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UNFC PLANNING INTENSIFIES

Union Conference Preparatory committee to hold second meeting with UNFC in Thailand

Ye Khaung Nyunt

PREPARATORY subcommittee-2 for the Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong) is set to meet a delegation for political negotiation-DPN formed by the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC) in Chiang Mai, Thailand

soon, said U Hla Maung Shwe, secretary of the subcommittee.

“We will meet with the DPN for the second time in the third week of this June”, said the secretary, adding that the upcoming talks with the DPN is aimed at ensuring participation of the UNFC in the Peace Conference.

Preparatory subcommittee-1 had a meeting on the review of the amendment to the political dialogue framework for ethnic armed organisations who have not signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to take part in the Conference. Dr Min Zaw Oo, member of the preparatory com-

mittee for the Union Peace Conference (21st Century Panglong) said that the review on the framework is set to continue and drafts will be developed, adding that works are underway to allow non-ceasefire groups to revise the framework and make discussions at the conference while the subcommittee-2 is hold-

ing talks with them.

According to the committee member, UPDJC and JICM are responsible for approving the draft in accordance with the NCA and those who want to take part in the meeting are required to sign the NCA and so become members of the UPDJC. **See page 2 >>**

ADB President meets Myanmar President and State Counsellor

ASIA Development Bank's (ADB) President Takehiko Nakao met with President U Htin Kyaw and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday in Naypyitaw, as well as key ministers to discuss the development policy in Myanmar, according to the groups press release.

Mr. Nakao's visit came with the announcement that ADB will increase sovereign concessional loans from US\$150m to US\$350m by 2017, with the intent that the money will be spent on infrastructure and job creation.

“The successful political transition is a landmark in Myanmar's development and an encouraging sign for further socioeconomic progress,” said Mr. Nakao.

“I am impressed by the government's commitment to ensuring all citizens benefit from growth. ADB will support this effort by helping to promote education and quality jobs, enhance infrastructure, and attract private investment.”

Since Myanmar opened economically in 2011 it has been regarded as one of the fastest growing countries in the region. Yet, last year widespread flooding and damaging Cyclone Koman displaced farmers and destroyed crops.

Myanmar's GDP dropped to 7.2% in the 2015 financial year, but is expected to pick up and grow to 8.4% this financial year.

Mr. Nakao welcomed Myanmar's initiatives to increase infrastructure investment through public-private



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives ADB President Takehiko Nakao. PHOTO: MNA

(PPPs) in telecommunications sector and power generation.

Myanmar joined ADB in 1973. ADB resumed operations in the country in 2012 and has since approved six sovereign loans totaling \$892 million—including \$512 million used for a

special program loan in 2013 to support macroeconomic reform and restructure arrears—and five grant projects under the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction for \$39 million.

ADB has also approved four non-sovereign projects,

through loans, equity investments, and guarantees, since 2014, totaling \$932 million including cofinancing of \$440 million by commercial banks, in telecommunications, logistics, urban development, and power generation. —GNLM

Yangon Gov't targets four hotspots as part of crime crackdown

Ko Moe

THE Yangon Region government launched a crackdown on crime targeting four crime hotspots in the region yesterday, according to the Minister for Security and Border Affairs Col Tin Aung Tun.

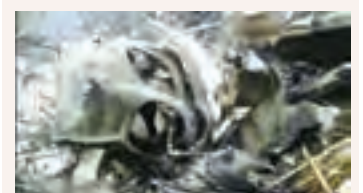
The crime crackdown programme, the first of its kind in Yangon, is set to be implemented in Thanlyin, Kamayut, Tamway and Hlinethaya Townships in the region.

“We plan to fight crime in the targeted townships with the highest number of drug and other criminal cases,” said the regional minister, adding that police officers will hold check sites on respective roads in an attempt to identify suspected offenders.

The regional minister vowed the crime crackdown would take place while responding to a question at a session of the Yangon Region Hluttaw yesterday.

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Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets with DPRK Ambassador



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) to Myanmar Mr.

Jong Ho Bom in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two representatives held talks on the promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries.

Also present were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets with DPRK Ambassador

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) to Myanmar Mr. Jong Ho Bom in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Ti Khun Myat and officials from the Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker U Win Myint welcomes ambassador of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) to Myanmar Mr. Jong Ho Bom. PHOTO: MNA

Suspended Bagan hotel projects still in limbo

OVER 40 hotel projects in the Bagan Ancient Cultural Region that have been suspended since 2013 are still waiting for construction permits, according to the Department of Archaeology for Bagan.

"Since an answer as to how we should continue will only be realised once we've completed our negotiations with UNESCO for the recognition of Bagan as a World Heritage Site we have yet to establish a timeline for when

construction on these hotels can be carried out. For now, we're still in the discussion phase," said U Zaw Zaw Htun, director of the Department of Archaeology.

As preparations for the listing of the Bagan Ancient Cultural Region as a World Heritage Site are still being discussed, the department has been unable to determine when construction can resume.

"We built the hotel with a 1/13 permit as we were denied a

2/14 [permit]. We're pretty much finished with construction. For some, though, they're just beginning and are using licences from the local municipality.

Most are regional [businessmen] who have borrowed money from the bank [to finance their buildings]. These setbacks are really bad for business," said U Khin Maung Myint, a hotel owner whose enterprise has been suspended.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Union Minister inspects Mandalay International Airport



Mandalay International Airport. PHOTO: TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION

UNION Minister for Transport and Communication U Thant Sin Maung inspected Mandalay International Airport yesterday.

During his inspection tour of the airport, the Union minister heard reports on ongoing works and works yet to be carried out in the upgrading of airport facilities, the number of passengers on domestic and international flights and aviation facility requirements needed to be fulfilled in cooperation with the ministry.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

"Myanmar Start-Up Campaign" to award local entrepreneurs

ATT Business Park has announced it will hold a "Myanmar Start-Up Campaign" that will present awards to the most ready and able small and medium-sized enterprises.

Selected entrepreneurs will receive awards in the form of cash, including prizes of K2 million, K3 million and K5 million. Application forms for the "Myanmar Start-Up Campaign" cost K3,000 each and have been on sale from 8 June, while it is reported the closing date for applications is 1 July.

"This is the first time we're holding an award ceremony. Even those applicants who don't win

prizes will still gain information on how to run a business based on advice given by business experts throughout the courses," said Daw Aye Aye Thant, the founder of AAT Business Park.

The "Myanmar Start-Up Campaign" is being organised by ATT Business Park and Great Diamond Gems and Jewellery, while technical support is provided by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The campaign is supported by local entrepreneurs whose aims are to give more assistance to the businesses sector.

Cash prizes will be award-

ed to budding entrepreneur applicants who successfully pass through different levels of the selection process. Those selected to take part in the campaign will have the chance to receive advice from local economic experts and trainers for their start-up businesses, it is reported.

ATT Business Park was established in Mandalay Region in 2011 and offers courses on information and communication technology (ICT) and human resources management.

Great Diamond Gems and Jewellery opened in 1995.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

MTSH shares continue to depreciate by K2,000

THE closing of trading on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) yesterday saw the price of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) shares on the exchange decrease by K2,000 according to a statement released by the YSX.

The closing price of a Thilawa share on June 10 was K57,000. While the price of the share at the start of trading on June 13 was K55,000 with which price a total of 3,586 shares were traded, a total of K198 million.

"Prices [on the YSX] have become stable now after the exchange issued a warning last week to those seeking to manipulate the market," said U Thaung Han, managing director of CB Securities.

Stock market prices fluctuated as a group which listed

their shares on the exchange cancelled their order just before the closing of trading. The YSX issued a statement in response to this kind of action on June 1. The prices of stock on the exchange have reportedly stabilised as a result.

"I have full confidence in stock exchange market. I consider it a long term investment and don't worry myself with the rising and falling of share prices," said U Maung Myint, a traders of stocks on the YSX.

Shares in MTSH, since they officially launched on the YSX on 20 May, have so far peaked at K70,000. It was with which this price that over 200,000 shares were traded, equating to the changing hands of K12.7 billion, it is reported.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Union Conference Preparatory committee to hold ...

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According to sources, Dr Tin Myo Win, chairman of the preparatory committee, and party are also set to meet with UWSA, Mongla and the NDAA. Regarding talks with NCA

non-signatories, a meeting between the committee chairman and leaders of UWSA, Mongla and the NDAA is expected to be held on 17 or 18 June in Mongla or Kengtung, depending on the weather.

Yangon Gov't targets four hotspots as part of crime crackdown

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The programme will also be launched in other townships following the four priority areas for the crackdown, added the regional minister. During the parliamentary session, Yangon Region lawmakers pointed out that Technological Universities become potentially profitable targets for drug dealers as the use of narcotic drugs has reached high levels among young people. In his discussion, Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Kyaw Tun called for efforts to root out the cancerous growth of narcotics use

in the region. In his response, the regional minister blamed checkpoints removal to facilitate commodity trade for the inflow of drugs into the city, stressing the need to upgrade police equipment and devices. He also called for mass participation in the crime crackdown.

According to the Yangon Region Police Force, 689 arrests were made in 469 drug-related cases during the period from January to 12 June, and the 'Dagon' project, as part of the 100-day plan, saw 319 suspects arrested in 218 cases from 1 May to 12 June.

Military helicopter crash kills three service personnel

An Mi-2 military helicopter crashed yesterday in the jungle near Daik-U, Bago Region. Roughly 120 kms north east of Yangon, killing the three military personnel on board.

According to the Ministry of Defence the helicopter crashed on route to Hmawbi, blaming poor weather conditions for the crash.

The aircraft, which received

heavy maintenance at Meikhtila Air Base left at 8.40 am yesterday and landed at Taungoo Air Base to refill fuel before it was meant to proceed to Hmawbi. The MI-2 was meant to eventually head to Myeik Air Base, in Myanmar's Tanintharyi region. A major, a captain and a sergeant were confirmed dead on site. Responsible Tatmadaw personnel inspected the crash site.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Debris from Mi-2 being seen at crash site. PHOTO: DEFENCE SERVICES C-IN-C OFFICE

Govt accedes to tax reduction demands of jewelry manufacturers

U KYAW Win, Minister of National Planning and Finance, has stated the government will adhere to the tax reduction demands of jewellery manufacturers.

The statement was made during a meeting between the Union Minister and businessmen at the headquarters of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chamber of Commerce and Industry (UMFC-CI) on June 13.

"A plan is in place to change the tax rate for gems and jewellery. The paying of tax by businessmen will also strengthen the Myanmar economy. As such, we'll support a tax reform as proposed to us by gems and jewellery entrepreneurs," said U Kyaw Win.

The Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association (MGJEA) has made it known the special tax levied on Myanmar gems and jewellery should be reduced so that domestically produced gems and jewellery can be

manufactured as finished products for export to international markets.

"Instead of exporting uncut gems to foreign markets, we need to try to produce finished products within our own country; in doing so local employment can be promoted too," said Dr Aung Kyaw Win, vice chair of the MGJEA.

It is reported the Ministry of National Planning and Finance and Ministry of Commerce, together with the MGEA, need to partner in allowing for free trade with foreign countries, in order to develop Myanmar's gems and jewellery market internationally.

The Myanmar Gemstones Law was revised during the tenure of the erstwhile government, while jewellery experts are reportedly working together with Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation to draw up relevant by-laws.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with ADB President regarding development undertakings



President U Htin Kyaw receives Mr. Takehiko Nakao, President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw held talks with Mr. Takehiko Nakao, President of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), on present and future development undertakings funded by the lender in Myanmar yesterday.

During the call held at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw the two representatives discussed matters related to ongoing works on human resources development in Myanmar and further cooperation in develop-

ment of the country's infrastructure and energy sectors.

Also present were Union Ministers U Thant Sin Maung, U Pe Zin Tun, U Kyaw Win and U Win Khaing.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar, Australia sign MoU on Combating Transnational Organized Crimes and Developing Police Cooperation

A MEMORANDUM of Understanding on Combating Transnational Organized Crimes and Developing Police Cooperation between Myanmar and Australia was inked yesterday in Sidney where the 2016 Pearls in Policing Conference is being held.

Chief of the Myanmar Police

Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win, who is attending the conference, and Commissioner of the Australian Federal Police Mr. Andrew Colvin signed the MoU which is aimed at holding capacity building seminars and workshops as well as boosting cooperation between two police forces in the fight against

transnational organized crimes. Myanmar and Australia established police relations in 1999 with the Australian Federal Police providing technical assistance including the criminal management intelligence system-CMIS to the Myanmar Police Force.— *Police Information Center*

Mongolian President and delegation arrives in Nay Pyi Taw

MONGOLIAN President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj and party arrived in Nay Pyi Taw International Airport yesterday evening.

They were welcomed at the airport by Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win and officials.

The Mongolian President-led delegation is paying a working visit to Myanmar which comprises Mongolian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tugsbilguun Tumurkhuleg and high-ranking officials.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister U Ohn Win welcomes Mongolia President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj at Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

JICA will provide assistance to promote Bagan handicrafts

A PROGRAMME to promote Myanmar arts and handicrafts to attract tourists will be launched in Bagan region with the assistance of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

JICA will launch this movement in the name of region-based tourism at three hotels in Nay Pyi Taw to promote the villagers' handicrafts. JICA is said to promote the production of rattan, bamboo, wood and lacquerware products in Bagan region.

When the tourists become interested in the handicrafts we will launch a promotional campaign, said an official from Bagan Hoteliers Association.

Lacquerware handicrafts are produced from the Bagan towns of Nyaung Oo and Monywa in Sagaing region in Myanmar.—200



A handicraft business site being seen. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Dala motored sampan drivers told to keep life jackets and glow sticks on board

LOCAL authorities have reportedly instructed Yangon-Dala motored sampan operators to keep life jackets and glow sticks on board for the safety of passengers, according to a sampan operator.

The order to keep life jackets and glow sticks on board is aimed at saving passengers on board vessels during the raining season if and when an emergency occurs. Sampans are allowed to carry around 10 to 12 passengers on board their vessels depending on the horse power of the a motor engine.

Many vendors and hawkers rely on motored sampans to do business. The groups are also known to hire chartered motored sampans. As a rule, life jackets must be kept on the vessels for emergency situations, said Ko Maung Maung, a motor vessel driver.

There are 469 sampans at 10 terminals running in Dala township.

Most of the vendors are dependent on the motored vessels to make a living.

The rule instructing the keeping of life jackets and glow sticks on motored sampans came out as a result of a meeting held on 9 June in Dala between the All-Private Bus Line Control Committee and responsible personnel from the motored sampans terminals.—Zar Zar

Crime NEWS

Two motor rounds found within a week in Kawlin

AN explosive mortar round was found in Seint Taw (Ashayzu village), Kyar Inn village-tract, 5 miles away from north-west of the Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region.

The fired but unexploded mortar round is one foot in length and 11 inches in diameter. The bomb was handed over by Kawlin Police Station to a local

battalion for disposal.

Similarly, a bomb measuring 21 inches in length and 13 inches in diameter was found on the sand bank of Sin Lin creek, Chaung Kway village on 6 June. The bomb was cleared by Than Min Htway, Inspector of police, Kawlin Police Station and the members of a local battalion.—Ko Ko Nyein (Kawlin)



Explosive mortar round. PHOTO: KO KO NYEIN (KAWLIN)

One man dies following land collapse

A MAN died near Ma-u Taw village in Wuntho township on 11 June when a landslide occurred.

Inspector of police Maung Thin, commander of Gyo Taung

Area Police Station went to the scene of the incident and discovered Phyto Ko Kyaw together with Min Min Oo, who were prospecting for gold.

Phyto Ko Kyaw sustained fatal injuries and died en route to Gyo Taung Station Hospital. Police are still investigating the case.—Lu Aung (Katha)

Yaba seized in Hpa-an

AN anti-narcotic squad seized 100 yaba pills in Musari village, Hlaing Kaba village-tract, Hpa-an township, Kayin State. Police also seized 8000 yaba pills in Kaw Wone village, Eindu village-tract.

Acting on a tip-off, Thet Soe Oo, Inspector of police

from Hpa-an township police station searched the home of one Tun Shwe alias A Nar, 48, living at Musari village and found 100 yaba pills and drug-related accessories. Further investigations led police to search another home owned by one Nan Htay Htay Win alias Nan A Nine, 39,

living at Kaw Wone village, where they discovered 8000 yaba pills.

Police have filed charges against Tun Shwe and Nan Htay Htay Win under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Tun Tun Htwe (Hpa-an)

Two die after eating egg-shaped mushrooms

TWO people who ate poisonous egg-shaped mushrooms on Thursday have died at Mindat General Hospital. According to an investigation, U Law Hone Awan cooked mushroom curry at a communication office compound in Bawathit ward, Mindat town on 9 June.

The next day, the whole of his family became violently ill.

They are currently receiving medical treatment at Mindat general hospital.

U Law Hone Awin, 36, and U Gay Khwien Shine, 45, have passed away. The other four family members are still receiving medical treatment with one ten-year old girl in a serious condition.—Lein Hone Mahn (IPRD)

Explosion kills one, wounds three in Htantabin

A MAN was killed while three others were wounded following an explosion at about 10 pm on 12 June in Nat village, Htantabin Township, Taungoo District, Bago Region.

According to an investigation, the explosion was due to a detonator being inserted into fireworks, causing an instant detonation. Saw Soe San, 35,

Min Zaw and Aung Aung, from Nat village and one Paing Soe, from Kin Pon Chone village were preparing the for Pa'O traditional rocket launching festival.

Saw Soe San was killed at the scene while three others were injured. Local police have filed charges against them.—Ko Lwin (Swar)

Man injured after stepping on landmine

A MAN was wounded after stepping on a landmine in Pyeinsint village, Kyaukme township on Monday. According to an investigation, Sai Aik Lu, 34, stepped on a landmine

near his home. He sustained minor injuries in the accident and is currently undergoing medical treatment at Kyaukme general hospital.—Thein Than (Kyaukme)

LOCAL Business

IKBZ plans to offer further insurances



U Nyo Myint, Vice Chairman of IKBZ, speaks at 3rd Anniversary of IKBZ in Yangon. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

WITH permission from Myanmar Insurance Business Supervision Committee, International Kabawza Insurance Company (IKBZ) unveiled its plan to offer further insurance deals to consumers.

U Nyo Myint, Vice Chairman of IKBZ at yesterday's third anniversary celebration said that IKBZ would operate with online insurance systems in the near future for the convenience of the customers.

IKBZ is currently providing a variety of insurance packages

including life insurance and other general insurance; travel insurance, fire insurance, health insurance and motor insurance. IKBZ has entered the insurance market with six insurance products in the beginning.

The company currently operates from 14 branches across the country, and seeks to open more offices in various towns to act as strategic locations, said U Nyo Myint in his speech.

IKBZ Insurance Co. was granted to start operating in September 2012, after lodging a

formal application. The company then became the first private insurance company to exist in Myanmar and is currently getting the biggest share of the insurance market in the country.

THE World Finance Group, a London-based organisation, awarded the company, "Best Life and Non-Life Insurance Company in Myanmar for 2015" and "Best General Insurance Company in Myanmar for 2015" for its quick expansion throughout the country over the past three years.—GNLM

Fully online licensing system for garment factories to launch soon

MYANMAR garment factories operating under cutting, making and packing (CMP) systems can seek business licences through a new, fully online licensing system starting in early July, according to the Department of Trade Promotion under the Ministry of Commerce.

Exporters of 28 selected products and importers of 15 selected products have been permitted to apply for business licences through the fully online licensing system since 7 June. The department is making efforts to grant licences to CMP garment factories and other businesses, said a department official.

The online licensing system will facilitate quick licensing for import and export businesses. Those who want to

apply online must open an accounts at with the Myanmar Citizens Bank so that the licensing fee can be paid online. A minimum of K50,000 must remain in the account after the withdrawal of licensing fees, said U Min Min, the deputy director-general of the Department of Trade Promotion, at a meeting at UM-FCCI to boost awareness of the new system.

The fully online licensing system was upgraded from a local online system to issue licences starting this month. Importers and exporters of 50 selected products can now apply for licences through www.myanmar-trade.com.mm. More information about the system can be found at the UM-FCCI website.—MPPS/WWP-Union Daily

Share prices stable after penalties announced for price manipulators

SHARE prices are stable in the market following an announcement of penalties for people who have been found guilty of price manipulation.

The official announcement, dated 1 June, said price manipulators at the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) will be penalised.

"The share prices of First Myanmar Investment (FMI) are so stable in price that shares should be purchased, whereas the share prices of Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH) should be closely observed to

decide whether they are worth buying or not. Even if the price of MTSH shares declines, the maximum decrease will be only around K1,000 or K2,000," said a man who has been observing the share price at the YSX.

