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3,880 jade lots sold for more than €427m at Nay Pyi Taw expo

THE 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw saw an exchange of €427m from 3,880 lots of jade through an open tender system. 312 pearl lots saw €3.12m and €3.29m gems from 63 lots.

Sixty lots of jades are set to go on sale on 4 - 5 July and 46 lots of jade on 6 July with a competitive bidding system.—Myanmar News Agency



Second parliamentary sessions to reconvene on 25 July

THE PYIDAUNG SU, Pyithu and Amyotha Hluttaws will reconvene on 25 July for their second session under the newly elected government, it was announced yesterday.

All representatives of parliaments have been notified to contact their respective offices in person not earlier than 23 July and not later than 24 July.

The first session of parliament under the majority lead National League for Democracy Party government focused on its '100-day plan' to initiate development in the country.

Some of the bills focused on were the amendments to the Ward and Village-Tract Administration Law, the Peaceful Assembly Law and also the revocation of the Law to Safeguard the State Against the Dangers of Those Desiring to Cause Subversive Acts – these being the more high profile laws up for discussion. International rights groups have spoken in favor of the changes but have called on for more to be amended in the Peaceful Assembly Law. —Myanmar News Agency, GNLM

DAMAGES TO DAM IN KALAY CAN NOT CAUSE WORRIES

TORRENTIAL rains over Chin State have caused some damages to a dam preventing the silt above the Yazagyo dam located in Kalay, Sagaing Region, according to the Irrigation Department.

Rains caused the upper dam to

overflow into the lower dam with waters reaching 651 ft by morning, with water levels dropping to 645 ft by the evening time, the Irrigation Department said in a report.

"The impact on the dam was not serious enough for residents to

worry," said U Maw Maw Naing, assistant director of the Irrigation Department.

U Maw Maw Naing refuted rumors about ten workers being trapped in the silt-preventing dam during the disaster. The triple-pur-

pose Yazagyo Dam along with a hydro-electric power plant in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, was inaugurated in February, 2016.

The dam was built to mitigate the flooding of Kalay area, supply irrigated water to the farmlands and

generate electricity to supply the local populace. Sagaing Region, which was by floods last year, was provided with a K100 million fund by a philanthropic foundation for a disaster preparedness and response recently.—Myanmar News Agency

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to all areas of Myanmar to meet the rising demand.

25,000 tourists visit Hpowintaung in past six months

THE PHOWINTAUNG, a religious site in Sagaing Region, is apparently a popular sight for tourists, drawing in 25,000 international visitors in the first half of 2016, according to the board of trustees. The cave is located 25 kilometres west of Monywa and contains 947 small and large richly decorated caves.

It is carved into a sandstone

outcrop and contains numerous carved Buddha statues and mural paintings of geometric patterns and Jataka stories. The statues and paintings have been dated to between the 14th and 18th centuries.

"The majority of visitors came from Western European countries including France and Germany.

Over 3,000 French usually

visit the significant place per month," said U Aye Min Oo, secretary of the cave's board of trustees.

U Aye Min Oo also said that the number had increased from the year before.

The Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture has carried out conservation of ancient architecture at the cave to attract more tourists.—200

Outstanding women honoured on Myanmar Women's Day



Ma Ei Yadana Mai receiving the award for the highest scores in the matriculation examination for 2015. PHOTO: MNA

YESTERDAY marked Myanmar Women's Day with 19 people being awarded for their contributions to Myanmar society by the honorary patron of the Myanmar Women Affairs Federation, Daw Khin Thet Htay, the wife of Vice President (1), U Myint Swe.

Those awarded were Daw Nang Lai Kham, a winner of Presidential Award for Excellent Performance for 2015 – the

report did not specify as to what Daw Nang Lai Kham was awarded for. Daw Sabai Phyu Nu, a writer who won National Literary Award for 2014 and Daw Than Than Sint, a winner of Blood Donor Award for her 96th blood donation.

Ma Ei Yadana Mai was awarded for the highest scores in the matriculation examination for 2015.

Awards focused on excellence in business, literature, sports and education.

The Myanmar National Committee for Women's Affairs was founded on 3 July 1996, and Myanmar Women's Day has been observed since that day. The MNCWA was renamed the Myanmar Women Affairs Federation on 20 December 2003. —*Myanmar News Agency*

POEM:

The Union Peace Conference

The Union Peace Conference is expected before end of August, Twenty Sixteen to be held. Continuing the negotiations that have earlier taken place will enable the Conference to be crowned with success.

A fresh new Golden Page in history will open to unite all the National Races as brethren.

Hence it is the fervent hope and expectation of all the people, young and old, of the Nation that the delegates may bring to the Conference mutual trust, fraternity, unity and diligent perseverance for ushering in the much longed for peace and tranquility to pervade our resource rich and youthful country. After all as the State Counsellor has said "Peace will be to pass on to the younger generation, the best legacy".

Lokethar

Centres aims to help develop ambulance system for emergency care on expressway

THE MINISTRY of Health and Sports is working to establish an ambulance system along the Mandalay-Yangon Highway. The program would see two emergency departments in Meiktila Township. Currently, there are only three emergency wards in Yangon, Naypyitaw and Mandalay, according to the report.

The 200-bed general hospital in Meiktila will assist in establishing the two centres in Meiktila Town and Aleywa Station as a part of the '100-day plan' that is drawing to a close. The MoHS will be proving the facilities with the doctors and trained nurses.

A total of 24 staffers including six doctors, six ambulance

drivers, 12 conductors have joined the ministry's special training programme to learn how to assist in emergency cases. This will be the on call team stationed at the new centres.

The emergency ward in the Naypyitaw General Hospital can receive 20 to 26 patients simultaneously, where over 10 specialists and around 30 trained nurses are on call at the emergency department.

The ministry is carrying out its overall development tasks for public health improvement in partnership with NGOs, INGOs, the UN agencies and other donor organisations.—*Thein Myint Kyaw (Meiktila)*

Golfing Ideology for Peace Process

Khun Htee Min

Golf is also known as "The Gentleman's Game" but in this case I would like to define it as "The Game of well-mannered People" to avoid skepticism and to create a greater sense of inclusiveness.

Before playing Golf, one has to know golfing ideology, basic rules and etiquette. It begins with staying quiet while other players are taking a shot and not staying within the sight of fellow golfers while they are setting their sight to their objective. In addition, the usage of foul language and losing patience on slower golfers

is not acceptable behaviors. Furthermore, if a group think there is even a slight chance of hitting a group ahead, they should wait until it is clear to proceed. Besides, it is also part of the game that the group ahead must preserve a fairway to leave the best condition possible for other groups following.

Though I am writing about golf and its ideology, I must admit that I am not a golfer myself. I find the ideology of the game so fascinating because it represents respect, humility, rule of law, inclusiveness and sustainability. I strongly believe that its rules and ideologies are very relevant to the present context of Myanmar

- especially, for our ongoing efforts to attain a long lasting peace of a nation vastly diverse.

Golfing remains a competitive sports but the nature of competition is different compared to other competitive sports. In golfing, a certain par is already set for different holes depending on the distance and the difficulties contenders have to overcome. The objectives are set and how well players perform is up to their individual performance throughout different holes. All contenders have to overcome the same obstacles and perform their best. Victory at the cost of others is not part of the game. In short, it is a healthy and peaceful competition

that insists on bringing the best out of each player.

To argue for the relevance of golfing ideology to the peace process, I believe the following points need mentioning:

1. Golfing is an outdoor game and it is not pleasant or playable in bad weather conditions. Similarly, when there is ongoing fighting and different waves of conflicts, it is almost impossible to go forward with the peace process.

2. Before playing golf, one must be aware of and respect golfing etiquette and the rules of the game. In the peace process, all involved parties must abide by the set rules and political

framework and most importantly constructive mutual respects.

3. In golfing, apart from elite competitions, all players are not equal and to promote inclusiveness and equality, different handicap points are offered to less experienced players. The same ideology could be applied during the negotiation of the peace process.

Of course, this is always easier said than done. In reality, the tasks our leaders have are more sophisticated and sensitive. Nevertheless, when a country has the right leadership and time to fulfill hope, contributing for a constructive cause is what a good citizen must do.

Over 100 of U Bein Bridge's teak pillars replaced



120 teak pillars of U Bein Bridge have been repaired. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

THE Department of Archaeology has announced repairs have been made to 120 teak pillars of Myanmar's famous U Bein Bridge as part of the department's large-scale preservation initiative.

The department reportedly carries out annual small-scale maintenance work to the bridge, but this has been required to be scaled-up to a large-scale preservation project which began on 23 March this year.

"We've made repairs to teak slabs, which make up the bridge's walkway, as well as to 120 of the bridge's pillars. Those [pillars] beyond repair have been replaced with completely brand

new ones, while others, which can still be used, have been left so as to preserve the antiquity of the bridge.

The status of the pillars is determined by digging at the base of the pillars," said U Aye Lwin from the Department of Archaeology.

It is reportedly not yet possible to gauge a project completion date, but it could see delays as work can allegedly only be conducted on dry days, which are few-and-far-between during the rainy season.

Preservation of the U Bein Bridge, meanwhile, has been financially supported with dona-

tions from the Myanmar Teakwood Company Ltd. "Cement was used to replace a middle section of the bridge which broke during Thingyan. We don't have a shortage of wood here in Myanmar, so I wish [the concrete] would be replaced with wood.

If not, the bridge won't be able to live up to its international acclaim, as the world's longest teak bridge, anymore," exclaimed a local tour guide.

The U Bein Bridge was originally constructed using teak back in 1851. It measures 1.2 kilometres in length and comprises 1086 pillars.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Myanmar, Thailand discuss cooperation in anti-human trafficking

The Myanmar Association in Thailand (MAT) said yesterday that it had a coordination meeting with Thailand's Department of Special Investigation to cooperate in tackling human trafficking.

Their discussions included a compensation plan for three Myanmar migrant fishery workers who were tortured at work.

According to the MAT, the creation of job opportunities in the country would be the only

option to save the people from being exploited in the neighbouring country.

China is a country where a majority of Myanmar people were trafficked in person, followed by Thailand.

Unemployment and job scarcity has forced people to leave the country in search of better jobs abroad, especially in neighbouring countries, activists said.—*Soe Win-SP*

Repairs to Mandalay's Shwe-Nandaw Monastery still on-going

MANDALAY'S Shwe-Nandaw Monastery is having a dilapidated brick staircase repaired at the ancient site in order to preserve the sight. Experts from World Monuments Fund (WMF) have been working with local experts since August 2015 on repairing plaster and wooden sections.

The international team comprises Egyptian, Italian, Moroccan, Syrian and Malian experts who have worked on previous projects in Thailand.

