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INCLUSIVISM IS KEY

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong Preparatory Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor calls for inclusion of all groups in Peace Conference

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pushed to invite all stakeholders to the August peace process, at the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong Preparatory Committee meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, expressing the need to develop reconciliation between the government and ethnic minorities and armed groups to help with national reconciliation.

Dr Tin Myo Win, chairman of the preparatory committee spoke of the progress in negotiation with the NCA non-signatory groups and works that need to be undertaken.

"Polices outlined at the meeting include; works for allowing NCA non-signatory groups to join the Conference, relaxation of restrictions on inviting political parties that do not hold a parliamentary seat to the conference and functions of the National Reconciliation and Peace Center-NRPC in dealing with international donors and their assistance to the peace process," said U Zaw Htay, spokesperson for the President's Office.

U Zaw Htay said that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi suggested finding the means for participation of all political parties in the peace conference and that the NRPC is set to handle international funds of the peace process.

"Talks remain to be held with three groups of 21 ethnic armed organisations regarding the new government's peace policy," said preparatory committee chairman Dr Tin Myo Win.

Preparations for the conference are underway and the 21st Century Union Peace Conference is set for late August.

U Hla Maung Shwe, secretary of the preparatory committee said, "A meeting between the State Counsellor and the Chairman of United Nationalities Federal Council is scheduled to be held in Yangon and the Union Peace Conference is set to take place in Nay Pyi Taw."—*Thein Ko Lwin with Myanmar News Agency*

UTC students and faculty members clean the holy site in Mandalay

UTC students and faculty members cleaning the pagoda precinct in Mandalay. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

UNIVERSITY Training Corps (UTC) students and faculty members contributed their precious time and energy over the weekend to pull away weeds and undergrowth slated for destruction and cosmetically improve bushes in public spaces by way of trimming in the pagoda precinct of Nanmyaebontha Nandawya Sandamuni stupa in Aung Myae Thazan Township, Mandalay on Sunday.

The group diligently removed all rubbish in the area and restored orderly cleanliness to stairways and religious edifices within the Pagoda complex.—*Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

Fruit and vegetable growers to see opportunity for agricultural loans

THE Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer & Exporter Association plans to request the Minister for Planning and Finance to provide agricultural loans to fruit and vegetable growers, it has been learned.

"We are not sure about the loans issue yet. However, the minister has asked us to submit a projection of production costs for each fruit. We are quite optimistic," said the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer & Exporter Association's Chairman U Soe Than Min Din.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win met with UMFCCI executive committee members at the UMFCCI office on 30 June.

"The growers should diversify their crops using the loan; otherwise valuable fruits and vegetables may be under cultivated and become scarce. Grapefruits could be better grown if the government provided loans. Currently, growers spend a lot of their money and resources on existing plantations rather than on extending or diversifying cultivation" said U Win Shwe, Chairman of the Grapefruit Grower's Association.

Ever year the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank provides agricultural loans to farmers for the cultivation of paddy and winter fruits. However, vegetable producers are unable to access these the loans.—*200*

Crime NEWS

Man razes family home following domestic confrontation

The scene of the outbreak of fire. Photo: TUN KO KO (YINMABIN)

A HOUSE fire broke out in Hsin Swe Taung village, Yinmabin township, Sagaing region on 3 July, destroying one family home. It is reported that the fire began due to one Net Chaw, 32, setting fire to the home he shared with his parents following a domestic dispute. The fire was put out by firemen with the help of neighbours. The fire consumed the family home of Net Chaw and a neighbour's home. Charges have been filed against the offender.— *Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)*

Yaba and heroin seized in Lashio

A LOCAL crime suppression squad in Lashio township seized heroin and yaba from a motorcycle driver near Khar Shi village on the Lashio- Tang Yang road on 3 July.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched the driver who was heading for Lashio from Naung Lai village and discovered heroin weighing 0.4 grams and 1,950 yaba pills.

Similarly, police stopped motorcycle driver Shai Laung with a passenger identified as Nyein Chan on board. Upon conducting a search police discovered 185 yaba pills. Police have filed charges against both suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*

Overheated LED light bulb causes outbreak of fire

A fire starting from overheated LED light bulb destroyed a house at Hninze 1 road, Pyaytawthar ward, Padaung township on 4 June.

The accident happened because of electric short-circuiting caused by the overheated LED light bulb at U Aye Kyaw's room. The fire quickly got out of control and devoured the house. It took five fire engines and firemen to put out the blaze with the assistance of neighbors. Local police have filed charges against U Aye Kyaw, 70.—*Tin Tin Htway (Sintgaing)*

Toyota Hilux overturns, killing one in Pakokku

A TOYOTA Hilux en route to Pakokku from Yesagyo being driven by one Khin Maung Lwin with Myo Khine, 35, and Myint Lwin Oo, 46, on board overturned near Shwe Chaung village, on Pakokku-Yesagyo road on 3 July, leaving one dead.

According to an investigation, the vehicle overturned at milepost 2/3when the driver lost control.

Passenger Myo Khine was killed in the accident while the driver and the other passenger were seriously injured. The injured are undergoing medical treatment at Pakokku general hospital. The police have filed charges against the driver.— *District IPRD*

Toyota Hilux being seen damaged. PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

DMH releases water level projections

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced on Monday that the water level of the Chindwin River would rise approximately one foot and six inches in Hkamti yesterday and by about two feet in Homalin over yesterday and today. The river may remain above what is considered to be dangerous levels for the near future, according to their 14.30 hr MST observation yesterday.

The department advised people settled near the river bank and surrounding low-lying areas along the Chindwin River to take precautionary measures or, if possible, temporarily relocate.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar celebrates 94th International Day of Cooperatives

COOPERATIVE associations have been organised around the world to carry out many different activities in agriculture, social and other service sectors, including non-economic activities of interest to their members and people around the world, said Union Minister Dr Aung Thu on the occasion of the 94th International Day of Cooperatives celebrated at the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

Despite the cooperative sector representing a small portion of the country's overall economic sector, its contribution to the flow of funds in rural areas has reached a certain level, said the Union minister, adding that cooperative associations have been founded in more than 42,000 villages across Myanmar.

The Union minister stressed the need for further efforts to be made to achieve the global strategy for cooperatives that aims to make them the fastest growing form of enterprise by 2020.

He called on cooperative associations to outline and implement the initiatives within 15 years to bring themselves in line with the aims and goals of the International Co-operative Alliance.

Next, the Union minister presented a microfinance loan of K512.5 billion to responsible persons from region/state cooperative associations.

During the International Co-operative Day celebration, outstanding cooperative syndicates were presented awards.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Minister Dr Aung Thu visits 94th International Day of Cooperatives in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar, Thailand advance to SEA Junior Men's Volleyball Championship final

MYANMAR (team A) and Thailand have both got through to the final of the 19th South East Asian Junior Men's Volleyball Championship after wins over Myanmar (team B) and Indonesia in their semi-finals in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Thailand won against Indonesia by scores of 25-15, 25-18 and 25-21 and Myanmar (A) beat Myanmar (B) by scores of 25-18, 25-21 and 25-17 respectively.

Admission is free for the final match between Myanmar (A) and Thailand and the third-place playoff between Myanmar (B) and Indonesia is being held today.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Yangon Central Post Office. PHOTO: XINHUA

Myanmar looks to develop postal service within three years

Ko Moe

THE Myanmar Postal Service is planning a three-year project in the hope of developing its postal system, said Manager U Thaung Naing Soe of the MPS.

Under the three-year project, priority will be given to 162 post offices in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw in cooperation with Japan.

The manager added that preparatory study for the formulation of a postal service development strategy is underway.

According to the manager, works for postal sector development will continue across the country following the successful implementation of the project in Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw.

The project is aimed at making the country's postal service more convenient for customers through reforms in the postal system. Moreover, medium and long-term plans will be laid down for postal transportation networks and operations.

Technical support will be sought from Japan while modernising the country's postal system, said the manager.

Myanmar's first post office was opened in Sittwe in 1827 followed by Bago in 1852 and Yangon in 1854.

Crime reporting call center available in Yangon

Ko Moe

A 199 Call Center is available 24 hours a day to deal with crime reports by the people commencing on 4 July, said Yangon Region Police Acting Commander Police Colonel Win Naing at a briefing on crime crackdown operation taking place in the region's four townships on Monday.

The 24-hour call center welcomes information in the cases of drugs, alcohol and gambling related crimes and crime reporting from the public, said the regional police chief, adding that the call center must be called in case of police emergencies.

He expressed police members' readiness for tackling crime reports, saying that two task forces of 50 police members each in the regional level and a task force of 25 members in each district have been formed.

The onus is on all of us to achieve the rule of law in the region, said Police Commander Win Naing, calling for mass participation in the fight against crimes.

According to the Yangon Region Police, names and phone numbers of those who report on crimes will be kept confidential by the call center but it is required to provide exact address.

Apart from the 199 Call Center, reports of crimes can be made via 012323199, said the police.

People are obliged to fulfil their tax responsibilities; Magwe Chief Minister says

PEOPLE are all obliged to fulfil their tax responsibilities as the government is striving to realise community-based development through seven work programmes with the use of taxes collected from the citizenry, said Magwe Region Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo yesterday.

In his address at a briefing on taxation in late June the Chief Minister said that revenue generated from the 5% commercial tax on mobile phone top-ups are going toward the health and education sectors.

The department concerned is planning to sell K500 lottery tickets to contribute towards the funding of public services by the government, added the Chief Minister.

During the tax briefing the Head of the Magwe Region Internal Revenue Department U Kyaw Thein elaborated on reforms in taxation and officials made presentations on the Union Tax Law 2016 and a special goods tax law.

Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo presented certificates of honour to the largest personal income and commercial tax payers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

LOCAL Business

22 jade lots sold for €24.18m at Nay Pyi Taw expo

THE 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw continued yesterday with 22 jade lots collecting €24.18m in sales at an auction. 312 lots of pearl collected €3.12m, 63 gem lots collected €3.29m and 3,923 jade lots collected €504.38m on previous days at the expo.

46 more lots of jades go on sale through a competitive bidding system today, the final day of the emporium.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Merchants are seen during the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

Catch certificates to be issued for fish and prawns' export

FISH and prawns being exported through Ranong fish depots in Thailand, bordering Myanmar's Taninthayi Region will be offered export certificates, according to the Myeik district Fisheries Department.

