FOUR LOCAL ETHNIC PEOPLE WERE ATTACKED BY SWORDS AND KILLED TWO

VP U Myint Swe reviews final preparations for Martyrs’ Day

Vice President U Myint Swe yesterday morning visited Martyrs’ Mausoleum in Bahan township, Yangon where preparations for the 70th Anniversary Martyrs’ Day were under way. The Vice President, patron of the Central Committee for the Observance of 70th Anniversary Martyrs’ Day, attended a briefing on plans for a graphic presentation of the nation’s struggle for independence. The Vice President also reviewed, the renovation of the stairs and ceremonial decorations of the mausoleum and other aspects of the compound.

The Vice President then visited Bogyoke Aung San Museum where preparations for the ceremony were taking place. He inspected plans to exhibit a statue of Bogyoke Aung San and the late leader’s rare photos and personal items.—Myanmar News Agency

VP U Myint Swe visits Bogyoke Aung San Museum in Yangon which shows the humble life of the late national leader of Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

Antiquated buses to be retired by end of June

National League for Democracy holds seventh formal meeting

Union Minister pledges support for victims of battles

Traditional shoulder wool bags sell well in schooling season

NATIONAL

LOCAL BUSINESS
Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, ceremonies commemorating the international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking will be celebrated across the nations in the world.

Since the time when the United Nations General Assembly designated 26 June as the international day against drug abuse in 1987 regional prevention teams that have been fighting against narcotic and psychotropic drugs will observe their 30th anniversary celebration today.

Similarly, seized narcotic drugs will be burned in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi simultaneously as in previous years.

With a view for the whole populace to be able to participate in the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, starting from the year 1998, there have been annual competitions for short story, article, poem, song, photograph, computerized poster; freelance slogan writing and contests for painting, cartoon, poster and computerized painting for primary, middle and high school students. Counternarcotics agencies will present prizes to the winners during today’s ceremonies.

This year, 107 prize winners out of 3,246 competitors in all will be rewarded. Regional teams formed by central counternarcotics committee include NGOs, civil society groups, religious organizations and entrepreneurs at various levels, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council, region, state, district, township, ward and village officials.

The government has been eradicating by two methods—eradication of production and eradication of drug abuse. Under the process of eradication of production, prevention and management, we have promoted development assistance, crop substitution, assistance with livestock breeding, and we have controlled precursor chemicals. Under the process of eradication of drug abuse, we have promoted medical treatment, rehabilitation centers, including drugs, have increased, hence the need to make concerted effort in respective sectors for its success.

Addicts require better services and treatment without being stigmatized or discriminated against. Addicts deserve our sympathy and the understanding that drug addiction is a curable illness.

As for the education sector, it needs to be well versed in the causes of drug abuse, so that it can impart knowledge about drug addiction that is empirical and grounded in facts.

Regarding drug prevention, success must be measured by reduction of drug-related crimes, dangers and fear. Progress in human societies are measured by indices that show the extent by which drug abuse is reduced as well as drug seizure figures. This is how we will build a secure and happy human society which is free from dangers of narcotics.

While planning projects and working processes it was discovered that the dangers of drugs can be effectively reduced only if there are adequate systems to address the sources of the problem and if such systems are implemented in a fact-based, empirical way.

Drug crimes closely correlated with illegal international trafficking and the activities of organized criminal networks. With the development of new commercial routes, crimes involving the trafficking illicit goods, including drugs, have increased, hence the need to prevent illicit trafficking and cross-border crimes with increased fervor.

The Union and state governments are coordinating all governmental organizations and departments to fight drug crimes and drug abuse. Likewise the public needs make individual efforts and join in common cause.

In accord with this year’s motto, “Listen First,” the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, we hereby call on our people to listen to the concerns and needs of our youth and simultaneously support their development and health by reducing drug abuse.

**Mandalaay Night Market opens to massive crowds**

MANDALAY will formally open the Yandanapon Night Market consisting three zones at the foot of Mandalay Hill in mid-June, according to a report yesterday in Mandalay Yandanapon newspaper.

The market which held a three-day pre-sale event on 23-25 June will offer three stall sales packages including 20 x 40-foot stalls for Ks 800,000 per month in Zone A, 10 x 20-foot stalls for Ks 400,000 per month at Zone B, and 10 x 10-foot cosmetic stalls for Ks 120,000 per month and food stalls for Ks 150,000 per month.

Dr Ye Lwin, the mayor of Mandalay, and other officials attended the soft opening ceremony.

At the three-day pre-opening the market featured food stalls, traditional music, puppet shows and art exhibitions. The well attended event ran from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m.—ThihaKoKo (Mandalay)
National League for Democracy holds seventh formal meeting

Myanmar’s governing party addressed economic and political challenges faced by the nation and by various regions and states, obstacles to the peace process and internal party issues at its seventh annual leadership meeting in Bahan on Saturday and Sunday. Attendees included 120 members of the central executive committee, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, region and state NLD central committee members, chief ministers and region and state hluttaw speakers.

Region and state NLD central committee members read out political reports.

Other topics taken up by the conference included the drug problem, land seizures and financial issues. The party also reorganized aspects of its bureaucracy, established new political courses, collected annual membership fees, planned a youth conference and organized documentation of region and state reports. The NLD leadership predicted strong economic growth and increased investment, said Monywa U Aung Shin, a central committee member. —Myanmar News Agency

Transport and Communications Minister meets Rakhine staff, touts MraukU airport project

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Zin Maung visited MraukU in Rakhine State in northwest Myanmar yesterday to pledge his support for their work. The Union Minister emphasized the importance of their role, especially in Rakhine, one of the least developed states in Myanmar. After his address, the Union Minister inspected progress on a new airport project in MraukU. The construction project is one of the most important in Rakhine State as it will open the region to more tourism and investment.

MraukU was once the capital of the ancient Rakhine Kingdom. Promoters of the construction project say that the many pagodas and other ancient structures in the area will help create a destination for tourists. —IPRD

Antiquated buses to be retired by end of June

Buses that are 22 years or older will be prohibited from taking the roads at the end of June, according to an announcement yesterday by the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

On 20 June, Yangon Bus Service, an agency of YRTA, submitted a list of 4,700 outdated city buses to cease running from the end of June and afterwards, they will be replaced with new buses, said Dr. Maung Aung of the authority. Under the replacement program, older busers started to be deregistered and retired November. Bus operators who fail to observe the rules will face revocation of operating license.

Although the list shows the number of registered city buses at over 7,000, less than 3,800 are in operation.

The list includes 4,700 outdated transport vehicles including minibuses, which will be replaced with 2,600 new buses — 1,000 bought by the government and 1,600 by the private sector, said Dr. Maung Aung.