"If one is about to repair an ancient building, one must first study in detail, the background history of the structure, the era in which it was erected, together with the handiwork and materials employed in its construction," said Josephine Dilarayaro, a consultant to the WMF.

Compiling the information

of the monastery started in 2014 with repairs beginning the following year.

"The experts are still continuing their preservation efforts, which were only carried out after working together to compile information on the monastery for about a year. I can't give an indication as to when repairs will be completed," said U Ye Myint, member of a local ancient building preservation group.

Maintenance efforts to the timber of the monastery has allegedly seen some of the timber pillars be replaced, while a total of half a million US dollars has been funded for the project.

Some of the timber pillars have had to be replaced. The repair budget is Ks591m (US\$500,000).—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Inadequate wages fuel corruption, say lawyers

HIGHER salaries, and fulfilment of the basic requirements, of legal staff need to be met in order to eradicate corrupt practices within the judicial system, say lawyers and democracy activists.

Lawyer Robert Hsan Aung, says that although there have been some changes within the judicial system in the three months wake of the new government coming to power, it is not a complete change, with corrupt practices still permeating the sector. In a bid to completely rid the system of these practices, he says, the government needs to increase the wages of staff within the sector to an appropriate level that meets their expenditure.

"The police fall within the framework of legal sector staff. Increasing the capacity of these individuals, and providing them with a sufficient salary that meets their expenditure, could see an end to what we like to blame as the partiality towards justice," said Robert San Aung.

He added, the increasing of

wages is not just about directly issuing cash; corrupt practices such as bribery can be controlled only if currency inflation is also tackled.

Further still, members of anti-corruption monitoring organizations assigned to court rooms need to be experts of courts of law practices, and effective legal action must be taken towards complaints.

U Than Swe, member of the democracy force organisation, states that corruption is still being practiced within the different levels of the judicial system in the lead up to the announced crack-down by the new government during its term in office, but that these immoral practices are only prevalent because of inadequate salaries.

"The primary factor behind bribery among legal staff is insufficient wages," he said. "If one wants to enter the police force for example, they have to purchase their entire uniform, and all its trappings, out of their own pocket.

Further to that, fuel for their police cars is not subsidised by the department — police officers must finance it themselves.

That's why police officers are complicit in corrupt practices such as bribery. It's exactly the same for judges and other legal staff. Salaries need to be increased."

If the new government is to really carry out the eradication of corruption within the legal sector, in lieu of a five-year plan to tackle the issue, it could be more productive in a much shorter space of time were it to cooperate with NGOs, democracy activities and other politicians.

The five-year tenure of the erstwhile U Thein Sein administration saw promulgation of a law for which legal action would be taken on any presents received by government staff worth more than K300,000 in value, while the incumbent U Htin Kyaw government is reportedly working to firmly stamp out corrupt practices.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Corrigendum

The Global New Light of Myanmar would like to apologise for the cover of the 3 July 2016 Issue. Featured on the front page is the image of "Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong preparatory committee and United Nationalities Federal Councils delegation for Political Negotiation-DPN held on 1 July in Yangon." The 3 July cover story in question was regarding the NSCN-K meeting with the Preparatory Committee on 2 July. Yet, no representatives from the NSCN-K were present on that day. The Global New Light of Myanmar editorial board is sorry for any confusion.—*GNLM*



Representatives of the National Socialist Council of Nagaland-Khaplang (NSCN-K) hold talks with the Preparatory Committee for the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference in Yangon on 2 July, 2016. PHOTO: MNA



Affordable housing projects inspected in two states

BORDER Affairs Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung said on Thursday during his inspection tour of the housing projects in Mon State and Kayin State that the construction of affordable houses played an important part in regional development.

The Ministry of Border Affairs is constructing 50 low-cost houses in Thaton township.

The union minister also went on an inspection tour of a satellite town planning in Myawady township, Kayin State, where officials briefed him on the undertakings in progress.

The Lay Kit Kaw satellite town is under development for local residents who were displaced by previous armed clashes in a village two miles away

from Myawady township.

The ministry has built 213 low-cost houses in the new town in partnership with the Kayin State government and the Nippon Foundation, with plans under way to construct 100 more houses.

The town has now a population of 1,700 from 462 households.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Medical team of Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw Hospital provide health care to students



A military medical team providing treatment to students.
PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

A MEDICAL team from the Nay Pyi Taw Tatmadaw hospital provided health-care services to 2717 teachers and students of No 3 Basic Education High School and sprayed mosquito insecticides to prevent dengue haemorrhagic fever in the classrooms of the school in Popathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

The team gave medical check-ups to the teachers and students for eye diseases and tested for ear, nose and throat, dental diseases, and divided blood groups.—*Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

Teachers honoured for training students for 57th IMO

TEACHERS were honoured yesterday in Yangon for training students for the 57th International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) to be held in Hong Kong from 6 to 16 July, also known as the world championship mathematics competition for high school students.

Education Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi encouraged the student contestants to have self-confidence entering the competition, urging them to share their new experiences with students and teachers of other states and regions.

The union minister presented certificates of honour to the well-wishers who financed the trip to Hong Kong. Myanmar Mathematical Society Chairman Dr Thein Myint presented certificates of honour to the trainers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

19th Southeast Asian Volleyball Championship continues

THE 19th Southeast Asian Junior Men's Volleyball Championship entered its second day yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw, with a large number of sports enthusiasts enjoying the matches.

Myanmar (B) beat New Zealand 3-1. The match between Thailand and Singapore ended in 3-0, while Myanmar (A) had three successive wins over Maldives.

Today, Myanmar (B) will play against Thailand, New Zealand against Singapore, and Myanmar (A) against Indonesia.

The 19th Southeast Asian Junior Men's Volleyball Championship began Saturday and will end Wednesday.

On the opening day, Myanmar (B) beat Singapore 3-0 (25:15, 25:23 and 25:14) in the

first match of the tournament while Thailand swept to a 3-0 win over New Zealand in the second and Indonesia a 3-0 win over the Maldives in the third. The champion was opened with an address by Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Health and Sports Prof Dr Thet Khaing Win. Admission to the tournament is free.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Crime NEWS

None injured in sinking in Chindwin River

A cargo ship carrying 90 bags of maize sunk in the Chindwin River on Saturday morning in Magwe Region. The cause of the sinking is attributed to the boat being overloaded with cargo, police suspect.

Aung Kyaw Moe, the owner of the vessel, and three farm-

ers were on board when the ship flipped. The boat and cargos were lost in the river but the owner and passengers on board the ship were rescued by people on other boats near the shoreline.

The ship owner will face charges from township police.—*Ei Mon Swe (Yesagyo)*

Over 14,000 yaba pills seized within two days

POLICE in Shan State and Mandalay Region have collected 14,068 yaba pills from 30 June to 1 July. It has been treated as a celebration. Yet the report did not specify if there had been an actual police campaign to cease the drugs and apprehend suspected smugglers.

Police have accused and addressed Sai Hla Shwe and Sai San Hsar as smugglers as they were found in possession of 574 yaba tablets and 0.1 gram of heroin in their house located in Waibu Village in Kyaukme Township of Shan State on 1 July.

Another 807 yaba pills were found on Shwe Hla near a bridge on Taunggyi-Meiktila Road in Heho, Kalaw Township, Shan State, on the same day.

Police seized a man named Takhwe, who was found in possession of 8,000 stimulant tablets, while walking between Naunghu and Hohkita villages in Loilem Township, Shan State on 30 June.

Acting on a tip-off, an anti-drug squad searched a motor-



Takhwe seen with a cache of yaba pills. PHOTO:

bike being driven by Hnaung Hnaung Aye with another on board heading from Shweku Township near Kwetthit Ward in Thabeikkyin Township, Mandalay Region, and seized 4,687 yaba pills from them.

All people included in the cases have been charged by the police under the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, where the people listed in this article are to face between 5-10 years in prison.—*Kyemon*

Illegal timber smugglers escape from police

POLICE failed to arrest a group of 20 people suspected of smuggling illegal wood in Bago Region.

An officer said that police were waiting for vehicles at a check point when they saw the group attempt to move security barriers to help four trucks carrying illegal goods through.

"We seized two vehicles loaded with 27 illegally harvested timber weighing nearly a tonne. No people involved in the case were arrested," said the police officer.

Police are still investigating to arrest those who fled the scene.—*Ko Lwin (Swa)*



LOCAL Business

Katha farmers expand their maize crops

KATHA residents in Sagaing Region have increased their maize crops, instead of other popular crops for the region, as the plants are able to withstand the extreme weather. This has been seen in the expansion of maize crops from previously two acres per farmer to roughly five acres, according to reports. The CP, 888, 621 and 619 varieties of maize are those mainly cultivated in the region, with an average of 6-7 kg of maize seeds used per acre for plantation.

"Among seasonal crops, maize is easy to grow. It can withstand weather damage and it doesn't require being fed with fertilizers either. Moreover, expenses incurred for plating maize are minimal as it's not a labour intensive crop. Those are the main reasons behind why farmers are favouring the growing of maize," said U Than Khine Oo, a maize farmer from Katha Township.

The price of a bushel of dried threshed maize fetches between K8,000-10,000 which are reportedly exported to China through Bamo and Mandalay wholesalers.

"Maize is sold within the Katha markets for both local consumption and transportation to market further afield. About 10 to 15 boats full of maize from



Farmers in Katha turns to maize crops which can withstand the extreme weather. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

eastern Katha are sold within Katha with locals purchasing the crop seasonally," said Ma Thuzar

Win, a corn agent from Katha Township's Thiri Kayma.—Myitmakha News Agency

Workers caught in the middle of industrial zone privatisation

WORKERS from Myanmar's industrial zones are reportedly experiencing difficulties with the privatisation of state-owned industrial zones.

"Workers are experiencing a hard time during the transfer of government factories into the hands of private owners as issues relating to housing and salaries are not being taken care of," said U Ye Naing Win, representative of the Workers Dispute Settlement Arbitration Council.

It is reported that 104 state-owned factories — producing the likes of cotton, textiles, porcelain,

candy and biscuits — began to be privatised back in 2009.

"Factory workers entitled to a government pension have already been issued with compensation at the time of privatisation. They were privatised with the promise of workers continuing to receive the same salary. The factory owners have then conducted their business in accordance with the Myanmar Labour Law," said U Myo Zarni Win, assistant secretary of the Ministry of Industry. Workers from a cotton factory in Paleik, Mandalay Region, have reportedly staged protests after the private owner,

who rented the factory from the government, broke the rules of the worker-employer contract.