The prevailing price of MTSH shares was K57,000 on 7 June, K56,000 on 8 June and K57,000 on 9 June. Share trading of MTSH is reported to have dropped. FMI shares were sold for K26,000 on 2 June, K27,000 on 3 June, K26,500 on 6 June, K26,000 on 7 June and K25,500 on 9 June.—MLT/union Daily

Gem tract exploration to resume in November

THE exploration of certain gem stone tracts that are still valid will resume in September this year and continue until May 2017.

Some blocks are valid until 2017-20 period, whereas some blocks have already expired. There are no blocks for which extensions were granted between January and June this year.

"Mining in the blocks has been suspended for the rainy season. Preparations for exploration will be made in September 2016, and the remaining gem tracts in these blocks will be explored until May 2017. We will strictly supervise the exploration to prevent undesirable events from breaking out while the blocks are being explored," said U Tin San Aung from the Myanmar

Gems Enterprise (MGE).

Locally owned companies and cooperative societies were permitted to conduct jade exploration under the Myanmar Gemstone Law in 1995. Private blocks were also permitted for mining then. Blocks that are owned through joint ventures (JV) with the government were permitted in 2000.

There are 305 JV blocks owned by 230 companies on 14,392.85 acres of land, while there are 7,344 private blocks owned by 591 companies on 7,344 acres of land, he added.

The leading committee granted permits for K1 million per block. An acre was set at K1 million for a JV permit.—Zarni

Sale of rice at Muse border up

EXPORT of whole and broken rice to China has climbed to 20,000 bags recently. The trade dropped by roughly 5,000 to 7,000 bags per day from mid-April to the first week of June. The increase in export is due to demand from China.

Despite promising signs of the current demand for rice

the market is not as stable as it was in the previous fiscal year. So exporters aren't entirely sure that this is a sign that the trends will remain the same.

"The export volume has increased two to three folds recently," said Ko Min Thein, a rice dealer from Muse.

Rice traders at the Muse

border trade zone faced difficulties due to a decrease in rice export in the first two months of the current fiscal year. Roughly 7,000 tonnes of sugar and over 2,000 tonnes of rice are reportedly traded through the Muse trade zone it is reported. No indication of a certain timeframe is reported.—MLT/Union daily

Muse trade camp earns over US\$550 million in two months

EXPORTS to China through the Muse border camp have earned over US\$550 million in the first two months of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, while imports were valued at over \$210 million, according to data from the Muse border trade camp.

This fiscal year, exports were valued at \$246 million in April and \$321.56 million in

May. However, the trade volume of rice and broken rice to China this year is lower than it was this time last year.

The Muse border trade camp is the main trade camp with China among a total of four border trade camps between the two countries. Sugar exports rose this fiscal year, with the export volume exceeding 100,000

bags of sugar per day.

Traders can trade with ITC cards in border trade camps, said U Min Min, a rice dealer. The daily volume of rice and broken rice exports has dropped below 10,000 bags. The four border trade camps between China and Myanmar are at Muse, Lweje, Kanpikete and Chinshwehaw.—MLT/union Daily

Training SU-30 jet missing offshore in Central Viet Nam, search efforts underway

HANOI — A Russia-made SU-30 fighter jet of the Viet Nam air forces went missing on a training mission offshore in Viet Nam's central Nghe An Province on Tuesday morning. Joint search efforts are underway, a local official told Xinhua.

Huynh Thanh Dien, vice chairman of Nghe An provincial people's committee, said over phone that "As soon as learning about the information on Tuesday morning, the province has instructed coordination of provincial military command, border guard, department of agriculture and rural development, search and rescue force, fishermen, Military Zone 4, and navy to deploy ships and boats to carry out the search and rescue mission."

There were two pilots aboard the jet — Tran Quang Khai, chief of staff of Regiment 923, and Nguyen Huu

Cuong, flight lieutenant, reported Thanh Nien (Young People) online newspaper.

"So far, we are checking in suspicious areas," Dien said. According to Thanh Nien, the jet took off Tuesday morning from Sao Vang airport in Viet Nam's central Thanh Hoa Province, some 140 km south of capital Hanoi, for training.

It disappeared from radar screen at 7:29 am local time (0029 GMT), reported VNEExpress online newspaper. According to Military Zone 4, a local fisherman, who was working on sea, said he saw a plane falling down into the sea at around 8:30 am local time to the east of Mat island in Nghe An Province, some 260 km south of capital Hanoi.

Khai and Cuong are said to be experienced and high-hour pilots, Thanh Nien quoted sources as saying.—Xinhua

Australia to hold first online leader's debate ahead of 2 July poll

CANBERRA — The leaders of Australia's two main political parties will hold an online debate for the first time in a national election campaign ahead of a 2 July vote, debate sponsors Facebook and Rupert Murdoch's News Corp said on Tuesday.

The ruling Liberal-National coalition and opposition Labour Party have been running neck-and-neck in recent opinion polls in what had originally been seen as an

unloseable election for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's popularity waning. Turnbull's conservative coalition has been focusing on creating jobs and growth through moves such as cutting the corporate tax rate but his personal popularity has been waning.

The centre-left Labour opposition has been campaigning to boost spending on education and health care.

The debate between Turnbull and Labour



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull.
PHOTO: REUTERS

leader Bill Shorten on 17 June is set to be streamed in real time via Facebook Live on News Corp's Australian website news.com.

au and Facebook.

Australians will be able to submit questions for the debate, to be hosted by a News Ltd journalist.

"This debate will be different to any you've seen before. It is a chance for millions of everyday Australians to not just watch the debate, but to actively participate — by asking questions and giving their instant reactions," News.com.au managing director Julian Delany said in a statement.—Reuters

Japan to give Guinea anti-flu drug to treat Ebola patients

TOKYO — Japan will provide Guinea with an anti-influenza drug, developed by Fujifilm Holdings Corp., to treat patients infected with the Ebola virus, the Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

At Guinea's request, Japan plans to give the West African country

enough of the drug marketed as Avigan Tablet to treat about 2,000 Ebola patients, the ministry said.

The aid comes after clinical tests last year by the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research showed the drug was safe and efficacious in treating Ebola,

the ministry added.

There were a total of 10 cases of the Ebola virus in March to April this year in Guinea, even though the World Health Organisation issued a declaration last December saying transmission of the deadly disease in the country had finished.

The WHO issued a second such declaration earlier this month, but the country remains vigilant over a possible recurrence.

Avigan, also known as Favipiravir, was developed by Fujifilm's subsidiary Toyama Chemical Co.—Kyodo News

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Indonesia to ramp up executions of drug traffickers



Indonesian President Joko Widodo. PHOTO: REUTERS

JAKARTA — Indonesia plans to execute 16 prisoners after the Muslim Eid al Fitr holidays next month, and more than double that number next year, a spokesman for the attorney general's office said on Tuesday.

M. Rum told reporters there are 152 people on death row in the country, but that drug traffickers would be prioritised.

"In accordance with the budget we have, we plan (to execute) 16 this year and 30 next year," Rum said.

"President Joko Widodo has said the country is facing a narcotics emergency and this is to...save our future generations," he added.

He declined to give details on who would face the firing squad next month.

Indonesia has harsh penalties for drug-related crimes, but temporarily halted executions after facing intense international criticism last year when it executed 14 people, mostly foreign drug traffickers.

President Joko Widodo's refusal to pardon the prisoners, despite repeated pleas for mercy, sparked diplomatic tensions, most notably with Australia, which recalled its ambassador in protest at the execution of two of its citizens last April.

Attorney general spokesman Rum said

drug-related cases involved "many" foreigners, but declined to comment on whether any would face execution this year.

A 59-year-old British woman, Lindsay Sandiford, was sentenced to death after being convicted in 2013 of trying to smuggle cocaine worth \$2.5 million into the country.

A Philippine maid, Mary Jane Veloso, got a last-minute reprieve last year in response to a request from Manila after an employment recruiter, whom Veloso had accused of planting drugs in her luggage, gave herself up to police in the Philippines.—Reuters

Indonesians will not be prosecuted by Singapore over haze, says VP

JAKARTA — Indonesia will not allow Singapore to prosecute its citizens over forest fires that blanketed the region in toxic smog in 2015, media on Monday quoted Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla as saying.

Singapore media said last week the city-state was planning to prosecute Indonesian polluters in Singapore courts under the Transboundary Haze Pollution Act.

Home to the world's third-largest area of tropical forests, Indonesia has been criticized by green activists and by neighboring Southeast Asian nations for failing to stop the region's annual "haze" caused by forest-clearing for palm and pulp plantations. "The law that applies is in Indonesia," Kalla told reporters as quoted by Detik.com media portal.

Palm oil is a major growth driver for Indonesia, the world's biggest producer of the edible oil. Indonesia's president pledged in April to tackle the fires by imposing a moratorium on expansion of plantations.—Reuters

India's cotton planting seen falling to seven-year low



A farmer harvests cotton in his field at Rangpurda village in Gujarat, India, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

MUMBAI — Cotton planting in India, the world's biggest producer, is likely to fall to the lowest in seven years in the

2016/2017 marketing season as farmers switch to other crops, potentially cutting production and exports of the fibre.

A pest attack in key cotton growing states and forecasts of good monsoon rains are also prompting farmers to plant other

crops such as sugarcane, peanut and pulses.

Lower cotton shipments from India could support global prices, now trading near their strongest level since August 2015, and boost exports from rivals like Brazil, Australia and United States.

"We are expecting around 7 per cent drop in area," Dhiren Sheth, president of the Cotton Association of India told Reuters. He said farmers would likely opt to plant pulses and peanuts, also known as ground nuts.

A 7 per cent reduction would cut the country's cotton planting area to around 11 million hectares in the next marketing year that starts on 1 October, the lowest since 2009/10. That compares to 11.9 million hectares in the current marketing year.

An attack of whitefly pest in two northern states and lower prices during harvest is also prompting farmers to switch to other crops, said Paresh Valia, an exporter based in Bhavnagar district in western Gujarat, the top cotton producing state.

Most Indian farmers start planting cotton with the onset of monsoon rains in June, although some with irrigation facilities can start as early as May.

The India Meteorological Department had forecast above average rainfall during the June-September monsoon season, after two straight years of drought that ravaged crops.

Good monsoon rains could push farmers in Maharashtra, the second-biggest cotton producer, to instead plant sugarcane, which needs more water, said Chirag Patel, chief executive officer at Jaydeep Cotton Fibers Pvt Ltd, a leading exporter.

Patel expects India's cotton output to fall 7.3 per cent to 32 million bales in 2016/17.

