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Our Tribute to Martyrs on 69th Martyrs' Day

**“WE CANNOT BANK OUR
HOPES ON POSSIBILITIES.
WE MUST PUT OUR
TRUST IN OURSELVES, IN
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ONLY FOR OUR SUCCESS
BUT EVEN TO AVOID OUR
OWN DEFEAT.”**

(AN EXCERPT OF THE
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
TO THE AFPFL
SUPREME COUNCIL
SESSION BY
GENERAL AUNG
SAN IN AUGUST
1946)



State Counsellor witnesses donation for Daw Khin Kyi Foundation's mobile library



State Counsellor being seen observing the mobile library. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a ceremony to donate three vehicles worth over US\$ 200,000 for Daw Khin Kyi Foundation's mobile library by Sumitomo Corporation Asia & Oceania Pte Ltd in Yangon yesterday.

Dr Thant Thaw Kaung, an executive of the foundation, CEO Mr. Masao Sekiuchi of Sumitomo Corporation Asia & Oceania

Pte Ltd and Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi spoke on the occasion.

Next, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi spoke words of thanks on the donation.

Then, the State Counsellor presented a certificate of honour to the CEO of Sumitomo Corporation Asia & Oceania Pte Ltd, and observed the mobile library vehicles.

Daw Khin Kyi Foundation is cultivating a reading habit in the people from five cities with the use of eight vehicles.

According to sources, the foundation and the Information and Public Relations Department (IPRD) under the Ministry of Information are set to ink an agreement on cooperation in promotion of libraries soon.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Framework review important to make the 21st Century Panglong a success

PARTICIPATION in the Political Dialogue Framework Review to be held in the first week of August by the non-signatory ethnic armed organizations to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement is the only means to enable them to participate in the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong, said Khu U Yae, the leader of the UNFC's delegation for political negotiation (DPN) at a press briefing held at Chatrium Hotel in Yangon yesterday.

"Our UNFC represents seven ethnic armed organizations. Tomorrow, the UPC—21st Century Panglong preparatory committee will come to meet us in Chiang-mai to discuss thoroughly how we can participate in the framework review. The success of 21st century Panglong depends dramatically upon the accomplishment of the framework if I've to speak out unambiguously," added Khu U Yae.

He went on to say that when the framework was formulated by the previous government, the NCA non-signatory ethnic armed organizations were left, and that these non-signatory organizations were thus required to participate



Khu U Yae seen explaining to mediapersons. PHOTO: YE KHAUNG NYUNT

in the process of the framework review.

"Among these seven organizations, certain groups have signed bilateral ceasefire agreement with the government at state-level whereas there are those which have not signed such kind of agreements. Besides, there are also three organizations that are engaged in clashes with the Tatmadaw. So, we've requested the representatives of the government to find a solution as to by which status we can partici-

pate—the observer status or the full-fledged member status," said Khu U Yae, adding that "we've to learn lesson from the past experience. We're going to do our best in Maijayan."

A preliminary meeting will be held in Maijayan from 26th to 29th July to enable the non-signatory ethnic armed organizations to participate in the 21st century Panglong where a common agreement will be sought for establishment of a federal union, it is learnt.—*Ye Khaung Nyunt*

POEM:

To the Fallen Star

Blown away
was our Guiding Star,
and our country was hurled
into darkness,
into chaos,
soaked in blood—
the longest days of darkness!
Blood and sweat you had shed
for our independence, dearly won,
But where,
where were the sweet fruits
of your struggles and sacrifices?
Just the bitters of life.
O Fallen Star,
stuck into the ground
for how long,
but now,
once again,
Rise,
for the heaven is indeed your haven.
Shine,
once again,
shine upon the path we've taken
to the Land of the Rainbow,
where the budding dreams would all be blooming.

Zaw Tun

Survey aims to gather necessary data to kick-start crop insurance system

A survey is to be carried out to collect required data for the establishment of a crop insurance system in order to develop Myanmar's agriculture sector, the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has voiced.

The Myanmar Agribusiness Public Cooperation (MAPCO) - a wholly-owned non-government public corpora, established in 2012 - and the Syngenta Foundation for Sustainable Agriculture (SFSA) have reportedly signed an MoU to compile the basic functions of the insurance system and recommendations related to technical data for the conduction of the crop insurance system.

"We're still only at the phase of having just signed an MoU in order to commence the project. We're still at the stage of studying what's actually possible. Presentations will be made to government departments concerned once an idea of what's possible has been established. It's a case of enacting policy through Hluttaw," said Dr Soe Htun, chair of the MRF.

Amendments to the enacted Myanmar Insurance Law will allegedly be dependent upon research data, with changes to be made accordingly.

The conduction of an initial

"dry-run", to test the feasibility of the crop insurance system, while be carried out by private companies with Danuphyu, Pyay, Shwetaung and Shwebo Townships.

"The coming to pass of a crop insurance system would surely be of benefit to farmers; it'll allow them to claim money back if their crops are destroyed by unseasonable weather. For now, there's a need to re-enact a new insurance law.

Offices of the Syngenta Foundation, both with Myanmar and overseas, will be sent collections of recent weather reports, together with weekly farmland surveys with photographs of agricultural working environments, while local and international experts will reportedly conduct field visits once every three months.

MAPCO and the American-based SFSA will cooperate together in conducting research for, and the drawing up of, a report which will see the emergence of a crop insurance system. Concerted efforts are currently being made by the MRF, government departments and associate companies to implement a basic crop and weather insurance. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

State Counsellor meets with lots of ministers in Yangon

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Su Kyi held talks with Union ministers, the Yangon Region Chief Minister and regional ministers at a meeting hall in the Yangon Region Government Office in Yangon yesterday.

During the meeting the State Counsellor called for more efforts in regional development tasks and effective management in implementation of national development projects in cooperation with the Union government,

according to the existing laws, rules and regulations. The State Counsellor also gave necessary instructions on short-term and long-term projects.

The meeting was attended by Union Ministers Dr Aung Thu, U Thant Sin Maung, U Khin Maung Cho and U Win Khaing, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Deputy Minister U Maung Maung Win and regional ministers.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Daw Aung San Su Kyi arriving at the Yangon Region Government office. PHOTO: MNA

Pyinmana tightens security amid surge of brawls and robberies

PYINMANA Township has beefed up security in the face of a surge in violent robberies in the township this month, said Thin Htay, commander of Pyinmana Township Police Station yesterday.

He added that measures including searches have been encouraged in cooperation with Nay Pyi Taw Police Force, with police officers on alert and patrolling the township.

According to police patrols, young men in the township were mostly found with knives. Police investigations revealed that most brawls and robberies in the township were detected in Ywakauk ward where some houses are empty and locked.

There was a street robbery that happened to a lawyer in front

of Nann Sein bakery in downtown Pyinmana in the first week of this month. The crime rate will drop following punitive actions against the suspects and more collaborative efforts with local people, said the commander of Pyinmana Township police station.

Security has been tightened in several parts of the township and more police officers have been deployed at Rose roundabout where brawls occur frequently, he said.

Despite there being no criminal cases last month, Pyinmana has seen a series of brawls and robberies this month, he added. According to figures, there have been 35 criminal cases including three cases of armed robbery and two cases of theft in the township to date.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

VP U Henry Van Thio holds talks with Bago authorities on flood protection measures

VICE PRESIDENT U Henry Van Thio, chairman of National Natural Disaster Management Committee, held talks with the Bago Region Chief Minister and ministers on relief measures for flood victims in Bago yesterday.

In his address, the Vice President stressed the need of

short-term and long-term flood prevention plans, saying that the risk management committee is committed to providing necessary assistance to disaster-affected areas.

Next, Chief Minister U Win Thein and regional ministers, Union Minister Dr Win Myat

Aye, Deputy Ministers Maj-Gen Than Htut and U Kyaw Myo reported on flood mitigation measures, disaster preparedness plan and relief aid.

In his concluding remarks, the Vice President called on the regional departments to return unused lands to original owners and called for correctness and accuracy of statistics which are essential for regional planning and development.

According to sources, K1.7 billion had been distributed to the areas where natural disasters occur as of 17 July. Next, the Vice President inspected dredging works being undertaken along Bago River and Mazin and Gaunghsaykyun lake to protect Bago from flooding. He also visited Mazin Dam, Kambawzathadi Palace, Bago-Sittaung canal in Thanatpin, Kamase jetty and Ohnne-Walpayat canal in Kawa.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits Kanbawzathadi Palace museum during his tour of inspection to Bago. PHOTO: MNA

Union Information Minister visits MRTV (Yangon)



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint being seen in MRTV, Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

UNION MINISTER for Information Dr Pe Myint called for bright ideas and cooperation among staff to develop Myanmar Radio and Television in meeting with members of MRTV in Yangon yesterday.

The Union minister invited suggestions for development of the MRTV at the meeting.

Next, the Union minister inspected the 200-meter tower, TV and radio studios and a satellite station.

Then, the Union minister inspected upgrading of Sarpay Beikman bookstall on Merchant Street in Yangon. The newly-upgraded bookstall is scheduled to be opened in conjunction with a paper-reading session and a monsoon book fair on 29 July.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Weather bureau issues flood warning

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced flood warning in Zalun, Ayeyawady Region, as the Ayeyawady River is expected to reach its danger level during next two days.

The governmental weather bureau has alerted the people living in low-lying areas in the town to take precautionary measures.

Meanwhile, the water level of the river at Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region, has reached its danger level yesterday and is expected to remain above its danger level today, according to the department's 12.30 hr observa-

tion yesterday. According to the 12.30 hr observation yesterday, the Ngawun River at Ngathaing Chaung exceeded by about 1 ft above its danger level and is expected to remain its danger level during the next five days.

The authorities have urged the local people living in low lying areas to be on alert to the possible flood.

Meanwhile, the Chindwin River has reached 1ft above its danger level at Homalin and 1 and half ft above at Phaungpyin.

The water level is expected to remain above the respective danger levels next two days.— *GNLM*

New railroad bridge to be opened later this month



The new railroad bridge near Myitnge Railroad Bridge being seen. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

A NEW railroad bridge on the Yangon-Mandalay Road is nearly finished and it is estimated that the construction will be fully completed later this month, according to its project manager.

Located beside the current Myitnge Railroad Bridge, the new bridge, which is being constructed by Myanma Railways, was initiated on January 2015 at a cost of over K5 billion, said

Project Engineer U Hla Soe Myint.

He added that the bridge project had to suspend its works for three months due to flooding last July.

Currently, the new project is 90 per cent complete.

Project implementers put more effort into the project to complete within the set time frame.

The bridge was built on the

road between Yangon and Mandalay to reduce the time taken for a round trip by train.

The new railroad bridge is situated 17 meters away from the eastern part of the current railroad. It will be 721 feet long and 158 feet wide.

One of project implementers said the new railroad bridge will bring better transportation to local commuters when it opens.—Aung Thant Khaing

Sommer Rader installed in Mandalay to measure water flow of Ayeyawady River

A SOMMER rader was installed on Saturday at the Inwa (Sagaing) old bridge in Mandalay by the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems (DWIR).

