

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 46, 8th Waxing of Nayon 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Friday, 2 June 2017



Rakhine State children arrive for the first day of school in the new academic year. Some schools remained closed from storm damage. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

1st day of school for children in storm-damaged Rakhine

By Than Oo(Lemyatna) & Min Thit/MNA

Students across Myanmar returned for the first day of school of the 2017-2018 academic year, including children in Rakhine State, where several schools were damaged on Tuesday by

Cyclone Mora.

Fast and timely completion of repair work on storm-damaged schools in Maungtau and Buthidaung allowed many students to return to school on time, though some schools in rural areas of the two Rakhine State

townships are still under repair, according to the Maungtau District Education Office.

"School heads managed to complete the repair works timely with responsibility. So, students go to school today," said Rakhine State Social Affairs

Minister Dr Chan Thar. Cyclone Mora wreaked havoc in northern Rakhine three days ago, leaving transportation and communications in chaos and causing a loss in power to the township as the storm crossed into Bangladesh on Tuesday. **SEE PAGE-3**



NATIONAL
President U Htin Kyaw visits modern crop plantations in Heho
PAGE-3



NATIONAL
State Counsellor receives Chinese General Fang Fenghui
PAGE-3



NATIONAL
Environmental Conservation Committee holds third coordination meeting
PAGE-6

NATIONAL
Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomes Chinese general
PAGE-9

NATIONAL
Five suspects arrested on suspicion of attending terrorist training
PAGE-9



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Fourth day of the fifth session of second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

The second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw held its fourth day meeting of the fifth session yesterday morning in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting matter relating to signing an Agreement on Cooperation in Natural Disaster Early Warning and Mitigation between ASEAN and Russian Federation sent by the President was explained in detail by the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye. By signing the agreement, benefits such as participating widely in natural disaster emergency response and relief works, exchange information on mitigation against natural disaster, increase cooperation between ASEAN and Russian Federation and effectively conducting emergency responses works said the Union Minister.

Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe explained about the matter of recording President's



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win. **PHOTO: MNA**

remark on transforming from uncoordinated free-lance businesses to systematic businesses that was originated in the 104th International Labour Organization (ILO) conference held in June 2015. The Union Minister said that as a responsible member country of ILO Pyidaungsu Hluttaw should record it.

Announcement was made for Hluttaw representative who wish to discuss about signing the



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye. **PHOTO: MNA**

agreement and recording the note were requested to submit their names.

U Than Soe of Yangon region constituency 4, Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago region constituency 3, U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyarwady region constituency 5 and U Kyi Win of Ayeyarwady region constituency 12 then discussed and suggested the amendments and additions to the water and



Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe. **PHOTO: MNA**

embankment bill.

Next, U Maung Myint of Mingin constituency, U Soe Thein @ U Maung Soe of Taninthayi region constituency 10, U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency and U Lal Min Htan of Chin state constituency 10 discussed and suggested the amendments and additions to the bill on Myanmar Territorial Sea and Maritime Zone.

Daw Khin San Hlaing of

Pale constituency, U Thaung Aye of Pyawbwe constituency, U Than Soe (economics) of Yangon region constituency 4, U Khin Maung Thi of Loilem constituency, Dr. Tin Tin Win of Bago region constituency 5, Tatmadaw Amyotha Hluttaw representative Lt. Col Kyaw San Oo, U Khin Cho of Hlaingbwe constituency, U Yan Lin of Kyaiklat constituency and Tatmadaw Pyithu Hluttaw representative Lt. Col Kyaw Moe Aung then discussed the findings and comments of the Public Accounts Committee on the 2015-2016 FY government debt annual report sent by the Union Government and Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win explained and commented to the discussions.

Finally, the Hluttaw agree on the report and record the findings and comments of the Public Accounts Committee. — Myo Myint, Mi Mi Phy (MNA) ■



Children of rehearsing Shan traditional dance for Children's Literature Festival. **PHOTO: AUNG MIN HAN**

Children's Literature Festival in Taunggyi features more variety

The Children's Literature Festival in Taunggyi will start today and will feature reading rooms for children to develop their love for literature and will also include programmes for children to have fun and boost their brainpower at the same time, organizers said. A wide range of stalls will be open, selling the works of Min Thuwun, who wrote many children's literature works, documentary photos, exhibitions on children's

books, 3D exhibitions, reading rooms for children, exhibitions showcasing technology, science experiments from basic high school students from Taunggyi, educational aids, educational videos, regional handicrafts, and a combined exhibition from Taunggyi's Educational College, Technological University and Computer University.

There will also be an exhibition for education on crime by the police force in their mobile

library, exhibitions on environmental conservation, the Department of Inland Transportation, traffic rules, The Free Funeral Service Society, private schools, Pyinnyar Pantaing Private School, Mahn Nyunt San educational aids, BaGa – philanthropic schools, and from U Book Foundation. There will also be entertainment by Myanmar puppeteers and magic shows for the attendants. —Aung Min Han ■

Nippon Express opens logistics warehouse in Myanmar

Japan's largest international freight forwarder Nippon Express Co. began operating a multifunctional logistics warehouse at the Thilawa Special Economic Zone, near Myanmar's commercial capital Yangon, on Thursday.

Company officials said the Thilawa Logistics Center offers bonded warehouse services for foreign cargo, while the temperature-controlled and dehumidified warehouse will also be used to store apparel and chemical products.

The warehouse was built on a 50,575-square-meter land plot at Zone A of the Japanese-backed Thilawa SEZ as a one-story steel-framed structure with a floor area of 5,827 square meters, covering offices, warehouse and storage areas.

Nippon Express opened a representative office in Yangon in 2012 and has been expanding its operations gradually since then. Its local subsidiary, Nittsu Logistics Myanmar Co., aims to provide comprehensive logistics

services, including air/ocean cargo forwarding, customs clearance, domestic distribution, cross-border truck transport, warehousing and heavy haulage.

The warehouse offers bonded storage services utilizing bonded cargo functions available nowhere else in Myanmar but the Thilawa SEZ.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, Nippon Express Chairman Kenji Watanabe said his company will try its best to become a reliable partner to support logistics needs in Myanmar. Cho Cho Win, vice chairman of the Thilawa SEZ management committee, said, "We believe Nippon Express will help Myanmar's logistics sector especially on transfer of management skills and training."

A total of eight Japanese logistics firms have so far received permission to set up at Thilawa SEZ, and several of those including Sumisho Global Logistics Co. are already operating there. —Kyodo News ■

President U Htin Kyaw visits modern crop plantations in Heho

President U Htin Kyaw observed modern crop plantations grown using up-to-date agricultural methods at the Prime Farm in Heho, southern Shan State yesterday.

The President, accompanied by Dr Lin Htut, Shan State Cabinet's Chief Minister, Shan State Cabinet Ministers and responsible officials, arrived at the Prime Farm in Heho at 4 pm, with U Hla Myint Aung, deputy Director-General of the Department of Agriculture, Director of Prime Farm Mr. Daniel Bennett and Manager U Chan Myae Aung explaining the aim of founding the Prime Farm, production of crops by using modern methods, plantation crops, exports, the market situation and future plans.

Afterwards, the President inspected berry plantations grown with the use of a water-dripping system, a technique of Netafim, and plantations of seven kinds of strawberries in Pump House



President U Htin Kyaw listens to Mr. Daniel Bennett, the director of Prime Farm, explaining the farm's operations. **PHOTO: MNA**



Workers at Prime Farm in Heho Township, southern Shan State, tend to crops grown using state-of-the-art agricultural techniques. **PHOTO: MNA**

Green House. Netafim is an Israel-based company specializing in drip and micro-irrigation products for agriculture, greenhouse, landscape and mining applications.

The Ministry of Agriculture,

Livestock and Irrigation and Prime Company launched the Prime Farm in Heho in 2015 after considering four factors— market, climate, crop and expenses — in a joint venture on 23 acres of experimental plantations, 13

acres of a Pump House Green House system, and 70 acres of blank space, a total of 106 acres. Berries, watermelons, onions, potatoes, cauliflower, carrots, groundnut, rice and other crops — 20 in total — are being pro-

duced. Presently, seven kinds of European strawberries have been planted in two greenhouses measuring 2,400 meters square and one greenhouse 1,500 meters square.—Myanmar News Agency ■



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Chinese General Fang Fenghui in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor receives Chinese General Fang Fenghui

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received His Excellency General Fang Fenghui, Member of the Central Military Commission of China and Chief of Joint Staff Department of the Chinese People's

Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations and defence cooperation between Myanmar and China.—Myanmar News Agency ■

In the wake of Cyclone Mora, Myanmar debates ASEAN-Russian disaster response agreement

Myanmar announced plans yesterday to strengthen its disaster response systems in the wake of Cyclone Mora, which killed scores of people in neighbouring Bangladesh and left thousands homeless in both nations.

No deaths were reported in Myanmar, although many homes, schools and government buildings were damaged by the cyclone with winds up to 135 kph (85 mph).

Myanmar's Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief

and Resettlement, Dr. Win Myat Aye, announced at the second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday an Agreement on Co-operation in Natural Disaster Early Warning and Mitigation between ASEAN and the Russian Federation.

