

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. IV, No. 56, 3rd Waning of Nayon 1379 ME

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Monday, 12 June 2017



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed by Myanmar Embassy staff as she arrives at Stockholm Airport in Sweden. **PHOTO: MNA**

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives in Sweden

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived in Sweden at 1.30 pm local time after visiting Canada.

The Myanmar delegation led by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Canada by Air Canada at 7.30 pm local time and arrived at the Charles de Gaulle Airport at 8.45 am on

11 June. They were welcomed at the airport by Myanmar Ambassador U Han Thu and embassy staff and families.

The delegation arrived at Sweden's Stockholm Airport at 1.30 pm. They were welcomed at the airport by Myanmar Ambassador U Kyaw Swa Min, embassy staff and families and Myanmar

nationals in Sweden.

On Monday 12 June, Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Löfven will welcome State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, to Rosenbad. They will meet to discuss bilateral relations between Sweden and Myanmar. During her two-day visit to Sweden, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will have bilat-

eral talks with Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström, Minister for EU Affairs and Trade Ann Linde and Minister for International Development Cooperation and Climate Isabella Lövin. She will also give a speech in the Riksdag at the invitation of Speaker of the Riksdag Urban Ahlin.— GNLM ■



NATIONAL

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Thaton Industrial Zone in Mon State

PAGE-3



NATIONAL

Search continues amid slight improvement in weather

PAGE-3

OPINION

In a democratic system, no one branch should have too much power

PAGE-8



LOCAL BUSINESS

Pre-1995 model cars to be deregistered

PAGE-5



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles
markangeles@gmail.com**SENIOR CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader)
Zaw Min, zawmin.gnln@gmail.com**INTERNATIONAL NEWS EDITOR**Ye Htut Tin
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**LOCAL NEWS EDITORS**Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)
nwenwe9131@gmail.com**TRANSLATORS**Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon
Zaw Htet Oo
Kyaw Zin Lin
Sandar Soe
Kyaw Zin Tun**REPORTER**Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax — (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
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

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

www.facebook.com/

globalnewlightofmyanmar

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

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

Low pressure may intensify into depression during next 24 hrs

ACCORDING to the observations at (18:30) hrs M.S.T yesterday, the low pressure area over the North Bay of Bengal still persists.

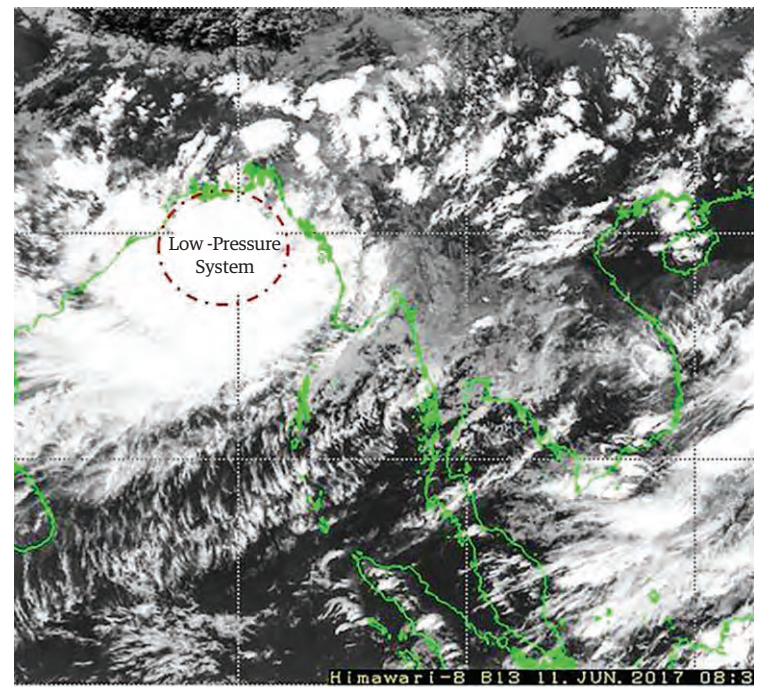
It may further intensify into a depression during the next (24) hours. Monsoon is strong to vigorous over the Andaman Sea and Bay of Bengal.

FORECAST VALID UNTIL MORNING OF THE 12th June, 2017: Rain or thunder-showers will be widespread in Nay Pyi Taw, Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and Kachin, Shan, Chin, Rakhine and Mon States, fairly widespread in Taninthayi Regions, Kayah and Kayin States with regionally heavy falls in Chin

and Rakhine States and isolated heavy falls in Nay Pyi Taw, Upper Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and Mon State. Degree of certainly is (100%).

STATE OF THE SEA: Occasional squalls with rough seas will be experienced off and along Myanmar Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (40) m.p.h. Wave height will be about (8 - 12) feet in Deltaic, Galf of Mottama and Rakhine Coast and (6 - 10) feet in Taninthayi Coast.

OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS: Continuation of strong monsoon.
FORECAST FOR NAYPY-



ITAW AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th June, 2017: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainly is (100%).

FORECAST FOR YANGON AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th June, 2017: Some rain or thundershowers. Degree

of certainly is (100%).

FORECAST FOR MANDALAY AND NEIGHBOURING AREA FOR 12th June, 2017: Isolated rain or thundershowers. Degree of certainly is (100%).— Meteorology and Hydrology Department ■

Campaign aims to raise student involvement in fisheries resources conservation



Teachers and students release mud-crabs into the Kaladan River. **PHOTO: YE HTUT**

TO raise awareness on conservation and sustainable utilisation of live marine resources, a mud-crab releasing campaign was conducted in Sittway, the capital of Rakhine State, on Saturday. Organized by the Sittway District Fisheries Department, the campaign also aims to promote student participation in preservation of fisheries resources, informing local fishermen not to catch female crabs carrying eggs and the dos and don'ts of fishing, said Director Dr Nyunt Wai, head of the fisheries department.

During the campaign, 2,000 mud crabs, each of them less

than 100 grams in weight, were released by students and departmental officials into the Kaladan River near Shukhintha Street in Sittway Town.

According to the local breeders, mud crabs are sexually mature by the time they reach over 100 grams. Mud crabs are available in tropical regions and can be found in coastal areas.

Mud crabs are in huge demand and fetch high prices in the global market, as many countries import vast amounts of the crabs.

Myanmar exports crabs mostly to China, Singapore and Malaysia.—Min Thit ■

Yangon Region government to dig more than 100 wells

YANGON Region government plans to construct over 100 wells in urban and rural areas of the city in the current fiscal year for the purpose of fulfilling the drinking water needs of residents, said U Han Tun, regional minister for agriculture, livestock, forestry and energy.

The effort is part of the government's plan to improve the quality of life of the city's

residents. Urbanisation beyond municipal boundaries is included on the government's list of priorities.

The regional authorities annually implement infrastructure development including construction of water-extraction facilities in the city.

For the agricultural sector, the regional government rebuilt water channels, dykes

and sluice gates last year, distributed quality seeds to farmers and shared modern farming techniques, said U Han Tun.

He went on to say that agriculture research and development has also been carried out in the region for sustainable improvement of the sector.

The Yangon Region Rural Development Department said

it will establish transport infrastructure within the next three years with the use of more than Ks62 billion.

In 2016-17, the government dug 165 wells in villages in 13 townships in the region, spending Ks1.3 million from the development funds. It also spent Ks1.3 billion to construct roads and bridges in 11 townships in the same year.—Ko Moe ■

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects Thaton Industrial Zone in Mon State

VICE President U Henry Van Thio arrived in Mon State yesterday morning and inspected Thaton Industrial Zone.

The Vice President, together with Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe and officials arrived at the Thaton Industrial Zone and toured the constructed buildings and inspected works underway. No. 3 Heavy Industries Enterprise Managing Director Dr. Soe Naing explained about processes underway to transform Caustic soda plant (Thaton) to Industrial Zone (Thaton), construction of basic infrastructure buildings, electricity and water systems, had discussions about generating electricity with Solar Process technology, also explained about inviting local and foreign investors for expression of interest to invest, and business proposals for investment, selection process and job opportunities.

The Vice President gave suggestions to include local raw materials based industries in the Industrial Zone (Tha-



Vice President U Henry Van Thio is clarified by officials about the Thaton Industrial Zone. **PHOTO: MNA**

ton), strive for the best result by reviewing the strengths, weaknesses and experiences of past industries, creating job opportunities for locals and to train them in order to work.

Next, the Vice President

and party were explained about a project to generate electricity with Solar Process technology by officials of Energeia Asset Management (EAM) company in the Industrial Zone (Thaton) meeting hall after which

the Vice President inspected a building where solar panels were installed and a building (garment factory) where garments will be produced.

Local and foreign industrialists were invited to transform

the 678 acre factory into an Industrial Zone (Thaton) and 7 companies had submitted proposals. A group consisting of experts from the Ministry of Industry had been assessing the proposals and industries that benefit the country, develop the region and create job opportunities would be given a priority in the selection.

Proposals include producing medicines from plants, soft drink manufacturing from fruits and roots, dried fruits manufacturing, high quality processing of local rubber, garment factory, rubber and related products manufacturing. These were assessed for speedy implementation.

Detailed studies were conducted on the proposed plan using Solar Process technology to generate 30 MW for the Industrial Zone (Thaton). If this plan could be implemented successfully, it can provide electricity to factories in the Industrial Zone (Thaton) as well as supply the excess electricity to the national grid, it is learnt.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Search continues amid slight improvement in weather

TWENTY-SIX bodies from the downed military transport plane were discovered yesterday, bringing the total number of bodies to 59.

The weather improved slightly yesterday in the area where the Tatmadaw Y-8 aircraft is believed to have crashed, allowing the combined Tatmadaw (Navy) vessels, Tatmadaw (Air) planes, ground forces and local fishing vessels to continue the search and recovery operation that resulted in the recovery of 26 more air crash victims.

Up to 4 p.m. yesterday, ground forces and locals combing the Maungmakan beach area recovered eight males, one child and one person of unidentifiable gender. Two naval vessels conducting search and recovery operations near Launglonbot Island recovered four male and two female bodies while local fishing vessels recovered the remains of 10 males.

