URU RIVER OVERFLOWS, FLOODS LOW-LYING AREAS IN PHAKANT P-2 (NATIONAL)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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NATIONAL
Daw Su Su Lwin graces opening ceremony of Nunnery and library
PAGE-3

NATIONAL
SG Min Aung Hlaing attends ceremony to ordain mily scholars in Russia
PAGE-2

OPINION
New generations for our future country
PAGE-8

The flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder on the deck of a Navy ship after their retrieval from the tail section of the Y-8 military transport plane that crashed on 7 June.

Above left, a ship brought the tail section of the military transport plane that crashed on 7 June to the surface yesterday with the use of air bags. The plane's flight data recorder, cockpit voice reccorder and the body of a man were discovered inside the tail section. **PHOTO: OFFICE OF COMMANDER -IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES**

Black box of crashed military plane found

THE flight data recorder, commonly known as the "black box", the cockpit voice recorder (CVR) and a body were discovered in the retrieved plane's tail section yesterday, according to a statement from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services.

"Measures are being taken to expose the cause of the plane crash," according to the statement.

The body of the man found in the tail section of the plane brings the total number of bodies found to 92.

The tail section was brought to the surface with the use of air bags yesterday. Naval ships, divers and trawlers were combing the seabed of the area where the tail part of the crashed plane was found entangled in a fishing net of a local vessel off the country's southern coast on Thursday.

There were 122 people on board including crew, families and military personnel when the plane departed from Myeik, in southern Myanmar, on the afternoon of 7 June, bound for Yangon.

Military forces on land, air and sea and local volunteers in fishing boats continued their search for possible survivors and remains of victims of the crash.

Two navy vessels in the vicinity sent divers to inspect the area after sonar scans verified an unusual item caught in a fishing net at a depth of 35 meters. The item turned out to be the tail piece of the missing Y-8 plane bearing the serial code 5820.

The search for the remaining bodies and the rest of the plane continues amid heavy rain and high seas during Myanmar's monsoon season. —GNLM ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing attends ceremony to ordain military scholars in Russia

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing donates offertories to the monk. **PHOTO: C-IN-C DEFENCE SERVICES OFFICE**

MYANMAR military scholars were ordained for temporary monkhood in Russia yesterday, with the attendance of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

The third "donlaba" monkhood ceremony was held at the Moscow Buddha Vihara Monastery, Moscow, Russian Federation.

Following the ceremony, the Senior General visited the monastery and a site chosen for the construction of the Thitagu Shwezigon Pagoda.

He also met with the Abbot Monk of the monastery Dr. Issariya and discussed matters relating to expanding the monastery and pledged necessary support.

The Senior General then offered "soon" (lunch) to the monks, took the Five Precepts, offered donations and shared merits after listening to a sermon by Dr. Issariya.

Six Tatmadaw officers who are attending courses in Russia together with two Russians and two Cambodians became monks in the third donlaba monkhood event of the Moscow Buddha Vihara monastery. In the coming summer holidays 80 Tatmadaw officers receiving training in Russia will be ordained as "donlaba" monks.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Uru River overflows, floods low-lying areas in Phakant

Tin Maung Lwin
(Myanma Alin)

OVERFLOWING water from the Uru River submerged low-lying areas in Phakant yesterday morning, but the flood started to recede by the afternoon.

Five inches of rain fell on Saturday, causing the river to overflow its banks.

The flood submerged three low-lying wards and Lonkhin village, said U Kyaw Zwa Aung, an official from the Phakant Township Administration Office.

"We did not have much worries over flooding this year because we dredged the river this year in attempts to prevent floods", said U Kyaw Zwa Aung.

Low-lying areas of Phakant near the Uru River suffered from flooding. Myoma ward, Kyaukwine was under 5 feet of water, Ngetpyawdaw ward was under about 6 feet of water, Mashi South ward road junction was under 3 feet of water, and a road linking Ayemyatha ward and Sankye village was under 6 feet of water.

As the flood waters reached one foot over the suspension bridge in one ward, authorities closely monitored the situation.

Water was a foot above the rope bridge in Ngetpyawdaw ward, and a combined group of responsible persons from the township municipal office and the fire brigade cleared debris and trash to prevent the bridge from being damaged.

Similarly, Lonekin village, Lonekin village tract and Ward 4 was under 8 feet of water. Ward 3 was under 6 feet of water, while the floor of the Lonekin old bailey bridge was under 9 inches of water as a group led by the deputy head of the township general administration department and fire brigade personnel cleared debris and trash to prevent the bridge from being damaged.

Aerial view of flood in Hpakant. **PHOTO: HPAKANT GAD**

One-thousand food packets for families taking refuge in a Roman Catholic church in ward 5 that was flooded and 1,250 food packets for families in wards in Phakant that were flooded were cooked and distributed under the arrangement of the township general administration department. Fire brigade personnel alerted flooded households while arrangements were made to have medicine from Phakant Hospital and Lonekin Clinic ready in case of any outbreaks of disease.

"We are making sure that food is available for flooded families even though there was no need for a major evacuation as the flooding was due to overnight rains and people simply moved from the ground floor to the floor above while we continue providing necessary help", said Ko Aung Kyaw Myint of Yadana Elephant Third Jade Mining company.

There were no reports of injuries or damages, but preventive measures were arranged in case of more flooding, it was learnt.

"There is no need for evacuation, but if there is more rain that causes more flooding, arrangements will be made to evacuate the flooded families to Manizeyone monastery in Myoma ward and a monastery in Lonekin village. There is no need to evacuate and set up relief camps. We normally have some flooding in Phakant, and it can be said as a normal occurrence", U Kyaw Zwa Aung said.

The commander of a local military division and officials of township administration are also going around the affected areas ensuring safety and convenience, including availability of food as well as preparing to provide necessary assistance when waters recede. ■

Yoga and Naturopathy quiz contest held at the Indian Embassy in Yangon

A CONTEST testing the knowledge of yoga and naturopathy organised by Myanmar Yoga Institutions was held in the auditorium of the Embassy of India in Yangon yesterday to celebrate in advance the International Day of Yoga.

At the quiz contest, the Indian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr.Vikram Misri and yoga trainers from yoga institutes attended along with 12 participants from yoga training centres. The India Embassy (Yangon) answered questions about yoga practices, naturopathy and general knowledge.

The United Nations General Assembly declared 21st June as the International Day of Yoga on 11th December 2014 and the event is now celebrated every year around the world. Yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well-being and widens the dissemination of information about the benefits of practising yoga. One-hundred seventy-five UN member countries celebrate the International Day of Yoga annually.

In Yangon, the International Day of Yoga has been held three times since 2015, along with various yoga institutions in Myanmar.

To mark the 3rd International Day of Yoga, a yoga demonstration is scheduled to be held on 25th June at the People's Park on Pyay Road from 8am to 10 am.

There are many yoga practice centres in Yangon and other towns. The practice of yoga helps reduce stress, free the mind, and prevent disease. Yoga also contributes to a violence-free society and helps attain happiness and peace, both physically and mentally, said yoga expert S.Kumar.

Ms. Su Mon Win won first prize in the quiz contest on yoga and naturopatgy.
—Phoe Thant ■

First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin graces opening ceremony of Nunnery and library

First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin unveils Visakha Ponami Gonwei Nunnery and Library. **PHOTO: MNA**

FIRST LADY Daw Su Su Lwin graced the opening ceremony of a new nunnery building, "Visakha Ponami Gonwei," and a library donated by Visakha Foundation held at Visakha Ponami Gonwei Nunnery in Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday morning.

First of all, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Visakha Ponami Gonwei Thilashin (nun) school chief patron Thilashin Sayagyi Daw Zayya Theingi, the foundation's patron Professor Dr. Win Min Thit and officials opened the Visakha Ponami Gonwei school building by cutting a ceremonial ribbon.

First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin then pressed a button to unveil the commemorative stone inscription of the Visakha Ponami Gonwei Nunnery building.

Next, an opening ceremony of the Visakha Ponami Gonwei library was held in front of the library where Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint, Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr. Myo Aung, Visakha Foundation chairperson Dr. Su Hla Han and officials opened the library by cutting a ceremonial ribbon.

The First Lady and party then toured the Visakha Ponami Gonwei library and Visakha Ponami Gonwei nunnery building.

