Terrorist training camps, guns uncovered in Mayu Mountains

Security forces have discovered evidence over the past two days that terrorist training is being conducted in the Mayu Mountains in the Buthiduang-Maungtaw area in Rakhine State.

Three armed attackers were killed in self-defence during the two-day area clearance operation.

“It has been found that there are secret plots to carry out acts of terrorism by people who turn a blind eye to the State’s arrangements for the rule of law and peace and stability of Maungtaw and for the people of Maungtaw”, read a statement released by the State Counsellor’s Office Information Committee. Security forces found a tunnel, home-made weapons, huts, rations, utensils and other items used in the terrorist training.

One man who attacked security forces with a machete was killed in self-defence on Tuesday, and two other men were killed the following day.

The security forces conducted an area clearance operation in the remote area after receiving a tip-off that villagers were undergoing terrorist training in the mountains at night.

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Pyithu Hluttaw discusses citizenship of children born abroad nationals abroad

Pyithu Hluttaw discussed about citizenship issues for children born abroad. PHOTO: MNA

CHILDREN born to Myanmar nationals working abroad are not automatically eligible for Myanmar citizenship, according to U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population.

“Provided that applications are submitted with birth certificates of children born overseas, former Myanmar citizens and their children born abroad are eligible to apply for Myanmar citizenship,” he said. “If the review panel recommends that they should be recognized as Myanmar citizens, they will enjoy rights and privileges of Myanmar citizens with the approval of the government,” he said. Myanmar parents and guardians of children born abroad are required to inform the Myanmar embassy or consulate of their children’s birth within one year with birth certificates attached, the minister said.

Respective embassies and consulates will give out form (Naing) 8, certificates of birth in exotic locations.

Amyotha Hluttaw discusses education, pasture lands

Thura Zaw
(Myanmar News Agency)

The Upper chamber of the parliament discussed funding for two new housing projects, restoration of pasture lands and upgrading of Basic Education schools, among other issues, yesterday.

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Major General Aung Soe said his agency will seek funding in FY2018-19 to construct a two story, six apartment concrete building at Taungzun Police Station and another at Bilin Township Police Station, Thaton District.

The minister also said that a trespasser on government recognized grazing ground was ordered to cease farming or else face legal penalties. The violator obeyed and the pasture has been restored in accordance with Section 33 of Farmland Law, the deputy minister said.

Deputy Minister for Education U Win Maw Htun said that 5,099 Basic Education schools have been upgraded to higher levels and 23 schools of An Township had been included in the upgrading program.

Annual report on Union Supreme Court released in preparation for reforms

The high court is in the midst of a three year strategic review for reforms planned between 2018- and 2022.

Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo discussed the importance of the rule of law in Myanmar and the theme of the seminar, “Advancing Justice Together”.

Present at the ceremony were the union attorney general, the deputy attorney general, chairmen, secretaries and members of legal affairs and special cases assessment commissions, citizens’ human rights advocates embassy officials, UN organisations and heads of other governmental departments and organizations.

Those present at the meeting were presented with the annual report. The report is available on http://www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm. Suggestions for the project for judicial reform can be sent to ouc.planningteam@gmail.com.

—Myanmar News Agency

Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo addresses the audience at the Royal ACE Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. PHOTO: MNA
Statistics for Myanmar labour force released

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population issued a statistic report yesterday which gives detailed information on labour force in Myanmar. The report is based on the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census.

The report includes details on the participation percentage of the labour force, status of the labour market, unemployment rates and other facts. According to 2014 census, youth workers take up a large share of the workforce and there are more working males than females. 66 per cent of male workers between the ages of 15 to 64 participate in the labour force and 51 per cent of females from the same age range participate in the labor force.

The report shows that there are 500,000 children between the age of 10 to 14 who are currently working and 77,000 children are searching for employment. The schooling rate is low among working children with 82 per cent of 10 years old children and 91 per cent of 12 years old children having never attended school.

Agriculture is the main industry for Myanmar and 40 per cent of the labour force is involved in farming, forestry and fishing. The majority of workers in these three primary sectors have low-income while only 4 per cent are in the upper class.

The unemployment rate is high for youths in Myanmar between the ages of 20 to 24. Ten per cent of urban youths are unemployed and 8 per cent of rural youth are unemployed. The rate of unemployment is also different between regions with one in every 10 persons in Rakhine State being unemployed while in Shan State one in every 5 persons is unemployed.

The labour market in Myanmar is expected to develop in the coming years with observable changes in the social, economic and political sectors. The details of the report can be helpful for policy makers and organisations working for the development of people’s livelihoods.

The full report of the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census, Regional and State Reports, reports relating to jobs and business, Population and Housing Reports, Employment Statistics, reports on religious survey, and other specific statistic reports can be viewed at the website of the Department of Population: www.dop.gov.mm.

Gov’t clarifies terrorist training camps in Mayu mountains, multiple visa rejection to U Han Nyaung Wai, stance on UNFC’s possible reformation

The Union Government held a press conference at the Presidential House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday on a range of issues, including the terrorist movements in the Mayu Mountains, re-entry visas for U Han Nyaung Wai and the government’s stance on the Nationalities Federal Council.

At the news conference, U Zaw Htay, Director-General of the Ministry of the State Counsellor’s Office, denied the rumour that U Han Nyaung Wai, a representative of the Restoration Council of Shan State (RCSS), has been banned from re-entry into Myanmar. U Han Nyaung Wai is in exile in a western country.

“The government (previously) granted multiple visas to U Han Nyaung Wai as he represented the Euro-Burma Office and worked together with the Myanmar Peace Center. But when the incumbent government carried out peace-making works, no agreement was made with the Euro-Burma Office,” said U Zaw Htay.

“He did not cooperate with the government for peace making and the government did not ban a visa to him. However, he cannot get multiple visas. But he can get a social visa and we have informed the Myanmar embassies,” he added.

U Zaw Htay said the UNFC is currently holding a meeting and taking into consideration news that says reformation is necessary for the UNFC. He said the government has sent Dr. Min Zaw Oo from the Peace Commission to the UNFC to clarify the government’s thoughts on the matter.

The reason why the government has sent its envoy to the meeting is to avoid confusion over the government’s stance after the possible reformation of UNFC.

There are currently 21 groups approved by the government involved in negotiations with the government and the Tatmadaw regarding the NCA ( Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement).

He said there may be difficulties in accepting new additions of armed ethnic groups to the UNFC. The UNFC and the Delegation for Political Negotiation are currently negotiating nine demands and have held five discussion meetings. The 6th discussion meeting will be held in Yangon and a representative from the peace commission will be sent to ensure difficulties do not arise in the meeting, as well as to share the government’s thoughts on the matter.

It has been made clear that only the 21 groups who were at the NCA negotiations will be accepted and groups who formed after the NCA will not be accepted, said U Zaw Htay.