—Su Hnin Lei

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye pledged Ks2.4 million for traditional cultural organisations and Ks50,000 each for hospitalized victims of recent violence in the area.

The Union Minister also promised the government would provide continued socioeconomic development to enable the state to become more resilient to natural and manmade disasters and to promote democratic standards.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and his entourage visited the Sin Shwe Li Home for the elderly, donated clothes and money and spoke with elderly residents. The Union Minister also visited the Youth Training School of Social Welfare Department in Lashio and greeted young trainees. —Myanmar News Agency

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye visited Shan State to announce the government would provide assistance to residents. The Union Minister also visited the Youth Training School of Social Welfare Department in Lashio and greeted young trainees. —Myanmar News Agency

NLD members meet the press after the seventh formal meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Photo: Su Hnin Lei

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Photo: MNA

Photo: Su Hnin Lei

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Photo: Su Hnin Lei
MIST’s organizers committed to identify region’s top travel startups

MEKONG Innovative Startup Tourism (MIST) intend to incubate new tourism industry companies, match them with investors and expand Myanmar’s travel sector in 2018, according to a press release issued on Saturday.

MIST began in December 2016 as a joint venture between the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office and Government of Australia and Asian Development Bank (ADB) supported Mekong Business Initiative (MBI). It includes a Startup Accelerator for early-stage startups from Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. MIST received more than 250 applications in 2017.

GoP, a travel tech startup from Myanmar, won the first prize of US$10,000 at Mekong Business Initiative Tourism Innovation Awards. On 9 June, MIST tourism accelerator announced three other winners of the Mekong Business Initiative Innovation Grants Award for 2017, including Artisan Origins of Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre (TAEC), a social enterprise from Laos, Cambodia’s Camboticket and Viet Nam’s Chameleon City.

The travel tech startups each received $7,000 grants.

“We are so happy to receive award of 2017 Mekong Business Innovation Grant and proud to win the prize representing from Myanmar. During the MIST Tour- ism Accelerator program, Topics shared by mature startups, investors and big travel tech companies were also very interesting. We plan to use the grant that we received to scale our technology and marketing,” said U Nyunt Win Aung, CEO of GoP, which won first prize.

Art competition to be held to commemorate Martyr Day

An art competition will be held to commemorate the Martyrs’ Day at the Old Secretariat on 19 July, according to a report from Myanmar News Agency yesterday.

The competition will be held with an aim to honour the Martyrs for their sacrifices through art. Children between 10 and 14 in Yangon region were invited to participate in the competition.

Winners will be selected based on creativity, interpretation of Martyrs’ Day and overall aesthetics.

The winner will receive a cash prize of Ks 300,000, first runner-up will receive Ks 200,000 and the second runner-up, Ks 100,000. Other finalists will receive consolation prizes.

Carpentry training course opened for Rakhine State youth

A carpentry training course was held at MraukU District Rural Development Department office in Rakhine State, according to a report from Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) yesterday.

The two-week carpentry training course started on 23 June, 2017 to enhance job opportunities for Minhya, Kyauktaw and Myaybon townships.

Trainers from Dual Tech are leading the training course. Fifty trainees from the four townships are attending the two-week training course.

Ongo Recruitment Day held in Myanmar

ONGO Digital Payment Service held a recruitment session for sales agent positions at Sule Shangri-La hotel in Yangon on 24 June, according to a press release from work.com.mm.

The company announced that it would pay successful applicants a monthly salary of at least Ks 300,000. Successful candidates would also be provided Lenovo tablets and the opportunity to earn monthly performance bonuses. Ongo Company will also cover mobile top-ups, internet access and transportation expenses to the sale staff. Ongo will provide capacity building and training courses to the sale staff, including the financial training courses.

Thuta Lin, a public relations manager from work.com.mm, said “we are very proud to hold the Ongo Recruitment Day jointly with The Ongo Digital Payment Service Company. We also believe that these kinds of job fair will be effective for the people who are currently looking for the job opportunities”.

Write for us

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Traditional shoulder wool bags sell well in schooling season

MYANMAR—traditional shoulder bags manufactured from Sintgaing Township in Kyaukse District in Mandalay Region have been sold well this schooling season, local bag makers say.

“The shoulder bag is one of the many products that attract the attention of tourists visiting the country. In the domestic market, the largest number of users of shoulder bags is, and has always been, students for carrying their books and papers,” said a Sintgaing village bag manufacturer. “The traditional product is less popular in big cities. People in urban areas mostly prefer imported bags. However, in small towns and countryside, the tradition of using the shoulder bag is maintained.”

The colourful bags are woven on small hand looms operated using cotton or wool. A firm normally has 15 looms. A loom can produce 15 wool bags. A worker can make between two or three bags a day. According to the bag producers, the market is very active before and beginning of schooling period starting from June. In the remaining months, the market is in the normal condition. The price of bag is based on size and design. The good quality bag is worth Ks6,000 the most this season.—Nway Nadi (Myitnge)

Trade deficit tops $1.4 billion in current FY

THE VALUE of foreign trade for the current fiscal year reached nearly US$14 billion, with the trade deficit of $1.4 billion, according to official figures released by the Ministry of Commerce this week.

From April to mid-June, external trade reached to $6.39 billion, $1 billion more than the same period last year. Exports were $2.47 billion and imports were $3.91 billion.

Trade value included $4.9 billion from normal trade and $1.4 billion from the border trade. Eighty percent of Myanmar’s exports were accommodated by sea ports.

Myanmar’s trade deficit was $91 million in FY2012-2013 and increased to $2.555 billion in FY2013-2014, $4.109 billion in FY2014-2015, $5.441 billion in FY2015-2016 and $5.5 billion in FY2016-2017. Among the factors to blame for the trade deficit increases are increases in luxury imports and decrease in export trade.—Shwe Khine

Only left-hand drive vehicles permitted to import next year

THE ROAD Transport Administration Department (RTAD) said only left-hand drive motor car will be permitted to the country next year with the aim of reducing the cases of traffic accidents, according to a report of the Myawady Daily on Saturday.

“The rules of importing left-hand drive cars starting from 2018 will include in the Automotive Policy which will come out soon.

Penalties will be imposed against those who fail to abide by the rules,” said a RTAD official. “If an importer brings a right-hand drive car into the country, the transport authorities will confiscate the imported vehicle as a punishment.”