Afterwards, the opening ceremony continued at the new school building where Visakha Foundation's patron explained about the donation after which Visakha Foundation chairperson Dr. Su Hla Han and members presented documents relating to the new building and library to Nunnery chief patron Thilashin Sayagyi Daw Zayya Theingi.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko and responsible persons from Visakha Foundation then presented cash donations to Visakha Ponami Gonwei Nunnery chief patron Thilashin Sayagyi Daw Zayya Theingi. Finally, First Lady Daw Su Su Lwin gave a speech honoring the donors of the Visakha Ponami Gonwei building and library after which the First Lady and guests took a commemorative group photo.— Myanmar News Agency ■

Disaster management officials visit Cyclone Mora affected areas

NATIONAL Natural Disaster Management Committee has visited Cyclone Mora-affected areas in Rakhine State, reviewing aid supply, reconstruction of buildings and disaster awareness. Representatives of five work committees under the National Natural Disaster Management Committee together with representatives of Rakhine state government launched the trip on 16 June and .inspected Sittway, Shwepya ward, Satyokya Middle School, Kyaytaw B ward and Satyonesu 1 IDP camp to look into the situation. On 17 June they went to Buthidaung and viewed the damaged roofs of village homes in Inbauk village, damage to post primary school in Letwedat village and repairs required on village pond and then discussed in Maungtaw Township general administration department office about losses and damages in the region caused by Cyclone Mora.

Yesterday morning committee members visit Maung Ni village in Kanyindan village tract, Aungthaya, Aungmingala and Maunghnama villages in Kyikanpyin village tract to inspect damaged buildings.

The delegation includes representatives of national natural disaster management work committee, news and information work committee, work committee to rehabilitate livelihood, work committee to assess immediate requirement, assessing and confirming damage and identifying requirement, and reformation and reconstruction work committee. Due to timely early warnings and evacuations made before the 30 May Cyclone Mora, there were some material damages but no loss of live in Rakhine State, Ayeyawady Region and Chin State. —Myanmar News Agency

Officials visit homes damaged by Cyclone Mora in Rakhine State. **PHOTO: MNA**

Words of happiness at opening ceremony of Nunnery building and library

Min Min Zaw, Hmway Kyu Zin (MNA)

A CEREMONY to open a building and a library donated by Visakha Foundation for Visakha Ponami Gonwei Thilashin Nunnery in Lewe, Nay Pyi Taw was held on 18 June at the nunnery.

Following are the words of the officials from Visakha Foundation and Visakha Ponami Gonwei Nunnery.

Thilashin Sayagyi Daw Zayya Theingi, Visakha Ponami Gonwei Nunnery. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

Dr. Win Min Thit, Vithaka Foundation patron. **PHOTO: AYE THAN**

Thilashin Sayagyi Daw Zayya Theingi, Visakha Ponami Gonwei Nunnery

I was assigned to be responsible for the nunnery in ME 1369 (2007). About three years ago there were about 100 to 150 nuns that had increased to 170 this year. Children who could not attend school for any reason were provided with an education here so that they could become good sons and daughters of the nation.

There are nuns and children in this school. Once the boys come of age, they will be provided with education in schools where Sayadaws (monks) are teaching. The foundation of this new building was laid in 2012 June and was later built to completion with donations from the Visakha Foundation. The new building is 60 ft long and 30 ft wide and it is a two-storey building. The school provides education from grade 1 to grade 11. Up to grade 5 is government recognized and grade 6 to 8 is at an associate school level while 9, 10 and 11 graders were sent to government high schools. The school has 9 teachers.

The Sasana will flourish when people value the nunnery. I am very happy on the occasion of receiving this new building.

Dr. Win Min Thit, Visakha Foundation patron

Our foundation was formed in 2015 October. The aim of the foundation is to provide all round development in health, education, livelihood and social sectors for all people of Myanmar who are of different religions, ethnicity and region, especially orphans.

In line with this aim, support and assistance are provided for basic education, livelihood training, employment opportunities, socio-economic development, poverty reduction, health care and medicines for those who are facing difficulties while linking up with like-minded local and foreign social organizations to work together and share experiences and views.

Our foundation will continue implementing these aims. ■

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Number of newborn roofed turtles exceeds 80 in Yadanabon Zoo since April

THE number of newborn roofed turtles reached a record high of 86 in the Yadanabon Zoological Garden in Mandalay Region within the first half of this year, with the conservationists taking good care of existing turtle eggs in the garden, said Dr Tint Lwin, a manager of the turtle farm.

Baby roofed turtles have hatched out the eggs in the protected areas since April of this year. Beginning early April to mid-June, 86 newborns are recorded in the farm.

Thanks to the conservation project, the production rate of roofed turtles has reached a record high within a decade, he added.

Newborn roofed turtles a critically endangered species in protected site of Yadanabon Zoological Garden.

A combined team comprising members of staff from the garden, the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) and the Turtle Survival Alliance (TSA), conservationists have preserved the Myanmar roofed turtle, a critically endangered species, in 2001 at the Yadanabon Zoo in Mandalay, starting with a male and two females.

For the time being, there are more than 700 roofed turtles all over the country.

The conservationists continue to carry out research programme to increase population of the rare turtles, finding the best ways to breed them, Dr Tint Lwin said.—Nyi Tu ■

Over 7,500 employees receive medical care at workers' hospitals last month

MORE THAN 7,500 employees with social security numbers received medical care at Workers' Hospital throughout the country last month, according to a report of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

The three workers' hospitals offered adequate medical treatment to a total of 6,761 outpatients plus 799 inpatients in May while other 56,199 social security card holders received medical care at social security clinics, said a spokesperson of the Social Security Board (SSB).

The Factory and General Labour Laws Inspection Department said it provided more than 2.7 billion kyats and 334.44 dollars for social security benefits including overtime fees as well as wages for sick leave and maternity leave.

The Labour Relations Department solved six cases through arbitration council, paying more than Ks1.7 million worth of social security benefits to 200 individuals with social security insurance.

The arbitration council resolved 13 cases of 23 workers, paying social security benefits amounting to Ks1.5 million to them.

The number of employees with social security insurance reached about one million across the country, according to the official figures released by the SSB.

The SSB is offering healthcare services to workers with social security numbers through almost 100 clinics plus three workers' hospitals and one traditional medicine hospital.—Naing Lynn Kyi ■

Customs seize duty-unpaid goods worth Ks59 million in second week of June

MYANMAR customs confiscated duty-unpaid goods worth nearly Ks60 million in the second week of this month, according to a press release issued by the Customs Department.

From 9 to 15 June of this year, the customs department seized the illegally traded goods amounting to approximately Ks59.292 million in all customs checkpoints including Yangon International Airport, Yangon port, jetties and Yepu checkpoint, recording 77 cases.

The confiscated duty-unpaid goods included nearly four tons of hardwood timbers which were seized from those who brought them through two cargo trucks along the road between Mandalay and Muse towns without legal import/export documents.

The seized illicit goods mostly cover beer and other kinds of alcoholic drinks as well as cosmetics.

To prevent the illegal trade throughout the country, there is insufficient strength of staff at the Customs Department.

At the present time, there are about 1,700 staffs with nearly 600 of them assigned in border areas, ports, coastal areas and inland customs check points in cooperation with the employees from other departments.—001■

Customs confiscated duty-unpaid goods worth nearly Ks60 million.
PHOTO: KYEMON

Arieal view of Thilawa Special Economic Zone. **PHOTO: MYANMAR INTERNATIONAL TERMINALS THILAWA**

Japan constitutes nearly half of FDI in Thilawa SEZ

Japan has put investments of US$468 million into Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) so far, accounting for over 43 per cent of total foreign direct investments, according to Myanmar Japan Thilawa Development Limited.

Thailand was second with FDI of over $130 million. The manufacturing industry attained the highest FDI of over US$773million, followed by the trading sector and the logistics sector. FDI also flowed into the service business, real estate and hotel sectors. The total amount of FDI comes to more than US$1.7billion so far.

Thilawa SEZ was initiated with the support of the Myanmar and Japanese governments. Companies from a total of 17 countries- Japan, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, America and Australia, and others - invested in Zone A, which covers 400 hectares.

Development of Zone A is 96 per cent completed. Construction of Zone B on 101 hectares of land is projected to commence soon and slated to be completed in mid-2018. Most of the factories in Thilawa SEZ manufacture industrial products such as construction materials, food products, aluminum, fuel oil, agricultural machines, medicines, and fertilizer with an aim to replace imports.

The investors who create more job opportunities, are engaged in export business, and cooperate with the local industry outside zones are more likely to be given priority to make investments in Thilawa SEZ.

The country is currently implementing three Special Economic Zones -- Thilawa, Kyaukpyu and Dawei. Of the three, Thilawa is leading with its better infrastructure and successful businesses. —Ko Htet ■

Proposals for construction of warehouse, dry ports invited

COMPANIES who wish to construct a bonded warehouse and dry ports at Yangon ports can now submit a proposal to Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) in a bid for smooth flow of trade at the ports, according to a meeting recently held at Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) with Vice President U Myint Swe.