Afterwards an explanation was given on the ongoing investigation into terrorist training said to have been conducted in the Mayu Mountains in the Buthidaung-Maungtaw area. This was followed by a question and answer session with reporters in attendance. —Myanmar News Agency
Cargo vessel measurements investigated at Yangon Port

Myanmar Port Authority (MPA) is investigating new standards for cargo vessel sizes at the Yangon Port, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday. MPA is surveying the depth of vessels on the Yangon River to determine safe drafts and lengths for cargo vessels to berth at the port. Currently, the largest cargo vessels permitted at Yangon Port are 167-meter length overall, 15,000 dead weight tonnage and 9-meter draft.—200

Housing exhibition to be held in Yangon

A housing exhibition will be hosted by imyanmarhouse.com at Myanmar Culture Valley near Shwe Dagon Pagoda’s western entrance on 24-25 June, according to a report in the Myawady Daily newspaper. The price of homes included at the exhibition will range between Ks 10 million and Ks 100 million and include homes from across the nation. Condominiums from Ablon, Sancthaung, Kamayut, Thakata, Dawbon, Pazundaung, South Okkapala, North Okkapala, Tamway, Thingangyun, Insein, Mayangone, Mingala Taungnyunt and South Dagon townships will be exhibited. Some of the apartment buildings have already been constructed while some have yet to be completed. Home purchases will require a 30 per cent down payment, and monthly payments of Ks 500,000 per month for the duration of the payment period, said U Nay Min Thu, the managing director from imyanmarhouse.com.—200

New cancer ward in Yangon General Hospital

Construction of a new five-story cancer ward in Yangon General Hospital will be completed by the end of October, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday. The new cancer ward is being constructed to accommodate the increased number of cancer patients. In Myanmar, liver cancer, lungs cancer, breast cancer, colon and rectal cancer and, uterine cancer most commonly occur. “There are many cancer patients who come and receive radiation therapy treatment in the cancer ward at the Yangon General Hospital. The new building is built to accommodate the huge number of patients. Also, the mortality rate of cancer patients has increased because some of the patients are turning to quick-fix remedies rather than receive proper medical treatment in time,” said Dr. Khin Theingi Myint from the Yangon General Hospital.

The Yangon General Hospital provided treatment to about 9,209 cancer patients in 2015 whereas 8,920 patients in 2016 and 2,653 patient as of April in 2017.—GNLM

Tender to be invited to build pedestrian overpasses in Yangon

Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) will invite tenders to construct the pedestrian overpasses in Yangon this fiscal, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday. Previously, the overpasses were constructed in the crowded areas in Yangon. This year, the Myanma Ports Authority (MPA) is investigating new standards for cargo vessels, as mentioned earlier. The YCDC has constructed 36 pedestrian overpass bridges in Thengyi market; Dagon, one pedestrian overpass in Kaba Aye Pagoda; North Okkapala, one pedestrian overpass in Bahan-3rd street, one overpass in Bogyoke road, one pedestrian overpass in Dagon, one pedestrian overpass in Thut Thar road, one overpass in Kaba Aye Pagoda road, one pedestrian overpass in Bahan-3rd street, one overpass in Morton road and one overpass in Hledan road.—GNLM

Write for us
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22 JUNE 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR
Shwebo Pawsan to be cultivated with SRI in mid July

By Soe Win (MLA)

THE System of Rice Intensification (SRI) method, a low water, labour intensive planting method using young singly space seedlings and hand tools, will be introduced in Shwebo District, Sagaing to grow Shwebo Pawsan premium rice strains by United Nilar Agribusiness Co. Ltd. and the Sagaing Region Agricultural Department.

The SRI method is designed to reduce reliance on pesticides and to increase yields by keeping fields continuously saturated to promote aerobic soil organisms, by optimally spacing plants to maximize light exposure and by transplanting seedlings by hand when they are less than two weeks old and have only shallow roots to reduce shock to the plants.

"To cultivate the Shwebo Pawsan in Sagaing Region, the Agricultural department and the United Nilar Agribusiness will apply SRI to 20 acres of paddy fields in Shwebo township, 10 acres in Tabayin Township, 10 acres in Ye-U Township and 10 acres in Wetlet Township. The United Nilar Agribusiness will provide pesticides worth Ks300,000 free of charge to local farmers."

U Myint Kyi, an agricultural consultant from United Nilar Agribusiness, said that rice farmers used to apply pesticides to reduce insect infestation but since international markets often balk at use of toxic chemicals on edible crops farmers will now experiment with SRI.

"Local farmers will also see the effect of growing paddy with SRI when compared with other paddy fields," U Myint Kyi said. "The pesticides can control the insects. Paddy yields also increase when using SRI. The local farmers agree to grow the monsoon paddy with SRI because they have already seen the effect of the summer paddy."

"Our company will help the local farmers starting from sowing the seeds till harvest."

U Myint Kyi said that farmers will have a choice between using more pesticides or reducing their use in favour of SRI methods. Local farmers cultivated 2.50 acres of summer paddy using the fertilizer and pesticides in March at the Zeegone village, Shwebo Township.

Local feed production demand increases corn prices

CORN prices in Shan State are higher than last week due to high demand from local feed production factories, according to a Taunggyi commodity depot report yesterday in Myawady Daily.

New corn crops are usually harvested in October, except for irrigated crops which enter the market in August, a merchant told Myawady newspaper. A pound of corn sold for Ks97 compared to Ks177 this week. Demand and supply for feed companies is increasing. Around 35,000 to 40,000 tons of corn is in stock in southern Shan State. About 1,000 tons of corns were exported to China a day through Mandalay market.

New stamps as gold tax goes national

COMMERCIAL tax stamps will be affixed to gold purchase receipts beginning in July to reflect a new levy imposed upon gold purchases this month, an Internal Revenue Department official told Myawady Daily newspaper yesterday.

The Internal Revenue Department started to impose commercial tax stamps on gold purchase in Yangon and Mandalay on 1st June. Gold and jewelry shops are collecting the tax and affixing tax stamps on behalf of the Internal Revenue Department. According to the 2017 Tax Law, a one per cent of tax is to be levied on gold buyers. Platinum and pure gold are to pay five per cent.

Gold industry workers have complained that the 5 per cent tax on pure gold is so high that only the rich can afford to pay and will fundamentally change the gold market.
City of dream—Yangon

By Hsu Hnin Lei
(The Mirror)

SUFFICIENT and stable electricity can lead to building of underground city, according to Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe. Yangon Region Chief Minis- ter U Phyo Min Thein also said that there has been a plan since assuming of Yangon Region government to build Yangon to be a livable green city which is livable.

The most livable city in the country

Some mocked these two persons who are the most responsible persons for Yangon, an economic hub and also the door to the outside world, criticizing it is impossible, it is just building castle in the air and the two are boasting. But some showed their opinion from the positive point of view saying that dreams will become the start of reality, and some pointed out that the most livable city will come to take shape just through long term plans.

Although the government puts all its energy into development of all other regions and states, most of the people want to live in Yangon where there are many opportunities. As a result, the city is crowded and there also arise such urban challenges as power and water supply, sewage system, waste disposal method, fire safety, smooth commuting system, public housing and parking lots. Therefore urban experts pointed out that without long term and proper plan there will not be a livable city of international standard.

Yangon urban planning

The main point is that whether these plans can be realized or not. Yangon urban planning has been made in the successive government and under the military rule, there also was 30-year plan. Urban planning team from Malaysia met Yangon City Development Committee and they made urban planning. The previous government also tried to make Yangon urban planning together with Japan International Cooperation Agency - JICA.