To date, the recovered bodies include three Tatmadaw officers, two Tatmadaw soldiers of other ranks among the total of 26 males, 23 females, nine children,



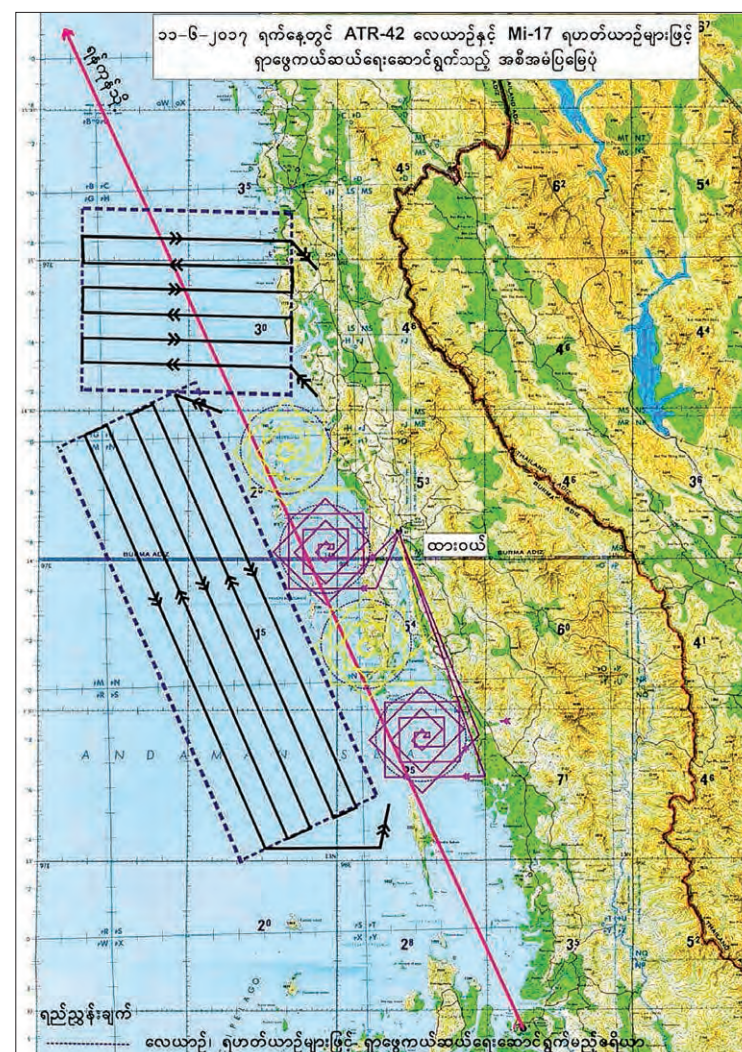
Military personal carry bodies at Maungmakan Beach. **PHOTO:MNA**

and one unidentifiable totaling 59. Yesterday, close support of the search for the crashed Y-8 plane and recovery of the remains is provided by chief-of-staff (navy) based in San Lan village on the beach and chief-of-staff (air) on-board a helicopter.

Meals for locals conducting the search and recovery operation were prepared and distributed by families of the regional armed forces, departments and NGOs.

Recovered remains were sent to Dawei Tatmadaw Hospital, where necessary forensic

checks were conducted and where family members of the victims identified the remains. As of yesterday, 27 bodies were identified while 32 were still under medical examinations and in the process of being identified by family members. According to the office of the commander-in-chief of the Defence Service, as of yesterday morning, four identified bodies were buried according to Buddhist tradition and Tatmadaw procedures, bringing the number of bodies that were given a proper burial to 23.—Myanmar News Agency ■



The Map shows the areas where search operations will be carried out. **PHOTO:MNA**

Apple's Cook tells MIT graduates: temper technology with humanity

CAMBRIDGE, Mass — Apple CEO Tim Cook on Friday warned graduates at MIT, a pioneer in fields like computers and robots, about technology's dehumanizing aspects and urged them to infuse its development with their own values.

"I'm not worried about artificial intelligence giving computers the ability to think like humans," Cook said in his commencement speech at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "I'm more concerned about people thinking like computers, without values or compassion, without concern for consequence."

Speaking to thousands of students and their families at MIT's Cambridge, Massachusetts, campus, Cook praised the benefits of

new devices and social media. But he also cautioned that the same technologies can divide people through threats to privacy or security, and said technology must be tempered with human knowledge.

"Technology is capable of doing great things, but it doesn't want to do great things. It doesn't want anything," the Apple Inc (AAPL.O) chief executive said. "That part takes all of us."

Cook's speech did not break new ground for him as head of the world's most valuable technology company but added some context around some of his past decisions, such as taking controversial stances to protect privacy rights and investing heavily in green technologies.

Cook has criticized President Donald Trump's policies but offered only a gentle joke at the president's expense on Friday, telling students it is obvious they have taken over Trump's Twitter account.

"I can tell college students are behind it because most of the tweets happen at 3 am," Cook said.

His 15-minute talk stood in contrast to a lengthier graduation speech his predecessor, Apple co-founder Steve Jobs, gave at MIT rival Stanford University in 2005, in which Jobs outlined his free-thinking background and told graduates to find work they loved.

Cook took a more conventional career path to the top of Apple, where he became CEO



Apple CEO Tim Cook waves after speaking during Commencement Exercises at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Cambridge, Massachusetts, US on 9 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

in 2011 after stints at IBM and Compaq.

Cook, who is openly gay but famously circumspect, gave few details about his own life on Friday except to outline what he described as a frustrating search for meaning until joining Apple.

He said at one point he

sought guidance in religion and last year met with Pope Francis, who Cook said reinforced his own sense that technology must be harnessed with strong values. He said Francis told him, "Never has humanity had such power over itself, yet nothing ensures that it will be used wisely."—Reuters ■

Western Digital to raise Toshiba chip offer to \$18 billion or more: source

TOKYO — Western Digital Corp (WDC.O) plans to raise its offer for Toshiba Corp's (6502.T) prized semiconductor unit to 2 trillion yen (\$18 billion) or more, a person familiar with the matter said, marking a last-ditch effort to clinch a deal that both companies consider vital.

The US chipmaker's new offer, to be presented by Thursday when the struggling Japanese conglomerate is to decide a preferred bidder for its Toshiba Memory Co unit, will be in the form of a debt purchase, to avoid antitrust concerns over the proposed purchase of the world's sec-

ond-largest producer of NAND memory chips, the person told Reuters on Saturday.

A spokesman for Western Digital had no comment. Toshiba could not immediately be reached for comment.

Toshiba had set a 2 trillion yen threshold for the sale. It is

rushing to find a buyer to cover billions of dollars in cost overruns at its now-bankrupt US nuclear business Westinghouse Electric Corp.

Western Digital has been bidding in a consortium led by a Japanese government-backed fund, but Toshiba on Friday expressed

dissatisfaction with that bid.

Toshiba has been favoring a rival bid from US chipmaker Broadcom Ltd (AVGO.O), which has partnered with US private equity firm Silver Lake to offer 2.2 trillion yen, people familiar with the matter have told Reuters. —Reuters ■

British pound falls after UK election shock, dollar gains

NEWYORK — The British pound fell to a seven-week low on Friday after a shock election result cast doubt on Britain's talks to leave the European Union, but key indices hit fresh record highs before tumbling technology shares drove the Nasdaq and S&P 500 lower.

British Prime Minister Theresa May said she would form a government backed by a small Northern Irish party after her Conservative Party lost its parliamentary majority in a vote on Thursday just days before the EU departure talks begin.

The benchmark FTSE 100 index of large British multinationals fed off sterling's decline, as earnings from abroad will be worth more from a weaker currency and gained 1 per cent.

But some sectors seen as particularly sensitive to Brexit instability saw heavy losses, such as homebuilders and real estate investment trusts, which are seen as a barometer of Brexit sentiment due to their holdings of London office space.

After an initial plunge, sterling pared losses against the dollar and euro, while the dollar gained. Safe-haven gold and prices of US Treasuries drifted lower.

The impact of the British election on the US markets was muted. The three major US indices hit fresh intra-day highs before tumbling shares of Facebook, Amazon, Apple, Microsoft and Google parent Alphabet slammed the Nasdaq and S&P 500.

"Tech has been on a tear for a very, very long period of time," said John Praveen, managing director for Prudential International Investments Advisers in Newark, New Jersey.

A research note from Goldman Sachs on this year's surge in technology shares has evoked unhappy memories for some investors of the euphoria before the tech bubble burst in 2000.

Amazon, Apple Facebook had surged year-to-date about 30 per cent before Friday's selloff, while Microsoft and Google had gained a bit less. They all fell more than

3 per cent, except for Microsoft, which slid 2.3 per cent.

Investors have relied on almost \$2 trillion that central banks, including the Federal Reserve, have pumped into capital markets over the past 12 months, which has driven up asset prices, said Jack Ablin, chief investment officer at BMO Private Bank in Chicago.

"If there's one metric that I'm going track, to determine whether or not I want to stay engaged in risk-taking, it's going to be that liquidity," Ablin said.

"If I get a sense the Fed or other central banks will start to close up shop on that, we're going to reduce risk."

European shares closed higher, erasing early choppiness. Britain's FTSE 100 index rose 1 per cent, and the pan-regional FTSEurofirst 300 index of leading European shares rose 0.37 per cent to 1,534.39.

MSCI's all-country stock world stock index <.MIWD-00000PUS) slid 0.04 per cent as

much of Wall Street retreated. Earlier, Germany's DAX index rose 0.8 per cent and the Nikkei 225 in Tokyo gained 0.52 per cent.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed up 89.44 points, or 0.42 per cent, to 21,271.97. The S&P 500 lost 2.02 points, or 0.08 per cent, to 2,431.77 and the Nasdaq Composite fell 113.85 points, or 1.8 per cent, to 6,207.92.

The pound shed more than 2 per cent against the dollar, dropping as low as \$1.2636 before trimming losses.

The dollar rose to a 10-day high against a basket of currencies. The dollar index, which tracks the greenback against six major rivals, was up 0.36 per cent at 97.269.

The euro was down 0.16 per cent to \$1.1194 against the dollar, a day after the European Central Bank closed the door on more interest rate cuts.

Oil prices rose after a pipeline stoppage in Nigeria, but crude ended the week down nearly 4 per cent on persistent worries about

global oversupply.

Brent crude oil settled 29 cents higher at \$48.15 a barrel, and US crude rose 19 cents to settle at \$45.83.

US Treasury long-dated yields rose to one-week highs ahead of next week's government debt auctions and a widely expected interest rate increase by the Fed. US short-term yields also advanced, with two-year Treasuries touching a four-week peak.