"The workers are protesting over a breach of contract [by the factory owner] in relation to Saturday and Sunday rest days from work. The factory operates on three shift rotations. But, if the next day for a night shift worker is Saturday, they can't return home [as they shift isn't over]. But the owner has laid them from work. That's what the protests are about," said a worker from the aforementioned factory.—Myitmakha News Agency

Private hospitals need to make a concerted effort to improve their health services: chair of MPHA

MYANMAR'S private hospitals need to make more of an effort to improve the quality of their healthcare services, said Dr Kyi Shin, chair of the Myanmar Private Hospitals' Association (MPHA). Information sharing between the different hospitals will give patients more access to various hospitals in the country. Dr Kyi Shin said that staff trainings between the hospitals is a way to improve their capacities and the quality of services

"Members of MPHA need to work together to provide better healthcare and promote the quality of health," he said.

"Not only government hospitals, but private hospitals are also allowed to operate across Myanmar. The services of private hospital need to be improved," said Dr Myint Han, director-general of the Department of Health. Currently there are 183 private hospitals nationwide.— Soe Win (MLA)

MCDC borrows US\$60m from ADB to develop Mandalay's water systems

A wastewater purification plan is under way in Mandalay that will take roughly seven-years to implement, according to the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC). Rain water and household waste water will be collected before it enters surrounding rivers.

The plan is to reduce the volume of waste being polluted into the Ayeyawady River, purifying sewage water and using the left

over sediment to create electricity.

"It will take seven years to fully implement the project starting this financial year, and it will be conducted with a Ks70 trillion (US\$60m) loan from the Asia Development Bank (ADB)," said U Tun Kyi, Committee Member 6 of the MCDC. A Mandalay Urban Development Project is also reportedly being implemented in a bid to further develop the city.—Myitmakha News Agency



Waste water from a factory is seen in Mandalay. Photo: Myitmakha News Agency



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Vietnamese homemade mini-submarine on first sea trial on Sunday

HANOI — A private mini-submarine made by a Vietnamese mechanic went on its first sea trial on Sunday, local media reported.

At around 8:00 am local time on Sunday (01:00 GMT), the mini-submarine started undergoing its first sea trial in Viet Nam's northeastern waters. The submarine was escorted by Vietnamese naval ship, reported local *Tien Phong* (*Pioneer*) online newspaper.

An evaluation council of Viet Nam's Ministry of Defense (MoD) will carry out quality evaluation while the submarine is continuously diving and floating for hours.

Nguyen Quoc Hoa, the one who performed the mini-submarine production, said on *Tien Phong* that prior to the sea trial, his product must pass around ten times of trial in pools and then in lakes. It also passed two-day

exams of floating, diving, running in circles, moving backwards and handling collisions while diving hosted by the MoD.

Hoa, a director of an engineering company in Viet Nam's northern Thai Binh province, some 110 km southeast from capital Hanoi, started to produce a mini-submarine in 2014.

One year later, Hoa and his engineers studied to produce a second mini submarine, which is supposed to be in smaller size and have more functions than the first one.

According to Hoa's design, the submarine is made of steel and weighs about nine tons. It is able to operate at a maximum depth of 50 metres at a maximum speed of 15 nautical miles per hour. It can dive for three days and three nights with two people on board. —Xinhua

China to hold drills in South China Sea ahead of court ruling



Soldiers of China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Navy patrol on Woody Island, in the Parcel Archipelago, which is known in China as Xisha Islands, on 29 January, 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China will hold military drills around the disputed Parcel Islands in the South China Sea, the maritime safety administration said on Sunday, ahead of a decision by an international court in a dispute between China and the Philippines.

China routinely carries out exercises in the South China Sea, where its territorial claims overlap in parts with Viet Nam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan.

Tensions have been rising ahead of a 12 July ruling by an arbitration court hearing the dispute between China and the Philippines over the South China Sea in the Dutch city of The Hague.

China's maritime safety administration said the drills would take place from 5-11 July, and gave coordinates for the drills that cover an area from the east of China's Hainan island down to and including the Paracels.

Other ships are prohibited from entering those waters during that time, it said, without further elaboration.

The Paracels are also claimed by Viet Nam and Taiwan. China has built a runway on Woody Island, the site of the largest Chinese presence on the Paracels, and placed surface-to-air missiles there, according to US officials. China says it is perfectly within its rights to do what it wants on the islands in the South China Sea, saying they have been Chinese territory since ancient times. About \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year though the energy-rich, strategic waters of the South China Sea. —Reuters

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi
ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Proof Reader & Translator - Ye Myint
Expatriate Consultant Editors

Alec Wilmot
counsultanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Jaidan Coonan

Chief Translator & Editor
Kyaw Thura,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor
Ye Htut Tin (Local News)
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International Editors
Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon, Tin Nwe Lynn

Chief Reporter
Tun Aung Kyaw, reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Reporters

Soe Soe Yu, Thein Ko Lwin (Nay Pyi Taw Bureau),
Khin Mg Win (Mandalay Bureau)

Computer Team
Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin
Circulation & Advertising
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Malaysia's minister hails win-win relations with China under Belt and Road Initiative

KUALA LUMPUR — The Belt and Road Initiative would be an impetus for world development and benefit Malaysia in a win-win relations with China, said a senior Malaysian official on Sunday.

The initiative had already fostered a series of cooperation between Malaysia and China, including the sister industrial parks in Qinzhou, China and Kuantan, Malaysia respectively, said Transport Minister Liow Tiong Lai in an interview with *the Star*, a local newspaper, which was published on Sunday.

Currently, Malaysia is China's third largest trading partner in Asia, after Japan and South Korea, and China is Malaysia's largest trading partner, accounting for some 20 per cent of Malaysia's total exports.

In 2014, bilateral trade exceeded 100 billion US dollars. The trade growth has moderated in the past two years, but Malaysia has seen increasing investment from China.

"All these can happen because of the Belt and

Road Initiative," said Liow.

China's investments are both timely and crucial for Malaysia amid the global economic slowdown and dwindling foreign investments, *the Star* reported. Malaysia's exports fell 17.2 per cent year on year in the first quarter of 2016, due partly to the sluggish demand for commodities.

Among major investment from China announced recently, China General Nuclear Power Corporation has acquired the underlying assets of Edra, a Malaysian company, including 13 clean energy projects scattered in Malaysia, Egypt, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bangladesh.

China Railway Group Limited (CREC), one of China's largest state-owned companies, announced a 2 billion-US dollar investment in a future transportation hub of Malaysia's capital city Kuala Lumpur.

Liow said his country was keen on fostering an economic partnership with China, and had proposed more projects for China

to consider. China has expressed its interest in the high speed rail linking Kuala Lumpur and Singapore, which is expected to cost more than 10 billion US dollars.

Liow, who is also the president of the Malaysian Chinese Association, a leading ethnics Chinese political party, has been making frequent trips to Beijing to entice more direct investments into the country. "We want China to not only take our projects, but also bring in soft loans and technology transfer. That is why we work with them," he said. As transport minister, he expects the Belt and Road Initiative and investment to benefit Malaysia's ports and airports. It would benefit Malaysia and the ten-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as a whole by boosting connectivity through infrastructure development, he said. "It brings Malaysia and ASEAN closer to China. When people from both sides are closer, there will be more economic opportunities." —Xinhua

Mayoral election in southwestern Japan opens voting to teenagers

FUKUOKA — Teenage voters cast ballots on Sunday in a mayoral election in a city in southwestern Japan, the first local poll ahead of Japan's upper house election next week in which 18-year-olds and 19-year-olds will vote for the first time since the minimum voting age in Japan was lowered to 18 from 20.

In the poll to pick the new mayor for Ukiha in Fukuoka Prefecture, voters including graduating senior high school students will choose between incumbent Mayor Norio Takaki, 64, and Shigemi Takenaga, also 64 and a former elementary school teacher. Both candidates are running as independents. The number of eligible voters is 25,626, of which the newly eligible teenagers account for about 600, according to the city election board. —Kyodo News

Australia PM says election result may take several days to determine

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said Sunday the result of Saturday's too-close-to-call general election will take until the end of the week to determine, but he is confident his Liberal-National coalition will secure a majority in parliament, if only by a thin margin.

"Australians would have no doubt preferred a clearer outcome last night," Turnbull told reporters after vote counting was suspended at 2am.

"I remain quietly confident that a majority coalition government will be returned at this election when the counting is completed," he said.

With the counting of ballot papers set to resume Tuesday, opposition Labour party leader Bill Shorten urged Australians to patiently await the result.

"We may not know (the outcome) for some days to come, but there is one thing for sure: the Labour party is back," Shorten said. "Three years after the Liberals came to power in a landslide, they have lost their mandate."

The prospect of a hung parliament, where neither party has an absolute majority, is seen as a real possibility.

Turnbull attributed the delay to the fact that around a third of voters either pre-poll or voted by post, and those votes, along with absentee votes, have yet to be fully counted.

Those votes will determine the result in as many as 12 seats in the 150-seat House of Representatives where Turnbull needs to get 76 seats to form a new ad-



People line up outside a polling station in Sydney on 2 July, 2016, to cast their ballot in the Australian general election. Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull seeks to win a second term for the conservative coalition led by his Liberal Party. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ministration.

So far, the vote count shows the Labour-National coalition with 71 seats, up from 55 in the 2013 election, and the ruling Liberal-National coalition with 67, down from 90 in the previous election.

"Our experience is that these postal votes and pre-poll votes... traditionally favour Liberal and National Party candidates, especially when they are incumbents, so if that trend were to be manifest again here, that is likely to deliver majority government to the coalition," Turnbull said.

Throughout the campaign, opinion polls predicted that ruling coalition would return to power, but with a significant loss of the seats it took in the landslide 2013 election in which it garnered 53.5 per cent of the two-party preferred vote.

If a hung parliament is declared, both parties will be required to negotiate with minor parties and independent parliamentarians to form government. The last time that happened, in 2010, it took 17 days until a result was known.

If neither party can form a

majority in coalition with the minor parties and independents then Australia could face another election.

This election was the third consecutive federal election called by a prime minister who came to power via a mid-term party-room coup.

The most recent leadership change came in September 2015 when Turnbull spilled the party leadership and ousted the deeply unpopular Tony Abbott, who had been in the top job for less than two years.

Just six months later, Turn-

bull called a double-dissolution poll, Australia's seventh, using a piece of rejected legislation aimed at instituting a construction industry watchdog as an election trigger.

The eight-week election campaign, the longest voters have had to endure since the 1960s, saw the nation's economic future, debt, and job creation as the hot-button campaign topics. But with little to separate the parties, rhetoric was ultimately the winner.

Both major parties launched full-fledged scare campaigns as polling showed the likelihood of a close-run result, the government appealing to its conservative base using the perceived threat of so-called refugee "boat people," while the opposition warned of a right-wing attack on Medicare, Australia's universal health care system.

