approved the work programme for 2018.

The second day of the meeting will highlight the programme's sustainability plans with a focus on securing funding from Norad and the Green Climate Fund (GCF), a fund within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The MFF regional secretariat is currently in consultation with several countries and is working to identify priorities to support the programme's proposal to the GCF.

MFF has developed a project concept with Norad, in relation to the International Climate and Forest Initiative (NICFI) programme, that focuses on integrating mangrove forest ecosystems within the REDD+ agenda. In this connection, MFF will be conducting a workshop led by Timothy Boyle, the UN-REDD Regional Coordinator at UNDP Bangkok, on 30 September. The aim is to build participants' knowledge of REDD+ and gain an understanding of how and where mangrove forest ecosystems complement the REDD+ agenda, both from a policy and practical perspective.—GNLM ■

## Donation of text books for children



Myanmar Awba group donated forty dozens text books for children at monastic education school in Sittway. Myanmar Awba group handed over the donation to the Sayadaw of the monastery on 29 September 2017.—Win Min Soe (IPRD) ■

## Coconut price falls in Mawlamyinegyun Township

THE price of coconuts has decreased in Mawlamyinegyun Township, Ayeyawady Region because of suspension of coconut exports to Thailand, according to a report in the City News Daily yesterday.

Myanmar coconuts are usually exported to Thailand. Currently, however, Myanmar has suspended coconut exports to Thailand because Thailand has increased the taxes upon coconut exports. This has caused the price of coconuts to fall this year.

"Coconut season runs from May to September. We cannot have coconuts year-round. Although we've expected the price of coconuts to rise during the season, the coconut price has not risen yet," said U Ohn Win, a coconut farm owner.

Last year, the price of coconuts was between Ks500 and Ks1,200 per head, depending upon the size of the coconut. But this year, coconuts are selling for between Ks300 and

Ks400 per head.

Myanmar exports coconuts not only to Thailand but also to China. But China buys coconut oil only.

"Coconuts are growing in every region. But we always have to observe the rise and fall in the price of coconuts. The Myanmar coconut market always relies on the export market.

But people are saying that coconuts will be exported again at the end of this month", said U Tun Khin, the owner of a coconut brokerage at ward 12, Mawlamyinegyun Township.

The coconuts from Mawlamyinegyun Township are being sold at Thiri Mingalar Market and Bayintnaung brokerages in Yangon region.

Local farmers from Phutalut, Pyangyi, Nunkaw, Ahleyegyaw, Puluza, Htane, Ohnbinzu, Loka-totka, Ma Soe Yein Kyu Chaung, Thayet Chaung, Maubin, Kyaiklat and Wakhama all grow coconut trees.—GNLM ■

## Mango exports decline due to bad weather

THE export of mangoes this year has declined because bad weather has damaged crops, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday. "The yield of mango declined because of bad weather, and thus exports suffers as a result. Myanmar has exported only 29,000 tons of mangoes in this year", said U Soe Than Min Din, the chairman of the Myanmar Fruit and Vegetable Producers

and Exporters Association.

"Mango flowers could not blossom well last year because of heavy rain. This year, only 10 per cent of the mango flowers bloomed when compared to last year. Therefore, we didn't meet the target and mango exports declined", he added. Mango blossoming season runs from April to July. Normally, mango has to be cultivated in cold and dry sea-

sons. But last year, there were heavy rains in the lower parts of Myanmar, causing a low percentage of mango flowers to blossom.

Myanmar exports 97 per cent of mangoes to China via border trade with the remaining three per cent going to Singapore, Thailand, India and Hong Kong. Myanmar stands seventh on the list of mango exporter countries.—GNLM ■



## Stampede in India's financial capital kills at least 22

MUMBAI — A rush hour stampede during a sudden monsoon downpour at a railway station in India's financial hub of Mumbai killed at least 22 people and wounded more than 30, an Indian state official said on Friday.

The cause of the stampede on a bridge at the city's central Elphinstone station during the rainstorm was being investigated, a police official at the accident site said.

"Two of the injured are in serious condition," said Deepak Sawant, the health minister of the western state of Maharashtra surrounding Mumbai, who provided the estimate of casualties.

The stampede took place after the cloudburst caught commuters off guard, prompting scores to scurry for cover under the roof of the station's pedestrian overbridge, said Akash Koteja, one of the injured.

"Trains were rolling in and some people wanted to get out of the station, but others were not making way. When a few tried, it led to a stampede," said Koteja.



A stampede victim is carried on a stretcher at a hospital in Mumbai, India, on 29 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The bridge is usually crowded at that time of day, as it also serves as an exit route for passengers getting off trains at an adjoining railway station, he added.

Manish Mishra, a witness who helped some of the injured, said the situation was worsened as police and emergency officials did not respond immediately or

enforce crowd control measures.

Police and emergency officials were not immediately reachable for comment on Mishra's statement.—Reuters ■

## China expects more good news in relations with Japan: FM

BELJING — China expects more good news on relations with Japan in the future, Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Thursday.

Wang made the remarks when he met with Japanese ambassador to China Yokoi Yutaka.

This year marks the 45<sup>th</sup> an-

niversary of the normalization of China-Japan diplomatic ties.

According to Wang, China-Japan relations have overcome a number of difficulties as well as made significant progress.

"To further develop bilateral ties is the responsibility of both

sides," he said.

Earlier on Thursday, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe attended a ceremony marking China's upcoming National Day at the Chinese Embassy in Tokyo.

China hopes that the Japanese government can have a

more positive policy towards China, and do more to promote bilateral cooperation, to achieve good interaction between the two sides, rather than taking one step forward and then one or even two steps back, Wang said.—Xinhua ■

## Tokyo Gov. Koike to appoint 1<sup>st</sup> female vice governor in 22 yrs

TOKYO — Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike is set to appoint a senior public servant as a new vice governor, which would make her the first woman to assume the post in 22 years, sources close to the matter said Friday.

The personnel shuffle comes as speculation swirls that Koike may contest the lower house election after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe dissolved the House of Representatives on Thursday and set an October 22 poll date. Earlier this week, Koike launched the new party Kibō no Tō (party of hope) to challenge Abe's ruling coalition, fueling speculation that she will quit as governor and return to national politics. The proposal by the first female leader of Japan's capital, apparently reflecting Koike's drive to empower women, is likely to be submitted to the metropolitan assembly next Thursday, the final day of its ordinary session.

Under the proposal, Junko Inokuma, the female director general of the bureau of accounting, and Akira Hasegawa, head of the governor's office for policy planning, will be promoted to vice governors to replace three of four incumbents, reducing the total number at the same time, the sources said.—Kyodo News ■

## US envoy to Japan says military action against North Korea unlikely

TOKYO — US Ambassador to Japan William Hagerty indicated Friday that the possibility is low for now that the administration of President Donald Trump will take military action against North Korea despite growing tensions.

Defence Secretary Jim Mattis and other senior US officials "know the consequences of war," Hagerty said at an event hosted by the American Chamber of Commerce in Japan.

Hagerty also said the US government has increased pressure on North Korea "very

systematically," and expressed hope that economic sanctions will curb the country's nuclear and ballistic missile ambitions.

Since July, North Korea has twice test-fired ballistic missiles thought capable of reaching the US mainland, and on 3 September the nation carried out its sixth nuclear test and of what it claimed was a hydrogen bomb.

In a speech to the UN General Assembly earlier this month, Trump referred to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as "Rocket Man," said he was on

"a suicide mission," and Trump declared he was prepared to "totally destroy" the country if the United States is forced to defend itself or its allies.