Dr. Win Myat Aye said the agreement would enable Myanmar to respond more effectively to natural disasters in future.

Authorities in Cox's Bazaar and Chittagong district in Bangladesh evacuated 350,000 people from low-lying

areas before the storm roared in from the Bay of Bengal on Tuesday. After the storm, 81 Bangladeshi fishermen were reported missing.

"Though the fishermen were rescued, most of the boats, the main instrument for our survival, are totally damaged and it is not possible to get them replaced quickly as we are not solvent," said Mostaque Ahmed, head of the Cox's Bazaar Mechanized Fishing Boat Owners Association.—GNLM ■

First day of school for children, including those in storm-damaged Rakhine

FROM PAGE-1

In Nay Pyi Taw, Basic Education Schools also opened yesterday morning.

At the Basic Education Schools of Nay Pyi Taw, which are located near the main road, many traffic police were seen

helping students on the way to school.

"Many students with white and green uniforms were seen going to their respective schools since the early morning", said one parent. All students from kindergarten to the 10th stand-

ard received uniforms, textbooks and exercise books under the government's free education programme.

Entrance fees plus library, sports and stationery fees were not collected at the time at the enrollment at the schools. ■

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.comPrinted and published at the **Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory** at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the **Global New Light of Myanmar Daily** under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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Fourth Mon-Taninthayi tour in June

The Myanmar Tourism Promotion Board Marketing Committee will introduce the fourth Mon-Taninthayi tour starting from 3 till 9 June. The committee will introduce this trip with an aim to enable local people to observe significant tourist attraction in Myanmar.

During the trip, locals can view the nature of the island of Kawthoung town and beaches of the Myeik archipelago.

Visitors will leave Yangon for Dawei on 3 June. Myanmar Heritage Trail Tourism

will arrange an overnight stay in Dawei before proceeding to Myeik the next morning.

The third day of the trip will be to Kawthoung via Myeik. Visitors will spend two days on the islands around Kawthoung town then leave for Mawlamyine.

Tour organizers will include visits to famous pagodas and significant destinations in Mawlamyine. The group will arrive back in Yangon on 9 June. The trip arranged by Myanmar Heritage Trail Tour-



Colorful fish, corals and sponges on the coral reef in Kawthoung, Taninthayi Region. **PHOTO: KYAW HAN (HOTEL & TOURISM)**

ism Rally will promote the trip through the media. The trip is believed to be able to promote Myanmar's tourism sector, said

Daw May Myat Mon Win, chairperson of the Myanmar Tourism Marketing Association.—Myat Noe Thu ■

Japanese company to sponsor boxing match, free admission

Manda Fermentation Co. and the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federation will hold an amateur Lethwei fighting event at 2 p.m. on 3 June at Thein Phyu indoor stadium. Admission is free.

Lethwei is a Myanmar martial art, known as "the art

of nine limbs," due to its allowances of fist, elbow, knee, foot and head-butt strikes.

The event is the second to be sponsored by a Japanese company this year, said U Thein Aung, chair of the Myanmar Traditional Boxing Federa-

tion. He said that the Lethwei events, which have also taken place in Japan, are intended to introduce a new generation of fighters to a wider audience and to increase involvement in the sport.—NyiMyatThawdar/MyanmaAlinn ■

Air Quality Index to be measured in Mon State in June, July

Air quality in Mon State will be monitored in June and July to determine residents' exposure to carbon dioxide and 14 other greenhouse gases, according to the Environmental Conservation Department.

A HAZ Scanner and dust analyzer will be installed at

traffic junctions and factories to measure air pollutants. The monitoring program is an element of the Myanmar Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan adopted in 2016.

Once the measurements are completed, entities responsible for various air pollutants will

be identified by the Environmental Conservation Department.

The Mon State government will purchase devices to measure air quality, river and creek quality and soil quality this FY, according to Environmental Conservation Department.—Myat Mon Htwe/MyanmaAlinn

Express bus collision occurs on Ygn-Mdy expressway

AN express bus collided with a parked light truck on Yangon-Mandalay highway, between mileposts 207/4-5 of Oattara Thiri Township in Nay Pyi

Taw yesterday early morning.

The express bus named Shwe Mann Thu enroute from Yangon to Mandalay was driven by Thann Naing

Soe at an unmanageable speed and crashed into the light truck which was parked on the road side and Thann Naing Soe ran away after the accident. No one on the express bus was injured but two men were killed and 14 of the 18 passengers on the light truck were seriously injured.

The bodies and injured persons were brought to the 1000 bed general hospital in Nay Pyi Taw by Pann Tin local police force. The driver, Thann Naing Soe was arrested within 8 hours with cooperation from Shwe Mann Thu Express team.

The reckless driver has been charged by the police. —Nyi Nyi Thann(Nay Pyi Taw) ■



The light truck crashed by an express bus on Ygn-Mdy Highway.

NEWS BRIEFS

ICE, yaba pills seized in Insein

INSEIN anti-narcotic squad searched a vehicle driven by Myo Min Aung on Aung Zeya Bridge in Kanar (middle) ward, Insein Township on 30 May and they found 1,628 yaba pills and 0.0299 kilos of ICE. Police have taken action against Myo Min Aung alias RK, 28, under the Anti-narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force ■



Yaba pills seized in Wakema

A Myaung Mya District anti-narcotics squad searched a taxi driven by U Nway Oo Han together with Tun Kyaw, also known as Ba Kyaw and Kyaw Htay Aung, also known as Phoe Kyaw, on Phayar Road, Sayaygon Ward in Wakema Township. Police found 531 yaba pills, two handsets and Ks61,500 from Tun Kyaw, 36, and Kyaw Htay Aung, 41. Local police have taken action against the two suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Rental rate of parks in Yangon quite low

By Ko Moe

Former committee member of YCDC, U Htay Aung said current rental fees of parks in Yangon should be carefully examined and amended after negotiations with respective ministries and companies.

“Some park lands projects are under the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) and some are under the Department of Forestry. Rental fees for the parklands are low, so I think they should be reexamined,” said U Htay Aung at a press conference in M3 Restaurant on 29 May.

The rental rate for People’s Park is currently Ks25 per square foot and is rented to the Natural World Company under a 25-year contract.

“The buildings in the Mya Kyun Thar Garden which were not in agreement with the contract would be demolished and YCDC was drafting a master plan,” said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe at the Regional Hluttaw held on 22 May.



File photo shows decorative plants in People’s Park and Public Square in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

The Mya Kyun Thar Park land was rented at Ks25 per square foot to Magic Land Company, Rya Ja Company, Mandalay Golden Win Company,

Nay La Pwint Company, Edin Co.Ltd, Golden Shan Brother Co.Ltd, Myanmar Golden star Co.Ltd and Max Myanmar Co.Ltd in 2013, under a 60-year contract.

Among these companies, Edin Co.Ltd, Golden Shan Brother Co.Ltd, Myanmar Golden star Co.Ltd and Max Myanmar Co.Ltd have not constructed any buildings yet. ■

Slowing Chinese demand drives down domestic rice prices

Domestic prices for low quality rice declined due to decreased demand from China, according to Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Normally, rice prices increase during the rainy season, but due to recent confiscations of broken rice imports from Myanmar, domestic rice stocks remain high and prices dropped Ks10,000 per bag in the third week of May, according to a Bayintnaung rice depot report.

China, the main buyer of Myanmar rice, officially restricts imports of low quality rice at its border.

Myanmar rice is also exported to sub-Saharan Africa, Indonesia, Russia, Sri Lanka and European Union nations.

More than 360,000 tonnes of rice were shipped to abroad as of third week of May in FY2017-2018.—Ko Khant ■

Growers facing difficulty with declining rubber price

The rubber price has been on a downward trend since the end of the Thingyan Festival, causing financial hardship for rubber growers.

Some sell out their stock at the prevailing market price, whereas some are waiting to sell in hopes of a higher price. Some companies are reportedly

manipulating the price in the market, said a grower.

A pound of rubber hit Ks1,300 this year, but the prevailing market price is currently around Ks750 per pound.

Ninety per cent of rubber is exported, whereas only ten per cent is local bought, said rubber producers.

Myanmar’s rubber is exported mainly to China and is also shipped to Malaysia and Japan. Over 80,000 tonnes of rubber are annually exported, according to the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

There are over 150,000 acres of rubber plantation in Mon

State. To maintain the price, the quality needs to be controlled so that Myanmar’s rubber meets the export market’s criteria. However, the quality of Myanmar’s rubber is inconsistent. Quality rubber varieties are needed to cultivate so as to boost the production rate, merchants said.—Htet Myat ■

Chinese restrictions drive sugar re-exports lower

Sugar re-exports to China in FY2017-2018 decreased 130,000 tonnes from last fiscal year due to stricter Chinese import controls.

Myanmar produces low quality sugar for its domestic market and imports sugar from Thailand and India, which it re-exports to China. Myanmar’s domestic sugar producers have struggled to find export markets due to poor packaging and lack of advanced refinery machinery.

Previously, about 80,000 bags of re-exported sugar flowed into Chinese markets daily. China began enforcing re-export sugar restrictions against Myanmar two months ago. Myanmar re-exported more than 2.3 million tones of sugar between FY2015-2016 until March 2017 to foreign partners, earning US\$1,290 million.