Most imported foreign-made cars in Myanmar are right-hand drive vehicles from Japan. After 2018, imported left-hand drive cars will likely originate in China and South Korea.—200

Border trade over US$1.4 billion, decrease of US$ 19 million in export

BORDER trade from 1st April to 16th June 2017 hit US$2.47 billion, a decrease of US$19.86 million in export and an increase of US$ 70.55 million in import, according to the official statistics of the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of border trade from 1st April to 16th June this fiscal year was up by US$50.7 million when compared to that in the similar point of last fiscal year. The decline in export through border trade is due to the major decline in Muse border trade camps, which performed the largest trade out of all 16 border trade camps.


Weavers in Thabyayoe Village make traditional shoulder bags with looms. PHOTO: NWAY NADI (MYITNGE)
China calls on Pakistan, Afghanistan to improve ties

ISLAMABAD — Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Saturday that tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan are not conducive to their stability and development as well as regional cooperation, calling on both countries to meet each other halfway so as to improve bilateral ties.

Wang made the call during his meeting with Pakistani top foreign affairs advisor Sartaj Aziz. He said that Pakistan and Afghanistan should send the international community a positive signal that the two sides are willing to restore mutual trust and conduct cooperation through bilateral channels.

Wang also said that China supports the two sides in seeking to establish a crisis managing mechanism as quickly as possible so as to properly deal with contingencies and to form a trilateral meeting system among foreign ministers of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan in order to enhance dialogue and cooperation in all areas.

For his part, Aziz said that Pakistan is willing to intensify communication and improve relations with the Afghan side and to support the political reconciliation process in Afghanistan as these are in line with both countries’ common interests.

The advisor said that the Pakistani side has made political and diplomatic efforts on the issue and is willing to activate relevant dialogue mechanisms and channels, adding that it requires the two sides to meet each other halfway.

He added that Pakistan is willing to form the trilateral foreign ministers meeting system and Pak-Afghan crisis managing mechanism through negotiations to enhance talks and cooperation and properly handle divergences.

On China-Pakistan ties, Wang said that Pakistan is China’s all-weather strategic cooperative partner and the relationship is a unique one in China’s foreign relations and is tested by history.

He added that China is willing to improve strategic communication and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan in order to maintain the two countries’ common interests.

The Chinese foreign minister highlighted that counter-terrorism is an important content of bilateral relations and expressed thanks to the Pakistani side for its firm support for China’s fight against the violent terrorist group the “East Turkistan Islamic Movement.”

Wang also hailed Pakistan’s important contribution to the international counter-terrorism cause as it is in the frontline of global fight against terror.

Aziz said that international counter terrorism situation is getting tougher recently as terror incidents have occurred more frequently, and Pakistan has suffered a lot from terrorist attacks. He pledged that Pakistan will make greater efforts to fight against terrorism of all forms together with the international community.—Xinhua

Australian police use pepper spray to stop clashes at anti-immigration rally

SYDNEY — Australian police fired pepper spray to break up clashes between right-wing nationalists and anti-racism protesters on the streets of Melbourne on Sunday, the latest protest held by anti-immigration groups in the country. Far-right activists from the True Blue Crew, which says it is opposed to refugees and the “Islamisation” of Australia, faced off with members of a left-wing coalition promoting tolerance in the city.

Australia has seen a rise in far-right activist groups and political parties opposed to Islam and Asian immigration following a number of “lone wolf” attacks by home-grown Islamist radicals.

Victoria Police said one person was arrested for possession of a weapon and one detained for breach of the peace, and a knife and a knuckle duster were confiscated.

“Police were forced to deploy capsicum spray when a small number of protesters attempted to breach a police line, with one person given aftercare as a result of the capsicum spray,” a spokesman said.

TV footage showed nationalist protesters holding Australian flags on poles or draped around their shoulders, while opposition protesters held placards with anti-racism messages.

The rally attracted hundreds of protesters and a heavy police presence kept the opposing groups separated, local media reported. Australia, a staunch ally of the US, has been on high alert for home-grown Islamist attacks since 2014 and authorities say they have thwarted a number of plots.

The rally was organised by the True Blue Crew, which was charged with planning a terror attack in August last year. It was the first time federal terrorism laws had been used to target such right-wing groups.—Reuters

Cambodia ruling party big winner in local elections

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia’s ruling party of Prime Minister Hun Sen won over two-thirds of the commune chief posts in this month’s nationwide local elections, according to official results released Sunday by the National Election Committee.

In the 3 June local elections for 11,572 seats in 1,646 commune councils, the ruling Cambodian People’s Party won 1,156 of the commune chief posts and 6,503 seats overall, the results showed.

The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party won 3,007 seats but only 489 commune chief posts, or 29.7 per cent of the total.

Only one commune chief post was won by any of the other political parties that fielded candidates. Elections are held every five years in Cambodia for councils composed of five to 11 members for communes, or clusters of villages.

In the 2012 elections, the ruling CPP won 1,592 of the 1,633 commune chief positions up for grabs, while the now defunct opposition Sam Rainsy Party won 22, the Human Rights Party 18, and the royalist FUNCINPEC party one. The results reflected popular support for the various parties and the challenge opposition parties face to attract more votes in next year’s national election.

Voter turnout in the latest local elections was 89.52 per cent, or approximately 7 million of the 7.8 million Cambodians registered to vote, according to the NEC. That was up sharply from about 65 percent in the 2012 local elections.Nearly 2 million Cambodians did not register to vote as they are working in foreign countries, most in Thailand and in South Korea.—Kyodo News
MAOXIAN, (Sichuan) — Fifteen people have been confirmed dead in a landslide in southwest China’s Sichuan Province early Saturday that buried more than 120 people from 62 homes.

Rescuers had retrieved 15 bodies from the debris by 10 p.m. Saturday, the rescue headquarters said.

The search and rescue operation was underway overnight and people have been sent to observe potential secondary disasters.

Rescuers were combing the area with life detectors and sniffer dogs but no new signs of life have been found.

“We won’t give up as long as there is a slim of chance,” said one rescuer.

Xu Zhiven, executive deputy governor of the Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture of Aba that the landslide stuck, said the identities of 118 missing will be soon made public on the government’s website.

Xu also cleared up worries that some tourists might be among the buried as the village is in a tourist site.

All 142 tourists that entered the site Friday have been reached, said Xu.

The landslide from a high part of a mountain in Aba prefecture hit Xinmo Village in Moxian County at about 6 a.m., blocking a 2-km section of river and burying 1,600 meters of roads.

The provincial government has launched the highest level of disaster relief response and sent rescue teams to the site.

Currently, more than 3,000 workers with life-detection instruments are engaged in the search for survivors.

The provincial department of land and resources said the landslide was caused by heavy rain. An estimated 18 million cubic meters of earth mass fell some 1,600 meters, engulfing half of Xinmo Village.