To export fish, fishing blocks, boat type, weight, varieties of fish, vessel's name, fishing licence number, water territory grant, fishing date and sailing certificate are required to present to the authorities concerned who will sign for these documents, according to Fisheries Department.

The European Union (EU) has warned Thailand over the illegal fishing, illicit purchasing and profiteering and salve labour as of last June. Myanmar's fishing boats are also under inspections.

Catch Certificates are required so that fish and prawns caught by these fishing boats can be exported to EU or other third party countries. The fisheries department will issue certificates through competent authorities. —*200*

Dehydrated vegetable factory to be opened in Nay Pyi Taw

A dehydrated vegetable factory is to be opened soon in Nay Pyi Taw. The products from the factory will be exported to Japan. Myanmar Belle Company will be operating the factory with the assistance from a, "Japanese Company," according to Aye Aye Win of Myanmar Belle Company.

They will cooperate with growers of cabbage, mustard, carrot, radish, taro, mangoes and those products will be exported to Japan.

"First the products will be exported to Japan and then the market will extend to South Korea and then European countries," said Aye Aye Win.

Growers will benefit from the cooperation with a profit boost of Ks300,000 to 500,000 per season. A year's profit will total about Ks1.5m. Heho dehydrated vegetable factory is currently exporting 105 to 300 tonnes of dehydrated vegetables to Japan. Cabbage is the main exported product. Only products that meet the specifications in terms of weight, size and quality are purchased from the farmers under the contract. —200

Business firms can extend licences under original name

COMPANIES wishing to operate in Mandalay have to renew their licenses, but according to Daw Nwe Ni Oo, the director of Mandalay Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA), no company in the Mandalay Region has done so yet.

Daw New Ni Oo said that the processing of a new license will only take a day if the necessary documents are provided. Companies that have not extended their licences will not be allowed to implement a government project or to bid in the tender.

"The processing of the company licences is just one day if all the necessary documents are provided. The list of cancelled companies has already been sent to all concerned departments. Companies that have not sought the renewal of licences can now apply at our department," said Daw Nwe Ni Oo.

The validity of a company licence is five years. Expired Licence fees of Ks500,000 and a fine of Ks250,000 are to be paid for first time expiry, whereas Ks1m fees and Ks500,000 fines for a second expiry.

Mandalay DICA has been conducting the company registration since May. The department was opened in 2014 and there were 30 companies per month from 2014 to April of 2016. There were 54 companies sought licences at Mandalay DICA in May 2016.

There are a total of 2,700 companies that have expired licenses across Myanmar; out of those companies over 170 companies are from Mandalay. —*200*

E-money for Myanmar Post

IN a bid to improve e-money services in Myanmar, Hitachi, JP Media and Japan Post are working with Myanmar Post to begin a money order service. Currently, post offices in Myanmar do not have sufficient information technology services to provide the service.

In May 2015, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications of Japan and the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (now the Ministry of Transport and Communications) of Myanmar signed a memorandum of understanding to explore improvements, according to the press release.

In the same year, 18 Myanmar Post offices experimented with e-money services and now they plan to extend the operations to 150 post offices in Myanmar. The system is to be implemented in the second half of this year.

The system creates and issues various forms such as money orders, and automatically calculates transaction results based on information entered into the system from money transfer application forms and each post office are connected to Myanmar Post's common network, allowing forms to be sent and received by their computers. Hitachi and JP Media Direct will contribute to advance Myanmar Post business in the future, the group stated in the press release that they have experience from working in the "field of postal systems." E-money and e-payment systems are being looked into by various start-up groups in Myanmar to help pay bills, send money abroad and also transfer money using mobile phones.—*GNLM*

LPG retailers require neighbors' agreement for Type D, E licences

LIQUEFIED petroleum gas (LPG) retailers need the agreement of the neighbours before applying for Type D and E licences, according to Myanma Petrochemical Enterprise (MPE) under the Ministry of Electric and Energy. The temporary D and E licenses were issued on 9 June, with sales commencing in earl 2017.

Along with seeking their neighbours permission, the applicants have to submit applications to their regional or state governments, the Ministry of Electric and Energy, the City Development Committees concerned and the respective fire services departments.

Type D licence is issued for filling and distribution of gas from storage while Type E licence is issued for filling and distribution of gas from the apartments and the shops. There are 36 LPG gas shops seeking Type D licence and 213 LPG shops seeking Type E licence in the Yangon Region.—*200*

One injured in suicide bombing at police HQ in Indonesia's Solo city

JAKARTA — A suicide bomber blew himself up outside the police headquarters of Solo city in Indonesia's Central Java Province on Tuesday morning, killing himself and injuring a local policeman, the National Police said.

National Police spokesman Boy Rafli Amar said the man detonated his explosives around 7:30am after entering the compound of the headquarters on a scooter.

Central Java Police Chief Condro Kirono later confirmed that the incident was a suicide bombing.

The injured policeman has been hospitalised with injuries to both eyes and a burn injury on the right side of his body, according to a statement by the National Police. National Intelligence Agency Sutiyoso, who like most of Indonesians goes by a single name, said in an interview with Jakarta-based Kompas TV that "judging from the global trend, the (Solo) incident might be linked to attacks by Islamic State sympathisers."

"It might also be a 'trial' for tomorrow's Eid al-Fitr celebrations, so we have to stay alert," Sutiyoso said, referring to the Islamic holy day that falls on Wednesday.

Meanwhile, President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo told a press conference in the West Sumatra provincial capital of Padang that the public need not be alarmed by the attack. "We hope that the people will remain calm but stay on alert because tomorrow we will celebrate Eid al-Fitr," he said. "I have ordered the National Police chief to hunt for (the perpetrator's) networks and reveal what happened," he added.—*Kyodo News*

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Australian PM Turnbull defies critics, cliffhanger vote count resumes

Surfers walk past an election poster promoting Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull outside a voting station located in the South Bondi Lifesaving Club, at Sydney's Bondi Beach, Australia, on 2 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Embattled Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull defended his performance after widespread calls for his resignation and said on Tuesday he was confident of retaining office after vote counting resumed in a cliffhanger election.

Electoral officials began counting 1.5 million postal and absentee votes that will be crucial to the result of Saturday's election, which is still seen as too close to call.

That process is likely to carry on for days, possibly weeks, leaving Australia in a political vacuum after Turnbull's gamble in calling an early election backfired badly with a much bigger swing than expected against his conservative coalition.

Turnbull's Liberal-National coalition has so far secured 68 lower house seats and the centre-left Labour opposition 67, according to projections by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, both agonisingly short of the 76 seats needed to form a majority government in the House of Representatives.

Ten seats remain in doubt. Turnbull said in his first public comments since Sunday that he took full responsibility for his coalition's campaign and that he was still confident of winning a majority.

"There is no doubt that there is a level of disillusionment with politics, with government and with the major parties," Turnbull told reporters.

"We need to listen very carefully to concerns of the Australian people expressed through this election," he said.

Turnbull's disastrous polling has led to attacks from inside and outside his party after he gambled and called elections in both houses of parliament in an attempt to settle a querulous upper house Senate.

The political stability he had sought has evaporated, with a wave of independents winning office, likely making it impossible for him to push ahead with his reformist economic agenda, including a A$50 billion (28.52 billion pounds) corporate tax break.

Labour leader Bill Shorten, who has been appearing in what has been described as a cross-country victory lap, warned Turnbull against making any further drastic decisions, and said Labor was ready to work with all parties in parliament.

"I really think Malcolm Turnbull ... has done a grave disservice to this country and he has given us instability," Shorten told reporters in Queensland state.

The election was meant to end political turmoil that had seen four prime ministers in three years. Instead, it left Turnbull's own leadership in question less than a year after he ousted then prime minister Tony Abbott in a party-room coup.

Turnbull is being blamed for a series of missteps, beginning with triggering the double dissolution of parliament in May, and a long eight-week campaign that allowed time for Labor to hit key issues like healthcare and company tax cuts. Abbott's supporters, including former chief of staff Peta Credlin and Senator Cory Bernardi, have made blistering attacks on Turnbull's judgment. At the same time, independents who could hold the balance of power have refused to commit to either the coalition or Labour.

Former prime minister John Howard, a hugely influential figure in conservative politics, joined Attorney-General George Brandis and Treasurer Scott Morrison in urging unity behind Turnbull.

"This hasn't been an outcome we wanted but it's not the end of the world. People shouldn't start slitting their throats, certainly not Liberals," Howard told reporters. Peter Chen, a political analyst at the University of Sydney, said the election had exposed Turnbull as a failure. "I think probably what he should be doing is cleaning out his desk. He's done," Chen told Reuters.—*Reuters*

Rain, floods in China kill around 100 people, wipe out crops

BEIJING — Severe recent flooding across central and southern China has killed around 100 people, damaged more than 1.5 million hectares of cropland and led to direct economic losses of more than 20 billion yuan ($3 billion), the government has said.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang travelled on Tuesday to Anhui, one of the hardest-hit Provinces, where he met residents and encouraged officials to do everything they could to protect lives and livelihoods. Li was also to visit Hunan province.

Heavy rainfall had killed 93 people across 11 provinces and regions and left 19 missing in the past four days, state news agency Xinhua reported late on Monday.

More than a million people were forced to evacuate their homes and relocate, it said.

Weather forecasts predicted more downpours during what is traditionally China's flood season.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs said on its website 1.34 million hectares of cropland had been damaged and another 157,800 hectares had been destroyed by Monday morning, resulting in direct economic losses of 20.43 billion yuan.

It was not clear how that would affect the summer grain harvest, which was expected to reach 140 million tonnes this year.

The stormy weather also took a toll on farm animals.

In Anhui, the flooding killed some 7,100 hogs, 215 bulls and 5.14 million fowl, the China News Service reported.

In the southern province of Hunan, torrential rain and flooding had forced more than 100 trains to stop or take detours since midnight on Sunday, Xinhua reported.

In one city, around 3 tonnes of gasoline and diesel leaked from a gas station early on Monday, contaminating floodwater that flowed into a nearby river, it said.

Water in 43 rivers in the middle and lower reaches of the Yangtze River had exceeded warning levels and patrols were monitoring dykes, Xinhua quoted Chen Guiya, an official with the Yangtze River Water Resources Commission, as saying.—*Reuters*

Over 80,000 people affected by floods in India's northeast state

NEW DELHI — Flooding in India's northeastern state of Assam has affected over 80,000 people, officials said on Tuesday.