Myanmar is attempting to increase re-export trade and acquire permits for more goods through negotiations with foreign partners. Other re-export goods include betel nut, fuel oil, clothes, garlic, sesame seeds, dried pepper, peanut, cotton, electrical appliances, beverages, food, edible oil and tyres.—Mon Mon ■

Over 116,000 tonnes of fuel oil imported within a week

More than 116,220 tonnes of fuel oil were imported 14-20 May, according to the Commerce Ministry. 73,000 tonnes of diesel and 43,000 tonnes of petrol flowed into the country within a week. The import volume was up by 1,150 tonnes compared to that of last week.

Yangon’s petroleum market is steady. Prices of diesel, premium diesel and Octane 92 are stable whereas Octane 95 prices have increased slightly. Prices are hovering around Ks710 for diesel, Ks710 for Octane 92, Ks760 for Octane 95 and Ks730 for premium diesel. Petroleum prices in Mandalay and Mawlamyine are also steady.—Ko Htet ■



File photo shows petrol and diesel pumps in Yangon. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

Environmental Conservation Committee holds third coordination meeting

Vice President U Myint Swe addressed the 3rd coordination meeting of the Central Committee for National Level Environmental Conservation yesterday at the Forest Department of the Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Ministry in Nay Pyi Taw, stressing the importance of a coordinated, nationwide effort to maintain the environment.

“So as not to cause evil effects on the natural and social environment due to factories, mills and resource-based projects, necessary working groups are needed to be formed under the leadership of supervision committees at regional and state levels, with scrutinizing work on the ground needed to be carried out in accord with the laws, by-laws, rules and regulations” the Vice President said.

The Vice-President said the efforts must include on-site oversight and enforcement.

“Conservation of the natural environment and climate change must be done practically on the ground. In carrying out the tasks of industrial development, we must work hard in unity and with full conscientious-



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the meeting of the Central Committee for National Level Environmental Conservation. **PHOTO: MNA**

ness and special care needs to be given so as to leave a better and sustainable natural environment for our future generations. In our accomplishments, the tasks of sharing knowledge are required in the long run so that respective departments, organizations, NGOs, civil societies, private entrepreneurs and the whole populace will participate.”

The strategies and processes for maintaining the environment include reducing climate change and adapting to severe weather, the Vice-President said.

Afterwards, U Ohn Win, the Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation and Chairman of the central committee, clarified

matters on national-level environmental conservation and climate change, followed by explanations in respective sectors from responsible officials.

Then, U Hla Maung Thein, Director-General of the Environmental Conservation Department and secretary of the central committee, detailed the accomplishments of the central

committee and upcoming programmes.

Representatives of NGOs, civil societies and private economic organizations then made remarks. Chairmen of supervision committees from Nay Pyi Taw Council, Regions and States and responsible officials also spoke.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Vice President U Myint Swe receives Chinese General

Vice President U Myint Swe received General Fang Fenghui, Member of the Central Military Commission of China and Chief of Joint Staff Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China and party in the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace yesterday afternoon in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, cooperation in the security sector and matters relating to the Myanmar internal peace process were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and officials.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Myint Swe shakes hands with Chinese General Fang Fenghui at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Pre-workshop discussion to review anti-corruption process

A discussion to review anti-corruption implementation before the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) was held yesterday at the Hotel Royal ACE in Nay Pyi Taw.

The pre-workshop discussion was held to raise the capacity of the implementers in reviewing the implementation process, officials said.

At the meeting, U Mya Win, the chairman of Anti-Corruption Commission of Myanmar, said preparation of a Self-Assessment Checklist (SAC) for the second-stage review of the implementation of UNCAC articles will begin in July 2017.

Like all other member countries of the commission, Myanmar is conducting a review process of the implementation of the commission. The first-stage review was successfully conducted and is continuing with the second-stage review. U Mya

Win urged all to work together to achieve success in the second-stage review as in the first-stage review.

Ms. Susanne Dahl and Mr. Francesco Checchi of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) then greeted those who will be attending the convention, after which discussions in sectors such as a general review of the process, country review reports, etc., under the title of reviewing of UNCAC were made.

Afterward, UNODC officials shared their experiences with the first-stage review process and work needed to be done by the reviewed country. They then conducted practical exercises to prepare the second chapter of the SAC. The pre-workshop discussion to review the process of implementing the UNCAC will be held until 2 June.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Police investigates possible murder-suicide in Thakayta

Thakayta Police discovered the bodies of a married couple in their home in Myayay Nandar Housing in Thakayta Township.

Police believe the husband, Mr. Victor Raj, 48, killed his wife, Ma Khine Sabai Hnin Aung, 31, with a hammer and then committed suicide by slitting his wrists with a hatchet, both of which he had purchased several days earlier. Police discovered both implements in the home.

Police investigators from the Yangon Region Police Department said that Mr. Raj had seven different jobs before becoming unemployed by the time of his death. Police investigators also said that he owed money to several people, including Ks50

lakhs he owed his wife. On the day of the killing, Mr. Raj told his housekeepers not to clean or enter their bedroom. Mr. Raj also told his security guard, U Ohn Myint, to inform anyone who came to meet him that he was out of town.

Mr. Raj and Ma Khine Sabai Hnin Aung were childless and lived with her cousin, who was in the garden with two housekeepers and the security guard during the killing. No one witnessed the deaths, said the police.

The married couple was home during the day and remained in their bedroom. The cousin entered the house 7 p.m., knocked on her cousin's bedroom door and heard no



CCTV footage shows Victor Raj purchases the hammer and hatchet at Capital Hyper Market in Thakayta.

reply. The cousin then called her phone but there was still no reply.

Police said they found a receipt and video CCTV evidence

that Mr. Raj purchased the hammer and hatchet found at the home on 30 May from Capital Hyper Market.

Mr. Raj's body had wounds

on the stomach and wrists. Ma Khine Sabai Hnin Aung had been bludgeoned on her right temple and slashed across her neck.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Philippine crisis deepens as air strike on rebels kills 11 soldiers

MARAWI/MANILA — An air strike on Islamist rebel holed up in a southern Philippine city has killed 11 government troops, the armed forces said on Thursday, in a major blow to the country's bid to end its biggest internal security crisis in years.

The bombing accident happened on Wednesday when one of two planes bombing rebel positions missed its target in the heart of Marawi City, where ground troops have been battling pro-Islamic State militants holed-up in buildings for nine days.

The incident came during what was the first offensive deployment of fixed-wing aircraft in the nine-day operation, aimed at flushing out the Islamist gunmen who have defied expectations by clinging on through days of ground assaults and helicopter rocket attacks.

"Sometimes in the fog of war a lot of things could happen. Accidents happen, like this," Defence

Secretary Delfin Lorenzana told a news conference.

"It's very sad to be hitting our own troops," he added. "There must be a mistake somewhere, either someone directing from the ground, or the pilot."

The Maute group has been a fierce enemy of a military with superior firepower and greater troop strength.

The government is concerned that the group's brazen attack and its resilience could strike a chord with the Islamic State leadership in the Middle East and win its endorsement as its Southeast Asian affiliate.

The deaths of the soldiers takes the number of security force members killed to 38, with 19 civilians and 120 rebel fighters killed in the battles in Marawi over the nine days.

Lorenzana said militants who were Saudi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Yemeni and Chechen were among eight foreigners



A government soldier looks at a man holding a white flag who fled his home as government troops continue their assault on insurgents from the Maute group, who have taken over large parts of the Marawi City, Philippines on 1 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

killed in the fighting, in what experts say is a sign the Philippines may have a major problem on its hands.

An exodus of residents from mainly Muslim Marawi started on 23 May, when the Maute rebels ran amok, torching and seizing buildings, stealing police weap-

ons and vehicles, taking hostages, and freeing jailed rebels to rejoin their fight.

The military added 21 armoured vehicles and a third battalion of troops to the operation on Thursday to put an end to the occupation.

Lorenzana said the military

might suspend air strikes, describing the rebels as a small force that "cannot hold that long".

Bombardments by OV-10 light attack aircraft were carried for over an hour early on Thursday. Troops engaged rebel snipers, as helicopters circled identifying targets.

A fire blazed in one building moments after a plane dropped its payload. Smoke rose into the sky. President Rodrigo Duterte is concerned radical ideology is spreading in the southern Philippines and it could become a haven for militants forced out of Iraq and Syria.

He made no mention of the killing of soldiers by air force planes in a speech on Thursday. He said the Maute group was being given too much credit, and that the occupation of Marawi was the work of Islamic State, and planned a long time ago.— Reuters ■

Indonesia tobacco bill would open tap for ads aimed at kids, health official says

JAKARTA — A proposed Indonesian tobacco law will roll back regulations to discourage smoking in a country that already has one of the highest smoking rates in the world and open the floodgates to advertising aimed at teenagers, a health ministry official said.

If the bill initiated by the parliament is passed, companies will

no longer have to put grim pictures on cigarette packs of lung cancer or other diseases linked to smoking, said Mohammad Subuh, director-general of disease prevention and control at the health ministry.