Experts pointed out that there were many weaknesses in implementing such urban projects although there were many urban planning. In drawing urban planning, there are plans for the respective zones categorized them as zones where there should not build high-rise building, zones for greening and zones for heritage buildings which are to be preserved. Although there were many such good plans, there are many buildings which are not up to par in Yangon.

During the last five years, urban planning was made together with JICA but the overpass project in Yangon was not included in the plan and thus the urban plan was drawn again and handed it over to the incumbent government.

Visit to Europe

As there are many infrastructural needs such as sufficient power supply in implementing urban plans, responsible persons of region government and local experts paid visits to developed countries in Asia and European countries at their invitations with the aim of building Yangon to become a livable city.

But, the current needs of preventing water overflow in the rainy season and supplying enough power supply are far more important than building a city of international standard. To realize this, the government is paying serious attention to supply enough power, said regional minister Daw Nilar Kyaw.

Yangon Region consumes half of the electricity production of the whole country accounting 1500 megawatts and there are thousands of villages where power is not available.

Power needs and production

The power needs in Yangon Region increases 20 per cent every year and the production of four power plants in the region is less than 1500 megawatts.

According to the statistics of yearly increase in power needs, Yangon needs 295 megawatts this year apart from transforming the public commuting system into YBS system.

It is not impossible if Yangon is free from flood and enjoys enough power supply to implement future Yangon urban plans

Currently, World Bank granted USD 100 million loans to prevent inundation in Yangon. According to Daw Nilar Kyaw, arrangements are being made to supply 300 megawatts to Yangon.

In addition to these efforts Yangon circular trains services will be enhanced this year apart from transforming the public commuting system into YBS system.

Over 2000 new YBS buses have arrived in Yangon and plans are to be made to use card system.

It is not impossible if Yangon is free from flood and enjoys enough power supply to implement future Yangon urban plans, said an urban expert who is also a member of Myanmar Engineering Council.

To make our dream come true, people’s participation is of utmost importance. ■ (Translated by Wallace)
Yangon Region government’s efforts to prevent floods

By Zaw Gyi

Spending USD 100 million out of the 125 million to be granted by World Bank, drainage systems in the city will be upgraded in the coming open season, according to Yangon Region government.

Yangon City Development Committee has been trying steadfastly to clear drains in the city and after the new government has taken office, Ks one billion was paid to the private sector to clear the drains. But, the existing drains cannot bear the loads of heavy rains, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

Yangon was built in the colonial era and increase in the population, water consuming and climate change are the causes of inundating which could not abate immediately in the rainy season, he said. The chief minister noted that Yangon is not the only city to face such situation, and many other cities in the world are also facing similar situation resulted from climate change.

Sidewalks are to be upgraded and the bus stops there are also built to meet international standard and without building the drains, sidewalks and bus stops simultaneously, there may be wastage, he said. There also is a plan to pump the water out from the drains if necessary.

U Min Min Soe who lives in Tamway Township expressed his experience of recent inundation saying that inundation is common in every rainy season; that pedestrians dare not to walk on the pavement as there is no cover in some area.

Yangon mayor U Maung Maung Soe said that drains were cleared last year and Yangon did not experience inundation, and less rain in that year is another reason for not having the floods. But this year Yangon got four inches of rains in two hours and this caused inundation but the water receded after 90 minutes.

As Yangon is situated between Yangon River and Ngamoeik Creek, preventive measures against floods have been carried out along the two water bodies. It achieved good results because flooding along Ngamoeik Creek could be prevented.

Altogether 1806 roadside drains with the length of 672,195 feet were cleared in one year period and expansion of culverts, building new ones, and constructing brick drains are the proof of the performance of Yangon Region government in one year period.

Moreover, man and machine powers were used to clear drains and creeks in South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (East), Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (Seikkan), Ahlon, Kyiminnyaung, Bahan, Yanpin, Tamway, Mingala Taungnyunt, Bothataung, Thakayta, Dawbon, Kamayut, Hline, Mayangon, Insein, Hlithetha and Shwepyitha townships last year and the works are continued this year. (Translate by Wallace)

Night bazaar in Pazundaung

By Yee Yee Myint & Ohnmar Thant

U Khin Maung Win, Pazundaung Township Region Hluttaw Representative, exposed that at the end of this month, Yangonites will see day and night bazaar on 52nd Street in the township.

While explaining about the aim of the opening of the bazaar, he said, “to be able to avoid annoyance given by hawkers, and to ease the traffic jams, day and night bazaars will be built on a vacant plot on 52nd Street. We wish the hawkers to be decent ones who are registered at Yangon City Development Committee. This plan will surely bring convenience to the ward-dwellers. With the permission granted by the mayor, YCDC fund was spent on laying roads, lighting, building drains and public toilets. Not to cause annoyance to the ward-dwellers, fences were erected and blade wires set up. Such measures ensured security of both the bazaar and the people.”

The parliamentarian also said, “In the morning meat and fish shops, and vegetable stalls will be opened and fast food will also be available. In the evening, food stalls will be opened. Those want to sell such items shall have to draw lots for the space of eight feet by eight feet and it will be granted free of charge to the winners for morning and night bazaar. This plan is made in cooperation with YCDC. As a systematic arrangement identity cards will be issued. We want those who really sell the good win the lots. Sellers in the morning have to pay for water and sanitation tax and the night sellers, these taxes plus electricity bills. If similar measures will be taken in every township, hawkers will disappear.”

According to U Myint Myat Thu, in-charge of office of the Pazundaung Township Hluttaw Representative, this plan to open bazaar in the street has been realized through discussions among Hluttaw representatives and with the permission of the mayor it has been implement-ed. Monthinga seller Ma Khin Myo Wai expressed her opinion saying that vendors are waiting for the opening of the bazaar because it is better to sell in morning and night bazaar, but the space of just eight feet is too narrow especially while people are crowded.

It is planned that 92 shops are earmarked for morning bazaar and 112 for the night time. (Translate by Wallace)
Educational reform a matter that requires urgent attention

Tha Sein

Myanmar’s education system which has been described as world-leading in the past witnessed a shift from quality to quantity after the 1988 unrest, an unprecedented event which brought about a huge backlog of students. This called for an education system which ensures students to study the area of their expertise and encourages them to think rather thanrote learning. Frankly speaking, the erosion of Myanmar’s once-prestigious education system began in 1964, when English was abandoned as a core subject.

The incumbent government has put education at the heart of its reform agenda, channeling more money into the sector in order to make it more inclusive. To this end, the government is trying its utmost to cooperate with its international counterparts and at the same time encourage the private sector which provides the skills students require to survive in a fast-changing world. But due to budgetary limitations, the standard of instruction, particularly for the English language, is still lower with inadequate resources and institutions.

To be fair, students chose their university to advance their career opportunities and financial rewards. Because Myanmar graduates face tougher competition from their international counterparts as the country has become part of the ASEAN Economic Community which liberalizes professional services. Besides, some students believe certificates from international universities will gain better recognition from employers than those from domestic universities whereas some parents want their offspring to flourish in an international environment with multilingual skills.

A time when international universities are seeking cooperation with their best-known or well-organized counterparts, Myanmar should try to attract prestigious international universities that have adequate programmes, which is a factor taken into consideration for the world ranking of educational institutions. Meanwhile, curricula from which students can gain knowledge of men and respect for their fellowmen and themselves should be adopted.

