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Half of all land grab complaints filed in Yangon Region

YANGON Region is reported to top the list of land grab complaints being investigated across the country, followed by Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region.

There are 4,122 ongoing farmland disputes in the country, with 2,261 in Yangon Region alone. Nay Pyi Taw is home to 452 cases, followed by Bago Region with 371.

The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw scrutiny committee said it has received 17,718 complaints from around the country. However, only 3,782 complaints were sent directly to the Central Committee for Land Resources Management, of which 81 were found to be false complaints.

The Ministry of Defence has unilaterally abandoned 189,153 acres of land, while other ministries have given up 22,293 acres, and companies and organisations have given up 2,560 acres.

Among the confiscated land, over 29,085 acres are slated to be returned to their lawful owners.

To solve problems related to issues of land grabbing, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has suggested recently for the drawing up of strong laws to solve problems related to issues of land confiscation.

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A farmer ploughs his land to grow crops in Bago.
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Caches of Yaba seized around the country



Caches of yaba pills are hidden in empty tanks. PHOTO:MPF



Aik Yi. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE



Aung Aung (a) Yay Saung Te. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

CACHES of stimulants were seized in three separate places on 28 May as part of the Myanmar Police Force's 100-day plan to ensure security and the rule of law across the country.

After receiving a tip-off, a

local drug squad in Mandalay seized over 21 million yaba pills worth K42.1 billion (US\$35.5m) in a 12-wheeled truck driven by Aung Aung (a) Yay Saung Te on the Kaungkha-Kutkhai road in Muse. The driver of the truck said

he was paid to transport the drugs to Mandalay. Further investigation showed that the owner of the drugs is a fugitive named Liu Zhi Xiao, who is also connected to the seizure of a different drug haul in Mandalay on 5 March. Police are

still trying to arrest Liu Zhi Xiao and his partner, Aung San.

In Kengtung that same day, a drug squad searched a vehicle driven Aik Yi near the Naungpha checkpoint and discovered over 500,000 stimulant pills and 4,200

bahts. The seizures were valued at K1.2b (US\$1m). In another incident, a drug squad in Yangon searched the house of Ma Mya Mya Thin in South Dagon Township and found 520 yaba pills. —Myanmar News Agency

Quality of agricultural outputs stunted by one dimensional support system

MORE credit should be issued to farmers to boost the quality of agricultural crop outputs, according to U Thein Htut, economic advisor to the Ayeyardagun group of companies involved in the rice and crops export trade.

"The quality [of agricultural crops] for foreign export must improve. But in order to really achieve better quality crops, farmers need to be issued with more loans. Rather than just issuing a K100,000 loan per acre of farmland, more financial support should be given with seedlings, cultivation methods and technology. Only by investing heavily in planting will it allow for quality crops to be harvested," explained U Thein Htut.

Despite the increase this

year by K50,000 in the amount of credit that can be borrowed per acre for paddy cultivation, there has been no rise in credit limits for other agricultural crops, according to the Department of Agricultural, Livestock and Irrigation. "I support the issuing of credit to farmers. Generous loans would allow us to grow and sell crops of a better quality," said U Than Htun, a farmer from Aye-yarwady Region.

The new government expects to increase export trade three-fold by exporting agricultural crops to foreign countries, in which it will utilize assistance of foreign technology to bettering the quality of locally produced crops in order to make this a reality.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Experts have suggested to issue more loans to farmers in order to improve quality of crops. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

BFM provides water tankers to NGOs

AS part of the effort to speed up the nationwide water supply project, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation (BFM) has provided water bowzers to local non-governmental organisations to bolster local voluntary societies.

A 3,000-gallon water bowser was given to a town elder in Hakha, Chin State, through the local Kanbawza Bank branch on 26 May for use in supplying drinking water to local people. BFM also gave a 3,000-gallon bowser to a town elder in Falam, Chin State.

The KBZ Bank branch in Kyaukse handed over 3,000-gallon water bowzers to town elders in Kyaukse and in Kume on 22 May in order to supply drinking water to local people.

Since 2014, BFM has car-

ried out water supply activities, including drilling tube wells, maintaining lakes, establishing water supply facilities and supplying drinking water to people across the country facing scarcity of water.

So far, BFM has funded the drilling of 76 tube wells, established 236 water distribution taps and maintained more than 80 lakes nationwide, spending more than K6.5 billion.

As part of its effort to combat water scarcity, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation has asked communities currently facing droughts to contact the foundation and arrange for fresh, potable water to be delivered.

The foundation plans to build a fleet of up to 42 water tankers.—*GNLM*



U Wai Lin Aung (R) of Kanbawza Bank Ltd hands over a water tanker to towns elder U Hwan Man of Haka. PHOTO: KBZ

FDB increases credit limit to Thaton farmers

FARMERS in Mon State's Thaton district are to be issued with K2,500 million in credit by the district Farmers Development Bank (FDB) to cover expenses involved in planting monsoon paddy, the bank has made it known.

Daw Aye Aye Thein, manager of the Thaton district FDB, stated the objective of the credit scheme is to enable those farmers with little capital to be more productive, allowing for a higher yield of crops.

"The issuing of credit is to make life easier for farmers who have little capital. Every farmer who completes all the bank's required information will be issued with a low interest loan. Lower than what can be obtained through private money lenders,

the bank's interest rate should be more convenient for farmers," she said.

Until the end of 2015, a maximum credit sum of K100,000 was issued per acre of farmland, but this has increased to K150,000 starting from this year in a bid that it will allow farmers to better their activities, added Daw Aye Aye Thein.

The issuing of monsoon paddy credit within Thaton district began on 19 May, with the majority of farmers requesting loans for up to ten acres worth of paddy. Credit will continued to be issued until the end of June, it is known.

In terms of the repayment of credit, farmers will be able to start making repayments from the harvesting of paddy in January 2017 until the deadline set by the

bank of the end of March.

"We'll be okay this year as they've issued us with a loan of K150,000 per acre. Now we just need no irregular weather fronts. The increase in interest rate from five to eight percent though isn't great. But, it's still much cheaper than rates offered by private lenders," said U Saw Thein, a farmer from Thaton township.

The four townships that make up Thaton district comprise approximately 21,000 farmers, who tend to roughly 171,000 acres of farmland, for whom a total of K2,569 million of credit will be handed out. In terms of farmers within Mon State as a whole, over K4,000 million of credit will be issued, it has been learned.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Half of all land grab complaints filed ...

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The extreme complexity of farmland confiscations and related disputes in Myanmar have made them difficult to resolve, said Dr Htun Win, the deputy minister for of agriculture, livestock and irrigation.

"This is a new government, and it's one put into office by the public, so there's a need to adhere to public wishes as much as possible. We'll prioritise these long-procrastinated cases of farmland confiscation, but there's a good chance we could see delays on the legal side of things. As such, I wish for people not so be overly optimistic and be understanding [about the limitations of government procedure]," said the deputy minister.

The task of drawing up an inclusive piece of legislation that can solve the array of problems related

to farmland confiscation around the country and disputes over original ownership entitlements could likely take an extended period of time.

"The origin of all farmland problems is the confiscation, dividing up and selling off of plots of land for one's own profit under the guise of doing so in the name of the public. The marking off of plots of land, the erection of 'No Trespassing' signs and the selling off of land are ugly stains on the country's image. The country's land has been misused. It is the responsibility of the new government to ensure that ownership arrives back in the hands of the lands' original owners," continued Dr Htun Win.

Roughly 200,000 acres of land have been confiscated from private owners nationwide, of which the Farmers Affairs Committee in

the Amyotha Hluttaw was able to investigate a total of 18,000 cases during the first hluttaw, of which 12,000 were resolved.

"The over 6,000 yet-to-be-investigated cases from the previous hluttaw have now been passed over to the current hluttaw. We will continue to solve the remaining cases during the second hluttaw. But there are also many cases that have been investigated but where no resolution was found. These cases are the biggest. There are still so many citizens who are landless to this day," said U Soe Win, general secretary of the Amyotha Hluttaw Farmers Affairs Committee.

The principal actors in farmland confiscations have been the Tatmadaw (Myanmar Defence Services), government ministries, private construction companies, national economic projects and industrial zone construction projects.—*Pho Thant / Myitmakha News Agency*

Increased taxes dissuade car owners from registering vehicles in their name

THE Mandalay Region Department of Road Transport Administration has stated they received applications for the changing of ownership name over 2,600 motor vehicles from 1 April to the end of the third week of May.

According to departmental records, applications for the name on ownership deeds were made on a total of 2,631 vehicles: 1,131 vehicles in the southern district office and 1,500 in that of the northern district.

"In the past, only a three per cent was levied in order to change the name of ownership over a vehicle. The advanced announcement of changes to tax rates saw an immediate surge in numbers changing the name of ownership before the new taxes kicked in. Things have since returned to normal," said an official for the aforementioned government department.

Car owners wishing to change the name of ownership of their vehicle are now required to pay a fifteen percent tax, it is

known.

"Previously, if a car was worth K10 million, then a tax fee of K300,000 was levied, but these days that figure has changed to K1.5 million. There were many people officially registering their vehicle in their name before when tax rates were more reasonably priced. These days, however, and there are few people that change their name anymore," said an official from the Internal Revenue Department.

Starting from 1 June, vehicles imported from abroad worth up to K30 million will require a fifteen per cent tax to be paid; a twenty per cent tax on those worth between K30-100 million; and thirty per cent tax on those motor-vehicles which value over K100 million.

Car agents have analysed that the market has dampened in the wake of a motor-vehicle tax policies, but have stated it continues to be stable despite an increase in tax compared with previous prices.—Myitmakha News Agency



Cars are crawling along Pyay Road in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Over 4,000 advertisers apply for 400 billboards in Yangon City

THE Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) said that there are over 4,000 applicants for over 400 billboards in the city. YCDC recently divided the billboards into five categories according to the quality of their locations.

The price of each billboard, regardless of location, was set at K13.5 million (US\$11,441) in previous years. This year, the price has been set at K25 million for a Grade A billboard, K18 million for Grade B, K13.5 million for Grade C, K10 million for Grade D and K5 million for Grade E, according to the department.

There were a total of 3,333 applicants for 65 Grade A billboards. Advertisers have shown little interest in billboards in satellite towns, according to the Administration Department of YCDC.