Geological experts at the site said the chance of survival for the people buried was really slim.—Xinhua

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Dated 26 June 2017

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

WORLD
Myanmar and the One Belt One Road Initiative

Kyaw Win (Labour)

According to a news item in the Global New Light of Myanmar, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, headed a delegation from Myanmar to attend the One Belt One Road Forum held in Beijing, People’s Republic of China from 14th to 15th May 2017.

A news item appearing in the 17th of May issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar mentions that “Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People’s Republic of China on Cooperation within the Framework of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative” were among the several documents signed by representatives of The Republic of China and The Union of the Republic of Myanmar.

A Press Release appearing in the 18th of May issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar gave some details regarding the participation of the Myanmar Delegation and in particular State Counsellor HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi’s interventions at the Leaders’ Round Table held at Yanqi Lake International Conference Centre in Beijing on the 15th of May. Amongst the interventions made by State Counsellor HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Round Table according to the Press Release, and I quote “She also stressed that the projects under the Initiative would be most effective if they are designed to re-enforce or complement on-going and future projects of respective nations and regional organizations”.

To quote again “She added that each partner country has its own characteristics and the best multi-national initiatives are those aligned well with national plans”. Furthermore “She emphasized the need to ensure that business activities are carried out in a socially and environmentally responsible manner.” She also mentioned that “The creation of employment opportunities for local peoples is also an important factor”.

With regard to Myanmar’s future participation in the OBOR initiative, taking into account both by China and Myanmar the suggestions made by State Counsellor HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, if I may, with due respect to the Economists and Experts in Myanmar, I would like to express my humble opinion particularly regarding the quote “The creation of employment opportunities for local peoples is also an important factor” as most of my long career of over 40 years as a Government servant had been spent with issues of employment and human resources development.

The OBOR initiative will possibly link land and sea routes and reduce the cost and time of transportation of goods. It will benefit participating countries by making available to their people all varieties of goods of acceptable quality at affordable prices. It’s envisaged as a two way process by which the participating countries can also export their products to China’s markets and other linked countries more efficiently and at a lesser cost than at present. It may hopefully also improve Myanmar’s current border trade with China.

Regarding the creation of employment opportunities, of course the bulk of job creation on the infrastructure building will end with the completion of the roads, railways and the sea ports. After the completion of such projects, national income to Myanmar would be from facilitating trading and the flow of goods between the participating countries. In this regard the greatest employment opportunities would be created in the service sector, including transport and logistics. After all enhancing Trade and Tourism is one sure way of increasing employment opportunities in the service sector.

Considering the long term effects on manufacturing industries first and foremost the larger of the Myanmar’s industries both in the private and public sector could partner with the Chinese and other participating countries’ enterprises in investing in profitable undertakings in the Industrial Zones envisaged. Possibly Myanmar industries could, in joint ventures with their foreign counterparts, availing themselves of the advantages of their host country’s finance, technology and management practices, take to producing goods for export which are based primarily on resources of Myanmar. Such ventures will create employment opportunities for Myanmar workers. Myanmar must train more competent Managers, Professionals, Technicians and Skilled Workers starting now, to reap the full benefits such increased employment opportunities.

Myanmar’s manufacturing entities comprise of more than 90% Small and Medium Enterprises. As a rule SMEs, whether in the formal or informal sectors, account for creating the major share of employment opportunities. The small and medium Myanmar enterprises making a host of consumer products, taking into account their current levels of technology, productivity, and product quality, will need extensive financing to be able to upgrade and compete with imported products in the local consumer products market. Many of the Small and Medium enterprise could perhaps link in to the supply chain of the large enterprises and produce export quality components and parts for International Manufacturing Concerns and create export earnings and at the same time create substantial employment opportunities for Myanmar workers.

Fortunately for Myanmar, it is rich in natural resources including, land; large areas of which are still virgin; water: with long rivers and creeks crisscrossing the length and breadth of the country and the annual monsoons providing water from above; forests: though somewhat depleted but can still be renewed; oil and gas; many reserves remain untapped; minerals: which have not been extracted fully; a long seacoast: with fish and marine resources which have not been harvested fully and most of all it’s people who could show their full worth if only the opportunities were there. In my opinion it may turn out to be a win-win situation if further investments, within the context of OBOR initiative and current national plans, could be made available to the Agriculture, Fishery and Aquaculture, Livestock Breeding and Horticulture sectors to the point of enabling these sectors to substantially increase export of quality assured produce/products to participating countries including China. This will enable Myanmar to use the OBOR initiative to further increase export earnings of the abovementioned sectors, enhance rural employment and incomes and reduce poverty, which incidentally is the first of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.

Of course we should also term long term projects of the OBOR initiative spanning possibly decades, will have significant impact on the lives of the peoples and societies, and hence need to be thought out taking into account the social and environmental impacts, to be of optimum benefit to participating countries as was pointed out by State Counsellor HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. ■
Workshop for drawing curriculum held

WORKSHOP for drawing curriculum for 4-year degree course at Educational Colleges held at Yangon University Finnlon Hall at 1pm yesterday was attended by Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.

Then, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi gave memento presents to course trainers and responsible personnel of UNESCO International Bureau of Education - UNESCO's Global Center for Excellence for Curriculum Development.

The Core Competencies Training (CCT) from Educational Colleges and Universities of Education, educationists from Basic Education and educational planning and research department, 85 representatives in total attended the workshop which was held from June 19 to 23.

The Ministry of Education is treating new curriculum to be used in Education Degree Colleges and basing on the review of those curriculum drawn in 2015-16 the implementing is carried on with the help of STEM project of UNESCO. The present meeting is the first of the six and the professionals from UNESCO International Bureau of Education-UNESCO's Global Center for Excellence for Curriculum Development and educationists will explain regarding the curriculum treating.—Myanmar News Agency

Village administrator killed in Maungtaw Township

A group of people killed a village administrator with swords in Maungtaw Township on 24 June, according to a report of Myanmar News Agency on 25 June.

A group of 15 people wearing masks broke the doors and attacked Abu Harshine, the village administrator of Chaungtula village, Pudin village-tract with swords to death while he was at his home. His son Arzemuraman, 22 and daughter Zuhigda, 5, were wounded as they tried to help their father.

The dead body and two victims were sent to the Maungtaw hospital.

The police are searching the terrorists to file charges.—Myanmar News Agency

Four local ethnic people were attacked by swords and killed two

VILLAGERS from Tarein village were attacked with knives by terrorists and two of them were killed, it is reported.

While U San Thu, U Kyan Thein Aung, U Aung Kyaw and U Ko Ko Thein were searching the turtles at the foot of the hill on the south side of Kyien Chaung-Taung Pyo car road at about 10 am, 8 terrorists arrived and attacked them with the swords. In the brawl two of the villagers were killed and U Kyan Thein Aung and U San Thu could manage to escape with U Kyan Thein Aung wounded.