U Toe Aung Lin, director of the DWIR (Mandalay), said the key objective of the installation of new radar is to measure water flow rate and surface water change along Ayeyawady River.

Australia-based Pentair Environment Systems, a provider of environmental monitoring systems, donated the sommer radar, and its technicians trained the department's staff.

The data sent by the radar

after measuring water flow rate and surface water change play a crucial role in carrying out the conservation of watercourses along the river, U Toe Aung Lin said.

The newly installed radar is solar powered, helping it to provide 24/7 services through a GSM network to transfer the data to the designated website, which is being developed by the department.

The Meteorology and Hydrology Department normally conducts measurements of water flow on the river three times a day with the use of a manual system.—Aung Thant Khaing



A sommer rader installed in Mandalay to measure water flow of Ayeyawady River. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Crime NEWS

Property destroyed by blaze

A FIRE broke out on Saturday at a house owned by U Sai Tu in Ward-3 in Kali, a town in Loilem District in southern Shan State, destroying a house, a water taker, a warehouse and diesel fuel containers.

The township fire services department said no deaths or injuries have been reported after the blaze. According to the investigation, the flame was caused by a fuel spill when a worker named Sai Maung Hla (aka U Lawka) was transferring some fuels from one container to another. The flame quickly spread to nearest warehouse and 800-gallon water tanker and some fuel containers.

The blaze was put under control by firefighters with the assistance of 170 neighbours, departmental staff and members of regional armed forces within 1.15 hours.

Action is being taken against the responsible



The house seen after outbreak of fire.

PHOTO: KALI (IPRD)

person who will be charged by the township police under Section 285 of the Criminal Law.—Kali (IPRD)

60 people suffer from food poisoning in Rakhine



Poisoned victims receiving medical care.

PHOTO: TOWNSHIP (IPRD)

OVER 60 people including children and women have got sick after consuming unclean food on Saturday morning in Minbya, a town of Rakhine State.

They are now receiving medical care at the township general hospital.

According to the police investigation, food poisoning occurred after eating fried rice and fried noodle as breakfast sold at a small food stall owned by Daw Ma Than Aye, 53, who resides the same ward.

Police are still investigating in the case. The people suffering from food poisoning were given medical care.—Township IPRD

No people injured in vehicle overturn

NO ONE was injured in a single-car accident which happened on the road near Khomaungdaw Village in Palaw Township in Taninthayi Region on Sunday.

Loaded with cargo, the 12-wheel truck, driven by Zaw Oo, 42, with two others on board, lost control and overturned en route from Dawei to Myeik near

mile posts No. 102/4 at around 3 a.m. on that day.

Township police helped remove the overturned truck that was blocking the road.

The driver, who resides in Zawkalay Strret-3, Kabyin Ward in Dawei Township, was deemed guilty of careless driving by local police.—Myint Oo (Myeik)



The 12-wheel truck overturned, blocking the road.

PHOTO: MYINT OO (MYEIK)

Illegally harvested logs seized in Muse

AUTHORITIES on Friday confiscated over K5 million worth illegal logs weighing nearly two tonnes from local smugglers near Muse Border Town in Shan State.

After a tip-off to the police by a member of public, a combined team including members of forest department and local police tried to search a car en route

to Muse.

Police found the diverless car loaded with 116 illegal logs and Lout Kyan, 30, owner of the illegally harvested hardwood on board the car.

Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the driver who fled from the scene.—0112

LOCAL Business

Developers to discuss suspension of high-rise buildings



A high-rise building being seen unfinished . PHOTO: PWINT THITSAR

DEVELOPERS are due to meet to discuss the suspension of high-rise building projects in Yangon before submitting complaints to the authorities and the

members of parliament.

High-rise building projects were suspended on 14th May, raising concerns among entrepreneurs and threatening job losses to en-

gineers, staff and laborers at construction sites.

"We are carrying out the projects to be concordance with the policies laid down by the then govern-

ment. It is unlikely for our projects to match perfectly the new policies to be formulated. We've constructed car parking not only for all apartments but also for the visitors. We've built extra 20 per cent for the visitors," said U Than Naing, a high-rise building developer.

He added: "We would like to request the incumbent government to proceed in accord with the previous policies. If we are found disobedient to the existing policy, action can be taken against us. The suspension of the high-rise building projects adversely affects not only us but also the economy of the country."

For the moment, the authorities concerned have ordered the developers to scale down the number of floors because they deemed there was insufficient space for parking after making spot check inspections of 12 projects out of a total of

60 granted by the previous government, said a developer.

"We entrepreneurs are also part of national reconciliation. We also want to make Yangon become a metropolitan city like the government. It cannot be said that only the high-rise buildings cause damage to the city. There are also low-rise buildings that do not follow the rules," said another developer.

Developers also argue that the reduction of the floors of the buildings causes problems because of advanced purchases.

Currently, there are over 200 projects that have been forced to stop, with industry figures estimating heavy losses of over US\$2billion. "We will hold a press conference to reveal our difficulties to the authorities concerned," said U Than Naing, a developer.—*Point Thitsar*

ATM cards to be issued this month

CARDS enabling people to withdraw money from ATMs will be produced by JCB International Co., Ltd in cooperation with some local banks this month, said U Kyaw Min Tun, the resident representative from this company.

JCB Company has been offering the card services jointly with Myanmar Payment Union starting from 2014. Co-branded cards are the first to be issued through a link with some local banks.

Co-branded cards are available for withdrawing money from ATMs both in the local banks and from banks in other countries that have a link with JCB.

These cards can be used for online shopping and other payments at shopping centers.

The production of the payment cards used locally and abroad is to facilitate the payments by expatriates in Myanmar and to provide monetary facilitation to the local card users when they go abroad to where JCB has already expanded its operates.—200

Coffee plantations to be extended

COFFEE plantations are set to be extended because coffee production is lower in Myanmar compared to other countries, coffee entrepreneurs have said.

"The rate of coffee production in Myanmar cannot keep up with that of the ASEAN countries: Viet Nam, Laos, Indonesia, China and Thailand," said U Thu Zaw, a coffee grower. "However, Myanmar coffee growers give priority to quality to penetrate the markets.

The attractive packing methods, the market strate-

gy and the labour force are required to bolster the production."

"We have to initially focus on the marketing and the quality. The technique of production is also needed to promote," he added.

The government expects 8,000 tonnes of coffee to be produced annually but only 2,000 tonnes of coffee can currently be produced a year. Sixty per cent of that is being exported abroad.

Myanmar coffee is ranked 87th for quality at world coffee markets.—200

Fruit and veg association to pear up with Japanese firm

THE Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association (MFVP) has met with Konoike Transport Co., Ltd to discuss teaming up to export vegetables and make contact with vegetable distributors in Japan.

Foreign companies are keen to export pedigree seeds to Myanmar's agricultural industry, which is in dire need of high quality seeds. "We sacha inchi growers also require high quality seeds. If the seeds are not of high quality,

our farms will end in vain although we can save the costs. If the high quality pedigree seeds are imported from abroad, we will do well in the longer run," said U Maung Nyunt, a grower of the plant also known as mountain nut.

An official from MFVP said the association "can provide the experimental fields if those pedigree seeds are imported. We have been negotiating to be able to establish a seed producing factory later."—200

Value of trade through Muse camp declines by almost \$65m

TRADE through the Muse border trade camp from 1st April to 8th July declined by US\$64.575million compared to the same period last fiscal year, according to new statistics from Trade department.

The camp has seen a greater decline in trade value compared to other border trade camps between China and Myanmar: Lweje, Chin Shwe Haw, Kanpik Tee and KengTung.

The trade via Muse trade camp from 1st April to 8th July in this

fiscal year has fetched US\$1,135.166million which is down from US\$1,199.741million in the same period of the last fiscal year. Myanmar exported agricultural products, livestock, mineral products, forestry products and finished industrial materials to neighboring countries while personal products, industrial raw materials and commodities have been imported.

Trade through the Keng Tung border camp has also declined. But other trade camps have witnessed

seen an increase compared to the same period of the last fiscal year.

There are a total of 15 border trade camps between Myanmar and its neighboring countries of China, India, Thailand and Bangladesh. They are: Muse, Lweje, Kanpik Tee, Chin Shwe Haw, Tamu, Reed, Myawady, Tachilek, Keng Tung, Kawthaung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Mawtaung, MaungTaw and Sittwe.

Myanmar has entered into several border trade contracts with neighboring countries.—GNLM



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Australia's PM tweaks cabinet slightly after narrow poll win

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Monday named a new cabinet little changed from that with which he narrowly won 2 July elections, eschewing a major reshuffle in favour of consolidating his shaky position.

Turnbull just barely scraped together a majority of 76 seats, the minimum needed to avoid relying on support from independents and small parties.

Industry Minister Christopher Pyne took on the new role of Minister for Defence Industry, gaining control over one of the world's most valuable defence contracts, a A\$50-billion (28.5 billion pounds) submarine-building project in his state.

No ministers lost their jobs, but neither did coalition partner the National Party pick up any critical slots on the frontbench, in a surprise move.

Although Turnbull has formed a narrow majority government, his gamble in calling the election backfired badly, with a swing to the centre-left Labor opposition and a rise in the popularity of



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull speaks during a news conference in Sydney, Australia, on 10 July 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

minor parties and independents.

Industry body the Queensland Resources Council praised the appointments of Resources Minister Matt Canavan, Environment and Energy Minister Josh Frydenberg and the shift of former environment minister Greg Hunt to industry, science and innovation.

"The resources sector requires steady safe hands to ride through the commodities downturn and in the face of a relentless green activist campaign," Chief Executive Michael Roche said in a

statement.

But Turnbull's narrow margin of victory over Labour leaves him likely to be forced to rely on independents, who won five seats, to ensure the passage of legislation.

That raises questions about how effective his government will be in the long term, especially without the support of powerful conservatives.

After the election, the Australian government faces even more foreign investment sceptics than before, due to the increased num-

ber and prominence of rural-centric Nationals members in the ruling Coalition.

Australia this year rejected a A\$371-million bid for its biggest farmland holder, Kidman & Co, after Treasurer Scott Morrison ruled the sale was not in the national interest.

A source involved in the current negotiations told Reuters that Chinese bidder Hunan Dakang Pasture Farming Co Ltd would not lodge a new bid until it was clear a foreign-controlled offer would be acceptable under the new-look government. "Why would they?" said the source, who asked not to be identified over concerns that public comments might hurt the deal. "They don't know what the rules are." Dakang did not respond to requests for comment.

Foreign investment of more than A\$55 million in agriculture is screened by the Foreign Investment Review Board, on national interest criteria. Australia's treasurer must give final consent for such a transaction to proceed.—Reuters

China admiral warns freedom of navigation patrols could end 'in disaster'

BEIJING — Freedom of navigation patrols carried out by foreign navies in the South China Sea could end "in disaster", a senior Chinese admiral has said, a warning to the United States after last week's ruling against Beijing's claims in the area.