A meeting between the public sector led by Vice President U Myint Swe and the private sector was held on 15th June at UMFCCI in an attempt to tackle the difficulties for economic development. With a view to speeding up economic development and enhancing the private sector, an intimate meeting between public and private sectors has been held every month since December 2016, reporting 91 items by private sectors to discuss with the state. The reported items include amendment of law and policy but priority is given to items that can be resolved in a short time. Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win and UMFCCI meet to review and deal with any obstacles to resolving those items. In Thursday's meeting, resolved items, effectiveness in resolving items, and items that still need to be resolved and the difficulties faced were reviewed. The Union Minister said the remaining items will be resolved through coordination among government departments and will be submitted to a meeting with ministers concerned. Requirements to resolve the items will be collected by meetings with representatives of UMFCCI and related associations from different sectors. Establishment of UMFCCI University, upgrading the cut-make-pack process to a free-on-board (FOB) system, affixing trademarks on products, facilitating trade flow, enhancing the travel sector were also discussed.— UMFCCI ■

Investments from Netherlands highest since March

THE Netherlands has invested about US$520 million as of mid-June this fiscal year, according to official figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

China and Singapore were ranked at second and third in the highest investment country line-up in Myanmar.

Foreign direct investments from 1st April to 31st May this FY mostly flowed into the manufacturing sector. The real estate sector received more than US$110million in FDI, while transport and communication attained over US$100million in investments.

The FDI also entered these sectors: agriculture; livestock and fisheries; industrial estates and other services. Total FDI reached US$923.592million in the last two months. This FY 2017-2018 is likely to attain more than US$6billion of FDI, it is learnt.

MIC permits project proposals only after verifying the sector-specific development, job opportunity, innovation, technical sharing, country's revenue, domestic and foreign market conditions, local requirements, environmental impact assessment EIA and social impact assessment SIA, it is learnt. —Ko Khant ■

Launching of Honey Gold energy drink in Yangon. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

Energy drink made from honey introduced

A NEW energy drink "HONEY GOLD 250ml Can" launched in late March, introducing the first Myanmar original product meeting Myanmar's taste profile.

HONEY GOLD is manufactured in Myanmar by Asahi Loi Hein Company Ltd, a joint venture company between Asahi Group Holdings Ltd and Loi Hein Company Ltd. HONEY GOLD is natural energy drink that contains natural honey and rich vitamins, which is perfect for after work and after sports occasion to recharge.

"The recipe was developed with Asahi's deep knowledge and technology gained from their soft drink business in Japan," said the statement released at the launching event in Yangon.

It is the first Myanmar original product that Asahi Group Holdings developed to meet Myanmar's taste which is sweeter than Japanese drinks—GNLM ■

AYA bank to provide assistance to develop SMEs

AYEYAWADY bank (AYA) will provide the financial assistance to develop Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs), according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

To provide the financial assistance, officials from AYA bank held a meeting with their counterparts from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) at the UMFCCI office.

"Our AYA bank will provide the financial assistance to develop SMEs. As a result, our country will also develop," said U Myint Zaw, the managing director from AYA bank.

Most of the SME businessmen in Myanmar are taking financial assistance giving the mortgage. But some of the businessmen are facing difficulties to access to seeking the financial assistance because they don't have valuable property for collateral. At the meeting, entrepreneurs from fishing businesses, sesame cultivation, paper industries, plastic industries, salt industries, fuel industry and micro financing said that they need the loans from the banks to be able to run their businesses.

Our AYA bank will also discuss with them to provide the bank loans to each business sector, said U Myint Zaw, the managing director from AYA bank.— GNLM ■

Donald Trump, Narendra Modi willing to break with past practice: Expert

NEW YORK — The meeting between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump would set the tone and the framework for the bilateral relationship going forward, a leading expert on India and Asia has said.

"The two leaders will have a chance to get to know each other and to find some common ground on the way they look at the world and a common strategic view that would set the framework on how the two governments pursue the relationship going forward," Senior Fellow for India with the Asia Society Policy Institute (ASPI) Marshall Bouton told PTI.

US President Donald Trump and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. **PHOTO: PTI**

Bouton, a nationally known expert on India and Asia, said the first meeting between Trump and Modi in Washington on 26 June will be "all about setting the tone and the framework for the relationship going forward" but he does not expect the meeting to be "big bang."

"I am not dismissing the possibility, but I am not expecting major breakthrough announcements from this meeting. In some ways those would be the cart before the horse," said Bouton, who is President Emeritus of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

He said that the "most positive" outcome of the first summit talks between leaders of the world's largest and oldest democracies would be "a meeting of the minds on the issues that the two leaders want to pursue together."

Bouton had last month authored a comprehensive ASPI paper 'The Trump Administration's India Opportunity,' in which he called for the US administration to move decisively and engage Modi's government to deepen cooperation and manage potential disputes.

Listing the priority areas for the first Modi-Trump meeting, Bouton said the two leaders must begin by emphasizing the strongest areas of mutual interest, which are clearly security and terrorism issues.

He noted that the Trump administration has not yet articulated with India its role in the broader Asia-Pacific region, importance of the US-India partnership over the next two-three decades of bringing stability and peace to Asia and India's "absolutely critical" role in accomplishing that.

On terrorism, he said both countries are grappling with the scourge and both are experiencing some growing concerns.

"Another area in the security realm is Pakistan," Bouton said, adding that Modi will want to share with Trump his view and his concerns about Pakistan behaviour vis-a-vis India in their bilateral relationship.

Modi will also be very interested to learn what is the strategy of the Trump administration on Afghanistan.

"What is the US interest in Afghanistan, that is highly relevant to India's interest. So I am sure that will be a very important subject of conversation. As part of that and also separately what does Prime Minister Modi want to hear from Trump about the US relationship with Pakistan going forward," Bouton said.

Another key issue could be China and what is the Trump administration's strategic view of China going forward, said Bouton, who has previously served as Director for Policy Analysis for Near East, Africa and South Asia in the US Department of Defense and as Special Assistant to the US Ambassador to India. —PTI ■

Fresh landslides claim 5 lives in Bangladesh

DHAKA — At least five people were killed and many dwellings damaged in rain-triggered fresh landslides in Bangladesh early Sunday.

Two siblings and a child are reported to have been killed in a landslide in hilly district of Khagrachari, some 259 km southeast of Dhaka.

A woman and her daughter were killed in northeastern Moulvibazar district, some 203 km away from the capital city, when huge chunks of mud collapsed on their houses.

The fresh incidents were reported as the wounds of last week's massive landslides are still yet to heal.

Army and Fire Brigade Rescuers on Friday wrapped up search operations after four more bodies were recovered from debris of rain-triggered devastating landslides that struck the country's southeastern region on Tuesday.

The victims included four members of the Army, two of them officers.

At least 153 people are reported to have been killed and hundreds of others injured in the landslides that devastated places in five districts in Chittagong Hill Tracts in southeastern Bangladesh.—Xinhua ■

Jailed Malaysian opposition leader Anwar withdraws as PM candidate

KUALA LUMPUR — Jailed Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim said on Saturday he would not be a candidate for prime minister in elections due by mid-2018.

Once a rising star in the ruling United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) party, Anwar is seen as the greatest threat to Prime Minister Najib Razak and his coalition, after leading a three-party opposition alliance to stunning electoral gains in 2013.

Anwar was convicted and jailed for sodomizing a former aide, a charge he and his supporters describe as a politically motivated attempt to end his career.

Government sources have told Reuters that a general election could be held later this year in a bid to prevent the opposition from gaining ground. An election has to be called by mid-2018.

Anwar endorsed a political compact spearheaded by former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad, as ruling party rebels and the opposition joined hands to fight against Najib, who is embroiled in a corruption scandal.

"In order to call for a focus on the general elections, I am choosing not to offer myself as the candidate for prime minister," Anwar said in a statement.

"In hopes of amassing all strengths in a team to go against UMNO-BN, it is fair to ensure the participation of all leaders effectively. This includes benefiting from the position and role of Mahathir," he said, referring to the ruling coalition.

Mahathir, 91, Malaysia's longest serving prime minister, said earlier in June that he would consider taking up the premier position again, but only if there was no acceptable candidate after an opposition election victory.

Najib has been embroiled in a corruption scandal involving state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad. He has denied any wrongdoing, even as the fund became the subject of money laundering investigations in the United States and at least five other countries. —Reuters ■

Abe Cabinet's support rate down 44.9%: poll

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) speaks during a session of the House of Councillors budget committee in Tokyo on 16 June, 2017. Cabinet Office staff did not make comments implying Abe sought to sway a decision on a university construction project to benefit a close friend, the minister in charge of the office said the same day. **PHOTO: KYODO**

TOKYO — The approval rating for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Cabinet has plunged 10.5 points from May to 44.9 per cent, with many unconvinced by the government's denial of allegations of favouritism leveled against Abe in connection with a government project, a Kyodo News poll showed on Sunday.