According to the statement of the escapees the security forces of local police station rushed to the place where attack occurred and in clearing the area they got to a group of houses where they interrogated Kalanbhray aged 53. According to his statement Maung Soe and Sarut from Donepaik village of Aung Sit Pyin village-tract were known to leave their house bringing the wooden stick. They were brought to the Kyien chaung station and interrogated.

Dead bodies of U Aung Kyaw and U Ko Ko Thein were discovered near the spot of incident at about 11.30 am yesterday.—Myanmar News Agency

Tons of illegal timber seized in Kayin

A total of 6.03 tons of illegal lumber was seized in Hpa-an Township, the capital of Kayin State on 24 June.

Acting on informant information about illegally felled trees were lying on the banks of Thanlawin River near Win Kyan village, Win Kyan village-tract in Hpa-an Township, a joint team of Hpa-an Township Forestry Department officials and Htone local police searched the area with witnesses and found 87 logs of the Padauk tree or the Pterocarpus macrocarpus, a termite resistant hardwood tree native to Myanmar and India and often used for furniture.

No suspects have yet been reported.—Min Thu, TunTun Htwe (Hpa-an)

Third International Day Of Yoga celebrated

TO mark the 3rd International Day of Yoga, the Embassy of India in Yangon organized a Yoga demonstration cum performance at the People’s Park.

The Embassy of India also organized a number of events such as the quiz contest on Yoga and Naturopathy on 18th June, 2017. Essay writing contest on 22nd June, 2017 as curtain raiser events before our main event at various venues like People’s Park, Maha Bandula Park, Kyaiklasan Sports Stadium, Mawlamyine, Taungoo, Zeyawaddy, Sittway and Mandalay.

—Phoe Than

Village administrator killed in Maungtaw Township

A group of people killed a village administrator with swords in Maungtaw Township on 24 June, according to a report of Myanmar News Agency on 25 June.

A group of 15 people wearing masks broke the doors and attacked Abu Harshine, the village administrator of Chaungtula village, Pudin village-tract with swords to death while he was at his home. His son Arzemuraman, 22 and daughter Zuhigda, 5, were wounded as they tried to help their father.

The dead body and two victims were sent to the Maungtaw hospital.

The police are searching the terrorists to file charges.—Myanmar News Agency

Four local ethnic people were attacked by swords and killed two

VILLAGERS from Tarein village were attacked with knives by terrorists and two of them were killed, it is reported.

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—Phoe Than
Merkel’s conservatives widen lead three months before German vote

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservatives widened their lead over the Social Democrats (SPD) to 15 points in a weekly opinion poll by the Emnid institute published on Sunday, three months before the 24 September election.

The Christian Democrats (CDU) and its CSU Bavarian sister party were steady at 39 percentage points in the Emnid poll published in Bild am Sonntag newspaper, while the SPD fell one percentage point to 24.

The SPD had surged from 16 points behind the CDU/CSU in mid-January to a 33-32 lead in mid-February after nominating Martin Schulz as chancellor candidate.

The SPD held even with the CDU/CSU at 33-33 until early April before falling behind.

Merkel’s conservatives won three regional elections in the last three months while the initial euphoria surrounding Schulz, a former European Parliament president, wore off.

Despite the widening lead, Merkel’s CDU/CSU is far short of a majority and might have a difficult time finding a junior coalition partner.

Their preferred partner, the Free Democrats (FDP) were steady at 7 percentage points in the Emnid poll. The pro-environment Greens, who could form a centre-left coalition with the SPD or a centre-right alliance with the CDU/CSU, were up 1 point to 6 percentage points.

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), ostracized by the other parties and without any coalition partner options, was steady at 8 percentage points.—Reuters

London tower blocks evacuated as 34 buildings fail fire tests

LONDON — Britain said 34 high-rise apartment blocks had failed fire safety checks carried out after the deadly Grenfell Tower blaze, including several in north London where residents were forced to evacuate amid chaotic scenes.

British officials have conducted tests on some 600 high-rise buildings across England after fire ravaged the Grenfell social tower block in west London on 14 June, killing at least 79 people in the capital’s most deadly blaze since World War II.

The Department for Communities said 34 apartment blocks had failed tests in 17 parts of the country, from London in the southeast to Manchester in the north and Plymouth on the southwest coast.

Prime Minister Theresa May, who was forced to apologise for the government’s initial slow response to the tragedy, said the authorities were now racing to establish what needed to be done.

“In some cases it’s possible to take mitigating action,” she told Sky news. “In others it’s been necessary for people to move out on a temporary basis and that is what happened in Camden last night.”

Some 4,000 residents of the Chalcots Estate in Camden, north London, were told to vacate their apartments on Friday after the Fire Brigade ruled that their blocks were unsafe.

Emerging into the streets on a hot night, residents clutched children, pets and small amounts of clothing and food to try to find a bed in a local hotel or with family or friends. Many were directed to inflatable beds laid out on the floor of the local sports hall.

“I know it’s difficult but Grenfell changes everything,” Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden Council, said in a statement. “I don’t believe we can take any risks with our residents’ safety.”

May said the local authority would be given all the means necessary to make sure people had somewhere to stay.

Residents complained of first hearing about the evacuation from the media and getting very short notice to leave from city officials going door-to-door. Not all residents agreed to go, as they felt the evacuation was an over-reaction.

“It was farcical communication,” 21-year-old Daniel Tackaberry told Reuters outside a nearby sports centre where the local council had laid out air beds. “You don’t get everyone to leave this quickly.”

Several local councils said they were removing cladding from the facades of buildings that had failed the tests. In Camden, however, the London Fire Brigade found a number of faults, including concern about cladding, faulty fire doors and holes in compartment walls that could help a fire to spread.

Gould, the Camden council’s leader, said it would take up to four weeks to repair the blocks that were evacuated.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said the government was working with local authorities and fire services to address any problems that had been found. “We are now rapidly identifying buildings of concern: samples are being tested very quickly; fire inspectors are checking the safety of the buildings as a whole; and we have issued interim safety guidance,” he said.—Reuters

Forest fire threatens Spain’s Donana National Park, 2,000 evacuated

MADRID — A forest fire which began late on Saturday close to the town of Moguer in the province of Huelva (south-west Spain) has forced the evacuation of an estimated 2,000 people from several hotels and two campsites in the region and the declaration of a ‘Level One’ emergency.

The Environment Spokesman for the regional government of Andalusia, Jose Gregorio Fiscal, told Spanish media that the flames have penetrated in the Donana National Park, which is one of the most important wetland reserves in Europe.