One tangible policy difference between the parties that grew in importance late in the campaign was on the issue of same-sex marriage.

Turnbull, who is seen to represent the softer, less socially-conservative side of the Liberals, promised to put the issue of gay marriage to a national plebiscite at the behest of the right wing of his party — a faction that supports Abbott and remains deeply suspicious of Turnbull.

Shorten campaigned in the platform that he would pass legislation legalizing marriage between people of the same sex as his government's first order of business.—Kyodo News

Bangladeshis behind restaurant killings, international link probed

DHAKA — Seven militants who killed 20 people at a restaurant in Dhaka were local Bangladeshis and authorities had tried before to arrest five of them, police said, as investigators probed for possible links with international Islamist extremist groups.

The gunmen stormed the upmarket restaurant in the diplomatic zone late on Friday, before killing non-Muslim hostages, including at least nine Italians, seven Japanese and an American.

Islamic State claimed responsibility, warning citizens of "crusader countries" that their citizens would not be safe "as long as their aircraft are killing Muslims", the group said in a statement. It also posted pictures of five fighters grinning in front of a black flag who it said were involved in the attack, according to the SITE monitoring website.

The claims have not been confirmed, but Bangladesh Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan told Reuters late on Saturday that neither Islamic State nor al Qaeda was involved. He reiterated the government's line that home-grown militants were responsible for a spate of killings in the coun-

try over the past 18 months.

"This was done by JMB," Khan said, referring to Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen Bangladesh, which claims to represent Islamic State in Bangladesh.

Nevertheless, deputy inspector general of police, Shahidur Rahman, told Reuters on Sunday authorities were investigating any connection between the attackers and trans-national groups such as Islamic State or al Qaeda.

He said the militants were mostly educated and from rich families, but declined to give any more details.

National police chief Shahidul Hoque said all the gunmen were Bangladeshi.

"Five of them were listed as militants and law enforcers made several drives to arrest them," Hoque told reporters in Dhaka late on Saturday.

Whoever was responsible, the attack marked a major escalation in violence by militants who have demanded Islamic rule in Bangladesh, whose 160 million people are mostly Muslim. Previous attacks have mostly singled out individuals advocating a secular or liberal lifestyle or religious

minorities. Friday night's attack, during the final days of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, was more coordinated than the previous assaults.

Gunmen singled out foreigners as soon as they stormed through the doors of the restaurant popular with expatriates. They ordered all Bangladeshis to stand up before the killing began, a source briefed on the investigation said.

The Bangladeshis were later told to close their eyes and recite verses from the Koran and one militant cursed at a Bangladeshi for eating with non-Muslims during Ramadan, the source said. The Islamic State-affiliated Amaq news agency claimed in a report on Saturday the militants identified and released Muslim patrons from the Dhaka restaurant, SITE said. — Reuters



A policeman searches a man on the road leading to the Holey Artisan Bakery and the O'Kitchen Restaurant after gunmen attacked, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 3 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

UN Security Council, UN chief condemn terror attack in Bangladesh

NEW YORK — The UN Security Council on Saturday condemned a terrorist attack in Bangladesh's capital that resulted in the deaths of at least 20 people taken hostage, with the UN chief giving assurance that the United Nations is prepared to assist the South Asian country in efforts to prevent all forms of violent extremism.

Calling the incident, for which the Islamic State militant group has claimed responsibility, a "heinous and cowardly terrorist attack," the Security Council said that "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security."

The 15-member body also called for identifying those behind the crime and bringing them to justice, and urged all states to cooperate actively with relevant authorities for such end.—Kyodo News

Opinion

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Do you live to teach or teach to live?

Kyaw Thura

The word 'private tuition' has become a fashionable profession not because more and more government teachers have to give private tuition to earn extra income and satisfy their daily basic needs, but because they feel it is no longer possible to bring up a family on a low income.

Amidst a loud rant about private tuition, rumour has it that teachers found guilty of engaging in the job are liable to three years imprisonment.

This hearsay is not unfounded because the 1974 tuition law prescribed a three year imprisonment and a fine of Ks 30,000. All over the world, teaching is recognised as a noble profession while teachers enjoy the high public esteem in society. The idea of threatening teachers with imprisonment for private-classes, will amount to thinking that additional teaching as a crime. Such an attempt will make the problem regarding Myanmar's education sector worse

far from solving it.

Since the world itself is a mixture of good and evil, the world of education is no exception. There do are heroes and villains in this noble profession.

There are a number of corrupt teachers who push their students to receive tuition from them and sometimes threaten to fail them if they don't. On the other hand, there are teachers who just live to teach.

It is understandable that

many schools in rural areas are still struggling with outdated teaching/ learning aids, materials and facilities. Being outdated does not necessarily mean being insufficient. It is time for something to be done on a national level. The best we can hope from the government in the fight against private tuition is a decent remuneration package for teachers and a promise of more spending on education. Then, punishment to corrupt teachers will justify itself.

Disputes in South China Sea might jeopardize peace and stability of our globe

Bahauddin Foizee

The human race has experienced two devastating world wars and the race is not ready to experience one more. Although another world war is neither hoped nor acceptable by the general human race, the developing incidents in South China Sea indicate that the military superpowers may impose on human race another of such devastating wars.

China has long claimed a large swath of South China Sea as its own territory and has been constructing an artificial island in the region. On the other side, with the backup from the U.S., some of China's ASEAN neighbours (especially Philippines and Viet Nam) started to move towards claiming territories in South China Sea that are also claimed by China. China has stated its claim in three official documents: (i) the 1947 Location Map

of the South China Sea Islands released by the Kuomintang government in Nanjing, (ii) the 1958 Declaration of the Government of New China on the Territorial Sea and (iii) the 1992 Law on Territorial Sea and Contiguous Zone. These documents state that the disputed islands are part of the sovereign territory of China. Despite such evidences in China's favour, the relevant ASEAN neighbours continue to be firm on their claims over parts of the South China Sea. Such claims by China's ASEAN neighbours are broadly encouraged by the joint military drills with the U.S. and the U.S.'s military presence in the region.

South China Sea is a major maritime trade route, with trillions of dollars in global trade passing through the disputed area each year, including over a trillion dollars from the U.S. alone. That is why, the region is of utmost importance to the U.S. Throughout 2015, the U.S. had

involved in highly provocative and inflammatory conducts against China in South China Sea. In an instance, the U.S. sent its naval ships within the 12 miles of a Chinese-controlled isle, while in another instance it sent military aircraft over the disputed territories. China initially reacted to such provocations only by condemning and protesting the incidents in press-conferences. However, China saw the U.S. actions as intrusions into its own territory and deliberate provocations. Chinese Naval Chief Wu Shengli warned, "If the U.S. continues with these kinds of dangerous & provocative acts, there could well be a seriously pressing situation between frontline forces from both sides on the sea and in the air, or even a minor incident that sparks war." Such a warning is the reflection and outburst of increasing tensions that might take the shape of military conflict in no time if such sensitive incidents are not handled properly. A

simple military error in the disputed waters between the two sides may lead to a military conflict of a large scale. Since the economies of many countries around the world are well connected with China and the U.S., these countries would somehow be dragged into this conflict, and hence, we might witness another world war in our small, yet way too polarized, planet.

Although two major global powers – China and the U.S. – are involved in this dispute, a China-U.S. direct confrontation is least expected. No United Nations Security Council member can fight another member as per provisions of United Nations. However, such international provisions never matter when conflict of interests reaches the height and when heat of confrontation goes out of control. But, what would really keep these two powers away from fighting each other are not the provisions of United Nations, but the reality

that both are nuclear armed states and a war between these two nuclear-powers means total annihilation of not only these two major powers but also a larger part of human race and earth's land-mass. However, the possibility of a "super-war" between these two "superpowers" is not totally out of the cards and any such conflict between these two nuclear-powers would, for sure, drag rest of the world into it.

It seems our globe does not lack reason to engage in chaos. The two world wars initially were European conflicts that turned gradually into world wars. For sure, the start of another war between any two major powers would drag the world into it. Another world war would mean the landmasses, waters, environment and, most importantly, living species including human being would become the targets of war machines of the global military elites – jeopardizing the peace and stability of our globe.

Mandalay moat, Boatalote lake and Myine Hey Wun beautified

TATMADAWMEN are at it again with their amazing beautifying skills. This time they were spotted at the southern wall of the Mandalay Palace City wall making the place look beautiful.

Myine Hey Wun garden was also cleansed at the Ancient Cultural Area around the Mya Nan San Kyaw Golden Palace and in the Myine Hey Wun Garden, again by the Tatmadawmen.

Rubbished areas were removed from site in Mandalay. All acts were performed on 2 July.

Similarly, family members

joined soldiers of the Southern Command Tatmadaw to clean the grounds of the Shwesandaw Pagoda in the Taungoo, Bago Region on 2 June.

They cleaned the Pagoda ground and unblocked the drain for current monsoon season.

The Southern Command Commander and officers encouraged Tatmadaw members and their families to work, and inspected the construction of stairways and the buildings which are under construction.—Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services



PHOTO: OFFICE OF
COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF
DEFENCE SERVICES

Thousands march through London to protest against Brexit vote

LONDON — Thousands of demonstrators marched through central London on Saturday in a raucous and colourful protest against last week's referendum vote to leave the European Union.

The marchers were nearly all young adults, and many were draped in EU flags while others waved banners bearing slogans such as "I'm with EU" or simply "Wrexite."

They chanted "what do we want to do? Stay in the EU," as they headed towards the Westminster political district to a soundtrack of songs including Rick Astley's "Never Gonna Give You Up" and Whitney Houston's "I Will Always Love You."

Bus full of tourists cheered and cars tooted their horns in support — although one van driver, invited to honk by the crowd, shouted "I'm for out."

Cries of "shame on you" rang out as the march halted briefly outside the Downing Street office

of Prime Minister David Cameron, who had himself announced the referendum in 2013.

Many taking part said they had been taken aback by the result of the vote.

"I was genuinely stunned on the morning after the vote," said Nathaniel Samson, 25, from Hertfordshire, north of London.

"I feel deeply uncertain about my future," he added. "I'm on the march to voice my discontentment. I am accepting the result, but it's to show that we won't accept it quietly."

London voted 60 per cent in favour of remaining in the EU in last Thursday's referendum, with younger voters widely in favour of staying in the bloc, but the overall result was 51.9 per cent in favour of leaving.

The vote to leave has prompted a battle within the ruling Conservative party to succeed Prime Minister David Cameron who said he would resign after the re-

sult. The main opposition Labour Party has also turned on itself, with most of its lawmakers in parliament having voted to withdraw support for party leader Jeremy Corbyn after what they saw as his lacklustre contribution to the 'Remain' referendum campaign.