North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho subsequently slammed Trump's remarks as a "declaration of war" against Pyongyang, although the White House called that "absurd."

Hagerty is a Tennessee businessman who served as a key member of Trump's transition team and used to work in Japan.—Kyodo News ■



New US Ambassador to Japan William Hagerty gives an interview to Kyodo News on 12 September 2017, in Tokyo. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**



# We must respond to any false allegations with patience and truth

By Khin Maung Oo

During the general debate of the 72nd United Nations General Assembly held at the UN headquarters in New York, Nigeria, France, Turkey, Afghanistan, UAE, Malaysia, Maldives and Czech including Bangladesh made false allegations concerning Myanmar, using terms such as “Atrocities” “Ethnic Cleansing,” and so on.

In regard to those allegations on Myanmar, U Hau Do Suan, Permanent Representative of Myanmar to the UN, responded on 25th September, the last day of the general debate exercising his right of reply. He said, “It is deeply regrettable that unsubstantiated allegations have been repeated in these chambers likening the situation in Rakhine State to ‘ethnic cleansing’”. He also said that terms such as ‘atrocities’, ‘ethnic cleansing’ and ‘genocide’ should not be used

lightly, and the use of such terms should be considered only after there is solid evidence. He urged those delegations and the international community to view the situation in northern Rakhine objectively and in an unbiased manner. He stated that there was not ethnic cleansing and there was no genocide in northern Rakhine.

In actual fact, there was neither ethnic cleansing nor genocide in Myanmar. Destructive elements are intentionally distorting the news and posting fake news on the internet and Youtube to confuse the international community and the people of the world. Human rights violations were taking place in northern Rakhine State and to stir up racial and religious hatred. Just in a few hours after releasing the report of the advisory commission on Rakhine State, ARSA extremist terrorists conspired to attack over 30 security outposts in northern Rakhine State, starting from early morning hours of 25th August.

We must strongly denounce groundless false allegations which do not agree with the actual facts at the ground level.

Because of the inhumane attacks of the ARSA extremist terrorists on Muslims, Rakhine nationals, ethnic nationals such as Daingnet, Mro and Thet including Hindus were killed. Many were displaced and relocated to safe places. Many Youtube TV channels originating in Bangladesh and human rights organizations such as Human Rights Watch have gone to great lengths to sway international public opinion with a view to supporting the cause of the so-called “Rohinjyas”. Many astute observers now believe that all these events were carefully planned by a master-brain from somewhere to bring attention to the cause of the ARSA in particular and the Bengali Muslims who have crossed over to Bangladesh in general. In essence, the game plan was to gain a foothold in

northern Rakhine for future terrorist activities while at the same time discredit the Myanmar Armed Forces and the civilian government led by the NLD which has been working day and night to bring stability, peace and development in the Rakhine State.

These allegations are practically false statements, in which facts are distorted and photos and video clips are used for maximum effect. In the northern Rakhine region, Muslims are in fact the majority, 95 percent of the population in that region. The remaining 5 percent who make up the minority are local residents and other ethnic minorities. These were the ones who were violently attacked and killed in a ruthless and inhumane manner. Whatever it is, the Myanmar Government is protecting all the people of the region, regardless of race, religion and status, with goodwill (“Cetana”) and full respect for their human rights. ■

# Rakhine Crisis and Myanmar Economy

By Khin Maung Nyo (Economics)

**I**HAVEN’T voiced my opinion on Rakhine crisis as the State authorities and experts have been discussing it quite extensively; however, now that the topic falls within my area of expertise, I’m going to express my views.

These days, news agencies, especially foreign news outlets, ask this major question:

“Can Rakhine crisis affect Myanmar economy?”

I myself have never thought it could. That’s why I asked them how the two were related. Then, I realized why.

In fact, this article should have been written in English in the first place. But the fact that I am not well-versed in diplomatic terms may give rise to misinterpretations; thus, I’ve put it down in Myanmar.

During the television interviews, I’ve

tried to express my thoughts in English as much as I could as those interviews are meant for international audience.

Here is what I’ve gathered. “International communities are concerned about Rakhine crisis. Therefore, foreign investments could be delayed as there is no political stability in Myanmar. This in turn would slow down Myanmar economic development”, they said! Well, well, well!

It would be entirely wrong for the investors to base their business decisions on false news.

Foreign investments are obviously needed for the development of Myanmar. To that end, Myanmar is trying to cooperate with international communities. The international communities should welcome and acknowledge it, shouldn’t they? Why do they choose to believe fake,

fabricated news and turn a blind eye to the benefits of millions of people?

Till now, Myanmar has not received tangible investments from the West. Majority of investments come from her neighboring Asian countries. Myanmar is still in the process of penning bilateral trade agreements with some European countries, and American sanctions against her have not been lifted altogether. Therefore, it is hard to say that the investments, which have not even arrived here, could be slowed down. The list of some top foreign investors in Myanmar has remained the same for years, without any significant change. Myanmar has issued a new Foreign Investment Act which guarantees that foreign investors will be treated and protected equally as local investors.

Most of the trading has been with neighboring countries. Myanmar is still far from enjoying GSP opportunities – a current buzzword.

There has been a great deal of political progress in Myanmar, the most obvious one is the civilian government in office. International communities should welcome such progress made within a year and a half, rather than comparing it with the sort of progress that can be achieved after more than a hundred years. A look into the history of Myanmar will reveal that it has never given into the pressure of any superpower. It has also withstood years of economic sanctions.

While devising economic strategies and investment plans for the development of Rakhine region, there may be those who are uninterested as well as those who want to invest. Of course, people have different views on risks and opportunities. We, on our part, need to welcome investments which correspond with our economic policies for the benefits of our country.

Although it may not directly impact tourism industry as the current crisis is in the region that is not frequented

by foreign tourists, there may be those who have cancelled their trips out of panic, based on false rumors.

This crisis will not affect current investment either, because such investments are situated off-shore and in the south of Rakhine. It should be noted that this crisis did not begin

overnight; it began in 2012. Nevertheless, investment in the region did not drop – it has increased gradually.

We notice that some ASEAN member countries, neighboring countries and even some far-flung countries can understand the situation and sympathize with us.

The silver lining is this Rakhine crisis is that the Government, the Parliament and the public have become united more than before.

“Blood is thicker than water” and this fact is a notion that no one can put a price tag on!

*Translated by Soe Than*

It would be entirely wrong for the investors to base their business decisions on false news.



# Commodities and Monetary Aids Provided to Displaced People in Sittway

SOCIAL Welfare Department provided aid to internally displaced people sheltering at monasteries in Sittway yesterday afternoon.

At IDP camps at Pariyatti Pyokhin and Pyigy Mandaing monasteries, the officials of the department provided four pregnant women, 9 children under 2-year-age, 13 old and feeble people aged 60 and above with

cash assistance.

And, displaced persons were provided with pea, cooking oil, soap, clothes, toys for children, simultaneously giving spiritual encouragement and creating enjoyment for children.

The displaced people fled their homes in conflict areas in Maungtau to Sittway after the terrorist attacks happened there.

—Win Min Soe, (IPRD) ■



An ethnic family from a village of Maungtau District accepts cash presented by an official. **PHOTO: MNA**

## Thura U Shwe Mann receives Qatar Ambassador



Thura U Shwe Mann welcomes Qatar Ambassador Mr. Hassan bin Mohamed Rafei Emadi. **PHOTO: MNA**

THURA U Shwe Mann, Chairman of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission received H.E. Mr. Hassan bin Mohamed Rafei Emadi, Ambassador of Qatar to Myanmar at Hluttaw Building Hall (I-11), Nay Pyi Taw on 29 September noon.