Under existing regulations, 40 percent of the front and back of a cigarette pack must contain

a "health warning" in the form of pictures and text.

Under the tobacco bill, reviewed by Reuters, cigarette packs would not be required to have a specific portion dedicated to health-related pictures. Cigarette businesses that put up advertisements, either in electronic, printed or outdoor media, do have

to include a health warning that is "written with clear alphabets, easily read and proportionate."

School and playground areas would be designated as "no-cigarette-smoke zones" instead of "no-cigarette zones", which would allow cigarettes to be sold or displayed there, Subuh said.

"Indonesia is the most liberal

country for the tobacco industry," said Subuh, who oversees the health ministry's tobacco control efforts.

"Let's not open again the opportunities for the industry to lure teenagers to party with cigarettes. It's like jumping from a helicopter without a parachute," he said in an interview.—Reuters ■

Children are our future

Mark Angeles

Children are the future of Myanmar. Depending on how we care for, educate and nurture them will determine how large a role they play in the resurgence of this country.

Dr. Pe Myint, the Union Minister for Information, recognises this and has been making concerted efforts to educate and inspire the Union's young people, such as his creation of children's literature festivals, the latest of which will be held today in Taunggyi.

Dr. Pe Myint said the aim of the literature festival is to introduce literature to children so as to nurture a hunger for learning, for their future as well as for the future of the nation", it was noted in an article in a recent edition of the Global New Light of Myanmar.

There are far too many children who leave school early and find work in tea shops, factories and other low-paying jobs. What needs to be



emphasized is that encouraging young people to stay in school and complete their education, which for some could result in a university degree, will translate into a lifetime of higher-paying, more influential and more satisfy-

ing jobs.

The decision to leave school early is admittedly mostly economic. A poor family in Myanmar needs all of its members to contribute monetarily as soon as possible. But the potential of

higher-paying jobs that only come with higher learning should outweigh the short-term gains of lower-paying jobs at the expense of education.

To this end, there should be financial help for families who choose to keep their children in school, and more scholarships for those who aspire to attend university. This investment will result in exponential gains that will be realised in only one or two generations as well-educated, English-speaking Myanmar graduates attain higher stations in society and in life.

My hope is that there will be an entire generation of Myanmar youths who will be the first in their families to graduate from college and thus help themselves, their families and their country.

The time to invest in our children is now, as Myanmar, once the wealthiest country in Southeast Asia, stands on the brink of achieving its former greatness. ■

Why are 'secession' and 'federal army' so crucial to Myanmar's peace process?

By Dr. Nehginpao Kipgen

THE second session of the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference which started on May 24th ended on the 29th, a day later than the originally scheduled. The conference brought together some 1,400 representatives from the government (executive branch), the parliament, the military, invited political parties, ethnic armed organizations and civil society groups.

Out of the 41 points discussed covering issues of political, economic, social, security, and land and environment, the conference was able to reach agreement on 37 points, largely in a consensus manner, with the ultimate goal of reaching a Union Peace Accord which is expected to serve as the foundation for durable peace in a federal Myanmar.

The agreed points included a Union based on democracy and federalism, with the right to self-determination; no ethnic races to be given special privileges; and states and regions to write their own constitutions and laws in accordance with the 2008 constitution.

The 37 principles, which were proposed by the Union Peace Dialogue

Joint Committee (UPDJC), were the results of state and regional level political dialogues, which include 12 with the political sector, 11 with the economic sector, four with the social sector and 10 with the land and environment sector.

In her closing remarks of the conference, Myanmar's state counsellor and chairperson of the UPDJC said, "The agreements that we have been able to sign today mark a significant step on our path toward peace, national reconciliation, and the emergence of a democratic federal Union."

Agreements have yet to be reached on key principles of federalism such as equality, self-determination and federalism, which have been kept for further deliberation and discussion in the next round of the peace conference, which will tentatively happen after six months.

Two most critical issues were on the question of a 'federal army' and 'secession', which are the two inherent elements of a federal government envisioned by the country's ethnic minorities.

The military, which plays a dominant role in politics and in the entire peace process, insists that

there should be a single army or one national army under the new federal arrangement. However, the ethnic armed groups want to see a federal army which would allow them to retain their respective armed forces.

The question of federal army has been a topic of intense debate between the ethnic armed groups and the Myanmar military since the days of discussions over the text of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

There are two basic differing school of thoughts. The Myanmar military believes that by allowing the ethnic armed groups to retain their weapons and personnel, there will be a constant threat to territorial integrity, national solidarity and potential armed conflicts between the union army and regional forces. It also holds a lingering concern that the union or federal government could end up having a limited control over state and regional governments, as happened during U Nu's premiership, the first civilian government.

On the other hand, the ethnic armed groups argue that given the historical nature of the conflicts in the country where the army has suppressed their aspirations for autonomy,

it is necessary for them to retain their armed forces to protect themselves in the event of unsuspected or unprovoked attacks from the Myanmar army, or at least as a deterring factor.

Under the federal army, the ethnic armed groups would also want to see their armed forces being transformed or integrated into state forces. Historically, ethnic minorities do not trust the Myanmar army, which is dominated by the majority Bama/Burman ethnic group, to safeguard and promote their fundamental interests such as culture, language and tradition.

Many among the ethnic minorities also believe that because of the chauvinistic ideology of the Myanmar military and the civilian Burman elites in the past, their situation could even get worse if their armed forces are dissolved and the Myanmar army is given complete control of their internal security. The underlying problem is lack of trust.

The other critical issue is the question of 'secession'. Perhaps, this has been the most complicated and challenging one single issue the country faces since its independence from Britain in 1948.

SEE PAGE-9



Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomes Chinese General Fang Fenghui with a ceremonial guard of honour in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomes Chinese general

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed General Fang Fenghui, Member of the Central Military Commission of China and Chief of the Joint Staff Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China at Zeyathiri Beikman hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with a ceremonial guard of honour.

The Chinese General and entourage were warmly greeted by the Senior General and officials.

The generals and their entourages then inspected the

guard of honour after returning a salute.

After the welcoming ceremony, the two military chiefs held talks in the meeting hall.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning bilateral relations between the two armed forces, measures being taken based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA) to cease ethnic armed conflicts taking place in Myanmar, cooperation between Myanmar's Tatmadaw (Army, Navy, Air) and China Armed Forces and cooperation in security and stability matters of

the two countries.

In the afternoon, the Chinese General and party paid tribute to the martyrs and laid floral baskets at Mausoleum for Heroes in Nay Pyi Taw and signed the memorial guest book.

In the evening, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing hosted a dinner in honour of General Fang Fenghui, member of the Central Military Commission of China and Chief of Joint Staff Department of the Chinese People's Liberation Army of the People's Republic of China and party.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Forty walkie talkies seized in Maungtaw

Security forces from Zebin Chaung police station seized 40 walkie talkies and other equipment from a house in North Chaungkala village on 31st May, while they were on patrol.

Police also seized 36 batteries during a search of Mawlawi Bawniguoarmi's house in North Chaungkala village. Police are investigating the suspect who fled into the case.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Village administrator abducted in Maungtaw

A village administrator was abducted by a group of men holding weapons on the night of 29 May.

A group of masked men holding weapons broke the doors and beat and abducted

Changruu Arlaung, also known as Kyaw Swe, a village administrator of Yatwin Pyin village, Yatwin Pyin village tract, while he was at home with his family at about 11:00 pm.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Five suspects arrested on suspicion of attending terrorist training

Authorities arrested five men yesterday on suspicion of attending terrorist training in Maungtaw, Rakhine State.

The arrests followed the interrogation of two other suspects who were arrested on 29 May.

The security forces arrested five men, including Sawli Mullah, while searching several homes.

They also found two knives and a sword from their houses. During a regular patrol on Monday, security forces arrested

two men, including Abdu Rakan from northern Tayekonetann village acquired information from him about two other men who attended terrorist training course in the village.

During the interrogation, Abdu Raman confessed that they are plotting to kill two men in Layyinkwin Village.

They also confessed that they and 12 other men had attended terrorist training in the past six months at the house of Jody Husalt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Why are 'secession' and 'federal army' so crucial to Myanmar's peace process?

FROM PAGE-8

Under the NCA text, the ethnic armed groups and the Myanmar army have agreed in principle to uphold the three national causes that have been championed by the successive military governments: non-disintegration of their union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuation of national sovereignty.

According to the NCA text, all signatories have agreed to remain in the union. In other words, agreeing to the non-disintegration of the union means that ethnic armed groups have agreed not to support any activity or movement that could break up the country. It also means that they would not demand an independent state of their own.

However, the word 'secession' has an important historical significance to the country's ethnic minorities. When the first constitution of independent

Burma was drafted in 1947, the word 'secession' was inserted to allow the non-Burman ethnic nationalities to seek independence from the union after ten years of the formation of the Union of Burma.

The demand for federalism, which was construed by the Myanmar army as a secessionist movement, was also one fundamental reason why the army led by General Ne Win staged a coup in 1962, thereby dashing the hopes and aspirations of the non-Burman ethnic nationalities, which entailed the ethnic armed groups to demand, at least in their initial years of formation, for complete independence or secession from the Union of Burma.