He explained that he “did not rule out,” that the fire, which began at around 21.30 local time, had been started deliberately at a time when winds of up to 60 kilometers an hour and “high temperatures,” had made it impossible to use aircraft to combat the flames.—Xinhua

French President Macron, PM Philippe approval ratings rise

PARIS — The popularity of France’s President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Edouard Philippe on the rise, an Ifop poll showed on Sunday.

Some 64 per cent of the people polled said they were satisfied with Macron against 62 per cent in May, the Ifop poll for the Journal du Dimanche showed.

Philippe’s approval ratings rose to 64 per cent from 55 per cent in May.—Reuters

Afghan president calls upon Taliban to join peace process

KABUL — Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani once again called upon Taliban militants on Sunday to give up fighting and join the peace and national reconciliation process. “If you are Afghans you should join the peace process to help stabilize peace and security in the country,” President Ghani said in his message after performing Eid prayer in Presidential Palace.—Xinhua
Oil truck explosion kills 146 people in Pakistan

LAHORE, (PAKISTAN) — An oil tanker crashed and exploded on a road in Pakistan on Sunday, killing 146 people, many of whom were collecting leaking fuel before it ignited, government officials and rescue workers said.

The speeding tanker overturned on a sharp bend on a highway on the outskirts of the city of Bahawalpur. The driver lost control when the vehicle blew a tire, a provincial government spokesman said.

A large crowd of people gathered, many to collect fuel in containers, and the tanker exploded in a huge fireball about 45 minutes later. Rescue workers said that about 80 people had been injured.

"People of the area and passers by had started gathering fuel when it exploded, burning everybody," provincial government spokesman Malick Muhammad Ahmed Khan told Reuters.

An estimated 20 children were among the dead, he said.

The accident happened the day before Pakistan celebrates the Eid al-Fitr festival, when families get together to celebrate the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Many bodies were burned beyond recognition and television pictures showed piles of burnt out motorcycles, as well as those of people who were collecting fuel or watching the explosion unfold.

Police had tried to clear the area before the tanker exploded but people ignored them, Khan said, adding that the initial crash had blocked the road, causing a traffic tailback.

The driver of the tanker survived the accident and was taken into police custody, he said.

The explosion took place on a stretch of highway cutting through the village of Ramzan Jaya.

Khalil Ahmed, a 57-year-old former government employee who lives in the village, said he had lost 12 relatives in the fire, which firefighters extinguished in two hours.

“One body has been recovered and 11 others are still missing,” Ahmed said.

"After the spill, people began calling their relatives to come and gather oil and some showed up from nearby villages as well. There must have been 500 people gathered when the fire began."

Oil is a precious commodity for villagers in Pakistan, where more than 60 percent of the population survives on $3 a day, according to a World Bank report.

"People of the area and passers by had started gathering fuel when it exploded, burning everybody, the government employee who was taken into police custody, he said."

KONOSHIMA

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Dated 26th June 2017
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M5.6 quake rocks central Japan

TOKYO—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.8 shook the central Japan prefecture of Nagano on Sunday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The quake at 7:02 am originated at a shallow depth in the mountainous region and registered upper 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in Otaki and Kiso in the prefecture. One person was reported as receiving minor injuries during the quake. Local officials also received reports of minor damage to houses and fallen tiles, while some train services were temporarily disrupted. After initially reporting the quake as having a magnitude of 5.7, the weather agency revised its assessment to 5.6. —Kyodo News

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UN Secretary General’s Message on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 June 2017

Last year, at the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS), the international community took steps to mobilize a multifaceted, collective response to the full range of issues related to drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Governments came together to chart a new path forward that is more effective and humane, and leaves no one behind.

UNGASS was a ground-breaking moment that provided a detailed and forward-looking blueprint for action. Together, we must honour the unanimous commitments made to reduce drug abuse, illicit trafficking and the harmful consequences, and to ensure that our approach promotes equality, human rights, sustainable development, and greater peace and security.

I know from personal experience how an approach based on prevention and treatment can yield positive results. As Prime Minister of Portugal, I used the flexibility afforded by the three international drug control conventions to introduce non-criminal responses to the possession of drugs for personal use. Greater resources were allocated to prevention, treatment, and social reintegration programs, including harm reduction measures.

Portugal now has one of the lowest death rates for drug use in Europe. In 2001, Portugal had the highest rate of HIV amongst injecting drug users in the region; since the introduction of the new policy, this rate, and rates of all sexually transmitted diseases, have decreased dramatically. Overall drug use rates have also fallen. I am proud of these results and hope this experience will contribute to the discussion and encourage Member States to continue exploring comprehensive and evidence-based solutions.

The UNGASS follow-up process provides us with an institutional framework to learn from each other and share best practices. It is vital that we examine the effectiveness of the War on Drugs approach, and its consequences for human rights. Despite the risks and challenges inherent in tackling this global problem, I hope and believe we are on the right path, and that together we can implement a coordinated, balanced and comprehensive approach that leads to sustainable solutions.

This would be the best possible way to implement the UNGASS recommendations and to have a positive impact on the lives of millions of people around the world.—UNIC/Yangon
France’s Macron to back push for global environment rights pact

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron promised on Saturday to play an active role in a campaign aimed at securing a global pact to protect the human right to a clean and healthy environment.

He made the pledge at a meeting at Sorbonne University where politicians, legal experts and activists presented him with draft proposals for such a pact.

Macron was busy drawing up the main ideas of the pact. He said he “will act ... so that the work initiated continues, so that we reach a text, convince our partners, place these efforts under the aegis of the UN ... and from September have the basis of a world environment pact,” Macron told his audience.

The pact should eventually be put to the United Nations for adoption and impose legally-binding obligations on signatory states, its drafters — comprising legal experts from several countries — have said.

Attendees at the Sorbonne included former California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger and former United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon.

It was chaired by former prime minister Laurent Fabius, who chaired the 2015 conference on climate change. Under the Paris accord, countries failed to reach a legally binding agreement to limit emissions of greenhouse gases generated by burning fossil fuels that are blamed by scientists for warming the planet.

— Reuters

Criminal gangs kill 11 in Mexico’s Veracruz state

MEXICO CITY — Eleven people were killed in Mexico’s Veracruz state by criminal gangs on Saturday, including four children and the head of the state’s federal police and two other police officers, Governor Miguel Angel Yanes said.

Veracruz is home to rival drug cartels including the Zetas and Jalisco New Generation, or CJNG, which are fighting over drug trafficking turf.

Armed gunmen shot and killed the Veracruz state’s director of criminal justice, the head of the federal police in Veracruz, Camilo Juan Castagne, at a restaurant in the city of Culiacan. In the port city of Coatzacoalcos, two adults and four children were killed, while two women and a child were kidnapped, authorities said.