In the nationwide telephone survey conducted Saturday and Sunday, 67.7 per cent disapproved of the unorthodox method employed by the ruling parties to force through parliament a contentious "conspiracy" law to punish the planning of serious crimes.

Regarding the claims that Abe had used his influence in the approval of a new department at a university run by a close friend, 73.8 per cent of the respondents said they were not convinced by the government's denial of the allegations.

Only 18.1 per cent said they were convinced by the government's explanation regarding the selection of Kake Educational Institution to open a veterinary medicine department in a specially deregulated zone in Ehime Prefecture, western Japan.

Of the respondents, 84.9 per cent also said the government's internal investigation into the matter did not reveal the facts about the veterinary school construction project, while 9.3 per cent said it did.

Respondents were divided over the conspiracy law itself, with 42.1 per cent supporting the legislation and 44.0 per cent expressing opposition, while 50.7 per cent said the legislation could lead to greater state surveillance.—Kyodo News ■

S Korean president appoints 1st female foreign minister despite opposition resistance

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Sunday appointed Kang Kyung-wha as the country's first female foreign minister despite harsh resistance from the conservative opposition party.

Moon provided a certificate of appointment for Kang at the conferment ceremony, which was held in the presidential Blue House earlier in the day, according to the press release by Moon's office.

The liberal leader, who took office on 10 May, nominated Kang as the foreign minister nominee on 21 May, but the official appointment was delayed amid strong opposition from the main conservative opposition Liberty Korea Party.

The conservative party opposed Kang's nomination over several controversies, including her false registration of her home address for educational purpose, but about 80 per cent of South Koreans trusted Moon's nomination of his cabinet members, including Kang, recent opinion polls showed.

The minor conservative Righteous Party and the centrist People's Party denounced Moon's appointment of Kang despite their resistance, though the appointment is a right given to the president.

The minor progressive Justice Party welcomed Kang's nomination, describing the resistance as "opposition for the sake of opposition."

President Moon said the foreign minister post cannot be left vacant anymore because the South Korea-US summit is around the corner and the Group of 20 summit meeting will come.

Moon was scheduled to leave for Washington on 28 June for his two-day summit meeting with US President Donald Trump from 29 June.—Xinhua

Viet Nam temporarily limits ride-sharing cars

HANOI — Vietnamese cities and provinces nationwide have been asked to cease licensing new taxi-hailing apps like Uber and Grab on a trial basis.

The temporary limit is aimed at preventing the rampant surge of technology-based taxis which pressurize infrastructure, present unfair competition for other forms of transport services, and cause difficulties in management, the Transport Department under the Vietnamese Ministry of Transport said on Sunday.

Earlier, Vietnamese relevant agencies licensed seven ride-sharing companies to operate on a trial basis in three localities, namely Hanoi capital, Ho Chi Minh City and central Khanh Hoa province.

In Ho Chi Minh City, by the end of April, the numbers of traditional and technology-based taxis were some 11,000 and 22,000, respectively.

Hanoi currently has 19,200 traditional taxis run by 77 firms, and 7,000 ride-sharing cars, according to initial statistics from the municipal transport bureau.—Xinhua ■

Two Pakistani diplomats missing in Afghanistan since Friday — Islamabad

ISLAMABAD — Two Pakistani diplomats based in a consulate office in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad have been missing since Friday, when they set off by road back to their homeland, Pakistan's foreign office said on Sunday.

Islamabad did not speculate who may be behind the disappearances but various Afghanistan-based Islamist groups have targeted diplomats in the past.

"Pakistan has requested the Afghan Government that all efforts may be made to ensure early recovery of our officials and bring the perpetrators of this heinous crime to justice," the foreign ministry said in a statement

Islamabad said Afghanistan had formed three different investigating groups to probe the incident.

Relations between Islamabad and Kabul have been tense in recent years, with both countries accusing each other of not doing enough to tackle Pakistani and Afghan Taliban militants.

Afghanistan has accused Pakistan of turning a blind eye to Afghan Taliban commanders based within its borders and of supporting the militant group, something Islamabad denies.

Islamabad has claimed that Kabul is not doing enough to tackle Pakistani Taliban militants who have been driven out of Pakistan, but who still carry out attacks across the border.

Jalalabad, the provincial capital of Nangarhar province, is a busy trading hub about 70 kilometres (43 miles) from the main border crossing with Pakistan, from which landlocked Afghanistan imports much of its goods.

The province is home to various Islamist groups, including Pakistani and Afghan Taliban. In recent years the Islamic State has also established a presence Nangarhar.—Reuters ■

New generations for our future country

Khin Maung Oo

TO build up the future of a country, it is very important to focus on the socio-economic development of the new generation of youths. Had the previous governments invested in education adequately and focused on the development of youths, the future of our country would have been brighter for sure. Presently, national leaders are implementing the task of the nation building, but at the same time, we need to train the new generation of youths with great care and "cetena" so that one day they would be ready to shoulder the great burden of building the future country. In doing so, we need not worry about our future country, provided that the burden can be handed over to youths who have been well-trained, well-educated and well-developed, physically as well as emotionally with strength of character and adequate social skills. They need social skills not only to relate to their colleagues but with the rest of society.

According to the 2014 population census data, school-age children under-14 amounted to over 14 million. A country's demographic pattern showing its population and age-groups has a direct effect on the projection of the country's socio-economic development. In countries with a high percentage of under-15 youths, more investments are being made in education, with health care and social provision being given in countries with a high percentage of over-65 aged people. In countries where youths are rapidly increasing, huge amounts of investments are being made in academic teaching as well as in conducting training courses in language proficiency and providing vocational training, more than ever. With the increasing population of youths in Myanmar, development projects for youths need to be prioritized to ensure that our youths would be ready to shoulder the heavy burdens of the future.

Out of more than 14 million school-age youths under 14, it has been learnt that over 1.2 million children are working at work-sites instead of studying in class rooms. What is worse, half of them, that is, over 600,000 are sorrowfully found laboring in working environments of great danger, which harm their tender minds, health, social affairs and dignity. According to the data collected by the Ministry of Labor, the amount 600,000 is a conservative estimate. Most of them are child laborers, immature house-helpers and road-side workers wandering about towns and cities. If the affairs of these children are neglected, it will be a great loss not only for the children in question but also for the nation's future. For rehabilitating and nurturing them, funds for children and homes for caring youths are still being needed more and more. Despite the fact that it is strictly prescribed in the law that a child laborer should reach the age of 14 to work in shops and at worksites, children under the age of 14 are still being found working.

Last but not least, we—the government, the people and responsible officials must strive hard to ensure that our children will get the opportunity to study in schools and attend vocational training courses so that they would be able to get well-paying jobs, for the betterment of our future country and generations to come. ■

Climate change causes killer heatwaves

Tim Radford

IN southern Asia, mortality is likely to rise with the thermometer. Researchers have established a direct link between global warming and heat-related deaths from killer heatwaves.

A tiny rise of 0.5°C in mean summer temperatures in India or another comparable tropical developing nation could result in a 146% rise in mass death from the heat.

Average temperature increases by the end of the century for the Asian subcontintent, the Middle East and Africa are likely to be at least 2.2°C and could be as high as 5.5°C. Although the heatwave prediction for India is based on a statistical model, the model itself is based on half a century of carefully-measured temperature, heatwave and heat-related mortality data.

The message is that even moderate increases in mean temperature will have negative effects on human health. And for the poorest – and in India more than 300 million people live on an income of less than $1.25 a day – the effects could be fatal.

"The impact of global climate change is not a spectre on the horizon. It's real, and it's being felt now all over the planet," said Amir AghaKouchak, a civil and environmental engineer at the University of California Irvine.

"It's particularly alarming that the adverse effects are pummelling the world's most vulnerable populations."

Doubled probability

Dr AghaKouchak and colleagues from California, Mumbai and New Delhi report in the journal Science Advances that they found their evidence in records from the Indian Meteorological Department for the years 1960 to 2009.

When summer mean temperatures edged from 27°C to 27.5°C, the probability of a heatwave that would kill more than 100 people grew from 13% to 32%: that is, the probability more than doubled to an increase of 146%.

This was reflected in the history of heatwaves in the subcontinent. In 1975, and 1976, when mean summer temperatures reached 27.4°C, there were 43 deaths and 34 deaths respectively. Over the 54-year period, the annual average of heatwave days was 7.3.

In 1998, when heatwaves extended to 18 days, and average summer temperatures went above 28°C, deaths totalled 1,655. In 2003, during 13 days of heatwave, 1,500 died.