The flood waters affected 187 villages in four districts of the state — Lakhimpur, Dhemaji, Nagaon and Jorhat — east of Dispur, the capital city of Assam.

"Over 68,000 people have been affected in worst-hit Lakhimpur district alone," and official said. "More than 4,000 people have been affected in Majuli island in Jorhat district." Eyewitnesses said several hundred families have left their homes in the affected areas to take shelter on highlands and roads. The state's disaster management authority has issued flood alert in parts of Jorhat, Nagaon, Golaghat and Barpeta districts for the next 24 hours.—*Xinhua*

Bangladesh hunts for six accomplices of cafe attackers

DHAKA — Bangladeshi police hunted on Tuesday for six members of a domestic Islamist group they suspect helped gunmen attack a Dhaka cafe, as officials began questioning families of the militants for clues as to what turned them into killers.

Gunmen stormed the restaurant in Dhaka's diplomatic zone late on Friday and killed 20 people, most of them foreigners from Italy, Japan, India and the United States, in an assault claimed by Islamic State.

It was one of the deadliest militant attacks in Bangladesh, where Islamic State and al Qaeda have claimed a series of killings of liberals and members of religious minorities in the past year. The government has dismissed those claims, as it did the Islamic State claim of responsibility for Friday's attack.

Police believe that Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), an outlawed domestic group that has pledged allegiance to Islamic State, played a significant role in organising the band of privileged, educated young men who carried out the attack.

US ambassador to Bangladesh Marcia Bernicat (L) talks to Italian ambassador to Bangladesh Mario Palma as Japanese ambassador to Bangladesh Masato Watanabe (R) watches during a memorial ceremony for the victims who were killed in the attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery and the O'Kitchen Restaurant, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 4 July 2016.
PHOTO REUTERS

"Six members of JMB have been shown as accused in the case. We are trying to arrest them because they could be the mastermind," Saiful Islam, a senior police officer involved in the investigation, told Reuters.

The JMB has been accused of involvement in many of the killings over the past year and Islam said police were interrogating more than 130 of its members already in custody in the hope of gleaning clues.

"We don't know who is the mastermind behind the attack. We just know that these boys were guided to launch an attack on the restaurant," he said.

"There is no evidence of foreign links."

Police killed six of the attackers when they regained control of the restaurant, 12-hours after the attack began. Two other suspects are in hospital.

Police on Tuesday also registered a case against five of the six dead attackers, Islam said, which they need to do to begin formal investigations which includes questioning of their families. The five named in the case filing were Nibras Islam, Rohan Imtiaz, Meer Saameh Mubasheer, Khairul Islam and Shafiqul Islam. It was not immediately clear why the sixth man had not been named in the police report.

The attack marked a major escalation in the scale and brutality of violence aimed at forcing strict Islamic rule in Bangladesh, whose 160 million people are mostly Muslim.

It has shocked the country, as have details emerging about the well-to-do lives of some of the gunmen, five of whom appeared in photographs posted on an Islamic State website, clutching guns and grinning in front of a black flag. At least three of the gunmen were from wealthy, liberal families who had attended elite Dhaka schools, in contrast to the traditional Bangladeshi militant's path from poverty and a madrassa education to violence. — *Reuters*

Conservatives begin selecting next prime minister to handle Britain's EU exit

LONDON — Britain's ruling Conservative Party begins selecting a new leader to replace David Cameron as prime minister on Tuesday with interior minister Theresa May and junior minister Andrea Leadsom the leading candidates to get the top job.

Cameron announced he would resign in the political maelstrom that followed when Britons voted on 23 June to leave the European Union despite his exhortations to remain, with his successor due in Downing Street by early September.

The leadership battle inside the Conservative Party has added to uncertainty at a time when Britain is facing the biggest political and economic upheaval since World War II.

Five candidates have put their names forward and on Tuesday the 331 Conservative MPs in parliament will hold their first vote on who should be the next leader. Voting starts at 11.00 am BST (1000 GMT) with the result announced about eight hours later and the candidate with the fewest votes will be eliminated.

The next round of voting will then take place on Thursday and the process will continue until just two candidates remain. The leader will then be elected by about 150,000 Conservative Party members across the country.

Theresa May, a Conservative stalwart who has run the security and law-and-order portfolio in Cameron's cabinet for six years, is the favourite with the bookmakers and to succeed and has the greatest backing among MPs.

However, May supported Britain staying in the EU and many Conservatives have argued the next prime minister who will need to negotiate Britain's exit from the bloc after 43 years membership needed to be someone who had supported leaving.

Andrea Leadsom, a candidate to succeed David Cameron as British prime minister, smiles during a news conference in central London, Britain, on 4 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

A poll for the Conservative-Home website put support among members for May on 37 per cent, with 38 per cent backing Leadsom, who was also prominent figure in the Brexit campaign.

Leadsom, 53, who had a 25 year career in financial services before turning to politics but has never served in cabinet, also received a boost on Monday when former London Mayor and leading Brexit campaigner Boris Johnson gave her his backing.

"Andrea Leadsom offers the zap, the drive, and the determination essential for the next leader of this country," Johnson said in a statement. "She has specialised in the EU question ... and will be therefore well-placed to help forge a great post-Brexit future for Britain and Europe," he said.

Johnson had been considered one of the favourites to replace Cameron but ruled out a bid last week after Justice Secretary Michael Gove, who had been widely expected to back him for the top job, unexpectedly announced his own candidacy.

Gove said he had changed his mind about his Brexit campaign colleague, as he did not think Johnson could provide leadership.

The other leadership contenders are work and pensions minister Stephen Crabb and former defence minister Liam Fox who is expected the candidate eliminated on Tuesday.

Both Britain's major parties have been hit by division and recriminations since the EU referendum, with opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn also seeming set to face a challenge to his position.

He has refused to resign despite mass defections from parliamentarians in his policy team and a no confidence motion that was passed by an overwhelming majority of the party's MPs. The party's deputy leader Tom Watson is due to meet trade union representatives, Labour's financial backers, in a "last throw of the dice" to try and reach a deal over Corbyn's leadership.—*Reuters*

Trump defends 'star' tweet; Clinton says it's anti-Semitic

NEW YORK — Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump on Monday defended a social media post he made two days earlier that included an image depicting Democratic rival Hillary Clinton against a backdrop of cash and a Star of David, while Clinton called the image anti-Semitic.

In a tweet on Monday, Trump said he had not meant the six-pointed star to refer to the Star of David, which is a symbol of Judaism. Rather, he said, the star could have referred to a sheriff's badge, which is shaped similarly except for small circles at the ends of each of its six points, or a "plain star."

The presumptive Republican nominee later released a statement saying Clinton's criticism of the image was an attempt to distract the public from "the dishonest behavior of herself and her husband."

He was referring to a heavily criticized private meeting last week between former President Bill Clinton and US Attorney General Loretta Lynch as an investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email server while secretary of state nears a conclusion.

His tweet came after Mic News reported on Sunday that the image attacking Clinton — which included the words: "History made" and, inside the star, "most corrupt candidate ever!" — had been shared on a neo-Nazi web forum called /pol/. Reuters confirmed the image was posted there on 22 June by viewing a link to an archived version of a /pol/ page, although the page has since been updated and the image removed.

"Donald Trump's use of a blatantly anti-Semitic image from racist websites to promote his campaign would be disturbing enough, but the fact that it's a part of a pattern should give voters major cause for concern," Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee, said in a statement emailed to reporters on Monday.

The Nazis forced Jews to wear a Star of David on their clothing to identify themselves during the Holocaust.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gaza receives first Turkish aid shipment after Israel-Turkey deal

GAZA — Turkish aid shipments arrived in the Gaza Strip via Israel on Monday, a week after Israel and Turkey announced they would end a six-year rupture and normalise ties.

About 11,000 tonnes of cargo, including clothing, toys and medicines destined for the Palestinian coastal territory, were ferried to the Israeli port of Ashdod by a Turkish ship that docked on Sunday.

Under the supervision of the Turkish Red Crescent Society, the first of about 500 trucks carrying the aid entered the Gaza Strip, territory controlled by Hamas Islamists, through Israel's Kerem Shalom crossing, witnesses said. Relations between Israel and Turkey crumbled after Israeli marines stormed a Turkish ship in May 2010 challenging Israel's naval blockade of the Gaza Strip and killed 10 Turkish activists during fighting on board. Last week's rare rapprochement in the divided Middle East was driven by the prospect of lucrative Mediterranean gas deals as well as mutual concern over growing security risks, and included an Israeli pledge to enable Turkey to send aid to Gaza.—*Reuters*

Two killed, two injured in shooting near downtown Houston

HOUSTON — Two people were killed and another two injured on Monday night in a shooting near downtown Houston, the largest city in the US state of Texas.

Police blamed an argument between two groups of people for the shooting incident, according to local TV station ABC13.

Two men with severe injuries were rushed to hospital but died later. A 10-year-old boy shot in the lower abdomen and a 30-year-old man with a wrist wound were treated in the Memorial Hermann Hospital.

The shooting took place not far away from the Eleanor Tinsley Park, where the Freedom Over Texas celebration was held, but police said that this incident did not appear to be related to the Independence Day celebration. The police are investigating what led to the argument and shooting.—*Xinhua*

Viet Nam to host international exhibition on film and TV technology

HANOI — An international exhibition on film and television technology, known as Telefilm, will be held in Viet Nam's capital Hanoi on July 13-15.

The event is expected to gather leading enterprises in the field of television in Viet Nam and over 15 other countries and districts including Canada, China, Denmark, France, South Korea, Singapore, Thailand, among others. As many as 350 booths will display contents of films, programmes, format, copyrights, pre-production, post-production, equipment and technology.—*Xinhua*

South Korea to invest 36 billion USD on renewable energy industries by 2020

SEOUL — South Korea's government unveiled a plan on Tuesday to spend about 42 trillion won (36 billion US dollars) on helping develop renewable energy industries such as solar and wind powers and eco-friendly power plants by 2020.

Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Joo Hyung-hwan said at a meeting for future energy strategy committee that the government will invest 42 trillion won in new energy industries by taking all available policy measures by 2020, promising deregulations and various assistances to develop the new energy sectors as new growth engine for exports.—*Xinhua*

Vucic: Serbia could set up teams with WB to boost growth

PARIS — Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic discussed with World Bank (WB) directors in Paris on Monday the possibility of the institution's experts participating in joint special teams to deal with boosting year-on-year growth in Serbia as well as work in the country's education and energy sectors.