Investors largely shrugged off the British election, as well as scathing congressional testimony on Thursday by former Federal Bureau of Investigation director James Comey.

Comey accused President Donald Trump of firing him to try to undermine the bureau's investigation into possible collusion between his 2016 presidential campaign team and Russia.

US 10-year Treasuries were last down 4/32 in price to yield 2.2093 per cent. —Reuters ■

Pre-1995 model cars to be deregistered

FOLLOWING up the deregistration of 20-year-old buses, pre-1995 and 1995 model cars in Yangon will continue to be swapped, said U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Yangon Region, at a transferring ceremony of China-made buses on 10th June at People's Square and Park.

A slip for family-use cars is being issued in return when pre-1995 model city Dyna trucks and mini-buses are deregistered as clunkers. The deregistration of those cars have to be made by 20th June. Besides buses made before 1995, old cars made before 1996 will also be canceled from the registration list, he continued.

In the reformation of the bus system, the regional government has to make efforts to tackle the problems from several different angles, including all the stakeholders -- owners of buses, drivers and conductors who are depending on it for their living. As a first phase of the reform, some buses were replaced with new ones and old buses were allowed to be deregistered, he added. The deregistration of old cars began in November 2016 and the deadline for this is on 20th June. Those who fail to deregister their old vehicles will have their business licence withdrawn and will not receive a slip, according to a meeting held on 15th May.



Old buses in Yangon will be replaced with the modern buses. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

According to a survey, there are about 7,000 buses running in Yangon Region. However, about 3,800 buses are seen running daily. This survey stated that there are about 1,700 old vehicles, includ-

ing city buses and mini-buses, and over 3,000 buses including Dyna and BM vehicles. For the Yangon Bus Service system, the government purchased a fleet of 1,000 buses, with about 1,600 buses purchased by pri-

vate companies.

The new buses will be substituted in place of the old deregistered buses, said Dr Maung Aung, the secretary of Yangon Region Transport Authority. —Su Hnin Lae ■

Mushroom industry needs firm market

A FIRM market is required for mushroom growers, who are also faced with technical difficulties in cultivation.

Straw mushrooms are popular in Myanmar, with about 2,000 viss of straw mushrooms sold daily in Yangon Region. A viss of mushroom is offered at Ks4,000-5,000 by the depot owner. The price of straw mushrooms reaches Ks8,000-10,000 per viss during the summer. However, this year, the price is steady because of the increased number of growers, according to the Myanmar Mushroom Cultivators and Distributors Association.

The lack of a firm mushroom market drives the growers to create a market themselves. Myanmar Mushroom Cultivators and Distributors Association is producing 15 varieties of value-added mushroom products and more producers hope to appear in this supply chain so as to penetrate the export market, it is learnt.

Myanmar's mushroom products were reportedly showcased at THAIFEX-World of Food Asia 2017 held between 31st May and 5th June in Bangkok, Thailand. The products drew the attention of the traders from the Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS).

The health benefits of mushrooms are also required to be made known to consumers.

Straw mushrooms are mostly grown in Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions. Paddy-straw mushroom (*Volvvariella volvacea*) is a species of edible mushrooms cultivated throughout Asia and used extensively in Asian cuisines.

The local production of straw mushrooms matches with the domestic consumption. As the mushroom productions allow the growers to earn a healthy profit, concerted efforts are needed to make for a firm market and export market to emerge. —Ko Htet ■

Myanmar young banker wins Promising Young Banker Award

Daw Nang Lang Kham, the Deputy Executive Director of KBZ Bank, has been awarded The Asian Banker Promising Young Banker Award, which recognises top bankers in Asia under the age of 40.

The award is given by The Asian Banker every three years, "Daw Nang Lang Kham was chosen for the Promising Young Banker Award for Myanmar for her excellent achievement in banking and in tackling challenges from 2014 to 2016", said The Asian Banker, adding that the award is a part of nurturing a culture of excellence among tomorrow's leaders in the financial services industry.

Eleven young bankers from the Asia Pacific Region and three from the Gulf were also recognised with the award.

The selection for the award is based on a survey and desk research done by The Asian Banker's research specialists. The identified candidates' contributions are then subject to further scrutiny through inter-



Daw Nang Lang Kham (2nd from left) is seen after receiving the award. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

views, discussions with third parties, including local banking journalists and analysts who have had contact with the candidates, peers and third-party reviews.

The shortlisted candidates are then submitted to the board of advisors for review following a comparative evaluation done by the research team.

Kanbawza-KBZ Bank headed by Daw Nang Lang Kham

won the Myanmar's top income taxpayer award for fiscal year 2015-2016, retaining its lead in the list of Myanmar's 1,000 top taxpayers for the fifth consecutive year.

She was also recognised by Forbes Magazine as Asia's Woman To Watch 2016.

KBZ Bank Ltd conducts its services nationwide with more than 18,000 employees. —Thura Lwin (Eco) ■

Philippines' Duterte says didn't seek US support in city siege

CAGAYAN DE ORO CITY, Philippines — President Rodrigo Duterte said on Sunday he did not seek support from Washington to end the siege of a southern Philippines town by Islamist militants, a day after the United States said it was providing assistance at the request of the government.

Duterte told a news conference in Cagayan de Oro City, about 100 km (62 miles) from the besieged town of Marawi, that he had “never approached America” for help.

When asked about US support to fight the pro-Islamic State militants in Marawi City on the island of Mindanao, Duterte said he was “not aware of that until they arrived.”

The cooperation between the longtime allies in the battle is significant because Duterte, who came to power a year ago, has taken a hostile stance towards Washington and has vowed to eject US military trainers and advisers from his country.



Philippines' President Rodrigo Duterte (C) with Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana (L) and General Eduardo Ano, talks after visiting wounded soldiers who fight against the insurgents of the Maute group, which has taken over large parts of the Marawi city, at a military camp in Cagayan De Oro, Philippines on 11 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

It is unclear whether the pro-American military went over Duterte's head in seeking US help.

The Philippines military said on Saturday US forces

were providing technical assistance but had no “boots on the ground”, confirming a statement from the US embassy in Manila which said the support had been requested by

the government.

The seizure of Marawi on 23 May by hundreds of local and foreign fighters has alarmed Southeast Asian nations, which fear the ultra-radical group Is-

lamic State is trying to establish a stronghold on Mindanao that could threaten their region.

The Pentagon, which has no permanent presence in the Philippines but for years has kept 50 to 100 special forces troops in the south of the country on rotational exercises, confirmed it was helping the Philippine military in Marawi.

It said in a statement on Saturday it was providing Philippine forces with security assistance and training in the areas of intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. It said it had an additional 300 to 500 troops in the country to support regular training and activities, without giving further details.

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said support included aerial surveillance and targeting, electronic eavesdropping, communications assistance and training. A US P-3 Orion surveillance plane was seen over the town on Friday.—Reuters ■

Coastal provinces beef up security for possible attacks in southern Thailand

BANGKOK — Several coastal provinces known as tourist destinations in southern Thailand have beefed up security measures after receiving warnings of possible attacks, local media reported Sunday.

Southern provinces along the Andaman Sea including Krabi, Phuket that are home to clean beaches and crystal water, have to put on alert as a warning of potential violence has circulated on social media.

An intelligence report mentioned that southern militants might launch another wave of attacks against tourist attractions in Krabi and two other coastal provinces that would be similar to an arson attack in Krabi last August, according to Thai Public Broadcasting Service.

Krabi province saw a big check of surveillance cameras

installed in commercial areas and tourist attractions. Officials have tightened security of the province's international airport.

In Phuket, local residents are urged to report suspicious activities to authorities. Check points in ports, airports are on high alert.

Crime crackdowns on smuggling of illegal arms and drugs have been launched in neighboring provinces, local media said.

Since August 2015, Thailand has sustained several bombings, including one at the Erawan Shrine in Bangkok's Rajprasong tourist district that killed 20, and the August 2016 attacks on tourist sites in seven southern provinces.

More recently, three bombings rocked Bangkok in less than two months.—Xinhua ■

Rare public protest in China's Shanghai over property rule change

SHANGHAI/BEIJING — Hundreds of demonstrators have marched through a shopping district in the Chinese city of Shanghai to protest against changes to housing regulations, in a rare show of public dissent in the financial hub.

Footage of the late Saturday protests shared on social media showed hundreds of demonstrators holding placards and shouting slogans while marching along Nanjing Road, a glitzy shopping strip in the city centre.

One video seen by Reuters showed police setting up blockades and dragging a demonstrator away. Media carried no reports of the demonstrations, while mentions of the protests

on social media were scrubbed by internet censors.

Shanghai police did not respond to requests for comment.

Two witnesses told Reuters that about 10 of the protesters who were hoisting banners and appeared to be leading the demonstrations were taken away by police.

“One whole side of the street in front of the Apple store was filled with people,” said one nearby stall owner who declined to be identified, adding that the crowd gathered around 8 pm and dispersed by 10 pm.

“The police came and took the leaders away.”

Protesters were angry about measures announced on

17 May by Shanghai's housing bureau to “clean-up and rectify” commercial office projects that had been converted into apartments to cater for residential needs, in a grey area property developers previously exploited by acquiring land at cheaper prices than residential-zoned land.

The government measures, part of a bid to keep property speculation and soaring real estate prices in check, required developers and buyers to rectify violations such as separately installed toilets and kitchens before they are able to be sold on, effectively rendering them uninhabitable and worth a fraction of the purchase price. Reuters ■



REGIONAL TVET CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2017
13 - 14 June 2017, MICC - II Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

Exhibition organized by



SAMSUNG



SEA LION FESTO



EDT



IN



ADB



South Korea names new defence minister to counter North's arms threat

SEOUL — South Korea's President Moon Jae-in on Sunday nominated a former navy chief as his defence minister, the president's office said, as the government faces challenges tackling North Korea's rapidly developing weapons programme.

The nominee, Song Young-moo, was well suited to deal with North Korea's nuclear and missile threat, the presidential Blue House office said.

Under third-generation leader Kim Jong Un, North Korea has been conducting missile tests at an unprecedented pace in an effort to develop an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking the mainland United States.

The North test-launched a new type of its cruise anti-ship missiles on Thursday, its fourth missile test since the South's Moon took office on 10 May, pledging to engage in dialogue with Pyongyang.