Lower production could lift domestic prices as the state-run Cotton Advisory Board estimates opening stocks for the next marketing season to fall by a third to 3.5 million bales. India's cotton exports nearly halted in recent weeks as local prices rallied on tight supplies. —Reuters

Fourth missing Hong Kong bookseller returns home

HONG KONG — A Hong Kong man linked to a bookshop that published books critical of China's leaders has returned to the financial hub after going missing more than six months ago, Hong Kong police said on Tuesday.

Five booksellers linked to the shop Causeway Bay Books went missing, beginning late last year. All of them later surfaced in China in police custody.

Many people in free-wheeling Hong Kong and some foreign diplomats believe mainland agents illegally captured several of the men, sparking fears Chinese authorities were overriding

a "one country, two systems" formula protecting Hong Kong's freedoms since its return to China from British rule in 1997.

Chinese authorities have declined to clarify key details of the disappearances but said law enforcement officials would never do anything illegal.

Lam Wing-kee was the fourth of the five to return to Hong Kong, and did so early on Tuesday, city police said.

He had asked Hong Kong police to cancel his missing person case and said he did not need any assistance from the government, police said in a statement.

He "refused to disclose other details" regarding his absence from Hong Kong, the police said.

Lam was not available for comment.

Only one of the five, Gui Minhai, remains in detention in China for "illegal trading" of banned books in mainland China.

Gui, a Swedish passport holder, disappeared in Thailand in October and was shown on Chinese state television in January saying he had voluntarily turned himself in to Chinese authorities. —Reuters



Paramilitary policemen take position behind pillars as a bomb disposal expert checks a luggage near the site of a blast at a terminal in Shanghai's Pudong International Airport, China, on 12 June.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Shanghai airport blast culprit was indebted gambler — police

SHANGHAI — THE MAN responsible for a weekend blast at Shanghai's Pudong International Airport that injured five people, including himself, was an indebted gambler who warned on Chinese social media that he intended to kill himself, police said on Monday.

Zhou Xingbai, a 29-year-old migrant worker from the southwestern province of Guizhou, posted his message in the early hours of Sunday, the police said on their official Weibo microblog. On the messaging app WeChat, Zhou said that he owed a lot of money, and was "preparing to commit an extremely crazy act which will almost certainly lead to my death," the police said.

Zhou threw self-made explosive packed in a beer bottle at a

ticketing counter in the airport's Terminal Two, and slashed his own neck after the explosion, authorities said. Reuters was unable to independently contact Zhou.

Zhou, who was employed by an electronics firm in the nearby city of Kunshan, was heavily in debt from Internet gambling and dependent on loans from friends, after having lost his life savings, the police said.

He used public transport on Sunday to travel to the airport from Kunshan, where police later found fireworks and explosive materials in his rented flat, they said, adding that the case was still being investigated.

Explosives are relatively easy to obtain in China, home to the world's largest mining and fireworks industries. —Reuters

South Korean president calls for national unity on peninsula's denuclearization

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Tuesday called for national unity to denuclearize the Korean peninsula and lay grounds for reunification with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), saying the inter-Korean relations are in a critical moment.

"The goal of denuclearizing the Korean peninsula and laying grounds for unification can be achieved when the force of the nation is gathered together at a time when the south-north relations face a critical crisis," Park said in a video message to a session of the National Unification Advisory Council, according to the presidential office Cheong Wa Dae.

Tensions remained high fol-

lowing the DPRK's fourth nuclear test in January and the launch in February of a long-range rocket, which was condemned as a disguised test of ballistic missile technology.

Seoul has since focused on sanctions and pressures on Pyongyang, deciding to shut down the Kaesong Industrial Complex, the once last-remaining symbol of inter-Korean cooperation in the DPRK's border town of Kaesong, as part of independent sanctions over the nuclear detonation.

The DPRK had recently called on South Korea to hold talks several times to defuse tensions on the peninsula, the proposals flatly rejected by Seoul as Pyongyang failed to mention the

peninsula's denuclearization.

Park said the DPRK had endangered peace in South Korea and the international community by publicly threatening further provocations and claiming that it is a nuclear state following the fourth nuclear test and missile launches. "We will not be rattled," Park said, vowing to sever the vicious cycle of provocations followed by rewards in order to build a new order on the peninsula. The president said the South Korean government had made best efforts to make the DPRK come to the path of a real change by giving up its nuclear program, while deterring the DPRK's further provocations with a firm military preparedness. —Xinhua

Opinion

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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.

Traffic: Deadly in Yangon

Alec Wilmot

It's no mystery to anyone who's spent time in Yangon that the traffic situation here is dangerous. There is an almost universal disregard for the established rules of fair and safe driving while on the road – cars pushing in front of one another, nudging into the opposite lane to force their U-turn, buses speeding down the wrong side of the street because the driver doesn't think that they should wait for the light to turn green. These are just some of the everyday occurrences that endanger

drivers, passengers and members of the public. Whether it's on the wide, modern Pyay Road or in a tight downtown street that only allows for one vehicle to pass there is a constant threat to pedestrians that they might be struck down unexpectedly by a speeding driver looking for a quick corner to take seconds off their journey. Drink driving is more or less unregulated and this editor himself has been picked up by taxi drivers that later turned out to be under the influence about half a

dozen times in less than a year. There seems to be very little outrage at this taking of power from pedestrians. It is high time the government took action to instil in drivers consideration for the rules of the road and more importantly the safety of their passengers and people walking along the street. I don't propose to do this via policing just yet, the Yangon police force is stretched rather thin and does not have the resources to crack down on dangerous driving (though this would

probably be a better use of their time than making sure convenience stores don't sell beer after a certain time of night). The government needs to launch a campaign to stress to the drivers of Yangon that not only is it proven that abiding by the traffic laws and staying in one lane without zooming to overtake whomever you can ultimately results in faster and safer traffic with reduced traffic jams, the lives of people walking on the road will be better protected as well.

Vital Cultural Resources of Myanmar

Daw Lwin Zar Naing Win

THERE is a word ;a precious thing to curve in the heart and in the soul of every nationality. This word is the life blood of one country. Do you know this? This is the only word "THE CULTURE", but it is very important to be eternal.

"THE CULTURE" is the vital resource of one nation. It is like a ruler to measure the social standard for one nation. It can be denoted that the integrated social behavior of living standard in the society all over the world. There are 135 National Races here in Myanmar, our country. We all are differ in social behavior, traditional costume, traditional food, ethical value, ethical conduct, social norm, worship, religion, lifestyle, literature, language, accent, social norm, cultural heritage, etc. according to how far we are to each other geographically.

In our country, Myanmar, there are 12 Kachin national races, 9 Kayar national races, 11 Kayin national races, 53 Chin national races, 1 Mon national race, 9 Bamar national races, 7 Yakhaing national races, and 33 Shan National races, live together. The old anciet capital cities are situated along the river bank of the Ayeyawady river ,many ancient old monuments are accumulated in these areas. Tagaung, Amarapura, Sagaing, Innwa, Bagan and Pyay are the places of ancient Myanmar Kings that are the greatness of their time of glory.

The highest value of culture can be marked as the highest value for this country. From generation to generation, we handover ours;

how to earn for their living, how to wear traditionally, how to build for their sheltering, how to cook their traditional foods, how to create literature, how to create their languages (written form as well as spoken form).

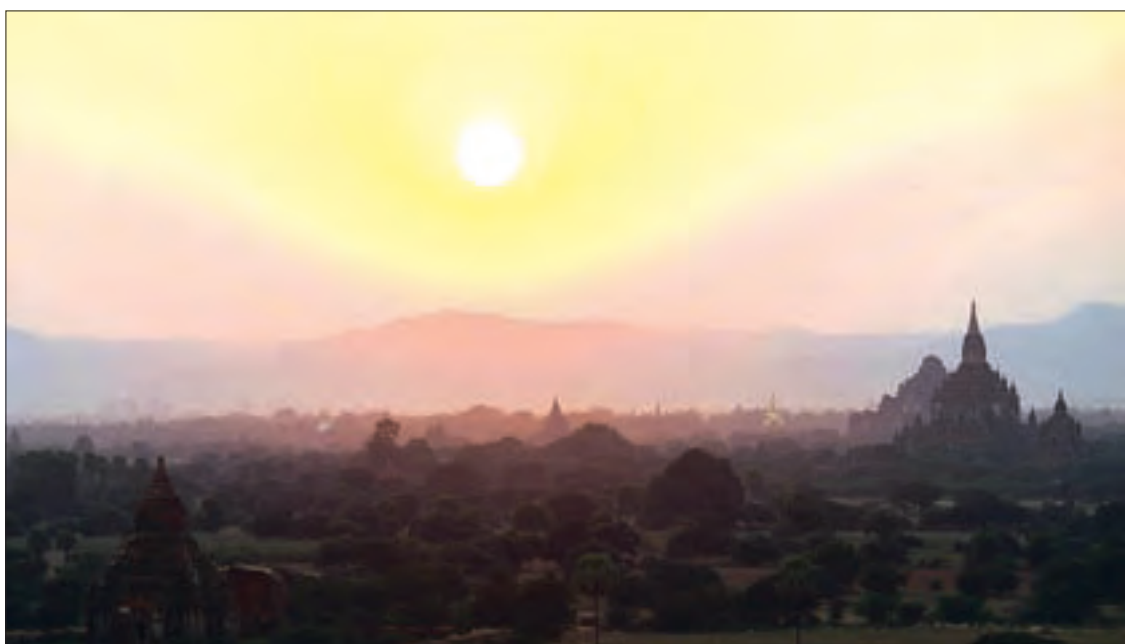
After that, how to maintain and restore (Palaces, Museums, stonescritps, fossils, primates, temples and national monuments), how to create to be natural as for the geological aspects, how to maintain and create for beautiful scenery, Greenland, how to create lovely things (souveniors, traditional gifts, handicrafts, beautiful costumes, cheik, and handmade, etc.)

We should also have to consider these factors: how to prevent man-made disaster and unexpected happenings as well as wasting valuable natural resources for the cultural background and social background.

Furthermore, National Characters are the specific notifications of national ethnics, we can define as the Myanmar National Characters according to these specific notifications:

- ❖ Braveness
- ❖ Diligence
- ❖ Patience
- ❖ Endurance
- ❖ Forgiveness
- ❖ Temporary anger
- ❖ No revenge

The First Myanmar Kingdom (AD 1044-AD 1077) was founded by King Anawrahta, The Second Myanmar Kingdom(AD 1551-AD1581)was built by King Bayintnaung. And the Third Myanmar Kingdom (AD 1752- AD 1760) was established by King Alaungmintayar. Bagan Dynasty was governed by 55 kings and the last Bagan Dynasty was ruled by



Sunset in Bagan. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

King Saw Mon Nit. The first Myanmar currency coin was invented by King Mindon in Yandanabon Era. The first stone inscription was written by the govern of King Mindon.