China has refused to recognise the ruling by an arbitration court in The Hague that invalidated its vast territorial claims in the South China Sea and did not take part in the proceedings brought by the Philippines. It has reacted angrily to calls by Western countries and Japan for the decision to be adhered to.

China has repeatedly blamed the United States for stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, a strategic waterway through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually.

China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam all have rival claims, of which China's are the

largest. The United States has conducted freedom of navigation patrols close to Chinese-held islands, to Beijing's anger, while China has been bolstering its military presence there.

Speaking behind closed doors at a forum in Beijing on Saturday evening, Sun Jianguo, an admiral and Deputy Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the powerful Central Military Commission, said the freedom of navigation issue was a bogus one that certain countries repeatedly hyped up.

"When has freedom of navigation in the South China Sea ever been affected? It has not, whether in the past or now, and in the future there won't be a problem as long as nobody plays tricks," he said, according to a transcript of his comments seen by Reuters on Monday.

China is the biggest beneficiary of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea and won't let anybody damage it, Sun said.—Reuters

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Officials sacked for poor response to Typhoon Nepartak

FUZHOU — Three officials were sacked for their inadequate response in coping with Typhoon Nepartak which has caused huge casualties and economic losses in east China's Fujian Province.

As of Sunday afternoon, the typhoon has left 83 people dead and 19 missing in Fuzhou, the provincial capital, according to the city government.

Over 200,000 people from the city's five counties and districts were affected, with nearly 10,000 houses collapsed over the past week. The direct economic losses amounted to over 7.1 billion yuan (1.1 billion US dollars).

Minqing County, one of the worst-hit regions, saw cutoff of electricity power and telecommunication services in its 11 towns and townships. One third of the county's population were af-



Residents walk on a bridge after Typhoon Nepartak in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, China, on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ected. A total of 73 deaths and 17 missing were reported there. As a result, Huang Shiyang, deputy Party chief and acting government head of Minqing county, Lin Yu-

anhui, Party chief of Bandong Town, and the town's deputy Party chief Zhan Qiaoying were suspended from their duties. The provincial government has ear-

marked 170 million yuan in relief fund to the disaster-hit areas. Typhoon Nepartak, the first to hit this year, made landfall in the province on 9 July.—Xinhua

Three sentenced to death, five life in prison for Bangladesh 1971 war crimes

DHAKA — A special tribunal in Bangladesh sentenced three persons including several Islamist party leaders to death on Monday and five others life in prison for crimes against humanity during the coun-

try's war of independence in 1971.

The International Crimes Tribunal-1, led by its Chairman Justice Shahinur Islam found Ashraf Hossain, Sharif Ahammed and Abdul Bari guilty of

the charges brought against them. The charges include rape, murder, confinement and torture of unarmed civilians.

Most of the accused including the death row convicts Hossain and

Sharif were reportedly involved in politics of opposition Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami party, an ally of ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).—Xinhua



Former Australian Prime Minister and leader of the Labor party Kevin Rudd. PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia's former PM Rudd throws hat in ring for top UN job

SYDNEY — Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd has officially requested the support of his country's new government to back a bid for the top job at the United Nations, Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said on Monday.

Rudd, a fluent Mandarin-speaker, had been rumoured to be garnering support to replace UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon when he steps down at the end of 2016, after a second, five-year term.

"Kevin Rudd has requested that the Australian government nominate him, and as the prime minister has indicated on a number of occasions that'll be a matter for the cabinet," Bishop told

Australia's Channel 7 television.

"I'll certainly put the matter forward. It'll be a matter for the cabinet."

Newly-elected Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull is expected to announce his cabinet on Monday after a closely-fought 2 July national poll. Turnbull's conservative Liberal-National coalition is split on whether to support Rudd, a member of Australia's opposition Labour party.

There are more than a dozen high-profile candidates vying for the position, including former UN climate chief Christiana Figueres, UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova of Bulgaria; former Croatian For-

eign Minister Vesna Pusic and former New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark.

Ultimately however, the council's veto powers — the United States, Britain, France, Russia and China — have to agree on a candidate. There is no requirement for the five to pay attention to the popularity of candidates with the General Assembly. Under an informal tradition of rotating the top post between regions, it is Eastern Europe's turn and eight of the current nominees are from there. Rudd, who is known for a fiery temper and keeping an almost super-human work ethic, would represent a departure from that tradition.—Reuters

South Korea warns of DPRK's readiness for nuke test amid activity in test site

SEOUL — South Korea on Monday warned of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s readiness for its fifth nuclear test amid worries about increased activity in its main nuclear test site.

Unification Ministry spokesman Jeong Joon-hee told a press briefing that the DPRK appeared to have been in a state of conducting another nuclear test at any time, saying the government is maintaining a full readiness and closely monitoring situations based on a close alliance between South Korea and the United States. His comments came after Japan's Kyodo news agency reported on Sunday that increased activity has been detected in the DPRK's main Punggye-ri nuclear test site where the country carried out four underground nuclear tests since 2006.

The latest came in January

this year when the DPRK claimed it detonated its first hydrogen bomb, causing the toughest-ever UN Security Council resolutions in response to the nuclear detonation as well as the launch in February of a long-range rocket, which was condemned as a disguised test of ballistic missile technology. Quoting government sources in Seoul and Tokyo, the Japanese media outlet said the installation of an observatory facility was seen in the test site, raising a possibility for the fifth nuclear test as early as this month.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency quoted multiple government sources as saying on Sunday that the move of a lot of trucks and personnel, which hadn't been seen before, started to be spotted in the Punggye-ri test site since 8 July when Seoul and Washington agreed to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area

Defense (THAAD) to South Korean soil.

The sources were quoted as saying that the DPRK's activities seen over the past week in the Punggye-ri test site have been the most brisk in recent months.

The DPRK's military threatened to take "physical measures" against THAAD when the deployment site is determined in response to the THAAD deployment decision. After Seoul announced on 13 July that one THAAD battery would be deployed to the Seongju county, some 300 km southeast of Seoul, by the end of next year, the DPRK's Committee for Peaceful Reunification of Korea said in a statement that the THAAD deployment will turn the peninsula into a battlefield between world powers and leave the fate of people in the hands of foreign forces.—Xinhua

ADB trims 2016 growth forecast for developing Asia on weak global outlook

MANILA — The Asian Development Bank lowered its 2016 growth forecast for developing Asia on Monday, citing the slowing US economy and near-term shocks from Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

Developing Asia, which groups 45 countries in the Asia Pacific region, is now expected to expand 5.6 per cent this year, slightly weaker than a March forecast of 5.7 per cent, the ADB said in a supplement to its Asian Development Outlook 2016.

The shock British vote in June to secede from the EU has chilled already tepid growth in the euro area and has shaken global financial markets.

The Manila-based multi-lateral lending agency kept its 2017 growth estimate for the region at 5.7 per cent, however.

"Although the Brexit vote has affected developing Asia's currency and stock markets, its impact on the real economy in the short term is expected to be small," said ADB chief economist Shang-Jin Wei.

"However, in light of the tepid growth prospects in the major industrial economies, policy makers should remain vigilant and be prepared to respond to external shocks to ensure growth in the region remains robust."

The ADB believes China is still on track to grow 6.5 per cent this year and 6.3 per cent in 2017, with government plans to cut excess industrial capacity in the world's second-largest economy expected to weigh on growth next year.

China's economy expanded slightly faster than expected in the second quarter but private investment growth shrank to a record low, suggesting future weakness which could pressure the government to roll out more support measures.

India's economy is still forecast to grow 7.4 per cent this year and 7.8 per cent in 2017, the ADB said.

Growth forecasts for Southeast Asia were also left unchanged at 4.5 percent this year and 4.8 percent next year.—Reuters



A worker walks past inside the Asian Development Bank (ADB) headquarters in Manila, in 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nine killed by avalanche in Tibet

LHASA — Nine people who were buried by an avalanche in southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region were confirmed dead on Monday.

They were all residents of Dunggu Village in Rutog County, Ngari Prefecture, the location of an avalanche that shifted snow up to eight meters deep on to grazing land Sunday morning, according to the prefectural government.

More than 350 sheep and 110 yak were also buried in the snow.

According to local sources, cracks have since appeared on the surrounding glaciers, and rescuers are concerned that more avalanches may occur. They have evacuated two households.

Rutog County is in the northwest of Tibet, with an average elevation of 4,500 metres (about 14,800 feet). —Xinhua

Opinion

Unity Within Diversity

Khin Maung Aye

THE Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong will be convened in the last week of August, and to enable the conference to be all inclusive, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with a delegation of the United Nationalities Federation Council led by its chairman U N’ Ban La on the country’s peace process at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon on 17th July.

During the historic discussion, neither the government nor the members of the united Nationalities Federation Council—UNFC delegation have disclosed their demands, their attitudes or their fallback position in the negotiation. They merely had a cordial chat and the meeting was more like a family type. Nevertheless, the two sides were able to have built mutual trust according to U Hla Maung Shwe, the Secretary of the preparatory committee for holding the conference. During the meeting, UNFC side availed themselves of this opportunity to have raised questions which they are not quite clear of like queries regarding their participation in the upcoming Union Peace Conference—the 21st Century Panglong as well as to have ex-

changed their views with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the State Counsellor. According to U Hla Maung Shwe, the members of the UNFC delegation are said to have made certain suggestions which, they believe, will pave the way for signing of the new Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA). The preparatory committee for the Union Peace Conference—the 21st Century Panglong will also hold talks with the United Nationalities Federation Council (UNFC) in Chiangmai, Thailand tomorrow, and this preparatory committee will again discuss with the UNFC’s Delegation for Political Negotiation—DPN in Yangon in early August as stated by U Hla Maung Swe.

In this regard, it is worth quoting the State Counsellor saying, “the best heritage to be left to future generations is peace, achievement of which is the only means to effectuate national development. And peace can be restored only when there prevails unity. This being so, we’re to be united to achieve peace.” Just as we were united during the independence struggle, we are also required now to revitalize this spirit of unity to achieve peace, on which we will build a peaceful, developed, democratic federal union. Let’s not forget the ASEAN motto “Unity within diversity.”

Write for us

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

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

POEM:

To The Martyrs

Sailing across the rough and stormy seas of aliens’ governance through the long and united struggle for gaining independence as the Ship with the beloved Captain was in sight of the harbour of the bountiful and beautiful golden land then known as Burma Captain and his courageous crew were ruthlessly gunned down by the scurrying on-board of armed hired assassins of ill renown on 19th of July 1947;a dastardly, cowardly plot beyond compare, it left all the people and the entire country in shock and despair.

On Martyrs’ Day, each year when the people paid respects as today thought of the times the Ship, through storms had to grope it’s way. But Martyrs’ Day this time around, is from the other times different Myanmar (Burma) is now on the road to progress and development and in true transition to a country striving for peace and democracy upholding integrity, national solidarity and perpetuating sovereignty of the Union, as firmly set out in the objectives of the Constitution; is now proceeding well with the peoples’ enthusiastic participation.