During the meeting, Thura U Shwe Mann said there is

a need to know the true situation of Rakhine State and he would like media from Qatar to help by broadcasting true news on Rakhine situation so that the world knew of the true situation in Rakhine State. Providing humanitarian aid in specified procedure was also discussed in the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Donation for Myanmar-Bangladesh border fence

ON the morning of 29 September in Ministry of Home Affairs, Lotineya Tatineya Gem Company Limited donated Ks. 100 million for Myanmar-Bangladesh border fencing work and the donation was accepted by Commander-in-Chief (army) Directorate of Military Engineers deputy director Col Aung Myaing.

The donation ceremony was attended by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe and Permanent Secretary U Tin Myint, Ministry of Defence Permanent Secretary Brig-Gen San Win, Col Aung Myaing and heads of departments/forces of Ministry of Home Affairs.—Myanmar News Agency ■

## Investment, trade with Indonesian entrepreneurs discussed

Nandar Win

A Myanmar-Indonesia Business Matching Event took place at the Sule Shangri-la Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

To upgrade investment and trade, 50 entrepreneurs from 33 Indonesian companies and 50 Myanmar entrepreneurs discussed matters from the sectors of solar energy, coal, pharmaceuticals, electricity, meat and dairy, clothing, textiles, commodities, bags, perfume, soap, arts and crafts, coffee, tea and Indonesian traditional snacks.

“It was sponsored by the Indonesian Embassy with a view to promoting investment and trade in Indonesia. Entrepreneurs will negotiate with each other. They will export their products to Myanmar. Myanmar will also import the products they want. They will introduce their products and services to Myanmar. They will sell their products in Myanmar. Failing that, they will come to invest in Myanmar and to build up factories in the country”, said Dr. Maung Maung Lay, Vice-Chairman of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI), said in an interview after the event.

During the business matching event, H.E. Dr. Ito Sumardi, the Indonesian Ambassador to Myanmar, said investment and trade between the two countries has been increasing and should



Deputy Minister for Commerce U Aung Htoo delivers the opening address at the Indonesia-Myanmar Business Matching. **PHOTO ZAW MIN LATT**

continue.

“Indonesia-Myanmar bilateral economic cooperation is increasing. During the ASEAN meeting, hosted by Myanmar in 2014, Mr. Joko Widodo pointed out that ‘Indonesia needs to invest in Myanmar in the sectors of mining, information and technology and infrastructures.’ Now that Indonesian companies are investing in Myanmar, entrepreneurs from both countries can find out opportunities for cooperating more than ever; through such a business matching, and we firmly believe that success can be achieved further”, said H.E. Dr. Ito Sumardi.

Myanmar’s deputy minister for commerce noted that Indonesia’s business success should be replicated.

“Indonesia is a G-20 member

country. Being a leading country which started to set up ASEAN, Indonesia is economically the most powerful one in ASEAN member countries. Indonesia is the country which is seeking for FDI (Foreign Direct Investment) as well as international markets for the opportunities of trade and investment. We firmly believe that good results of agreement for upgrading trade and investment between the two countries and economically more beneficial cooperation through such a business matching will be achieved”, said U Aung Htoo, the Deputy Minister for Commerce.

Indonesia-Myanmar trade volume reached US\$730 million last year. Compared to last year, bilateral trade volume from January to July increased by 35 per cent. ■



# Merkel, Macron pledge to lead EU forward post-Brexit

TALLINN — French President Emmanuel Macron won backing from Angela Merkel for plans to reform the European Union after Brexit, founded on what the German chancellor called “intense” cooperation between Paris and Berlin.

But during an EU dinner in Estonia that lasted till midnight ahead of a formal summit on Friday, some leaders sounded wary of the youthful new French leader’s ambitious ideas, set out in a speech at the Sorbonne on Tuesday, for deepening EU integration.

Merkel, re-elected for a fourth term on Sunday but weakened by the rise of an insurgent eurosceptic opposition, met Macron for half an hour before dinner and, according to a French aide, welcomed his speech as “visionary” and a return of co-founder France as a driving force in the European Union project.

But she also noted differences. Some of her potential new coalition partners, along with northern governments like the Dutch and Finns, are very dubious about his suggestions for pooling budgets with less fiscally austere states in the south.



French President Emmanuel Macron and German Chancellor Angela Merkel attend a news conference following a Franco-German joint cabinet meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, France, on 13 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

“As far as the proposals were concerned, there was a high level of agreement between German and France. We must still discuss the details, but I am of the firm conviction that Europe can’t just stay still but must continue to develop,” she said.

French officials said Macron, who they said spoke again

with Merkel at length after the late-night dinner, was not trying to impose his ideas but to show others that they were in their common interest and recognised that some needed time to reflect.

“The idea is not about forcing people to give a binary response. France cannot force

things,” one said, adding that Paris hoped leaders could agree on a way to work on the ideas in the coming weeks before an October summit in Brussels.

“The dinner,” a Macron aide said, “Was a chance to share further the Sorbonne project ... Things are on the move.” —Reuters ■

## WORLD BRIEFS

Two US Ospreys make emergency landings at Okinawa’s Ishigaki airport

NAHA (Japan) — Two US military Osprey aircraft made emergency landings Friday at Ishigaki airport in the southern Japan prefecture of Okinawa, the administrative office of Ishigaki city said.

The emergency landings of the tilt-rotor planes occurred around 5 pm.

Okinawa Gov. Takeshi Onaga, speaking to reporters, criticized the latest incident as “truly outrageous.” —Kyodo News ■

Franco-Italian naval alliance could be extended to Germany — minister to paper

MILAN — A mooted naval alliance between Italy and France could be extended to include Germany, Italian Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti said in a newspaper interview on Friday.

On Wednesday France and Italy reached an agreement over a tie-up between Italian shipbuilder Fincantieri and French rival STX France.

That agreement could envisage a share swap between Fincantieri and France’s Naval Group to cement a future naval alliance. Speaking to La Repubblica daily, Pinotti said the agreement Rome and Paris were thinking about involved surface ships but could in the future be extended to include submarines. —Reuters ■

Turkey gives Russia advance payment for S-400 missiles

MOSCOW — Russia has received an advance payment from Turkey for S-400 surface-to-air missile systems which Ankara is buying from Moscow, Kremlin aide Vladimir Kozhin said on Friday, the TASS news agency reported.

He also said, according to TASS, that Turkey would like to take delivery of the missile system before 2019. “The issue is under discussion,” Kozhin was quoted as saying. —Reuters ■

## Trump turns to tax reform after losing healthcare battle

WASHINGTON — After losing his first attempt at passing major legislation, US President Donald Trump is pushing tax reform, in a bid to pass an overhaul of the tax system.

Trump last week suffered a big loss after the fight to repeal and replace the previous administration’s healthcare law, known as Obamacare. After eight months on the job, the billionaire-turned-president has so far been unsuccessful in passing the legislation that supporters elected him to do.

But analysts, politicians and political forecasters say that enacting tax reform will be a much easier task, as both parties agree that the tax system must be updated.

In a speech on Wednesday,

Trump gave a general outline of his tax plan, saying it would help Americans financially, at a time when parts of the nation have still not fully recovered from the 2007-2008 economic downturn.

Some experts are positive on the plan.