Vucic said that he had discussed the matter with WB Vice President Cyril Muller and Regional Director Ellen Goldstein, noting that they had discussed various reforms required for sustainable growth in Serbia. "Our objective is to have good programmes for Serbia in various spheres and let ourselves and the citizens know how and where we see Serbia in various fields in three, four or ten years, and work on this with the best local and foreign experts," Vucic told reporters.—*Tanjug*

Opinion

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

Peace and stability requires uphill struggle

Tha Sein

THE new, more democratically-minded government has made great strides in its own struggle to advance freedom, justice and democracy for all and to establish a closer rapport with international community that sends a crucial signal of support for political and economic reforms. Since taking the helm following a landslide victory in November election, the new administration has been stacked with dissidents and peoples of different faiths as it seeks to tackle a range of pressing issues such as religious conflicts and communal riots. It is an epic struggle it has made that has at times veered from victory to defeat and has recently taken on new significance.

At a particularly sensitive time, the country has seen two separate outbursts of riot stemming from misunderstanding among peoples of different faiths, begetting unease in all spheres of Myanmar society with many fearing for possible communal violence. Much upset by this, some of social media networks were circulating rumors to fuel the communal strife beyond control. However, there seemed to be a great relief writ large, for local authorities and religious leaders exercised restraint and contained the situations in time.

Vis-à-vis the recent outbursts of riot in Lebyin village of Hpakant township, a remote jade mining region, and Thaye-thamein village of Waw township, about 100 kilometers from a commercial city of Yangon, it is quite natural that such an incident could happen at all times in a country with a plethora of ethnic and religious communities. Whatever it may be, such hostile acts only invite international sarcasm and overshadow the ongoing reform efforts.

In the latest twist in the making ongoing peace process a success, the government has come up with a way to make the peace process inclusive and equal, in which NCA non-signatories are well accepted and regarded as a welcome move to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and understanding among all.

There is a lot that the government has done in its nation-building endeavors in order to bring about peace and stability in the country with the 21st Panglong Peace Conference high on the agenda, yet achieving this requires an uphill struggle. On top of this, it is taking every possible step to meet public expectations for improvement in various aspects.

Now it's the Floor's Turn

Khin Maung Myint

I once mentioned a loose translation of a well-known Myanmar saying in one of my articles. It is very meaningful and I admire the person who coined that saying, for his wisdom. I'm quite familiar with some English and American proverbs and sayings, but I have never found a similar one or may be I'm not very much widely read. Thus I chose the Myanmar saying to make my point stronger in delivering the message I want to give. The saying runs like this: **"Due to the leaky roof, the floor is decayed, is it the floor's fault?".**

I used that saying in an article related to bribery and corruption. I wanted to point out that the problem of bribery and corruption was being dealt wrongly in our country. Whenever there was action taken for such crimes, it was the lower echelon staff that were dismissed or jailed. However, those in higher positions who were committing them left and right and in much larger volumes were getting away scot-free or had never taken any severe action in the past. The severest action taken against high ranking officials for corruption, that I had witnessed during my service years, were transfers to a similar rank in other departments under another ministry. I likened that situation to repairing the floor without repairing the leaky roof, which will cause the floor to decay again. I suggested that the leaky roof be either repaired, if still repairable and if not, to totally remove and replace with a new one before repairing the floor.

Now, the roof has been replaced, but is the building strong enough to be safe or free from danger of being toppled? If the decayed floor is not repaired in time, I doubt it would last long. Buildings would collapse if the base is not strong. Thus, it's time to repair the decayed floor, which forms part of the base, by removing and replacing the unrepairable planks that are decaying. If some salvageable planks are reused, make sure that they are strong enough and reliable. Un-reuseable and unreliable ones should be totally discarded. There's no reason to be attached to them as they are the ones that would surely give trouble sooner or later.

Likewise, a government's durability depends greatly on the strengths of the personnel at all levels of the hierarchy in various state departments, especially those in high positions. The strength or the ability of a person is gauged by his or her integrity, honesty, sincerity, character, industriousness, qualification or caliber, reliability and last but not least, loyalty. One may not be endowed with all these attributes. However, if one possesses a few of the the most important ones such as honesty, sincerity, reliability and loyalty, they would be great assets.

During my service years I had served in various capacities, the administrative field of which was my speciality. As the administrative chief, I made it a point to know each and everyone in the department, especially those in responsible positions. I knew most of them and their calibers, capabilities, capacities, characters, their strong points, their weaknesses and above all their mentalities and attitudes or in other words their mindsets, to a certain extent.

As there were a few good, clean, industrious and dutiful staff, there were also many opportunists who would resort to any means to please the superiors for favours and undue privileges. Of course, bribing is their main tools to achieve their goals. To be able to bribe, they too must be corrupt. The term corruption doesn't apply only to the taking of bribes; mis-appropiations of state funds, facilities and properties and abuse of office, too, are deemed as corruptions. In those days, only a few were clean and free from corruption.

Things I noticed about those corrupt persons were that most were not dedicated to their duties and were not qualified and worst of all, many were misfits in the positions they held. They had no principles or dignity and were disloyal. Thus they were not trustworthy. The only thing they were interested in was their survival.

Today, most of those corrupt persons I knew had gone on retirement or passed away. Though I don't know how many such persons are still there in my old department, I know for sure some of those corrupt individuals still remain. Some have even risen to high positions. They haven't changed their characters or mindsets. The numbers of such type of persons may have even increased with the newcomers---either recruited from outside or dumped from other departments. In the past, most civil departments were inter-ministrial dumping grounds to dump misfits and unwanted high profile personnels between various ministries.

I don't want to name them, but would like to suggest to the authorities that every department need thorough shake-up to cleanse them of such individuals. The practice of transferring such persons from one department to another wouldn't solve the problems. To create a clean government and promote good governance, these corrupt individuals in all the departments should be done away, if they hadn't turn over a new leaf. They are the root causes of the ill-reputations of any government department in the eyes of the public. They could also cause hindrances to the nation building process. I bet there are countless numbers of such undesirable elements in every department. However, to be fair, they should be given a certain period of time to change. It may take time but must be done. We couldn't afford to wait very long, though. In my humble opinion, the sooner the better.

"The term corruption doesn't apply only to the taking of bribes; mis-appropiations of state funds, facilities and properties and abuse of office, too, are deemed as corruptions. In those days, only a few were clean and free from corruption."

Monks and Orphans receive healthcare services in Southern Command

Monks and orphans receive healthcare services in Southern Command. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

THE gracious Commander of Southern Command and officers donated robes, rice, edible oil and medicines to Aggamahaganthavacakapandita Bhaddanta Suriya, the Sayardaw of Kyarnigan Pariyatti Monastery in Taungoo on 2 July.

What was also really nice of them was that they provided healthcare to sick monks who are learning Buddhist Literature at the monastery.

Afterwards, the gracious Commander visited an orphanage on the grounds of the Ahthawka Monastery and handed out even more robes, 10 sacks of rice, bean, and edible oil to the Sayadaw Bhaddanta U Vicitta. The commander also encouraging the mobile medical team to provide medical services to sick orphans.—*Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

Bat Myanmar Ltd (BATM)'s sustainability summary keeps an open door to people, performance and promises

BAT Myanmar is a member of the British American Tobacco (BAT) group, one of the world's most international tobacco companies operating in over 200 markets. The company's ongoing commitment to and progress in this area is reflected in the Group's inclusion in the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) for the last 14 years.

BAT Myanmar re-entered the country in 2013 and has just released a Sustainability Summary covering its journey from entry till 2015.

Rehan Baig, Managing Director of BATM comments:

"Globally, BAT is considered one of the best governed companies and has been contributing towards the economic, social and human resource development of the countries in which it operates. Sustainability is what underpins our strategy''.

"The summary seeks to demonstrate our commitment to upholding the highest standards of corporate conduct and transparency in Myanmar. We work in a controversial industry and in a country where there are numerous challenges to how we operate. This summary highlights how we are working to address these challenges in order to grow our business for the shared value of all our stakeholders.''—*GNLM*

1st Upper Myanmar International Level Cooking Competition held in Mandalay

SPONSORED by the Myanmar Chefs' Association and World Association of Chefs' Societies (WACS) the opening ceremony of the 1st Upper-Myanmar International Level Cooking Competition, organised by the Myanmar Chefs' Association Mandalay (MCA Mandalay), was held in the promotion area of the Yadanabon Super Centre of the Mandalay Yadana Mall on Monday. Present at the event were hoteliers, restaurateurs and guests. Officials of the Mandalay City Development Committee, the Myanmar Chefs' Association and the Mandalay Yadana Mall cut the ribbons to open the competition.

1st Upper Myanmar International Level Cooking Competition in progress. Photo: THIHA KO KO (MDY)

Participants from hotels and foodstuff businesses as well as organisations competed by cooking Myanmar, Chinese, European and Indian cuisines.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

People's Forum

Letter to the Editor

Owns reinforced by loans

IN every society babies born will be loved and treasured by their families and be treated as added resources by its country. That's a common phenomenon. Therefore, when a couple experience inability to conceive, it could be a disaster for the family while some societies regard it as social stigma and as for a workforce-centric nation it is considered numerical loss to headcount of its resources which in future can be translated into deficit in its gross domestic product (GDP) value.

A commonly used demographic indicator estimating level of fertility of a given population is "total fertility rate", in short (TFR). What 'TFR' means in layman lingo is the number of children delivered per woman if all women in that particular population lived till the end of her child bearing ages. A cut-off or threshold TFR indicates the number of children to be delivered by a woman to replace the parents. As the main purpose of this short write up is just to portray the implications and nature of the problems of low fertility rate in layman terms, factors such as death rate and in and out migrations which are also important in estimating threshold TFR will not be discussed.

Having said above, if any other things are deemed neutral, the 'TFR' which is good enough to replace both parents would be 2.1 for a country at least to be able to sustain its existing population. When fertility at the national level of a country declines, it will be reflected on its TFR according to how steep the decline is. To gauge its impact, it is also crucial to look at as to how fast and chronic the decline is.

Currently, based on the latest estimates of the World Bank, the TFRs of the countries in the world range from 1.2 to 7.6. General trends are such that the level of development does not gel well with the level of fertility i.e. lower TFR associates with developed countries. Countries with extremely and consistently low TFR for a prolonged period would face a serious demographic challenge of its own cohort being depleted unless other mitigating factors such as immigration comes into play. Demographic shifts could also display its effect as ramifications on social and health sectors if they become chronic issues.