The education imparted at universities was not such as to be conducive to the advancement in life of many people, except those intended for further studies abroad. That is why the education system should be reformed and upgraded so that Myanmar students can stay competitive in the new global environment.

As education is very important for building a democratic federal union, multi-faceted changes are to be made in the education system to be in accordance with international standards. With this, students will be able to pursue particular area of expertise. So, education reform is a matter that requires urgent attention.

Without drastic action to cut greenhouse gas emissions, potentially lethal heatwaves will threaten most people by the century’s end.

Tim Radford

LONDON, 19 June, 2017 – By 2100, if nations continue to burn fossil fuels at the current rates, three out of four people will be at risk from lethal heatwaves.

And even if the governments of the world act on promises they made in 2015 and drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions, almost one in two could face the risk of sickness and death by intolerable heat.

That is because, as the temperatures rise, heat and humidity begin to challenge human physiology. Humans are adapted to body temperatures of around 37°C. If humidity – the levels of water vapour in the air – go up with the thermometer, then people caught in a zone of extreme heat cannot adjust body temperatures by perspiration.

And with every 1°C rise in temperatures, the capacity of the air to hold moisture goes up by 7%. People with no access to air conditioning or a cool breeze become at high risk.

“We are running out of choices for the future … For heatwaves, our options are now between bad or terrible”  

It happened in Europe in 2003, when an estimated 70,000 died. A heatwave in Moscow in 2010 killed around 10,000. And researchers warned years ago that under global warming predictions, more such extremes of heat would become inevitable by 2020.

“We are running out of choices for the future,” said Camilo Mora, a geographer at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, who led the study.

“For heatwaves, our options are now between bad or terrible. Many people around the world are already paying the ultimate price of heatwaves, and while models suggest that this is likely to continue, it could be much worse if emissions are not considerably reduced.

“The human body can only function within a narrow range of core body temperatures around 37°C. Heatwaves pose a considerable risk to human life because hot weather, aggravated with high humidity, can raise body temperature, leading to life-threatening conditions.”

Dr Mora and colleagues warned years ago that by 2016 climate would change inexorably in at least some regions of the globe. More recently he and colleagues calculated that the relentless increase in carbon dioxide levels in the atmosphere could limit the growing season and pose a threat to world food security.

History has yet to deliver a verdict on either prediction.

Uninhabitable

But the warning about heatwaves starts from facts already available. One scientific group has calculated the humidity and temperature hazards and predicted that at least one climate zone – the Gulf between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula – could become murderously hot by the century’s end.

A second study of heatwaves over recent decades in India has established a link between extremes of heat, climate change and mass death.

Dr Mora and colleagues in the US and Britain report in Nature Climate Change that they found evidence on a global scale. They began with 30,000 relevant publications and identified 911 scientific papers with data on 1,940 case studies of cities or regions where deaths were associated with high temperatures.

From this mass of information they found 783 lethal heatwaves in 164 cities across 36 countries, with most cases recorded in developed countries at mid-latitudes since 1980: in cities such as New York, Washington, Los Angeles, Chicago, Toronto, London, Beijing, Tokyo, Sydney and Sao Paulo.
Terrorist training camps, guns uncovered in Mayu Mountains

The red dot shows the spot where the camp was discovered.

FROM PAGE 1

During the first day of the clearance operation, they found two home-made weapons, one 9mm bullet, five huts, two packs of gunpowder, five bags of rice, one bag of potatoes, 20 wooden weapons, five chopping hoes, five dustpans, three pickaxes, two coils of wire with a length of 400 feet and 20 feet, respectively, one pair of binoculars, six blankets, 45 shirts, 45 longyis, 20 articles of clothing for women and 20 black ski masks.

The man who attacked security forces with a machete on Tuesday was described as about 35 years of age. The attack occurred in the tunnel which is five feet wide, four feet high and 80 feet long.

He was killed instantly as a member of the security force fought back.

Another masked man armed with a machete died after fighting with security forces during an area clearance operation in the tunnel the next day. A third man was killed on the same day after a member of the security force inadvertently stepped on his head, causing a struggle that ended in his death. The masked man armed with a machete had attempted to hide at the end of the tunnel by covering himself under a layer of soil. After he was discovered, the man attacked the security force member with the machete, and was fatally shot in self defence.

Also on the second day of the clearance operation, security forces discovered 100 bags of gram and five containers of cooking oil.

In the afternoon of January 4, 2017 4 persons including Gumushoo aged 19 who attended the terrorist training, were seized together with 13 pieces of local-made guns & related items at Maunggyitaung village, with Mawlawi Ahmaduraman, trainee from the terrorist training caught with 4 dwelling huts and other commodities, in the evening of March 7 in the gorges near Tinn May village.

On 4th May a bomb burst out near the grove west of Theni village in Buthidaung township, killing 2 persons including Noarlaung aged 25 residing in the village of Sargarung village, together with explosives used in making weapons and commodities.

In the morning of May 26, 3 hand-made guns and bullets and one voucher showing salaries had been disbursed out to 20 people were seized in the yard of Marmed Shawphi at the village of Thaykan village, Buthidaung township.

In the evening of May 31, 40 talking machines and related items were captured at one house in the village of Chaungku north, with Kardil Husaung aged 30 living in Kyaukhaipinyin village who completed terrorist training on Thaykan village, Buthidaung township captured and investigated.

The arrested Kardil Husaung admitted that he took part in robbing Dimar maing, chairman of Letwe Deikpyinshay village in December, 2012, having done 7 year-imprisonment. He was released on 2nd October 2016 from Buthidaung penitentiary. Altogether, nearly 100 people including him and 4 others attended the terrorist training at the site on the western part of May Yu hillside from April 2 to May 14 2017. Under the leadership of Mawlawi Ilias residing in Handet village of Maungtgaw township, trainees were given martial arts Karate and training on the use of light weapons, from 6 am to 9 am and 3 pm to 5 pm. So as to ensure keeping the matter of training secret, they had to swear by holding the holy Quran. Mawlawi Ilias told them to activate in the jungle and said that we would be sent to Bangladesh to attend advanced trainings. Ilias and 4 others asked for permission to return home where their families live, being told by the leaders to recruit more villagers and to bring back 50,000 kyats each when they came back from their houses. They organized villagers to join them, collecting no one of conscript soldiers and being arrested. On the tip of the information, security forces made a surprise raid at the village of Kyungang at 1 am or so, on June 20, arresting Mawlawi Jirahman, in-charge of finance of Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army-ARSA at his residence and investigation is under way. According to him, it was learnt that this October attack, 2016 was carried out by Aqua Mul Mujahidin—AMM.

Besides, there is another group named Rohingya National Security Committee—RNSA. Combined the two groups into one, it became ARSA (Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army) on 15th March 2017. In-charge of military affairs of the newly formed group is Harvit Dulhar from Aqua Mul Mujahidin—AMM, it was learnt.