A total of 4,375 advertisers applied for 259 billboards out of 488 with down payments of K2 million each. The businesses that are selected in a lottery will have one year to use the boards. Those who are not selected will have their deposits refunded.—200

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"MAKE YOUR BUSINESS GLOBAL WITH THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR"

Japan-based Akemi-chan Fund to assist children with congenital heart disease

THE Akemi-chan Fund and the Ayeyawady Foundation are planning to provide free treatment for needy children with congenital heart disease at Yankin Children's Hospital (YCH) in Yangon in a five-year project.

The Akemi-chan Fund is a Japan-based fund for poor children with heart diseases.

The fund will offer not only medical assistance but capacity building trainings to local healthcare providers. The organisation inked a five-year memorandum of understanding with the Myanmar government to offer capacity building trainings to local medical staff.

With the assistance of the

Akemi-chan Fund, health specialists from the YCH are now treating children with congenital heart disease between 25 and 30 May.

This is the second programme the Japanese group has organised for Myanmar children.

The first programme was carried out last September.

The group plans to visit Myanmar this September or November in order to provide healthcare services to the children.

A total of 239 children have undergone free heart surgeries with the help of the Ayeyawady Foundation and international heart specialists.—CK/Union Daily

Low-cost housings to be established in Dagon Seikkan and Mingaladon townships

THE Ministry of Construction will start implementing a low-cost housing project to include 8,000 flats in two satellite townships in Yangon, a spokesperson said.

Each 400-square foot apartment in the new residential project in Dagon Seikkan and Mingaladon townships will go on sale for less than K10 million each, with the ministry planning to complete the project within the

next two years.

The sale of the apartments will be carried out under the supervision of the Yangon Region government. Priority will be given to government staff, retirees and middle-class families.

The project aims to fulfil the housing needs of Yangon residents. The project is meant to allow people to own apartments within eight to 10 years.

Those approved to purchase a flat will be required to pay a down payment amounting to 15 per cent of the property's value, and then K80,000 to K100,000 per month. The government has established several low-cost housing projects in South Dagon, Shwepyitha and Hlaingthaya townships, including about 2,200 apartments, and plans to explore vacant land plots for additional housing projects.—200

Second phase of Thilawa SEZ (A) to be completed in July

THE implementation of the second phase of Thilawa Special Economic Zone (A) is slated for completion in July this year, according to Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Ltd.

Zone (A) of the Thilawa SEZ, located 25 kilometres southeast of Yangon, is being implemented in two phases. Initiated in late November 2013, the first phase was put into operation last September.

The second phase of the construction of the 400-acre Zone (A) is already in progress.

Over 86 per cent of the total land area included in the second phase of the project has already been sold to local companies and foreign companies based in Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Australia, Viet Nam, Thailand, Malaysia, the US and Sweden.

So far, 69 companies have investments in the zone according to Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Ltd. Nine of the companies have begun operations, including some involved in manufacturing clothing, toys and electronic devices. A total of 27 companies are in the process of building factories there. The remaining 33 companies are preparing for set up operations in the zone.—200

Crime NEWS

Motorbike thieves arrested in Mohnyin

POLICE arrested two men believed to have stolen motorbikes in Mohnyin District, Kachin State.

Kyaw Zaw (aka Kyaw Gyi), 27, and Htike San (aka Aung Myo Lin), 27, were arrested while police were patrolling the town on Saturday.

According to the investigation, the pair stole a motorcycle owned by Ma Kai Yar,

which was parked within the compound of Mohnyin District Hospital on 20 May. They sold the motorbike to Zarni, 35, from Hpakant Township, who has a history of buying stolen bikes from them.

The three men have been charged under Section 379(g) of the Criminal Law by local authorities.—Kachinmye Naga/Union Daily

Authorities seize 40 kilos of heroin in Tachilek

LOCAL authorities in Tachilek Township seized nearly 40 kilograms of heroin on Saturday and arrested a 35-year-old man for drug smuggling.

Acting on a tip-off, an anti-drug squad searched a car being by Sai Phat Eon Nong (aka Aik Pi), who was heading from Wailaylan Village to Lonkyaing Village, near a check point. They found over K5

billion worth of heroin in the back of the vehicle and seized it. Sai Phat Eon Nong has been charged by police under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.

According to the suspect, Sai Ngin (aka Pho Si), 30, from Wailaylan Village, was also involved in the case, and police are now pursuing him.—Maung Yin Kyay



Sai Phat Eon Nong (aka Eike).

Two dead in overturned vehicle



The vehicle being seen overturned. PHOTO: CHAN THA

TWO people were killed when a vehicle overturned near mile post No 276 on the Yangon-Mandalay high way in Meiktila Township on Saturday.

A car driven by Zaw Min Oo (aka Min Zaw) en route from

Yangon to Mandalay drove off the road and overturned when the driver lost control of the car.

U San Ngwe, 60, Daw Aye Myint, 47, died on the spot, while six others sustained inju-

ries. All the injured passengers were taken to the district general hospital after the accident.

The driver was deemed guilty of careless driving by local police.—Chan Tha

Villagers attack police, disrupt arrest

FOUR villagers attacked a police team when they came to arrest a drug dealer in Wuntho Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region, on Friday.

Local police had been informed that a drug dealer named Daw Thay was in Kyailkuchan Village in the township. The

team searched her hut and found 0.25 grams of heroin.

When police officers took Daw Thay into the custody, they were attacked by the four villagers from huts located at the edge of the village armed with long knives.

The suspects escaped custo-

dy during the scuffle.

Tin Aye, Thaing Aung, Kyaw Htoo and Aung Kyaw Kyaw (aka Mae Kyaw) were placed under arrest.

Police are still investigating the case in an effort to seize the suspects who fled the scene.—Lu Aung



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe makes a speech in Hiroshima on 17 May 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Support rating for Abe Cabinet up 7 points to 55.3%: Kyodo survey

TOKYO — The support rating for the Cabinet of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe stands at 55.3 per cent, up 7 percentage points from last month, a Kyodo News opinion poll showed Sunday.

An overwhelming 98.0 per cent said they viewed positively US President Barack Obama's visit to Hiroshima on Friday, the first by a US president, according to

the nationwide telephone survey conducted Saturday and Sunday.

In the survey, 70.9 per cent expressed support for postponing a consumption tax hike scheduled for April 2017, while 24.7 per cent said it should be implemented as planned.

It has been reported that Abe told aides Saturday evening he plans to post-

pone the hike from 8 to 10 per cent until October 2019.

In connection with the arrest of a civilian US base worker in Okinawa over the death of a local woman, 71.0 per cent said the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement should be revised, while 17.9 per cent said a revision was not necessary.

SOFA defines the han-

dling of US base personnel in Japan. The 1960 accord has not posed any obstacles to investigations in the latest case but people in Okinawa complain it is overly protective of Americans, partly because it only requires suspects to cooperate with Japanese investigations on a voluntary basis in some cases.—Kyodo News

Chinese Military newspaper published

BEIJING — The first edition of a new military newspaper was published Saturday, replacing the publications circulated among China's seven military area commands before they were reorganised into several battle zone commands. Renminlujun (People's Land Forces) will be published from Tuesday to Saturday every week.

Its front page on Saturday featured a profile on the inauguration of the Army of the People's Liberation Army, and articles concerning the building of a strong and modern new land force.

An editorial in the publication said the new paper will continue to uphold the theories and policies of the Communist Party of China and promote ways to build and modernize the country's land forces.—Xinhua

Viet Nam's HCM City posts smaller FDI in first 5 months

HO CHI MINH CITY — Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh City lured 647.3 million US dollars worth of foreign direct investment (FDI) in the first five months of this year, compared with 1.055 billion US dollars in the same period last year, the city's

Statistical Office said Sunday.

From January to May, the city licensed 276 FDI projects with total registered capital of 481.2 million US dollars, and saw 48 operational FDI projects increase their capital by a total of 166.1 million US

dollars. Meanwhile, Ho Chi Minh City witnessed 23 projects totaling 28.3 million US dollars being dissolved or moving to other localities, or having their investment licenses revoked.

Over the first five months, nearly 13,300 Vi-

etnamese enterprises with total registered capital of roughly 100,000 billion Vietnamese dong (more than 4.4 billion US dollars) were established in Ho Chi Minh City.

Viet Nam attracted FDI of nearly 10.2 billion US dollars in the Janu-

ary-May period, up 136.4 per cent, according to the country's General Statistics Office.

Meanwhile, it saw total realised capital of foreign-invested projects increase by 17.2 per cent to 5.8 billion US dollars.—Xinhua

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Japan defence vessels make port call in Viet Nam



MSDF's guided-missile destroyer Ariake made first port call at Viet Nam's strategic point of Cam Ranh Bay among all MSDF vessels on 12 April. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

HANOI — Two mine-sweeper vessels of the Japan Maritime Self-Defence Force made a port call Sunday at Viet Nam's strategic point of Cam Ranh Bay facing the South China Sea.

The call by the Uraga, the mother ship, and Takashima marked only the second time for MSDF

vessels to visit the international port facility, following two MSDF guided-missile destroyers in April.

Japan and Viet Nam are strengthening their defence cooperation against the backdrop of regional concerns over China's growing military presence in the South China Sea.

Cam Ranh Bay is relatively close to the Paracel and Spratly island chains. Viet Nam, one of several states involved in disputes over reefs and islands in the South China Sea, is at odds with China over claims to those island chains.

According to the Japanese Embassy in Viet Nam,

the Uraga and Takashima are stopping over for crew rest and refueling en route back to Japan after taking part in an international minesweeping exercise on the seas around Bahrain. There are no plans for a joint exercise or the like with Vietnamese naval forces.—Kyodo News

Opposition demands Abe's resignation if sales tax hike postponed

TOKYO — Opposition parties called Sunday for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to resign if he breaks his pledge to implement a 2-percentage-point consumption tax hike scheduled for April 2017.

Main opposition Democratic Party acting Secretary General Tetsuro Fukuyama said during an NHK television programme that Abe and his Cabinet should resign if he does not fulfill his pledge and pushes the tax hike back to October 2019. Officials from the Japanese Communist Party and the Social Democratic Party backed Fukuyama's demand.

During the same NHK programme, Liberal Democratic Party acting Secretary General Yasu-

fumi Tanahashi asked for public understanding over the likely postponement.