Besides its impact on the demographic patterns, chronically low TFR could pose a serious challenge on economy through its negative effect on the size of workforce in a long run. In order to mitigate this, some workforce-centric countries may consider an option of easing off restrictions on their policies pertaining to immigration and employment of overseas workers. This may help to add digits to its GDP to a certain extent but at a cost of possible resentment from the natives of the country (owns) towards workers from overseas (loans) for various reasons such as perceptions of sharing limited infrastructures and services e.g. homes, transports, health etc. and regarding foreign guests as threats to their employment opportunities.

Therefore, sensibly thought-out policies on populations and its associated issues are vital in every society especially for those with the potential fluctuations of its population to either extreme be it explosion or drought. Careful implementations of those policies with vigilant monitoring and regular review are essential elements.

Above all this, educations to the native society to understand and accept the points on how 'loans' can reinforce the workforce of 'owns' and contribute and complement to the economy of the country is the key for the success of the implementations of the policies.

Aung Myint Oo
29.6.2016

Daw Khin Myat Win (centre), member of the Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association, is seen at Yangon International Airport before her departure for India on 4th July to attend a Grassroots Women Economic Empowerment Program which will be held from 2 to 10 July. PHOTO: MWEA

US ditched plan to give Afghan forces more armoured vehicles

KABUL — As Afghan troops were preparing to take on Taliban militants without NATO combat support in 2014, US officials shelved plans to provide them with hundreds of potentially life-saving armoured vehicles, documents reviewed by Reuters show.

The decision not to supply around 300 extra vehicles, taken largely for budgetary reasons, remains a sore point, as local forces struggle to implement a US-led push to get them off bases and into active battle against a resilient insurgency.

Since 2002, the United States has allocated more than $68 billion to train and equip Afghan security forces, with a view to eventually withdrawing from the country. Yet serious shortfalls in personnel and hardware remain. Masoom Stanekzai, acting defence minister before being approved by parliament recently as intelligence chief, told Reuters the Afghan government was still trying to obtain more armoured vehicles from the United States.

After Washington approved a large shipment of cargo trucks not requested by the Afghans, Stanekzai wrote a private letter to coalition commanders last year in which he said he needed more armoured vehicles, including so-called Mobile Strike Force Vehicles (MSFVs). "In the type of fighting we're facing, the MSFV is more effective than the Humvee," he said in an interview, referring to the smaller, less well protected vehicle more commonly provided to Afghan troops.

Most important, in Afghan eyes, is the MSFV's "V-shaped" hull and extra armour, which reflect advances in engineering widely adopted to better protect troops, especially from roadside bombs favoured by Afghan insurgents.

So while most local troops still travel in Humvees and regular pickups, coalition soldiers rarely leave bases unless they are in more heavily protected vehicles.

In 2013, the Afghan army already had 600 MSFVs, and they are still used in many of the most dangerous areas of Afghanistan.

At the time, US military planners agreed on the need for almost 300 more, and sent a request to Congress for around $900 million to cover the cost.

"It provides the ANA with an armoured force that has more mobility, survivability, and lethality than regular infantry units," the Pentagon wrote in its pitch to lawmakers.

Congress approved the money, but the order was put on hold in early 2014.

Shortly after that, Afghan army chief of staff Sher Mohammad Karimi wrote a memo to coalition commanders outlining the military's need for better armoured vehicles.

"Mines continue to account for nearly 90 per cent of the ANA (Afghan National Army) casualties for the past year and we anticipate this will continue to be a favourite tactic of our enemy for the foreseeable future," he said. In the end, the US military scrapped the MSFV order "to address overall concerns about long-term sustainability and affordability" of Afghan forces, Pentagon spokesman Adam Stump said in a statement to Reuters.—*Reuters*

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Muslim worshippers gather after a suicide bomber detonated a device near the security headquarters of the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, Saudi Arabia, on 4 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Suicide bombers hit three Saudi cities, killing at least four officers

RIYADH — Suicide bombers struck three cities across Saudi Arabia on Monday, killing at least four security officers in an apparently coordinated campaign of attacks as Saudis prepared to break their fast on the penultimate day of the holy month of Ramadan.

The explosions targeting US diplomats, Shi'ite worshippers and a security headquarters at a mosque in the holy city of Medina followed days of mass killings claimed by the Islamic State group in Turkey, Bangladesh and Iraq. The attacks all seem to have been timed to coincide with the approach of Eid al-Fitr, the holiday that celebrates the end of the Islamic holy month.

A suicide bomber detonated a bomb at a parking lot outside the Prophet's Mosque in Medina, the second-holiest site in Islam, a Saudi security spokesman told state news agency SPA.

"Security men noticed a suspicious person among those approaching the Prophet's Mosque in an open area used as parking lots for visitors' cars. As they confronted him, he blew himself up with an explosive belt, which resulted in his death and the martyrdom of four of the security men," the spokesman said.

Five other officers were wounded, the statement added. A Saudi security official said an attacker parked a car near the US consulate in Jeddah before detonating the device.

A video sent to Reuters by a witness to the aftermath of the Medina bombing showed a large blaze among parked cars in the fading evening light, with the sound of sirens in the background. A picture sent to Reuters showed a burnt and bleeding man lying on a stretcher in a hospital.

Other pictures circulating on social media showed dark smoke billowing from flames near the Mosque of the Prophet, originally built in the 7th century by the Prophet Muhammad, who is buried there along with his first two successors.

In Qatif, an eastern city that is home to many members of the Shi'ite minority, at least one and possibly two explosions struck near a Shi'ite mosque.

The security spokesman said the body of a bomber and two other people have been identified, without providing any more details.

Witnesses described body parts, apparently of a suicide bomber, in the aftermath.

A resident of the city reached by telephone said there were believed to be no casualties there apart from the attacker, as worshippers had already gone home to break their fasts. Civil defence forces were cleaning up the area and police were investigating, the resident said.

A video circulating on social media and purporting to show the aftermath of a Qatif blast showed an agitated crowd on a street, with a fire raging near a building and a bloody body part lying on the ground. Reuters could not immediately verify the video.

Hours earlier a suicide bomber was killed and two people were wounded in a blast near the US Consulate in the kingdom's second city, Jeddah.

The Jeddah blast was the first bombing in years to attempt to target foreigners in the kingdom. There was no immediate claim of responsibility.

Authorities identified the attacker as a 34-year-old Pakistani driver named Abdullah Qalzar Khan, who lived with his wife and family in the city.

An official of the US State Department said no American citizens or consulate staff were hurt in the Jeddah blast. He said the United States was aware of reports of explosions in Qatif and Medina and would monitor the situation closely.—*Reuters*

NASA's Juno spacecraft loops into orbit around Jupiter

CAPE CANAVERAL, (Fla) — NASA's Juno spacecraft capped a five-year journey to Jupiter late Monday with a do-or-die engine burn to sling itself into orbit, setting the stage for a 20-month dance around the biggest planet in the solar system to learn how and where it formed.

"We're there. We're in orbit. We conquered Jupiter," lead mission scientist Scott Bolton, with the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, told reporters on Tuesday. "Now the fun begins."

Juno will spend the next three months getting into position to begin studying what lies beneath Jupiter's thick clouds and mapping the planet's gargantuan magnetic fields.

Flying in egg-shaped orbits, each one lasting 14 days, Juno also will look for evidence that Jupiter has a dense inner core and measure how much water is in the atmosphere, a key yardstick for figuring out how far away from the sun the gas giant formed.

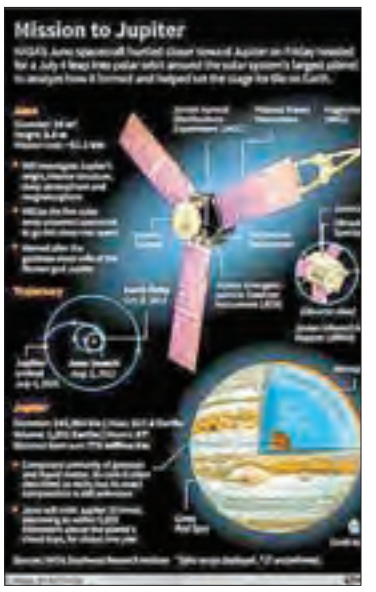
Jupiter's origins, in turn, affected the development and position of the rest of the planets, including Earth and its fortuitous location conducive to the evolution of life. "The question I've had my whole life that I'm hoping we get an answer to is 'How'd we get here?' That's really pretty fundamental to me," Bolton said.

Jupiter orbits five times farther from the sun than Earth, but it may have started out elsewhere and migrated, jostling its smaller sibling planets as it moved.

Jupiter's immense gravity also diverts many asteroids and comets from potentially catastrophic collisions with Earth and the rest of the inner solar system.

Launched from Florida nearly five years ago, Juno needed to be precisely positioned, ignite its main engine at exactly the right time and keep it firing for 35 minutes to become only the second spacecraft to orbit Jupiter.

If anything had gone even slightly awry, Juno would have sailed helplessly past Jupiter, unable to complete a $1 billion mission. The risky maneuver began as planned at 11:18 p.m. EDT/0318 Tuesday GMT as Juno soared through the vacuum of space at more than 160,000 mph (257,500 kph). NASA expects Juno to be in position for its first close-up images of Jupiter on Aug. 27, the same day its science instruments are turned on for a test run. Only one other spacecraft, Galileo, has ever circled Jupiter, which is itself orbited by 67 known moons. Bolton said Juno is likely to discover even more.—*Reuters*



Mission to Jupiter EPS C. Illustrated factbox on NASA's Juno mission to Jupiter. PHOTO: REUTERS

Spain's Almirall eyes Valeant skin drugs to boost dermatology

MADRID — Spanish drugmaker Almirall, which is building up its business in skin treatments, could be interested in acquiring dermatology assets from Canada's Valeant Pharmaceuticals, the head of the Barcelona-based company said on Monday. Valeant is looking at divesting various products as it tries to reduce its massive debt load, with new CEO Joe Papa open to selling a range of assets if the price is right.