With a view to control and influence Maungtgaw area by uses of terrorist, 34 innocent people including village elders and a librarian were killed in various ways, with 22 others abducted—State Counselor’s Office Information Committee.
Cash donated to families of victims of plane crash

Similarly, chairman of the Union of Myanmar Travel Association U Thet Lwin Toe also presented Ks 2 million for the victims of plane crash.

Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win accepted the cash.—Myanmar News Agency

An Irrawaddy dolphin found dead on Ayeyawady bank

The dead body of an Irrawaddy dolphin was found on the bank of the Ayeyawady river on 21 June, according to an official of Madaya Township’s Department of Fishery.

“We received information that one Irrawaddy dolphin was found dead near the Thonesse village in Madaya Township in Mandalay Region. The cause of the death may be due to old age and it is assumed to have died on 19 June” said an official from the township’s Department of Fishery.

“No injuries were found on the body of the dolphin, but a fish was found in his stomach when we cut it open. Officials of Madaya Township Department of Fishery; officials of Irrawaddy dolphin conservation and officials of Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) Myanmar programme assumed that the died of old age” said U Thant Zin, an official of Irrawaddy dolphin conservation from the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS).

The dead Irrawaddy dolphin was male, 6ft 3 inches long and 41 inches wide with the tail measuring 21 inches. The officials assumed that the dolphin may have been nearly 30 years old.

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Russian defence minister’s plane buzzed by NATO jet — agencies

MOSCOW — A plane carrying Russian Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu was buzzed by a NATO F-16 fighter jet as it flew over the Baltic Sea, but was seen off by a Russian Sukhoi-27 military jet, Russian news agencies reported on Wednesday.

The F-16 had tried to approach the aircraft carrying the defence minister even though it was flying over neutral waters, agencies said. Shoigu was reported to be on route to the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad for a meeting to discuss how well Russia’s western flank was defended.

One of the Russian fighter jets escorting Shoigu’s plane had inserted itself between the defence minister’s plane and the NATO fighter and tilted its wings from side to side to show the weapons it was carrying, Russian agencies said.

After that, agencies said the F-16 left the area.

The Baltic Sea has become an area of rising tensions between Moscow and NATO. Earlier this month, Russia scrambled a fighter jet to intercept a nuclear-capable US B-52 strategic bomber it said was flying over the Baltic near its border, in an incident that had echoes of the Cold War.

The Kremlin referred questions about the latest incident to the defence ministry, which did not immediately comment. It has said in the past that all Russian flights over the Baltic are conducted in strict accordance with international law.

The incident occurred a day after the Russian defence ministry said an RC-135 US reconnaissance plane had swerved dangerously in the proximity of a Russian fighter jet over the Baltic. The ministry said at the same time that another RC-135 had been intercepted by a Russian jet in the same area.

The Pentagon had a different version of events.

Apparently referring to the same episode, Pentagon spokesman Navy Captain Jeff Davis said the US aircraft “did nothing to provoke this behaviour.”

The Pentagon said the intercept had been unsafe and accused the Russian pilot of flying too fast and having “poor control” over his SU-27 fighter jet. — Reuters

US shoots down drone close to Iraqi-Syrian border — statement

AMMAN — The US-led coalition said on Tuesday it had shot down an armed “pro-Syrian regime” drone that had been bearing down on its forces near a garrison close to the border with Iraq in Syria’s southeast.

In a statement, US forces said the drone was fired on after it “displayed hostile intent and advanced on coalition forces”, and a Western intelligence source said the so-called UAV (Unmanned Aerial Vehicle) was Iranian.

The statement said the location was close to where another “pro-regime” drone — which intelligence sources separately identified as Iranian — was shot down on 8 June after dropping bombs near coalition forces.

In Syria’s complicated multi-sided conflict, Washington backs a coalition of rebel forces fighting both President Bashar al-Assad and Islamist militants, while Assad is backed by Russia, Iran and Shi’ite militia.

In an indirect reference to Iranian-backed forces that have been gathering in the eastern desert region, the coalition statement cited a recent escalation of tensions and said it would not “tolerate any hostile intent and action of pro-regime forces”.

The US military has repeatedly warned forces fighting on Assad’s side to stay away from a “deconfliction zone”, agreed with Russia, near a garrison used by US special forces and US-backed militia around Al Tanf. — Reuters

Iraqi forces advance on Mosul mosque where IS declared caliphate

MOSUL — US-backed Iraqi forces on Wednesday began a push towards the mosque in Mosul where Islamic State declared a self-styled caliphate three years ago, military officials said.

The forces had encircled the jihadist group’s stronghold in the Old City of Mosul, where the mosque is located, on Tuesday, they said.

The Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) are 200 to 300 metres (yards) away from the medieval Grand al-Nuri Mosque, an Iraqi military statement said.

Major General Rupert Jones, the British deputy commander of the international coalition fighting Islamic State, told Reuters the Iraqi forces were about 300 metres from the mosque.

The US-led coalition is providing air and ground support to the Mosul offensive that started on 17 October.

“The militants’ leader, Abu Bakr al Baghdadi, proclaimed himself caliph from its pulpit after the insurgents overran parts of Iraq and Syria. His black flag has been flying over its famous leaning minaret since June 2014.

Iraqi officials have privately expressed the hope that the mosque could be captured by Eid al-Fitr, the festival marking the end of Ramadan, the Muslim fasting month. The first day of the Eid falls this year on 25 or 26 June in Iraq.

The battle for the Old City is becoming the deadliest in the eight-month-old offensive to capture Mosul, Islamic State’s de facto capital in Iraq.

More than 100,000 civilians, of whom half are children, are trapped in its old fragile houses with little food, water, medicine, no electricity and limited access to clinics.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said Monday sick and wounded civilians escaping through Islamic State lines were dying in “high numbers”.

“We are trying to keep families inside their houses and, after we secure their block, we will evacuate them through safe routes,” Lieutenant General Abdul Ghani al- Assadi, senior CTS commander in Mosul, told Iraqi state TV. The militants are moving stealthily in the Old City’s maze of alleyways and narrow streets, through holes dug between houses, fighting back the advancing troops with snipers and mortar fire, booby traps and suicide bombers.

They have also covered many streets with sheets of cloth to obstruct air surveillance, making it difficult for the advancing troops to hit them without a risk to civilians.

“We are attacking simultaneously from different fronts to fraction them into smaller groups easier to fight,” said an officer from the Federal Police, another force taking part in the assault on the Old City.

The Iraqi army estimates the number of Islamic State fighters at no more than 300, down from nearly 6,000 in the city when the battle of Mosul started on 17 October.

The fall of Mosul would, in effect, mark the end of the Iraqi half of the “caliphate” even though Islamic State would continue to control territory west and south of the city, the largest they came to control in both Iraq and Syria.

The Iraqi government initially hoped to take Mosul by the end of 2016, but the campaign took longer as militants reinforced positions in civilian areas to fight back.

The militants are also retreating in Syria, mainly in the face of a US-backed Kurdish-led coalition. Its capital there, Raqqah, is under siege.

About 850,000 people, more than a third of the pre-war population of Mosul, have fled, seeking refuge with relatives or in camps, according to aid groups. — Reuters

Smoke billows from the positions of the Islamic State militants after an airstrike in western Mosul, Iraq on 19 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS
Abortive Brussels attack could have been much worse — PM

BRUSSELS — A suitcase bomb packed with nails and gas bottles could have caused heavy casualties, Belgium’s prime minister said on Wednesday, a day after a soldier shot dead a Moroccan national attempting an attack on Brussels’ central station.