"It is a matter of course that (Abe) will deal with the situation flexibly under the circumstances that tax revenues are unlikely to increase in the mid- and long-terms," Tanahashi said.

Tetsuo Saito, acting secretary general of the LDP's coalition ally Komeito, said his party had been left out of discussions and he had heard "nothing" about a postponement. He said he will decide on a response after discussions with the LDP.

On Saturday evening, Abe brought up the possibility of a postponement during talks with Finance Minister Taro Aso, Chief

Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga and LDP Secretary General Sadakazu Tanigaki, according to sources close to the matter.

Aso told an LDP meeting in Toyama on Sunday that Abe would need to dissolve the House of Representatives for a general election if he postponed the tax hike. "Unless a lower house election is held to seek voters' verdict, it would not make sense," the finance minister said.

The sources said Aso and Tanigaki demanded that a general election be held at the same time as a House of Councillors election expected in July if Abe postpones the tax hike, but the prime minister did not make clear whether he supported the idea.

The plan to shelve the tax increase comes as the Japanese economy is experiencing sluggish growth due to tepid private consumption and a slowdown in emerging economies, especially China. Consumer spending in Japan plunged following the previous consumption tax increase in April 2014.

Abe said at a Friday press conference following a Group of Seven summit meeting in central Japan that he would make a decision on whether to postpone the tax increase before the upper house election, stressing current risks to the global economy.

It would be the second time that Abe has decided to delay a consumption tax hike. Following

an increase of 3 percentage points to 8 per cent in April 2014, the second tax increase to 10 per cent was originally planned for October 2015, but Abe announced a deferment in November 2014.

Since that postponement, Abe has repeatedly said he would go ahead with the tax increase in April 2017 unless there was a major global economic shock or another earthquake equivalent to the one that devastated northeastern Japan in March 2011.

The two-stage tax increase schedule was originally laid out in a 2012 accord between the LDP, Komeito and the now-defunct Democratic Party of Japan, which merged with a smaller party to form the DP.—*Kyodo News*

More Vietnamese enterprises close down in first 5 months

HO CHI MINH CITY — The number of Vietnamese enterprises closing down in the first five months of this year is 4,643, up 19.5 per cent against the same period last year, Viet Nam's Business Development Agency said Sunday.

Among the enterprises, 93.5 per cent had registered capital of below 10 billion Vietnamese dong (444,000 US dollars) each. Of the dissolved enterprises, 40.4 per cent were one-member limited liability companies and 29.9 per cent were two-member limited liability companies.

From January to May, besides the dissolved enterprises,

28,582 Vietnamese firms had to temporarily halt their production or business after meeting with difficulties, up 25.9 per cent against the same period last year.

Meanwhile, Viet Nam saw 44,740 Vietnamese enterprises being established with total registered capital of 349.5 trillion Vietnamese dong (over 15.5 billion US dollars), recording respective year-on-year increase of 24.1 per cent and 59.3 per cent.

The firms set up in the first five months of this year are expected to create 531,900 jobs, up 2.6 per cent, said the agency.—*Xinhua*



SINGAPORE — People visit a special exhibition on Singapore's early Chinese newspapers in Singapore, on 28 May 2016. Singapore held a special exhibition on the country's early Chinese newspapers at Sun Yat Sen Nanyang Memorial Hall. According to the curators, the exhibition will run until on 9 October. PHOTO: XINHUA

Hundreds march in HK ahead of Tiananmen Square anniversary

HONG KONG — Hundreds of people took part in a march here Sunday to commemorate the victims of the Chinese military's bloody crackdown on a peaceful pro-democracy protest in Beijing's Tiananmen Square 27 years ago.

"Persist until the end! Never give up!" the crowd chanted as they marched along the route that ended at the Central Liaison Office, Beijing's representative office here. "Redress 4 June! End one-party rule!"

Armed troops backed by tanks were deployed to crush the student-led protest in the square on the night of 3 June, 1989, ending a weeks-long occupation movement that had spread to cities across the country and started

to threaten those in power, leaving hundreds, if not thousands, dead in the streets of China's capital.

Hong Kong is one of the few places where memorials for the massacre are freely allowed, while the issue remains taboo in the mainland.

"As long as justice is not served, we will definitely carry on, for justice and for our conscience," said Richard Tsoi of the Hong Kong Alliance in Support of Patriotic Democratic Movements in China, the organiser of annual memorials including the 4 June candlelight vigil.

"We will never forget," said retiree Leung Bo-lung, 59. "The path to fight for democracy is a long walk."—*Kyodo News*

Iran assembly head wins initial re-election vote — state media

DUBAI — Moderate conservative Ali Larijani was re-elected on Sunday as the temporary speaker of Iran's new parliament which is dominated by first-term deputies.

Larijani, who had cooperated closely with the government of pragmatist President Hassan Rouhani in approving Iran's nuclear deal with world powers last year, won 173 votes in the

290-seat assembly, state media reported.

Senior reformist Mohammad Reza Aref, who had been the top vote-getter in the parliamentary race in Tehran, received 103 votes, state media said.

A vote for a permanent speaker is due to be held in the next few days, after the full house approves the credentials of individual MPs, as required

by Iran's constitution.

Elected in February, the parliament replaced one dominated by hardliners suspicious of detente with the West and who curbed Rouhani's plans to liberalise the economy and raise lacklustre productivity. Pro-Rouhani candidates raised their representation and 60 per cent of MPs are first-timers.—*Reuters*

Rain-triggered landslide leaves six missing in east China

HANGZHOU — Six people in a village in east China's Zhejiang Province went missing after their houses were buried by landslide early on Sunday.

The landslide occurred shortly after midnight in Jiande

City, following heavy downpour in the area, local government said, adding that rescuers are searching for the missing people.

More heavy rain will batter south and east China in the

coming days after storms brought floods to several regions in the past week.

China's meteorological authority has advised the public to stay alert for hazards.—*Xinhua*

SNS elects new leadership team

BELGRADE — The Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) elected a new leadership team on Saturday, with newly-elected vice-presidents saying they have also been entrusted with the great responsibility of furthering the reforms that had been launched by their leader Aleksandar Vucic.

At today's electoral assembly, Vucic was again unanimously elected as the SNS lead-

er, Jorgovanka Tabakovic as the SNS deputy leader, but her post will remain frozen as long as she is at the helm of the Serbian central bank.

The SNS main board unanimously elected four vice-presidents — Marija Obradovic, Marko Djuric, Milenko Jovanov and Milos Vucevic, and the remaining two vice-president jobs would be filled by the party officials who would prove their

worth through remarkable results in the coming period.

Darko Glisic, who has so far served as the president of the municipality of Ub, replaced Radomir Nikolic as the chairman of the SNS executive board.

The electoral assembly also chose the party's new presidency comprising 42 members, instead of 30 members so far, and a new main board.—*Tanjug*

French PM says he will not bow to labour reform protestors



French Prime Minister Manuel Valls. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — French Prime Minister Manuel Valls is determined not to join a long list of politicians who have conceded defeat to protesters, he told the *Journal Du Dimanche (JDD)* newspaper, as the government prepares to dig in its heels on labour reform.

The hardline CGT union has organised street protests, train strikes and refinery blockades to pressure the government to scrap plans that would make it easier for companies to hire and fire workers.

"If we gave in to the street and to CGT because we were obsessed over the short term by 2017 (presidential elections), we would lose everything," Valls was quoted as saying by the French newspaper.

In the mid-1990s Prime Minister Alain Juppe triggered France's worst unrest in decades because he would not budge on pension reform but he eventually

backed down after weeks of industrial action and protests.

The government is under pressure to find a solution to the latest stand-off before the 10 June start of the Euro 2016 soccer tournament in France, which the CGT has threatened to disrupt.

Finance Minister Michel Sapin emphasised the government's stance.

"First and foremost we must be firm," Sapin said in an interview with Reuters and three European newspapers. "Doing otherwise would be wrong with respect to (other) labour unions, most of whom support the text."

The more moderate CFDT union backs proposed reform that will allow businesses to lay off staff more easily in hard times but also give unions more power to negotiate unilateral deals with companies rather than national collective agreement.

Sapin said he agreed with

the tough stance taken by Valls and that he had been misunderstood when he told LCP television last week that it might be possible to tweak the part of the draft bill that would let companies opt out of national obligations on labour protection if they adopt in-house deals on pay and conditions with the consent of a majority of employees.

For all the tough talk, however, another minister said that the government could not let the Euro 2016 tournament be disrupted because it would be bad for France's image.

One option could be for lawmakers to tweak the bill when it returns to the lower house of parliament for a second reading, the minister said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The government pushed the bill through the lower house with a decree, bypassing the first reading. The final vote is expected in July.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vucic: Parliament to be constituted on June 3 or 4

BELGRADE — Serbian Prime Minister-Designate Aleksandar Vucic has said the inaugural session of the parliament will be held on 3 or 4 June adding that a new government will then be formed by 16 June.

"On 2 June, the provincial assembly will hold its inaugural session, and the Serbian parliament on 3 or 4 June. In a week's time, we will embark on forming a provincial government and then national government, so everything should be completed by 16 June," Vucic said after Friday's meeting of the presidency of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS).—*Tanjug*

Polish minister says missile shield no threat to Russia

WARSAW — The US missile shield to be located in Poland does not pose a threat to Russia's security, Poland's state-run news agency PAP quoted Foreign Minister Witold Waszczykowski as saying on Sunday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday that Poland and Romania could find themselves in the sights of Russian rockets because they are hosting elements of a US missile shield that Moscow considers a threat to its security.

"President Putin should know very well that the anti-missile shield in Poland has no relevance to Russian security. This system is to defend Europe from a missile attack from the Middle East," Waszczykowski told PAP in an interview published on Sunday.

"However, the military presence (in Poland) of the Americans and multinational NATO forces is a response to indeed aggressive behaviour by the Russian authorities, who are frightening us. This will be a presence of a defensive nature, not posing a threat to Russia."—*Reuters*

Jordan's King Abdullah appoints PM to oversee parliament elections

BEIRUT — Jordan's King Abdullah appointed veteran politician Hani Mulqi as prime minister after dissolving parliament on Sunday, charging him with overseeing elections before the end of the year, a senior political source said.

The monarch accepted the resignation of premier Abdullah Ensour, as is customary under the constitution before appointing an interim head of government to oversee the election.