This Martyrs’ Day, as all over the Union the people of Myanmar pay their respects to the Martyrs, distressed by thoughts of that July day can whisper “Captain, may you rest in peace with your trusted crew, the Ship is now on course to peace and democracy and will sail true.”

Lokethar

The Ordination Festival of the month “Waso”

Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

THE fourth month of Myanmar Lunar calendar is Waso, equivalent to July, which is the first of the three heavily rainy months— Waso, Wakhaung and Tawthalin July, August and September respectively. The month is astrologically termed Kataka[Cancer] with its zodiacal symbol of a crab. Myat Lay Flower [fragrant Jasminumgrandiflorum] and Khat tar [Ground lily] profusely bloom in this month. Traditionally there two flowers are designated as the flowers of Waso. Depending upon the calculations of the State Board of Myanmar Calendar there can be two Waso months, first Waso and second Waso as a month was intercalated after Waso. The year in which there are two Waso months is called Wa-htat year.

In the lithic inscriptions of ancient Bagan city, Waso was called “malweita” or “Nweita” or “Nweta” which means the month for measuring land. Wet cultivation begins in Waso with monsoon in full swing. Farmers have to measure the extent of their lands to till. Therefore the land measuring month “Nweta”.was an appropriate name.

However, with the flourish and spread of Theravada Buddhism in the country and its influence on the daily life of the people, this month came to acquire a new name of religious importance “Waso”. Archaeological evidences show that in the reign of King Anawrahta [1044-1077 A.D] when Theravada Buddhist monks promoted Pariyatti Sasana, the name Waso for this month came into common use.

Waso is a compound words of Pali and Myanmar [Pali word “Waso” meaning to recite, to say or “to tell”. So is a Myanmar word which also means “to say” or “to tell”. On the first waning day of this month, Buddhist monks say to the Lord Buddha [take vow in front of the Buddha statue] that they will stay in their respective residing monasteries during the three months of raining season.

Observing Waso rites and vows can be traced as far back as to the life time of Lord Gotama Buddha. Originally there was no religious restriction of the movement of monks, who could freely move about throughout the year in all seasons. Green grass, plants cultivations, flora, fauna, insects were accidentally trodden upon by travelling monks, damaging the environment. Besides, when cultivators busy with ploughing saw monks, they stopped their work to pay respect and offertories to the monks, thereby disturbed their

daily work. When Lord Buddha heard of public complaints of such un-intentional disturbances and harm done by travelling monks, he forbade the monks to go out of their residing monasteries for overnight travels during the three months of cultivating season.

For the convenience of the monks, Lord Buddha prescribed two alternative periods of wa or Lent Purimawa and Pyitsimawa. Purimawa or the First wa begins on the first waning moon day of Waso month and ends on the day of the completion of the three solid months which is the full-moon day of Thidingyut [October]. Pyitsimawa or the second wa begins on the first waning moon day of Wakhaung month [August] and ends on the day of the completion of three solid months which is the full-moon day of Tuzaung mon [November]. Depending upon their condition monks may choose either of these two was.

It is interesting to watch the proceedings of Waso ceremony and rite. Either in the evening or early at night of the first waning moon day of Waso all monks of the same monastery are gathered in the assembly hall with the shrine room of Buddha Statues. The monastery, the Assembly hall and shrine room are artistically decorated with various religious paraphernalia- flowers, candles, fruits, offertories, flags and festoons, highlighting, the Waso occasion. The monks pay homage to the Lord Buddha. Next the Abbot of the monastery explained to the assembly the boundaries of the monastery and its compound within which the residing monks are obliged to stay during Lent Starting with the most senior monk [seniority in terms of ordained years] every monk by turn recites the following formula of wa vow:

“Imasmin vihare iman temasam vassa upemi”
ဣဓာသံ ဝိဟာရံ ဣဓံ တေဓာသံ ဝဿ ဝေပမီ
Which means
“I shall stay in this monastery during the three months of raining season”.

Each monk recites the above wa vow once, twice or thrice, the assembly utters in chorus words of appreciation in Pali three times “Sadu, Sadu, Sadu” [Well done, well done, well done].

Owing to unavoidable circumstances or in case of emergency, of a monk has to travel and thus has to stay away from his residing monastery during, lent, he can make a formal request for leave of absence but leave must not exceed more than seven days.

If a monk stays away without this request for leave, he commits breach of wa vow and thereby he suffers wakyō, ie. Losing the priestly character in consequence of monastic vow as he has not recited the formula of permission for leave of absence. During three months of Lent, monks devote themselves full time to religious learning, practicing and meditation. Teaching and learning at Pariyatti monasteries, instructina on the correct methods of meditation by monk instructors at meditation centres.

In the Buddhist history the full-moon day of Waso is one of the important days. Myanmar old saying in a rhymed couplet “သန္ဓေတောထွက်၊ ဓမ္မစက် ယဇ်ဝိ ြဋ္ဌိဟာ” sums up four major events in the life of Lord Buddha, which took place on the full moon day of Waso. Firstly, it was on the full day of Waso, Thursday, that Prince Siddharatha [the Buddha to be] was conceived in the womb of Queen Maha Maya, the Chief queen of King Suddhodana of Kapilavatsu. Secondly it was on the full moon day of Waso, Monday, that Prince Siddharatha at the age of 29 after seeing the four Omens- the Aged, the Infirmary, the Dead and the Recluse, renounced his mundane life and left his palace for forest to become a recluse. Thirdly it was on the full moon day of Waso, Saturday, that the Lord Buddha gave his first sermon “Dhammacakya” to the five recluses- namely (1) Kandana, (2) Vappa, (3) Bhaddiya, (4) Mahan- am and (5) Assaji in the Deer Park “Migadawunna”. Fourthly, it was on the full moon day of Waso that Lord Buddha under the white mango Tree in the city of Sawutti showed his miracles to the infidels and heretics to subdue them. These infidels and heretics refused to listen to Buddha’s dhamma. They thought that Buddha had no supernatural power like them. Therefore the Buddha stood up in the sky and let out pairs of fire and water simultaneously from his eyes, ears and nose. The infidels and heretics were astounded and spell bound by these miracles of the Buddha and submitted themselves to the Buddha’s teachings.

Waso-robe offering to make to, monks is not only religious event of this month but also the festive occasion of socio-cultural significance. Wet season needs spare robes for monks so donors, individually or in group hold Waso robe offering together with other offertories, food, dry ration, candles and flowers. While adolescents and adults devote to the religious aspects of the event, younger generations are involves in socio-cultural activities such as going out into the nearly wood lands to gather wild flowers and



The ordination being held in the *sima* (ordination hall). PHOTO: BHIKKHUCINTITA.WORDPRESS.COM

fruits with music, songs and dance called Waso flower gathering parties where male and female youths can meet freely.

Traditional festive event of Waso is ordination. In the stone inscription at Bagan dated M.E 595 [1213 A.D] we find the earliest mention of ordination festival. It described the ordination of a son. We also find in one of Inwa Period’s stone inscription, dated M.E 900 [1538 A.D] ordination event was mentioned. References to the Festival of ordination in the month of Waso are found in Myanmar chronicles, literature, fine and performing arts.

In fact there is no specific time or month for ordination. It can take place any time in any monk of the year. But there are two special reasons for holding ordination on the full moon day of Waso. Firstly it was on the full moon day of Waso that one of the five forest recluses when Lord Buddha gave his first sermon Dhammacakya, named Kondana became Buddhist monk. Secondly, those who have passed religious examinations in the previous monthNayon, are ready to be ordained in Waso so that they can pursue learning [Pariyatti] during Lent. Ordination Festival in Waso is in time sequence with religious examination Festival in Nayon.

There is two-foldpurpose of ordination to recruit for Sangha [Priestly Order] to promote and to perpetuate Buddha Sasana from those who choose to remain monk for life and to impart Buddhist education and culture to those who stay in monk-hood for a certain period. For every Buddhist male it is a religious requirement to become a novice or ordained monk.

In Buddhism the highest religious merit is attained by becoming oneself novitiated or ordained, if one is a male, or by making one’s son or other’s son novitiated or ordained. By performing this religious merit the performer becomes an “inheritor of Buddha Sasana”. The performer receives from the community an honorific title of “Shin Taka” [Donor of Novitiation for male donor and Shin Ama]FemalPonor of Novitiation, Yahan Taka [male donor of ordination] and YahanAma [female donor of ordination] pre-fixed to his or her name. At death his or her body is carried with two ceremonial gold umbrellas shading the dead body as a token of honour to the deceased “Inheritor of Buddha Sasana”. In the reign of King Thalun [1629-48 A.D] a royal order was issued conferring the above honour to the deceased “inheritors of Buddha Sasana”.

Novitiation originated in the life time of Lord Gotama Buddha. A year after the attainment of Buddhahood Lord Gotama Buddha returned to Kapilavatsu at the request of AshinKaludayi sent to him by his royal father. The Buddha and his disciples and follower* monks resided at the NigrodhaVihara monastery. One day they were given meal at the court. All royal families, and relatives gathered to see and welcome the Buddha [who as Prince Siddhartha had left them for over six years]. Queen Yasodhara told her son Rahula that Lord Buddha was his father and urged him to ask for patrimony from him. When the son did accordingly Lord Buddha kept silent. Rahula with his playmates followed Lord Buddha to the monastery repeatedly asking

patrimony on the way. On reaching the NigrodhaVihara Lord Buddha told his disciple Shin Sariputtara to novitiate Rahula in the Order of Samgha. Making Rahula a novice [Samenera] was the grant of patrimony by Lord Buddha to his son because by becoming a probationer for the monk-hood Rahula was inheriting Buddha Sasana from his father.

The evidence of ordination in history is as follows: Emperor Asoka was peerlessly lavish in charity. He built 84000 stup3 and dug 84000 wells, constructed 84000 water tanks among other works of religious and social merit. He promoted Buddhism by sending out Buddhist missionaries to all directions. One day he asked his guru monk Shin Moggaliputta whether he (Asoka) deserved to be the Inheritor of Buddha Sasana. The gura monk replied that although Asoka’s religious givings were plentiful, he was only the supporter of Buddha Sasana. Only when he himself became monk and propagated Buddhism, or ordained his own off springs to propagate Buddhism, would he be entitled to the Inheritor of Buddha Sasana. On hearing that reply answer, Asoka’s son Prince Maheinda and daughter Princess Sanghamitta offered themselves up to the father for ordination. They became Bhikhu and Bhikhuni and went to Lanka-dipa [Sri Lanka] to propagate Buddhism there.

In the time of Myanmar kings, ordination in Waso was a great event of festival of the month. The Hluttaw or Royal Privy Council arranged the ordination festival. Lists of names of candidates to be ordained, lists of

names of donors, names of persons who would support the ordained monks, and lists of monasteries where the ordained monks were to reside were made and Arrangements were made. At the ceremony the royal Byaw Music was played. It is a religious music played on religious occasions. Byaw Musicians were appointed by the royal order. Byaw is a kind of drum play by means of a stick or a leather rope accompanied with wind instrument of oboe and a pair of brass cymbols. Its music reaches out to the far remote places and upon hearing it people know that religious work is done somewhere and they share the merit by exclaiming 3times Sadu-SaduSadu [well done, well done and well done].