The poorest in India have little or no access to electricity or air conditioning, and are inevitably the most vulnerable. Researchers two years ago predicted that extreme heat and humidity could make some parts of the planet uninhabitable if drastic steps were not taken to cut fossil fuel combustion, and the greenhouse gas emissions that are amplifying surface air temperatures to dangerous levels.

The Californian scientists warn that, by mid-century, at least 60% of land areas in tropical Africa and along the rim of the Indian Ocean will be experiencing hotter conditions than any in the 20th century.

And a devastating extreme of heat during April 2016 in mainland southeast Asia – Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Malaysia – could be blamed on a combination of global warming and the fortuitous timing of El Niño, the notorious cyclical blister of heat that periodically arrives in the tropical Pacific, according to a separate study in the journal Nature Communications.

Temperatures broke all records, humans suffered, crop production was disrupted and energy consumption went up, as cities turned on the air conditioning to keep cool.

The researchers, led by a team from the University of Texas at Austin, report that they looked at the 15 hottest April temperatures of the past 80 years. All of these had occurred since 1980, and all but one had coincided with an El Niño event.

"Though almost 50% of the April 2016 event was due to the 2015-16 El Niño, at least 30% of the anomaly was due to long-term warming, and there's definitely more to come in the future," said Kaustubh Thirumalai of the Institute for Geophysics at the University of Texas.

Urban vulnerability

The point of such research of course is to prepare national governments and civic authorities for the dangerous levels of heat on the way. Cities in particular are vulnerable – they are normally significantly warmer than their rural hinterland – and the ability to make long-term forecasts of potentially murderous heat extremes could save lives.

"The silver lining is that these can be predicted a few months in advance since they happen after the peak of an El Niño," Dr Thirumalai said. But nations need, too, to cut greenhouse emissions by adopting renewable energy supplies, to reduce the risk of mass death in the crowded cities of South Asia.

Donald Trump, President of the US, has announced that he is withdrawing the US from the Paris Agreement to limit climate change to less than 2°C average global warming.

But US scientists have been among the world pioneers in climate research, and have led both the latest studies of Asian heat extremes.

They want to see constructive action.

"Given the quantifiable impacts of climate change in India and other developing nations in the coming decades, both rich and poor countries should be ramping up our efforts to combat global climate change instead of turning our backs on commitments we have made to the international community," said Steven J. Davis, an earth system scientist at the University of California Irvine and one of the partners in the Science Advances study. – Climate News Network

• This report was first published in Climate News Network

About the author

Tim Radford, a founding editor of Climate News Network, worked for The Guardian for 32 years, for most of that time as science editor. He has been covering climate change since 1988. ■

Birds find haven from urban injuries at New York City treatment centre

Kate Faehling, an animal care manager, works on birds at the Wild Bird Fund, a non-profit animal medical group, for sick, injured or orphaned wildlife in New York City, US on 14 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

NEW YORK — Olivia Snarski was cleaning out the apartment of a friend who died on Tuesday when she found a bird lying against a wall with what appeared to be a broken bone.

Snarski looked for help to save the fading starling, which she called Kash in honour of her friend.

Far from the New York City borough of Queens where she rescued the bird, Snarski found The Wild Bird Fund.

Housed on the ground floor of a building on Manhattan's Upper West Side, not far from Central Park, The Wild Bird Fund has been treating sick and injured birds since 2005.

Most of those birds are brought there by Good Samaritans like Snarski, said Eugene Oda, a wildlife rehabilitator and veterinary technician who examines incoming birds.

Suffering from dehydration and a broken bone, the prognosis was poor for Kash. Oda took a special interest in the bird and brought it to his home to care for it.

"When I heard the story, I knew I had to take Kash home," Oda said. "I needed to make sure that starling got the best care."

Inside the small medical facility, a team of staff and volunteers tends to hundreds of birds every day, providing food, medicine, care and cleaning.

"It's baby bird season and it's very, very hard for us. We get over 50 birds a day. People find all these baby birds on the ground," Oda said.

"Right now, I believe that we have about 350 birds," said Oda. "We get over 120 different species."

Rita McMahon, a co-founder and director of The Wild Bird Fund, started the organization in her Upper West Side brownstone in 2005. Funded by donations, it moved to 565 Columbus Avenue in 2012.

It is the only facility of its kind in New York City and the Humane Society, ASPCA and other animal rescue organizations bring birds to the Fund for treatment.

"There is so much danger out there that birds can get into," said Oda. "It is our responsibility as citizens in the city to rescue these animals. They are basically hurt by us and we'll do our best."

Oda said the Fund's location means pigeons, sparrows, and starlings are the most common patients. "These are the city birds that often get into trouble," he said. The neighbourhood is also home to hawks, owls, Robins, doves, ducks, geese, and a host of other types of birds.

During a recent visit, a hen shared space with a white swan named Willow that was found six months ago suffering from frostbite in Brooklyn's Prospect Park.

Once healthy, creatures like Willow are sent to sanctuaries in the Tri-State area. This weekend, Willow will go to a sanctuary called Zeze in upstate New York. Local birds are released back into the wild once they have been healed.

As for Kash, Oda said, "I think maybe he turned a corner. Hopefully he'll be released. And if he is, I'm hoping to contact the person who brought in the bird."
— Reuters ■

Japanese town drafts in sniffer dogs to improve cancer detection rates

TOKYO — The mayor of a small Japanese town with high rates of stomach cancer among its residents has turned to a sniffer dog research programme to improve the accuracy and effectiveness of health checkups.

Facing the challenge of improving early cancer detection rates in Kaneyama, a town with 6,000 residents in the northeast of Japan, Mayor Hiroshi Suzuki reached out for professional help.

Knowing his town had among Japan's highest fatality rates due to stomach cancer, Suzuki consulted Masao Miyashita, a medical school professor who visited the town last year, and received a proposal to take part in a research program in which dogs are used to sniff out cancer from test samples.

At no cost to residents, the Yamagata Prefecture town sends frozen urine samples to Miyashita at the Nippon Medical School Chiba Hokusoh Hospital in Chiba Prefecture, east of Tokyo.

The hospital then has the samples tested at a facility in the prefecture where dogs are trained for the purpose.

The substances emitted by cancer cells which allow the dogs to sniff out the disease are unknown, as is how the dogs know what they are detecting.

"In our research so far, cancer detection dogs have been able to find (signs of) cancer with an accuracy of nearly 100 percent," said Miyashita.

There are only five dogs trained to work as cancer detection dogs in Japan, according to St. Suger Japan which operates the training facility. It costs about 5 million yen ($45,000) to train each dog.
—Kyodo News

Exercise may stave off postpartum depression

LONDON — Physical activity during and after pregnancy improves psychological wellbeing and may protect against postpartum depression, according to a new analysis of existing research.

Even low-intensity exercise, such as walking with a baby stroller, was linked to a lower likelihood of depressive symptoms in new mothers, researchers found.

"The negative consequences of postpartum depression not only affect the mother but also the child, who can suffer poor emotional and cognitive development," said study co-author Celia Alvarez-Bueno of the University of Castilla-La Mancha in Cuenca, Spain.

Postpartum depression, the most common complication of bearing a child, affects 1 in 9 women, according to the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention. Symptoms can include anxiety attacks, insecurity, irritability, fatigue, guilt, fear of harming the baby and a reluctance to breastfeed. The symptoms start within four weeks of delivery and are considered severe when they last for more than two weeks, the study team writes in the journal Birth.

"That's why it's important to test the most effective strategies to prevent this disorder or mitigate the consequences," Alvarez-Bueno told Reuters Health by email. The study team analyzed data from 12 controlled trials of exercise interventions during or after pregnancy between 1990 and 2016 that addressed the effects of physical activity on postpartum depression. The studies included a total of 932 women and all examined the severity of postpartum depression as well as including basic information about the length, frequency, type and intensity of the exercise.

The exercises used in the various studies included stretching and breathing, walking programs, aerobic activity, Pilates and yoga. Compared to women who didn't exercise, those who did had lower scores on depression symptom tests during the postpartum period, the researchers found. The apparent benefit of having fewer depression symptoms was seen even among women who did not meet the cutoff for a depression diagnosis. "We expected that physical activity could reduce postpartum depressive symptoms," Alvarez-Bueno said. "However, we were pleasantly surprised when we found that exercise after pregnancy also reduced depression among the women who didn't have diagnosable symptoms."