— Reuters

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Dated 26 June 2017
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University students promote 2020 Tokyo Games in dance, music competition

TOKYO — Students from 12 universities gathered in Tokyo on June 24 to compete in dance, music and sports performances at an event to promote the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Around 1,000 performers and spectators joined the “Tokyo 2020 Student Cultural Festival” at Meiji Gakuin University, hosted by the games organizing committee in cooperation with universities. The event was held to celebrate Olympic Day on June 23, as the International Olympic Committee was established on that day in 1894.

“Through the event, we want to build momentum and promote Olympic education toward the 2020 Tokyo Games,” said organizing committee spokeswoman Kaori Fujisawa, who added it’s hoped to hold more such events nationwide ahead of the 2020 Games.

Around 300 students of 16 teams from 12 universities, including Keio University, Toyo University and Tokyo Kasei University, participated, and competed in such events as basketball and Japanese drumming.

Priyanka Chopra to endorse Skill India campaign

NEW DELHI — Actress Priyanka Chopra will soon be seen endorsing government’s flagship Skill India campaign, with the National Skill Development Corporation roping in the Bollywood celebrity as an ambassador for the initiative.

The former Miss World and Bollywood star who is now making waves in Hollywood with her acting prowess, herself expressed interest in the initiative and will collaborate on a pro bono basis.

Priyanka will use her celebrity status to motivate youngsters to hone their abilities through a media campaign.

Earlier, Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli, batting legend Sachin Tendulkar, Bollywood actors Sidharth Malhotra and Shahana Azmi and singer Mohit Chauhan had also become goodwill envoys for Skill India.

“As brand ambassador we have given a letter to Priyanka Chopra. The interest had come from her,” National Skill Development Corporation MD and CEO Manish Kumar told PTI.

Kumar said the media team associated with NSDC is working on how to project Priyanka most effectively through the campaign, as she has emerged as a global youth icon.

However, the 34-year-old had recently received a backlash with online trolls criticising the dress she wore to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Berlin during his four-nation trip.

The short floral dress that Priyanka wore for the meeting did not go down well with social media users who slammed her for being inappropriately dressed.

The short floral dress that Priyanka wore for the meeting did not go down well with social media users who slammed her for being inappropriately dressed.

The Skill India campaign was launched by Prime Minister Modi in July 2015. The government aims to train 40 crore people by 2022 through its skillling initiatives.

Let’s make Delhi roads safer, urges Sidharth Malhotra

NEW DELHI — Actor Sidharth Malhotra has requested Delhi-zens to make the roads of the city safer by shunning drunk driving and not performing stunts while riding.

The 32-year-old actor, who is currently shooting for his upcoming film “Aiyaary” in the capital, joined the road safety activity, organised by Delhi Traffic Police at India Gate, to spread awareness on anti-drunk driving and anti-stunt riding.

“I was shooting here, so when I heard Delhi Traffic Police has started this campaign, I was happy to become a part of this initiative. Anyone of us can be involved in a road accident. Drunk and stunt driving should be avoided.

“Please abide by the traffic rules. Let’s make Delhi roads safer, so that people can drive easily and avoid accidents. Hopefully, this will make a difference and our authorities will make sure, we are safer,” told the reporters here. Recalling his college days, the “Baar Baar Dekho” actor said although he had his fair share of fun on the roads in the city, he used to follow the traffic rules.

He added, “It is not only about you, it is also about your friends, family and other people on the road. Please keep the spirit alive, Delhi. Roam around, have fun but be in control and be responsible. Today, you can call a cab whenever you want. So, please use such apps. Please don’t drink and drive.”

Being a recognised face among the youth, Sidharth’s voice will resonate the younger generation and that is what made him a “good choice” for the campaign.

A K Singh, DSP (Traffic) told PTI, “Sidharth is a young face and we thought he would be a good choice to inspire the youth about practising traffic rules and ask them not to indulge in drunk driving or any dangerous stunts.”

While Ved Prakash Vats, sub-inspector, Road Safety Cell added the youth needs to be more responsible when they are driving and think about their kith and kin.” — PTI
Chinese dragon dance graces anti-crime event in South Africa

CAPE TOWN — The Chinese traditional dragon dance added much fanfare to an anti-crime event taking place on Saturday in Atlantis, a crime-stricken community outside Cape Town.

The event, codenamed “Youth Making Noise Against Crime”, was held to mark the “Youth Month” in the country. This was an initiative aimed at highlighting the seriousness of violent criminal activities that are currently affecting South Africa’s youth. Since the beginning of 2017, there have already been 24 reported cases of youth deaths as a result of violent crimes such as robbery, rape, human trafficking and drug abuse.

The event was organized by the Milnerton Community Police Forum (CPF) Cluster Board in conjunction with the nine police stations within the cluster congregated in Atlantis to demonstrate their stand against crime and gang violence. Commander of the Milnerton police cluster Major General Aneeqah Jordan urged the youngsters present at the event to follow the right path and make something of themselves.

With proper conduct, the children can achieve their goals and become respected members of society, Jordan said.

As an offering of friendship and support, representatives from the Cape Town Chinese community, led by Chinese Consul General Kang Yong attended the event. They brought with them the traditional Chinese Year of the Rooster symbol of power, prosperity and peace. Kang expressed his love for South Africa and its people, saying: “The children are the future of this nation. It is vital that they stay away from gang activity and learn to respect their teachers and family.” The dragon dance, performed by members of the Chinese Huaxing Artistic Troop in Cape Town, cheered up the youths who burst into applause.

Alice Matisha, 13, told Xinhua that she never saw dragon dance before.

——Xinhua

Photo: Xinhua

Cultural exchanges between mainland, Hong Kong maintain sound development

BEIJING — Cultural exchanges between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong have developed well since Hong Kong returned to the motherland in 1997, Ding Wei, vice minister of culture, said Sunday.

Cultural exchanges between the mainland and Hong Kong have become more close, rich and sound, forming an all-dimensional, wide-ranging and multi-channel communication pattern, Ding said ahead of the region’s 20th anniversary of return. “The exchanges have promoted Chinese culture in Hong Kong and enhanced Hong Kong’s recognition of the country, the nation and Chinese culture,” Ding said.

Since Hong Kong returned to the motherland, each year saw an average of 750 exchange programs with 10,000 people attending in the past few years, which double the number in the early years of Hong Kong’s return, Ding said.

In 2005, the mainland and Hong Kong signed an agreement on closer cultural ties, mapping out the fields and channels of cultural cooperation, Ding said.