The ordination festival in the Inwa Period of Myanmar history was graphically recorded in a treatise “LokaByuha”. InyonSardan compiled by ThiriUzana, Minister of Inyon as follows:

“First the list of candidates for ordination was submitted to the Hluttaw. The Crown Prince, Senior Prince, Minister of Royal Granary, Ministers, Governor of the Town, Minister of Cavalry, Minister of Elephantry Minister of Treasury, Minister of Gunner, Minister of Artillery, Minister of the Palace Precincts, Minister of Royal Shield, Minister of Justice, Junior Ministers, wealthy men etc. each took care of one candidate for ordination”.

“The Minister of Royal Treasury provided ceremonial umbrellas and 8 priestly utensils namely three pieces of yellow robe, an alms bowl, a girdle, a Short handled adz, a needle, and a water dipper. These were sent to the monasteries where the ordained monks would reside. An allotment of k 50’ for each candidate was issued from the Royal Treasury to bear the cost of celebrating the occasion at his house”.

“On the 9th waning moon of Waso candidates for novitiation and ordination were dressed in rich clothings and in the early hours of that day they were taken to Inwa Shwezigon Pagoda. They wore gold colored head dresses and gold chains provided by the Royal Treasury. They were carried on the palanquins in ceremonial procession which included gunners, musicians, palanquins bearing KamanaVaca or Plates of Scriptures to be recited at the ordination_ service, bearers of 8’ priestly utensils, bearers of betel boxes, pickled tea containers, and water goblets and several other paraphernalia. After paying homage to the Pagoda, the procession turned to the Palace. Except the gunners, all entered the Palace city through the right Marabin Gate”.

“After making a round of the Palace podium they went up to the Norther smoke Hall where the King was waiting with his court and retinue”. “The royal drums were being beaten to mark the occasion. The officer-in-charge of the ceremony submitted the List of candidates for novitiation and ordination by reading it out to the King. His Majesty gave the candidates his exhortation as follows:

“To have been born human is a rare opportunity. To be literate and knowledgeable is a rare opportunity.

To have been born human male during the period of Buddha Sasana is a rare opportunity and

To be novitiated as a samenera and to be ordained as a monk is a rare opportunity”.

These five rare opportunities were pointed out by Lord Buddha himself. You should therefore be aware that you have now got, all these five rare opportunities you should therefore strictly abide by Vinaya, the Priestly Disciplines, and faithfully follow the teachings of Lord Buddha”.

“After delivering his words of admonition, the King performed the libation ceremony by pouring out lusted water from the gold ewer. Then the royal drum was struck and religious music Byaw was played. The procession returned to the Shwezigon Pagoda and at the big rest house the King’s admonition was read out to the public. The procession then went on to the Sima [Ordination Hall] where the candidates were formally ordained by the chapters according to the prescribed procedure”.

Novitiation takes place at the monastery conducted by the Abbot and senior monks. Parents and relatives of novices attend with offertories and band of music and dances and songs highlight the occasion.

The festive atmosphere of Waso is created by devotees who gather at the monasteries to watch with reverence and piety the performance of Waso rite by monks. They wear colorful dresses and jewellery bringing Waso candles, Waso flowers, and Waso robes. Waso robes are offered to monks during the period between the first waxing day of Waso and the full moon day, both days inclusive. Waso robes are meant to be worn by monks during Lent.

Twice in a year, homage is paid to parents, elders, teacher, superiors and bosses-namely at the beginning of Lent “Wa Win” and at the end of the Lent “WaKyut” [October].

Waso traditions have long been maintained and Observed by Myanmar people.



A US Secret Service agent stands on the floor of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, US, on 17 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Open carry gun rights cause jitters at US Republican convention

CLEVELAND — Even gun rights advocates are questioning whether people should be allowed to carry rifles and handguns during protests at this week's Republican National Convention in Cleveland in the wake of the shootings of six police officers in Baton Rouge.

Backers as well as opponents of presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump have expressed concerns about the prospect of weapons being carried in open sight around the convention site.

Ohio is among the states that allow licensed gun owners to carry their weapons in public, and gun rights activists, particularly in Texas, have taken to expressing that right often in large-scale events.

Bill Morris, a 50-year-old police officer and Trump supporter from Alliance, Ohio, said he normally supports the open carry law

but thinks it would be unwise to flaunt weapons in a year in which violence has broken out at campaign rallies. "As a police officer I am very much in favor of the Second Amendment and the right to bear arms, but in a situation like this I don't see what good it does to open carry," Morris said near the convention hall, referring to the US constitutional amendment that protects the right to keep and bear arms. "You don't go walking around Washington, DC, with a rifle, and I don't see why you should do it here." Across town at a rally convened by liberals opposed to Trump, Tijuana Morris, a 61-year-old retired police officer from Detroit, sounded a similar note.

"I have a right to carry. And I don't have my weapon here today because we don't need any more violence," she said. "There is so much anger there and all you need

is one person pulls their gun and makes a mistake."

On Sunday, a lone gun rights activist bearing arms showed up at a demonstration in Cleveland's Public Square. He admitted he had not expected to be alone the day before the start of the convention.

"This is a statement. I'm not going to be wandering around like this except in situations like this," said Steve Thacker, a 57-year-old former US Marine who had an AR-15-style rifle slung over his shoulder, an assortment of ammunition magazines in a vest and a .45 caliber handgun strapped to his thigh. He appeared shortly after a gunman killed three police officers and wounded three others in Baton Rouge, where police earlier this month shot dead a black man while responding to a report that he had threatened someone with a gun.—Reuters

Brexit minister seeks 'generous' deal for EU citizens, Britons

LONDON — Britain's Brexit minister said he wanted a generous settlement for Britons living in the EU and for Europeans in Britain after the country voted to leave the 28-nation bloc, but declined to fully guarantee the rights of EU citizens.

David Davis, who has said Britain should begin the formal process of leaving the EU by triggering Article 50 in early 2017, said on Sunday that the rights of EU citizens living in Britain should be agreed along with those of Britons in Europe.

"I want to see a generous settlement for the people here already because they didn't pick this circumstance," Davis told Sky News

on Sunday.

"We want to do that at the same time as we get a similarly generous settlement for British citizens living in the EU," he said.

Davis said he backed the rights of those living and working in Britain and expected all citizens to be well-protected. However, he suggested that there could be limits if there is an increase in immigration from the 27 remaining EU countries before Brexit occurs.

"One way of dealing with it could be saying OK, only people arriving before a certain date get this protection," he said, declining to fully guarantee the rights of those already in Britain.

Border control was an im-

portant theme in the 23 June referendum in which 52 per cent of those who voted backed leaving the European Union, however any limitations could be a concern for Britain's largest firms, many of which have spoken in favour of free movement.

Davis, who said his newly created Department for Exiting the European Union currently has 40 staff but will grow to a "couple of hundred", said Britain will now be able to negotiate better trade deals and also keep access to the European single market.

"It will keep its access, but whether it keeps tariff-free access is the issue and ...that is what we are aiming for," he said.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Migrants fight in Hungarian camp near Serbian border, nine injured

BUDAPEST — More than 200 migrants were caught up in a brawl in a migrant processing centre near Hungary's border with Serbia on Sunday evening, Prime Minister Viktor Orban's national security adviser said, according to state news agency MTI.

Nine people were injured and eight of them hospitalised in the southern town of Kiskunhalas, Gyorgy Bakondi told MTI on Monday.

He said about 20 migrants had started fighting around 1800 GMT, though the reasons were not yet clear. Around 200 police arrived to restore order as the clashes spread, Bakondi added.

The camp had seen other incidents in recent weeks, he added without elaborating. More than a million migrants passed through Hungary last year on what was then the main overland route from the Middle East to western Europe. The flow has slowed since Hungary set up a razor-wire fence along its southern border with Serbia and Croatia. But migration remains a highly charged issue and Orban is preparing to call a referendum, asking voters to reject an EU plan to re-distribute migrants across the bloc.—Reuters

Turkey still searching some coup plotters, no risk of new attempt

ISTANBUL — Turkish security forces are still searching for some of the soldiers involved in a failed coup attempt and their weapons in various cities and rural areas but there is no risk of a renewed bid to seize power, a senior security official said on Monday.

Turkey's military command has been dealt "a heavy blow in terms of organisation" by the attempted coup, but is still functioning in coordination with the intelligence agency, police and the government, the official told Reuters.

Some high-ranking military officials involved in the coup attempt have fled abroad, the official also said.—Reuters

Plane crashes during Canadian air show, killing pilot

TORONTO — An investigation is underway after a plane crashed on Sunday during a military air show in Western Canada, killing the pilot, the local air base said.

According to a statement from the military, the plane crashed at the show in Cold Lake, Alberta, and the event was cancelled as a result.

Global News reported that a witness said the plane did a loop, inverted and then dived straight down.—Reuters

Palestinian carrying explosives arrested at Jerusalem rail station

JERUSALEM — A Palestinian man carrying pipe bombs and knives in his bag was arrested at a light railway station in Jerusalem during the morning rush hour on Sunday, Israeli police said.

"The plan was apparently to attack the light railway," Jerusalem police chief Yoram Halevi said in a statement.

An armed station security officer became suspicious of the man, a resident of the occupied West Bank aged in his 20s. He stopped the Palestinian at gunpoint and searched his bag on a busy central Jerusalem street at the start of the Israeli work week.

Police explosives experts found three pipe bombs, detonator wires, a cellphone and several knives in his bag, a police spokeswoman said. Two main streets were closed off while police defused the devices.

Since October, Palestinian street attacks have killed at least 33 Israelis and two visiting Americans. Israel has killed at least 202 Palestinians, 137 of whom it said were assailants. Others were killed during clashes and protests.—Reuters

Six dead, eight wounded after Kazakh shootings — hospital source

ALMATY (Kazakhstan) — At least six people have been killed and eight wounded in attacks on police by suspected Islamist militants in Almaty on Monday, a source at the Kazakh city's emergency aid hospital told Reuters.

The source said there were four policemen and one civilian among the dead, as well as one suspected attacker. The Interior Ministry had earlier put the death toll at four, including three policemen.—Reuters

Iraqi Shi'ite cleric tells followers to target US troops fighting Islamic State

BAGHDAD — Powerful Shi'ite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr instructed his followers on Sunday to target US troops deploying to Iraq as part of the military campaign against Islamic State.

US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said on Monday the Pentagon would dispatch 560 additional troops to help Iraqi forces retake the northern city of Mosul in an offensive planned for later this year.

Sadr, who rose to prominence when his Mahdi Army battled US troops after the 2003 invasion, posted the comments on his official website after a follower asked for his response to the announcement.

"They are a target for us," Sadr said, without offering details.