Most intervention programmes lasted for three months or longer and recommended three to five exercise sessions per week, but the current study didn't draw conclusions or provide recommendations about the type or length of exercise that would be most beneficial. The American College of Obstetrics and Gynecology recommended in 2009 that pregnant and postpartum women engage in 30 minutes of moderate physical activity most days of the week. "We know that exercise is just as effective as anti-depressants for adults. The trick is to get them to do the physical activity," said Beth Lewis of the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis, who wasn't involved with the study.
— Reuters ■

Russian President Vladimir Putin. **PHOTO: TASS**

Putin says he changed his views on Russian-European relations due to Helmut Kohl

ST PETERSBURG — Russian President Vladimir Putin says that his acquaintance with Germany's ex-Chancellor Helmut Kohl, who died on Friday, changed his views on relations between Russia and Europe.

"I knew him since the early 1990s and was present all the way through during his talk with St Petersburg Mayor Anatoly Sobchak. He asked me to visit his residence, as the government of the Federative Republic of Germany was located in Bonn then. A few more meetings followed. We met more than once in different capacities. The first meeting made a strong impression, a very strong impression on me," Putin told reporters.

"I saw a man of great depth, a profound thinker who did not live from election to election, although it was of some importance to him. But he thought about a prospect quite far ahead, moreover, he thought very substantially, profoundly, basing on knowledge and his personal expertise of a statesman in one of the largest European counties," he added.

Kohl's views on the future relations between Russia and Germany had a vast influence on the Russian president.

"They did not only had an enormous influence on me, but somehow, to a considerable degree changed my personal stance on these processes," he said. "I saw a man of great depth and of substantial assertion."

Kohl called for European-Russian partnership

Putin added that Former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl was not mistaken believing that the Cold War had ended and after the current rift Russia and the West will inevitable join efforts.

"No, he was not mistaken. We have always had processes that unfold like a pendulum swinging forward and back," Putin said, answering a reporter's question whether Helmut Kohl made a mistake believing that he and Mikhail Gorbachev stopped the Cold War between the West and Soviet Union.

"Now the pendulum has swung a bit back towards frost, but I am convinced that it will inevitably find the right balance and we will be joining efforts to face today's challenges. We will be able to overcome them so and in no other way," he said.

"Unfortunately, not everything from the dreams, we used to dream and talk about, is being implemented. However, I am convinced that his analysis is correct and those positive processes, without which neither Europe nor Russia has any future, will be developing in the European and, I can say, Eurasian continent," the president said.

Koul would say "if we want to preserve our civilization in this turbulent and rapidly changing world with growing centers of power, most notably not just military power, but also economic and cultural one, Europe and Russia should definitely stay together," Putin added.

"I absolutely agree with him. You know our stance that implies we are ready for it. Our partners need to be ready as well and should get rid of phobias of the past," Putin emphasized, reminding that Helmut Kohl urged to brush off those phobias and look forward to the future.

Germany's ex-Chancellor Helmut Kohl, known as Germany's reunification architect, died at his house in Ludwigshafen on Friday morning. He was at the helm of Germany for 16 years, between 1982 and 1998.—Tass ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Russia criticises US for 'anti-Cuban' approach, says it sides with Cuba

MOSCOW — The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that "anti-Cuban" actions recently announced by Washington were regrettable and that Moscow confirmed its solidarity with Havana. The ministry also said that the new approach towards Cuba by the US administration resembles a "Cold war rhetoric".—Reuters ■

Labour's Corbyn says council did not have resources to tackle London fire

LONDON — Britain's opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn said on Sunday the local authority in London where a fire killed at least 58 people last week did not have the resources to deal with an emergency of that scale.

He told ITV's Peston on Sunday that the community and emergency services were "incredible" in tackling the fire and its aftermath.

"What was less effective was the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, because they seemed to lack the resources to deal with a crisis of this magnitude in their borough and yet they are the country's wealthiest borough," the Labour leader said.—Reuters ■

US welcomes Syria cease-fire, urges opposition to halt attacks

WASHINGTON — The United States on Saturday welcomed a 48-hour cease-fire in southern Syria and called on the Syrian government to honor its commitments during that period.

"We will judge this initiative by the results, not the words," State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said in a statement. "The opposition should similarly halt attacks to allow the ceasefire to endure — and hopefully be extended — and humanitarian aid to reach those in need."—Reuters ■

Iraqi forces say started storming Islamic State-held Mosul Old City

ERBIL — Iraqi forces started storming the Islamic State-held Old City of Mosul on Sunday, a military statement said.

The historic district is the last still under control of the militants in the city which used to be their capital in Iraq.

It is a densely-populated maze of narrow alleyways where fighting is often done house by house.

About 100,000 civilians remain trapped there in harrowing conditions, with little food, water and medicine and limited access to hospitals, according to the United Nations. "This is the last chapter" in the offensive to take Mosul, said Lieutenant General Abdul Ghani al-Asadi, the commander of the Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) elite units.

The US-backed Iraqi offensive to capture Mosul entered its ninth month on Saturday. Islamic State snipers are shooting at families trying to flee on foot or by boat across the Tigris River, as part of a tactic to keep civilians as human shields, the UN said on Friday.

An Iraqi Army helicopter launches decoy flares over western Mosul, Iraq on 17 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Iraqi government forces regained eastern Mosul in January, then a month later began the offensive on the western side that includes the Old City.

The fall of Mosul would, in effect, mark the end of the Iraqi half of the "caliphate" that Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared in a speech from an historic mosque in the Old City three years ago, covering parts of Iraq and Syria. —Reuters ■

Red Crescent worker wounded in Damascus attack on aid convoy —ICRC

VIENNA — A staff worker for the Syrian Arab Red Crescent relief organization was wounded in an attack on a humanitarian convoy near Damascus, the International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a statement on Sunday.

Air strikes hit rebel-held districts east of Damascus on Thursday for the first time in weeks after shells landed in parts of the capital controlled by the Syrian government.

Fighting and bombardment around Damascus have eased significantly since Russia, Turkey and Iran agreed a deal for "de-escalation zones" around Syria in an April meeting in Astana, Kazakhstan. Talks between different Syrian and foreign factions are due to take place early next month.

"The 37-truck convoy from the ICRC, Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the United Nations was to deliver food, medicine and daily essentials to 11,000 people in the town of East Harasta," the ICRC said.

The aid worker was seriously wounded in a shooting that took place in on Saturday evening, it said.

"Residents in East Harasta have not received any humanitarian aid for nearly eight months. Renewed security guarantees are needed in order to proceed with this planned aid delivery."

After six years of war between President Bashar al-Assad and rebels seeking to oust him, hundreds of thousands of Syrians have been killed and more than half the country's pre-war population made homeless. —Reuters ■

Saudi guards fire on Iranian boat, killing fisherman — report

DUBAI — Saudi border guards have opened fire on an Iranian fishing boat in the Gulf, killing a fisherman, Iran's Tasnim news agency said on Saturday, amid high tension between the two rival states.

"Two Iranian boats that were fishing in the waters of the Persian Gulf were pushed off their course by waves. There was shooting by Saudi border guards ... and one Iranian fisherman was killed," the semi-official agency quoted an Interior Ministry official as saying.

"We are pursuing this matter to determine if the Iranian boats had crossed the Saudi border or not, but the action of the Saudis does not comply with humanitarian and navigational principles," Majid Aqababai, director general of the ministry's border affairs, was quoted by Tasnim as saying.

There was no immediate Saudi reaction. Iranian reports said the incident happened late on Friday.

Relations between the two countries are at their worst in years. Last week Riyadh, along with other Arab governments, severed ties with Qatar, citing its support of Iran as a reason.

Days later, suicide bombings and shootings in Tehran killed 17 people. Shi'ite Muslim Iran repeated accusations that Saudi Arabia funds Sunni Islamist militants, including Islamic State. Riyadh has denied involvement in the attacks.

Iran and Saudi Arabia accuse each other of subverting regional security and support opposite sides in conflicts in Syria, Yemen and Iraq. —Reuters ■

Kuwaiti court overturns death sentence in Iran spy cell case

DUBAI — Kuwait's highest court on Sunday overturned the death sentence imposed by a lower tribunal against a man convicted of belonging to a group Kuwait said was trying to destabilise the Gulf Arab state on behalf of Iran and Lebanon's Hezbollah.

Iran has denied any links to the alleged cell. Some Kuwaiti officials and some other Gulf Arab countries, mostly ruled by Sunnis, accuse Tehran of seeking to weaken them by infiltrating local Shi'ite communities and stirring up local politics. The so-called "Abdali cell" was uncovered when security forces raided a farmhouse in Abdali outside Kuwait City in 2015 and found a cache of guns and explosives. In January, a court found 23 guilty of various crimes, including intent to carry out "hostile acts" against Kuwait and possessing weapons.