Song, who served in the navy for more than three decades, was Moon's main security adviser during his presidential campaign, reprising his role in Moon's 2012 presi-



South Korean President Moon Jae-in delivers a speech during a ceremony marking Korean Memorial Day at the National Cemetery in Seoul, South Korea on 6 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

dential campaign.

A decorated veteran, Song took part in a 2009 skirmish between North and South Korean naval vessels off the western coast of the Korean peninsula.

Song's appointment does

not need parliament's approval, but he must attend a hearing and answer questions from lawmakers.

The Blue House said Song admitted to having falsely registered his residence informa-

tion in the past, a criminal offense in South Korea. Many of Moon's ministerial choices have faced an uphill battle in parliament on this and other ethical issues, and lawmakers are likely to grill Song the same way.

He is expected to cooperate with the United States, the country's major military ally, to respond to the North's growing missile threat.

The government has said it will not change a pact with the United States for the deployment of a US anti-missile system in South Korea, despite its decision to put on hold the full installation pending an environmental impact review.

Moon also tapped a human rights expert as justice minister tasked with reforming the prosecutors' office, the president's office said.

Ahn Kyong-whan, the former chairman of South Korea's Human Rights Commission, now heads a non-profit legal foundation, but has no background as a prosecutor, unusual in a candidate for the ministerial role.

—Reuters ■

Chinese naval fleet visits Pakistan

KARACHI, Pakistan — A Chinese navy fleet comprising three warships arrived at Pakistan's southern port city of Karachi on Saturday for a four-day goodwill and training visit.

Speaking at the welcoming ceremony hosted by the Pakistani side, Commander of the Chinese navy fleet Rear Admiral Shen Hao said the visit will further promote the understanding and mutual trust between the two peoples, and boost the cooperation and friendship between the two countries.

Shen hoped that the pragmatic cooperation and communication between the two navies will be further strengthened so as to contribute to regional stability and world peace and play an active role in promoting common development. Chief of Naval Staff of the Pakistan Navy Admiral Mohammad Zakaullah visited the fleet.—Xinhua ■

US Osprey aircraft undamaged after emergency landing

NAHA, Japan — A US Marine Corps Osprey aircraft was undamaged and no crew members were injured after an emergency landing on Saturday at Amami airport in southwestern Japan, a Japanese government source said.

The US military explained it was a preventive landing to avoid an accident, the source said. The tilt-rotor transport aircraft landed at the airport on Amami Island, Kagoshima Prefecture, shortly before 9 pm.

According to the Defence Ministry's Okinawa Defence Bureau, the aircraft belongs to the US Marine Corps Air Station Futenma in Okinawa Prefecture, which hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan, and was conducting routine training.

A local fire department did not dispatch firefighters because there was no call for assistance.

The same type of Osprey



US military personnel examine a Marine Corps Osprey aircraft at Amami airport, Kagoshima Prefecture, in southwestern Japan on 11 June, 2017 after the tilt-rotor transporter made an emergency landing the previous day. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

made an emergency landing on Tuesday at a US airfield on Ie Island in Okinawa, while another made a crash landing in water off Okinawa Island last December.

These incidents have further heightened the concerns

of many residents of Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of US forces in Japan, over the safety of Osprey aircraft, whose tilt-rotor props enable them to land and takeoff like a helicopter yet fly like an airplane once airborne.

—Kyodo News ■

Viet Nam to build fashion design, textile material trading centres

HO CHI MINH CITY — Viet Nam's Ho Chi Minh City will build large centres for designing fashion, trading garment, textile material and accessories for the ambition to become the country's future garment, textile material and accessory hub.

Ho Chi Minh City has set targets of meeting 80-90 per cent of Viet Nam's demand for garments and textiles by 2020, and supplying 100 per cent of accessories for the country's garment industry, the municipal authorities said on Sunday.

However, Ho Chi Minh City will not establish large-

scale garment and textile industrial parks, because the existing ones can accommodate all relevant enterprises, according to the municipal Department of Industry and Trade.

According to approved plans, the city has 23 industrial parks and export processing zones, of which 17 are operational.

Most of garment and textile firms are now located in the export processing zones of Tan Thuan and Linh Trung, and the industrial parks of Tan Thoi Hiep, Tan Binh, Tan Tao, Tay Bac Cu Chi and Dong Nam.—Xinhua ■

In a democratic system, no one branch should have too much power

Aye Min Soe

IT is undeniable that most developed countries with high living standards have practised the democratic system, and countries under dictatorship are under the poverty line with lower economic, social and education standards.

It shows that democratic rights and the rule of law can guarantee security and prosperity to the citizens.

Only when a country is under the rule of law can its peoples enjoy

peace and stability.

Today, Myanmar is on the road to democracy. Legislative, executive and judiciary pillars of the democratic system should be in conformity with the existing laws, without influencing and interfering with each other.

But they should be subjected to the checks-and-balances system to make sure no one branch is able to wield too much power.

The Hluttaw is a part of a democracy, and so is political pluralism.

When we build a country under a democratic system, we need to have tolerance, magnanimity, forgiveness, cooperation, mutual respect and mutual trust.

Hluttaw members who take part in the legislative branch, should review, amend and make laws in order that the laws can be adaptable to modern times. The laws should be beneficial to the country and the people.

When they debate or ask questions or submit motions in the

Hluttaw, they should adhere to parliamentary procedures and regulations.

Meanwhile, lawmakers have the right to coordinate with local authorities and work together for the development of their respective constituencies within their constitutional rights.

But, keeping in mind the need to safeguard the system of checks and balances, they should be cautious that they do not interfere with the other branches of government. ■

Thoughts on Reading Three Articles Concerning Burmese/Myanmar Education Forty-four Years Apart

(CONTINUED FROM YESTERDAY)

By Dr. Myint Zan

Miasma Over Education II

(a) Quotas in Pass Rates from Primary to High School Exams?

In the above sentence the phrase 'if there are not enough students (quota of students) who passed the exams' is added by yours truly. Surely any (?) Minister of Educations whether in the 1970s, 1980s, State Law and Order Restoration Council and State Peace and Development Council regimes and those who served in the former President U Thein Sein's as well as the current government would not expect all students from all schools from primary to high schools to pass the examinations? However, it seems quite likely that if not the Ministers of Education themselves then at least some middle to upper ranking educational authorities wants, no, perhaps require, indeed mandate that some quotas need to be fulfilled in the pass rate of students up to and especially the government-held exams like the Matriculations.

Miasma Over Education II

(b) Doctorate Holders in the Thousands (if Not Already Approaching) Ten Thousand In Around 15 Years Since Doctorates Were Started to be Awarded

From conversations I have had with University teachers from a few disciplines this 'quota' or projected number of passes is equally applicable also for the Ph.D. award of doctorates in various disciplines. I have been informed, independently, by at least three academic staff working in different subjects

in Myanmar Universities that even when candidates are unworthy of being awarded the highest degree there were, at least in the past, 'pressures' or at least strong persuasions that in a certain year a certain number of doctorate holders must be produced.

I learned around 2014 that in Myanmar language and literature alone there are five hundred doctorate holders! That is comparatively still 'sparse' compared to the discipline of physics where as of December 2015 I was reliably informed that about 1200 doctorate holders in physics were produced! Admittedly, most of these Ph.D. degrees were awarded during the time of the 'previous' SLORC and SPDC regimes where quantity of say percentage of matriculates and the number of 'doctorate holders' were the sole criteria of 'success' of how high the government's educational achievements are and how they meet and 'exceed' the Association of Asian Nations' (ASEAN's) standards. A few Myanmar students and staff have informed the writer that this numeric and percentage quotas are stipulated to keep in line with 'ASEAN standards'.

Miasma Over Education II

(c) Quotas in Matriculation Exams: 12 Marks (Not Forty Marks) out of One Hundred Marks as 'Pass Marks' in Matriculation Exams in the English Paper

In 1999 an English language teacher who was involved in marking Matriculation English papers informed me that during that time in the Matriculation exams if a student obtained 29 marks out of 100 marks in the compulsory English language paper then the student marks are increased to 40 marks (pass

marks). But needless to say, if a student got 40 marks or 41 marks by himself or herself so to speak not even a mark (far less 11 marks) are added. That is, I was informed, to meet the 'quota' of meeting of 40% (?) of the students to pass the Matriculation perhaps to meet ASEAN 'standards'?

But it even gets better or worse, really. Only recently I have been informed by another educational personnel that around 2009 (admittedly even before the previous administration) that the 'order' (I do not know from where it originated from) was that if a student obtained 12 marks out of 100 (you read it correctly - 12 twelve marks out of 100) in the English paper that 12 marks is to be transformed into 40 marks so that the candidate would pass the paper. Hence those who obtained only 12 marks out of 100 marks in English may well pass the Matriculation exams. The late Saya Tet Toe wrote in June 1973 that publishing the names, photos, profiles and brief interviews of the two or three all-round distinction matriculates amounted to 'Miasma over Education'.

Dr. Nu Nu Win in her article of June 2017 wrote that if 'I use the word "slaves" I could have gone too far' (in describing the condition of some of the High School teachers). This writer could or might also have gone too far when the query is made whether Saya Tet Toe would have 'rolled' in his grave if he were privy to some of the information above.

I should write though and paraphrasing the late philosopher Bertrand Russell in one of his essays in his book Portraits from Memory if one aspect of the then Burmese education is, according to Saya Tet Toe, miasmic

then 'language could have failed' him to describe the sorry state of affairs that had occurred at least since the 1990s until recently in marking Matriculation exams. (I specifically disavowed any knowledge of the marking situation in English or in other subjects this year 2017 or in post-2011 situations).

Miasma Over Education II

(d) English Language Skills of Law Graduates and those who Got Distinctions in English in the English language in the Matriculation Exams

A niece of mine who graduated with a Bachelor of Laws (LLB) degree around the year 2010 (she matriculated around the time of 'raising' 12 marks into 40 marks in the English language paper but to be fair she must have passed the exam without such 'assistance' since she mentioned that she got about 44 marks perhaps all by herself) cannot translate the simple Burmese phrase KYAUN GO KWAY LIKE SANN ('Feed the cat!') into English. She got KYAUN as 'cat' and even though I gave her more than five minutes to translate that simple Burmese phrase into a simple English phrase she could not do so. In addition to the LL.B. she also has a Diploma in Business Law (DBL) from the University of Yangon.