Tom Clarke, 29, from London said: "I'm struggling to find the words to describe how I felt the morning after the vote. I was in mourning."

Italian Pamela Zoni, 34, who has lived in Britain for 6 years said she was very upset and having second thoughts about taking British citizenship.

"I would like a second referendum," she said. "The first campaign was based on lies, and the margin was so tight: it was not a fair result." The demonstration ended peacefully with a rally outside parliament. No police estimate of the turnout was immediately available but one organiser put it at 50,000.—Reuters



People hold banners during a 'March for Europe' demonstration against Britain's decision to leave the European Union, in central London, Britain on 2 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vucic: Serbia committed to progress, reforms and EU path

BELGRADE — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic announced Friday that he would tell European officials at an upcoming Paris summit that Serbia remained committed to progress, reforms and the path towards the EU, but that no one should think that it would "have its ears twisted" for no reason.

Serbia has met all the requirements for the opening of chapters 23 and 24 in the EU accession talks, Vucic said, adding that, in conversations with many EU officials, he had been unable to hide his disap-

pointment over the fact that the chapters remained unopened.

"We have done our job and no one from the EU can say that Serbia is to blame," Vucic told a press conference.

Vucic said that he would on Sunday travel to Paris for a summit of Western Balkan and EU leaders and that he expected to be told what Serbia had done wrong, but also to say what it thought about the situation.

"Serbia intends to continue on its European path, but also wants and seeks respect for its people and its government. If

there is something we have not done properly, tell us what that is, but do not assume that anyone has the right to twist our ears for no reason," Vucic noted.

Serbia wants the best possible relations with the UK and will continue to develop them, although it is not clear to us what "technical obstacles" have kept the country from consenting to the opening of negotiation chapters with Serbia, as opposed to those with Montenegro and Turkey, Vucic also said.—Tanjug

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK to face inflation, recession risks due to Brexit: ECB's Villeroy

LONDON — Britain will face two key challenges, inflation and recession, after Britons voted to leave the European Union, or Brexit, European Central Bank Governing Council member Francois Villeroy de Galhau said on Sunday.

"In the short term there is a difficult challenge for the British economic and monetary policy between two contradictory challenges: there is the challenge of inflation, with the effects on inflation of the fall of the pound, which is down 11 per cent since Brexit," Villeroy told a business conference in Aix-en-Provence in southern France.

"And then there is recession challenge with the tendency to see less growth due to the uncertainty impact on investments. And it is always very complicated for monetary and economic policy to be caught in this dilemma."—Reuters

Candidate May: Britain needs clear negotiating stance before article 50

LONDON — Home Secretary Theresa May, the front-runner in the contest to be Britain's next prime minister, said on Sunday the UK had to be clear about its negotiating stance on a post-Brexit deal with the European Union before triggering article 50.

Britons voted to leave the bloc in a referendum on 23 June, prompting Prime Minister David Cameron to resign after he had led the campaign for a "Remain" vote.

Cameron has said his successor would have to decide when to trigger article 50, the formal step that will begin the process of negotiating the terms of Britain's exit.

"What is important is that we do this in the right timescale and we do it to get the right deal for the UK," May told ITV television, reiterating that she would not trigger the article this year.

May, who campaigned for a "Remain" vote ahead of the referendum, also said a strong message from the "Leave" vote was concern about immigration, which the next government needed to work on bringing down to sustainable levels.—Reuters

Elie Wiesel, Holocaust survivor and Nobel laureate, has died — museum

JERUSALEM — Elie Wiesel, who survived the Holocaust and went on to become an influential author and Nobel Peace Prize winner, has died, Israel's Holocaust memorial Yad Vashem said on Saturday.

Born in 1928, Wiesel wrote extensively of his imprisonment in Nazi camps and in 1986 won the Nobel Prize for peace.

"Yad Vashem mourns the passing of Elie Wiesel-Holocaust survivor, Nobel laureate, renowned author," the museum said on Twitter.—Reuters

Around 20 Islamic State members in custody over Istanbul airport attack — Erdogan

ISTANBUL — Around 20 Islamic State militants, mainly foreigners, are in custody in connection with an attack last week on Istanbul airport that killed 45 people, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday. Two Russian nationals have been identified as suspected Islamic State suicide bombers in the attack that is thought to have been masterminded by a Chechen, Turkish media said on Friday.

"The latest findings point to the Daesh (Islamic State) terrorist organisation," Erdogan told Reuters at the Istanbul Ataturk airport, where he visited the attack site.—Reuters

Flash floods sweep away 31 in northwestern Pakistan

ISLAMABAD — At least 31 people were swept away by flash floods in the mountainous Chitral region of northwestern Pakistan on Saturday night, local officials said Sunday.

As of Sunday noon, 10 bodies had been recovered, they said, adding that the death toll is expected to rise.

Those swept away in Arsoon village include eight army soldiers from a check post and eight people who were worshipping at a mosque.

The flooding caused by torrential monsoon rains caused "extreme destruction" in the village, with at least 50 houses damaged and some completely washed away.

Officials said rescue and relief operations were under way, but were being hampered by heavy landslides in the remote area.

There were also reports of flash floods and landslides in other parts in Chitral, near the border with Afghanistan.—Kyodo News

At least 82 killed in overnight Baghdad bombings, police and medics say

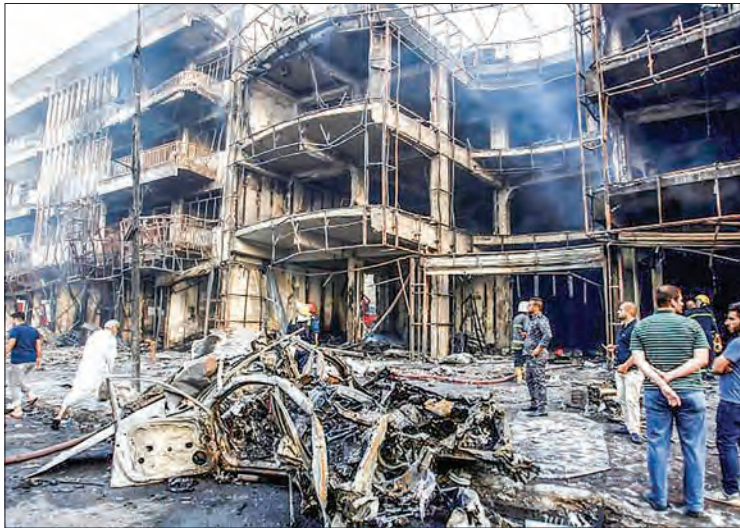
BAGHDAD — At least 82 people were killed and 200 injured in two bombings that hit Baghdad around midnight Saturday, nearly all of them in a blast targeting a busy shopping area as they celebrated Ramadan, police and medical sources said Sunday.

A refrigerator truck packed with explosives blew up in Karrada in central Baghdad, killing 80 people and injuring at least 200. Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack, in a statement circulated online by supporters of the ultra-hard line Sunni group. It said the blast was a suicide bombing.

Karrada was busy at the time as Iraqis eat out late during the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which ends next week. Police said the toll could rise as more bodies could be lying under the rubble of devastated buildings.

The bombing is the deadliest in the country since Iraqi forces last month dislodged Islamic State militants from Falluja, their stronghold just west of the capital that had served as a launch pad for such attacks.

A video posted on social media showed people throw-



People gather at the site of a suicide car bomb in the Karrada shopping area, in Baghdad, Iraq on 3 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing pavement stones at the SUV convoy of Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi in Karrada, a largely Shi'ite area with a small Christian community, venting their anger at the inability of the security forces to protect the area.

Another video posted on social media showed a large blaze in the main street of Karrada after the blast. Reuters TV footage taken in the morning showed at least four buildings severely damaged or partly collapsed.

A roadside explosive device also blew up around midnight in a market in al-Shaab, a popular Shi'ite district in the north of the capital, leaving at least two killed, police and medical sources said.

Iraqi forces on 26 June declared the defeat of IS militants in Falluja, a historic bastion of Sunni insurgency, following a month of fighting. Abadi ordered the offensive after a series of deadly bombings that hit Shi'ite districts of Baghdad.—Reuters

Islamic State repels US-backed forces in northern Syria city

AMMAN — Islamic State militants on Saturday pushed back US-backed forces trying to advance into their stronghold of Manbij for the first time since a major offensive to capture the city and cut off the militant's main strategic access route to Turkey, a monitoring group and Kurdish sources said.

The Syria Democratic Forces (SDF), comprised of Kurdish and Arab fighters and backed by the air power of a US-led coalition to fight Islamic State and aided by US special forces, have been involved in the month-long Manbij operation aimed to seal off their last stretch of Syrian-Turkish frontier. The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights confirmed the militants had evicted SDF troops from a main district south of the city which has been the scene of heavy fighting after suicide bombers blew up an explosive laden car.

The militants also recaptured a village northwest of the

city.

The US-backed forces have been bogged down in fighting in the northern and southern outskirts of the city after rapid advances that began with the capture of dozens of villages around the city until they surrounded it from all sides.

The progress in storming the city has since been slow with the militants using snipers, planting mines and preventing civilians from leaving so hampering US airpower's ability to bomb the city without causing large casualties, Kurdish sources said.

Fighting was mainly focused near a major grain silos complex south of the city that had been hit by US-led coalition jets.

Manbij's loss to the militants would be a big blow as it is of strategic importance to them serving as a conduit for transit of foreign jihadists and provisions coming from the Turkish border.—Reuters

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E.T. phone home: China eyes hunt for alien life with giant telescope



China's world largest radio telescope named "FAST", is installed in Pingtang county, Guizhou Province, China, on 3 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China on Sunday hoisted the final piece into position on what will be the world's largest radio telescope, which it will use to explore space and help in the hunt for extraterrestrial life, state media said.

The Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical Telescope, or FAST, is the size of 30 football fields and has been hewed out of a mountain in the poor southwest province of Guizhou.

Scientists will now start debugging and trials of the telescope, Zheng Xiaonian, deputy head of the National Astronomical Observation under the

Chinese Academy of Sciences, which built the telescope, told the official Xinhua news agency.

"The project has the potential to search for more strange objects to better understand the origin of the universe and boost the global hunt for extraterrestrial life," the report paraphrased Zheng as saying.

The 1.2-billion yuan (\$180 million) radio telescope would be a global leader for the next one to two decades, Zheng added.

The telescope, which has taken about five years to build, is expected to begin operations in September.

Advancing China's space programme is a priority for Beijing, with President Xi Jinping calling for the country to establish itself as a space power.