Parliament had ended its four-year term and the election should be held within four months under the constitution.—*Reuters*

Drone grounds flights at southwest China airport

CHENGDU — A drone above an airport in southwest China's Sichuan Province grounded flights on Saturday.

The unmanned aerial vehicle, spotted at 6:20pm above Chengdu Shuangliu International Airport, caused the eastern runway to halt operation, leaving 55 flights delayed, according to airport staff.

It is the first time that a drone grounded flights at the airport. The runway resumed operation at 7:40 pm.—*Xinhua*

Lightning strikes leave 9 badly hurt in France and Germany

PARIS — Lightning strikes in northern France and southwest Germany on Saturday left nine people seriously hurt, authorities said.

Eleven people were injured by a bolt of lightning in a park in Paris, six of them badly, the French interior ministry said.

Eight of those hurt were children, the ministry said in a statement. The incident occurred in the Monceau park in the northwest of the French capital.

The children, aged between seven and 14, had been attending a birthday party in the park at the time, Itele TV channel quoted officials as saying.

Eric Moulin, a spokesman for the French firefighting service, said the situation would have been worse if an off-duty fire officer had not been at hand to quickly provide first aid.

A lightning strike at a children's football match in Hoppstaetten in the German region of Rheinland-Pfalz on Saturday left the referee and two other adults seriously injured. Twenty-nine children were taken to hospital as a precaution.—*Reuters*

Opinion

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish “Letter to the Editor” that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Of Freedoms and Idiocy

Jaiden Coonan

Nay Myo Wai, chairman of the Peace and Diversity Party and prominent nationalist, is facing charges from a remark he made at the beginning of the month for slandering President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing. He is known for his racist blog as well as publicly calling for the mass-murder and mass burial of so-called Rohingya, in the Youtube video he encourages the crowd to repeat his short and sharp hate speech.

Let’s look at the difference between the two instances. He has defamed The Lady by accusing her of having “improper” relations with the President and C-in-C and that is how the latter two have the positions they do. We as the public know this isn’t true and his remark amounts to that of an American tabloid writer – an attention seeker crafting pulp fiction.

Then there is the call for the genocide of an entire community of people. Regardless of your opinion on the matter, it isn’t necessary to call for the murder and mass burial of human beings. This certainly isn’t a constructive argument to the multi-faceted issue in Rahkine state.

His remarks about the countries leaders broke 66(d), of the vague and misused 2013 Telecommunications Law, that states: “Extorting, coercing, restraining wrongfully, defaming, disturbing, causing undue influence or threatening to any person by using any Telecommunications Network.” It calls for up to three-years imprisonment, a fine or both.

Of course his remarks were defamatory, but the contradiction that exists in Myanmar is that you do not want to defame public officials or religion in order to maintain the image of the nation, yet you will allow for a citizen to address a crowd and suggest genocide as a solution – in either situation he does not represent Myanmar.

The case against Nay Myo Wai was filed by Wai Yan Aung, an executive member of the Myanmar Teachers’ Federation. We can assume Wai Yan Aung is a supporter of the National League for Democracy party — an advocate of democracy should not use laws that do not promote democracy.

I agree what Nay Myo Wai suggested and said is insulting and disgusting, which says something about the intelligence of this person. Freedom of expression and speech is not saying everything that comes to mind, when someone says something so loaded the best solution is to ignore the person.

He shouldn’t have been arrested for his defamatory remarks – rather he should have been charged for promoting hate speech a year ago... under a law that doesn’t exist.

CSO’s have called for the replacement of 66(d) and other laws that undermine the rule of law, and it’s true the government should revoke them. There have been hopeful signs of change with a recent meeting between the Minister of Religious Affairs, Thura U Aung Ko and interfaith groups who discussed religious harmony laws – it was mentioned in a 20 May Myanmar Times article that in 2013, a draft law was submitted to parliament, but was not discussed.

The best method would be to scrap the old laws and properly define what is freedom of speech and expression and what is hate speech/ raving lunacy. Highly respected members of the community can dismiss those who spout hatred with intelligence and education, not vague laws and revenge.

Sayar Mya

(1) Location

Myanmar is a Southeast Asian nation of more than 100 ethnic groups, bordering India, Bangladesh, China, Laos and Thailand. Yangon, the country’s largest city, is home to bustling markets, numerous parks and lakes, and the towering gilded Shwedagon Pagoda, which contains Buddhist relics and dates to the 6th century.

On 4 January 1948, the nation became an independent republic, named the Union of Burma.

In 1989, the country’s official full name is called the “Republic of the Union of Myanmar”.

Nay Pyi Taw was built in the central basin of Myanmar in the early 21st century to serve as the country’s new administrative centre. In 2004 construction of Nay Pyi Taw began on an isolated site near the city of Pyinmana, some 200 miles (320 km) north of the then capital city of Yangon.

(2) The Ayeyawady River

The Irrawaddy River or Ayeyawady River, also spelt Ayeyarwaddy is a river that flows from north to south through Myanmar. It is the country’s largest river and most important commercial waterway. Originating from the confluence of the N’mai Kha (May Kha) and Mali Kha rivers, it flows relatively straight North-South before emptying through the Irrawaddy Delta into the Andaman Sea. Its drainage basin of about 255,081 square kilometers (98,487 sq miles) covers a large part of Myanmar. After Rudyard Kipling’s poem, it is sometimes referred to as ‘The Road to Mandalay’.

As early as the sixth century the river was used for trade and transport. Having developed an extensive network of irrigation canals, the river became important to the British Empire after it had colonized Myanmar. The river is still as vital today, as a considerable amount of some export goods and traffic moves by river. Rice is produced in the Irrawaddy Delta, irrigated by water from the river.

(3) Healthcare in Rural Areas in the past

According to past records, Myanmar is one of 57 countries worldwide facing a critical shortage of medical staff, defined as fewer than 23 health workers per 10,000 people. In rural Myanmar 70 percent of the country’s 51

(2014 census) million people live mostly in villages. They lack basic healthcare. Patients travel hours - in some hilly regions nearly an entire day - to reach hospitals or clinics located only in towns.

Nationwide, there are 1,504 rural health centers covering more than 65,000 villages, according to a 2010 Health Ministry report.

“Due to remoteness between their villages and towns, most patients come to the hospital only when they cannot stand their deteriorating health conditions. While some arrive at the hospital in time, some arrive too late,” said a local doctor working in the country’s third-largest city, Mandalay, who asked not to be named.

(4) Remote villages across the country

Sagaing Township is a township in Sagaing District in the Sagaing Region (formerly Division) of Myanmar. The principal town is Sagaing.

Ye Kharr lake between Sagaing Hill and Min Wun Hill produced natural spirulina in the past as in Twintaung of Budalin Township and Twinma and Taung Pauk of Kani Township.

The Wachet Village and many similar surrounding small villages are situated in the remote northeast area of Sagaing in the Sagaing Hills on the west bank of Ayeyawaddy. The villages are only accessible from Sagaing by passenger boats manually moved by oars only up to point called “Hlay Seik” literally “boat terminal”. Then villagers had to walk a long way by foot about four miles to reach Wachet Village and the surrounding villages.

It was an astonishing and agonizing ordeal to send a patient from the surrounding villages to Sagaing Hospital or to Mandalay Hospital.

Most of the critical and terminally ill patients in these villages remained at home suffering all the agonies and pains rather than travelling muddy, slippery and bumpy village pathways to the “boat terminal” and then riding on the shaking boat on the sprawling Ayeyawaddy River to reach Sagaing.

Instead they were prepared to die, having no better choice.

No doctor. No clinic. No dispensary.

These villages remained in darkness for many decades.

(5) Kyaswa Sayadaw Bhaddanta Dr. Lakkhana

Bhaddanta Dr. Lakkhana was born in 1935 in Kadaw Village, Myingyan Township, Mandalay



Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills. PHOTO: SAYAR MYA



Imaginary communal rest house created by Graphic Artist.

Region (formerly Division) of Upper Myanmar to U Thar Hte and Daw Phwa Saw.

Sayadaw later became the founder of the existing Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills.

(6) Wind of Change

There were two very old banyan trees standing tall side by side on the soft muddy earth near the same space where the Wachet Hospital is to be established in a few years later. Under the two banyan trees there were two old dilapidated communal rest houses called “Cardu Dita” for the travel-

ers to rest for a while or sleep overnight, mostly used by local fishermen.

At sunset, local people in the villages began their dinner. A typical day’s catch for a fisherman is enough for a meal, while some lucky fishermen may pull in one of the river’s giant catfish. Lifestyles are simple in Myanmar. Most of the fishermen from the surrounding villages spent their time on the communal rest houses.

It was a windy evening of 29 March 1980.

A strong storm with might and anger suddenly rolled across the Ayeyawaddy River and hit the

west bank. Many trees including the two banyan trees collapsed and the communal rest houses blown away into thin air. The big trees near the areas were also fallen down and some uprooted.

Nearly all the small houses and dwellings were also collapsed. Some good houses with corrugated tin roof were also damaged to certain extent.

The strong storm had left the community with misery.

(7) Existing Standard Hospital

The existing four storey hospital stands out from north to south 327 feet in length and 40 feet in

breadth. It took more than 25 long years to develop to come up to that status. It started with a small structure of dispensary with 32 feet in length and 28 feet in breadth with only one storey building.

The original owner of the two communal rest houses was Tharyawaddy Sayadaw also known as Ashin Arseinda Maha Thero in Sagaing Hills. Immediately after the storm that devastated the area, the senior monk requested and assigned Kyaswa Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana to rebuild the two communal rest houses for the community.

Kyaswa Sayadaw accepted the request to rebuild the communal rest houses in their original site.

Coincidentally, Retired Divisional Commissioner U Kyi arrived at Kyaswa Religious Resort in Sagaing Hills. At that time, U Kyi was the Chairman of the Myanmar Red Cross Association.

While taking up discussion on various religious matters, Kyaswa Sayadaw was of the view that the vacant space left by communal rest houses should be utilized as small dispensary or basic health care unit that may benefit the rural community.

In response, the Retired Divisional Commissioner U Kyi agreed to build a small structure for the purpose of health clinic. The Myanmar Red Cross Association Chairman was of the view that the opening of a health care center was in line with the government policy for rural development. He promised to assist as much as possible in the realization of the small health care unit.