On Sunday, the country's Court of Cassation commuted the death sentence for one man to life in prison, a statement on state news agency KUNA said, without specifying defendants' names. It also lowered the life sentence for another man to 15 years in prison, and sentenced several others previously judged "not guilty" to 10 years.—Reuters ■

Russia has carried out a successful launch of a missile interceptor from the Sary-Shagan test site in Kazakhstan. **PHOTO: TASS**

Russia tests missile interceptor in Kazakhstan

MOSCOW — Russian military personnel on Friday carried out a successful launch of a missile interceptor from the Sary-Shagan test site in Kazakhstan, the Defence Ministry said.

"On Friday, 16 June, a joint crew of Russia's air and missile defence force and representatives of the manufacturer successfully tested a missile interceptor. It was part of the effort to improve Russia's missile defence system," a report obtained by TASS runs.

"The missile interceptor coped with its task and hit the target," the news release quotes the deputy commander of an operational air and missile defence unit, Andrei Prikhodko said.

According to the Defence Ministry, the missile defence protects Moscow and the central industrial region from ballistic missiles and monitors air and outer space to issue an early warning in case of a missile attack.—Tass ■

Cuban expert says new US restrictions harm bilateral ties

HAVANA — US President Donald Trump has signed a directive that sparked controversy and could push relations with Cuba back to hostility, a Cuban expert said.

According to a statement by the White House, individual leisure travel, permitted by the Obama administration, will be prohibited. Americans will be required to visit Cuba with regulated tour groups.

Besides, US individuals and companies will be banned from doing commerce with Cuban businesses owned by the Cuban military. Trump also reaffirmed a decades-old US economic embargo against Cuba.

Trump's decision has to be understood within the context of his policy towards left-wing governments in the region, said Luis Suarez, a professor of international relations in Cuba.

"In the case of Cuba, Trump returns to the concept of trying to make negotiations from a position of strength, and ignoring the political and legal systems of Cuba, as well as the country's sovereignty and self-determination of the Cuban people," he told Xinhua.

Trump's policy seeks to apply the Helms-Burton Act, passed by the US Congress in 1996, to intensify the economic blockade on Cuba, the expert said.

It is not clear if Trump's directive would affect more than 20 agreements signed by the two countries in recent years.

However, sources in the Cuban government said Havana is keen to continue joint efforts in sectors such as law enforcement, counter-terrorism, human and drug trafficking.

Security agencies and senior officials in Cuba said they are willing to continue cooperation with the US side, despite that exchanges have declined sharply since Trump took office in January.—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.	15(T)1/MR (E)17-18	Spare Parts for Automatic Levelling, Lining and Tamping Machine ED/ALL TM No.(01 & 02) and Profile Ballast Regulating Machine ED/PBRM-No.01-(115)Items

Closing Date & Time- 20.7.2017(Thursday)(14:30)Hrs

2. Tender documents are available at our office starting from 19.6.2017 during office hours and for further detail please contact: Deputy General Manager Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung, Yangon. Phone: 95-1-291985, 291994

Missing sailors on damaged US destroyer found dead: US Navy

YOKOHAMA —The US Navy announced the end of its search for missing crew on Sunday after finding a number of bodies aboard the US destroyer Fitzgerald following its collision with a Filipino container ship south of Tokyo Bay.

The bodies of several sailors were found on the ship that was heavily damaged in the collision early Saturday that left seven crew members of the destroyer missing and three injured, it said.

Some US media reported that the bodies of all seven missing crew members had been found. The destroyer sustained significant damage to its starboard side near the bridge.

The Japan Coast Guard ended its search around the collision site about 20 kilometres southeast of Cape Irozaki in Shizuoka Prefecture after being told by the US Navy that no crew members were missing at sea.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe offered his condolences to US President Donald Trump in a statement saying, "I am filled with great sorrow."

"Under the strong Japan-US alliance, I renew my respect for those who are associated with US forces who are making significant contributions to bring peace and stability to our nation and the region," Abe said.

The US Navy said on its official website that search and rescue personnel "gained access to the spaces that were damaged during the collision" and the missing sailors were "located in the flooded berthing compartments." Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, commander of the 7th Fleet, said the US Navy was not revealing the number of bodies found as it had not informed the sailors' next of kin.

The 8,315-ton Aegis missile defence system-equipped Fitzgerald collided with the 29,060-ton ACX Crystal, operated by Japanese shipping firm Nippon Yusen KK.

The Fitzgerald, part of the US Navy's 7th Fleet, was on a patrol mission and returned to the Yokosuka Naval Base in Kanagawa Prefecture aided by tugboats Saturday night.

The Filipino vessel carrying 1,080 containers and sailing from Nagoya sustained damage on its port side but safely docked at its destination port in Tokyo on Saturday.

The Japan Coast Guard was continuing its questioning of the crew, with an eye on possible endangerment of traffic caused by professional negligence.

Regarding the Fitzgerald, the United States has primary jurisdiction over incidents involving members of US forces under the bilateral status of forces agreement.

Aucoin said the US Navy will cooperate with the Japanese investigative authorities if necessary.

According to Japanese investigative sources, crew on the Filipino ship said it collided with the destroyer while sailing in the same direction, indicating that the container vessel could have collided from the starboard rear side of the US Navy ship. —Kyodo News ■

Britain to hold special two-year parliament session to tackle Brexit

LONDON — The British parliament will hold a rare two-year legislative session to tackle the complexities of Britain's departure from the European Union, the government said on Saturday. Britain's negotiations with the EU over its exit from the bloc begin on Monday and stand to be complicated by the surprise loss of Prime Minister Theresa May's parliamentary majority in a national election last week. A parliamentary session usually runs for a year, from spring to spring. But the government will double the length of the session to let lawmakers debate Britain's approach to Brexit without interruption. Britain gave official notification that it would leave the EU at the end of March, meaning it will leave the bloc, which is its biggest trading partner, in March 2019.

Andrea Leadsom, leader of the Britain's lower legislative house, said that Brexit would require a lot of legislation, including a law to enshrine current EU rules into British law, known as the "Great Repeal Bill". "We will build the broadest possible consensus for our Brexit plans and that means giving Parliament the maximum amount of time to scrutinise these bills by holding a two-year session of Parliament," she said.

The government's plan for the next parliament will be outlined in the Queen's speech on Wednesday, and will include laws needed to deliver Brexit and new immigration legislation. May has said that Britain's vote to leave the EU was in part a vote to reduce immigration. The government also said the extra legislative time was needed to pass its domestic agenda. However, it faces the prospect of delivering a Queen's speech while still thrashing out a deal with Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party.

May's Conservatives need the support of the Protestant DUP's 10 lawmakers to have a majority in parliament, and some have called for the government to take a cross-party approach to Brexit given May's weakened position following the election.—Reuters ■

People practice yoga to mark upcoming International Day of Yoga in Thailand

People practice yoga as they participate in an event to mark the upcoming International Day of Yoga in Bangkok, Thailand, on 18 June 2017. On 11 December 2014, the United Nations General Assembly designated on 21 June as the International Day of Yoga. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Japanese film given top award at French animation festival

PARIS — Japanese film "Lu Over the Wall" directed by Masaaki Yuasa won the top award for feature films at the Annecy International Animation Film Festival, which was held in France through Saturday.

It was the first time since 1995 that a Japanese film has won the top feature film award, when "Pom Poko" directed by Isao Takahata received the Cristal for a Feature Film.

Japanese feature film "In This Corner of the World" directed by Sunao Katabuchi won the Jury Award at the festival, held for the 41st time.

"Lu Over the Wall" depicts the friendship between a boy and a mermaid who likes singing and dancing, while "In This Corner of the World" portrays the life of a young woman living in Hiroshima Prefecture at the end of World War II.

Around 2,800 films including feature and short films as well as television and commissioned films from 85 countries and regions were submitted to the festival, the organizer said.—Kyodo News ■

Landslide majority in sight for Macron as France elects parliament

PARIS — French voters cast their ballots in the second round of a parliamentary election on Sunday expected to hand President Emmanuel Macron a landslide majority that should allow him to embark on deep social and economic reforms.

The vote comes just a month after the 39-year-old former banker became the youngest head of state in modern French history, promising to clean up French politics and revive the euro zone's second biggest economy.

Turnout, though, could touch record lows, in a sign of voter fatigue after seven months of campaigning and voting, but also of disillusionment and anger with politics that could eventually complicate Macron's reform drive.

Macron's centrist Republic on the Move (LREM) party is barely more than a year old, yet pollsters project it will win as many as 75-80 per cent of seats in the 577-seat lower house.

"People know it's already a done deal," Alex Mpoy, a 38-year-old security guard told Reuters TV, echoing the apathy of many voters who intend to abstain.

Macron cast his vote early in the morning in the seaside resort of Le Touquet before flying to a ceremony outside Paris to mark the anniversary of Charles de Gaulle's 1940 appeal for French resistance to Nazi Germany's occupation.

Polls show Macron is on course to win the biggest parliamentary majority since that held by de Gaulle's own conservatives in 1968.