Another Higher Grade Pleader who graduated a few years after her also cannot translate that Burmese phrase into English. In April 2017 I met a 2016 Matriculate who obtained distinction in English and Burmese (Myanmar language paper) who did attempt to translate that phrase Since I asked him beside my cousin-in-law's hospital bed

SEE PAGE 9

A villager abducted in Buthidaung Township

AN unknown group abducted a villager from Sarkaine village in Buthidaung Township on 2nd June, according to police yesterday.

U Hla Sein alias Amaryan was abducted at night and has not yet returned.

The police confirmed later that the group includes Adushuku, Einuk and Sarhuttu Saung in the same village of U Hla Sein.

The police are taking investigation into the case. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Fire breaks out in Myebon

A fire broke out in south ward of Kintaunggyi town, Myebon Township on 10 June morning.

The fire started from the electric short circuit after electric generator was run by

a worker at 3:00 am in a crab depot building.

It claimed two crab depot buildings and a pile of wood which worth about 41 lakhs. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Maungtaw Farmers get quality rice seeds

UNDER the arrangement of Rakhine State Agriculture Department, officials distributed quality rice seeds to local farmers free of charge yesterday.

“When we distribute rice seeds, we give priority to the farmers who followed the agri-

cultural methods given by the department”, said U Thar Kyaw, official of the Maungtaw District Agricultural Department.

“We provided agricultural training courses to farmers from villages in the district. Due to security problem, the department

cannot do it at full capacity but we could do what we should.

The department has urged the farmers to use good and quality seeds and to follow the guidelines set by the department systematically. “They should also practice double and mix cropping in possible areas. This will develop the farmers’ socio-economic situation”, he added. According to the Maungtaw district agriculture department there are about 70,000 paddy fields in Maungtaw district. A total of 2000 baskets quality seeds were provided to farmers from Maungtaw and Buthidaung Townships this year according to the Rakhine State Agriculture Department.—Min Thit/MNA ■



Farmers harvest summer paddy in Maungtaw. PHOTO: YE HTUT

Thoughts on Reading Three Articles Concerning...

FROM PAGE 8

I could not write his ‘translation’ on a piece of paper for lack of easy access then to pen and paper. He said something like this QUOTE ‘ovitiime’? the cat UNQUOTE. After much discussion I gradually realised that perhaps the Myanmar phrase SANN (‘order’) he had translated as ‘obedience’ (with wrong spelling) and he seemed to concentrate on the word SANN (imperative word?) than on the KYWAY (‘feed’) the cat. In a sense two lawyers (higher grade pleaders) cannot translate a simple Myanmar phrase into English. And one Burmese and English distinction holder in the Matriculation ‘valiantly’ tried but failed to accomplish what to them seem to be a gargantuan task.

Two more examples in the ‘law field’ can and have to be given here. In 2005 I met at a camera shop a salesgirl who was then in her first year of ‘law correspondence courses’. I asked her what the phrase ‘legal education’ means. She knew the meaning of either ‘legal’ or ‘education’ not both and she could not translate that phrase into Myanmar. The general state of ‘legal education’ is such that I am sure she has quite a few years ago obtained the LLB degree even if she may now not necessarily be a lawyer. (I have learned that quite a few those who obtained the LLB degree by the correspondence courses did not even bother to do their ‘chambering’ with lawyers and did not even bother to apply for a lawyer’s license).

In the year 2005 also I met a hotel receptionist who had already got her LLB degree and who could not explain to me in Myanmar language (not in English) ‘What is Administrative Law?’. I asked that question because I saw an assignment (also in 2005) which asked in English the same question and the then correspondent student just copied

and pasted from the ‘Correspondence course text books’ and out of context. The first sentence of her answer which she ‘As a result...’. To repeat she exactly copied some phrases in the Assignment booklet and reproduced in her Assignment. I recall that the marker takes about a minute to quickly browse through the Assignment and ‘awarded’ the Assignment 18 out of 20 marks!

Around 2011 yet another law correspondence student told me that he had failed the correspondence course 12 times (twelve times) for the simple reason that he had asked his sister or another person to ‘copy’ from the Assignment booklets and since those who marked noticed that his handwriting apparently from the exam papers where he had to I suppose answer by himself is different from the handwriting in the Assignments he failed the course twelve consecutive times. At the time that I met him he is still being enrolled in that law correspondence course and was scheduled to attempt the exam for the 13th time! But I am sure that just as the camera shop receptionist correspondence course student who did not know what ‘legal education’ means he too, would have graduated with a LLB by now.

In 2005 also in the notice board at the Yangon University of Distance Education I saw that in Lower Myanmar alone there were about 50,000 students studying law in various Universities located in lower Myanmar. My guess is that since 1980 when the first batch of correspondence students in law graduated there would be well over 100,000 may be up to 200,000 law graduates from the ‘Law Correspondence Courses’.

Around 2014 I attended a Doctorate (in Law) paper-reading seminar (of a thesis that by regulation have to be written in English but the presentation is done mainly if not almost entirely in

the Myanmar language except when the candidate reads from his draft thesis). The candidate did not distinguish and surely did not know the differences between the word ‘principle’ and ‘principal’ since in the draft thesis as well as during the presentation these words were used interchangeably. (The convener pointed out that ‘principal’ means KYAUNG OKE KYEE - Headmaster or Headmistress- but it also means ‘main’.) I do not recall the names of these three law correspondence students as well as the doctoral candidate in law but I am quite sure, almost certain that all of them have now (safely) got their degrees

‘Sitting By the Sides and Stating Awkward Things’ and the Need for Knowledge as well as Acknowledgement

It might be objected that I am, as the Myanmar saying goes, BAE HTAING BU PWA ‘sitting by the side and saying awkward things or ‘mouthing’ uncomfortable facts’. But I am also generally curious to what extent do ‘starting from down’ Amay Su (State Counsellor and for about a week in April 2016 also Education Minister) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and other educational authorities know about these facts (or not).

I guess that Dr. Nu Nu Win and other educational authorities would be privy to information about the matriculation exam marking anomalies or shenanigans (which I trust had occurred only in the past). But knowledge of certain facts or situation or ‘true events’ is one thing and official acknowledgment is another as pointed out by philosopher Thomas Nagel.

The Chief Editor of the Global New Light of Myanmar suggested, in fact I can say almost encouraged- me to write on educational matters since a few of my contributions are in his words ‘quite high level’ and apparently did not pass

the ‘muster’ or receive the approval of relevant personnel (in addition to that of the Chief Editor). When I informed the Chief Editor over the phone of what I intended to write based on and as an extension of the three articles on education that I read 44 years apart he encouraged me to do so.

The value of or at least arguable practice to adopt in a developing democracy is not to ‘swipe things under the carpet’ and pretend that ‘all is well and all is well’. Unfortunately that attitude and practice certainly was virtually the norm not only in educational affairs but in political, social and economic conditions of the country as espoused by most of the various governments of the past few decades.

In recent weeks I have seen even in the official newspaper The Global New Light of Myanmar a few (but admittedly only a few) articles pointing out the inconvenient facts of past and yes -let’s not beat about the bush, but let’s face the facts squarely or even ‘seize them by the lapels’- current government’s policies and practices. By looking at things squarely-acknowledgments of the inconvenient facts- we can try to modify or improve them to the extent that we can. This article is written with this view and aim.

Correction

In the Part I of the article published in The Global New Light of Myanmar on 11 June 2017 page 9, 4th column last paragraph which reads ‘And MRTV has to interview hourly for about ten days if all the all-round distinction holders’ should be ‘And MR TV has to interview hourly for about ten days if all the all-round distinction holders were to be given equal opportunity to appear on television.’ — Editor

Britain's May seeks deal with Northern Irish party to cling to power

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May was seeking a deal with a small Northern Irish party on Sunday to stay in power after losing her party's parliamentary majority in a catastrophic electoral gamble just days before Brexit talks are set to start.

But with May's personal authority in tatters, there were reports that moves were under way within her Conservative Party to dislodge her, while opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn was insisting she could be ousted and he could replace her.

"Theresa May is a dead woman walking. It's just how long she's going to remain on death row," former Conservative finance minister George Osborne, who was sacked by May when she became prime minister last year, told the BBC.

With Britain due to start negotiating the terms of its exit from the European Union with the bloc's 27 other members on 19 June, the political crisis in London could not have come at a worse time.

Those exit talks, expected to be the most complex in post-World War Two European history, are supposed to wrap up before the end of March 2019 — a timeline that was already considered ambitious before May's electoral debacle.

Her Downing Street office had announced on Saturday that the "principles of an outline agreement" with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) had been agreed, only for the DUP itself to cast doubt on that account hours later.

"The talks so far have been positive. Discussions will continue next week to work on the details and to reach agreement on arrangements for the new parliament," it said.

It was another humiliation for May, and a sign that the socially conservative DUP, with its strong focus on Northern Ireland's specific political complexities, will not necessarily be a compliant partner for her minority government.

The DUP statement put Downing Street on the back foot, prompting a carefully worded response in the early hours of Sun-



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May and her husband Phillip arrive at church in Sonning, Britain on 11 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

day. That said May had "spoken with the DUP to discuss finalising" a deal in the coming week.

"We will welcome any such deal being agreed, as it will provide the stability and certainty the whole country requires as we embark on Brexit and beyond," the Downing Street statement said. Many critics, including Scottish Conservative leader Ruth Davidson, have expressed concerns over the DUP's stances against gay marriage and abortion, among other issues.

Others have also said a Conservative-DUP deal could endanger Northern Ireland's peace settlement, which relies on the British government being a neutral arbiter between those who want the province to remain in the United Kingdom and those who want it to become part of the Republic of Ireland. "There has been a lot of hyperbole about the DUP since Thursday, a lot of things said, a lot of people who really don't know what we stand for," DUP leader Arlene Foster told Sky News on Sunday morning. "Just to be clear, we will act in the national interest. We want to do what is right for the whole of the UK and to bring stability to the government of the United Kingdom." The Conservatives won 318 House of Commons seats in Thursday's election, eight short of an outright majority. Labour,

the main opposition party, won 262. The DUP won 10.

Labour's Corbyn told the Sunday Mirror newspaper he saw a route to power himself, although it was not clear how he would command the support of a majority of members of parliament. Labour's tally, even when added to those of potential allies such as the Scottish National Party and other smaller parties, was still short of a majority.