The Mahdi Army was disbanded in 2008, replaced by the Peace Brigades, which helped push back Islamic State from near Baghdad in 2014 under a government-run umbrella, and maintains a presence in the capital and several other cities. Sadr, who commands the loyalty of tens of thousands of



Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr speaks during a protest against corruption at Tahrir Square in Baghdad, on 15 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

supporters, is also leading a protest movement that saw demonstrators storm Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone government district twice this year, hampering parliament for weeks.

The new troop deployment, which is expected to happen within weeks, would raise the number of US forces in Iraq to around 4,650, far below the peak of about

170,000 reached during the nearly nine-year occupation.

Other Shi'ite militias, particularly those backed by Iran, have made similar pledges to attack US soldiers in the past year, but the only casualties since American forces returned to Iraq to battle Islamic State two years ago have come at the hands of the Sunni militant group.—Reuters

Iran seeks more aircraft as questions linger over earlier deals

ANKARA/FARNBOROUGH, (England) — Iran has expanded its search for aircraft and is looking to order dozens more jets while it continues to try to overcome hurdles to deals worth some \$50 billion with Airbus and Boeing, Iranian officials and Western industry sources said.

Iranian airline executives attended the Farnborough Airshow in Britain over the past week and held preliminary discussions with several potential sellers including Japan's Mitsubishi, which is developing a new regional jet, they said.

"Iran is planning to buy some 50 more airplanes of various types soon," an Iranian official said.

At the same time, Iran is continuing to meet Airbus and Boeing to try to resolve headaches surrounding the financing of existing deals to buy some 200 jetliners, needed to renew its fleet.

Earlier this year, the world's two largest planemakers struck provisional deals with IranAir under an agreement between Tehran and world powers to ease sanctions in exchange for curbs on Iran's nuclear activities.

"Yes, there are problems, financial and political, but there have been several meetings with Boeing and Airbus top authorities particularly in the past few weeks in order to resolve the issue and to find a way to overcome the remaining obstacles," an Iranian official close to the talks said.

Iran's Fars News Agency said officials from Airbus and the ministry of roads and urban development were due to discuss potential further plane purchases

in Tehran on Sunday.

Airbus could not immediately be reached for comment.

Boeing representatives are also expected to visit Iran before the end of the month to discuss the mechanics of their tentative deal to sell or lease 109 jets to IranAir.

The US House of Representatives this month passed a measure that could, if confirmed by the Senate and barring a presidential veto, block sales of Boeing and Airbus aircraft to Iran because they use a large number of US components.

The latest contacts between Iran and Western planemakers come as questions hover over part of the \$27 billion deal between Airbus and Iran, signed in January.

People familiar with the matter said recently that Iran was cooling towards the purchase of 12 A380 superjumbos that were part of the provisional deal.

Airbus subsequently announced a cut in A380 production.

"Some Iranian critics of the deal argue that we don't need big planes that will only be used by those traveling to America or similar destinations," a senior Iranian official said.

"We will evaluate that part when the time comes ... One solution is to buy around 50 other planes instead."

The official urged Western governments and manufacturers to help "resolve their side of problem, including the financing issue". Asked what types of aircraft Iran could buy, he said, "It will be similar, but on a smaller scale, to what we have bought so far".—Reuters

Syrian opposition says US must stand up to Russia

GENEVA — The United States is failing to stand up to Russia, which is committing "war crimes" in Syria, a leading Syrian opposition negotiator said on Sunday, as Russian-backed forces appeared to tighten the siege on the city of Aleppo.

"What we lack here is a serious reaction to Russian behaviour on the ground," said Basma Kodmani, a member of the main opposition High Negotiations Committee. "Russia is saying one thing and doing another," she told reporters on a conference call.

The chances of a new round

of peace talks were looking increasingly remote as Russia participated in airstrikes after "constantly lying" about what it was willing to do for peace in Syria, she said.

The United Nations had said talks between US Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian President Vladimir Putin might bring an understanding on the two biggest obstacles to a return to peace talks — agreement on stopping indiscriminate bombing and a formula for a political transition.

But Kerry ended his trip to Moscow by saying that although there was a common understand-

ing on the steps needed to get the peace process back on track, more work was needed before those steps could be implemented.

"What we need is for Russia to restate that it is interested in a political process. We don't see that," Kodmani said. "This is where we expect the Americans to react more forcefully, because these are war crimes being committed at the very moment when Mr Kerry is in Moscow and is discussing a security arrangement and the targeting of terrorist groups, while Russia is fully engaged in this operation on Aleppo."—Reuters

Israel fails to intercept Syrian drone over Golan Heights

JERUSALEM — Israel launched two missiles in a failed attempt to down a Syrian unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) over the Israeli-held Golan Heights on Sunday, the Israeli army said.

"Two Patriot air defence missiles were fired toward a drone which infiltrated Israeli airspace from Syria," the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) spokesperson said in a statement Sunday.

The Israeli military said the missiles were fired after "a drone infiltrated Israeli airspace in the central Golan Heights." It added that the drone was not downed and had returned to Syria.

Two weeks ago, the Israeli army attacked two Syrian army posts after errant fire from the war-torn country hit the Israeli-Syrian border fence.

Israel occupied the Golan Heights from Syria in the 1967 Mideast War and annexed them afterwards.

Israel has made it its policy

not to interfere with the ongoing Syrian civil war, except for supplying medical assistance for wounded Syrians that reached the border.

Some cross-border fire incidents took place in recent years, mostly errant fire that trickled into Israeli territory. The Israeli military had responded on occasion with shelling and airstrikes following such incidents.

Israel had also carried out several air strikes in Syria in recent years, in an effort to thwart weapons transfer from Iran and Syria to the Lebanese Hezbollah militant organisation.

The country remained quiet on these attacks up until two months ago, when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu admitted that Israel carried out "dozens" of attacks across the border.

Israeli leaders have repeatedly stated in recent years the military would "know how to act" in case Israel's security interests are compromised.—Xinhua



Members of Israeli security forces examine debris of Patriot air defense missiles in Ayelet Hashahar, northern Israel, on 17 July 2016. Israel launched two missiles in a failed attempt to down a Syrian unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) over the Israeli-held Golan Heights on Sunday, the Israeli army said. PHOTO: XINHUA

UN chief calls for deeper global cooperation to end poverty

NAIROBI — The UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday called for deeper global cooperation in trade and development in order to end world poverty.

Ban told the 14 session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) which kicked off in Nairobi that trade and investment can be positive forces to uplift the quality of lives of everyone.

"Used wisely they can ensure that we leave no one behind. So I urge the global community to renew the spirit of international engagement in order to end global poverty," Ban said during the opening session of the 14 session of the UNCTAD.

The week-long event brought over 7,000 delegates from the UN Member states to discuss ways to ensure

prosperity for all through sustainable development initiatives.

UNCTAD 14 will comprise the World Investment Forum, Global Commodities Forum, Civil Society Forum as well as the Youth Forum.

Ban said the global economic slowdown has sharpened the divide between those who have benefited from globalization and those who continue to feel left behind.

"There are worrying signs that people around the world are increasingly unhappy with the state of global economy," he added.

He noted that instead of the global community working together to change the prevailing economic model for the better, many leaders are instead embracing protectionism and even xen-



UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon (R, front) and Kenyan President Uhuru Kenyatta (L, front) attend the opening ceremony of the 14th session of the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14), in Kenyan capital Nairobi, on 17 July 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

ophobia. The UN official reiterated that trade must provide prosperity for both the people and the planet in ways that help to respond to the challenges of climate change.

"The successful actions we will make over the next

15 years especially in the area of trade, investment, technology and finance require that we tap the full potential of all actors, promote innovation and correct unsustainable trends," Ban said.

UNCTAD Secretary

General Dr Mukhisa Kituyi said Kenya has been accorded the privilege to become the first developing country to hold UNCTAD conference twice.

Kituyi said when Kenya was given a chance to host the UNCTAD 4 in

1976, it was statement of global solidarity. "However UNCTAD 14 is a statement on how a developing country full of optimism for the future can leverage an opportunity to raise its profile in the international scene," he said.—Xinhua

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MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (119N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (119N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.7.2016 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.

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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.

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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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES

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The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်

အိတ်ဖွင့်တင်ဒါခေါ်ယူခြင်း(၄/၂၀၁၆)

၁။ The Global New Light of Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်တွင် အသုံးပြုရန် လိုအပ် လျက်ရှိသည့် သတင်းစာစက္ကူအား အမေရိကန်ဒေါ်လာ+မြန်မာကျပ်ငွေဖြင့် အောက်ပါ အတိုင်း ဝယ်ယူလိုပါသည်။

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(က)	၆၄ လက်မစက္ကူ	(၁၀၀၀) တန် (1626 mm)	Jeonju Standard 45 gsm, Core 76mm, Diameter 1016 mm
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(ဂ)	မင်အဝါ	(၁၅၀၀၀) kg	KMI Web Star Eco, Korink
(ဃ)	မင်အပြာ	(၁၂၀၀၀) kg	KMI Web Star Eco, Korink
(င)	မင်အနီ	(၁၂၀၀၀) kg	KMI Web Star Eco, Korink
(စ)	အယ်ကာလိုင်း	(၈၅၀) လီတာ	Makoto Ma Mt-96
(ဆ)	CTP Plate	(၁၃၀၀၀) ချပ်	UV-CTP Positive PS-Plate Size: 1098x806x0.3mm Brand: VPC-H

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Fewer Britons visit shops after EU referendum — BRC

LONDON — The number of shoppers heading to British high streets and retail centres fell at the fastest pace in more than two years in June, with the weeks around the country's vote to leave the EU hit particularly hard, a survey found.

Retail footfall across Britain was 2.8 per cent lower than a year earlier in the five weeks from 29 May to 2 July. This was the sharpest decline since February 2014 and down from a 0.3 per cent increase in May, a survey from the British Retail Consortium (BRC) showed on Monday.

"The results are shaped by a political and economic storm against a backdrop of rain downpours and generally inclement weather throughout the whole month," said Diane Wehrle, marketing director at Springboard, a retail data company that sponsors the survey.

Britain's shock vote on 23 June to exit the European Union has sent jitters



Shoppers are reflected in a store window as they pass sales advertisements on Oxford Street in London, Britain, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

through global financial markets, sparked political chaos in Britain and sent sterling to a 31-year low.

Data showed the number of shoppers in the first week of June had risen 0.4

per cent from a year earlier, but footfall was down 4.6 per cent in the week of the referendum itself and was 3.4 per cent lower in the week after.

For the first time since

2013, high streets, retail parks and shopping centres all showed a decline over the month. Apart from Wales, where footfall grew 0.9 per cent, all other regions showed a decline,

with the sharpest falls suffered in the West Midlands, London and Scotland.

The results indicated that consumer confidence had been hit despite retailers discounting throughout

the period in early season sales, said Wehrle.

"The issue for retailers is how quickly shoppers will return to their usual patterns of behaviour," she added.

Earlier in the week, data also released by the BRC showed that consumer spending in June had risen by just 0.2 per cent - a sharp slowdown compared to the 1.4 per cent increase in May.

A number of surveys since the referendum have shown that British households — a key driver of the economy — have been unsettled by the outcome of the vote.