Adam Michel, an economic policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation, noted in an email to reporters that “tax reform that follows the outline we heard yesterday will deliver significant benefits for all Americans.”

“The outlined tax reform will make America globally competitive again, attracting investment and businesses from around the world. This will raise wages, increase job creation, and create untold additional opportunities for Americans,”

he said. The general outline of the rest of the plan is also encouraging, he said, citing lower rates for individuals and simplification of the very complex current system.

“All of these things help all Americans. Although we don’t have many of the necessary details to comment on who is helped the most, the framework and comments made yesterday make it clear that this plan is intended to be a tax cut for all Americans,” he said.

Alan Viard, a resident scholar at the American Enterprise Institute, said the issue is complex. By itself, Trump’s proposed lower corporate tax rate will draw investment to the United States.

However, the increase in

the deficit due to the plan’s revenue loss could drive up interest rates, which would actually reduce investment, he told Xinhua.

Furthermore, future tax increases may be needed to service the additional debt, and those tax increases would be likely to reduce economic growth when they are adopted.

So far, it is not clear that the individual tax changes would have much economic effect, at least based on the limited information in the framework. Key elements of the plan have not yet been spelled out, he added.

The issue comes as much of the nation has still not fully recovered from the recession that sent the global economy reeling nearly a decade ago. —Xinhua ■



# First China-US Social, People-to-People Dialogue held in Washington

WASHINGTON — China and the United States held the first round of the bilateral Social and People-to-People Dialogue in the US capital on Thursday.

The dialogue was co-chaired by Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong and US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson.

Since 2010, the China-US high-level people-to-people exchange mechanism has achieved fruitful results, playing a unique role in promoting the development of bilateral ties, said Liu.

Under new circumstances, strengthening people-to-people exchanges is vital to the sound and stable development of bilateral relations, Liu added.

The dialogue is one of the four high-level dialogues established during the Mar-a-Lago meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump in Florida in April.

The two sides should implement the consensus reached by Xi and Trump, raising the people-to-people exchanges and cooperation to a new level, so as

to lay a firm social foundation for the development of bilateral relations, Liu said.

To ensure stable and long-term people-to-people exchanges, Liu proposed that the two sides focus on the development of their relations in the next 50 years.

Liu said they should also respect each other's development path and social system, as well as each other's sovereignty and security and development interests, promote cooperation and properly manage and control differences.

Meanwhile, Liu called for mass participation under the guidance of the two governments, which should provide policy support and platforms for bilateral people-to-people exchanges.

Liu also stressed the need for both countries to give full play to the advantages of each side and expand pragmatic cooperation, so as to benefit the two peoples and provide the international community with more public products.

In addition, Liu urged both sides to fully implement the outcomes of the dialogue.

For his part, Tillerson said the close US-China people-to-people exchanges in recent years have been fruitful, and the United States is willing to strengthen the role of people-to-people exchanges and fully implement the outcomes of the bilateral dialogue along with China.

The United States is eager to expand exchanges and cooperation with China in various social and cultural areas which are significant to US-China ties, Tillerson added.

The first round of the China-US Social and People-to-People Dialogue resulted in a joint statement and an action plan which includes more than 130 outcomes.

During the day, Liu, accompanied by US Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao and Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, also attended a dialogue between youth delegates of the two countries.—Xinhua ■



Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong shakes hands with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson at the US Department of State in Washington DC, on 28 September 2017. The first China-US Social and People-to-People Dialogue was held on Thursday in Washington. The event was co-chaired by Liu Yandong and Rex Tillerson. PHOTO: XINHUA



South Africa's President Jacob Zuma attends the 37<sup>th</sup> Ordinary SADC Summit of Heads of State and Government in the capital, Pretoria, South Africa, on 19 August 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

## South Africa court says can't compel Zuma to set up influence-peddling inquiry

JOHANNESBURG — A South African High Court ruled on Friday that it could not compel President Jacob Zuma to set up a commission of inquiry into alleged influence-peddling in his government. The opposition Democratic Alliance had asked

the court to force Zuma to establish a commission based on a report last year by an anti-graft watchdog into allegations that businessman brothers Ajay, Atul and Rajesh Gupta had influenced the appointment of ministers. — Reuters ■

## Philippines hits back at Western critics for "politicizing" human rights situation

MANILA — The Philippines has lashed out at a group of mostly European countries over their renewed criticism of its human rights record, telling them to respect Manila's domestic processes, a government statement said on Friday.

"We take grave exception to the sweeping and politicized statement delivered by Iceland on behalf of a group of States," said the Philippine Mission to the United Nations in Geneva in a strongly-worded response during the general debate at the 36<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council this week.

The joint statement delivered by Iceland and 38 other countries including the United States and the United Kingdom, expressed concern about what they said were the "thousands of

killings" and the alleged climate of impunity associated with the Philippine government's ongoing campaign against illegal drugs.

In Washington, Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano lamented the criticism, saying this was based "on biased and questionable information," adding it failed to appreciate Manila's willingness to work with the international community on human rights issues. "It is very unfortunate that instead of engaging us constructively, some western countries would rather criticize and impose conditions as if they can do a better job than the Philippine government in protecting the Filipino people," Cayetano, who is in the US for an official visit, said.— Xinhua ■

## Catalan leader says is sure voters will act peacefully in independence referendum

BARCELONA, (Spain) — The leader of Catalonia is convinced all voters will act peacefully on Sunday when the region is called to vote in an independence referendum declared illegal by

Spain.

"I don't believe there will be anyone who will use violence or who will want to provoke violence that will tarnish the irreproachable image of the Catalan

independence movement as pacifist," Carles Puigdemont told Reuters on Friday.

He called on Spanish police, who have been shipped into the region in their thousands, to

block any move to hold the referendum, to act in a professional rather than a political capacity, when carrying out their duties on Sunday.

"I would like them to use

the same standards that the (Catalan regional police) use. Not political standards, not on political orders, but policing and professional standards," he said.—Reuters ■



## Britons open wallets to secure White Cliffs of Dover for nation

LONDON — A British charity seeking to buy land abutting the White Cliffs of Dover to secure the landscape for the nation says it has hit its target to raise one million pounds in just three weeks.

The chalk cliffs, seen as a symbol of Britain's identity as a proud island nation, are the first sight of the country that travelers see when they approach by ferry from nearby France.

The National Trust, a charity dedicated to preserving Britain's heritage and areas of natural beauty for the public, launched the appeal for donations to buy 700,000 square metres of farmland immediately behind the cliffs.

As things stand, the trust owns a narrow strip of land along the dramatic clifftop, but that is at risk of shrinking over time due to erosion. The trust wanted a deeper buffer of land further back from the edge.

"We have been absolutely blown away by the public's response to our appeal," said Virginia Portman, the trust's White Cliffs general manager, in a statement on Friday.

"Over 17,500 people have made donations in the last few

weeks and thanks to their generosity, this wonderful landscape now belongs to the nation, forever" she said.

The trust said the stretch of land was an important habitat for flowers, butterflies and birds including the peregrine falcon and skylark.

The site also has the remnants of military defences dating back to World War II such as gun batteries that supported the D-Day landings and helped close the English Channel to German shipping.

The White Cliffs feature prominently in Britain's collective memories of World War II, in part because they were the subject of a 1942 hit by singer Vera Lynn which gave voice to many Britons' hopes and fears about the conflict with Nazi Germany.

Lynn, who was honoured on her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in March with her image projected onto the cliffs, said she was delighted with the success of the National Trust's appeal.