"I can still be prime minister. This is still on. Absolutely," Corbyn was quoted as saying.

He said his party would seek to vote down May's Queen's Speech, or programme for government, when she presented it to parliament. Corbyn said another national election might be needed to break the deadlock.

"It is quite possible there will be an election later this year or early next year and that might be a good thing because we cannot go on with a period of great instability," he told the BBC.

Defence Secretary Michael Fallon, one of May's most loyal supporters, said he disagreed with Osborne's description of her as a "dead woman walking" and he expected Conservative lawmakers to rally behind her.

Fallon told the BBC that in light of the election result a new approach was needed, welcoming the resignation of her two closest aides Nick Timothy

and Fiona Hill, who were perceived by many Conservative lawmakers to be high-handed and secretive. May had called the snap election with a view to increasing the narrow majority she had inherited from her predecessor David Cameron. At the start of the campaign, she was enjoying poll leads of 20 points or more over the main opposition Labour Party. But after a poor campaign and an unexpectedly stiff challenge from Labour, her plan went disastrously wrong.

The Conservatives now plan to reach a so-called confidence and supply agreement with the DUP, which would involve it supporting a Conservative minority government on key votes in parliament but not forming a formal coalition. Fallon said the DUP would agree to back the Conservatives on big economic and security issues. He said the parties had a history of friendship, and that did not mean the Conservatives agreed with some of the DUP's more socially conservative positions. While the to-and-fro between Downing Street and the DUP was unfolding, several British newspapers were reporting that some prominent Conservatives, including Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson and Brexit minister David Davis, were being urged by supporters to challenge May for the party leadership. —Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Massive blackout hits southwestern Seoul, satellite cities: Yonhap

SEOUL — A power substation malfunction caused a "massive blackout" on Sunday affecting some southwestern districts of Seoul and areas just south of the capital, Yonhap News Agency reported, citing the country's state-run electricity monopoly.

"Yeongseo Substation, located in Gwangmyeong, near Seoul, suffered a partial breakdown around 12:53 pm, cutting the supply of electricity, according to the Korean Electric Power Corp and the city government," Yonhap reported. It said the cause of the malfunction is being investigated. —Kyodo News ■

Kuwait says Qatar "ready to understand" Gulf concerns

KUWAIT — Kuwait's foreign minister said on Sunday that Qatar was ready to listen to the concerns of other countries in the Gulf, state news agency KUNA reported, and that his country would continue its efforts to patch a rift within the Gulf.

"(Kuwait) affirms the readiness of the brothers in Qatar to understand the reality of the qualms and concerns of their brothers and to heed the noble endeavors to enhance security and stability," KUNA quoted the Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah al-Khalid al-Sabah as saying. —Reuters ■

Ten killed as car falls into canal in northern India

NEW DELHI — At least 10 people were killed after their car fell into a canal in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh Sunday, a senior police official said.

"The accident occurred around 4.30 am (local time) on Mathur-Jajampatti Road near Mogarra village in the state's Mathura district, some 150 km from the national capital," Superintendent of Police (rural area) Aditya Shukla told the media. —Xinhua ■

Iraqi forces repel Islamic State offensive south of Mosul, 38 killed

TIRKIT, (Iraq) — Iraqi forces repelled an offensive launched in the early hours of Saturday by Islamic State on the Sunni town of Shirqat, south of Mosul, during which 38 military and civilians were killed and about 40 more wounded, security sources said.

Islamic State lost 24 fighters in the attack, which ended around midday, the sources said.

About half the dead in the city and its surroundings were civilians and the rest members of the Iraqi armed forces and Sunni tribal fighters.

Authorities declared a curfew in the region between Mosul

and the Iraqi capital Baghdad.

Islamic State lost Shirqat to US-backed Iraqi government forces and tribal fighters last year. Its fall paved the way for the offensive on Mosul, the militants' de-facto capital in Iraq.

Eight months into the US-backed offensive to take back Mosul, all of the city has been retaken by Iraqi government forces except an enclave by the western bank of the Tigris river.

The militants continue to control pockets south and west of Mosul, as well as swathes of territory near the border with Syria and inside Syria.—Reuters ■



An Iraqi man carries an elderly woman on his back as civilians displaced by fighting between the Iraqi forces and Islamic State flee the al-Zanjili district in Mosul, Iraq on 10 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Iran kills mastermind behind Tehran attacks, arrests more

DUBAI — Iran said its security forces on Saturday killed the mastermind of a twin attack on Tehran that left 17 people dead this week, as security was tightened around the country to prevent other possible plots.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the suicide bombings and gun attacks on parliament and the mausoleum of the Islamic Republic's

founder, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, on Wednesday.

"The mastermind and main commander of terrorist attacks on the parliament and Mausoleum of Ayatollah Khomeini was killed today by the security forces," intelligence minister Mahmoud Alavi was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency.

Alavi said that in the last month the intelligence ministry had identified and crushed "a

terrorist team" almost every day but had not publicised it to avoiding spreading fear among the public.

Iranian authorities have also arrested seven people it suspects of helping militants involved in attacks, a judiciary official said on Saturday.

Ahmad Fazelian, a provincial judiciary official, said the seven, suspected of "providing support for the terrorist team",

were detained in Fardis, about 50 km (31 miles) west of Tehran, the judiciary's online news agency Mizan reported.

On Friday, authorities announced the arrests of 41 suspects in connection with the twin Tehran attacks.

Separately, the head of the judiciary in Fars province said seven people were detained in the southern Larestan area for possible ties to Islamic State,

Iran's ISNA news agency reported on Saturday.

Tehran police said the car the attackers used on Wednesday was discovered on Saturday in the city centre.

"The terrorists first went by car to the mausoleum and after dropping two of them off, went to the city centre to attack parliament," the police said in a statement published on state media.—Reuters ■

Two US soldiers killed, two wounded by Afghan commando — official

JALALABAD, (Afghanistan) — At least two American soldiers were killed and two others wounded on Saturday when an Afghan commando opened fire on them in eastern Afghanistan, a local official said.

The shooting occurred in Achin district, where US special forces have been fighting alongside Afghan troops against Islamic State and Taliban militants, said Attaullah Khogyani, a spokesman for the Nangarhar provincial governor.

The commando was also

killed in the incident, Khogyani said.

"The cause of the shooting is not clear. An investigation has already begun," he said.

A spokesman for the US military command in Kabul said they were aware of the report but could not yet confirm any details.

Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid said the shooter was a member of the militant group and had killed four Americans and wounded several more.—Reuters ■

Russia says tells US not to strike Syrian pro-government forces again

MOSCOW — Russia said on Saturday it had told the United States it was unacceptable for Washington to strike pro-government forces in Syria after the US military carried out an air strike on pro-Assad militia last month.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov relayed the message to US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in a phone call on Saturday initiated by the US side, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

US officials told Reuters last month that the US military carried out the air strike against

militia supported by the government of President Bashar al-Assad which it said posed a threat to US forces and US-backed Syrian fighters in the country's south.

Russia said at the time that the US action would hamper efforts to find a political solution to the conflict and had violated the sovereignty of Syria, one of Russia's closest Middle East allies.

"Lavrov expressed his categorical disagreement with the US strikes on pro-government forces and called on him to take concrete measures to prevent

similar incidents in future," the ministry said.

The two men had also exchanged assessments of the situation in Syria, it added, and confirmed their desire to step up co-operation to try to end the conflict there.

The ministry said Lavrov and Tillerson had also discussed the need to try to mend the rift between Qatar and other Arab nations through negotiations, and had talked about the state of US-Russia relations and planned meetings between officials from the two countries.—Reuters ■



PHOTO: TASS

Russian troops to receive over 750 new weapon systems

MOSCOW — Over 750 new weapon systems have arrived for the Russian troops in the past six months of this year, Defence Minister Army General Sergei Shoigu said on Friday 9 June, 2017.

“Over the past six months, more than 750 new weapon systems and military equipment have arrived for the troops while 380 pieces of military hardware have been repaired and about 7,000 military hardware items have undergone maintenance,”

Shoigu said at the ministry’s board meeting.

The share of modern armament and military hardware in constant alert units and formations has reached 58% since the beginning of 2017, the defence minister said.

“Let me remind you that the priority goals include the tasks of rearming force groupings in the western and southwestern strategic directions and equipping troops in the Arctic zone,” the defence minister said.—Tass ■

US, Turkey discuss Qatar row, Syria on phone call: sources

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson and Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu discussed developments in Syria and in the row between Qatar and its fellow Arab states on a phone call late on Saturday, Turkish foreign ministry sources said.

The call, held at Tillerson’s request, came after Tillerson on Friday urged Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states to ease their blockade of Qatar, saying it was causing unintended humanitarian consequences and affecting the US-led fight against Islamic State.

No further details of the call were immediately available.

Referring to Tiller-

son’s comments on the blockade, Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said in a speech at a Ramadan fast-breaking dinner in Istanbul on Friday: “I say it should be lifted completely”.

Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt severed relations with Qatar on Monday, accusing it of supporting Islamist militants and their adversary Iran — allegations Qatar says are baseless. Several countries followed suit.

Erdogan vowed to keep supporting Qatar after his rapid approval of legislation on deploying Turkish troops there. On Saturday, he told Bahrain’s foreign minister that the

dispute should be resolved by the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Erdogan on Thursday also approved an accord between Turkey and Qatar on military training cooperation. Both bills were drawn up before the dispute between Qatar and others erupted. Turkey has also pledged to provide food and water supplies to Qatar.

Turkey has maintained good relations with Qatar as well as several of its Gulf Arab neighbors. Turkey and Qatar have both provided support for the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and backed rebels fighting to overthrow Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.—Reuters ■

Vast majority of Venezuelans reject plan for new constitution — poll

CARACAS — President Nicolas Maduro’s plan to rewrite the constitution is opposed by 85 per cent of Venezuelans, according to a survey by polling company Datanalisis carried out as protests calling for presidential elections grew increasingly intense.

In the poll, conducted between 29 May and 4 June, 85.0 per cent of respondents agreed with the statement: “There is no need to change the current constitution. What the government should do is enforce it.”

Maduro, 54, has called a 30 July election to choose lawmakers who will then work on the new charter, calling it a way to restore peace after two months of anti-government unrest that has killed 67 people.