Bagan, one of the richest archeological sites in Asia, the whole place is covered by pagodas with all sizes and shapes. At one time,there are about 3000 pagodas, temples and religious structures from the 11th to 13th century. Bagan became the first capital of Myanmar for nearly 250 years. Altogether 55 kings who ruled over Bagan. Unfortunately, there was an earthquake in 1975. Some monuments were destroyed by that earthquake but still now, it has many beautiful cultural heritage of Myanmar people. Until now, there are many pagodas about 2217 were left.

The famous Shwezigon pagoda is built by King Anawrahta (AD 1044-AD 1077) built enclos-

ing the relic of Buddha inside it, and it was left unfinished upon his death. So, it was completed by King Kyansittha (AD 1084- AD 1113). Although they were repaired, the Shwezigon Pagoda retains its original shape and served as a prototype for later pagodas. There is a saying :

The most beautiful architectural design is Ananda, The greatest power is Shwezigon, The tallest is Thatbyinnyu, The biggest mass is Dhammanyangyi.

And so, Bagan is creating a treasure and enduring heritage for the Myanmar people to have now "THE GOLDEN LAND".

There are 10 Myanmar traditional arts and crafts to see for the visitors to be suitable for use and study their arts and crafts which are unique creations in Southeast Asia. These are remarkable and

valuable gifts for the next generations:craft of goldsmithing, craft of blacksmithing(smithy), art of making items cast or wrought from bronze, copper, and brass, craft of woodcraving, turnery (craft of a turner),art of painting, art of making lacquerware, art of making decorative work in relief with stucco, art of stone sculpture, art of a mason (masonry), and art of lapidary. Moreover, the Myanmar craft of cheik, craft of weaving on a loom, hand woven cloth of traditional costume, bamboo-weaving, cane –weaving, gold embroidery, and art of marionette (puppet show) are famous of Myanmar.

If the culture of a country disappears, there will be no cultural value for the national race. To preserve culture as much as we can, we must try to handover this traditional cultural heritage from generation to generation.

Workshop on Minority Rights held in Nay Pyi Taw by MNHRC & OHCHR



Participants of the workshop on minority rights pose for documentary photo. PHOTO: MNA

ORGANISED by the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), a workshop on minority rights took place in

Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

MNHRC Chairman U Win Mra and Mr. Andrew MacGregor of the OHCHR delivered opening addresses at the workshop which was attended by parliamentarians, representatives

from regional governments, ministries and OHCHR in Bangkok and Geneva and international experts on human rights.

The two-day workshop continues today. —Myanmar News Agency

Road repair, maintenance tenders invited for six districts in Mandalay Region

THE Mandalay Region government has invited tenders for repair and maintenance works on road sections in the region's six districts on Monday.

The repair and maintenance works up for tender bids include tarmacking, road expansion projects, bridge construction and the rehabilitation of roads which are to be implemented with the use of more than K10 billion.

According to the regional government, the closing date of the tenders is 27 June. An official from the ministry said that regional development will be brought about by repair, maintenance and the rehabilitation of roads in the six districts, thereby contributing towards job opportunities for local people.

The six districts in Man-

dalay Region are PyinOoLwin, Kyaukse, Myingyan, Meiktila, NyaungU and Yamethin.

Open tenders were invited through dailies, said the official, adding that all the road works are set for completion before March next year and an inspection team is set to evaluate the quality of the road works as they are carried out.

Of the budget of K10 billion, more than K 1 billion will be allocated to seven road works in PyinOoLwin, more than K1.6 billion to 11 works in Myingyan, more than K1 billion to 10 works in NyaungU, more than K2 billion to 16 works in Meiktila, more than K1.3 billion to 11 works in Yamethin and more than K2.6 billion to 24 works in Kyaukse. —Aung Thant Khaing

Political information portal aims to increase transparency

INFORMATION on Myanmar's elections, political parties and parliament can now be viewed online at the My Pilar website, according to the Enlightened Myanmar Research Foundation (EMReF).

The My Pilar website, which is organised by the Enlighten Myanmar Research foundation, receives technical support from the University of Washington, Tableau Foundation and financial support from US Aid, it is reported.

"[The website] has mainly been designed for use by civil society organisations, politicians,

activists and members of parliament. It also aims to provide a source of information about Myanmar to international organisations entering the country," said Daw Myat Thae Thitsar, executive director of (EMReF).

The website also features Tableau's free-of-charge software to provide information about elections, political parties, parliament, statements, while it is reported researches can also upload their own information to the website as well.

"It will be very useful for both parliaments and the public because it makes information

accessible to everyone. I hope it will provide more transparency than we have at present," said Monywa Aung Sin, a fellow executive for the National League of Democracy.

Updated regional parliament news will also be regularly updated to the website which can be viewed by visiting www.mypilar.org. Talks are also currently being held, it is known, with authorities from the Yangon Regional Hluttaw to allow for the sharing of information of claims, questions and enacted legislations from the regional Hluttaw's website. —Myitmakha News Agency

Miss Myanmar International 2016 to be held on 3 September



THE Miss Myanmar International 2016 will be held on 3 September in Yangon.

Myanmar Tourism Marketing has offered to interested persons to participate in the 5th contest, announcing that the aim of the contest is to select the pageant members for the international contest and to promote the role of Myanmar women in tourism industry through their cooperation in the sector.

The winners of the previous contests participated in the Miss International Beauty Pageant in Japan along with pageant members from 65 countries. —GNLM

Turkish delegation visits Thayet War Cemetery



Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu visits Turkish War Cemetery in Thayet. PHOTO: PAUKALAY (THAYET)

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu and party visited the Turkish War Cemetery situated two-miles from Thayet, Magwe Region yesterday.

The group held a memorial service to honour the fallen soldiers and laid a wreath on the cemetery.

Next, the Turkish foreign affairs minister and party visited Myakhetaung monastery in Thayet where they met the pre-

siding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Silavamsa and Thahaya Library.

The Thayet War Cemetery is a memorial burial ground for Ottoman soldiers who died in Myanmar after they fell into the hands of British Forces in the Middle Eastern Theatre of World War I. An agreement to maintain the war cemetery was inked between the Turkish Ambassador to Myanmar and Titan Co. on March 29, 2016. —Paukalay (Thayet)

Construction Ministry organises Chinese language course for staff

THE Ministry of Construction organised a six-month Chinese language course for its staff in Nay Pyi Taw which was opened yesterday.

The course is aimed at ensuring people-to-people connectivity and promoting cooperation by learning a foreign language.

In his address, Union Minister U Win Khaing said that the ministry plans to conduct a Jap-

anese language course following the Chinese course, adding that there are many advantages of proficiency in several languages as the ministry is dealing with external relations more often.

The six-month Chinese language course is scheduled to be held between 6 and 8 pm, meeting Monday through Thursday. —Myanmar News Agency

Two French police killed in attack claimed by Islamic State

PARIS — A suspected Islamist attacker stabbed a French police commander to death outside his home and later killed his partner in an attack claimed by Islamic State and denounced by the government as “an abject act of terrorism”.

The attacker, a 25-year-old who went to jail in 2013 for helping Islamist militants go to Pakistan and had been monitored by security services, repeatedly knifed the 42-year-old commander in the stomach late on Monday.

He then barricaded himself inside the house in Magnanville, a suburb some 60 km west of Paris, taking the policeman’s partner and three-year-old son hostage. His partner, an administrative police official, was found dead in the house. The boy was unharmed but in a state of shock, an Interior Ministry spokesman said.

The man, whom police and justice sources named as Larossi Abballa, was shot dead by members of an elite police unit after negotiations failed.

“An abject act of terrorism was carried out yesterday in Magnanville,” Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said after an emergency government meeting, before heading out to Les Mureaux, where the police commander worked.

President Francois Hollande said the killings were “undeniably a terrorist act” and that the terrorist threat in France was very high.

The killings took place as police forces throughout France were on high alert for attacks during the Euro 2016 soccer tournament which began last week. Islamic State claimed the attack via its Amaq news agency. “Source to Amaq agency: Islamic State fighter kills deputy chief of the police station in the city of Les Mureaux and his wife,” Amaq said on its website. If it is confirmed Islamic State was behind the murders, it would be the first militant strike on French soil since the government imposed a state of emergency after multiple attacks on Paris in November that killed 130 people.

Islamic State’s claim that one of its “fighters” carried out the evening attack came a day after the Islamist militant group said it was responsible for the shooting that killed 49 people in a massacre at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida.

Searches were being carried out on Tuesday morning at the attacker’s house and in other places, a judicial source said. “Many things are being analysed,” the source said, including messages posted on social networks.

The police commander’s partner was also killed with a knife, the source said, but declined to give any more details. Larossi was born in France, said the source. Larossi was given a three-year prison sentence in 2013 for helping Islamist militants go to Pakistan. His name had come up in an ongoing investigation about a man who left for Syria, but he was not considered a threat, another source close to the investigation said. Officials have not revealed the identity of the 42-year-old officer.—Reuters



Still image taken from video shows Police vehicles at the scene near where a French police commander was stabbed to death in front of his home in the Paris suburb of Magnanville, France, on 14 June 2016. Photo: Reuters

As migrant toll rises, IOM urges action to identify victims

GENEVA — More than 55,000 migrants have died on their journey in the past 20 years and their families rarely learned of their fate, the International Organisation of Migration (IOM) said on Tuesday.

In a report entitled “Fatal Journeys”, the agency called on authorities to ensure the missing are identified and their families traced.

A record 5,400 migrants are estimated to have died in 2015 trying to cross borders, and a further 3,100 have perished in the first five months of this year, the IOM said.

Of last year’s deaths, 3,770 occurred in the Mediterranean where boats capsized en route to Europe. Others died in the Bay of

Bengal and Andaman Sea, the Gulf of Aden and Red Sea and along the US-Mexico border, it said.

“A second tragedy following the thousands of victims is that the majority, even among deaths that are known of, are never officially identified,” IOM said. “For each body that remains nameless..., families are left wondering if their relative is alive or dead.”

Without legal proof of death, it may be difficult for spouses to remarry or for families to inherit property. Fewer than half of the 387 migrants who died when their boats capsized off the Italian island of Lampedusa in October 2013 have been officially identified, it said.

In the United States, a cemetery in Arizona contains the remains of at least 800 unidentified individuals believed to be migrants. Little is known either about the deaths of migrants travelling north overland from sub-Saharan Africa. At present there is no established common practice for collecting information on migrant deaths between states, or even sometimes between different jurisdictions in the same country, the report said.