"The White Cliffs of Dover are a significant landmark and it is so encouraging to know that they will now be protected for future generations," she said in a statement.—Reuters ■



Japan's Prince Akishino and his wife, Princess Kiko, visit a tsunami observation facility of the Chilean navy in the coastal city of Valparaíso on 28 September 2017. The couple are on an official visit to Chile to deepen friendship on the occasion of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between the two nations. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

## Japan's Prince Akishino tours tsunami observation facility in Chile

VALPARAISO, (Chile) — Japan's Prince Akishino and his wife, Princess Kiko, visited a navy facility in charge of tsunami observation in the Chilean coastal city of Valparaíso on Thursday as part of their 10-day trip to the South American country.

The couple toured the operation room and other parts of the facility that is used to predict the size of tsunami waves and areas to be affected when an earthquake strikes. They also

listened to explanations about systems introduced with the help of Japan, which is one of the most quake-prone countries in the world.

They also went to an observation deck in the mountains that offers a view of the seaport city, which is registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list for presenting an excellent example of late 19<sup>th</sup>-century urban and architectural development in Latin America.

The couple later returned

to the Chilean capital of Santiago and met with volunteers dispatched by the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

The prince, younger of Emperor Akihito's two sons, and princess are visiting Chile to deepen friendship on the occasion of the 120<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of bilateral diplomatic ties. They are scheduled to return to Japan on Wednesday.

—Kyodo News ■

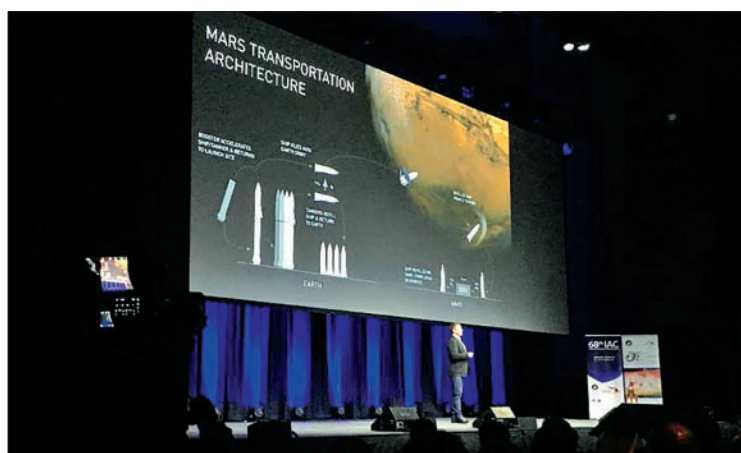
## Musk shrinks SpaceX Mars rocket to cut costs

ADELAIDE/SYDNEY — To cut costs, Elon Musk's SpaceX company has shrunk the size of the rocket ship it is developing to go to Mars, aiming to start construction on the first spaceship in the first half of next year, Musk said on Friday.

SpaceX plans its first trip to the red planet in 2022, carrying only cargo, to be followed by a manned mission in 2024, Musk, who serves as chief executive and lead designer of Space Exploration Technologies, said at a conference in Adelaide.

NASA's first human mission to Mars is expected about a decade later.

Musk had previously planned to use a suite of space vehicles to support the colonisation of Mars, beginning with an unmanned capsule called Red Dragon in 2018, but he said SpaceX is now



Elon Musk, founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and lead designer of SpaceX, and also CEO and co-founder of Tesla, speaks during a media conference at the International Astronautical Congress (IAC) in Adelaide, Australia, on 29 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

focused on a single, slimmer and shorter rocket instead.

"We want to make our current vehicles redundant," he said.

"We want to have one system. If we can do that, then all the resources...can be applied to

this system. I feel fairly confident that we can complete the ship and be ready for a launch in about five years."

The rocket would be partially reusable and capable of flight directly from Earth to Mars, could

still carry 100 passengers, and could also be used for fast transport on Earth, Musk said.

Lockheed Martin Corp (LMT.N) announced separate plans for a manned Mars journey on Friday, unveiling concept drawings of a "base camp" space station orbiting Mars and landing craft that would carry four astronauts to the planet's surface.

"We know it's cold, it's pretty inhospitable, so we start with the robots and then we go down with these landers," Rob Chambers, Lockheed's director of human space flight strategy, told Australian Broadcasting Corporation in an interview. Chambers gave no date, but the planned mission would be a joint expedition with NASA, which aims to reach Mars during the 2030s.

Mars is typically 140 million miles (225 million km) from Earth

and landing the first humans there, after what traditionally has been seen as a six- to nine-month journey, is an extremely ambitious goal. SpaceX, which Musk founded with the aim of colonizing Mars, is one of several private and government-funded ventures vying to put people and cargo on the red planet, and other destinations beyond Earth's orbit.

Amazon.com (AMZN.O) founder Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin space venture is also designing a heavy-lift vehicle called New Armstrong that will be capable of Mars transport.

Russia and China are each preparing for manned missions to the moon and Russia has agreed to work with NASA planning a "deep space gateway" space station in lunar orbit, which would serve as a staging post for future missions.—Reuters ■



## Asahi Glass eyes India's mobile making industry for component sale

NEW DELHI — Asahi Glass Co of Japan is looking to tap growing demand in India for advanced glass products to be used in smartphones and other electronic devices with the country emerging as a mobile manufacturing hub, according to company officials.

The leading maker of glass and high-tech materials, known as AGC, is planning to sell its cutting-edge products to India-based manufacturers of electronic devices, the officials told NNA.

Among intended products are its Dragontrail glass — lightweight, flexible and scratch-resistant glass used as a protective cover for smartphones, tablet computers and ultrabooks — and others used in phone cameras, the officials said.

“We mainly supply these products to the manufacturers of electronics devices like mobile phones and digital cameras in countries like China, Japan and the United States, but with mobile phone makers shifting their manufacturing bases to India, there's a big market for our products in the country,” said Hisashi Takaso, managing director of AGC Asia Pacific (India) Pvt. Ltd., AGC's Indian unit.

According to Takaso, some local mobile phone brands such as Micromax and Intex are already using imported Dragontrail glass in their phones.

The AGC officials attended the three-day India Mobile Congress 2017, the first mobile, internet and technology event organized in the country, through Friday.—Kyodo News ■



China launches the Yaogan-30 01 satellites on a Long March-2C rocket from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Xichang, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 29 September 2017. PHOTO: XINHUA

## China launches three satellites

BEIJING — China launched three remote sensing satellites Friday on a Long March-2C rocket from Xichang Satellite Launch

Center in southwest China's Sichuan Province.

The Yaogan-30 01 satellites will conduct electromagnetic

probes and other experiments.

The launch is the 251<sup>st</sup> flight mission of the Long March rocket family.—Xinhua ■

## Two Japan sushi chains plan merger as they take aim at overseas markets



One of Japan's Genki Sushi Co's restaurant chain locations is seen in Tokyo, Japan, on 29 September 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — Two of Japan's biggest conveyor-belt sushi restaurant chains said on Friday they were joining forces, seeking to take advantage of sushi's growing popularity to expand overseas as their home market matures.

The parent firm of Genki Sushi Co (9828.T) will buy a one-third stake in Sushiro Global Holdings Ltd (3563.T) — the nation's biggest conveyor sushi chain — from private equity firm Permira [PERM.UL] for around 38 billion yen (\$340 million), and

the two chains are in talks to merge operations.

Shares in both firms surged to close 4 per cent higher on the deal, although Sushiro's shares ended some 11 per cent below the 4,000 yen price offered by Genki's parent company Shinmei Co.