However, opposition parties say they will not take part in the election, which could dissolve the current, opposition dominated parliament. The proposal has run into rare criticism from within the government’s own ranks.

The opposition says the vote is a sham designed purely to keep him in power and with



Demonstrators clash with riot security forces while rallying against Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela on 10 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

rules skewed in favour of the government. They want to bring forward the next presidential vote due at the end of 2018.

The poll was posted on the website prodavinci.com, where largely anti-government articles are posted, and confirmed by Datanalisis’ head Luis Vicente Leon, who has been a strong critic of President Nicolas Maduro.

Datanalisis did not reveal the number of participants, saying the interviews were done by telephone with families from a range of economic backgrounds.

Maduro’s government has been put under pressure by two months of often violent opposition street protests that have led to at least 67 deaths, thou-

sands of injuries, hundreds of arrests and widespread destruction.

Protesters gathered again on Saturday for a march dubbed “towards victory.”

Maduro calls violent protesters “terrorists” who are seeking to topple him with the help of the United States and other foreign powers. German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday called the situation in Venezuela “concerning,” in comments the government decried as interference that would fuel opposition violence.

Maduro’s approval rating in the poll was 21.9 per cent, including people who considered his performance as president, not bad, good and very good.—Reuters ■

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS MYANMA RAILWAYS INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

1. Open Tender is invited for supply of the following items in Euro:

Sr No	Tender No	Description
-------	-----------	-------------

1.	12(T)11/MR	Axle Shaft and Ball Bearing (46)Items (YUG)17-18
----	------------	--

Closing Date & Time- 12.7.2017(Wednesday)(14:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 12.6.2017 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51th Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994



French President Emmanuel Macron and wife Brigitte leave home before voting in the first of two rounds of parliamentary elections in Le Touquet, France on 11 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Macron aims to consolidate power as France elects parliament

PARIS — French voters cast their ballots on Sunday in the first round of a parliamentary election expected to give centrist President Emmanuel Macron the strong majority needed to carry out the far-reaching economic and social reforms he promises.

The vote to elect the lower house's 577 members comes a month after Macron, a 39-year-old former banker with little political experience, defied the odds to win the presidency of the euro zone's second-largest economy. If, as polls

fledgling party win a commanding majority in next week's second round, it will be another blow for the mainstream parties on the right and left which failed to get a candidate into the presidential run-off.

"We want a big majority to be able to act and transform France over the next five years," Mounir Mahjoubi, a tech entrepreneur running under Macron's Republic On The Move (LREM) banner told Reuters as he canvassed support in his northern Paris constituency ahead of the vote. Opinion polls

forecast LREM and its centre-right Modem allies will win at least 30 per cent of votes on Sunday.

The conservative The Republicans party and its allies trail with about 20 per cent, ahead of the far-right National Front on about 17 per cent.

Such an outcome would transform into a landslide majority in the second round, the opinion polls show.

"I think voters are pretty mobilised behind LREM," said Georges Garion, a 64-year-old company manager, before voting be-

gan in Paris. "We're seeing a kind of majority cohesion, it's democracy at work."

While predicting the outcome can be tricky with 7,882 candidates vying for parliament's seats, even LREM's rivals have been saying they expect Macron to secure a majority.

Their strategy has been to urge voters to make sure the opposition will be big enough to have some clout in parliament. "We shouldn't have a monopolistic party," former prime minister Bernard Cazeneuve, a Socialist, told Reuters.—Reuters ■

Ireland wants Brexit talks to start, to safeguard peace process

LONDON — Irish Foreign Affairs Minister Charlie Flanagan said Ireland was keen for Brexit talks to start and to ensure the process of Britain leaving the European Union did not have an adverse impact on Northern Ireland's fragile peace process.

Flanagan was speaking as the British political situation was in turmoil following an election on Thursday that produced no clear winner. Unable to govern alone, Conservative Prime Minister Theresa May was seeking to form a minority government with support from Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party.

"I do believe it's important we have certainty," Flanagan told ITV.

"Our priorities are to ensure that there is as close as possible a deal between the UK and the EU, having regard to the very severe consequences and severe adverse consequences of the UK leaving the European Union on us here in Ireland," he said.

"We will be anxious to ensure that whatever

the result of these negotiations is doesn't in any way adversely impact on our unique circumstances here in Ireland, with particular reference to our peace process."

Asked whether a delay in the start of the Brexit talks, scheduled for 19 June, was possible, Flanagan said: "I'm conscious of the fact that this clock is ticking."

"We're a year now since the referendum. We lost some time over the last seven weeks during the general election campaign. Europe is ready to start these negotiations."

Asked whether the prospect of a Conservative government in Britain reliant on support from the DUP was in itself a threat to Northern Ireland's peace process, Flanagan said:

"Not necessarily the case. It remains to be seen what the nature of that deal is."

He said he had raised the issue with Britain's minister for Northern Ireland, James Brokenshire, and would meet him again on Monday.—Reuters ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

UNI-CHARM CORPORATION, a company registered under the laws of Japan, which is located at 182 Shimobun, Kinsei-cho, Shikokuchuo-shi, Ehime-ken, Japan, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

Reg. No. 4943/2017

Reg. No. 4944/2017

In respect of **Class 5:** Sanitary pads; sanitary napkins; panty liners (sanitary); menstruation tampons; sanitary shorts; sanitary shorts made of textile and not disposable.

UNI-CHARM CORPORATION claims the trademark right and other relevant intellectual property rights for the mark as mentioned above. UNI-CHARM CORPORATION reserves the rights to take legal measures against any infringer who violates its intellectual property or other legal rights in accordance with the concerned laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For **UNI-CHARM CORPORATION**

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Dated: 12th June 2017.

**Ministry of Construction
Department of Highways
(Invitation for Open Tender)**

1. Open tender applying prequalification method is invited by Department of Highways, Ministry of Construction, Naypyitaw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for up grading DaikU — Sittaung Road with the part of proceeds of the Regional Development Project for Poverty Reduction under JICA ODA Loan, Japan.

Sr.	Name of Work	Length	Type of Work
1	DaikU-Sittaung Road [PW-16 (1)] (Mile 9/2+356' — Mile 15/0)	5 Mile 5 Furlong 304 Feet	18 Feet Wide Bituminous road
2	DaikU-Sittaung Road [PW-16(2)] (Mile 15/0 — Mile 21/4+540')	6 Mile 4 Furlong 540 Feet	18 Feet Wide Bituminous road

2. Distribution period of Tender Documents

3. Last Submission Date of Tender Documents

4. Opening date of Tender

5. Tender Documents can be purchased with fifty thousand kyats (50000 Ks.) at the following address and for the detail information, please contact the office within office hours.

- (14-6-2017) to (21-6-2017)

- 12:00 noon on (7-8-2017)

- 13:30 pm. on (22-8-2017)

Tender Selection Committee, Department of Highways
Office No.(11), Naypyitaw
Tel: 067-407658,067-407583

Adam West exemplified heroism: Ben Affleck

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winner Ben Affleck remembered Batman predecessor Adam West by calling him the exemplification of “heroism”.

West, who played the Caped Crusader on the classic 1960s TV series “Batman”, passed away on Friday here after a short battle with leukemia. He was 88.

The “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice” actor, Affleck, took to Twitter to pay tribute to the late veteran.

“Adam West exemplified heroism. Kind, funny and an all around great guy. Thank you for showing us all how it’s done. @therealadamwest,” he wrote.

West’s “Batman” costars

Burt Ward and Julie Newmar have also expressed their grief over his demise.

“I am devastated at the loss of one my very dearest friends. Adam and I had a special friendship for more than 50 years.

We shared some of the most fun times of our lives together. This is a terribly unexpected loss of my lifelong friend,” Ward said.

While Newmar, who starred as Catwoman on “Batman” for two seasons, said, “Stellar, exemplar, a king to the end. He was bright, witty and fun to work with. I will miss him in the physical world and savour him always in the world of imagination and creativity.—PTI ■



Oscar-winner Ben Affleck . PHOTO: REUTERS

Tom Hardy will never say no to Christopher Nolan

LONDON — Actor Tom Hardy says he would agree to do any project if it involved Christopher Nolan, regardless of the scale of the project.

The 39-year-old actor, who has worked with the director on three movies, “Inception”, “The Dark Knight Rises” and “Dunkirk”, says it would be a “no-brainer” if the filmmaker wanted to cast him again, reported Femalefirst.

“It’s always been that way with Chris, yes. For me, it’s wonderful to meet someone who is completely in control of the elements and assets that he has available to him.

He has a specific confidence that I’ve not met in another filmmaker. Akin to George Miller actually. Inarritu did as well, actually. They’re very specific



Actor Tom Hardy. PHOTO: PTI

about what they want.

“But Chris, the most so, out of everyone I’ve ever worked with. So yeah, it’s a no-brainer if he says, ‘Tom, do you want to jump on this op-

tion?’ Whatever he wants to do. Even if he wants to shoot a short film in his garden, I know it’s going to be good and I’ll learn something,” Hardy says.—PTI ■

‘Tiger Zinda Hai’ has action of international standard: Ali

MUMBAI — The action in Salman Khan-starrer “Tiger Zinda Hai” is of international standard and both the superstar and lead actress Katrina Kaif are putting in their best foot forward, says director Ali Abbas Zafar.

Salman and Katrina have teamed up again for the sequel to their 2012 blockbuster “Ek Tha Tiger”.

“Salman and Katrina both have worked really hard. This time he (Salman) will be seen in a different body type, he is much leaner,” Ali told PTI.

“The film requires a certain kind of action and it’s challenging to do it. The action is of a certain scale, it’s contemporary and of international standard.”

The makers of “Tiger Zinda Hai” have roped-in stunt director Tom Struthers, known for his stellar work in “Inception” and “The Dark Knight”.

The film’s first installment revolved around an Indian spy code-named Tiger (Salman), who falls in love with Pakistani spy Zoya (Katrina) during an investigation. In the sequel, both Salman and Katrina will reprise their roles as spies Tiger and Zoya. “The characters played by Salman and Katrina are the same in the second part. It’s too early to talk in detail about the plot of the film,” Ali says when asked if Salman and Katrina are set on a new mission.

Presently, the “Dabangg” star is busy with the promotions of “Tubelight” that is slated to hit the cinema houses this Eid.