The opinion of the ethnic armed groups, particularly those that have been involved in the NCA drafting process, is that though they are willing to subscribe to the non-disintegration

principle, they would not like to have the word secession or secessionism inserted into the Union Peace Accord.

As both issues of 'federal army' and 'secession' are crucial to the realization of the envisioned federal Myanmar, future talks and deliberations cannot avoid sorting out their differences. Perhaps, the best possible solution will be for both sides to listen to each other's concerns and ready to compromise in the larger interest of forming a unified country.

They are crucial to the success of the 21st Panglong peace conference but perhaps the more important issue is to build trust between ethnic armed groups, and the Myanmar army and the elected civilian government, both of which are dominated by the Bama/Burman/Myanmma ethnic group.

The immediate concern for the UPDJC should be bringing on board the non-signatory groups of the Unit-

ed Nationalities Federal Council and the Federal Political Negotiation and Consultative Committee, a combined strength of both armed groups are larger and much more powerful than the NCA signatory groups. All these groups, and other groups which have not done so, should be allowed to hold national-level dialogues in their respective controlled areas.

Peace cannot prevail, at least will be very difficult to sustain, without the participation and support of all the armed groups, both signatory and non-signatory ones.

Nehginpao Kipgen, PhD, is Assistant Professor and Executive Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies, Jindal School of International Affairs, OP Jindal Global University. He is the author of three books on Myanmar, including 'Democratisation of Myanmar'. ■

May could lose majority in June 8 election — YouGov projection

LONDON — Prime Minister Theresa May could lose control of parliament in Britain's June 8 election, according to a projection by polling company YouGov, raising the prospect of political turmoil just as formal Brexit talks begin.

The YouGov model suggested May would lose 20 seats and her 17-seat working majority in the 650-seat British parliament, though other models show May winning a big majority of as much as 142 seats and a Kantar poll showed her lead widening.

If the YouGov model turns out to be accurate, May would be well short of the 326 seats needed to form a government tasked with the complicated talks, due to start shortly after the election, on Britain's divorce from the European Union.

A later poll, a separate regular survey carried out by YouGov for Thursday's Times newspaper, showed May's Conservative Party just three percentage points ahead of the Labour opposition, which has been eating into her lead since the start of the campaign.

The Conservatives were on 42 per cent, down a point from last week, with Labour up three



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May speaks during a Q&A at Cross Manufacturing Company in Odd Down in Bath, Britain, on 31 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

points, the YouGov survey said.

The findings again weakened sterling GBP=D4 which had earlier fallen almost a cent against the US dollar on the YouGov model before rising on a Kantar poll which showed May's lead had increased to 10 percentage points.

May called the snap election in a bid to strengthen her hand in Brexit negotiations,

to win more time to deal with the impact of the divorce and to strengthen her grip on the Conservative Party.

But if she does not hand-somely beat the 12-seat majority Cameron won in 2015, her electoral gamble will have failed and her authority could be undermined just as she tries to deliver what she has told voters will be a successful Brexit.

If May fails to win an overall majority, she would be forced to strike a deal with another party to continue governing either as a coalition or a minority government. That would raise questions about the future of Brexit, Britain's \$2.5 trillion economy and British policy on a range of issues including corporate taxation and government spending and borrowing.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Putin says US anti-missile system in Alaska, South Korea challenges Russia

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that elements of a US anti-missile system being built in Alaska and South Korea were a challenge to Russia which it was obliged to respond to by building up its own forces in the region.

Putin, speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an economic forum in St Petersburg, said Russia could not stand idly by and watch while others increased their military capabilities along its borders in Europe and the Far East.—Reuters ■

25 injured, hundreds of buildings damaged in strong quake in central Indonesia

JAKARTA — A powerful earthquake striking central Indonesia earlier this week has left 25 people wounded and hundreds of buildings damaged, a senior official of the country's disaster agency said here on Thursday.

The local authority in Poso district of central Sulawesi province, the hardest hit area, has declared a seven-day emergency status for the quake-affected area since Tuesday, a spokesman of the National Disaster Mitigation Agency told Xinhua in a text message. A total of 332 buildings, comprising 311 houses, 13 school buildings, six office buildings, two mosques and six churches suffered damages, Sutopo Purwo Nagroho said.—Xinhua ■

Gas blast in China restaurant kills two, injures 12

NANJING — Two people died and 12 were injured following a gas explosion in a restaurant in eastern China's Jiangsu Province Thursday morning, police said.

The accident occurred in Huaian city around 9:30 a.m., the city's public security bureau said in a statement. An initial investigation suggested a gas tank exploded in the restaurant located in Qingjiangpu district, causing damage, it said.—Xinhua ■

Clinton says Trump campaign likely guided Russians before US election



Former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton takes part in the Women for Women International Luncheon in New York City, New York, US, on 2 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

RANCHO PALOS VERDES, (CALIF) — Hillary Clinton said on Wednesday she suspects President Donald Trump's campaign gave guidance to Russian government propaganda efforts

during last year's US presidential campaign, levelling her most serious charge yet against the person who defeated her.

The former Democratic presidential candidate, appear-

ing at a tech conference near Los Angeles, said propaganda spread on sites such as Facebook helped cost her the election, and she urged Silicon Valley firms to move faster to stop false stories.

Trump has said there was no collusion between his campaign and Russia.

Echoing assessments of US intelligence agencies, Clinton said the Russian government wanted to spread disinformation about her. But she added they "could not have known how best to weaponise that information unless they had been guided." "Guided by Americans?" asked Walt Mossberg, a technology journalist interviewing Clinton on stage. "Guided by Americans and guided by people who have polling and

data," she responded. Clinton was pressed by another journalist on stage, Kara Swisher, who asked: "But you're leaning Trump?" "Yes, I think it's pretty hard not to," Clinton said. She said there had been a "marriage" of people who spread false stories with Republicans who had detailed voter data. It appeared to be the first time Clinton had accused Trump of collusion with Russians. Earlier this month, she blamed Russian hackers and then-FBI Director James Comey for costing her the election. In a Twitter post on Wednesday night, Trump responded: "Crooked Hillary Clinton now blames everybody but herself, refuses to say she was a terrible candidate. Hits Facebook & even Dems & DNC."—Reuters ■



Men move an injured man to a hospital after a blast in Kabul, Afghanistan on 31 May 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Germany pauses Afghan deportations after blast but policy stays

BERLIN — Germany will not send failed asylum seekers back to Afghanistan in the next few days after a blast killed at least 80 people in Kabul, a German interior ministry spokesman said on Wednesday, but the policy of mass deportations remains in place.

Responding to fears among German voters about the influx of more than a million refugees since the summer of 2015, Chancellor Angela Merkel's government in December began mass deportations of Afghans.

The policy has drawn criticism from human rights group who argue people are being sent

back to a dangerous country.

"The employees (at the embassy in Kabul) have an important logistical part to play in receiving the deported people .. they cannot carry out this job properly so soon after the attack," said an interior ministry spokesman.

"Therefore there will be no collective deportations to Afghanistan in the next few days," he told reporters.

Among the roughly 350 injured in the explosion from a bomb hidden in a sewage tanker in the diplomatic quarter of the Afghan capital were two German embassy employees. An Afghan security guard there

was killed and the building was also badly damaged.

"But it is and remains the case that deportations must be carried out according to our laws. This principle applies to Afghanistan, especially for criminals, and we will continue to go down this path," the spokesman added.

Afghans were the second largest group of asylum seekers in Germany after Syrians last year and four months before an election, Merkel wants to make sure voters think she has the migrant crisis under control.

Rights groups and some Greens and radical Left party lawmakers called for an end to

the deportations.

Amnesty International welcomed the government's decision to halt flights in coming days but said it was reminder of how dangerous the situation was in Afghanistan.

"The German government must now rethink its assessment of Afghanistan. Deportations are not justifiable with the current security situation," its German branch said in a statement.

German officials said they were constantly reviewing security in Afghanistan. They recognised the situation was volatile and varied from region to region.—Reuters ■

Israeli finance minister holds rare West Bank meeting with Palestinian PM

JERUSALEM — Israel's finance minister has met the Palestinian prime minister, Israeli officials said on Thursday, in a rare visit by an Israeli cabinet member to the occupied West Bank as part of a US peace push.

Israel's security cabinet agreed just before US President Donald Trump's visit to Jerusalem and the West Bank May 22-23 on a series of measures aimed at building confidence in relations with the Palestinians. Israeli Finance Minister Moshe Kahlon, who heads a centre-right party in Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition, went to Ramallah late on Wednesday to present the proposals to Palestinian Prime Minister Rami Hamdallah, the officials said.

The measures include opening the Allenby Bridge border crossing between the West Bank and Jordan 24 hours a day, an increased number of building permits for Palestinians living in Area C of the West Bank, and further development of industrial zones near the West Bank cities of Jenin and Hebron.

Under interim peace deals between Israel and the Palestinians, Area C - which comprises 60 percent of the occupied West Bank - is territory in which Israel maintains full security and civil control. The Palestinians have limited self rule in the rest of the West Bank, which they seek, along with East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, for a future state. Israel captured those territories five decades ago in the 1967 Middle East war.—Reuters ■

Afghan capital mourns victims of truck bomb blast as anger swirls

KABUL — Kabul on Thursday mourned victims of a powerful truck bomb that killed at least 80 people and wounded hundreds amid growing public anger at the government's failure to prevent yet another deadly attack in the heart of the Afghan capital.