When all the positive status of building a health care unit was in sight, Dr. Lakkhana was happy and he never wastes a single day. Holding the opportunity, he went straight to Tharyawaddy Sayadaw and explained what he had discussed with U Kyi on the idea of building a basic health care unit.

With much delight, Tharyawaddy Sayadaw approved the idea of building basic health care unit in place of previous communal rest houses. With a view to enable Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana to carry out the health project with independent view and activity, the owner Sayadaw transferred the “Land Grant Order” into the hands of Dr. Lakkhana.

That was the opening page of chronicle to realize “From Small Hut to Standard Hospital”.

In making the project to be formal, Dr. Lakkhana invited

some days ahead in advance to Tharyawaddy Sayardaw, Thit Wynn Sayadaw, Min Kyaung Sayadaw, Mya Taung Sayadaw and other neighboring Sayadaws in the area and formally supplicated the proposed plan for the health dispensary unit.

On 17 April 1980, a formal meeting was held attended by leading Sayadaws, town elders and village community members. In that formal meeting, it was decided by all attendees to establish a health dispensary.

On that same day, various committees namely Owada-Directive Sayadaws Committee, Patron Sayadaw Committee, Members of Sangha Executive Committee and Lay Persons Supervisory Committee were formed.

As everyone would like to see the establishment of a dispensary at the earliest, a fund raising task was organized.

As of 13 May 1980, the leading Sayadaws namely Kyaswa Sayadaw, Hanthargiri Sayadaw, Yadana Man Aung Sayadaw, and Pali Cari Sayadaw contributed kyats 10,000 as initial budget.

With some cash in hands, the auspicious ground breaking ceremony for dispensary was held on 15 June 1980. In the following days, the members of Sanghas and the lay disciples including the village community participated in cash and kind and also in labor to start rolling of the building of communal dispensary.

The leading role was taken up by Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana.

It took three long years, to complete a small normal concrete building of 32 feet by 28 feet in July 1984. As the dispensary building is just by the side of the famous Ayeyawaddy River, the upper floor was supported by long foundation pillars to keep away the flood water rising up during the peak season of high tides.

For pragmatic approach, the homely entrance was being divided into two sections, one for the clinical examination of the patient, and the other as dispensary and drug store. The inner side of the building with a space of 16 by 32 feet was arranged as a wide hall and lined up five beds for the accommodation of the patients.

On 16 September 1984, leading members Sayadaws led by Dr. Lakkhana went to Sagaing Township. There was a formal meeting including Township Medical Officer and Panel of Chairmen of Township Council.

They discussed the formal opening of dispensary. The discussion was all affirmative and all the agendas were agreed.

(8) Successful Achievement

With the participation of all concerned, the highly expected signpost bearing “Wachet Jivitadana Sangha Hospital” was unveiled at the dispensary / hospital building on 20 October 1984.

Despite being a small building, the hospital was finally established at Wachet Village for the benefit of rural community in the area.

On the same auspicious day of 20 October 1984, a small but strong five-member team comprising one doctor with MBBS degree, one certified trained nurse, one capable dispensary clerk, one trained hospital cleaner and one hospital security were appointed.

The hospital ran smoothly on the very opening day.

The out-patients started to roll in the hospital in seeking basic medical treatment. The patients included members of Sanghas, nuns, lay persons, poor, underprivileged patients and vulnerable people.

As the Wachet Hospital was established with the noble aim and purpose to treat the patients free of charge as much as possible, the members of Sanghas, the nuns and the yogis undergoing religious meditation were treated free. However, ordinary patients were charged with nominal fees.

On the auspicious day of hospital opening, the members of Directive-Owada Sayadaws and Kyaswa Sayadaw were all witnessing the process of ongoing medical treatment; they were seen beaming with smiles coming out from their hearts out of the milestone achievement.

The moment to moment activities of medical treatment turned into unseen power of strength for Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana that could be used in his future endeavors in the day-to-day operation of the hospital. The invisible strength was rising up into the sky. The activities that occurred on that day at the health clinic had filled into the heart of Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana the five spiritual faculties such as (1) Faith; (2) Vigor; (3) Mindfulness; (4) Concentration; and (5) Wisdom. Initial success had led the way and all the future successes were sure to follow.

To be continued

Rescued migrants say ship sank off Italy with hundreds aboard

ROME — Migrants rescued from two boats in the Mediterranean this week told humanitarian workers in Italy that they saw another vessel carrying some 400 migrants sink, Save the Children said on Saturday.

Three vessels carrying migrants already are confirmed to have sunk or capsized this week. More than 60 bodies are said to have been recovered, including those of three infants, and hundreds are believed to be missing.

But the possible sinking of a fourth vessel on Thursday had not been reported, said Giovanna Di Benedetto, spokeswoman for Save the Children in Italy.

That ship along with another fishing boat and a rubber boat left Sabratha in Libya late Wednesday night, according to interviews on Saturday with some of the more than 600 survivors from the two other vessels in the Sicilian port of Pozzallo.

They said the rubber boat had its own motor, but the smaller fishing boat, carrying some 400 migrants, did not. It was towed by the larger fishing vessel, which held about 500 others.

Eventually the smaller boat began to take on water and, when the captain of the larger boat ordered the tow line cut, sank with most of its passengers, the survivors told Save the Children.



Migrants are seen on a capsizing boat before a rescue operation by Italian navy ships "Bettica" and "Bergamini" off the coast of Libya. PHOTO: REUTERS

Those aboard the other two vessels were not rescued until much later.

"There were many women and children on board," the survivors said, according to Di Benedetto. "We collected testimony from several of those rescued from both (the rubber and fishing) boats. They all say they saw

the same thing." On the orders of the court of Ragusa, police have detained a man who they suspect was the captain of the larger boat, state news agency Ansa reported. Police are interviewing witnesses of the possible tragedy, la Repubblica Web site said.

Mild weather has brought on a surge in migrant traffic this

week between Libya and Italy, and about 700 more migrants were picked up on Saturday, the coast guard said.

Pope Francis met with children at the Vatican earlier in the day to talk about migration, urging them to welcome migrants because they "are not dangerous, but in danger."—Reuters

Niger says kills 12 Boko Haram fighters in gun battle

NIAMEY — Security forces in Niger killed around 12 fighters of the Islamist militant group Boko Haram who launched an attack in the southeastern region of Bosso close to the border with Nigeria, according to an army statement on Saturday.

Three members of the security forces were lightly wounded during Friday's battle and government forces captured machine guns, rocket propelled grenade launchers and mobile telephones from the enemy, said army spokesman Colonel Moustapha Ledru.

"The vigorous reaction of the Defence and Security Forces of Niger put the enemy to flight. Around a dozen terrorists were killed and several dozen others were wounded and carried away by the fleeing attackers," he said on national radio.

It was not possible to verify the casualty figures independently. Local resident Ibrahim Chetima said townspeople sought shelter in the bush from the fighting, which began at around 5.30pm (1630 GMT) and went on until 8pm.

Bosso is part of the Diffa region, which houses many refugees and internally displaced people who have sought to evade Boko Haram violence elsewhere. The region has been targeted numerous times in attacks blamed on the militants.

Boko Haram is headquartered across the border in northeastern Nigeria and seeks to carve out an emirate and impose a strict interpretation of Islamic law.—Reuters

Seventeen killed in care home fire in Ukraine

KIEV — Seventeen people have been killed after a fire broke out in a residential building housing elderly people in a village near Kiev, Ukraine's state emergency service said on Sunday.

The fire broke out in the early hours of Sunday morning, it said, adding that the private-

ly owned two-storey building housed 35 people in the village of Litchky, 37 kilometres (23 miles) northeast of Kiev.

"Emergency services units saved 18 people, five of whom have been hospitalised with burns of varying degrees of severity," it said. Prime Minister

Volodymyr Groysman said the fire was a terrible tragedy that had caused irreparable loss and called for an immediate investigation into its causes, a statement on the government website said.

Kiev police said they had detained the owner of the building and that he had been running

the building as a private care home for the elderly, charging residents 6,000 hryvnia (\$238) a month.

A statement on the police website said that a criminal case had been opened relating to a suspected violation of fire safety law.—Reuters



Kurdish Peshmerga forces keep watch in a village east of Mosul, Iraq, on 29 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US-led coalition soldiers seen on frontline of new Kurdish offensive in Iraq

MOSUL — Servicemen from the US-led coalition were seen by a Reuters correspondent near the frontline of an offensive launched on Sunday by Kurdish Peshmerga forces in northern Iraq that aims to retake a handful of villages from Islamic State east of their Mosul stronghold.

The servicemen were seen loading armored vehicles outside the village of Hassan Shami, a few miles east of the frontline. They told people present not to take photographs.

They spoke in English but their nationality was not clear. Reuters had earlier reported that they were American but this could not be confirmed officially.

US Army Colonel Steve Warren, the spokesman for the US-led coalition in Baghdad said: "US and coalition forces are conducting advise and assist opera-

tions to help Kurdish Peshmerga forces."

Iraqi Kurdish Peshmerga forces in the early hours of Sunday launched an attack to capture a group of villages located about 20 km (13 miles) east of Mosul alongside the road to the Kurdish capital, Erbil.

Gunfire and airstrikes could be heard at a distance, while Apache helicopters flew overhead.

"The importance of liberating these villages is that it's a first step getting closer to Mosul," a Kurdish officer, Akram Mohammed, said in Hassan Shami.

"It's also to push ISIS threat away from the Kurdish area," he said, referring to one of the acronyms of Islamic State, the hard-line Sunni militants who seized large amounts of territory in Syria and Iraq two years ago.—Reuters

Most economists say Brexit will harm economy

LONDON — Nine out of 10 of Britain's top economists working in London's City financial district, small business and academia believe the economy will be harmed if Britain leaves the European Union, a poll said on Sunday.

The poll, which the Observer newspaper said was the biggest of its kind drawing responses from more than 600 economists, is a boost for Prime Minister David Cameron, who is leading the campaign for Britain to stay in the 28-member bloc at a referendum on 23 June despite opposition from some in his party.

Carried out by pollster Ipsos-MORI, the poll found that 88 per cent of those asked said an exit from the EU and the single market would most likely damage Britain's growth prospects over the next five years and 82 per cent said there would probably be a negative impact on household incomes.

The Observer said those surveyed were members of the profession's most respected representative bodies, the Royal Economic Society and the Society of Business Economists.