Almirall Chief Executive Eduardo Sanchiz is leading a period of significant change at the company, following a shake-up of its drug portfolio, and building up the dermatology business further would fit with the Spanish group's strategy. "We're still in very initial stages but there are things that could interest us. We're studying the situation but waiting for more information," Sanchiz told Reuters. Sanchiz said he was confident Almirall had the capacity to make another acquisition this year, whether of a single drug, a range of products or a whole company. After selling its respiratory business to AstraZeneca two years ago, Almirall has shifted its main focus to dermatology. It acquired Poli Group in November for 365 million euros ($407 million) and Thermigen in January for $80 million. Both deals boosted its skin franchise, with Poli adding nail disorder products and Thermigen taking it into aesthetic dermatology. Industry analysts believe the Spanish group still has the financial firepower for further acquisitions.—*Reuters*

A woman waits for a bus outside Spanish pharmaceutical company Almirall's headquarters in central Barcelona, in 2008.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Researchers working on glues inspired by mussels for fetal surgery

SAN FRANCISCO — A team of researchers have been working on new glues that are inspired by mussels for fetal surgery, in which anatomical defects are repaired before birth.

In fetal surgery, the threat of rupture of the protective membrane of the amniotic sac in which the fetus floats has been a constant risk to the inutero surgical patient.

The fetal membranes are vulnerable at the spots where they are punctured during surgery. Once ruptured, the result may be leakage of amniotic fluid, with a risk of premature labor and delivery of a tiny, vulnerable, pre-term infant.

"It's an extremely delicate tissue," said Phillip Messersmith of University of California, Berkeley.

"When you cut a hole in it, it does not heal as your skin would heal. And suturing is a poor option. There is a growing awareness that novel materials are needed to seal the fetal membranes after surgical intervention."

That is where the common mussel, Mytilus edulis, muscles its way into consideration by researchers seeking better glues for medical procedures inside the body.

Developing glues that work where it is wet has proved difficult. The inside of the human body, and the amniotic sac in which the fetus develops, are watery environments, not so different from the ocean, where the mussel routinely and successfully glues itself in place.

The key to the mussel's success is its foot, and the "byssal" gland within it. From this gland the mussel secretes a recipe of proteins.

Once secreted into the water, the proteins form tethers and a sticky glue that quickly sets, anchoring mussel to rock through these threads.—*Xinhua*

Surgical skill not equal across weight-loss surgeries

WASHINGTON — Surgeons who are good at one type of weight-loss surgery aren't necessarily good at other operations for the same purpose, a new study shows.

The findings "suggest that a surgeon's skill with one operation may not translate into other seemingly similar operations," investigators say.

In the first phase of the research, 20 bariatric surgeons from across the US had videos taken while they performed gastric bypass operations to help people lose weight.

Thirty-three other surgeons reviewed the videos and rated them according to surgical skill, without knowing the identities of the doctors they were watching.

When the video-based ratings were compared to results in more than 10,000 of the surgeons' actual patients, "surgeons who were rated highly by their peers had less complications," Dr. Oliver Varban of the University of Michigan Health Systems, Ann Arbor, told Reuters Health via email.

Therefore, Varban said, his team "asked the next logical question: 'Can the skill ratings for one procedure (gastric bypass) help us predict the outcomes for another, similar procedure (sleeve gastrectomy)?'"

"Our data revealed that it didn't," he added. The surgeons in the gastric bypass videos had been divided by their peers into top, middle, or bottom categories for skill. When Varban and colleagues looked back at nearly 7,700 sleeve gastrectomy surgeries performed by the same 20 surgeons, they found that all 20 had similar rates of surgical and medical complications, regardless of how skilled they were at gastric bypass operations.

For instance, overall complication rates after sleeve gastrectomy were 5.7 per cent for top-rated surgeons, 6.4 per cent for the middle surgeons, and 5.5 per cent for the bottom, according to a report in the journal Surgery.

Hospital readmission rates were 3.8 per cent for top-rated surgeons, 4.8 per cent for the middle surgeons, and 3.1 percent for the bottom. The reoperation rate was 1.1 per cent for all skill levels.

One reason why skill in one surgery didn't predict skill in another surgery may be that the operations aren't similar enough, Dr. James Ames, Orthopedic Sports Medicine Surgeon at Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire told Reuters Health via phone. Dr. Ames, who wasn't involved in this research, has studied whether surgeons' skill could be transferred between total hip and partial hip replacement.

Varban and his colleagues agreed. While both surgeries in this study are related, some of the skills required aren't similar, they say. In a gastric bypass, the top of the stomach is sealed off, leaving a small pouch that is then connected directly to the middle part of the small intestine. In a sleeve gastrectomy, the structure of the stomach is changed to be shaped like a tube. Both operations restrict the amount of calories the body absorbs — but one requires more sewing skill while the other requires more dissection skill. "So, if we are to use video-based skill ratings to evaluate surgical quality, each procedure needs to be evaluated separately," said Varban.—*Reuters*

On Africa tour, Israeli PM remembers brother killed in Entebbe rescue

ENTEBBE, (Uganda) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began an African tour on Monday, attending a memorial service at Entebbe airport in Uganda where his commando brother was killed rescuing hostages 40 years ago — an event which he has said shaped his future.

Lt Col Yonatan "Yoni" Netanyahu led an assault team of 29 commandos who stormed the terminal in 1976 to rescue Israelis and others who had been on board an Air France flight diverted to Uganda by Palestinian and German hijackers.

"I am touched to stand in this place, this very place, where my brother, Yoni, fell," the prime minister said at Entebbe airport. "Entebbe is always with me, in my thoughts, in my consciousness, deep in my heart."

The old building where the hostages were held still stands, but a new terminal now serves the airport at Entebbe, which lies a few miles (km) from the capital Kampala. Some former Israeli commandos involved in the raid also attended the ceremony.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (C) introduces members of his delegation to Uganda's President Yoweri Museveni after arriving to commemorate the 40th anniversary of Operation Entebbe at the Entebbe airport in Uganda, on 4 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The prime minister's elder brother was the only Israeli soldier killed in the 1976 raid. The hijackers, three hostages and dozens of Ugandan soldiers died. More than 100 mostly Israeli hostages were freed. Ugandan autocrat Idi Amin, in power at that time, broke ties with Israel after the raid.

"My brother's death changed my life and directed it to its present course," he said in an interview with Newsweek in 2012.

Speaking on Monday before talks with President Yoweri Museveni, Netanyahu said: "Exactly 40 years ago, Israel soldiers carried out a historic mission in Entebbe. "Forty years ago they landed in the dead of the night in a country led by a brutal dictator. Today we landed in broad day light in a friendly country led by a president who fights terrorists."

Uganda has been targeted by Somali Islamist group al Shabaab, which has said it wants to drive out Ugandan and other soldiers fighting with an African Union peace force in Somalia.

Netanyahu was accompanied by an 80-strong delegation of Israeli business executives from more than 50 companies. After talks with Museveni he was to attend a summit with leaders from Rwanda, Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia and Zambia

"Africa is a continent on the rise. Israel looks forward to strengthening ties with all its countries," he said.

After Uganda, the Israeli prime minister travels to Kenya where Israel provides training for the security forces and has other investments.

"Israel is a critical partner to Kenya, with its development assistance in security and defence, agriculture and particularly irrigation are important investments here," Kenyan presidential spokesman Manoah said ahead of the visit.

The tour will also take Netanyahu to Rwanda and Ethiopia.—*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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (553N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (553N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PATHEIN STAR VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BALI VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BALI VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DA FU VOY NO (154)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DA FU VOY NO (154) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 6.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

Red, white and extra blue as tight security marks US July 4th celebrations

A boy wears decorations as he rides his bicycle through Barnstable Village, on Cape Cod during the annual Independence Day parade celebrations in Barnstable, Massachusetts, US, on 4 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — The United States celebrated the July Fourth holiday on Monday with parades, baking contests and picnics draped in red, white and an extra layer of blue, as police ramped up patrols because of concerns about terrorism and gun violence.

Millions of Americans marked independence from Britain with celebrations as boisterous as a music-packed party by country music legend Willie Nelson for 10,000 people at a race track in Austin, Texas, and as staid as colonial-era costumed actors reading the Declaration of Independence at the US National Archives in Washington.

"It's a good day for reflecting on the positive things about America — the sense of freedom that you can go after and achieve whatever you want," said Helen Donaldson, 48, the mother of a multi-ethnic family of four adopted teens living in Maplewood, New Jersey.

Donaldson, a white Australian immigrant, cheered with her two New Jersey-born African-American daughters, both 12 and dressed in red, white and blue, as a recording of the Star Spangled Banner played to kick off a children's relay race. Nearby, in the baking contest tent, 13-year-old Nate Fisher entered his cherry blueberry tart into competition "I have high hopes," he said, flashing a smile.

History was made in the traditional hotdog-eating contest at New York's Coney Island when long-time champion Joey "Jaws" Chestnut took back the Mustard Yellow International Belt from last year's upstart winner Matt Stonie. Chestnut set an unofficial new world record by downing 70 hotdogs in 10 minutes — topping his previous record of 69 franks. In the women's division, Miki Sudo successfully defended her title by eating 38 hotdogs in 10 minutes. With the holiday taking place days after attacks in Baghdad, Dhaka and Istanbul, the New York Police Department deployed eight new "vapor wake" dogs, trained to sniff out explosives on a moving target in a crowd.

The department's presence this holiday was boosted by nearly 2,000 new officers just days after they graduated on Friday from the New York City Police Academy. "You're going to see a lot of people in heavy vests, helmets and long guns and they can respond at a moment's notice to any incident," NYPD Chief of Department James O'Neill told a news conference. "There's also a lot you won't see."

Police in Chicago, which has seen a spike in gun murders this year, announced a stepped-up presence with more than 5,000 officers on patrol over the long weekend, traditionally one of the year's most violent, said Chicago Police Superintendent Eddie Johnson.

The Chicago Tribune said at least three people had been killed and 34 wounded over the holiday weekend by Monday evening.

Dry weather forecasts across the country thrilled fireworks lovers, although some spots in Michigan have been so rain-starved that pyrotechnic shows were canceled in a handful of communities near Detroit because of the risk of fires. A 19-year-old tourist in New York's Central Park suffered a severe foot wound on Sunday after an apparent homemade firework exploded when he jumped off a rock and stepped on the device, authorities said.—*Reuters*

Zimbabwe police fire teargas as taxi drivers' protest turns violent

HARARE — A protest by Zimbabwean taxi drivers against a police crackdown turned violent on Monday when residents joined in and hurled rocks at police, who fired teargas to disperse the rioters.

In the last month, Zimbabwe has witnessed spontaneous protests against government corruption, shortages of money and government plans to circulate local bank notes as the southern African nation struggles with a drought and a slowing economy.