Wednesday's blast, at the start of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, ripped through a traffic-clogged street, packed with people on their way to school or

work during the morning rush hour, causing hundreds of casualties in an instant and sending a tower of black smoke into the sky.

In scale, it was one of the worst such attacks since the U.S.-led campaign to oust the Taliban in 2001 but in kind, it was only the latest in a grim series that has killed thousands of civilians over the years. President Ashraf Ghani made a televised address late on Wednesday, calling for

national unity in the face of the attack, which his National Directorate for Security blamed on the Taliban-affiliated Haqqani network, but he faces an increasingly angry public.

"For God's sake, what is happening to this country?," said Ghulam Sakhi, a shoemaker whose shop is close to the site of the blast. "People leave home to fetch a loaf of bread for their children and later that evening,

their dead body is sent back to the family."

The explosion occurred near the German embassy at one of the entrances to Kabul's unofficial Green Zone, a haphazard warren of concrete blast walls and sandbagged check points that has grown up around the diplomatic quarter over the years as the insurgency has intensified.

While the sewage tanker carrying the bomb was stopped from

entering the zone, it was unclear how such a large quantity of explosives could get through the ring of checkpoints set up around Kabul to protect the capital.

A huge crater ripped into the ground at the site of the blast and shattered windows in houses more than a kilometre away were testament to the power of the explosion, which was set off by a bomb concealed in the tanker.—Reuters ■



A visitor has a picture taken with an operational robot policeman at the opening of the 4th Gulf Information Security Expo and Conference (GISEC) in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, on 22 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Robocop joins Dubai police to fight real life crime

DUBAI — A robotic policeman which can help identify wanted criminals and collect evidence has joined Dubai's police force and will patrol busy areas in the city, as part of a government programme aimed at replacing some human crime-fighters with machines.

If the "Robocop" experiment is successful, Dubai Police says it wants the unarmed robots to make up 25 per cent of its patrolling force by 2030.

Clad in the colours of the Dubai Police uniform,

the life-size robot, which can shake hands and perform a military salute, is the lighter side of a government plan to use technology to improve services and security ahead of Dubai hosting Expo 2020.

"These kind of robots can work 24/7. They won't ask you for leave, sick leave or maternity leave. It can work around the clock," said Brigadier Khalid Nasser Al Razooqi, director general of the Smart Services Department at Dubai Police.

The first automated

policeman in the Middle East, the robot on wheels is equipped with cameras and facial recognition software.

It can compare faces with a police database and flag matches to headquarters. It can read vehicle licence plates and its video feed can help police watch for risks such as unattended bags in popular areas of Dubai, a financial and tourism hub.

Members of the public can also talk to the robot to report a crime or communicate with it using a touch

screen computer embedded in its chest. Built by Barcelona-based PAL Robotics, and programmed by Dubai Police, the cost of the robot has not been disclosed.

Most people are not nervous about talking to a robot and some even seem to prefer it, Razooqi said.

"We now see the new generations who are using smart devices — they love to use these kind of tools. A lot of them have seen the Robocop movie and they said: you guys, you have done it." —Reuters ■

Ahead of Trump decision, China says it will stick to Paris climate deal

BRUSSELS — China said on Thursday it will stick to the Paris climate deal as the world awaited an announcement by US President Donald Trump on whether to keep the United States in the global pact to fight climate change.

During his 2016 presidential campaign, Trump denounced the accord, and called global warming a hoax aimed at weakening US industry. A source close to the matter said Trump was preparing to pull out of the agreement.

A US withdrawal could deepen a rift with its allies. The United States would join Syria and Nicaragua as the world's only non-participants in the landmark 195-nation accord agreed upon in Paris in 2015.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said the agreement had not been reached easily and it represented the broadest consensus of the international community.

"Climate change is a

global challenge. No country can place itself outside of this," she told a daily news briefing.

No matter what changes other countries made in their positions, China would follow its green, sustainable development concept, strengthening measures to deal with climate change and would conscientiously follow the Paris agreement, Hua said.

"At the same time, we will continue to resolutely be a protector and promoter of the global climate system process, proactively participating in the multilateral climate change process," Hua said.

"We are willing to work with all sides to jointly protect the Paris agreement process, promote the actual rules and regulations of the agreement in follow-up talks and effectively enact them, and promote global green, low carbon, sustainable development." —Reuters ■

Turkish general killed in military helicopter crash

ANKARA — Turkish Maj. Gen. Aydogan Aydin died in a military helicopter crash which killed 13 soldiers in Turkey's south-eastern province of Sirnak, local media reported Thursday.

Turkish Armed Forces said Wednesday in a statement that an AS 532 Cougar-type helicopter carrying 13 personnel took off from a military command in Senoba, Sirnak. Shortly afterward, the helicopter hit a high voltage line and crashed at 20:55 local time (1855 GMT).

According to the state-run Anadolu Agency, 51-year-old Aydin, who graduated from the Military Academy in 1987, had served as the 23rd Gen-

darmerie Border Division Commander since August 2016.

A funeral ceremony was held Thursday at the 23rd Gendarmerie Border Division Command.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan conveyed early Thursday his condolences following the helicopter crash.

"We will never forget the heroism of these soldiers, which have enabled us to achieve tremendous successes in the fight against terrorists in recent months," Erdogan said Thursday in a statement released by the Presidential Press Centre. Prime Minister Binali Yildirim and his wife visited the family of Aydin in Ankara. —Xinhua ■

In the matter of the Myanmar Companies Act and True Vistas Company Limited (Myanmar Branch Office) (In members' Voluntary Liquidation with the consent of the Head Office) Pursuant of Section 206(1) of the Myanmar Companies Act

According to this Special Resolution by the management of Myanmar Branch held on 8th May 2017 at meeting room, No. 18 True Tower Ratchadapisek Road, Huaykwang, Bangkok, it is decided that Myanmar Branch Office be place into voluntary liquidation for carrying out of such liquidation, U Kyaw Swa Myint, Attorney at Law (Reg. No. 7266) was appointed as liquidator. We hereby announce that any person who have debts and liabilities to this company should claim or pay them from/to the liquidator by 7th July, 2017 at the latest.

Mr. Khaing Win
Chief Representative on behalf of
True Vistas Company Limited
(Myanmar Branch Office)
No. 12(D), Kabaraye Pagoda Road, 8 Miles,
Mayangone Township, Yangon

U Kyaw Swa Myint
Liquidator
Building (10/12), Room (201), 35th Lower Block,
Kyauktada Township, Yangon.

Three Mile Island, site of 1979 nuclear accident, to close in 2019

GOLDSBORO (Pennsylvania)—Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island power plant will close in 2019, forty years after it was the site of the worst nuclear accident in US history, as low natural gas prices make the costs of atomic energy uncompetitive, its owner said on Tuesday.

The plant's name has been synonymous with public fears over the risks associated with nuclear power since the plant suffered a partial meltdown in 1979, sparking sweeping new rules for handling emergencies at nuclear sites. No one died during the 1979 meltdown and a federal review found minimal health effects in the 2 million people who lived near the central Pennsylvania plant, situated about 180 miles (300 km) west of New York City.

Exelon Corp, the US power company that owns the Middletown, Pennsylvania, power plant, said it will close by 30 September, 2019, unless the state



People work on a car across the Susquehanna River in front of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Goldsboro, Pennsylvania, US, on 30 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

adopts rules to compensate the company for benefits Exelon says nuclear power provides. Chris Crane, Exelon president and CEO, in a statement urged Pennsylvania "to preserve its nuclear energy facilities and the clean, reliable energy and good-paying jobs they provide."

Three Mile Island em-

ploy about 675 people, produces enough electricity to power 800,000 homes and pays more than \$1 million in state property taxes a year, the company said.

Low natural gas prices from abundant shale formations like Pennsylvania's Marcellus have helped keep power prices low for years, making it difficult for nuclear reactors

to compete with gas-fired generators in deregulated power markets in the US Northeast and Midwest.

Since 2013, the nuclear industry has shut six reactors for economic reasons before their licenses expired in California, Florida, Nebraska, Vermont and Wisconsin, and plan to shut at least six more over the next five years.—Reuters ■

Asian factories lose some momentum in May on soft export demand

NEW DELHI — Factories across much of Asia ran into a soft patch in May as export demand slowed, but analysts said the weakness was likely to be temporary amid signs of steady improvement in the global economy.

The findings from private business surveys came a day after Moody's Investors Service painted an upbeat picture of global growth.

The readings add to signs that Asian economies generally remained buoyant in the second quarter, with manufacturing activity continuing to improve — albeit at a more modest pace — and business confidence remaining strong overall. Still, there were mixed readings on regional powerhouse China, with official data showing steady growth fueled by an ongoing construction boom but a private survey pointing to the first contraction in activity in 11 months.

After battling a mul-

ti-year trade recession, Asian exports have seen a strong rebound this year, often led by electronics. The tailwinds from Chinese commodities and tech products demand, however, appear to fading.