A woman hands out leaflets campaigning to stay in Europe for the BREXIT vote in London, Britain, on 20 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Campaigners on both sides of the argument have targeted the economy as one of the main battle grounds to win round voters who are split in what is becoming an increasingly bitter fight over Britain's future.

"Out" campaigners say Brit-

ain would be freed from regulation and red tape if it left the European Union, able to negotiate its own trade deals without having to please 27 other countries.

But the "In" campaign has pressed its argument that Britain would suffer an economic down-

turn if it left, hurting the pound, jobs and wages.

Cameron said in a statement: "This poll confirms the overwhelming view of economists — leaving the EU would damage our economy, costing jobs and increasing prices."—Reuters

BMW recalls 120,000 cars over Takata air bags: Bild

BERLIN — German carmaker BMW is recalling 120,000 cars in the United States for defective Takata air bags, German paper *Bild* reported on its website on Friday.

Citing a spokesman for BMW, *Bild* said that the recall included the X5 and X6 models from the years 2006 to 2011.

BMW was not immediately available for comment.

Earlier on Friday, eight automakers, which did not include BMW, said they were recalling more than 12 million US vehicles for defective Takata air bags, documents posted by US regulators showed.

Japan's Takata this month agreed to declare as many as 40 million additional air bag inflators defective by 2019 in a move that will involve recalls by 17 automakers. Takata inflators can explode with too much force and spray metal shrapnel into vehicle passenger compartments.—Reuters

SWIFT eyes new technology to spot cyber theft

LONDON — The SWIFT secure messaging service, which banks use to transfer money around the world, outlined on Friday areas in which it hopes to improve security, following attacks in which hackers stole millions of dollars

from banks in Bangladesh and Ecuador.

SWIFT said on Friday it would consult its users, which are also its owners, about new measures, including the potential to develop new tools that could allow it

to spot fraudulent payment instructions. Historically, the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication's (SWIFT) core business has focussed on simply passing authenticated messages between banks.

In future it may seek to check inside the messages to ensure payment instructions are consistent with customers' normal account patterns — akin to the checks retail banks conduct to spot unusual credit card transactions.—Reuters

IMF approves 478 million USD loan to support Suriname's economic reform

PARAMARIBO, (Suriname) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved on Friday an economic programme for the South American country of Suriname to support the government's economic reform programme.

A loan of some 478 million US dollars will be injected to the country in a 24-month term while the immediate disbursement will be 81 million dollars, according to the IMF.

The reform programme called "home-grown" aims to deal with the fall in the prices of major commodity exports, restore confidence, and pave the way for economic recovery, the IMF said.

Suriname has been hit heavily by declines in the prices of oil and gold on international markets, which are its main exports. The closure of alumina refinery facilities, which was an important source for the government's revenue, worsened the fiscal

deficit, and the external current account deficit. The country imports more goods, services and capital than it exports.

"Fiscal consolidation is a critical ingredient of this programme to reduce imbalances. The authorities' fiscal reforms include elimination of electricity price subsidies and the introduction of a value added tax," said Mitsuhiro Furusawa, the acting chair of the IMF executive board.

With a recent move to form a market-determined currency exchange rate, the programme will help rebuild Suriname's international reserves, according to the IMF.

"Together with the expected expansion in gold export and the programme's catalytic effect on external financing, this step will improve the current account balance and contribute to raising reserves to prudent levels," said Furusawa.

Meanwhile, the programme includes measures to tighten li-

quidity conditions to reduce inflation, which reached 37 per cent in March 2016.

"The start of T-bill (treasury bill) auctions and the planned roll out of open market operations will support the goal of bringing the inflation rate to a single digit," Furusawa said, adding the Central Bank of Suriname needs to stand ready to address banking sector risks.

The IMF expects the approval of its loans will catalyze support from other multilateral institutions, including the Caribbean Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Islamic Development Bank, and the World Bank Group, to the embattled economy.

In light of negative conditions of the external market, the IMF forecasts that Suriname's economy, which depends heavily on main export commodities, will witness a two per cent contraction in 2016.—Xinhua



A man reads a newspaper at the reception area of Facebook's new office in Mumbai, India, on 27 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Facebook expands ads on third-party apps, websites to beyond users

SAN FRANCISCO — Facebook Inc said its customers' ads would now be visible on third-party apps and websites to everyone who has ever visited its website, and not just to users logged into its social networking service.

However, people can opt out of seeing ads on apps and websites not offered by Facebook, based on their ad preferences, the company said late on Thursday.

Facebook, like other online ad service providers, uses cookies to collect data on users'

browsing habits to show them relevant ads.

The company, which has more than 1.6 billion users, offers online advertising services under its "Audience Network" business. In the first quarter, Facebook generated more than 80 per cent of its \$5.20 billion ad revenue from mobile ads.

The company has been rolling out new features to ramp up mobile advertising and to encourage customers to experiment with video advertising.—Reuters

Cincinnati gorilla killed after boy falls into zoo enclosure



Harambe, a 17-year-old gorilla at the Cincinnati Zoo is pictured in this undated handout photo provided by Cincinnati Zoo. PHOTO: REUTERS

OHIO — A male gorilla in the Cincinnati Zoo was killed by keepers on Saturday after he dragged around a 4-year-old boy who fell into the enclosure, a zoo official said.

The boy crawled through a barrier and fell about 12 feet (3.7-metres) into a moat surrounding the habitat, where Harambe, a 400-pound (181-kg) western lowland gorilla, grabbed him, Cincinnati Zoo Director Thane Maynard told reporters.

The boy was with the 17-year-old gorilla for about 10 minutes and the zoo's dangerous animal response team deemed the situation life-threatening,

he said. "The choice was made to put down, or shoot, Harambe, so he's gone," he said. Two female gorillas were also in the enclosure at the time of the incident. Maynard said the boy, who was not identified, was not seriously injured in the fall. In a statement, the zoo said the boy was alert when taken to a hospital.

Harambe was born at the Gladys Porter Zoo in Brownsville, Texas, and was moved to the Cincinnati Zoo in 2014. Western lowland gorillas are classified as an endangered species, and Maynard said the zoo had hoped to use Harambe for breeding.—Reuters

Japan plans to export nursing care system to other Asian nations

TOKYO — Japan plans to launch a project this summer to export the country's nursing care system and reap profits by helping other Asian countries such as China and Thailand cope with rapidly aging populations, government sources said Sunday.

The Japanese government views medical and nursing care as a strategic growth area and hopes to introduce Japanese nursing care services to the rest of Asia and boost exports of robots and other related equipment, the sources said.

The new public-private initiative is expected to enable Japan, one of the world's fastest aging coun-

tries, to share its expertise and technology in nursing care with other Asian countries.

Led by the Cabinet Secretariat, the project will seek to lower barriers for Japanese nursing care providers aiming to enter Asian markets through government-to-government talks.

It will also help Japanese nursing care companies make forays overseas by encouraging lending to them via the government-linked Japan International Cooperation Agency and a state fund, according to the sources.

A government committee consisting of senior officials from relevant min-

istries is expected to draw up a basic outline of the project in July and identify the needs of Japanese nursing care companies hoping to do business in Asia. The ruling Liberal Democratic Party is also set to compile its own proposals.

According to data compiled by the Cabinet Secretariat, at least 50 Japanese companies engaged in nursing care have been doing business overseas or plan to do so.

Challenges often faced by such companies include overcoming differences in nursing care systems and raising awareness of the need for quality care services, experts said.

In some Asian coun-

tries, many people hesitate to place parents in nursing care facilities. There are also difficulties in securing enough caregivers, a situation faced by Japan as well.

Under free trade agreements, Japan has been accepting would-be caregivers from Indonesia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam to give them necessary training. The Japanese government is also planning to add nursing care to its list of industries that can accept foreigners under its technical training programme. The new project will aim to hire individuals who returned home after undergoing training as caregivers in Japan, the sources said.—Kyodo News

Japan, Taiwan groups to cooperate in 'ghost tourism'

TOKUSHIMA, (Japan) — Groups of residents from remote mountainous areas in Japan and Taiwan plan to work together on projects to lure tourists by promoting local ghost stories, those involved on the Japanese side said.

A group in Miyoshi, Tokushima Prefecture, western Japan, and the other in Nantou County

in central Taiwan signed a cross-promotion agreement in February, allowing each to sell the other's souvenirs and attend events with their sister organisation.

The group began the exchanges after Katsuyuki Ohira, 61, a key member of the Japanese group, got to know officials from the Monster Village theme park in Nantou several years

ago, they said.

Ohira joined a monster parade in the Taiwan theme park last year, wearing a costume of Konaki-jijii, a ghoulish baby with the face of an old man who emits shrill cries on the roadside at night and gets increasingly heavy after someone picks him up.

Members of the Taiwan theme park clad in

monster costumes have also taken part in a ghost parade during the "Yokai Festival" event in Miyoshi last year.

The Japanese group is called Shikoku no Hikyo Yamashiro/Oboke Yokai Mura (Ghost Village in Yamashiro/Oboke, Hidden Areas of Shikoku). The areas are located in Shikoku, the main western Japan island.—Kyodo News

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Vintage plane crashed in Hudson River during emergency landing

NEW YORK CITY — The pilot of a World War Two-era plane killed in a crash in the Hudson River off Manhattan on Friday evening was trying to execute an emergency landing, the museum that owned the vintage aircraft said.

The P-47 Thunderbolt crashed just south of the George Washington Bridge. The New York Police Department identified a body recovered from the plane as that of William Gordon, 56, of Key West, Florida. Police would not comment on a cause of death.

The American Airpower Museum, which owned the plane, said in a statement on Facebook on Saturday that Gordon was an "extraordinary" aviator who brought the plane down in a "forced emergency landing" on the Hudson.

Gary Lewi, a spokesman for the museum in Farmingdale, New York,



FAA investigators look over the wreckage of a vintage P-47 Thunderbolt airplane that crashed in the Hudson River in New York City, New York, US on 28 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

told Long Island newspaper Newsday that the aircraft's engine failed during the flight. Witnesses told CNN they saw the pilot struggling to get out of the cockpit after the aircraft struck the water.

An investigation by the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board is underway.

The FAA said the plane was one of three aircraft that took off from Re-

public Airport in Farmingdale. The other two safely returned to the airport. Local media reported the planes were flying as part of a promotional shoot.