The domestic market for conveyor-belt sushi has grown almost 30 per cent over five years to be worth 605 billion yen (\$5.4 billion) in 2016, according to research firm Fuji Keizai.

But it is also facing many

challenges including a rapidly ageing population, rising wages as labour shortages deepen as well as increasingly fierce competition.

“As growth for the sushi restaurant market slows, they can boost sales only by increasing the number of outlets. Those who cannot do that will gradually lose sales,” says Sayaka Azuma, senior food service analyst at research firm NPD Japan.

Sushiro CEO Koichi Mizutome told reporters, however, that the primary reason for teaming up was not the need to tackle rising labour costs but because the firms had set their sights on overseas markets.

Permira bought Sushiro in 2012 from Japanese private equity firm Unison Capital for about 80 billion yen. Sushiro went public earlier this year.

There is little operational overlap for the two firms. Genki Sushi is strong in eastern and northern Japan and has led peers in expanding abroad to locations such as Singapore and Hawaii. Sushiro is centered in western Japan and its overseas operations are limited to South Korea.—Reuters ■

## Indonesia seizes Best Destination Award in 2017 TTG Travel competition

JAKARTA—Indonesia won the “2017 Destination of the Year” award in the annual Asia Pacific travel and tourism competition event organized by Travel and Trade Gazette (TTG), a statement released by Indonesian Tourism Ministry said here on Friday.

The award was received directly by Indonesia Tourism Minister Arief Yahya at the 28<sup>th</sup> annual TTG Travel Awards gala dinner held in Bangkok, Thailand, on Thursday night.

“Thank you TTG for the 2017 Destination of the Year in Asia Pacific region. This is the highest and prestigious award, classified as Outstanding Achievement contended in the event. This award would further improve Indonesia's 3Cs, consisted of Calibration, Confidence and Credibility,” the minister said in his remarks to receive the award as quoted in the statement.

Indonesia brushed aside Southeast Asia's tourism giants Thailand and Singapore that have been dominating the award in the last several years.

It was the first time for Indonesia to earn the award from TTG.

Besides Destination of the Year award, Indonesia also earned two other awards in categories of best travel agency and best city hotel obtained by Panorama Tour and Ritz Carlton Hotel in Jakarta respectively.

The prominent tourism media, TTG, has initiated the annual award program since 1989.

Under the current administration led by President Joko Widodo, Indonesia has set tourism as its leading industry replacing the previous oil and gas, palm oil and coals.

The nation has orchestrated efforts involved by related ministries and agencies to develop tourism industry across the country, among other by developing new 10 destinations designed to par with Bali in attracting foreign tourists.

Indonesia saw increasing number of foreign tourists in the past few years with over 12 million ones arrivals last year.—Xinhua ■



# Okinawa to present prefectural honour award to singer Namie Amuro



Popular Japanese singer Namie Amuro. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

NAHA — An honour award is likely to be bestowed on Okinawan pop singer Namie Amuro by her home prefecture, Gov. Takeshi Onaga said Friday, following her surprise announcement earlier this month that she will quit show business next year.

"We are very proud of her brilliant performances across the country and overseas, and intend to show our respect," Onaga said at a prefectural assembly meeting. "I believe citizens in Okinawa will fully understand the bestowal."

The 40-year-old pop diva said on her website on 20 September that she will retire from the stage in September next year. The announcement came just days after she performed concerts in Okinawa marking the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her music career.

Her performances as both

a singer and dancer captivated fans in Japan and elsewhere in Asia and she eventually emerged as one of the country's major stars, churning out a string of hits including "Chase the Chance," "Body Feels Exit," "Sweet 19 Blues," and "Can You Celebrate?"

Clad in a miniskirt, thick-soled boots and brown dyed hair, Amuro also became a fashion icon, creating a phenomenon known as "Amuraa" in the 1990s, with many young girls and women copying her fashion, hairstyle and makeup.

Her popularity also paved the way for other artists from Okinawa, including all-girl pop group Speed.

Amuro sang "Never End" at a welcome reception for leaders of the Group of Eight nations at their summit in Okinawa in 2000.—Kyodo News ■

## Tom Hanks to star in David S Pumpkins animated special

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Tom Hanks will reprise his role of David S Pumpkins from "Saturday Night Live" (SNL) in NBC's new animated Halloween special.

"The David S Pumpkins Halloween Special" is based on the viral "Haunted Elevator" sketch from the 22 October 2016 "SNL" telecast that featured Hanks as Pumpkins, on an elevator wearing a pumpkin suit and surrounded by two skeleton dancers, played by Mikey Day and Bobby Moynihan, reported Entertainment Weekly.

"Game of Thrones" star Peter Dinklage will also lend his voice to the special.

Set in a small suburban town on All Hallows' Eve, the special centers on David Pumpkins and his skeleton



Hollywood star Tom Hanks. **PHOTO: PTI**

sidekicks who show a young boy and his sister the true meaning of Halloween, answering none of their questions along the way.

Bento Box Entertainment will provide the animation. Day, Seidell and Moynihan will write and produce. Lorne Michaels will executive produce.

The half-hour special will air on 28 October.—PTI ■

## Newly found Rubens portrait of King James I lover unveiled in Glasgow

GLASGOW, (Scotland), — A lost portrait by Rubens of the charming but unpopular Duke of Buckingham, a lover of King James I of England, has been found after an art historian spotted telltale signs of the Flemish master's hand under centuries of grime and over-painting.

Previously thought to be an inferior copy of a lost work by Peter Paul Rubens, the painting of the handsome bearded duke in a ruff lace collar and blue sash was identified at Pollok House, a mansion in the Scottish city of Glasgow.

The duke, whose name was George Villiers, was an elegant commoner who worked his way up to an aristocratic rank, stirring resentment and disdain among other courtiers. But he was so close to the 17<sup>th</sup>-century King James that he was given access to the monarch's bedchamber via a secret passageway.

Now restored and authenticated as a genuine Rubens, the duke's portrait goes on public view on Thursday at a Glasgow art gallery.

The work's true identity was discovered by art expert Bendor Grosvenor, who no-



A lost Rubens masterpiece "George Villiers" goes on show at Kelvingrove Museum Glasgow, Scotland, Britain, on 28 September 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ticed something special about the supposed copy while visiting the Pollok House art collection.

On close inspection, he spotted several features that were trademarks of Rubens's technique, such as the minute scoring marks on the canvas to render the duke's eyelashes.

"We know from Rubens's posthumous inventory that a portrait of the duke existed, so the question was, is this it?" Grosvenor said, presenting the work to museum staff. — Reuters ■

## John le Carre's George Smiley beats James Bond, British spy master says

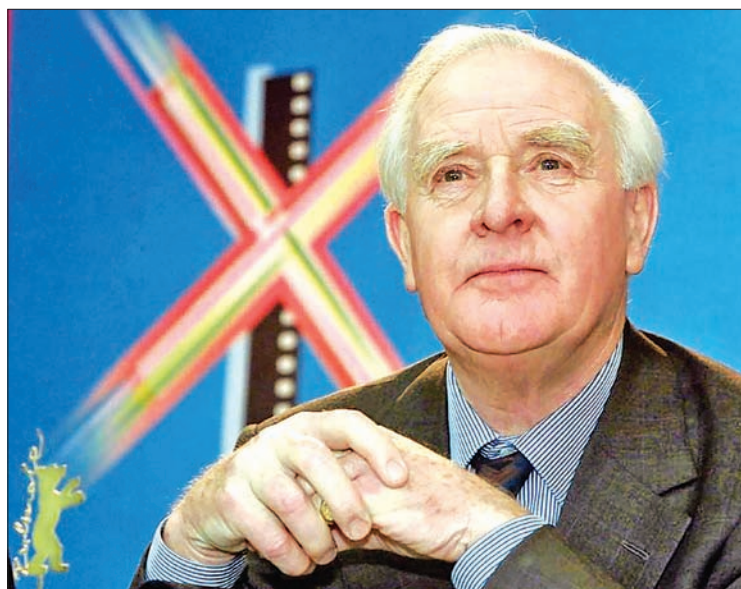
LONDON — When it comes to fiction, Britain's foreign intelligence chief prefers John le Carre's spy-catcher hero George Smiley over the brash antics of Ian Fleming's James Bond.