Yet, Tim Condon, ING's chief Asia economist, says the growth outlook for the region remains positive as strengthening economies in the United States, Japan and Germany would support shipments from the region.

"May figures are just a blip," he said. "The hopes for cyclical recovery remains a positive theme, thanks to the strength of G3 economies." Data from Japan backed that assessment as manufacturing activity grew at its fastest pace in three months in May. The world's third-largest economy grew at its fastest pace in a year in the first quarter, marking the longest period of expansion in a decade.—Reuters ■

Panasonic aims for higher ranking in Thai refrigerator market

BANGKOK — Japan's Panasonic Corp. is making all-out efforts to move up through the rankings in the Thai refrigerator market by launching 12 models of locally made refrigerators.

Takeshi Nomoto, managing director of local

sales unit Panasonic A.P. Sales (Thailand) Co., says the Japanese electronics company is widening its customer base to cover middle- to high-income customers in a bid to move up the rankings from current fifth place to one of the

market's top three brands in 2020.

At present, Hitachi Ltd., Samsung Electronics Co. and Mitsubishi Electric Corp. lead the southeast Asian market. Panasonic, which generally focuses on high-end refrigerators

priced over 30,000 baht (\$880), recently unveiled the 12 new models, including top-freezer and bottom-freezer designs, with prices ranging from 14,190 baht to 31,990 baht.

Panasonic expects its refrigerator sales to grow

more than 10 per cent this year and hopes its share in the Thai market will rise by 1 to 2 percentage points.

Nomoto noted that Thailand's electrical appliances industry slowed down last year due to weak consumption, causing the

refrigerator market to shrink 4 per cent from 13.3 billion baht to 12.8 billion baht. But he anticipates that Thailand's economic rebound would lead the refrigerator market to grow 3 percent to 13.2 billion baht this year.—Kyodo News ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GLODEN SEA

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (012)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BATAM VOY. NO (012) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 2.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING

LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

‘Wonder Woman’ gets movie spotlight, with high expectations

LOS ANGELES — More than 70 years after she first burst upon the scene in her red bustier and blue shorts, Wonder Woman is finally getting her turn in the movie spotlight, and expectations could hardly be higher.

“Wonder Woman,” with the title role played by former Israeli army soldier Gal Gadot and out in movie theaters worldwide this week, is the first female superhero film since 2005’s box office dud “Elektra,” and the first to be directed by a woman.

“I feel it was a lot of expectation resting on the shoulders of this film and resting literally on the shoulders of Wonder Woman,” said director Patty Jenkins, whose budget was more than \$150 million.

“We tried to make a movie for everybody a la the grand classic films from ‘Superman 1’ to ‘Indiana Jones,’ so I hope we actually get a little of everyone,” she added, referring to hopes that both men and women would see the movie.

Since her inception in 1941 in DC comic books with her patriotic red bustier embossed with a golden eagle and blue shorts with white stars, Wonder Woman has become a symbol of female empowerment in a comic book world dominated by male super-



Cast member Gal Gadot poses at the premiere of ‘Wonder Woman’ in Los Angeles, California US, on 25 May, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

heroes like Batman, Superman and Iron Man, and by male fans.

Actress Lynda Carter became the embodiment of Wonder Woman when she played her in the highly popular 1970s television series.

But times have changed. Last year Wonder Woman lost her position as an honorary ambassador for the United Nations after a grass roots petition slammed the character as “a

large breasted, white woman of impossible proportions, scantily clad ... the epitome of a ‘pin-up’ girl.”

In the film, Wonder Woman’s red and gold bodice doubles as a suit of armor in fight scenes in which she darts and dodges bullets, knives and thunder bolts.

“I love the costume,” Gadot said. “I think it’s beautiful, I think it’s practical, easy to move in and to fight. And I also think

it’s sexy.”

The Warner Bros movie returns to the origins of Diana Prince, growing up in an all-female paradise island of Amazonian warriors who teach her knowledge, language and fighting skills.

When American pilot Steve Trevor (Chris Pine) crashes there, Diana learns about World War I and leaves the island to follow Steve to the front lines to

vanquish the war god.

Gadot, 32, says the Wonder Woman created by Jenkins is far from perfect, and that’s what makes her interesting.

“She’s not only super strong and confident and unapologetic, but she can be very vulnerable and confused and insecure,” Gadot said.

Even before the film’s release, “Wonder Woman” stirred controversy when the small US cinema chain Alamo Drafthouse announced it would hold some women-only screenings of the film, sparking complaints on social media by of reverse sexism.

Reviews for “Wonder Woman” have been glowing, scoring a rare 97 per cent positive rating on aggregator Rotten Tomatoes with critics praising its humour and positive spirit.

Jenkins, the director, said that behind the fun, “I hope that we can use a character who stands for something so needed right now ... and to inspire people to be heroes in their own lives.

“She is fierce and strong and incredible but she’s also idealistic for the good of mankind and she really believes in love and truth. ... I think the hero that we need for the future is that all of us are going to have to fight for what we believe in.”—Reuters ■

Kathy Griffin loses CNN deal after photos with fake severed Trump head

LOS ANGELES — CNN fired comedian Kathy Griffin from its annual New Year’s Eve broadcast on Wednesday after she drew strong criticism for posing in photographs holding up the likeness of a bloody, severed head resembling US President Donald Trump. The network announced the termination after earlier criticizing the photos as “disgusting and offensive.” Griffin posted a videotaped apology on Tuesday night amid a public outcry from Republicans and Democrats alike over the images, including condemnation from Trump.

“Kathy Griffin should be ashamed of herself,” Trump wrote. “My children, especially my 11-year-old son, Barron, are having a hard time with this. Sick!” The US Secret Service, responsible for presidential security, has opened an inquiry into the



Kathy Griffin. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

posting of Griffin posing with the severed-head replica, a spokesman in Los Angeles said when asked whether the agency was looking into the incident as a potential threat on the president’s life. “We’re aware of it and we’re investigating it,” the spokesman, George Fernandez, told Reuters. He declined to elaborate. Griffin, 56, a two-time Emmy-winning

performer known for her deliberately provocative brand of humor, has appeared since 2007 as co-host of CNN’s New Year’s Eve broadcast from Times Square in New York with anchor Anderson Cooper. CNN did not make clear whether it was cutting its New Year’s Eve deal with Griffin for just the upcoming 2017 broadcast or for good. The furor also cost Griffin a show at the Route 66 Casino Hotel outside Albuquerque, New Mexico. Management of the Laguna Pueblo tribe-operated establishment decided to cancel a one-night appearance by Griffin scheduled for 22 July, a spokesman said. Griffin apologized profusely in a video message posted to her official Twitter account late on Tuesday, saying that as a comic she routinely seeks to “cross the line” but realized in this case, “I went too far.”—Reuters ■

Geri Halliwell apologises for leaving Spice Girls

LOS ANGELES — Nineteen years after leaving Spice Girls in the middle of a world tour, Geri Halliwell has apologised to fans on Twitter for her sudden exit.

Yesterday, a fan account tweeted a compilation video about Halliwell’s disappearance from the tour, writing, “19 years ago today, it was announced that @GeriHalliwell had left the Spice Girls in the middle of their world tour.”

To which, the “Lift Me Up” hitmaker replied, “I’m sorry about that... Everything works out in the end, that’s what my mum

says!” The 44-year-old singer announced her departure from the English pop girl group on 31 May 1998, stating, “Sadly I would like to confirm that I have left the Spice Girls. This is because of differences between us.”

Halliwell then went on to launch an initially successful solo career and released her debut album Schizophonic in 1999.

However, she rejoined the group when they reunited in 2007.

The girl group currently also consists Mel B and Emma Bunton, besides Halliwell.—PTI ■

You could be dancing ... on ‘Saturday Night Fever’ disco floor

LOS ANGELES — The “Saturday Night Fever” dance floor where John Travolta captured the 1970s disco craze is going up for sale next month and could fetch up to \$1.5 million, the auctioneers said on Wednesday.

The dance floor that lit up in red, blue and yellow in rhythm to the music was custom-built for the 1977 movie whose soundtrack featured disco hits by the Bee Gees including “Night Fever” and “You Should Be Dancing.”

The floor, measuring 24 feet by 16 feet (7 meters by 5 meters) and housing more than 250 separate light compartments, was fitted into a small club in Brooklyn for the film’s famous dance scenes, said Profiles in History, a Calabasas, California-based auction house.

It will go up for auction



The original disco floor from the 1977 movie ‘Saturday Night Fever’ is shown in this handout provided by Profiles in History auctioneers in Calabasas, California on 31 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

in Los Angeles during the June 26-28 Profiles in History Hollywood Auction, and carries an estimated price of \$1 million to \$1.5 million.

Vito Bruno, who owns the floor, said he started his career at 2001 Odyssey, the club in Brooklyn where “Saturday Night Fever”

was filmed. The club later changed its name and then closed in 2005. “I received a call from a friend telling me that the club was closing and they were auctioning off the contents including the legendary dance floor, so I bought it,” said Bruno, the chief executive of New

York-based party planning group AMPM Entertainment. “I have had the dance floor for a few years now. It’s one of the most recognizable pieces of film memorabilia in history, but I’ve decided it’s time to share it with the world,” he said.