——Xinhua

Service helping grandparents stay in touch seeing growth in Japan

TOKYO — Two online services using technology to allow grandparents to overcome the distance between them and their grandchildren are proving popular in Japan.

One is provided by “Mago Channeru” (Grandchildren Channel), introduced by Tokyo-based startup Chikaku Inc. in 2016. Using the technology, family members can watch on television high-quality images and videos uploaded via the company’s application with a simple click of a remote control.

The main draw of the system is that users can simply plug the device into their television with one cable, allowing its built-in internet data link to download pictures and videos.

People on the receiving end are notified of the arrival of new images by a blinking light, and the sender is also notified once somebody accesses them.

For some grandparents, it has become routine to watch how their grandchildren are growing day by day. Goro Shintani, 72, and his wife Yumiko, 68, who live in Tokyo, said the device’s ease of use has made them feel like their grandchildren are “always near”. Their two daughters live with their families in the United States and Okinawa, respectively.

Chikaku President Kenji Kajiwara was inspired to create the service when he witnessed his Hyogo Prefecture-based parents’ joy upon seeing their distant grandchild via the internet.

“When they see (their grandchildren’s images) on a big screen, it makes them feel as if they are right there in front of them,” said Kajiwara, who formerly worked for a Japanese subsidiary of Apple Inc. The device, costing 19,800 yen ($177), is available online and at some department stores in Tokyo. Despite the service’s 1,480 yen per month subscription fee, sales have been impressive, according to the company.

In a similar vein, Photocreate Co., which provides an online portal for schoolchildren’s pictures shot by professional photographers, added a new feature to its service in May, allowing distant grandparents to see images uploaded by parents.

The online picture service “Snap Snap,” which was introduced by the Tokyo-based company in 2006, has been used by 5,000 schools and kindergartens across Japan. It allows users to peruse and buy pictures of events such as excursions and athletic festivals via the internet so schools do not need to display printed versions.

With the new feature “Kodomu Arubamu” (Children’s Album), parents can create an album by choosing pictures saved in the system, and with a few steps the children’s grandparents can see the images on their smartphones and computers. “We want to improve communication among family members by sharing a record of their growing children,” a Photo create representative said.

——Kyodo News
States and Divisions Sepak takraw Competition 2017 holds in Nay Pyi Taw

Competition for final and the third place in 2017 Sepak takraw 2 men event representing for all Regions and States will be held at Wunna Theikidi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw today.

Both knock-out matches and quarter-final was held yesterday.

As the knock-out matches, Kayin State team defeated Mandalay Region team, Bago Region team won Nay Pyi Taw team, Sagaing Region team defeated Ayeyawady team and and Yangon Region team beat Mon State and the winning teams went into Semi-final.

In the quarter-final matches, Bago defeated Kayin and Yagon beat Sagaing accordingly and both winning teams stepped up for Final match and the losers in semi-final will fight for the third place today.

After the final match, other competitions for men and women two players' event will be held at the same place.—Kyi Soe Lin

Striker Costa hard to replace at Chelsea, says Lampard

LONDON — Premier League champions Chelsea will find it difficult to replace influential striker Diego Costa if he departs in the current transfer window, club legend Frank Lampard has said.

Costa, 28, has been Chelsea's top scorer in all three seasons since joining the club in 2014, leading them to two league title wins.

Earlier this month, the Spain international said that he would leave Stamford Bridge after being told by manager Antonio Conte that he was not a part of the club’s future plans.

“He’s a fantastic striker and we all saw that last season and since he’s been at Chelsea. He would be very difficult to replace, there's no doubt about it,” Lampard told Sky Sports.

“He’s an all-round physical presence that also has the quality to get goals, that’s not easy to find in the modern day.”

Costa scored 22 goals in 42 appearances for the London side last season but the club have been linked with a move to get Everton striker Romelu Lukaku, who scored 26 goals last campaign, back to Stamford Bridge.

“He’s (Lukaku) certainly developed to a huge degree since he left the club (in 2014), Romelu would certainly be a good option. The only thing Chelsea have to look at is the inflated market that is around now, it makes it very tough,” Lampard said. Costa has said he would favour a return to former club Atletico Madrid but the Spanish side are unable to register new players until January 2018 due to a transfer ban by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).—Reuters

Myanmar boxing players competing their best during the competition. PHOTO: KYI SOE LIN

Myanmar fighting boxers gained victory in Myanmar’s Lethwei challenge competition

MYANMAR’S Lethwei challenge competition of four countries’ boxers of Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Uzbekistan was held in Thein Phyu Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The competition was held under the supervision of Ministry of Health and Sports and sponsored by Modern Myanmar Synergy Group & H and S Group.

Two local matches and five international matches were held in the competition.

In the fighting fixture, not only Daung Phyu Lay and Khan Lin Htet but Ye Yint Thwe and Salai Chan Myae also finished draw in their matches of local competition.

Kayin Lay defeated Bu nann (Thailand), Moe Hein defeated Hai Phey (Cambodia), Kyel Sin Phyo defeated Din Bo-sai (Thailand) Mike Yine Lay defeated Tolar Bay (Uzbekistan) and Saw Gaw Htoo defeated Parutsamwe (Thailand) respectively during the competition.

—Aye Min Thu

Ronaldo sets Portugal on way to Confederations Cup semis

ST PETERSBURG, (Russia) — European champions Portugal comfortably dispatched New Zealand 4-0 to reach the Confederations Cup semi-finals on Saturday after Cristiano Ronaldo set them on their way with a penalty.

Portugal’s all-time leading scorer swept the ball home in the 33rd minute, his 75th goal for his country, and Bernardo Silva added the second four minutes later.

A solo effort from Andre Silva, his eighth goal in 11 appearances, in the 80th minute and a stoppage-time goal from substitute Nani completed the scoring.

It was a typically efficient performance from Portugal who never looked in real danger despite a sluggish start. However, it was not all good news as Bernardo Silva went off injured at halftime, while a needless and reckless challenge from Pepe, with his side 2-0 up, earned the controversial central defender his second yellow card of the tournament, ruling him out of Wednesday’s semi-final.

“It was an odd game - we were in control, but they started creating problems, and if it had got back to 2-1, it could have got complicated,” said Portugal coach Fernando Santos.

New Zealand goalkeeper Stefan Marinovic, who helped Unhetchaching win promotion from the German fourth division last season, kept the score down with a superb second-half display.

The Oceania champions were far from disgraced but have now competed in the tournament four times without winning a game and have an overall record of 11 defeats and a draw in 12 matches.—Reuters

Myanmar boxer Sawgaw Mudho and Thailand boxer Perut Samwe fights for the victory. PHOTO: KHIN NG WIN (THE MIRROR)