“We have avoided an attack that could have been a great deal worse,” Charles Michel told reporters after a national security council meeting following Tuesday evening’s incident, in which no one else was hurt.

However, no further threat was seen as imminent and the public alert level was left unchanged.

A counter-terrorism prosecutor named the dead man only by his initials, OZ. He was a 36-year-old Moroccan citizen who lived in the Brussels borough of Molenbeek and had not been suspected of militant links. He set off his bomb on a crowded station concourse below ground at 8:44 pm (1844 GMT).

Walking up to a group of passengers, prosecutor Eric Van Der Sypt said, “he grabbed his suitcase, while shouting and causing a partial explosion. Fortunately, nobody was hurt.”

The suitcase, later found to contain nails and gas bottles, caught fire and then exploded a second time more violently as the man ran downstairs to the platforms.

He then ran back up to the concourse where commuters had been milling around and rushed toward a soldier shouting “Allahu akbar” — God is greater, in Arabic. The soldier, part of a routine patrol, shot him several times. Bomb disposal experts checked the body and found he was not carrying more explosives.

Police raided the man’s home overnight, Van Der Sypt said.

Molenbeek, an impoverished borough with a big Moroccan Muslim population just across Brussels’ industrial canal from its historic centre, gained notoriety after an Islamic State cell based there mounted suicide attacks on Paris in November 2015 that killed 130 people. Associates of that group attacked Brussels itself four months later, killing 32 people.

Prime Minister Michel insisted the country, which has been the most fertile European recruiting ground for Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, would not bow to threats that have seen combat troops become a permanent fixture at public spaces in Brussels.

“We will not let ourselves be intimidated,” Michel said. “We will go on living our lives as normal.”

There was no immediate claim of responsibility, and no word on how investigations are progressing into whether the man had acted alone or had help, and into any links to radical groups. The Belgian capital, home to the headquarters of NATO and the European Union, took a heavy hit to its tourist industry last year. Visitors and residents out enjoying a hot summer’s evening on the ornate Renaissance town square, the Grand Place, close to Central Station were cleared quickly away by police.— Reuters

Russia completes trials of newest assault rifle for ‘soldier of the future’ combat gear

MOSCOW — The newest AK-12 assault rifle produced by the Kalashnikov small arms manufacturer for the Ratnik ‘soldier of the future’ combat gear has passed all the stages of its operational evaluation in the troops, Kalashnikov press office told TASS on Tuesday.

“It [the automatic rifle] has passed all the stages of its operational evaluation in troops,” the press office said.

The AK-12 is expected to become operational in the Russian Army as the basic long-barrel firearm.

Kalashnikov Group Director for External Relations Sofiya Ivanova earlier told TASS that the operational evaluation of the AK-12 assault rifle for the Ratnik combat outfit will be completed in the Russian Army in the first half of this year.

The Ratnik is a system of advanced protective and communication equipment, weapons and ammunition. It comprises around 40 protective and life support elements and allows a soldier to get continuously updated information about situation in the combat area. In addition, the Ratnik includes a self-contained heater, a backpack, an individual water filter, a gas mask and a medical kit.

An advanced Ratnik-3 combat gear with an integral exoskeleton and a helmet visor-mounted target designation system is currently being developed for Russia’s Armed Forces.—Tass

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

**MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV SINAR BALI VOY. NO ( )** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** M.S. SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

**MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ( )** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** M.S. ADVANCE CONTAINERINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

**MV SHAMIM VOY. NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on **MV SHAMIM VOY. NO ( )** are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

**AGENT FOR:** M.S. LAND & SEA LOGISTICS

Phone No: 2301185
**Giant iceberg like “niggling tooth” set to crack off Antarctica**

OSLO — One of the biggest icebergs on record is like a “niggling tooth” about to snap off Antarctica and could be a sign of climate change. The Larsen C ice shelf, about as big as the US state of Delaware or the Indonesian island of Bali, is connected by just 13 km (8 miles) of ice after a crack has crept about 175 kms along the sheet, with a new jump last month.

“It’s keeping us all on tenterhooks,” Andrew Fleming, of the British Antarctic Survey, told Reuters of the lengthening and widening rift, adding “it feels like a niggling tooth” of a child as it comes loose. Ice shelves are flat-topped areas of ice floating on the sea at the end of glaciers. The Larsen C ice is about 200 metres (656 ft) thick with about 20 metres jutting above the water. Big icebergs break off Antarctica naturally, meaning scientists are not linking the rift to man-made climate change. The ice, however, is a part of the Antarctic peninsula that has warmed fast in recent decades. “There is no other evidence of change on the ice shelf. This could simply be a single calving event which will then be followed by re-growth,” Adrian Luckman, a professor at the University of Swansea in Wales, told Reuters. His team reckons the ice will break off within months, perhaps in days or years.—Reuters

**Lockheed wins US Air Force deal for radar threat simulators**

PARIS — Lockheed Martin Corp said on Wednesday it had won a $104 million US Air Force contract to develop, produce and field a threat simulator to train combat aircrew to recognise and deal with rapidly evolving threats, such as surface-to-air missiles.

Tim Cahill, vice president of air and missile defence systems for Lockheed, said a number of other countries had already expressed interest in the Advanced Radar Threat System Variant 2, and talks could begin soon on possible sales. Cahill did not estimate the volume of future sales, but potential buyers included all countries that plan to operate the stealthy F-35 fighter jet in coming years.

“It’s a cool little programme,” he said. “This is just the first tranche, but it has the potential to be a really big programme for us.”

“As the capabilities on the ground from potential threat nations get stronger and better and more capable... it’s very important that the pilots need to train against a system that is actually a high-fidelity simulation of what they would fly against in combat,” he said.

The contract calls for development and delivery of a production-ready system and options to produce up to 20 more. Cahill said the truck-mounted system would emit signals that simulated those of current and evolving advanced surface-to-air threats. —Reuters

**UN employee charged with visa fraud, underpaying Bangladeshi worker**

NEW YORK — US prosecutors have charged a United Nations employee in New York with committing visa fraud by bringing into the country a domestic worker from Bangladesh and then failing to pay her a lawful wage.

Hamidur Rashid, a Bangladeshi national, was charged with visa fraud, fraud in foreign labour contracting and aggravated identity theft in a criminal complaint unsealed Tuesday in Manhattan federal court. He is expected to appear in court Tuesday afternoon, according to a spokeswoman for US prosecutors.

Rashid’s lawyer could not immediately be identified. The United Nations did not immediately respond to a request for comment. According to the complaint, Rashid, who is identified as a program director at the United Nations Development Programme in Manhattan, initially contracted with the employee to pay her $420 per week, and submitted that contract to the US State Department to obtain a visa for her.

Once the employee was in the United States in November 2012, the complaint said, Rashid had her sign a new contract with a wage of $290 per week.

Rashid took away the worker’s passport, and told her at various times during her employment that she would go to jail and then be sent back to Bangladesh if she worked for anyone else, according to the complaint.