China's ambitions include putting a man on the moon by 2036 and building a space station, work on which has already begun.

China insists its programme is for peaceful purposes, but the US Defence Department has highlighted China's increasing space capabilities, saying it is pursuing activities aimed to prevent adversaries from using space-based assets in a crisis.—Reuters

6,000-year-old stone tombs may have been first 'telescopes'

LONDON — Ancient megalithic tombs — such as those at the 6,000 year old Seven-Stone Antas in Portugal — may have been the first astronomical tools used to watch the skies, millennia before telescopes were invented, scientists say.

Astronomers are exploring what they believe to be the first astronomical observing tool, potentially used by prehistoric humans 6,000 years ago.

They suggest that the long, narrow entrance passages to ancient stone, or 'megalithic', tombs may have enhanced what early human cultures could see in the night sky, an effect that could have been interpreted as the ancestors granting special power to the initiated.

The team's idea is to investigate how a simple aperture, for example an opening or doorway, affects the observation of slightly fainter stars.

They focus this study on passage graves, which are a type of megalithic tomb composed of a chamber of large interlocking stones and a long narrow entrance.

These spaces are thought to have been sacred, and the sites may have been used for rites of passage, where the initiate would spend the night inside the tomb, with no natural light apart from that shining down the narrow entrance lined with the remains of the tribe's ancestors.

These structures could therefore have been the first astronomical tools to support the watching of the skies.

"It is quite a surprise that no

one has thoroughly investigated how for example the colour of the night sky impacts on what can be seen with the naked eye," said Kieran Simcox, a student at Nottingham Trent University in the UK.

The project targets how the human eye, without the aid of any telescopic device, can see stars given sky brightness and colour.

The team intend to apply these ideas to the case of passage graves, such as the 6,000 year old Seven-Stone Antas in central Portugal.

"The orientations of the tombs may be in alignment with Aldebaran, the brightest star in the constellation of Taurus. To accurately time the first appearance of this star in the season, it is vital to be able to detect stars during twilight," said Fabio Silva, of the University of Wales Trinity Saint David in the UK.

The first sighting in the year of a star after its long absence from the night sky might have been used as a seasonal marker, and could indicate for example the start of a migration to summer grazing grounds.

The timing of this could have been seen as secret knowledge or foresight, only obtained after a night spent in contact with the ancestors in the depths of a passage grave, since the star may not have been observable from outside. However, the team suggest it could actually have been the result of the ability of the human eye to spot stars in such twilight conditions, given the small entrance passages of the tombs.—PTI

Artificial pancreas may be available by 2018: scientists

LONDON — Artificial pancreas — a device which monitors blood glucose in patients with diabetes and automatically adjusts levels of insulin entering the body — is likely to be available by 2018, scientists say.

Currently available technology allows insulin pumps to deliver insulin to people with diabetes after taking readings from glucose meters, but these two components are separate.

It is the joining together of both parts into a 'closed loop' that makes an artificial pancreas, researchers said.

The actual timeline to availability of the artificial pancreas, as with other medical devices, encompasses regulatory approvals of regulatory agencies such as the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which is currently reviewing one proposed artificial pancreas with approval possibly as soon as 2017.

A recent review by the UK

National Institute of Health Research reported that automated closed-loop systems may be expected to appear in the European market by the end of 2018.

"In trials to date, users have been positive about how use of an artificial pancreas gives them 'time off' or a 'holiday' from their diabetes management, since the system is managing their blood sugar effectively without the need for constant monitoring by the user," said Roman Hovorka and Hood Thabit of the University of Cambridge in the UK.

One part of the clinical need for the artificial pancreas is the variability of insulin requirements between and within individuals — on one day a person could use one third of their normal requirements, and on another three times what they normally would.

This is dependent on the individual, their diet, their physical activity and other factors, researchers said. The combination of all

these factors together places a burden on people with type 1 diabetes to constantly monitor their glucose levels, to ensure they do not end up with too much blood sugar or more commonly, too little.

Both of these complications can cause significant damage to blood vessels and nerve endings, making complications such as cardiovascular problems more likely.

There are alternatives to the artificial pancreas, with improvements in technology in whole pancreas transplantation and also of just the insulin-producing beta cells.

However, recipients of these transplants require drugs to suppress their immune systems. The artificial pancreas avoids the need for major surgery and drugs.

A number of clinical studies have been completed using the artificial pancreas in its various forms, in various settings such as diabetes camps for children and home testing.



Ed Damiano (R) shows the insulin pump that delivers insulin to his son David (12), at the family's home in Acton, Massachusetts in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

Many of these trials have shown as good or better glucose control than existing technologies. A number of other studies are ongoing, researchers said.

"Prolonged 6- to 24-month

multinational closed-loop clinical trials and pivotal studies are underway or in preparation including adults and children," researchers said. The study was published in the journal *Diabetologia*.—PTI

Lavrov, Kerry have fresh exchange on ways of ending Syrian conflict

AMMAN/MOSCOW — Russia and the United States held fresh talks on Saturday on ways of cooperating to end the five-year conflict in Syria as intensive Syrian government air strikes killed at least 40 civilians in a town northeast of Damascus.

Moscow and Washington are seeking ways of brokering an end to a conflict that has killed more than 400,000 people, according to the United Nations, and

has sent a wave of refugees streaming towards Europe.

In the latest diplomatic contact between the two powers, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and US Secretary of State John Kerry spoke by phone on Saturday, Russia's foreign ministry said.

"They discussed ... the possibility of Russian-American cooperation in the fight against terrorist groups in Syria," the statement said.

The statement did not identify the groups more closely.

Russia, which supports President Bashar al-Assad, is conducting airstrikes against various armed groups that are opposed to his rule including Nusra Front — an offshoot of al Qaeda — and Islamic State which the Americans also oppose.

But Washington says Moscow is also targeting moderate rebel groups which are ideologically opposed to

al Qaeda and which are supported by the United States.

Fighting continued unabated in Syria with intensive strikes by the Syrian air force on Jayrud, northeast of Damascus, which killed 43 civilians a day after the reported execution of a Syrian air force pilot, a monitor and rebels said.

They said the raids targeted a medical centre, a school and a residential area in Jayrud, a heavily populat-

ed town that had been earlier spared heavy bombing after striking a local truce with the army. It had become in that time a sanctuary for thousands of civilians fleeing heavy battles nearby.

The UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said scores were also injured in the aerial strikes as well as by shelling from army posts in the area.

A rebel spokesman said the strikes seemed to be in

revenge for the killing of the air force pilot who parachuted near the town after his plane crashed on Friday.

"The strikes against civilians are in retaliation against the execution of the pilot by Nusra Front," said Said Seif al Qalamoni from the Free Syrian Army's (FSA) Shahid Ahmad Abdo brigade that operates in Jayrud alongside the al Qaeda's Nusra Front and other groups.—Reuters

Service Providerခေါ်ယူခြင်း

အပြည်ပြည်ဆိုင်ရာစိုက်ပျိုးရေးကဏ္ဍဖွံ့ဖြိုးတိုးတက်ရေးရန်ပုံငွေ အဖွဲ့ (IFAD) နှင့် စိုက်ပျိုးရေးနှင့်မွေးမြူရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန (MOALI) တို့ပူးပေါင်းအကောင်းအထည်ဖော်ဆောင်ရွက်နေသော FARM Project (နေပြည်တော်) ၏ Implementation Process တွင် ပါဝင်အားဖြည့်ရန်ပြည်တွင်းပြည်ပ NGO များအား Service Provider အဖြစ်ဌာနရင်းလိုသောကြောင့်စိတ်ဝင်စားသော NGO အဖွဲ့အစည်းများအနေဖြင့် EoI (Expression of Interest) စိတ်ဝင်စားကြောင်းအကြောင်းကြားစာအား ၈.၇.၂၀၁၆ နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ပေးပို့ရန် လေးစားစွာခေါ်ယူအပ်ပါသည်။ အသေးစိတ်သိရှိလိုပါက (သို့) Online မှလျှောက်ထားရန် အောက်ပါ link အတိုင်းဝင်ရောက် ကြည့်ရှုလေ့လာနိုင်ပါသည်။

http://www.themimu.info/sites/themimu.info/files/jobs/Announcement_for_EOI.pdf

FARM Project Office
ပူးတွဲအမှတ်စဉ် (တိုးမြှင့်ဆောင်) နေပြည်တော်
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FBI interviews Hillary Clinton in private server probe

NEW YORK — The Federal Bureau of Investigation interviewed Democratic US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton for three and a half hours on Saturday as part of the probe into her use of a private email server while serving as secretary of state, her campaign said.

The interview at FBI headquarters in Washington followed a week of intense public focus on the investigation and on Clinton's viability as a presidential candidate, with four months to go to the election. Her campaign has tried for months to downplay the controversy as a distraction.

In an interview broadcast on MSNBC, Clinton said she was happy to do the FBI interview, which her spokesman earlier described as "voluntary."

"I've been answering questions for over a year" regarding the private email server, Clinton said.

It was not clear if the questioning of Clinton signaled an imminent conclusion to the investigation in a pivotal time for the presidential race. It does follow FBI interviews of several of Clinton's former staff members, as well as her top aide Huma Abedin.

Clinton is expected to be formally nominated as the Democratic candidate for the 8 November presidential election at the party's convention in less than four weeks.

"Timing of FBI inter-



Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at a town hall discussion with digital content creators in Los Angeles, California, US on 28 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

view, between primaries and convention, probably good timing for @HillaryClinton," tweeted David Axelrod, a former senior adviser to President Barack Obama who served as the chief strategist for his two presidential campaigns. "Best to get it behind her."

Clinton is currently the front-runner for the White House with polls showing her leading presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump. In a tweet on Saturday, Trump said it was "impossible for the FBI not to recommend criminal charges against Hillary Clinton. What she did was wrong!"

He also criticised Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, for meeting privately with Attorney General Loretta Lynch earlier this week, which Lynch later said she regretted, though she said they did not discuss the investigation.

"What Bill did was stupid!" Trump tweeted.

The FBI is investigating whether anyone in Clinton's operation broke the law as result of a personal email server kept in her Chappaqua, New York, home while she was secretary of state from 2009 to 2013. One of the questions is whether they mishandled

classified information on the server.

Clinton and her staff have struggled to respond to accusations that her use of the server in violation of State Department protocol means she is untrustworthy. Trump has said the investigation should disqualify her from being president.