“Saturday Night Fever,” the story of a working-class Brooklyn youth trying to break out of his dead-end life through dancing, launched Travolta as an international movie star.

Travolta rehearsed for months to perfect his dance moves, and his white-suited disco dancer became one of the enduring images of the 1970s disco scene.

In 2010, the film was deemed “culturally, historically, or aesthetically significant” by the Library of Congress and selected for preservation in the National Film Registry. —Reuters ■

Ant-hunting we will go!

SINGAPORE — Shining their flashlights into the darkest corners of Singapore, a small group of ant hunters searches for an elusive winged insect.

With luck, they will find a queen ant to lay eggs and start a colony under the watchful eye of a collector.

“You can search for a few hours without finding anything at all. So, it’s really luck,” Leland Tan, 14, said after he hit the jackpot, and found two queen ants in one night.

Singapore, a tropical city-state home to more than 40 ant species, has a small but growing community of ant collectors.

Ants Singapore, a Facebook group that has grown to 380 members since last December, aims to connect “ant lovers and even those who are interested in keeping ants.”

Followers share tips on catching and breeding ants, do-it-yourself ant farms and links to videos such as the giant killer ants in “Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull.”

While most ants in Singapore are harmless, the insects are often regarded as a nuisance. That is something Chris Chan is hoping to change.

“I want people to look

at ants differently,” said Chan, a 29-year-old Uber driver and member of Ants Singapore.

“Now, a lot of people still think that ants are pests, but with enough education, I can educate them that keeping ants can be safe,” he told Reuters Television.

Chan lives across the border in the southern Malaysian city of Johor Bahru with his girlfriend, her family and up to 30 ant colonies living in 10 formicariums, or ant farms.

Helen Teh, the mother of Chan’s girlfriend, said she was curious why the couple needed so much sand and wood in their home.

“He said, ‘Oh Auntie, I’m keeping ants.’” Teh said, recalling her initial surprise. “Later, when I knew it is something that he loves...I said ‘It’s no harm done,’” she said.

Chan has turned to social media to promote his hobby. He has started a Youtube channel for new collectors and answers questions about ant care on the group’s Facebook page. Chan also organizes ant-hunting trips to teach people how to find and catch the tiny insects that he says can hold his attention for hours. —Reuters ■

Mexico’s Hotel California owners reject the Eagles’ trademark claims

MEXICO CITY — The owners of a Mexican hotel using the name Hotel California on Wednesday said a trademark infringement lawsuit by the Eagles, whose song “Hotel California” is arguably the band’s most famous, should be dismissed. Hotel California Baja LLC, which runs the Todos Santos hotel in Baja California Sur, said the band long ago waived its trademark rights, having

waited four decades to assert them since releasing the song “Hotel California” on a 1976 album with the same name. The owner said it “flatly denies” the Eagles’ “baseless contention” that the 11-room hotel seeks to mislead travelers into thinking the property is associated with the band.

“Any alleged use of plaintiff’s trademarks is not likely to cause confusion, deception or mis-

take as to association, connection, sponsorship, endorsement, or approval of plaintiff,” the owner said in a filing in Los Angeles federal court. Lawyers for the Eagles were not immediately available for comment.

In their 1 May lawsuit, the Eagles said the defendant encourages guests to believe their hotel is associated with the band, including piping its music

through a sound system, to sell T-shirts and other merchandise. The hotel is located about 1,000 miles (1,609 km) south of San Diego and 48 miles (77 km) north of Cabo San Lucas. It was named Hotel California at its 1950 opening, underwent some name changes, and later revived the original name after a Canadian couple, John and Debbie Stewart, bought it in 2001. —Reuters ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(2-6-2017 07:00am ~ 3-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Discovering Tribes (MUUN) (EPISODE-1)
07:50	Am	Sagaing: Youth Leader
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Strolling Along A Memory Link - U Pein Bridge
08:43	Am	Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre-Chaw Dwin Gone
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Karaweik Palace - A Symbol Of Glorious Myanma Culture
09:43	Am	We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Green Corner (Episode - 5) Plastic Chandelier
10:35	Am	Star in the Gold Age: Tin Aung

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	New
07:27	Pm	My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake
07:48	Pm	He can do it
08:03	Pm	New
08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-4)
08:54	Pm	Porcelain and Glass

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Thursday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)



Programme Schedule

(2-6-2017, Friday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	1:00 Am	◆ Myanmar Movie (Part-2)
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	2:00 Am	◆ TV Drama Series
7:35 Am	◆ MRTV Travelogue	4:35 Pm	◆ Documentary
8:40 Am	◆ Current Affairs	5:05 Pm	◆ Documentary
9:10 Am	◆ Documentary (Part-2)	5:35 Pm	◆ Weekly Sport Info
9:35 Am	◆ MRTV Worker's Programme	6:20 Pm	◆ Documentary
10:30 Am	◆ Socio Economic Scenes	6:45 Pm	◆ Documentary
11:40 Am	◆ Documentary	7:15 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
12:30 Am	◆ TV Drama Series	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report



Real Madrid's Zinedine Zidane. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Juve seek what Zidane failed to deliver for them

MANCHESTER, (ENGLAND)

— It is hard to view Real Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane's playing career as anything other than outstanding. Arguably the finest midfielder of his generation, he would feature in many all-time best elevens. But Saturday's Champions League final against his former club Juventus is a reminder that the Frenchman hasn't quite had it all his own way. When Juve signed Zidane from French club Bordeaux in 1996 they had just been crowned champions of Europe. The midfielder was the man they hoped would help ensure more Champions League success. Italian rivals AC Milan had just won Europe's top trophy three times in close succession and, in an era when Serie A was Europe's undisputed top league, Juventus wanted, perhaps needed, to follow suit and dominate the continent.

But it never happened - Juve lost two finals during the Zidane era, and his solitary Champions League success would come with Real in 2002. In 1997, Juve lost 3-1 to Borussia Dortmund in the final, with the Frenchman largely ineffective, marked out of the game by Scottish midfielder Paul Lambert. The following year Juve were back in the final for the third season in a row, only to lose 1-0 to Real, Predrag Mijatovic's goal providing the Spanish club's first European title in 32 years. —Reuters ■

Ibrahimovic to talk with United, consider rival offers

LONDON — Manchester United striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic will hold talks to extend his stay at the Premier League club despite receiving offers from other clubs, the 35-year-old's agent Mino Raiola has said.

Ibrahimovic joined United on a year-long contract before the 2016-17 campaign and was vital to their League Cup and Europa League triumphs, scoring 28 goals in 46 appearances before sustaining a season-ending knee injury in April.

"He wants to stay in England, he wants to stay at the top and if he sees that he can be a valuable asset for Manchester United, then why not Manchester United?" Raiola told British radio broadcaster TalkSPORT on Wednesday.

"He can be a valuable asset for some other top clubs also. But I think it is respectful to talk to Manchester United and to see what all parties want."

Raiola said no talks had been held so far as the striker looks to recover from his injury.

"We have a lot of offers and



Manchester United's Zlatan Ibrahimovic warms up before the game at Old Trafford, Manchester, England on 20 August 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ideas and we have to evaluate them," Raiola said. "He has had a fantastic time at Manchester United and it is up to the club and myself to see what

the future brings. "For now, it is important he recovers well and then we will see." There has been no set timeline for Ibrahimovic's recovery but the

Swede posted a video of himself at training on his Instagram account on Wednesday, just 42 days after sustaining the serious injury.—Reuters ■

Tiger's image takes hit but sponsors staying put—experts

WASHINGTON — The marketability of Tiger Woods will suffer following his arrest for driving under the influence, but the former world number one golfer's current sponsors will likely stay by his side, according to experts.

Woods, who had surgery in April to relieve back pain, blamed the incident on prescription drugs, but that was not enough to keep his droopy-eyed mug shot from being etched in the minds of many who were once captivated by his dominance on the course.

Still, despite his struggles on and off the course, Woods is the greatest golfer of his generation and sponsors like Nike, Bridgestone Golf, Monster Energy and TaylorMade are not likely to rush and cut ties with him, marketing experts told Reuters.

"They have to be very meas-



Tiger Woods of the US lets go of his club after his tee shot on the seventh hole during the first round of the 2014 PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Kentucky, in 2014. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ured in terms of their response to their relation with him," said David Carter, professor of sports business at the University of Southern California's Marshall School of Business.

"He may not be delivering value but you could also be doing harm to your own brand if you cut and run on a guy with such global notoriety." Woods is second on the all-time list with 14

major titles but a player whose famous fist pump and beaming smile were once a regular site on the PGA Tour has lost his form and barely played in recent years. Most of his sponsors, when asked by Reuters if they would review their agreements with Woods in light of Monday's DUI arrest, either did not respond to requests for comment or said it was inappropriate to do so at this time. Bridgestone Golf, however, said they "will continue to monitor this situation and gather information from the appropriate sources investigating the matter." But details of the arrest report which stated, among other things, that Woods was asleep at the wheel of a parked car with the engine running and was disoriented when woken up by a police officer, cannot be sitting well with sponsors.—Reuters ■