The crash took place during Fleet Week, a week-long celebration of the US military's seafaring service members. A dozen police and fire rescue boats adorned with flashing blue lights trawled the river Friday night in a search for the plane.—Reuters

Italian marine arrives home after four years in custody in India

ROME — An Italian marine who Indian prosecutors accuse of murdering two fishermen during an anti-piracy mission returned home on Saturday after four years in custody in New Delhi.

Salvatore Girone, who was held in custody at the Italian embassy in the Indian capital, is one of two marines arrested in 2012 over the fishermen's deaths during the operation to protect an Italian oil tanker.

The other marine, Massimiliano Latorre, is already back in Italy after suffering health problems.

The marines say they fired on the fishing boat because they thought the Italian ship they were assigned to protect, the Enrica Lexie, was under at-

tack. Indian prosecutors accuse them of murdering the fishermen.

India's supreme court ruled earlier this week he was free to go home at least until Italy's dispute with India over jurisdiction in the case, which is now in international arbitration, is over.

Defence Minister Roberta Pinotti embraced the uniformed Girone when he arrived at Rome's Ciampino airport. He was also greeted by the foreign minister, the navy's top admiral and relatives.

India's Supreme Court said Girone must surrender his passport when he arrives in Italy and he will be required to return to India within a month of an order from the tribunal.

The long dispute over



Italian sailor Salvatore Girone alights from the plane after landing at Ciampino airport in Rome, Italy, on 28 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the incident has strained relations between India and Italy and its European Union partners.

In an effort to end legal wrangling, both countries last year agreed to move their dispute to the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague, which also ruled Girone

should be allowed to return home earlier this month.

Italy argues that the case should not be heard in India because the incident occurred in international waters. India has said it remains confident the tribunal will decide in its favour.—Reuters

Xi says China should invest more in the elderly

SHANGHAI — China should increase investment in care for the elderly, President Xi Jinping told a meeting of the country's top leaders on its ageing population, official Xinhua news agency reported.

"Our policies measures, work base, institutional mechanisms, and so forth are still deficient leading to a fairly large gap with the hope of the elderly to enjoy happiness later in life," it quoted Xi as saying on Friday. For the first time in decades China's working age population fell in 2012 and the world's most populous nation could be the first country in the world to get old before it gets rich.

China's population is set to peak at about 1.45 billion by 2050 when one in every three people is expected to be more than 60 years old, with a shrinking proportion of working adults to

support them. With the world's largest elderly population and the fastest ageing population, facing the problems was an "important responsibility", Xi told the Communist Party's powerful Politburo.

"Meeting the various needs of the huge elderly population and properly solving the social problems that an ageing population brings are matters relating to the overall development of the country and welfare of the people," Xinhua quoted Xi as saying.

China's ageing population is one of a handful of factors many analysts cite as underpinning expectations of a lower medium-term economic growth outlook.

In October, China announced the further relaxation of its "one-child policy" in an effort to alleviate demographic strains on the economy.—Xinhua

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT OPERATION MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE NOTICE FOR FURNISHING COMMERCIAL TAX ANNUAL RETURNS FOR 2015-2016 FINANCIAL YEAR

- This is to notify that any persons chargeable under the Commercial Tax Law within the financial year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, including the economic enterprises of the Union Government, State-owned mills and factories, trading and service enterprises, development committees, cooperative societies, individuals, organizations or associations formed by individuals, companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, carrying out the following economic activities are required to furnish their annual returns of production or services, properly filled in, signed in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the returns to the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office (1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by the respective offices in the case of returns being filed in person.
 - Domestic Production
 - Import
 - Trading
 - Service
- The total proceeds of sale or the total receipts from service, which are not chargeable to commercial tax, of goods and services in the Cooperative and Private Sectors, other than exempted goods and services under the Union Taxes Law, 2015, are as follows;
 - The total sale proceeds of Kyat 20,000,000 for the domestic production of goods in a financial year.
 - The total receipt from service of Kyat 20,000,000 for the rendering of services in a financial year.
 - The total sale proceeds of Kyat 20,000,000 for the trading business in a financial year.
- Deadline for furnishing of returns -**
30th June 2016 (Thursday.)
- Penalty for late filing and non-filing of returns -**
A penalty of 10 % on the tax due shall be charged if there is a failure to furnish the return without a sufficient cause within the stipulated time.
- How to get return forms -**
The forms are available free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or on the IRD website <http://www.irdmyanmar.gov.mm>.
- Enquiries**
Enquiries may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or Tax Service Unit, No. 59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon or the Tax Service Unit, 65th Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets Mandalay.

Director
Operation Management Directorate

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT OPERATION MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE NOTICE FOR FILING RETURN OF INCOME

- All taxpayers chargeable under the Income Tax Law within the financial year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, including companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, cooperative societies, association of collective farming, individuals (excluding salary-earners), associations formed by individuals, organizations or associations registered and formed under any existing law, are required to file their returns of income, properly filled in and signed in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the returns, to the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by the respective offices in the case of returns being filed in person.
- Those large taxpayers registered with the Large Taxpayer Office are required to make their own tax assessments and file a return of income to the Large Taxpayer Office in person or by registered mail. In filing a return of income, instructions mentioned in the return should be carefully followed and there is no need for filing annual financial statements.
- Those taxpayers who earned income from "Salary" within the income year are not required to file a return of income. However, their employers are required to file the Annual Salary Statement to the respective Township Revenue Office.
- Requirement For Attachment :**
Taxpayers are also required to submit, together with the return, a financial report prepared in connection with taxpayers' books of account kept in accordance with the Income Tax Regulations for the relevant income year.
- Deadline for Filing of Returns-**
30th June 2016, (Thursday.)
- Penalty for late filing and non-filing of returns of income**
A penalty not exceeding 10 % of the tax due may be charged if there is a failure to file a return of income.
- Where to get return forms-**
The forms are available free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or on the IRD website <http://www.irdmyanmar.gov.mm>.
- Enquiries**
Enquiries may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or the Tax Service Unit, No. 59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon or the Tax Service Unit, 65th Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets, Mandalay.

Director
Operation Management Directorate

Part of my days dedicated to international issues: Angelina Jolie

LONDON — Actress-filmmaker Angelina Jolie devotes part of “almost every day” to her work with refugees and she is delighted her kids are very interested in her humanitarian efforts.

The 40-year-old actress-and-director was named a goodwill ambassador for the United Nations (UN) 15 years ago and now acts as a special envoy to the UN Refugee Agency, and as well as taking part in high-profile meetings and debates, she also does a lot behind the scenes, reported *Female First*.

“Some part of almost every day in my life is devoted to in-

ternational issues, whether talking with my colleagues about the news, the underlying factors, what we think needs to be said or done next on the issues we’re working on, preparing field visits or speeches,” she said.

“I often try to meet people with interesting and opposing viewpoints so I can learn.”

Jolie raises six children with husband Brad Pitt and is proud her kids are taking an interest in her work with refugees, with her eldest son even helping her on her latest directorial project, ‘First They Killed My Father’, which is based on Loung Ung’s

account of the Khmer Rouge’s regime in Maddox’s native Cambodia.

“Maddox has known Loung since he was a baby. It was his urging that pushed me to make the film. He has been with me every step of the way, from script to post-production. Shiloh asked to travel with me to Lebanon after I told her of a little Syrian girl named Hala,” Jolie said.—PTI



Johnny Depp performs at music fest post Heard’s allegations

LOS ANGELES — Superstar Johnny Depp took the stage at Rock in Rio Lisboa festival to perform with his band, just hours

after a judge granted Amber Heard’s request for a domestic violence restraining order.

The “Pirates of the Caribbean” actor, 52, puffed on a small cigar as he strummed his guitar onstage at the Portugal festival alongside bandmates Alice Cooper, Joe Perry and Duff McKagen, reported *Us* magazine.

Depp looked somber throughout much of the gig, but managed to briefly crack a smile as one audience member held up a sign that read, “Johnny my (heart) is beating for you.”

His band The Hollywood Vampires performed a lengthy set of 21 songs, most of which were covers of classic hits by David Bowie, The Who and The Beatles.

Heard, 30, was granted a temporary restraining order against the “Alice Through the Looking Glass” star on 27 May morning. She appeared at a Los Angeles courthouse with a visible bruise on her face, just one day after she accused the actor of domestic violence.—PTI



Pop star
Selena Gomez.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Selena Gomez regrets not going to prom

LONDON — Pop star Selena Gomez says she regrets not being able to go to a high school prom like a “normal” girl would do.

The 23-year-old “Heart Wants What It Wants” hitmaker was home schooled for most of her life after starting her acting and singing career in 2002 and says she is sad she never got the chance to attend the end of school dance. “I wanted to go to prom and people are like, ‘Oh, you’d be disappointed.’ But I was like, ‘I want to go to prom!’” Gomez said. “There’s a balance to life that I think is normal and I think what we do and what I love is, for me, normal. But it isn’t actually when you look at it. That is not how people should be brought up or raised, especially if you’re younger. So yes, sometimes [I miss having a normal life] but I don’t know any different.—PTI

Jennifer Lopez’s daughter obsessed with her show

LONDON — American singer Jennifer Lopez has revealed that her eight-year-old daughter Emme is obsessed with her show, “Jennifer Lopez: All I Have”.

The “On The Floor” hitmaker regularly invites her two children, eight-year-old twins Max and Emme, to see her perform on “Jennifer Lopez: All I Have” show, but admits her son isn’t too bothered about it anymore, reported *Female First*. “Emme loves to watch the show. Max is more like, ‘I wanna go home, I wanna watch Teen Titans Go!’ But Emme says, ‘Can I please stay until the train comes out?’” she said. The 46-year-old singer loves to have celebrity guests joining her at her show and likewise, enjoys catching other people’s shows. “I have no ego about things. I love going to other people’s shows. I’ve been to Justin Bieber’s not too long ago, I’ve seen Britney Spears” she said.—PTI



American singer Jennifer Lopez. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dwayne Johnson shares first look of ‘Fast 8’ character

LOS ANGELES — WWE wrestler-turned-actor Dwayne Johnson shared his first look from the upcoming “Fast and Furious 8” movie.

The 44-year-old “San Andreas” star took to Instagram and Facebook to reveal the look of his character- DSS Agent Luke Hobbs.