"@HillaryClinton campaign statement says She 'voluntarily' met w @FBI for 3.5 hours this morning — yeah, lots of people volunteer 2 do that," tweeted the Republican National Committee's communications director, Sean Spicer.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE

Date: July 4, 2016

Invitation for Private Power Generation Plant thru Rental Power Basis in Yangon Region

1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing electricity of 300 MW by Rental power plant system in Yangon Region.
2. The concession period for the power plant shall be 5 (five) years from commercial operation date (COD).
3. The Tender Form fees is K.500, 000/- (Kyat five hundred thousand only) and can be purchased at Procurement Department, Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
4. The bidders shall send the technical and commercial proposal addressed to
Tender Evaluation Committee
Electric Power Generation Enterprise,
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
5. The bid submission date is August 18, 2016 at 16:00 hr. Myanmar Standard Time.
6. Bidding Proposal must be submitted at the address in time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.
7. The bidders shall make the proposals in accordance with the Invitation for **Invitation for Power Generation Rental Basis**
8. The necessary information of this project tender can be inquired within office hour.

Attention to

Tender Evaluation Committee,
Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Ph +95 9 8601033, + 95 67 8104281,
+95 96 8104282
Fax +95 67 8104280
epgethermal@gmail.com

10 killed as jeep rolls into gorge in northern India

NEW DELHI — At least 10 people were killed and four others injured after a jeep in which they were travelling plunged into a gorge in the northern Indian state of Uttarakhand late on Saturday night, a senior police official said Sunday.

The hilly state has been hit by cloudburst that triggered heavy rains, flash

floods and landslides, with swelling rivers sweeping away villages and killing over 30 people, bringing normal life to a standstill in the past 72 hours.

"The incident took place at around 11.30 pm local time Saturday on a state highway when the driver of the vehicle tried to negotiate a road damaged by rains

and flash floods. Most of the occupants of the jeep have been killed," the official said, on condition of anonymity.

Those injured have been admitted to a local hospital, where the condition of some of them are said to be serious, he added. Local TV channels reported that the bodies were retrieved only

after 5 am local time Sunday after the local administration got to know about the accident from residents of the area, who were the first to initiate rescue work.

A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official said, adding that motorists have been urged to avoid driving during heavy rains in the state.—Xinhua

Twelve trapped in Shanxi mine flood

BEIJING — Twelve miners remain trapped in a flooded coal mine in the city of Jincheng in north China's Shanxi Province, the country's top safety watchdog said on Sunday.

Ninety-four miners were working underground when the accident occurred around 11 pm on Saturday. Some 82 miners have been rescued, while 12 others remain trapped, the State Administration of Work Safety said in a statement on its website.

The mine is operated by a local state-owned coal company with an annual production capacity of 900,000 tonnes.

Local authorities were asked to do everything possible to rescue trapped miners and pinpoint the cause of the accident. Anyone responsible for the accident must be held accountable.—Xinhua



Pithead at the flooded coal mine in Qinshui County of Jincheng, north China's Shanxi Province, on 3 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

236 suspects busted in football gambling cases

BEIJING — A total of 236 suspects in China were caught for illegal football gambling during the ongoing UEFA Euro 2016, the Ministry of Public Security (MPS) said Sunday.

More than 28 million yuan (4.2 million US dollars) was confiscated or frozen in cases involving overseas gambling websites, according to the MPS.

Police authorities have intensified investigations into suspected web gambling since April.

Since 14 June, police have busted several rings that organised gambling activities in cities including Shenyang in Liaoning Province and Shenzhen in Guangdong Province.

According to the MPS, cracking down on cross-border web gambling has become a regular task for the police as international gambling companies have used overseas gambling websites to develop Chinese agents and attract gamblers in recent years.—Xinhua

Over 35,000 Americans killed as traffic deaths on rise in 2015

WASHINGTON — An estimated 35,200 Americans died in traffic accidents in 2015, an increase of 7.7 per cent from a year before, according to newly-released government data.

Nine out of 10 regions within the United States had increased traffic deaths in 2015, shows the preliminary

data released Friday by the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) under the US Department of Transportation (DOT).

The NHTSA is analysing the data to determine what factors contributed to the increase in traffic fatalities while aggressive-

ly testing new safety technologies and new ways to improve driver behaviour, said US Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx.

Improved economy and falling gas prices were believed to be among major reasons for the increased traffic deaths in the United States last year.

However, NHTSA head Mark Rosekind said that improved economy only explains part of the increase as 94 per cent of car crashes are caused by human behaviour or error.

So the government needs to focus its efforts on improving human behaviour while promoting

vehicle technology that not only protects people in crashes, but helps prevent crashes in the first place, Rosekind said.

In response, the NHTSA has convened a series of six regional safety summits with key stakeholders throughout February and March.—Xinhua

North Korea rejects US charges, calls flesh traffic 'nonexistent'

BEIJING — North Korea on Saturday denounced the United States for criticising its record on human trafficking, including that of women and girls, saying "flesh traffic" in the country is "nonexistent."

The US State Department, in its latest Trafficking in Persons Report issued earlier this week, hurt North Korea's dignity with "all sorts of fabrications," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by the official the Korean Central News Agency.

"It is a great irony that the US talks about someone's nonexistent 'flesh traffic,'" he said, while calling the United States a "veritable tundra of human rights plagued by extreme human rights abuses that stun the world people."

The unidentified spokesman said the US accusations charges are partly aimed at bring down North Korea's social system by

way of "defaming" its image. "The more openly the US lays bare its intention to do harm to (North Korea's) social system, the more strongly the latter will maintain its line of simultaneously pushing forward economic construction and the building of nuclear force to steadily bolster up its nuclear deterrent for self-defence both in quality and quantity," he said.

The State Department, which consistently ranks North Korea among the world's worst countries for human trafficking, called it "a source country for men, women, and children who are subjected to forced labour and sex trafficking" in its latest annual report.

The report says government oppression "prompts many North Koreans to flee the country in ways that make them vulnerable to human trafficking abroad, while within the country itself, 'forced labour is part

of an established system of political repression."

Regarding the flesh trade in particular, it says some of the estimated 10,000 North Korean women and girls who have migrated illegally to China are reportedly lured, drugged, detained or kidnapped by traffickers upon their arrival. Others, it says, are offered jobs but subsequently forced into prostitution, domestic service or agricultural work through forced marriages. "These women are subjected to sexual slavery by Chinese or Korean-Chinese men, forced prostitution in brothels or through Internet sex sites, or compelled service as hostesses in nightclubs or karaoke bars. If found by Chinese authorities, victims are often forcibly repatriated to North Korea where they are subject to harsh punishment, including forced labour in labour camps or death."—Kyodo News

ကွန်ပျူတာ စနစ်ဖြင့်ထိန်းသော
MECHANICAL CAR PARKING

Side View: 14'4" height, 18' width, 7'2" depth.
Front View: 7'2" width, 7'2" depth.
Plan View: 21'6" width, 14'4" height, 7'2" depth.
Front View (cars): 21'6" width, 14'4" height, 7'2" depth.

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: 09.259.81.37.37
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DiCaprio almost starred on 'Baywatch'

LOS ANGELES — "Baywatch" producers Michael Berk and Douglas Schwartz have revealed that Leonardo DiCaprio almost played David Hasselhoff's son on the hit '90s show.

The Oscar-winning actor was only 15 years old when he auditioned for the part of Mitch Buchannon's son Hobie.

"We actually had DiCaprio ready to be cast. But David thought he was too old to play his son," Berk told the Hollywood Reporter.

Hasselhoff, who was in his late thirties when filming began, wanted a younger actor for the role.

"David thought it would make him look older," Schwartz said of DiCaprio's casting.

"He had a lot of concerns of that type."

The part eventually went to Brandon Call in season 1, and then he was replaced by Jeremy Jackson for eight seasons.

Hasselhoff was also against Pamela Anderson's casting when she joined the show in the second season.

"David said, 'I don't want a girl that's been in Playboy. He said, 'Children watch this show.'"

The show is getting a big-screen reboot starring Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, Zac Efron, Alexandra Daddario and Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra.

Anderson and Hasselhoff will also make cameos in the film, which is set to be released in 2017.—PTI



Leonardo DiCaprio, best actor nominee for his role in "The Wolf of Wall Street," arrives at the 86th Academy Awards in Hollywood, California in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hilary Duff loves to throw house parties

LONDON — Actress Hilary Duff says she "loves" to throw house parties, and enjoys them even more when a casual get-together turns into a random dance party.

The "Younger" actress has admitted she enjoys entertaining people at her home and will often throw open her doors to guests and host a casual gathering, reported Female First.

Speaking about her night life preferences, the blonde beauty said, "I do love to entertain at my house and I like it when it's a little casual. I live in LA so I like to throw all my doors open and do indoor/outdoor."

"I like something casual, where it could turn into a random dance party or everyone can end up in the pool. I do appreciate getting dressed and people making an effort, but I like feeling comfortable enough to kick your shoes off. Like organised chaos," she said.—PTI

Leslie Jones wants more diversity in fashion

LOS ANGELES — "Ghostbusters" actress Leslie Jones has claimed there was no designer to dress her for a red carpet appearance, sparking a debate on the need of diversity in fashion world.

Jones riled up the fashion industry and social-justice warriors with a tweet that expressed frustration over finding something to wear for the film's red carpet premiere, reported Vari-

ety. The 48-year-old "Saturday Night Live" cast member's tweet read, "It's so funny how there are no designers wanting to help me with a premiere dress for the movie. Hmmm that will change and I remember everything."

When fans and media outlets began picking up the tweet, and interpreting it is a slight against the fashion industry for not catering to women of her height, race, age or some com-

bination of the three, some came to Jones' defense, while others took offense.

A blogger and social media influence tweeted, "What an entitled actress! She got paid money for her work, please use that money like the rest of us — go shopping!" Popular designer and "Project Runway" alum Christian Siriano, meanwhile, responded by offering to make Jones a dress.

Jones accepted and the designer and comedian took turns posting pictures on social media of their fashion collaboration.

In response to the conversation spurred by Jones' initial tweet and his decision to make her a dress, Siriano tweeted, "It shouldn't be exceptional to work with brilliant people just because they're not sample size. Congrats aren't in order, a change is."—PTI



Game of Thrones' to get gallery exhibition

LONDON — HBO has launched the "Game of Thrones" fan art competition, giving fans the chance to have their art displayed in a special GOT exhibition in London.

Drawings, paintings, graphic designs, sculptures and embroidery are all eligible for submission, with entrants above 18 years are invited to upload an image of their fan art to the HBO website, reported Digital Spy.

A short list of 20 entries will be voted before winners will have their entries displayed in a special "GoT" exhibition in a London Art Gallery in November, alongside professional graffiti and street art team "The Graffiti Kings". —PTI

A dance number is performed in tribute to outstanding drama series nominee "Game of Thrones" at the 65th Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles. PHOTO: REUTERS

Czech Republic says you can call us Czechia

PRAGUE — Czechia has become the official English alternative name for the Czech Republic, the Foreign Ministry said on Friday, allowing users to save space on name tags and product labels.