Zimbabwean taxi drivers, along with owners of taxi firms, accuse police of seeking to raise money for their operations by imposing hefty fines on their vehicles, which they say impacts on their business.

Police spokeswoman Charity Charamba told reporters that anti-riot police had deployed in two townships outside Harare and arrested 30 people in connection with the violence.

Charamba said "all those who are inciting and engaging in violence that such misconduct will be severely dealt with."

A Reuters witness said taxi operators teamed up with residents in Epworth township, south of central Harare, to attack police with stones. Police fired teargas, beat up protesters and broke down doors at some houses, saying they were looking for organisers of the protest.—*Reuters*

Residents of Epworth suburb flee as riot police fire teargas after a protest by taxi drivers turned violent in Harare, Zimbabwe, on 4 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(9 /2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-021(16-17)	Electrical Spares for USS Oil Well Rig (13) Items	US$
(2)	IFB-022(16-17)	Spares for 3rd Stage & 4th Stage Atlas Copco Compressor (Intermech) (178) Items	US$
(3)	IFB-023(16-17)	2 7/8" & 2 3/8" EUE Tubing (2) Items	US$
(4)	IFB-024(16-17)	2", 3" & 4" Flow Line Pipes (3) Items	US$
(5)	IFB-025(16-17)	Spares for P & H Crawler Crane (19) Items	US$
(6)	IFB-026(16-17)	Handling and Lifting Accessories (62) Items	US$
(7)	IFB-027(16-17)	Spares for L-Type & ZW-Type Compressor (54) Items	US$
(8)	IFB-028(16-17)	Spares for Clean Energy Mother & Daughter Compressors (IMW) (77) Items	US$
(9)	IFB-029(16-17)	Rig Floor Handling & Lifting Accessories (20) Items	US$
(10)	IFB-030(16-17)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 70L Rigs (22) Items	US$
(11)	DMP/L-010(16-17)	1" Ø Reinforcement Hose Pipe and 1" Ø Union (2) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 28-7-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5TH July, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Luxury brands show autumn creations at Paris haute couture week

PARIS — Luxury materials, exquisite craftsmanship and sweeping dresses take centre stage at the Paris haute couture fashion shows this week, where designer brands unveil their autumn/winter collections.

French luxury label Dior showcased its atelier's craftsmanship on Monday in a monochrome collection of black and white trouser suits, puffy skirts and sleek evening outfits.

Models wore tailored trouser suits as well as hourglass jackets over calf-length skirts, paired with flat black sandals.

Designers Lucie Meier and Serge Ruffieux took inspiration from Dior's signature waist-cinched Bar jacket for the collection, elongating it or giving it a straighter form.

Detailing came in tops with ruffled bottoms, puffed-up sleeves as well pleating and draping on strapless evening dresses and organza skirts. There were also sheer outfits and intricately embroidered jackets and skirt combinations. The only other dab of colour came as golden embroidery.

"Monsieur Dior himself adored the juxtaposition of the two: 'White,' he said, 'is simple, pure and goes with everything,' while declaring, 'I could write a whole book about black'," the brand said in show notes of its founding designer.

Models present creations by French designer Bertrand Guyon as part of his Haute Couture Fall Winter 2016/2017 fashion show for Schiaparelli in Paris, France, on 4 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

Meier and Ruffieux have been leading Dior's creative team since designer Raf Simons left last year. Dior is expected to announce that Valentino designer Maria Grazia Chiuri will be joining the brand, two people familiar with the matter told Reuters last month.

On Sunday evening, Italy's Versace kicked off its Atelier Versace show with belted cashmere coats worn over satin dresses.

Models strutted down the catwalk in off-the-shoulder or asymmetric draped gowns, some worn with slim trousers.

Other dresses had cut-out features as well as plenty of pleats for the evening. Adding to the luxurious feel were crystals adorning evening coats and twisted satin drapes on gowns, fit for a celebrity red carpet.

High heels with twisted leather knots were de rigueur.

For the colour palette, designer Donatella Versace contrasted pale pink and blue with black, as well as using bold red and dabs of lilac.

Other brands presenting their fall 2016 haute couture creations this week include Chanel and Giorgio Armani Prive.—*Reuters*

'Thor: Ragnarok' begins filming

LOS ANGELES — Actors Chris Hemsworth and Mark Ruffalo have started filming for "Thor: Ragnarok," the upcoming edition in the franchise.

The movie is being helmed by Taika Waititi, best known for his directorial work in "What We do in the Shadows," reported Entertainment Weekly.

Marvel co-president Louis D'Esposito wished director, the cast, and crew good luck as production picked up in Australia.

"Best of luck to @Taika-Waititi and the whole cast and crew of #ThorRagnarok . July 4 they started filming. Australia is in the future," he tweeted.

The 40-year-old helmer posted a picture from the movie set. "@MrPeytonReed @louisde2 Pretty sweet 1st day. Look at all these people who turned up to work. #Blessed #support pic.twitter.com/xJQdJzyFwR," he tweeted.

Though, Thor is a regular in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, he didn't make an apperance "Captain America: Civil War," same goes for Ruffalo's "Hulk." The movie also stars Tom Hiddleston, Idris Elba, Anthony Hopkins, Cate Blanchett, Jeff Goldblum, Tessa Thompson, and Karl Urban.—*PTI*

Comedienne Rebel Wilson makes London stage debut in 'Guys and Dolls'

LONDON — Having made audiences laugh in movies such as "Bridesmaids" and "Pitch Perfect", Australian comedienne Rebel Wilson now sets her sights on the London stage, making her West End debut in musical "Guys and Dolls".

Actress Rebel Wilson.
PHOTO: REUTERS

The 36-year old plays club singer Miss Adelaide in an eight-week run in the latest revival of the famed 1950s Broadway show.

"So I got the offer to be in the show and I was like, '...ok, yeah'. It was kind of like a definite yes just because I've never done a West End show before and I've always really wanted to," Wilson told Reuters in an interview.

"Miss Adelaide is such an iconic role and so I thought it would definitely be a challenge because I've never done the eight-show-a-week schedule but I was just really excited."

Wilson, whose character Fat Amy is known for her wild antics in musical film "Pitch Perfect" and its sequel, said many people were not familiar with her theater background, having trained at the Australian Theatre for Young People.

"Most people don't know, they're like 'yeah Rebel's just like come up in 'Bridesmaids' or 'Pitch Perfect' ... and a lot of people think ... you are those characters because they've seen them a lot," she said.

"But what they don't know is that I trained in theater school in Australia and did like a lot of productions."

Wilson took to the stage at London's Phoenix Theatre last week and will appear in the show until August. After that, she said would film "Pitch Perfect 3", set for release next year.—*Reuters*

Pixar not planning more sequels after The Incredibles 2

LOS ANGELES — Pixar has announced that they are not planning any more sequels of "The Incredibles" after the second installment of the movie.

Pixar will be concentrating on original movies once its upcoming slate of "Cars 3", "Toy Story 4" and "The Incredibles 2" all hit cinemas by the end of the year 2019, reported Entertainment Weekly.

The company's president Jim Morris talked about the difficulties of getting a sequel started.

"Most studios jump on doing a sequel as soon as they have a successful film, but our business model is a filmmaker model, and we don't make a sequel unless the director of the original film has an idea that they like and are willing to go forward on," he said.

"A sequel in some regards is even harder (than the original) because you've got this defined world which, on the one hand, is a leg-up, and on the other hand has expectations that you can't disappoint on." Morris added: "Everything after Toy Story and The Incredibles is an original right now."—*PTI*

Pixar has announced that they are not planning any more sequels of "The Incredibles" after the second installment of the movie. PHOTO: PTI

Japanese traditional craftsmen find niche in anime-inspired art

Photo taken on 18 March, 2016 in Takaoka, Toyama Prefecture, shows craftsmen working on samurai warrior helmets at a casting company. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOYAMA, (Japan) — A group of craftsmen working in a more than 400-year-old metalworking tradition in central Japan have dived into the world of anime as a way to survive the decline of their industry and boost their own sense of fulfillment as artisans.

At an event for anime and cartoon aficionados in Oyabe, Toyama Prefecture in March, what at first glance looked like the helmet of a medieval samurai warrior with a face cover of burnished copper drew a crowd of picture-taking fans.

Although it was meant for the boys' festival in May, when families set up altars decorated with items such as warrior dolls, the helmet was actually modeled on a robot that appears in the popular Japanese fantasy anime "Gurren Lagann."

"This is what I came to see," one of the spectators said of the helmet, the work of a group led by Shunsuke Wada, a 33-year-old repousse and chasing artist from neighbouring Takaoka city.

"We started it for fun, thinking we'd be happy if just one of the helmets was sold," Wada said of the anime-inspired artwork. "I never thought it would end up like this."

Seventeen craftsmen were involved in making the helmet, including prototype production and metal casting, swept along by Wada's enthusiasm and without regard at first for whether the end product would sell.

The artwork, however, has had a measure of success despite its price tag. The face cover alone costs around 150,000 yen ($1,470), and the price nearly doubles to 290,000 yen if it is sold together with a handicraft panel showing characters from the anime and a drill, an object that plays a key role in the anime's story.

Seven sets have been sold since it was first shown to the public in July 2014 at Wonder Festival, a figures exhibition in Chiba City near Tokyo.

After the helmet featured on a blog well known among anime enthusiasts, media interest followed, with more public displays and eventually orders.

Born into a metal-working family in Takaoka, Toyama Prefecture, Wada himself was an avid anime fan since he was small, growing up watching TV programmes such as "Ultraman."

He was engaged in film production as part of extracurricular activities while studying at the prestigious Tokyo University of Technology. He later worked as a computer graphics designer for a Tokyo video game company.

In 2011, after the birth of his daughter, he returned to his hometown to take over his father's studio, chiefly producing fittings for Buddhist altars. "I didn't have any reservations," he said about the switch of work. "They were the same, in that both involved craftsmanship appealing to the hearts of people," said Wada.

The studio typically just follows orders to produce fixtures that will be part of an altar, with no scope for innovation, and after a while, Wada "began to feel a desire to engage in new challenges."

In early 2013, Wada went to a meeting of young traditional artisans in Takaoka, hoping some might share his passion for anime and his vision of using the time-honored techniques of their trade to create something that would really engage them.

He had anticipated rejection but more than a dozen agreed with his idea and agreed to work together.