At first, Rashid did not pay her at all, but sent about $600 per month to her husband in Bangladesh, the complaint said. In October 2013, Rashid did pay the employee $600 for her work that month, according to the complaint.

Rashid never paid either the employee or her husband the $420 per week wage stipulated in the original contract, the complaint said. Rashid is also charged in the complaint with committing identity theft by setting up a sham bank account in the employee’s name to make it appear to the UN that he was paying her a lawful wage. In fact, the complaint said, Rashid and his wife controlled the account. —Reuters

**Claim’s Day Notice**

**MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (014)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (014) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T. where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**Shipping Agency Department**

**Myanmar Port Authority Agent For:** MS Interasia Lines

Phone No: 2301185
UNHCR special envoy
Angelina Jolie in Kenya, visits refugee girls

UNITED NATIONS — UN Refugee agency special envoy Angelina Jolie marked World Refugee Day on Tuesday at a Kenyan home housing refugee girls who fled unaccompanied or split from their parents while fleeing conflict.

The Hollywood star visited at least 20 of girls in a safe house in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. They had fled conflict in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Somalia, Burundi and Rwanda, UNHCR said in a statement.

It said almost all had experienced sexual and gender-based violence and many had given birth after being raped or were pregnant.

“The role of sexual violence is compounded when it is carried out by someone in uniform who has taken an oath to protect,” Jolie said.

“So it is a responsibility of those who wear uniform to take the lead now by correcting from within, setting an example stepping forward with new commitments.”

The UNHCR says Kenya hosts some 491,000 refugees, of which 101,713 are from South Sudan, which the UN has said is the world’s fastest growing refugee crisis. —Reuters

Pooja Bhatt returns to silver screen, to play detective

MUMBAI — Pooja Bhatt is all set to return to the silver screen in a movie adaptation of economist Abheek Barua’s crime novel “City of Death,” which she will produce too.

The film rights to the novel, published last year by Juggernaut Books, have been acquired by Pooja’s production company Fish Eye Network.

“City of Death” introduces Sohini Sen — a middle aged, pill-popping alcoholic detective. When a young woman from a well-connected family is found beheaded, Sohini is tasked with investigating the case. But it turns out to be a political minefield with the tabloids baying for her blood.

Apart from producing the film, Pooja will be playing the lead role of Sohini.

“The plot, the milieu and especially the characters grabbed me and left me gasping by the end of it. The themes of depression, addiction, false appearances and corruption make it relevant to the times,” says Pooja.

Barua, Chief Economist at HDFC Bank, says it is “immensely gratifying to have someone of Pooja’s calibre to make and more importantly act in the adaptation of my book”.

“Pooja’s imaginative cinematic vision for ‘City of Death’ makes her the perfect acquirer of this book.

She truly gets the core of this dark story,” says Anish Chandy, head of business development at Juggernaut Books.—PTI

Triple Oscar winner Daniel Day-Lewis retiring from acting

LOS ANGELES — Three-time Oscar winner Daniel Day-Lewis is retiring from acting, his spokeswoman said on Tuesday, ending a storied movie career that includes performances in “Lincoln” and “Gangs of New York.”

Day-Lewis, 60, the only man to have won three best actor Oscars, gave no reason for his decision, calling it private.

“Daniel Day-Lewis will no longer be working as an actor,” his publicist, Leslee Dart, said in a statement. “He is immensely grateful to all of his collaborators and audiences over the many years.”

The statement said there would be no further comment.

He has one more movie in the works — “Phantom Thread,” which is set in London’s 1950s fashion world and is due to be released in December.

Day-Lewis, who was born in Britain and holds dual Anglo-Irish citizenship, won his third best actor Oscar in 2013 for playing US President Abraham Lincoln in “Lincoln.”

His win made him the first man to be awarded three best actor Oscars in the history of the Academy Awards.

He previously won Academy Awards for his roles as a paraplegic Irish writer in “My Left Foot” (1989) and a greedy early 20th century oil baron in “There Will Be Blood” (2007).

The tall, intellectual actor keeps a low-key profile and is known for choosing his roles carefully and taking long breaks between films.

In the late 1990s, he took time off from acting to work as an apprentice shoe-maker in Italy. After his 2013 Oscar win for “Lincoln,” London’s Sunday Times reported that he planned to take a sabbatical at his farm in Ireland.

Day-Lewis is known for his meticulous preparation. For “Lincoln,” he spent months researching Lincoln’s political and personal life and before shooting began he was texting his screen wife, Sally Field, in 19th century vernacular “For My Left Foot,” he spent weeks living in a wheelchair, and while shooting “Gangs of New York” he was known for sharpening knives between takes to capture the menace of his character Bill “The Butcher” Cutting.

Day-Lewis has three children and is married to writer and director Rebecca Miller. —Reuters
Thames waters stirred at Henley as women’s regatta marks 30 years

HENLEY-ON-THAMES, (England) — The river running through the Oxfordshire town of Henley-on-Thames was heaving with boats, oars and athletes this past weekend, but it was not, as might be imagined, the crowded Henley Royal Regatta.

That 178-year-old event — known for its blazers, boaters and boozing — comes 10 days from now. The splash and sparkle along the river this time was from the Henley Women’s Regatta.

One of the world’s premier women’s rowing events, the HWR celebrated its 30th anniversary over three days with a record number of entrants, now totaling more than 1,800 rowers from 190 clubs across the world.

Crews came from Britain, Ireland, Australia, the United States, Canada, Germany and Switzerland — all vying for 25 different trophies in 214 races featuring 418 entries.

It was a far cry from the one-day, 109-entry, 97-race launch in 1988, when women’s rowing was still relatively rare and had only been included in the Olympics 12 years earlier.

There was little place then, for example, at the more well-known — and famously traditional — Henley Royal event, which squeezed in only a few invitational races.

“Women did not have a chance to row at Henley Royal,” said Miriam Luke, the HWR’s chairman. “(Now at HWR,) we have elites, top clubs, academic, juniors, intermediates.”

Luke herself is something of a women’s rowing trailblazer.

She won silver at the 2000 Olympics in the quadruple scull — Britain’s first women’s crew to medal — and gold at the 1998 world championships in the double scull, among other awards.

Henley Royal Regatta now has some women’s events, which the better crews at HWR stay on for, getting, as Luke puts it, “two bites at the cherry.”

But for women-only regattas HWR is in a fairly exclusive club. There is a women’s Tideway Head of the River in London and the college-only US NCAA women’s rowing championships, as well, of course, as the women’s events in the Olympics and worlds.

Luke says women’s rowing has grown in leaps and bounds in part because it thrives on a special closeness between athletes that you do not necessarily get in individual or other team sports.

“It’s a different sort of niche sport,” she said. “You build a lot of community with the women you row with.”

Organizers estimate that around 30,000 people attended the three-day regatta, which was free for spectators, many of whom were young women like those in the boats.

Nicholas Edwards, a Henley local and father of one of the rowers, looked on with a mixture of pride and joy.

“It is such a collective spirit,” he said of the regatta, which is a far more relaxed affair than the longer-running event.

“It really celebrates women’s achievement,” he said. — Reuters

China’s Great Wall repaired with simple tools, bricks of old

BEIJING — At one of the most treacherous and least restored stretches of China’s Great Wall, a line of pack mules halted upon emerging from the gloom of a dense forest draped in mist and dew.