But BRC chief executive Helen Dickinson said other factors such as major televised sporting tournaments had also been at play in the latest set of data.

"June has seen many distractions from Euro 2016 to Wimbledon so heading out to the shops seems to have slipped down the priority list for many," Dickinson said in the report.—Reuters

Success of Pokemon GO adds impetus for change at Nintendo

TOKYO/SINGAPORE — The phenomenal success of Pokemon GO and the surge in Nintendo Co's (7974.T) market value by \$17 billion in just over a week has been seized upon by one of its most vocal investors to press for a change of strategy at the company.

Until Pokemon GO, a mobile game, was launched just over a week ago, Nintendo had taken every opportunity to say its main focus was still gaming consoles, and games for smartphones were just a means to lure more people to them.

But the success of Pokemon GO — unforeseen even by its creators — has shown the potential for augmented reality and for Nintendo to capitalise on a

line-up of popular characters ranging from Zelda to Super Mario.

Seth Fischer, founder and chief investment officer at Oasis Management, is one of Asia's best known hedge fund managers and has long been a small but loud shareholder. Encouraged by the success of mobile games like "Candy Crush", he has campaigned for years for the Japanese console maker to develop and sell games for platforms run by Apple (AAPL.O) and Google (GOOGL.O).

"I hope they will now understand the power of smartphones," Fischer told Reuters. "And as a result, I hope this means there is a whole change in strategy."

"My next focus with

Nintendo is for them to focus on monetizing the rest of their 4,000 patents for mobile gaming, multi-player gaming, et cetera. I think they could be making 30 to 60 billion yen (\$290 million to \$570 million) annually from licensing."

Fischer has described Oasis as an advisor to entities that own Nintendo shares and a shareholder. The fund's direct holding is not listed among the company's largest investors.

Nintendo President Satoru Iwata last year cautioned against hoping for too much change at the company. The expansion into smartphone games was "not because we have lost our enthusiasm or prospects for the console business",

he said at the time.

A Nintendo spokesman, asked about its mobile strategy, said last week there were three main objectives: "To maximize exposure of Nintendo's intellectual properties to consumers, to make profits on mobile devices, and to create synergies with the console business."

He did not comment further on Pokemon GO.

Serkan Toto, founder of Tokyo-based game industry consultancy Kantan Games, said Nintendo still saw itself as a console maker.

"When you sell \$400 dedicated devices and you sell the gamer boxed software for \$60 a piece — for them this is the gold stand-



A "Pidgey" Pokemon is seen on the screen of the Pokemon Go mobile app, Nintendo's new scavenger hunt game which utilizes geo-positioning, in a photo illustration taken in downtown Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ard," he said. "For them, mobile is the junk food: enjoy while you wait for the bus. It's not something that Nintendo sees for itself."

Pokemon GO, however, has been a runaway success, marrying a clas-

sic 20-year old franchise with augmented reality. Players walk around their neighbourhoods in real life, search out and capture Pokemon cartoon characters on their smartphones.—Reuters

Australia's largest city wakes up in foggy blanket

SYDNEY — Australia's largest city woke up in a warm blanket of fog on Monday, delaying some international and domestic flights while bringing a key public transport system to a standstill. Qantas' inbound US flights to Sydney were diverted to Brisbane early Monday morning, causing a delay of over two hours for some follow-on routes, while up to six flights on the key Sydney-Melbourne corridor were also affected.

Locally however, com-

muters were suffering the most as ferry services across the harbor were cancelled, forcing passengers to commute on replacement buses on already heavily congested roads. The fog started in Sydney's west just after 2100 local time (AEST) on Sunday night following a day of grey skies and drizzle, before spreading east to significantly impair visibility for harbor services and the Sydney International Airport, Weatherzone senior meteorologist Brett Dutschke told

Fairfax Media. "What makes this foggy morning stand out from others is that wind stayed so light for so long after that drizzly rain yesterday," Dutschke said, causing very little evaporation of the rainwater which then "cooled and condensed into fog".

By mid-morning conditions had begun to ease, with most services returning back to normal, with a complete disappearance of fog by 1030 local time (AEST), though some airlines are still experiencing delays.—Xinhua

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

The engagement between

Saw He Nay Blut

Son of U Saw Isaac and Daw Naw Lavender,

And

Naw Charlotte Htoo

Daughter of U Saw Bla Htoo and Dr. Vernetta Myint Myint San

has been solemnized by THARA Daniel Ban Du in the presence of both parents, relatives and friends on Sunday,

the 3rd of July 2016 in Yangon, Myanmar.

'Ghostbusters' debuts to \$46 million, 'Secret Life of Pets' tops charts

LOS ANGELES — Paul Feig's "Ghostbusters" reboot has triggered intense debate over its decision to refashion the proton pack-wielding paranormal investigators as an all-female team.

For some, the movie has been a feminist rallying cry; for others, a pop culture desecration. It's also provided ample opportunity for internet trolls to engage in some misogyny.

After all the chatter and the gender politics, "Ghostbusters" debuted this weekend to a solid \$46 million from 3,962 locations. Sony hailed the results as evidence that audiences were responding to its new take on the decades-old property. But though it ranks as the best debut for a live-action comedy in over a year, the film will have to show some endurance, as well as resonate with foreign audiences, to make a profit. After all, dusting off the ectoplasm was expensive, with Sony shelling out \$144 million to make "Ghostbusters" and millions more to market the film. That tops what most comedies cost to produce and distribute.

Sony has been trying to get another "Ghostbusters" off the

ground for decades, but it has often been the victim of original star Bill Murray's mercurial vetting process. The new picture, which brings together Melissa McCarthy, Kristen Wiig, Kate McKinnon and Leslie Jones, is clearly designed to trigger a fresh array of sequels.

"There absolutely will be more [films]," said Josh Greenstein, Sony's marketing and distribution chief. "This is a restart of one of our most important brands."

The audience for the film skewed female, with women making up 54% of ticket buyers. It also resonated more strongly with older crowds, weaned on the 1984 original and its 1989 sequel, as 55% of the audience clocked in over the age of 25. Despite Greenstein's optimism, some analysts argued the results were underwhelming.

"Unless it has massive legs, any opening under \$50 million is not a triumph," said Jeff Bock, an analyst with Exhibitor Relations. "It's still an asterisk. The next two weeks will tell the tale."

"Ghostbusters" was no match for Illumination and Universal's "The Secret Life of Pets," which dominated the box office for a sec-



Director Paul Feig poses with cast members (L-R) Melissa McCarthy, Leslie Jones, Kate McKinnon and Kristen Wiig pose at the premiere of the film 'Ghostbusters' in Hollywood, California US, on 9 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ond consecutive weekend, topping all challengers with \$50.6 million. The look at what dogs, cats and other domesticated critters do when their owners are at work is one of the summer's biggest smashes, having earned \$203.2 million stateside. It will likely inspire a new family film franchise, and is simply the latest in a long line of hits featuring talking animals.

The weekend's other wide release debut, Broad Green's "The Infiltrator," debuted Wednesday across 1,601 theaters, taking in a tepid \$6.7 million in its first five days of release. The look at a fed-

eral agent's (Bryan Cranston) attempts to infiltrate drug lord Pablo Escobar's inner circle scored with critics. The hope is that it will continue to draw adult audiences unmoved by the onslaught of superheroes and sequels. Broad Green declined to comment on the film's results.

In third place, Warner Bros.' "The Legend of Tarzan" swung to \$11.1 million, pushing its domestic total to \$103.1 million.

Disney's "Finding Dory" continued to shatter records, bypassing "Shrek 2's" \$441.2 million haul to become the highest-grossing animated release on

a domestic basis. The "Finding Nemo" sequel took fourth place with \$11 million. Its stateside gross stands at \$445.5 million.

Rounding out the top five, Fox's "Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates" picked up \$7.5 million, bringing the raunchy comedy's domestic receipts to \$31.3 million. Just in time for the Republican National Convention, conservative director Dinesh D'Souza has struck a chord with far right audiences yet again, releasing "Hillary's America: The Secret History of the Democratic Party" to a \$77,500 opening from just three theaters.—*Reuters*



Jennifer Lopez, who will turn a year older on July 24, says she wants the world to resolve all differences and maintain peace. PHOTO: PTI

Jennifer Lopez reveals her 47th birthday wish

LOS ANGELES — Singer Jennifer Lopez, who will turn a year older on 24 July, says she wants the world to resolve all differences and maintain peace.

The 46-year-old 'Ain't Your Mama' hitmaker talked about disharmony caused by the terrorist group ISIS that left 84 people dead including 10 children in France and Orlando shooting at the gay nightclub in Florida, reported E! online.

"I wish something bigger than for myself. I wish that the world would find a way to resolve our differences and have more love and unity right now," Lopez said.

The American-born dancer, who recently paid tribute to the victims of the attack, said, "It was her idea. I had a song called 'Love Make The World Go Round'. It was about relationships and love.—*PTI*

Leonardo DiCaprio indulges in PDA with rumoured girlfriend Nina Agdal

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winner Leonardo DiCaprio has been pictured spending quality time with rumoured girlfriend Nina Agdal on Malibu beach.

The 41-year-old Revenant actor and the model, who is musician Adam Levine's ex, were photographed kissing on the beach and swimming together in the ocean in Malibu on Thurs-

day, 14 July, reported Aceshowbiz. The actor couldn't keep his hands off the 24-year-old Danish model.

In a video obtained online, the pair is seen enjoying a relaxing dip in the ocean. At one point the Victoria's Secret Angel wrapped her arms around his neck. The duo then returned to the shore and enjoyed tanning.

Agdal lay on the beach while DiCaprio sat beside her. They chatted and laughed before he leaned in for a kiss. The two have reportedly been dating for the past two months. Things between the two allegedly began when they attended the Cannes Film Festival back in May. They were spotted together in New York back in June.—*PTI*

Meghan Trainor almost stopped fan meets after Grimmie shooting

LOS ANGELES — Singer Meghan Trainor has revealed she considered putting an end to her fan meet and greets following the tragic shooting of Christina Grimmie. The former Voice contestant was killed during a signing on 10 June when a man opened fire. Speaking to Billboard, Trainor said Grimmie's death made her question the events, though said she cherished her relationship with fans.

"Last show I did in Buffalo, I went out after. It kind of slowed down and everyone was leaving. I went out and said hi to some fans. My heart was beating and I was like, 'You got this, you're okay'. And I saw my team circled around us subtly," she said.

"I was like, 'There's my manager, there's my security, there's my brother, and there's my assistant, and they're all pro-

tecting me'. And I was like, 'We can do this'. And we did it until the last person left."

She added: "Then I was like, 'Guys I can't do this anymore'. Because of Christina."

Of her fans, the singer said: "Sometimes I get to meet real personal fans that have written me an essay and they want to just give it to me. And so I love those moments. But it was scary.—*PTI*

Visitors welcome Tokyo museum's World Heritage listing

TOKYO — Visitors to a Tokyo art museum designed by Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier welcomed Monday UNESCO's decision the previous day to add it to the World Heritage list, with many lining up before its 9:30am opening.