The first work they came up with was the Gurren Lagann helmet, for which the cost of purchasing materials was shared by the 17 associates, working on it in their spare time between their regular jobs.

Nobuyuki Noto, 29, who produced the wooden pedestal, said, "Everyone had that feeling of being limited in what they did, so I was happy when I was sounded out" by Wada.

The group is exploring ideas for collaboration with other anime series, hoping to eventually help pitch their traditional line of work to the public.

They have produced a bust of Godzilla, the creature from one of the best-known Japanese monster film series. Counting on the anime boom abroad, they envision exporting works some day.

"Although traditional industries have been declining, work for each young craftsman has been on the rise," said Shiro Dogu, 41, the owner of a casting company and one of Wada's collaborators. "This generally points to shortages of successors."

Dogu said young artisans should not be content simply with an increased workload but need to take on challenges.

"We won't be able to survive unless we change and take chances by trying new things," he said. —*Kyodo News*

Giacometti art trove at centre of Franco-Swiss legal tussle

ZURICH — A rich trove of drawings by Alberto Giacometti and photographs of the renowned sculptor and artist has been lying in sealed storage cartons in a Swiss museum for more than two years due to a legal dispute over their rightful ownership.

Swiss prosecutors said they had ordered the seizure of the collection pending a decision by a French court after the Paris-based Alberto and Annette Giacometti Foundation alleged that the works had been stolen decades ago. The Swiss-born Giacometti, who died in 1966, is one of the best-known sculptors of the 20th century. His "Pointing Man" sold last year at Christie's for $141 million, the largest sum ever for a sculpture.

But the legal tussle over a relatively obscure collection of drawings and photos has played out quietly, in lawyers' offices and hushed museum corridors in what Swiss courts call a "prosecution against unknown persons" by French authorities.

The Foundation in Paris, home to some 5,000 Giacometti works, the world's largest collection, has not said whom it accuses of theft. Sabine Longin, director of development at the foundation, told Reuters it would speak publicly of the issue only after the ownership battle had been resolved. "They have asked us to confiscate the drawings and photographs, which we have done," said Claudio Riedi of the local prosecutors' office in the Swiss town of Chur where the museum holding the drawings and photos is located.

"Whether there is a separate request for them to be returned is up to the French court." The collection includes 16 Giacometti sketches and 101 photographs of him by famous photographers including Man Ray, Henri Cartier-Bresson and Robert Doisneau covering a period from the 1920s to the 1960s.

Though Swiss court documents are heavily redacted — in no place is Giacometti ever named — Reuters was able to reconstruct the case by speaking with people familiar with its details. The collection was in Giacometti's possession when he died in Chur in 1966, but may have changed hands among family members before finding its way to an unidentified "great art lover" in Switzerland around 1998, according to the Swiss court documents.

After learning of the collection in 2009, the Grisons Art Museum in Chur enlisted Remo Stoffel, a local real estate tycoon and patron, to buy it for more than $1 million. Stoffel then loaned it to the facility for 15 years. With the collection's first public exhibition in 2011, however, the foundation in Paris lodged a complaint alleging the works had been "fraudulently stolen," Swiss documents indicate. Since the Swiss police intervened in February 2014, the works have been kept in storage at the museum. A Swiss appeals court two months ago rejected a bid to at least allow the collection to be exhibited, pending a court ruling.—*Reuters*

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(6-7-2016, Wednesday)

06 : 00 pm
- Weather Report
- Cartoon Programme " Zootopia " (Part-1)

07 : 00 pm
- International Drama Series

07 : 40 pm
- International Drama Series

08 : 50 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

09 : 00 pm
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

09 : 30 pm
- International Movie Songs

09 : 40 pm
- Myanmar Traditional Instruments - Myanma Harp (Episode-2)

10 : 00 pm
- Music Programme

10 : 10 pm
- Myanmar Video

Midnight
Close Down

From 6-7-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm
To 7-7-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm

mitv Myanmar International

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

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Invites You
07:41	Am	Myanma Agarwood
07:55	Am	Scented Buddha Images
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Entrepreneur: Chaw Khin Khin
08:34	Am	The Caves
08:50	Am	Well-Trained Elephants
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Young Lady Musician: Nge Nge Lay
09:43	Am	Moe Hnyin Than Buddhe, The Unique Pagoda In Monywa
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Continuation In Rural Tradition

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
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THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Ronaldo, Bale take different approaches to leadership role

PARIS — One is an "Eau de toilette" kind of character, the other more "wake up and smell the coffee".

Cristiano Ronaldo is immaculately groomed, makes a point of posing for the cameras when he scores, is often captured scowling at his colleagues and recently launched his own men's fragrance called "Legacy".

Gareth Bale is constantly encouraging his team mates and is described by his manager as "the most down-to-earth boy you could meet."

The world's two most expensive footballers, who play alongside each other at Real Madrid, will go head-to-head when Bale's Wales meet Ronaldo's Portugal in their Euro 2016 semi-final in Lyon on Wednesday.

In playing terms, both are the leaders of their teams but they take very different approaches to their role.

While Bale is widely acclaimed as an inspiration for his national team, Ronaldo's influence on Portugal is the subject of debate. Ronaldo's team mates routinely leap to his defence and emphasise that he is always working for them.

Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo and team mates attend the training in Marcoussis, France on 3 July.
PHOTO: REUTERS

"Cristiano has worked for the squad and it's the only the squad which matters here," said midfielder Andre Gomes.

"Maybe people were expecting more goals, (but) he has made a huge contribution to the national team and it's not the moment to start questioning a player." Coach Fernando Santos added that Ronaldo has sacrificed himself for the team.

"He is an example, as captain, of the spirit of this team, of this team's determination, he wants to do well and he wants to win, in this aspect he has been fantastic. He's an example of what the team is," he said.

Even so, the 31-year-old three-times World Player-of-the-Year has often struggled with an image problem, especially when he said two years ago that Portugal needed "two or three Cristiano Ronaldos."

He insists on taking every free kick within - and often beyond - shooting distance, prompting suggestions that he is selfish, and is regularly captured on television cameras remonstrating angrily with his team mates. Nani, a veteran of more than 100 caps, is invariably berated if he dares to try a shot rather than feed the ball to the "senior partner."

Earlier in the tournament Ronaldo threw a reporter's microphone into a lake when he was asked a question during a team walk and was criticised for disparaging remarks he made about Iceland after Portugal drew 1-1 with the rank outsiders in their opening match.

He has not even turned up at any of the daily press conferences which Portugal hold at their camp. Bale, in comparison, has taken part in at least four, looks relaxed, and is not afraid to stir up some controversy such as when he said that no England players would get into the Wales side, adding that Wales were more passionate than their larger neighbours. Television images tend to show him encouraging his team mates rather than gesticulating angrily and complaining.

"They are obviously different types of people and different characters," said Wales manager Chris Coleman.

"Whatever Bale brings to the table for us, that's him. He's not manufactured. He doesn't try to be something he's not.

"Gareth is clearly a special player. For us he is special, not just because of his talent but what he represents when he plays for Wales. "He appreciates what he has around him and they appreciate they have a super talent. It's a good blend." —*Reuters*

Great Britain's Andy Murray celebrates winning his match against Australia's Nick Kyrgios.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Slick Murray downs Kyrgios as title expectations grow

LONDON — Andy Murray saw off the mercurial challenge of Australian Nick Kyrgios with little fuss on Monday, before just as smoothly playing down growing expectations that a second Wimbledon title is his for the taking.

The second-seeded Scot's straight sets win over a dangerous opponent maintained his standing, following the shock third round exit of world number one Novak Djokovic, as the bookies' odds-on favourite to lift the Challenge Cup again on Sunday.

Murray, who in 2013 beat Djokovic to became the first British man to win Wimbledon since 1936, has finished runner-up to the Serbian in both of this year's grand slams in France and Australia. On Monday he reached his ninth consecutive Wimbledon quarter-final, hanging on to Kyrgios's coat-tails for much of a pulsating first set before the Australian lost focus to concede the second and third sets tamely in a 7-5, 6-1, 6-4 defeat.

Murray has not yet dropped a set — but neither has Roger Federer, who beat the Scot in last year's semi-final.

The presence of the Swiss seven-times champion looms large on the other side of the draw, which goes a long way towards explaining why the thought of lifting the trophy again has yet to enter Murray's head.

Describing Monday's win as "very good", the Briton said his only focus was on his next match, a quarter-final against French 12th seed Jo-Wilfried Tsonga.

"I know the next one is a very tough match against Tsonga. He's a really, really good grass court player, very, very dangerous," Murray told reporters. "I'm aware I'll have to be playing at my highest level to win."

For much of Monday's first set on a packed Centre Court, Murray played second fiddle to 15th seed Kyrgios, who thudded down serves at close to 140 mph that the world number two struggled to reach let alone control.

Murray's serve, meanwhile, was misfiring and, under darkening skies and roared on by a partisan crowd, he had to dig deep to stay on terms with the Australian. The set and the match turned in the 12th game, when a combination of Kyrgios errors and two inspired Murray backhands presented the Scot with three break points. Kyrgios saved the first two with booming serves but Murray converted the third.

Thereafter Kyrgios went walkabout, the Briton breaking him twice in a second set that flew by in 26 minutes. He broke once more in the third, closing out the contest with an ace on his third match point. The Australian, who described his performance after the first set as "pretty pathetic", has now — in common with a multitude of Britons — hitched his wagon to the Murray camp.—*Reuters*

Nigerian striker Ahmed Musa.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Leicester poised to sign CSKA Moscow striker Musa

LONDON — Nigerian striker Ahmed Musa is set to complete a move to Premier League champions Leicester City from Russian club CSKA Moscow subject to a medical, according to the player's agent.

The 23-year-old, who scored 13 league goals in 29 league appearances last season as the club won the Russian title, was linked by British media to Leicester City in January and had also attracted interest from Southampton and West Ham United. The fee for the Nigerian international is in the region of 16 million pounds ($21.20 million) according to British media reports, which would be a club record. "Everything has been finalised and Musa will be in England for his medical on Wednesday," the player's agent Tony Harris told BBC Sport.

CSKA Moscow coach Leonid Slutsky was also optimistic that Musa would flourish in England.

"He'll be leaving on Tuesday," Slutsky told Russian media. "If you look at the way things are done over there, you'll see he is a player just made for English football." Leicester City also announced the signing of midfielder Nampalys Mendy from Nice on Sunday.—*Reuters*

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