“Above all, international and regional databases are needed, in which data that is collected nationally can be stored securely and accessed transnationally,” it said.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy’s Berlusconi undergoing heart surgery — hospital

ROME — Italian surgeons began a four-hour heart operation on former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi on Tuesday to replace a defective aortic valve, a hospital statement said.

The surgery started at 8 am local time (0600 GMT), the statement added.

The 79-year-old centre-right leader and media mogul was admitted to hospital last week suffering from what his doctors called a cardiac deficiency.

In a post on Facebook, Berlusconi wrote on Monday: “Naturally I am worried, but I have been very much consoled by the outpour of affection and support that have come from many parts, including from so-called political enemies.”—Reuters

South Korea voices concerns over British referendum’s impact on world

SEOUL — South Korea feels Britain opting to stay in the European Union would be better for the rest of the world, ahead of that country’s referendum on EU membership next week, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday.

“We feel a unified EU will more effectively contribute to world security and prosperity,” Cho June Hyuck said during a press briefing.

South Korea is closely monitoring all developments related to the 23 June referendum in which Britain will vote to either leave or remain in the European Union, he said.

“We are ready to take appropriate preparatory steps if Britain’s exit from the EU causes instability in the international financial markets and affects our economy,” Cho said.—Kyodo News

Russian aircraft deliver 18 tons of UN aid to Syrian city

MOSCOW — Russian aircraft have dropped 18 tons of United Nations (UN) humanitarian aid on Syria’s eastern city Deir ez-Zor, which had been besieged by IS militants, said the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides on Tuesday.

The aid, which was delivered via parachutes, contains food, flour and grains.

“Humanitarian convoys for Syrian people are being formed,” the center said, adding that the settlement of Khmira in Syria’s Hama province has received four tons of humanitarian aid.

A cease-fire brokered by Russia and the United States, which took effect at midnight on 27 February, has brought relative calm to swathes of the war-ravaged country.—Xinhua

Number of arrestees in Bangladesh’s anti-militant drive reaches 11,307

DHAKA — 11,307 people were arrested within four days of Bangladesh’s on-going week-long anti-militant drive, a police spokesman said on Tuesday.

“3,115 more people were arrested on the fourth day of the anti-militant drive, bringing the total number of arrestees to 11,307,” A. K. M. Kamrul Ahsan, a Bangladeshi police spokesman, told Xinhua on Tuesday. He said that “At least 26 among the total arrested in the last 24 hours till 6:00 am (local time) Tuesday were suspected militants.” Police earlier detained 8,192 people including 119 suspected militants in the first 72 hours of the clampdown against militants. Among the 145 suspected militants arrested so far, most are members of banned militant outfit Jama’atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB).—Xinhua

Philippine authorities confirm execution of second Canadian hostage

MANILA — Philippine authorities on Tuesday confirmed the execution of a second Canadian national by the al-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group, with the country’s military and police vowing to continue their operations to rescue the remaining two hostages held by the organisation.

“We strongly condemn the brutal and senseless murder of Mr. Robert Hall, a Canadian national, after being held captive by the Abu Sayyaf group in Sulu for the past nine months,” Presidential communications secretary Herminio Coloma said in a statement.

“We extend our deepest sympathy and condolences to his bereaved family,” he added. Hall, 50, is believed to have been beheaded by his Abu Sayyaf captors in Sulu Province in the southern Philippine island of Mindanao after the 13 June deadline for his ransom payment lapsed. On 25 April, fellow hostage and Canadian national John Ridsdel, 68, suffered the same fate.—Kyodo News

Pakistan, spurned by US, considers offer of Jordanian F-16 jets

ISLAMABAD

— Pakistan is considering buying used F-16 fighter jets from Jordan, media reported on Tuesday, after a plan to buy eight of the aircraft from the United States fell through because of the refusal of the US Congress to finance the deal.

Some of Pakistan's fleet of F-16 jets are due to be decommissioned in the next few years and the government says it needs the aircraft to fight Islamist militants in remote mountains near Afghanistan.

The military also sees the aircraft as vital in case of war against old rival India. The nuclear-armed neighbours have fought three wars since they gained independence from Britain in 1947.

"We are now going for a third-party transfer of F-16s and have an offer from Jordan," Defence Sec-



Jordanian F-16 fighter jets escorting the plane carrying Bahrain's King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa (not pictured) are seen at Amman airport, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

retary Alam Khattak told a joint sitting of the Senate defence and foreign affairs committees on Monday, newspapers reported.

An air force spokes-

man declined to say how many F-16s Pakistan has but the number of the aircraft in service is believed to be about 70.

Jordan had offered

to sell Pakistan 16 used F-16s of the Block-30 variant, an older version than the Block-52s that Pakistan would have obtained from the United States,

the Dawn newspaper reported.

The US deal, valued at \$699 million (495 million pounds), came unstuck after the US Congress refused to authorise the use of US government funds to pay for the aircraft under the Foreign Military Financing (FMF) programme.

Members of the US Congress, led by Republican Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Bob Corker, demanded that Pakistan stop harbouring militant groups like the Afghan Taliban and Haqqani Network, which are leading an insurgency against a US-backed government in Kabul.

Pakistan say it is acting against the militants, citing military operations in lawless ethnic Pashtun lands that border Afghanistan.

Pakistan says the

F-16s, with their precision strike ability and night-flying capability, are essential for that fight.

The difficulty over the F-16 deal was the latest sign of increasingly frayed ties between Pakistan and the United States.

Last month, a US drone killed Mullah Akhtar Mansour, then chief of the Afghan Taliban, on Pakistani soil.

Pakistan condemned the strike as a violation of its sovereignty, and as not being conducive towards encouraging the Taliban to enter talks with the Afghan government.

Pakistan has bought Jordanian F-16s before, procuring 13 of them in 2014, Dawn reported. The current batch on offer were manufactured between 1988 and 1990, and were upgraded in 2001/02, Dawn said.—Reuters

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



Children play amid icebergs on the beach in Nuuk, Greenland, on 5 June 2016. Photo: Reuters

At ground zero of warming, Greenland seeks to unlock frozen assets

BUKSEFJORD, (Greenland) — On top of the world, by a fjord in western Greenland, a remote hydro power plant is buzzing with extra water from the melt of ancient glaciers. This island at ground zero of global warming is seeking to be one of the few places on Earth to benefit.

Outside the Buksefjord plant, the biggest of five hydro-electricity stations built in Greenland since 1993 in a push to move away from imported oil, cod that usually only thrive further south can be seen swimming in the clear water.

And a worker at the facility is preparing to grow potatoes and turnips on land close to the Arctic Circle that is usually too cold for anything other than lichen and reindeer.

The north Atlantic island “is in the midst of new thinking”, Environment Minister Mala Hoy Kuko said, to capitalize on an alarming thaw that included a record early melt

on the vast ice sheet in April 2016 before a cooler May.

Hydro power “potential will grow even bigger with the warming of the climate”, Kuko said in the capital Nuuk, which gets power from Buksefjord 56 km (35 miles) away. Above his desk is a 2-metre tusk of a narwhal, a whale known as the unicorn of the sea.

Climate change, caused mainly by greenhouse gases from burning fossil fuels, is set to cause economic harm in almost all parts of the world by spurring ever more droughts, heat waves and floods, according a UN panel.

Low-lying tropical island states from the Maldives to Tuvalu view Greenland’s 3,000-metre (10,000 ft) thick ice sheet with foreboding since it contains enough ice to raise world sea levels by 6 meters if it ever all melted, over many centuries.

But for the 56,000 inhabitants of Greenland, a

giant island a quarter the size of the United States, the melt may be unlocking frozen assets and helping businesses including fishing, farming, mining, shipping and tourism.

“Unfortunately I can’t sit down and weep and say it (climate change) is bad because overall it’s good for Greenland,” said Henrik Leth, chairman of both Greenland’s biggest private company, Polar Seafood, and the Greenland Business Association.

His firm’s pre-tax profit rose to 335 million Danish crowns (\$51 million) in 2015 from 235 million in 2014 thanks to high prices for its main products, prawns and Greenland halibut.

About 90 per cent of the island’s exports are fisheries, and many hunters and fishermen welcome shifts in currents, apparently linked to warming, that have brought cod to west Greenland for the first time in two decades, and mackerel to the east.—

Reuters

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

1. MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- | | |
|--------------------------|--|
| (a) DATE & TIME | - (24-6-2016) (12:00) Noon
- (27-6-2016) (13:00) PM |
| (b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME | - TEAK LOGS (143) TONS
- TEAK CONVERSION (312) TONS
- HARD WOOD LOGS
- KANYIN / TAUNG PAEIN ABOUT (2080) TONS
- TAMALAN HANDSAWN ABOUT (83) TONS |
| (c) PLACE | - TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON. |

2. FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEB-SITE (www.myanmar-timber.com.mm).

Contacts: Office Ph: 01528771,
E-mail: Marketing 1 ppy@gmail.com

OPEN TINDER COMMITTEE
MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE

INVITATION FOR BIDS (IFB)

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar
Modernization of Public Finance Management
Pre-Fabricated Data Center Facilities - Supply, Installation and
Commissioning of Pre-Fabricated Data Center Facilities
IFB No: MPFMP-MIAs-ICB-GS101