By exploring treachery at the heart of British intelligence in spy novels, le Carre challenged Western assumptions about the Cold War by defining for millions the moral ambiguities of the battle between the Soviet Union and the West.

Alex Younger, the chief of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, or MI6, said in a letter to The Economist magazine that he bridled at the moral equivalence of le Carre's novels but felt that spy services offered a reflection of their countries.

"The Stasi told you all you needed to know about the East German regime. SIS, and our sister services, GCHQ and MI5, tell you a lot about modern Britain," Younger wrote.

"Despite bridling at the implication of a moral equivalence between us and our opponents that runs through John le



British author John le Carre addresses a news conference at the 51<sup>st</sup> Berlinale International Film Festival in Berlin in 2001. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Carre's novels, I'll take the quiet courage and integrity of George Smiley over the brash antics of 007, any day."

Unlike the glamour of Fleming's unquestioning 007, le Carre's heroes - such as Smiley - were trapped in a wilderness of mirrors inside British intelligence which was reeling from the betrayal of Kim Philby who fled to Moscow in 1963.

In le Carre's novels, Smiley

seeks to track down a Soviet mole at the top of Britain's secret service and battles with Soviet spy master Karla, ultimate master of the mole who is sleeping with Smiley's wife.

Smiley made a brief return at the end of le Carre's most recent novel, "A Legacy of Spies," though he is outraged at the state of modern Britain when lawyers drudge up one of his Cold War battles.—Reuters ■



# Arrival of Chinese panda pair to ignite panda mania in Indonesia

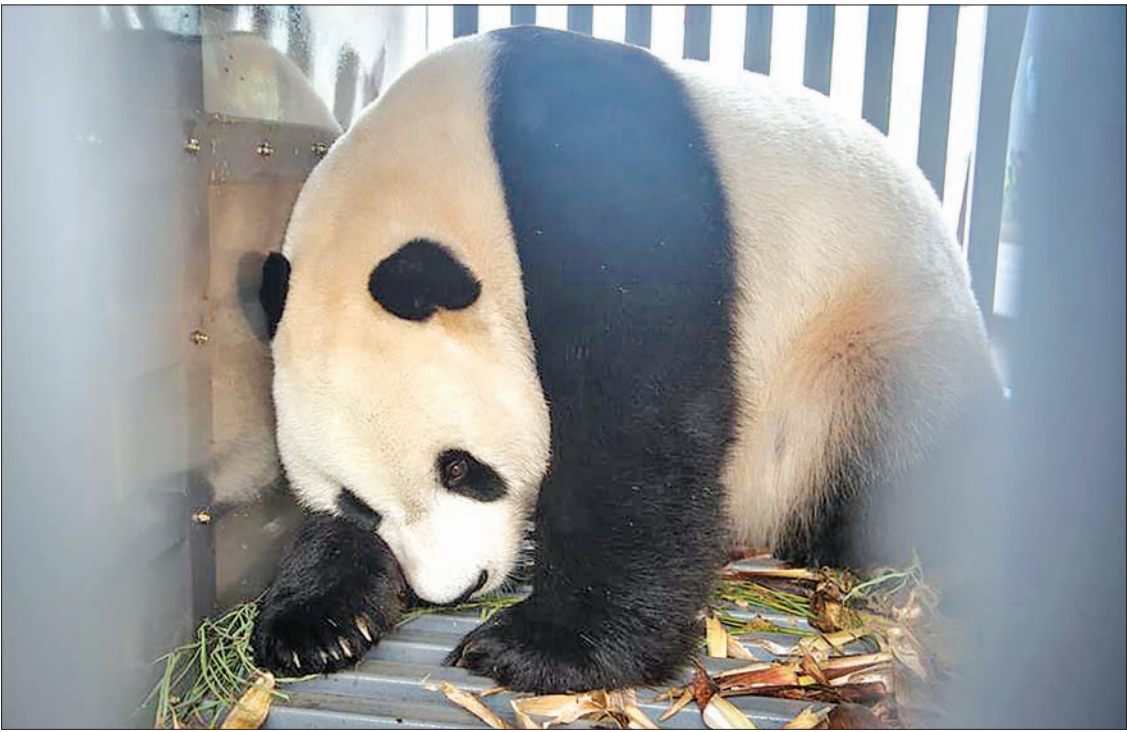
JAKARTA — A giant panda pair from China arrived in Indonesian capital Jakarta Thursday on a 10-year joint research lease, making Indonesia one of the 16 countries and regions to host and help breed the endangered bear species.

The seven-year-olds landed at Jakarta's international airport at around 9:00 by a flight of Indonesia's main flagship carrier Garuda Indonesia from the panda breeding and research base in China's southwestern city of Chengdu.

Cai Tao, a male bear weighing 127 kg and female bear Hu Chun, weighing 120 kg, will be transferred to a 4,800-square-meter panda park at Taman Safari zoo, located 75 km south of Jakarta and 1,700 m above sea level to ensure that the pandas are at a similar altitude to their hometown.

The pandas will be available for public viewing a month later after the quarantine period.

After a long air trip accompanied by both Chinese and Indonesian panda keepers and veterinarians, Cai Tao and Hu Chun were greeted warmly by Charge d'Affaires of Chinese Embassy in Indonesia Sun Weide, Indonesian Environment and Forestry



Male giant panda "Cai Tao" arrives at the airport in Jakarta, Indonesia, 28 September 2017. "Cai Tao" and female giant panda "Hu Chun", both seven years old, were flown from China to Indonesia on Thursday for a 10-year research cooperation project. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Minister Siti Nurbaya, as well as hundreds of journalists.

It is a great honor for Indonesia to receive a couple of giant panda and become one of the 16 countries and regions in the world to have panda as a breeding loan, Siti said.

Siti thanked China for supporting the wildlife conservation in Indonesia, saying the people

of Indonesia will have the same pride to have pandas here.

A panda mania has hit the vast archipelago country when the arrival date of the couple was announced last week as Indonesians will see the cuddly animal near home rather than taking a long trip abroad. Putri Rosmalia, a journalist from Indonesia's Media Indonesia newspaper

told Xinhua that she has been expecting the pandas for years, and wish to know more and write more stories about pandas.

She said she wants to say "wish you two enjoy the stay in Indonesia and have baby pandas soon" to Cai Tai and Hu Chun if they could understand Indonesian language.

Beny, an airport cargo han-

dler anticipating the ceremony, told Xinhua that he is very proud to see panda for real, and will bring his family to visit them once the panda park is open.

The furry ambassadors, regarded by the Chinese as national treasures, are adored worldwide as envoys for friendship and symbol of peace.

"The arrival highlights the deep friendship between China and Indonesia and helps re-invigorate our friendly exchanges and bilateral relationship," Sun said at the Airport.