Laden with 150 kg (330 pounds) of bricks each, the seven animals finally got moving in response to the coaxing and swearing of their masters, eager to gain altitude before the sun climbed high in the sky.

For more than a decade, mules have been crucial in the effort to restore Jiankou, a serpentine 20-km (12-mile) section of the wall about 70 km (44 miles) north of central Beijing that is notorious for its ridges and perilous slopes.

“The path is too steep and the mountains are too high, so the bricks can only be transported by mules,” said local mule owner Cao Xinhu, who has worked on Great Wall restoration projects in the mountains north of Beijing for 10 years.

Where they could, workers used the original bricks that had broken off the wall over the centuries. When they found none, they used new bricks made to exacting specifications.

“We have to stick to the original format, the original material and the original craftsmanship, so that we can better preserve the historical and cultural values,” said Cheng Yongmao, the engineer leading Jiankou’s restoration. Cheng, 61, who has repaired 17 km (11 miles) of the Great Wall since 2003, belongs to the 16th generation in a long line of traditional brickmakers. A government clampdown on pollution has forced the closure of almost all brick-making factories in Beijing and nearby provinces, Cheng said.

If he ran out of bricks, Cheng added, he would have to look for bricks left elsewhere or request the central government to consider reopening some brick factories.

Famed for its rugged beauty, Jiankou, which is Chinese for an arrow’s nock, or notch for a bowstring, was built in the twilight years of the Ming dynasty in the 1600s, but is young compared with other sections dating back two millennia. Intensive repair on the Jiankou section in the past year has been led by the district government keen to preserve the wall’s natural beauty and shore up its disintegrating steps.

The restoration began in 2005 and is now in its third phase, making slow progress because the uneven terrain allows use only of basic tools such as chisels, hammers, pickaxes and shovels. Authorities’ meticulous approach followed widespread outrage last year sparked by botched restoration efforts on some stretches.

Authorities in the northeastern province of Liaoning, home to a 700-year-old section of the wall, paved its ramps with sand and cement, resulting in what critics said looked more like a pedestrian pavement.

Soon after, the State Administration of Cultural Heritage said it would investigate any improperly executed wall preservation projects.

Just a tenth of the wall built during the Ming dynasty has been repaired, said Dong Yaohui, vice president of the China Great Wall Association.

“In the past, we would restore the walls so that they would be visited as tourist hotspots,” he said, by contrast with today’s objective of repairing and preserving them for future generations. “This is progress.” — Reuters
Selection for 2017 Tour de Timor cycling race

The tournament for selection of the cyclists who will take part in U-21 2017 Tour de Timor cycling race will be held at Wunna Thien-dii Stadium at 7am on 29 June.

The Tour de Timor is an annual international cycling race which will be held in Timor-Leste this year from 19 to 23 September. The selection of athletes will be conducted by the Myanmar Cycling Federation and the Sports and Physical Education Department.

A key focus of the 2017 race will be the inclusion of participants from every ASEAN nation, demonstrating Timor-Leste’s enthusiasm and preparedness for ASEAN inclusion.

Any interested person can call 09-250205652 no later than 28 June. — Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar national football teams to play two Asia qualifiers and one ASEAN match this year

Myanmar national football teams will compete in ASEAN U18, Asia U-23 and U16 qualifier matches this year and all the players are currently training in their camps respectively.

Asia U-23 matches will be played from 19th to 23rd July in Thawunna Stadium in Yangon. Myanmar U23 is included in Group F together with Indonesia, Brunei and Philippines. Myanmar won the champion award in 2003. 2018 AFC U16 Championship qualification will also be hosted in Myanmar for the second time and is going to be held from 4 to 17 September in Yangon’s Thawunna Stadium and Aung San Stadium respectively.

Myanmar U18 is included in Group B together with Indonesia, Brunei and Philippines. Myanmar won the champion award in 2003. 2018 AFC U16 Championship qualification will also be hosted in Myanmar from 20 to 24 September but no stadium has been selected yet. Myanmar is grouped together with South Korea, China and Philippines thus must struggle for stepping up the next steps.

—Shine Htet Zaw

Man United cleared in Pogba deal, FIFA open proceedings against Juventus

LONDON — FIFA has cleared Manchester United of any wrongdoing in the transfer of midfielder Paul Pogba from Juventus but said on Tuesday they had opened disciplinary proceedings against the Italian side.

World soccer’s governing body had asked both clubs for information about Pogba’s world record 89 million pounds ($112 million) transfer from Juventus, following leaks which claimed to give details about the huge deal.

A book titled, “The Football Leaks: The Dirty Business of Football” alleged Pogba’s agent Mino Raiola had made over 40 million euros ($44.54 million) from the deal, 27 million euros of which was paid by Juventus.

“This is not an admission of wrongdoing by Juventus but some media reports have suggested it could be related to breaches of third-party ownership rules. In April 2015, FIFA announced the banning of third-party ownership, barring either clubs or players from entering into economic rights agreements with third-party investors. In an interview with the Financial Times last October, Italian-Dutch agent Raiola said: “In this deal Juventus was not the only owner of the player’s rights”. —Reuters

Myanmar women’s national football team to test Japanese women’s teams

Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) is attempting to reach the agreement for Myanmar women's national football team to play a friendly match with Japanese U-22 and J-League clubs. “The plan was arranged so as to test the ability of the players before they participate in SEA Game matches and we are aiming for the team to possess the gold medal in 29th SEA game that is going to be held in Malaysia.” The officials from MFF have been asked about agreement to officials of Japanese football association for the friendly matches and Japanese officials will reply in a few days”, said MFF’s Deputy administrative director, U Ko Ko Thein.

Myanmar will be headed by Coach Roger Ryan and twenty-seven players have been chosen for the SEA game. — Kyaw Zin Lin

Myanmar players

Si Thu Aung trains under supervision of Coach Gedrich. PHOTO: PHOE THAW ZIN

Man United cleared in Pogba deal, FIFA open proceedings against Juventus

LONDON — FIFA have cleared Manchester United of any wrongdoing in the transfer of midfielder Paul Pogba from Juventus but said on Tuesday they had opened disciplinary proceedings against the Italian side.

World soccer’s governing body had asked both clubs for information about Pogba’s world record 89 million pounds ($112 million) transfer from Juventus, following leaks which claimed to give details about the huge deal.

A book titled, “The Football Leaks: The Dirty Business of Football” alleged Pogba’s agent Mino Raiola had made over 40 million euros ($44.54 million) from the deal, 27 million euros of which was paid by Juventus.

“We can confirm that disciplinary proceedings have been opened against Juventus FC. As proceedings are ongoing please understand we cannot comment further at this stage,” FIFA said in an emailed statement.

“We can also confirm that no disciplinary proceedings have been opened against Manchester United”.

FIFA did not give details of the nature of their proceedings against Juventus but some media reports have suggested it could be related to breaches of third-party ownership rules.

In April 2015, FIFA announced the banning of third-party ownership, barring either clubs or players from entering into economic rights agreements with third-party investors. In an interview with the Financial Times last October, Italian-Dutch agent Raiola said: “In this deal Juventus was not the only owner of the player’s rights”. —Reuters