The black-and-white photo shows Hobbs sporting a pointy goatee and a leather vest.

“When you strip a man of all he has. All that’s important to him. You force him to return to his roots and sometimes that’s a

very dangerous and twisted place.

“If I was going to return for another FAST & FURIOUS I wanted to come in and disrupt the franchise in a cool way that got fans fired up and their blood pumping to see a new version of Hobbs and his “Daddy’s got to go to work” mentality and set the table in a cool way for where the character goes in the future,” Johnson wrote in the caption.

The actor joined the “Fast and Furious” franchise in “Fast Five” and has since appeared in subsequent films “Fast and Furious 6” and “Furious 7”.—PTI

Japanese chef to represent France in int'l culinary competition

PARIS — A Japanese chef has been selected to represent France in an international competition to look for the best young culinary talent worldwide, according to organisers of the event.

Shintaro Awa, the 30-year-old sous-chef of the restaurant Epicure at the Hotel Bristol in Paris, earlier this month won the France final of the Sanpellegrino Young Chef 2016 competition — the global talent search for the world's best chef aged 30 or younger. Awa, a native of Utsunomiya north of Tokyo, convinced the French jury chefs with his signature dish of "air cured mackerel with potatoes," the organisers said.

"I came to France when I was 18 to learn about French cuisine from scratch and am so glad to be chosen to represent the country," Awa told Kyodo News.

He will compete with 19 rivals representing other regions of the world in the international final to be held in Milan on 15 October. Their dishes will be examined based on such factors as ingredients, skills, beauty in presentation and communication of message.

The young chef competition was held for the first time last year, drawing more than 3,600 applicants. Mark Moriarty from Ireland became the first champion.—Kyodo News



Photo taken in early May in 2016 in Paris shows Shintaro Awa (C), the 30-year-old sous-chef of the restaurant Epicure at the Hotel Bristol in the French capital. The Japanese chef has been selected to represent France in the Sanpellegrino Young Chef 2016 competition, the global talent search for the world's best chef aged 30 or younger. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Bosnia pays tribute to David Bowie with vast mural

SARAJEVO — A group of artists unveiled a huge mural of David Bowie in Sarajevo on Saturday to commemorate the British musician's humanitarian work during the Bosnian war.

To the sound of Bowie's "Space Oddity," up to 300 people attended the inauguration of the mural, which bore the inscription: "Fashion changes, but you'll always be my heroes."

The mural — 13 metres (43 feet) high and 10.5 metres (34 feet) wide — is painted on a building on the university campus, a short distance from the street once known as Sniper Alley, and is intended to symbolise the way Bosnia has changed since the end of the 1992-95 war.

Sketches were done by Marvel comics illustrator Enis Ciscic and turned into the mural by painter Zoran Herceg, who took a

month and half to complete it.

The plan to immortalize Bowie, who died of cancer at age 69 on 10 January, was initially put forward by local musician Vedad Trbonja.

The project was supported by thousands of Bosnians, who have been posting Bowie-style photos on social networks, as well as some of Bowie's co-workers.

Bowie was moved by the sufferings of Bosnians and he used his fame to increase awareness about the war and raise money for humanitarian purposes, although he did not visit Sarajevo.

"This is a way to pay tribute to Bowie as an artist and humanitarian and immortalize him in the town that never got a chance to host him," said Adnan Comor, a spokesman for the group behind the project, Bowie Team Sarajevo.—Reuters

Tourists visit Int'l Light Sculpture Park in north China's Qinhuangdao



QINHUANGDAO — Tourists visit the International Light Sculpture Park in Qinhuangdao, north China's Hebei Province, on 28 May 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA



A David Bowie mural is seen during an unveiling ceremony, to commemorate the British musician's humanitarian work during the Bosnian war, in Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina on 28 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Entertainment Channel

(30- 5-2016, Monday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:30 pm

- Cartoon Programme "Aladdin" (Part-II)

7:00 pm

- International Drama Series

7:40 pm

- International Drama Series

8:20 pm

- Music Programme

8:40 pm

- Creator of Imagination

9:10 pm

- International Movie Songs

9:30 pm

- Htan Taw Drums (Part-I)

9:40 pm

- Music Programme

10:10 pm

- Let's perform a buffalo dance

10:20 pm

- Myanmar Video

From 30-5-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm
To 30-5-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(30-5-2016 07:00am ~ 31-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)
07:41	Am	Development Momentum of Sittway
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Halin, A Treasure Trove of The Ancient Pyu City
08:51	Am	Licuala Palm Leaf
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary And Its Rare Star Tortoises
09:51	Am	School for the Blind

10:03 Am News

10:26 Am Gold: King of All Metals

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

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

Prime Time

07:03 Pm News

07:26 Pm Food Trip (Ep-8) (Part-2)

08:03 Pm News

08:26 Pm Taste of Myanmar (Mandalay Noodle Salad)

08:44 Pm Goldsmith

08:48 Pm Lady Pilot

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

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

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

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Ronaldo helps Real hand Atletico another final defeat

MILAN — Real Madrid handed Atletico Madrid another cruel Champions League final defeat when Cristiano Ronaldo's spot kick saw them beat their neighbours on penalties to win Europe's top club trophy for a record 11th time on Saturday.

The match ended 1-1 after extra time as Atletico, giving their usual never-say-die performance, conceded an early goal, missed a penalty, clung on by the skin of their teeth and then found the strength to equalise at the San Siro.

But it was all in vain as Juanfran struck their fourth penalty against the post, allowing a previously subdued Ronaldo to stride up and coolly blast home the decisive penalty for a 5-3 shootout win — his third European Cup success.

Real's former playmaker Zinedine Zidane was left to celebrate winning Europe's elite club competition five months after starting his first coaching job and become the seventh man to claim the trophy as both a player and a

manager.

But it was another demoralising end for Diego Simeone's Atletico who were within a minute of winning the 1974 European Cup final and 2014 Champions League finals but conceded equalisers and eventually lost them both.

The latter was also against Real when Sergio Ramos scored in stoppage time to set his side up for a 4-1 extra-time win.

This time, Ramos gave Real a 15th minute lead but, after Antoine Griezmann missed a penalty for Atletico at the start of the second half, the Mattress Makers hit back with a superbly-taken equaliser by substitute Yannick Carrasco.

Real captain Ramos, who converted their fourth penalty, said the title was "just reward" for their hard work. "We knew that it was a unique chance to make history and after an up and down season it is a reward," he said.

Real were pipped to the La Liga title by one point on the fi-



Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos lifts the trophy as they celebrate winning the UEFA Champions League during UEFA Champions League Final at San Siro Stadium, Milan, Italy on 28 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

nal day of the season by arch rivals Barcelona.

Match-winner Ronaldo added: "The penalties are always a lottery, you never know what will happen, but our team showed more experience and we showed it by scoring all the penalties. A fantastic night for us."

Atletico's shattered coach Simeone added: "It hurts to see the people who paid for the tickets and I couldn't give them what they wanted. That hurts more than anything else."

"I'm proud of my players, they've made an extraordinary effort, to beat Barcelona

and Bayern Munich (in earlier rounds). The effort was really tremendous."

Atletico, European football's arch-destroyers, have made a habit of upsetting more technically gifted, financially powerful opponents and once again set out to frustrate and nullify Real.

They showed their intentions with some heavy tackles early on but their plan threatened to unravel when a heavy challenge by Gabi led to a free kick which was floated in by Toni Kroos and headed on by Gareth Bale for Ramos to bundle home.

Real looked supremely confident and there was some premature showboating, but Atletico, initially uncomfortable at having to chase the game, forced their way back into the match.

The second half began dramatically when Pepe clumsily caught Fernando Torres' ankle in the area to give away a penalty but Griezmann fired against the underside of the bar, possibly distracted by Keylor Navas's antics on the goal line.

A breathless spell followed as Atletico, leaving gaps at the back, had a series of dramatic escapes.—Reuters



Serena Williams returns a shot. PHOTO: REUTERS

Serena roars into fourth round, tears for Tsonga

PARIS — Thunderclaps, rain delays, an inspired home favourite roared on by a partisan crowd — it was all in a day's work for reigning champion Serena Williams as the world number one roared into the second week of the French Open on Saturday.

The 34-year-old American needed all her experience and tenacity to fight off France's Kristina Mladenovic 6-4, 7-6(10) in an absorbing contest to set up a last-16 clash with Ukraine's Elina Svitolina who beat 2008 champion Ana Ivanovic 6-4, 6-4.

There was further French disappointment later when popular sixth seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga was forced to retire against unseeded Latvian Ernests Gulbis leading 5-2.

Tsonga, who has come closer than anyone to emulating Yannick Noah, the last home man to win the French Open in 1983, walked off with tears in his eyes after appearing to hurt

his knee. Spain's Carla Suarez Navarro, last year's semi-finalist Tímea Bacsinszky and unseeded Kazakh Yulia Putintseva all booked their fourth-round spots before the rains came.

As did rising Austrian Dominic Thiem, the 13th seed, who continued his fine claycourt season to beat German teenager Alexander Zverev 6-7(4), 6-3, 6-3, 6-3.

The 22-year-old will face Marcel Granollers next, not more illustrious Spaniard Rafael Nadal who rocked the tournament on Friday when he withdrew because of a left wrist injury.

With Roger Federer back in Switzerland with a back injury and twice women's champion Maria Sharapova provisionally banned pending the outcome of an anti-doping hearing, the tournament is already missing some of its star turns.

So there was already tension in the air as 21-times grand slam champion Williams stepped on court to face the hard-hitting Mladenovic for the first time in her long career.

Everything seemed to be going to plan as Williams took the opening set despite some impressive play from her opponent who used the drop shot to great effect throughout.

As the sky darkened and fat rain drops began landing on the clay late in the second Williams seemed anxious to finish the contest but Mladenovic stayed strong and forced a tiebreak just at the moment the heavens opened.

When the contest resumed two and a half hours later Williams made a hash of the first few points and trailed 2-5.

She recovered to lead 6-5 but made an ugly mess of an overhead on match point, then on her second chance to close it out she walloped a forehand long after pouncing on a loopy Mladenovic drop shot that sat up begging. Williams saved a set point with a swing volley before another match point came and went but she could finally produce her victory roar when her opponent sent a forehand wide at 10-11.—Reuters