A spokeswoman said the ministry had notified the United Nations that Czechia, as well as versions of the name in French, German, Russian, Arabic and Chinese, may be used instead of the full political name.

This marks an end to more than two decades of hesitation on finding a single word name for the

western part of the former Czechoslovakia, a federation of Czechia and Slovakia that broke up peacefully in 1993.

But not all Czechs are happy.

When the cabinet announced a decision to go ahead with the title earlier this year, an informal survey by news website idnes.cz found more than 22,000 people said they did not like it against 7,000 who did.

The ministry said it would not push the new name but would let it take root naturally over time through voluntary use.



The sun sets behind the Saint Nicholas Church in Prague, Czech Republic, on 6 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

“This does not mean it will be used at all international gatherings from now on,” spokeswoman Michaela Lagronova said.

The country of 10.6 million people consists of

the historical lands of Bohemia (Cechy in Czech), Moravia and part of Silesia.

While some experts argue Bohemia was, in medieval times, used as a

name for the entire country, people from those regions have protested against using it. Czechia is based on a Latin name for the country used in 17th and 18th century texts.—Reuters

51st Karlovy Vary International Film festival opens

KARLOVY VARY — The 51st international Film Festival opened in Czech Republic’s Karlovy Vary on Friday (1 July).

American film and theater actor Willem Dafoe, a two-time Oscar nominee, was awarded the Crystal Globe for Outstanding Contribution to World Cinema during the opening ceremony at Thermal hotel cinema.

The festival shows more than 180 films; 12 of them are included in the main competition. The star-studded delegation of war drama Anthropoid, consisting of director Sean Ellis and actors Jamie Dornan, Toby Jones, Aňa Geislerová, Alena Mihulová and Václav Neuzil, introduced the eagerly awaited film, which opened the festival.

The film follows the story of Reinhard Heydrich, a powerful Nazi and a principal architect of the Holocaust. Heydrich was assassinated by Czech and Slovak soldiers in 1942 in Operation Anthropoid.

The idea for the film, thought of by director, screenwriter, and cameraman Sean Ellis, was in the making for 15 years. Actor Jamie Dornan, who stars in the film, said he hoped the film will make the Czech Republic proud. “Anthropoid” is set to be released in the US on 16 August.—Reuters

Pulses imports may rise to 5 mn tonnes in Apr-Dec: Industry

NEW DELHI — India is likely to import about 5 million tonnes of pulses during April-December period of this fiscal, largely by private traders, to boost domestic supply and cool retail prices that have reached up to Rs 200 per kg.

India, the world’s largest producer, had imported about 4.5 million tonne in the corresponding period of the previous year. The country had imported 5.78 million tonnes in the entire 2015-16 fiscal to meet domestic demand.

“Imports are happening. About 1.2-1.3 million tonnes of pulses have already been imported. Moreover, private traders have contracted for 3 mil-

lion tonnes of pulses to be shipped between September and December,” India Pulses and Grains Association (IPGA) Chairman Pravin Dongre said.

Asked about the landed cost of imported pulses, he said it is Rs 32-33 per kg

for yellow peas, Rs 92-93 for tur dal, Rs 105-106 for urad, Rs 65 for masoor and Rs 58-60 for moong.

Importers are selling it to millers and wholesalers at a very less margins, he said.

On overall imports for

this fiscal, Dongre said it would depend on monsoon.

“If monsoon is good as projected, domestic production will increase. Then imports will be less in the last quarter of this fiscal,” IPGA Vice Chairman Bimal Kothari said.

IPGA said the pulses prices have gone up in domestic market due to fall in production on account of poor and unseasonal rains in two consecutive crop years.

Pulses production fell to 17.06 million tonnes in the 2015-16 crop year (July-June) from 17.15 million tonnes in the previous year. In 2013-14, output was over 19 million tonnes.

As a result, retail prices of pulses have shot up

with Tur and urad dals selling at as high as Rs 180 per kg and Rs 198 per kg, respectively, in the retail markets.

Chana dal is being sold at Rs 105 per kg, while moong and masoor at Rs 130 and Rs 110 per kg respectively.

The government recently decided to enhance the buffer stock limit of pulses to 8 lakh tonnes for making market intervention when prices firm up in retail markets. It is also importing pulses to boost domestic supply. So far, 1.19 lakh tonnes of pulses has been procured from farmers for creating buffer stock and 46,000 tonnes have been contracted for imports.—PTI



PHOTO: PTI

(4-7-2016, Monday)

06 : 00 pm	09 : 00 pm
• Weather Report	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti
• Cartoon Programme	09 : 30 pm
“Incredible” (Part-1)	• International Movie Songs
07 : 00 pm	09 : 40 pm
• International Drama Series	• Coconut Shell Artist
07 : 40 pm	10 : 00 pm
• International Drama Series	• Music Programme
08 : 50 pm	10 : 20 pm
• MRTV Entertainment Music	• Myanmar Video
	Midnight
	Close Down

From 4-7-2016 (Monday) 6:00 pm
To 5-7-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm

(4-7-2016 07:00am ~ 5-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	The Rising Glory of Myanmar Arts
07:55	Am	Kid’s Home
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Distinguished Myanmar Ladies “Ma Myint Zu”
08:35	Am	A Worth Studying Site For Ancient Myanmar Heritages
08:53	Am	Kayah
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2) (Jivitadana Hospital)
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Home Grown Treasure

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (EP-1) (Part-1)
07:47	Pm	Farming: Duck Breeder
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste of Myanmar (Shan Noodle Salad)
08:43	Pm	Kyeikhteyoe: Welcome All
08:49	Pm	Chef Life “Myo Min Soe Oo”

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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



USA's Sam Querrey celebrates winning his match against Serbia's Novak Djokovic at All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Wimbledon, England on 2 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Querrey survives scary moments to down Djokovic

LONDON — American Sam Querrey survived two scares to complete the biggest shock at this year's Wimbledon by toppling Grand Slam-chasing Novak Djokovic in the third round on Saturday.

Resuming two sets to the good after rain halted his unlikely victory charge on Friday, Querrey lost the opening five games on Court One as Djokovic came out firing.

That was the first scary moment.

Then, amidst incredible tension when serving for the match at 6-5 in the fourth-set tiebreak, he gave world number one Djokovic a look at a second serve. That was the other one.

It all worked out well in the end, though, as 28th seed Querrey won 7-6(6), 6-1, 3-6, 7-6(5) to become the first player to beat Djokovic in grand slam play since Swiss Stanislas Wawrinka in the 2015 French Open final.

In doing so he destroyed Djokovic's dream of emulating Rod Laver's 1969 feat of winning all four slams in the

same year.

"I lost the first four games and kind of went, 'Oh no, this is going the wrong way quickly'" the laid-back 28-year-old Californian Querrey told reporters after losing a doubles with compatriot Steve Johnson, who also reached the singles last 16.

"But, I actually felt pretty level-headed and steady the whole time. In the fourth set tiebreaker when I missed my serve at 6-5, I kind of went like, 'Oh, crap.'" "Fortunately I played a good second serve and he missed the forehand wide. That was it."

Querrey was still second favourite when play began on Saturday, despite a commanding lead.

After all, Djokovic had never lost to an American at Wimbledon and had not bowed out of a grand slam before the quarter-finals since losing in straight sets to Philipp Kohlschreiber in the third round of the 2009 French Open. When Querrey went 4-0 down it looked ominous.—Reuters

Road to Rio a bumpy one for Franklin

OMAHA (Nebraska) — Missy Franklin was the 17-year-old darling of American swimming in 2012, returning home from the London Olympics with four gold medals and being hailed as the sport's brightest young star.

Four years on, Franklin is headed back to the Olympics having qualified in two individual events, the 200 metres freestyle and 200 backstroke, at the US trials and is assured of another spot on the 4x200 relay team.

But the trials, which end on Sunday, have not gone completely according to plan for Franklin, who has struggled to find the form that made her one of the sport's biggest names.

She failed to top the podium in any individual event in Omaha, qualifying for the 200 freestyle as runner-up behind the new queen of women's swimming, Katie Ledecky, and the 200 backstroke behind first-time Olympian Maya DiRado.

Franklin will have a shot at defending her 200 backstroke title in Rio but not her signature event, the 100, after labouring to a seventh place finish in the final.

With her trials over, even the usually optimistic Franklin said things could have gone better.

"I've been saying I don't think I swam it as well as I could have," said Franklin. "But you know what? I got a spot, and that's all I needed to do."

She will have to do much more in Rio if she hopes to come close to clearing the bar she set for herself in London, where she also won a bronze in the 4x100 freestyle relay.—Reuters

Germany hail penalty victory against bogie team Italy

BORDEAUX, (France) — Germany's players hailed their first victory against Italy in a major tournament as an exceptional moment in their history as they reached the Euro 2016 semi-finals by beating their old rivals 6-5 on penalties.

But the eventful shootout, with seven players failing to convert their kicks, left pundits dismayed with some saying it was the worst set of penalties ever seen at a major finals.

"I can still speak," said breathless Germany keeper Manuel Neuer, who saved two spot kicks as the world champions won 6-5 on penalties after a dull 1-1 draw over 120 minutes.

"Well we have finally succeeded against Italy and now we've done it in a knockout game. It was real drama. I have never seen anything like it before. As a goalkeeper it is something I will always remember."

Mats Hummels, who scored in the shootout, said the game had been intense with Germany sitting too far back after they

opened the scoring through Mesut Ozil in the 65th minute.

"After 1-0 we had thought we could have won it but for a short amount of time we lost our security," he said. "We were always afraid one situation could change the match."

That was the case as Jerome Boateng handled and Italy's Leonardo Bonucci scored from the spot to level in the 78th.

Italy coach Antonio Conte said he was disappointed to go out despite his defensively-minded team showing little adventure in the final third of the pitch during the match.

"The lads gave everything. We had a very strong team. I can't find the words. We were beaten by Germany on penalties and that hurts," he said.

"I regret that we didn't make the penalties. Everyone fought hard, everyone. I don't think we could have done any more. We gave

everything we had."

However, the game will probably be remembered for some of the poorest spot kicks ever taken in a shootout.

"Some of those penalties were the worst I've ever seen, and the run ups, what were

they about?," said former England striker Alan Shearer. Former France captain Thierry Henry was particularly scathing about Italy's Graziano Pelle, who told the keeper he was going to dink the ball and missed the target altogether.—Reuters



Germany's Jonas Hector celebrates scoring in the penalty shootout. PHOTO: REUTERS