Once Salman is done with the release of “Tubelight”, the shooting for “Tiger Zinda Hai” will resume, says Ali. “The film is shaping up well and we are happy with the way it has turned out so far,” he says.—PTI ■

Ex “Top Gear” presenter Hammond in hospital after crash

BERN (Switzerland) — Former “Top Gear” presenter Richard Hammond was airlifted to hospital in Switzerland on Saturday following a dramatic car crash while filming for his new show, but his injuries were not serious, a spokesman said.

Hammond, 47, was driving an electric sports car during film-

ing for “The Grand Tour” when the crash happened, the spokesman for the show said. “Richard was conscious and talking, and climbed out of the car himself before the vehicle burst into flames,” a spokesman for “The Grand Tour” said in a statement. “He was flown by air ambulance to hospital in St Gallen to be checked

over, revealing a fracture to his knee,” it said. “The cause of the crash is unknown and is being investigated.”

Hammond was involved in a much more serious crash over a decade ago, while filming for his old show “Top Gear”. He suffered serious brain injuries and was in hospital for five weeks after a

Vampire drag racer he was driving burst a tire and left the course at 288 mph (463 kph) at Elvington airfield, near the British city of York, in September 2006.

Hammond recovered and returned to broadcasting and to “Top Gear”, which aired in more than 200 countries and was watched by 350 million viewers worldwide.

He left the BBC show along with colleagues Jeremy Clarkson and James May when Clarkson was fired in 2015 for physically attacking a member of the production team. “The Grand Tour”, an Amazon series, reunites the old “Top Gear” team. Saturday’s accident occurred during the filming of its second series.—Reuters ■

Samurai-sword-shaped scissors prove popular with foreign tourists

GIFU (Japan) — Samurai-sword-shaped scissors developed by a manufacturer in Gifu Prefecture in central Japan are proving popular with foreign tourists as well as schoolchildren shopping for souvenirs.

The “Japanese sword scissors” by Nikken Cutlery Co in Seki, Gifu, mimic decorative features found in the swords used by such feudal-era figures as Oda Nobunaga, a 16th-century warlord, and Sakamoto Ryoma, who tried to overthrow the Tokugawa shogunate in the 19th century.

The idea for the product came during an

after-hours chat Yuji Kumada, a 33-year-old senior official of Nikken Cutlery, had with two of his young colleagues at a coffee shop in 2014.

They were trying to come up with a new, original product line besides the company’s existing, mainstay cutlery products, such as office-use scissors and paper knives.

“Wouldn’t it be cool if a scissors’ blades had a blade pattern like a Japanese sword?” one of them suggested.

The idea fitted well with the company’s product design because its scissors already had curvy blades to

increase their sharpness, which made them look like miniature swords.

Ultimately it resulted in a product having a decorative handle that mimics a sword handle, a blade that looks like a sword blade and a case that mimics a sword scabbard.

To date, 15 models have been sold. Each model is just under 20 centimetres long and sells for 2,000-3,000 yen (\$18-27). A premium model with a lacquer-coated handle goes for over 10,000 yen.

Since the product was launched around 2015, Nikken Cutlery has received an avalanche of orders

from souvenir shops in Tokyo’s Asakusa and Akihabara districts, Kyoto and other locations on the back of an increasing number of foreign travelers to Japan.

Teens out to shop for souvenirs during school excursions are also picking them up, according to the company.

About 52,000 pairs have sold since they were rolled out two years ago. Sales have increased 10 per cent since their release.

In February, Nikken Cutlery took to the internet and sought crowdfunding for developing a paper knife modeled after a sword used by Hijikata Toshizo,



Japanese sword scissors”. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

a 19th-century swordsman. The company managed to hit its 1 million yen target in just one day, a feat that generated a buzz among “netizens.”

“I would be happy if young people took an interest in us through cool stuff or fun undertakings,” Kumada said. —Kyodo News ■

British artist Grayson Perry explores a divided country in new exhibition

LONDON — British artist Grayson Perry will launch a new exhibition on Thursday, the day Britain votes in a general election, and unsurprisingly, his works cast a critical eye over the country’s tumultuous political landscape.

The exhibition, dubbed “The Most Popular Art Exhibition Ever!” will run at London’s Serpentine gallery until September.

Much of the artwork addresses the controversy around Britain’s impending departure from the European Union, known as



PHOTO: REUTERS

Brexit, after Britons voted to leave in June 2016.

“It was a point when there was a kind of cultural

divide in the country and what the referendum did,”

Perry told Reuters.

“It presented a yes-no, black-and-white question at just the right moment in our society when there was unacknowledged grievances by a large section of society and they hung those on the EU debate.”

The exhibition features tapestries and sculpture, as well as Perry’s trademark provocative pottery.

Two ceramic vases, decorated with images crowd-sourced from “Leave” and “Remain” voters via social media, are the keystone of the show.

As a reminder of the domestic political division, Perry, who describes himself as a “gnarled 57-year-old transvestite artist” on his Twitter page, has placed “Our Mother”, a statue of a refugee, in between the vases.

Perry won the Turner Prize, a prestigious British visual arts award that helped to put artists including Damien Hirst and Tracy Emin on the map, in 2003. In addition to his visual art, he has also produced television documentaries in recent years.—Reuters ■

mitv Myanmar International Programme Schedule

(12-6-2017 07:00am ~ 13-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Exquisite Myanmar Silk
07:46	Am	Traditional Thatch Roof - Thet Nge
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Journey for Healthy Future (The 36 th Geumsan Insam Festival) Day1
08:45	Am	YUFL
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Legend of An ambulatory Surgeon (EP-1)
09:50	Am	Gold from Garbage
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar Betels
10:42	Am	Myanmar Childhood Games (Episode-II)

10:49 Am The Firefighter

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	Food Trip (EP-4) (Part-2)
07:51	Pm	Entrepreneur Chaw Khin Khin
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes “Gaybar Kayin”
08:48	Pm	Life of Sea Urchin Diver

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

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

MRTV Programme Schedule (12-6-2017, Monday)

6:00 Am	Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	3:15 Pm	TV Drama Series
7:00 Am	Breakfast News	4:20 Pm	University of Distance Education (TV Lecture) - First Years (Botany)
7:35 Am	MRTV Travelogue	4:35 Am	Documentary
8:35 Am	Women in Myanmar Society	5:05 Am	This Week's Special Interest
9:10 Am	Documentary (Talk)	5:20 Am	Analysis for Myanmar Movie
9:45 Am	World Heritage “Warm Heart” (Russia)	5:35 Am	Yes or No Talk Show
10:30 Am	Documentary	6:20 Am	Football Magazine
11:15 Am	Documentary (Asean)	6:35 Am	Law Affairs
11:35 Am	MRTV Youth's Programme	7:15 Pm	TV Drama Series
12:45 Am	Fine Arts - Bosom of Dramatic Performance	8:00 Pm	News/ International News/ Weather Report
1:30 Am	Tasy Trip	8:35 Pm	Documentary (Mandalay Palace)
		9:15 Pm	TV Drama Series



Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko celebrates with the trophy after winning the final against Romania's Simona Halep at Roland Garros in Paris, France on 10 June, 2017.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Unseeded Ostapenko stuns Halep to win French Open title

PARIS — Jelena Ostapenko stunned third seed Simona Halep with a 4-6, 6-4, 6-3 comeback victory in a thrilling French Open final on Saturday to become the first Latvian to win a grand slam title. The 20-year-old Ostapenko, the first unseeded player to lift the Suzanne Lenglen Cup since Britain's Margaret Scriven in 1933, was 3-0 down in the second set when she overturned the situation.

Ostapenko, who hit a staggering 54 winners, won four

games in a row and sent the match into a decider during which she overwhelmed her opponent on a sun-bathed Court Philippe Chatrier. It was the second defeat in the final here for Romanian Halep, who was also bidding to become world number one by winning the trophy.

Ostapenko was the first woman since American Jennifer Capriati in 2001 to win the singles title at Roland Garros after losing the first set in the final.—Reuters ■

Two Myanmar golfers rewarded in Singapore Junior Golf Championship 2017

MYANMAR golfers Hien Si Thu achieved first and third and Yarzar Aung got 14th place at Singapore Junior Golf Championship 2017 held at the Seletar Country Club in Singapore from 6 to 8 June.

As Myanmar Golf Federation held local golf tournament competitions continuously, Myanmar golfers are improving and could even snatch prizes in international tournaments. During the competition, Hein Si Thu stroked 212 in 3 days and won first in individual handicapped match as well as got third in individual



PHOTO: MGF

scratch match. Yarzar Aung also scored 235 strokes and reached fourteenth position. Over 100 men

and women athletes from fifteen countries participated in the competition.—Phoe Thaw Zin ■

Manchester United agree transfer of Benfica's Lindelof

LONDON — Manchester United have agreed an undisclosed fee for Benfica's Swedish international defender Victor Lindelof, the Premier League club announced on Saturday.

The 22-year-old now has to agree personal terms and pass a medical but United are optimistic of making him their first major signing of the close season.

Manager Jose Mourinho is believed to be keen to strengthen his squad in several areas, including defence, after quali-

fying for next season's Champions League by winning the Europa League last month.

"Manchester United is pleased to announce that it has reached agreement with Benfica for the transfer of Victor Lindelof, subject to a medical examination, international clearance and personal terms," said a statement on the club's website (www.manutd.com).

"A further announcement will be made once the transfer is complete."—Reuters ■

Myanmar U-22 football team to train in Taunggyi

THE Myanmar U-22 national football team will train in Taunggyi from 16 to 22 June in preparation for upcoming SEA Games. The players are currently coached by four temporary coaches U Soe Myat Min, U Kyaw Min, U Sai Maung Maung Oo and U Myint Ko at the Thuwanna Football training grounds in Yangon. "Nine other players were included in Myanmar national team and the coach group can join only after the national team's match with Macau.

The combined 28 players will train in Taunggyi. The plan was

made by head coach Gerd Friedrich in order to train the players together in good weather," said U Bhone Naing Zaw. The players will return from Taunggyi on 23 June and will compete against Cambodia, Hong Kong and Japanese University clubs in the KBZ Bank Cup 2017 at Thuwana Stadium from 24 June to 2 July.

The Myanmar U-22 team will compete in the Asia U-23 selection match and 2017 ASEAN SEA Games that will take place in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia from 19 to 30 August.—Kyaw Zin Lin ■



Myanmar U22 players under training. **PHOTO: MFF**