- This Invitation for Bids (IFB) follows the General Procurement Notice (GPN) for this project that appeared in UNDB online on February 27, 2014.
- The Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing in the amount of Credit for US\$30 million from the World Bank and a Grant for US\$25 million from UK and Australian governments towards the cost of Modernization of Public Finance Management Project (MPFMP) and it intends to apply part of the proceeds to payments under the agreement(s) resulting from this IFB: Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Pre-Fabricated Data Center Facilities (Hardware, Software and Associated Services) IFB No: MPFMP-MIAs-ICB-GS101.
- The Ministry of Planning and Finance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar serves as the implementing agency for the project now invites sealed bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of Pre-Fabricated Data Center Facilities (Hardware, Software and Associated Services such as training and technical support).
- Bidding will be conducted using the International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures specified in the World Bank’s Guidelines: Procurement under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits, edition of January 2011, and is open to all Bidders eligible as defined in these Guidelines, that meet the following minimum key qualification criteria:
 - The Bidder shall furnish documentary evidence that it meets the following financial requirement(s):
 - Average Annual Turnover of the Bidder should be not less than US\$ 9 Million or equivalent, for the recent three (3) (2013, 2014, 2015) years.
 - Access to liquid assets (cash flow) of at least US\$1 Million.
 - In case of Joint Venture, which are jointly and severally responsible for contract execution, the amount with regard to Turn-over requirement may be combined and averaged for the recent three (3) (2013, 2014, 2015) years, however one member of the JV must meet at least 50% of the requirement; and with regard to Cash flow requirement may be combined, however one member of the JV must meet at least 50% of the requirement.
 - Technical capability:
 - The Bidder (prime) should be an established Information Technology Company/ IT System Integrator and should have been in the business in the World for a period of five (5) years.
 - The Bidder should have commissioned and installed at least two Data Center projects or similar project with similar complexity during the last five (5) years.
 - The Bidder should confirm the existence or provide a detailed plan for the establishment of warranty (service centers) on the territory of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, for the equipt authorized by manufacturer, to provide warranty service & technical support for the following delivered equipment: Workstations, Server hardware, Switches, Diesel Generators, UPSs, Fire suppression system, & Air-conditioning system.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from Ministry of Planning and Finance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and inspect the bidding documents at the address given below from 09:30 – 12:30 and 13:30 - 16:30 hours, Monday to Friday. A pre-bid meeting will be held on 05 July 2016 at 14.00 hours at the address mentioned below.
- The Bidders will receive a complete set of bidding documents in English upon submission of the written application to the Ministry of Planning and Finance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar at Nay Pyi Taw during office hours from 09:30-12:30 and 13:30-16:30 hours, Monday to Friday, except public holidays. As an alternative, the set of bidding document in pdf format may be sent to interested Bidders upon submission of a written application to Ministry of Planning and Finance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar by email: pcaumm@mptmail.net.mm, cc zawnaing652011@gmail.com, sukumarshep@gmail.com, mmt.budget@gmail.com.
- Bids must be delivered to the address below at or before 14:30 hours, on 19 August 2016. The Bids need to be secured by a Bid Securing Declaration in the form available in Section VII of the bid document.
- Late bids will be rejected. Bids will be opened in the presence of Bidders’ representatives who choose to attend at the address below at 14:30 hours, on 19 August, 2016.
- The attention of prospective Bidders is drawn to (i) the fact that they will be required to certify in their bids that all software is either covered by a valid license or was produced by the Bidder, and (ii) that violations are considered fraud, which can result in ineligibility to be awarded World Bank-financed contracts.
- The Prefabricated data centers are to be delivered beginning Nov 2016, to the agencies as follows, & completed by Mar 2017:
 1. Prefabricated data center for the Budget Department.
 2. Prefabricated data center for the Internal Revenue Department
 3. Prefabricated data center for the Planning Department.
 4. Prefabricated data center for the Myanma Economic Bank
 5. Prefabricated data center for the Office of the Auditor General of the Union.
 6. Upgrading of Data Center of LTO/MTOs.
- The first data center should be in place, fully tested, operational, and satisfactorily commissioned, before the second to the last ones are delivered.
- The address referred to above is: Attention: Mr Zaw Naing, Ministry of Planning and Finance, Building Number (26), Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.
Telephone: 095-067-410046, Facsimile number: 095-067-410189
Electronic mail address: pcaumm@mptmail.net.mm, mmt.budget@gmail.com, cc_zawnaing652011@gmail.com, sukumarshep@gmail.com

Bill Murray to be awarded Kennedy Centre's Mark Twain Prize

NEW YORK — Actor and comedian Bill Murray has been chosen to receive the 19th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor by the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.

Murray, the star of such movies as "Groundhog Day" and "Rushmore," will be awarded the prize named for the great 19th century US novelist and satirist on 23 October, the Kennedy Center said in a statement on Monday.

"An award-winning writer, actor and comedian, his brilliant wit and infectious spirit continue to inspire our laughter across generations both on and off the screen," said Kennedy Center President Deborah Rutter.

Murray, 65, is among the best-known stars to emerge from NBC's "Saturday Night Live." He performed on the groundbreak-



Cast member Bill Murray arrives for the premiere of the film "Rock the Kasbah" in New York in October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing television comedy show from 1977 to 1980 and honed his skills portraying insincere and lovably smarmy characters.

He portrayed a dim-witted groundskeeper in "Caddyshack,"

was a paranormal investigator in "Ghostbusters" and stood out as a mobster in "Mad Dog and Glory."

Murray was nominated for a Best Actor Academy Award for his portrayal of a jet-lagged movie star in "Lost in Translation." He has won two Emmy Awards. In a statement, Murray said he was honored to receive the award. "I believe Mark Twain has rolled over in his grave so much for so long, that this news won't disturb his peace," he said. Previous Mark Twain Prize honorees include Richard Pryor, George Carlin, Lily Tomlin, Neil Simon, Carol Burnett, Jay Leno and Eddie Murphy, the 2015 winner.

The award ceremony will be recorded for television broadcast.—Reuters

Taylor Swift designs range of greeting cards



Pop star Taylor Swift. PHOTO: PTI

LONDON — Pop star Taylor Swift has created her own new range of greeting cards.

The Shake It Off singer, 26, has been quietly working on the side project for stationary store Papyrus, reported Contactmusic.

When a fan spotted the cards in their local shop, he immediately posted shots of them on Instagram.

The array of bejewelled cards include designs with a bright yellow sun featuring the words, You are actual sunshine inside,

a cartoon of a blonde woman holding a cat, another graphic of a woman in profile wearing a pair of crystal headphones, and a turquoise card covered in rhinestones with the words, "Yay You!" written in gold across the middle. While Swift is yet to announce her involvement in the project, Papyrus officials commented on fans' Instagram pictures to confirm the partnership, describing it as just the beginning.—PTI

Sylvester Stallone sued for allegedly stealing reality show idea

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Sylvester Stallone has been hit with a USD 7 million lawsuit over his reality series "Strong".

Personal trainer Robert Fletcher claims that he created a show called "America's Next

Great Trainer" and shopped it around Hollywood two years ago, reported TMZ. Fletcher alleges he sent his pitch material to Stallone's publicist, and also to agents at William Morris Endeavor, which represent

the 69-year-old actor. The New York native says in court documents filed on June 10 that he even had a signed agreement with California-based conditioning coach Todd Durkin to host the show.—PTI

Rap star Lil Wayne suffers two minor seizures: spokesman

LOS ANGELES — Rap star Lil Wayne suffered two minor seizures on Monday but is in stable condition, his spokesman said after media reports that the Grammy winner was forced to make an emergency landing in Omaha, Nebraska.

The incident came three years after Lil Wayne spent several days at a Los Angeles hospital, soon after which he told radio station Power 106 he was epileptic and prone to seizures.

The rap star's spokesman, Derek Sherron, said in an email that Lil Wayne suffered two minor seizures on Monday. He had earlier referred to one seizure.

"Under the guidance

of his own doctors, he is now in stable condition and good spirits. He thanks his fans for their everlasting support, prayers and well wishes," Sherron said in that earlier email. Celebrity website TMZ reported that he suffered a seizure during a flight in his private jet and that the pilot was forced to make an emergency landing in Omaha. Later, the plane took off and Lil Wayne suffered another seizure, forcing it to return for another unscheduled landing in Omaha, TMZ said. Omaha television station KETV showed video footage on its website of paramedics taking a person on a stretcher from an airplane to an ambulance.

The station reported that Lil Wayne, whose given name is Dwayne Michael Carter Jr, was taken to CHI Health Creighton University Medical Center. A hospital spokeswoman said in an email: "We have no information to release."—Reuters



Rapper Lil Wayne performs during the 2015 iHeartRadio Music Festival at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada September 18, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS



Rod Stewart receives knighthood

LONDON — Singer Rod Stewart has received a knighthood in the Queen's Birthday Honours list, for his services to music and charity.

The 71-year-old singer, whose recording career spans 50 years, is currently on tour, where he announced his knighthood live in front of a sellout crowd.

I've led a wonderful life and have had a tremendous career thanks to the generous support of the great British public, said Singer Rod Stewart. PHOTO: PTI

Speaking from the stage at Southampton's Ageas Bowl, Stewart said, "So it's 10.30 and I have the great pleasure of being able to tell you

now, in this hour, that your old mate up here has been knighted by Her Majesty The Queen.

"It's all down to you guys, thank you so much you've made me who I am.

I had a funny text from Elton (John) today: It said 'Congratulations darling, who would have thought a couple of old tarts from North London would be knighted?' Bless all of you, thank you."

In a statement Stewart also promised he'd wear his new title well. "I've led a wonderful life and have had a tremendous career thanks to the generous support of the great British public," he said.—PTI

Iceland's tourism boom fuels recovery, lays bare locals' plight

GRINDAVIK, (Iceland) — On a recent weeknight Iceland's top tourist attraction, the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa, is packed with visitors wearing mud masks and quaffing local beer, contributing to a tourism surge that is helping to fix an economy wrecked by the 2008 financial crisis.

Many Icelanders are not having as much fun. While unemployment has fallen to pre-crisis levels, gross national income per capita is around a quarter less than in 2007, about one-tenth of the population has fallen into serious loan default and thousands of homes have been repossessed.

They have little faith in the authorities fully restoring living standards and the resentment is fuelling the rise of the anti-establishment Pirate Party, which is leading in polls ahead of elections in October.

The mistrust runs deep. Iceland suffered one of the first big financial implosions of the Euro-



Visitors enjoy a drink in the Blue Lagoon geothermal spa in Grindavik, Iceland, on 25 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

pean economic meltdown after the collapse of its banking system, becoming the first western European country to get an International Monetary Fund (IMF) bailout since 1976.

It needed the \$2.1 billion (1 billion pounds) IMF loan, and another \$2.5 billion from its Scan-

dinavian neighbours, to protect domestic deposits and keep its krona currency, which has collapsed 70 per cent against the euro since 2007, from crashing further.

The government sharply reduced spending and raised interest rates to as much as 18 per cent

to control inflation that climbed to a record-high 18.6 per cent in January 2009.

The currency collapse, though, helped restore competitiveness and, along with a big marketing push to promote Iceland as a destination, boosted tourism.

Some 1.7 million visitors revelled in Iceland's natural beauty last year, more than double the number who arrived a decade ago and more than five times the total number of Icelanders.

"We have fully recovered in economic terms. The Icelandic economy is doing very well at the moment," central bank chief Mar Gudmundsson told Reuters, citing the "phenomenal" growth in tourism as one of the main reasons, alongside the fisheries industry, for the turnaround.

At the Blue Lagoon, most visitors spent close to 30 minutes queuing to get in despite pre-booking tickets, while frazzled staff tried to process them as fast as possible.