Ai Masuda, a 19-year-old college sophomore who came from Yokohama's Kanagawa Ward with her mother to visit the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo's Ueno Park, said, "I'm happy that this place I've visited a number of times since I was little was acknowledged by the world."

Kazufumi Hayashi, 68, from Funabashi, Chiba Prefecture,

said, "We should do more to let (the world) know that there are magnificent buildings like this in the Japanese capital."

The nearby Matsuzaka Ueno department store, an outlet operated by Daimaru Matsuzakaya Department Stores Co, started showcasing panels introducing the museum Monday morning.

The department store also displayed a banner celebrating the listing decision by a committee of the UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

"I'm proud that we have now a World Heritage site in my home city," said Mieko Saito, 72. "I hope many people will visit it."—Kyodo News



Visitors to the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo's Ueno Park line up on 18 July 2016, a day after UNESCO decided to add it to the World Heritage list. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Australian fastest in Rubik's cube championship, but European title goes to Germany

PRAGUE — Germany's Philip Weyer became the European champion in speedcubing, or solving a Rubik's cube puzzle, in Prague on Sunday, reaching an average time of 7.88 seconds.

Weyer in fact clocked just the second fastest time, behind Australian world champion Felix Zemdegs, but won the European title because it goes to the best-placed European contender.

Zemdegs, a world-record holder, averaged 7.07 seconds at the Prague event, which attracted over 500 participants.

Weyer said it took years of hard work to get to the top.

"Practice, practice, practice," he said.

"You don't get fast very fast so you have to practice a lot to (get) serious results. That's the only advice I can give."

In the main category of the classic 3x3 cube, each competitor solves the cube five times, the fastest and slowest times are removed and then the average time is taken from the remaining three scores.

Euro 2016 was the 7th Rubik's Cube European Championship, and had 18 categories — including solving the cube blindfolded or only using the feet.

Some categories — like the blindfold one — require special skills.

"The speedcuber must remember the positions of 30 cubes and assemble them right, otherwise he has no chance in the competition. There is one guy here who can remember even 60 cubes," organiser Jaroslav Flejberk said.

The organisers said over 400 million Rubik's cubes had been sold globally.—Reuters



Competitors solve Rubik's cubes as they prepare for the Rubik's Cube European Championship in Prague, Czech Republic, on 17 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US, Cuba broaden social, cultural contacts

HAVANA — Almost a year after restoring diplomatic ties, Cuba and the United States have increased people-to-people exchanges and cooperation in such fields as culture and sports.

The two former Cold War adversaries are finding common ground in areas of mutual concern and interests after decades of scant and often hostile communications.

In April of this year, just a month after US President Barack Obama visited Havana, a cultural delegation from the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, composed of 70 academics, artists and intellectuals from all over the United States, spent four days in the Cuban capital.

The visit aimed to build bridges of understanding, promote cultural ties and explore areas of cooperation.

During its stay in Havana, the delegation met with numerous Cuban artists, visited historical and cultural sites of interest and enjoyed activities featuring local traditions.

The two countries signed half a dozen cooperation agreements during the trip, and many other ones are in the works.

The latest agreement was signed on 12 July between Cuba's National Natural History Museum and the American Museum of Natural History in New York.

The agreement calls for boosting specific collections, holding joint exhibitions and strengthening the technical capacity of Cuban institutions through internships, courses and other forms of exchange. In the past 12 months, Hollywood has also taken advantage of the thawing ties between the two nations, sending crews to film two major productions on the streets of Havana.—Xinhua

Entertainment Channel

(19-7-2016, Tuesday)

<p>06 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather Report • Pyi Thu Ni Ti <p>06 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartoon Programme • "ALVIN and The Chipmunks — The Road Chip" (Part-2) <p>07 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>07 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>08 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanthawaddy U Win Tin "A Fearless Man" (Episode - 1) <p>08 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV Entertainment Music 	<p>09 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waso or the Buddhist Lent <p>09 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Chaw Dwin Gone <p>09 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Movie Songs <p>09 : 30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travelogue "To the coastal region (Myeik - Kawthoung)" (Part-1) <p>10 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Programme <p>10 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video <p>Midnight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Down
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From 19-7-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm
To 20-7-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm

Myanmar International

(19-7-2016 07:00am ~ 20-7-2016 07:00am) MST

<p>Today Fresh</p> <table style="width: 100%;"> <tr><td style="width: 15%;">07:00</td><td style="width: 10%;">Am</td><td>Live: The Martyr's Day Ceremony</td></tr> <tr><td>09:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>09:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Choral Dance (Duel)</td></tr> <tr><td>09:33</td><td>Am</td><td>Choral Dance By Female Dancers</td></tr> <tr><td>09:41</td><td>Am</td><td>General Aung San Museum</td></tr> <tr><td>09:47</td><td>Am</td><td>Today Myanmar: Small & Medium Enterprises</td></tr> <tr><td>10:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>10:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Creator of Imagination</td></tr> <tr><td>10:52</td><td>Am</td><td>Waso or the Buddhist Lent</td></tr> </table>			07:00	Am	Live: The Martyr's Day Ceremony	09:03	Am	News	09:26	Am	Choral Dance (Duel)	09:33	Am	Choral Dance By Female Dancers	09:41	Am	General Aung San Museum	09:47	Am	Today Myanmar: Small & Medium Enterprises	10:03	Am	News	10:26	Am	Creator of Imagination	10:52	Am	Waso or the Buddhist Lent
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(05:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)-Today Repeat(09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7)
07:53	Pm	A Monk's Robe
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Welcome To Naga Land

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

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



PHOTO: REUTERS

Mourinho

urges patience with new signing Bailly

LONDON — Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho has urged patience with new recruit Eric Bailly, saying that the defender will take time to adapt to the demands of England's top flight following his move from Spain.

Bailly, Mourinho's first signing since he took over from Louis van

Gaal, put on an impressive display for United as the visitors beat Wigan 2-0 in a friendly on Saturday.

The 22-year-old was part of a Villarreal defence that conceded just 35 goals in 38 league matches last season.

"He's a very young boy coming from a completely different environment, but you could see what he is at this moment," Mourinho told British media.

"This was the first time he has worn a shirt like the Manchester United shirt. He can't

speak English and can only communicate with the ones who are French-speakers or Spanish.

"I wanted to give him more minutes because he needs to play more than others. He needs to feel it and start communicating." The former Chelsea manager also likened the Ivory Coast international to defender Raphael Varane, whom he coached at Real Madrid. "I will give him everything to try to make him better and better, like I did with other central defenders I've had in my hands," Mourinho added.—Reuters

Russian gymnasts must not be banned from Rio, says governing body

LONDON — Russian gymnasts must be allowed to compete in the Olympic Games and not tarred with the same brush as the country's banned track and field athletes, the International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) said on Monday.

Several national anti-doping agencies have called for a blanket ban on Russians attending the Rio Games ahead of the publication later on Monday of a report into allegations of state-backed doping at the Sochi winter Olympics.

"FIG is concerned about the increasing number of officials asking for a blanket ban of Rus-

sian athletes to participate at the forthcoming Olympic Games in Rio," the sport's governing body said in a statement.

"Whilst FIG fully supports the IOC's policy of 'Zero Tolerance in Doping', it strongly feels that not all Russian athletes of all sports should be banned and found guilty for actions in other sports and federations."

In a leaked letter to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) the officials from the U.S. and Canadian anti-doping agencies call for a complete ban on Russians if the Sochi report compiled by Canadian law professor Richard McLaren

is damning.

Russia's track and field athletes are already banned from competing at next month's Olympics by the world governing International Association of Athletics' Federations (IAAF) over widespread doping in the sport.

However, FIG said Russian gymnasts have been subject to controls equal to those of our other leading gymnastics federations and that they should be in Rio.

"The rights of every individual athlete must be respected," FIG resident Bruno Grandi said. "Participation at the Olym-

pic Games is the highest goal of athletes who often sacrifice their entire youth to this aim.

"The right to participate at the Games cannot be stolen from an athlete, who has duly qualified and has not be found guilty of doping. Blanket bans have never been and will never be just."

The leaking of the letter, which was also circulated to the World Anti-Doping Agency's (WADA) athlete committee and has the support of national bodies in Germany, Japan and New Zealand, has been criticised by other sport's world governing bodies.—Reuters

Record-breaking Stenson lands first major at Troon

TROON, (Scotland) — Record-breaking Swede Henrik Stenson became the first Scandinavian male to capture a major when he won the British Open on Sunday, beating Phil Mickelson in an extraordinary final-round duel. The world number six produced a swashbuckling eight-under-par 63 to finish 20-under on 264, three ahead of playing partner Mickelson (65). The 40-year-old Stenson's round equalled the lowest in any major championship and his winning total was also a record for any of the 'Big Four' tournaments. "Wow, this will take a little while to sink in," said Stenson as he held aloft the coveted Claret Jug. "I'm still trying to find my bearings here."

"I want to thank Phil for a fantastic battle. We played some great golf and I'm delighted to come out on top." Like two prize fighters in a ring, the two men traded blow after stunning blow, reeling off birdie after birdie to turn the last day of golf's oldest major into a two-way procession. The rest were nowhere with American JB Holmes (69) taking third spot on 278, 11 behind Mickelson as the leading pair evoked memories of the great 'Duel in the Sun' Turnberry Open of 1977 when Tom Watson edged out Jack Nicklaus in another epic head-to-head.—Reuters

Croatia beat US in stunning Davis Cup comeback

PORTLAND (Oregon) — Teeanger Borna Coric completed an unlikely comeback for Croatia as the small Balkan nation beat the United States 3-2 in a Davis Cup quarter-final in Oregon on Sunday.

After losing the first two singles rubbers on Friday, Croatia kept alive their hopes by winning Saturday's doubles before sweeping both reverse singles on the hardcourt in Portland.

Marin Cilic, the 2014 US Open champion, beat John Isner 7-6(11), 6-3, 6-4 in a battle of big servers to set up a deciding rubber between 19-year-old Coric and Jack Sock.

The 54th-ranked Coric prevailed 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, 6-4.

"Our team just shows how much spirit we have, how much

we're motivated," Cilic said in an on-court interview as Coric celebrated with a small but vocal section of Croatian fans.

"All weekend we played amazing tennis and Borna produced unbelievable tennis (in) the deciding rubber."

Croatia advanced to a home semi-final against France, while defending champion Britain will host Argentina in the other semi.

Britain needed to win only one of Sunday's two reverse singles against Serbia in Belgrade, and Kyle Edmund wrapped up victory for the visitors with a rubber to spare when he beat Dusan Lajovic 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(5).

It was the first time Britain had ever won a World Group tie without their top-ranked player as Andy Murray sat out the clash

following his Wimbledon victory last Sunday.

Serbia were also without world number one Novak

Djokovic. In the other quarters, Argentina beat Italy 3-1 and France defeated the Czech Republic 3-1.—Reuters



Borna Coric. PHOTO: REUTERS