"This marks yet another historical moment in our bilateral relationship."

Talks regarding the pandas were initiated in 2010 when China and Indonesia celebrated the 60th anniversary of the diplomatic ties. A memorandum of understanding was signed by representatives of the China Wildlife Conservation Association and Taman Safari Indonesia on Aug. 1 last year in Guiyang, China.

"The cooperation of this conservation will enrich Indonesia's world wildlife collection and is expected to become one of the symbols of the diplomatic relations between China and Indonesia," Siti said.—Xinhua ■

MRTV

Programme Schedule  
(30-9-2017, Saturday)

6:00 Am	2:10 Pm
◆ Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw	◆ TV Drma Series
7:00 Am	5:05 Pm
◆ Breakfast News	◆ Documentary
7:35 Am	5:20 Pm
◆ Weekly Sport Info	◆ ASEAN Programme
8:35 Am	5:35 Pm
◆ Current Affairs	◆ NHK Programme "A Stydying of Magnets" (The Challenge of Making Smaller Magnets)
9:10 Am	5:45 Pm
◆ World of Innovations	◆ Documentary
9:20 Am	6:35 Pm
◆ Poem for Children	◆ Tasty Trip
9:35 Am	7:15 Pm
◆ Health Magazine	◆ TV Drama Series
10:30 Am	8:00 Pm
◆ Damsal's Note	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
10:45 Am	8:35Pm
◆ Documentary	◆ Peace Music Festival (Pha An)
11:15 Am	◆ Teleplay
◆ Health and Vegetables	◆ Musiclan's Talk
11:35 Am	◆ Dramatic Arts (Part-3)
◆ Game for Children	
12:30 Pm	
◆ TV Drama Series	
1:30 Pm	
◆ Talk On Old Film	

## Christie's to auction rare large diamond in November

HONG KONG — A 163.41-carat flawless white diamond found last year in Angola will go to auction in Geneva on 14 November, global auction house Christie's said on Thursday.

"The largest stone that ever come up on the market before of this quality was 110 carats," Fran-

cois Curiel, Christie's chairman for Europe and Asia, said at a showing of the diamond in Hong Kong. "So this is a stone that is 50 per cent bigger than the previous one. It's an absolute rarity," he said. Discovered in February last year in eastern Angola, the 404.20-carat rough diamond

was the largest ever found in the southern African country.

The D-colour, emerald-cut diamond, which can be detached from its white gold, diamond and emerald necklace, will be shown in London, Dubai and New York before going to auction in Geneva. —Reuters ■

## 'Loving Vincent' brings Van Gogh's art alive

NEW YORK — You have seen his "Sunflowers" in a museum, sung along with Don McLean to "Vincent (Starry Starry Night)" and gawped at the tens of million of dollars his works have fetched at auction.

But you have never seen Vincent Van Gogh's art quite like it is shown in the film "Loving Vincent."

Seven years in the making and billed as the world's first ful-

ly-painted feature film, "Loving Vincent" uses more than 130 of the Dutch artist's own paintings to tell his own story.

Each of the 65,000 frames of the animated independent film, created by Polish artist and animator Dorota Kobiela, is an oil painting hand painted by 125 professional artists who travelled from around the world to be a part of the project.

"It looks like something

completely different, and that doesn't happen very often in our media-saturated world," said Hugh Welchman, who co-wrote and directed the film with Kobiela.

"Loving Vincent," showing in limited release in New York and Los Angeles and arriving in Europe in October, was first filmed with actors playing some of the people Van Gogh captured on canvas. —Reuters ■



## South Korea secures berth to AFC U-16 Championship

Kyaw Zin Lin

With a 1-0 win yesterday over China at Thuwunna Stadium, South Korea achieved direct qualification with three consecutive wins in Group (H) for the AFC U-16 Championship 2018 that will be host in Malaysia.

South Korea pulled off an impressive campaign with a great number of goals and a string of wins throughout the tourney. South Korea pressed China throughout yesterday's match, but the strong defence line of China caused some dif-

ficulties for Korean attackers.

The only goal for South Korea was scored by Choi Minseo at the 62-minute mark. The loss for China's U-16 national football team caused China to miss out on qualification as India, Oman, Thailand, Vietnam and Afghanistan qualified as the five best second-place teams. Along with the Republic of Korea, the other nine qualifiers were Australia, North Korea, Japan, Jordan, Iraq, Indonesia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Tajikistan, Yemen and host Malaysia. ■



South Korea player poised to shoot the ball. **PHOTO: MFF**



Myanmar and the Philippines players vie for the ball in yesterday's match at Thuwunna Stadium. **PHOTO: AFF**

## Myanmar defeats the Philippines 5-0 in AFC U-16 qualification

Yesterday's football match at Thuwunna Stadium would not get either team into the AFC U-16 Championship, but Myanmar and the Philippines still played with great heart. Myanmar defeated the Philippines 5-0 in their AFC U-16 Group H qualifier in Yangon yesterday. Although the match is inconsequential because neither Myanmar nor the Philippines qualified for the AFC U-16 Cham-

pionship, both teams played aggressively in a show of dignity for their respective countries. In the first half, Myanmar scored three goals, with the opening goal from Kaung Khant at 11 minutes. Zaw Min Thein added the second goal at 34 minutes, and Yan Nang Lin added the third goal at the 37-minute mark. After the break, Myanmar's finished off with two more goals courtesy of Ye Htet Aung at the 59-minute mark and Pyae Phyo Aung at

81 minutes and ended the match with decisive 5-0 victory.

"Myanmar played very well today. They kept the pressure on our team. Our players did not fully focus on the match in first half, but they could have come back in the second", said the Philippines head coach Bongbong Roxy Dorlas. "My boys tried very hard and they did their best. I'm fully satisfied with the game's result and their performances," said Myanmar head coach U Nyi Nyi Latt. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■

## Arsene Wenger hopes midfielder Wilshere can continue good form

LONDON — Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger singled out Jack Wilshere for praise after the midfielder's strong showing helped the London side beat BATE Borisov 4-2 in the Europa League on Thursday.

France striker Olivier Giroud's scored his 100th goal for the club with a penalty, while Theo Walcott hit a brace and Rob Holding opened his account as Arsenal went top of Group H.

Wilshere, limited to just two Europa League appearances this season, impressed with his creativity in a number 10 role and Wenger said the 25-year-old was edging closer to his best.

"He had an outstanding first half and he did fight until the end.

I think he is on a good way back to his best. He has shown that tonight," Wenger told the club's website (www.arsenal.com).

"He is at an age where a player normally gets to the best of his career. He is on the way up and he has only been stopped by a series of injuries," the manager added. Wilshere slipped down the pecking order at Arsenal after managing only 17 games in two seasons blighted by prolonged spells on the sidelines. He made 27 league appearances for Bournemouth on loan last season, his biggest run of domestic outings since the 2013-14 season and Wenger hoped the player would stay fit going ahead.—Reuters ■



Arsenal's Jack Wilshere. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

## Man City striker Aguero hurt in car crash

LONDON — Manchester City striker Sergio Aguero has been involved in a road accident in the Netherlands and will be assessed by club doctors when he returns on Friday, the Premier League side has said.

"Sergio Aguero will be assessed by Club doctors today after being involved in a road accident on Thursday," City said of the Argentina striker in a statement on their website.

"The City forward was in Holland on his day off and has sustained injuries. He will return to Manchester this morning and his status will be checked ahead of tomorrow's Premier League clash at Chelsea."—Reuters ■