"It is a tourism tsunami," said Matthias Kjartansson, managing director of travel operator Iceland ProTravel, whose turnover has grown five-fold since 2012. "All over Iceland, there are no hotel rooms. It is crazy."—Reuters

Italy's Osteria Francescana named world's best restaurant

NEW YORK — Osteria Francescana ascended to the top of the annual ranking of world's best restaurants for its inventive twist on traditional Italian dishes, the World's 50 Best Restaurants list released on Monday showed.

The restaurant in Modena, Italy, which was runner-up on last year's list, switched the top spot with the 2015 winner El Celler de Can Roca in Girona, Spain.

"The chef's ambitious creations perfectly balance the demands of honouring heritage while embracing modernity," the list's organisers said of Osteria Francescana's chef-owner Massimo Bottura.

The list, compiled by trade publication Restaurant magazine since 2002, was based on the personal experiences of 972 chefs, restaurateurs, food writers and culinary experts, instead of a list of pre-determined criteria.

The Best 50 list has gained prominence among chefs around

the globe, rivaling the longstanding Michelin guides with its star system. Michelin assigned three stars, its highest rating, to Osteria Francescana and El Celler de Can Roca.

"We did something epic," the 53-year-old Bottura told Reuters after the award ceremony held in New York City, the first time it was held outside of Britain. Another three-star restaurant Eleven Madison Park in New York City was ranked third, moving up two spots from last year.

Central in Lima, Peru held at No. 4 for a second year.

Noma fell for a second year, down two places from the previous year to No. 5. The Copenhagen restaurant, known for its cutting-edge Nordic cuisine, held the best restaurant title in 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2014.

Rounding out the top 10 were Mirazur in Menton, France; Mugaritz in San Sebastian, Spain; Narisawa in Tokyo; Steirerck,

Vienna and Asador Etxebarri in Axpe, Spain.

More than half of the restaurants in the top 50 are in Europe. Six are in the United States; six in South America and five in Asia.

Three restaurants dropped off from last year's top 10. London's Dinner by Heston Blumenthal tumbled to No. 45, Gaggan in Bangkok slid to No. 23 and D.O.M. in San Paulo dipped to No. 11.

Monday's ceremony also handed out individual chef awards. Pierre Hermé was named world's top pastry chef, while Alain Passard, whose Paris restaurant Arpège landed on No. 19 on the latest list, was given the lifetime achievement prize.

Dominique Crenn, who owns acclaimed Atelier Crenn and Petit Crenn in San Francisco, was recognized as the world's best female chef.

The World's 50 Best Restaurants awards will be presented in Melbourne in 2017.—Reuters

Black watermelon fetches 500,000 yen at season's 1st auction

ASAHIKAWA, (Japan) — A black watermelon grown in the town of Toma, Hokkaido, in northern Japan, was sold for 500,000 yen (\$4,714) in the year's first auction of the fruit at a market on Tuesday.

Some 260 of the Densuke watermelon, known for their black and shiny skin as well as for their crunchy texture, were auctioned off at fresh produce markets in Asahikawa and Sapporo the same day.

poro the same day.

The highest price the watermelons fetched at the Asahikawa market on Tuesday was less than the all-time high of 650,000 yen fetched in 2008.

An agricultural cooperative in Toma said the peak season of this variety is July and that it plans to ship 70,000 of them this year. The watermelons are expected to retail for around 5,000 yen apiece.—Kyodo News



Photo taken on 14 June 2016, in the northern Japan city of Asahikawa shows fancy watermelons, known as "Densukesuika," a specialty of Toma town. During the season's first auction at a fruit and vegetable market in Asahikawa, the bidding price reached as high as 500,000 yen. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Entertainment Channel

(15- 6-2016, Wednesday)

06 : 00 pm	08 : 50 pm
• Weather Report	• Sai Htee Hseng Or An
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	Exceptional Music Star
06 : 20 pm	From Shan Plateaus
• Cartoon Programme	(Episode-2)
• "Car 2" (Part-2)	09 : 20 pm
07 : 10 pm	• International Movie Songs
• International Drama	09 : 30 pm
Series	• Interesting Features of
07 : 50 pm	Rakhine
• International Drama Series	09 : 50 pm
08 : 30 pm	• Music Programme
• MRTV Entertainment	10 : 10 pm
Music	• Myanmar Video

From 15-6-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm
To 16-6-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(15-6-2016 07:00am ~ 16-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Rakhine The Land of Sublime Pagodas
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	News Extra - Indonesia-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
08:44	Am	The Beauty In The North of Myanmar
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Hive Hunter
09:45	Am	Civic Duty
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Oboist and His Life
10:47	Am	Myanmar Weaving

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday 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
07:25	Pm	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep-1)
07:42	Pm	Orchid Lover
07:50	Pm	Philatelic Pleasure
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Tapestry- A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship
08:45	Pm	Chef Life "Oliver E Soe Thet"

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday 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)

Giaccherini and Pelle help Italy sink Belgium

LYON, (France) — A superbly-executed strategy by coach Antonio Conte helped Italy to a deserved 2-0 win over Belgium in their Euro 2016 opener with outstanding goals by Emanuele Giaccherini and Graziano Pelle on Monday.

At their vintage best defensively, and threatening on the counter-attack, Italy extended their unbeaten competitive run against the Belgians to 44 years having last lost to them in a 1972 European Championship playoff.

"The result shows that nothing in football can be taken for granted and we did our talking on the pitch," a delighted Conte told a news conference after the Group E clash against the world's second-ranked team.

"I have been saying for a long time that this is a squad of men and good footballers. In this competition it's only right to have this alchemy and I was overjoyed with how everyone got involved, including players on the bench."

"It shows a great team spir-



Italy's Graziano Pelle scores their second goal during the EURO 2016 Group E match at Stade de Lyon, Lyon, France on 13 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

it." Although tactically outfoxed, Conte's opposite number Marc Wilmots — fielding the likes of Eden Hazard, Kevin De Bruyne and Romelu Lukaku — defended his talented but disjointed side,

which again flattered to deceive on the big stage.

"We lost a battle but we haven't lost the war and it's the qualification for the next round that counts," Wilmots told Belgium's

RTBF television.

"We did a lot that was good but if you don't make it count, you can't win the game."

Monday's win put former European champions Italy on top

of the section, with Sweden and Ireland having earlier shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw, while a Belgium side dripping with talent now have plenty of work ahead to reach the last 16.—Reuters

Barcelona to pay 5.5 million euros fine over Neymar transfer case

MADRID — Barcelona have agreed to pay a fine of 5.5 million euros (\$6.21 million) to the Spanish authorities to settle a tax fraud case over the transfer of Brazil international Neymar in 2013.

Barcelona had been accused of concealing part of Neymar's

transfer fee when he moved to Spain from Brazilian club Santos, with several investigations carried out in Spain and Brazil.

The settlement was reported by Spanish news agency Efe last week and the club confirmed in a statement on Tuesday that its board had approved the agreement

at a meeting the previous day.

"The Board ... has decided to approve the agreement presented by the club's legal services with regard to the case surrounding the signing of Neymar Jr, currently being heard in the Courts of the Province of Barcelona," the statement said.—Reuters

Ireland can build on draw after Sweden disappoint

PARIS — Ireland can take encouragement from a 1-1 draw in their Euro 2016 Group E opener on Monday but the result was a cause of great concern for Sweden whose mediocrity contrasted starkly with their opponents' desire.

Ireland were the better team and Sweden were fortunate to grab an equaliser when Irish defender Ciaran Clark headed a cross into his own goal after Wes Hoolahan had opened the scoring with a splendid strike early in the second half.

It was another misfortune for Ireland at the Stade de France, where they were playing for the first time since Thierry Henry's infamous handball for France led to a goal that crushed the 2010 World Cup qualifying dreams of the Irish in a playoff.

Monday's match was probably the one the Irish and Swedes had targeted for a win in a section that also features traditional European force Italy and a talented Belgium side.

Martin O'Neill's Boys in Green, however, can be more optimistic than Erik Hamren's Blue-Yellows, who did not manage a single shot on target despite the efforts of talisman Zlatan Ibrahimovic, who was kept fairly quiet by Ireland's defence.

"We have two very, very tough matches coming against

two sides that are very classy," said O'Neill.

"But if I can take anything from the performance today, it was that the players looked accomplished. We have the desire but the players are growing into international football."

Both teams were backed by hordes of fans and the yellow and green armies brought a festive touch to the Stade de France, in sharp contrast with the violence that has marred the tournament.

O'Neill's side showed a real desire to win, making two attacking substitutions after Sweden's equaliser, while the Scandinavians looked slow and toothless until Ireland took a deserved lead three minutes after the break.

Hoolahan struck a superb half-volley into the net from Seamus Coleman's perfect cross into the area triggering a roar rarely heard in the usually subdued Stade de France.

That acted as a wake-up call for Sweden, who were relying on their enigmatic 34-year-old captain Ibrahimovic.

"I came like a king, left like a legend," Ibrahimovic quipped as he left Paris St Germain at the end of last season after helping them win a second straight domestic treble.

He was certainly neither when he returned to Paris on Monday.—Reuters

Corona stunner earns Mexico draw, top spot in Copa group

HOUSTON — Mexico's Jesus Manuel Corona weaved his way past five players before firing home in the 80th minute to give his side a 1-1 draw with Venezuela that secured top spot in Group C of the Copa America on Monday.

By topping the group Mexico are likely to avoid Argentina in the quarter-finals. Argentina require just a point in their final game against Bolivia to be sure of top spot in Group D.

Mexico and Venezuela each finished with seven points from their three matches but 'El Tri' had a superior goal difference.

Venezuela had seized the advantage in the 10th minute when Jose Manuel Velazquez silenced the pro-Mexico crown in Houston with a sensational overhead kick.

Venezuela's Josef Martinez came close to scoring with a bicycle kick but Mexico goalkeeper Jose de Jesus Corona saved well. Venezuela keeper Daniel Hernandez also produced a string of saves before conceding his first goal of



Mexico forward Jesus Manuel Corona (10) shoots the ball during the second half against Venezuela during the group play stage of the 2016 Copa America Centenario at NRG Stadium, Houston, TX, on 13 June. Venezuela and Mexico tied 1-1. PHOTO: REUTERS

the tournament.

In the group's other match, Uruguay finished the tournament on a high with a 3-0 victory over Jamaica in Santa Clara, California.

With both teams already eliminated after losing their opening two games, Uruguay went

ahead through Abel Hernandez in the 21st minute, doubled their lead on an own goal in the 66th minute before Mathias Corujo made it 3-0.

Jamaica ended the tournament without picking up a point or scoring a goal.—Reuters