Many of Macron's lawmakers will be political novices, something which will change the face of parliament at the expense of the conservative and socialist parties that have ruled France for decades.

One of the challenges for Macron as he sets out to overhaul labour rules, cut tens of thousands of public sector jobs and invest billions of public cash in areas including job training and renewable energy, will be to keep such a diverse and politically raw group of lawmakers united behind him.

"There has never been such a paradox between a high concentration of power and strong tensions and expectations in terms of changes," Laurent Berger, head of France's CFDT union, told the weekly Journal du Dimanche. "There is no place for euphoria in victory. There is no providential man, no miracle solution".—Reuters ■

TRADEMARK CAUTION

KABUSHIKI KAISHA KING JIM (also trading as KING JIM CO., LTD.), a company registered under the laws of Japan, which is located at 10-18, Higashi Kanda 2-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 101-0031 Japan, is the sole owner of the following trademark:

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Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated:19th June 2017.

Actress Elizabeth Banks. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Elizabeth Banks was asked to get plastic surgery

LONDON — Actress Elizabeth Banks says her first Hollywood agent asked her to go under the knife to get role in films.

The 43-year-old actress-director says she is happy she did not pay attention to the agent's suggestion, reported Contactmusic.

"The first agent I ever met in this industry told me to get a b**b job. I was so grateful that I didn't have enough money at the time to follow his advice. I also did not sign with him despite that," Banks says.—PTI ■

Harry Potter actor Sam Beazley dies at 101

LONDON — Actor Sam Beazley, who played Professor Everard in "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix", has passed away. He was 101.

Beazley died in his sleep on June 12, reported The Times.

"Actor and artist, died in his sleep on 12th June 2017, aged 101. Beloved brother-in-law, uncle and great uncle. Funeral on 21st June, at Mortlake Crematorium," said the actors family.

He began his professional acting career as a teenager in 1930s, which saw him acting in films like "Hamlet" and "Romeo and Juliet". He returned to the profession in his seventies, after serving in World War II and later running an antiques shop for several decades. Beazley also appeared in movies such as "Don Bosco" and "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason". He most recently did guest roles on "Foyles War", "Kingdom" and "Casualty", all in 2007. —PTI ■

DiCaprio hands over Brando's Oscar, other artefact to US govt

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio has returned Marlon Brando's best actor Oscar statuette to the US government as part of an investigation into the money laundering by a state-owned Malaysian investment fund.

DiCaprio received Brando's Oscar and other artefacts as his 38th birthday gift in 2012 from business associates at Red Granite Pictures, which also funded his film "Wolf of Wall Street".

The 42-year-old actor has voluntarily handed over the Oscar statuette and other expensive gifts amid investigation into a USD 3.5-billion money-laundering scheme.

Authorities from the US Department of Justice suspect that Red Granite co-founder Riza Aziz may have helped his stepfather, Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, embezzle USD 4.5 billion from a political development scheme, reported Los Angeles Times.

The misappropriated funds were used to form the production company that funded the Martin Scorsese-directed movie, about a corrupt stockbroker.

The laundered money was used to fund a lavish lifestyle, including purchases of artwork and jewellery, the acquisition of luxury real estate and luxury yachts, the payment of gambling expenses, and the hiring of musicians and celebrities to attend parties.

Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio . **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The multi-million-dollar artworks in question include a Picasso painting, a photograph by Diane Arbus and a Jean- Michel Basquiat collage, which were supposedly gifted to DiCaprio by Jho Low, Red Granite's purported financier.

The actor had accepted the art with the intention of auctioning off the pieces to raise money for his charitable foundation, according to his spokesperson said.

DiCaprio has already given the art and the Oscar to US authorities, the spokesperson added.

And though there are no plans at this time for DiCaprio to forfeit the money he received for his work on "The Wolf of Wall Street," his spokesperson noted that the actor intends to offer the return of any "gifts or donations" under speculation with "the aid and instruction of the government. —PTI ■

Carrie Fisher's death caused by sleep apnea, other factors: coroner

LOS ANGELES — The death last year of actor Carrie Fisher, best known for her role as Princess Leia in the "Star Wars" franchise, was due to sleep apnea and other causes, the Los Angeles County Coroner's Office said in a statement on Friday.

Fisher died aged 60 on 27 December, four days after she became unresponsive on a flight from London to Los Angeles and was rushed to a hospital.

Fisher was a mental health advocate who spoke about her struggles with bipolar disorder and cocaine addiction. Aside from her film work, she was also popular as a writer and humorist and her memoir "The Princess Diarist" was released a few weeks before she died. The Los Angeles County Coroner's Office conducted an examination of her body on 30 December and has since found she died of sleep apnea and "other undetermined factors," the coroner's statement said. Fisher also had atherosclerotic heart disease and had used drugs, the statement said, but noted the significance of these factors in relation to her demise had not been ascertained. A watch commander for the coroner's office declined to provide additional details on the findings, referring questions to a representative who was not immediately available. Carrie Fisher came from a Hollywood family, as the daughter of actor Debbie Reynolds and singer Eddie Fisher. The day after Carrie Fisher died, Reynolds, who starred in Hollywood musicals such as "Singin' in the Rain," suffered a stroke and died, aged 84. Eddie Fisher died in 2010.

Carrie Fisher poses for cameras as she arrives at the European Premiere of "Star Wars, The Force Awakens" in Leicester Square, London on 16 December, 2015. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Born in Beverly Hills, Carrie Fisher got her show business start at age 12 in her mother's Las Vegas nightclub act. She made her film debut as a teenager in 1975 comedy "Shampoo," two years before her breakthrough in the first "Star Wars" movie.

Fisher reprised the role in later "Star Wars" sequels, gaining sex symbol status in "Return of the Jedi" in 1983 when her Leia character wore a metallic gold bikini while enslaved by the diabolical Jabba the Hutt.—Reuters ■

Foodies queue up for artisan bread in Toyama

TOYAMA (Japan) — An award-winning baker on the Sea of Japan coast prefecture of Toyama is attracting hordes of food lovers eager to sample the distinctive textures and tastes of his bread, with his signature plain loaves often selling out.

Susumu Miyakoshi, 67, opened his "Etchu Iwase Bakery Miya" after he moved from Tokyo to Toyama city a year and a half ago, and the queue in front of his bakery seems to grow each day as his bread has become popular as a souvenir as well.

In February, Miyakoshi, who was trained at bakeries in Germany and Tokyo, won the top prize in the plain loaf category of the "Bakery Japan Cup" in Osaka.

Judges at the nationwide competition took into consideration whether the bread was made from domestic flour and local ingredients as criteria for selection, although widely-used imported flour is considered rich in protein and easy to rise. Miyakoshi chose the "Norin 10" local wheat for his prize-winning bread.

Norin 10 was developed by Japanese agricultural scientist Gonjiro Inazuka (1897-1988), a Toyama Prefecture native. Gaines, the wheat variety used for the "green revolution" of the 1960s that spared a food crisis in Asia, was bred using Norin 10 as a parent. While Norin 10 is not a usual kind for bread making, Miyakoshi blended it with other domestic flour and succeeded in developing unique sweetness and squishy texture.

Susumu Miyakoshi serves loaves of plain bread just after baking at Etchu Iwase Bakery Miya in Toyama, Japan, on 13 June, 2017. Miyakoshi, who was trained in Germany and Tokyo, won the top prize in the plain loaf category at the Bakery Japan Cup in Osaka earlier in the year. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

"I wanted to use a globally known wheat that Toyama can be proud of," he said. Miyakoshi became an independent baker in 1982 and opened his own store in Tokyo, but not all went well in his career. Despite a good reputation, he had to close the shop in November 2014 as the lease agreement for the commercial premises was not renewed.

As his affection for his hometown grew, he decided to rebuild his career in Toyama and opened the Bakery Miya in December 2015.

While his bread is as popular as ever now, Miyakoshi sells it only at his shop and does not take preorders for his loaves because he wants to "deliver them to as many people as possible."

"Tasty bread will make people happy. Please come and taste not only my plain bread but also other kinds," Miyakoshi said. —Kyoyodo News ■

Rare Japanese grouse chicks hatch in gov't-backed breeding programme

TOYAMA — Two artificially incubated Japanese rock ptarmigan eggs hatched in a government-backed breeding programme, a zoo in central Japan said on Sunday.

It was the first time that eggs from captively bred birds of the alpine grouse species were artificially incubated and hatched in the government-backed breeding programme.

Supplied photo taken in Toyama, Japan, on 18 June, 2017, shows chicks hatched from Japanese rock ptarmigan eggs that were artificially incubated in a government-backed breeding programme. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

The eggs were among the 19 laid since late May at the Toyama Municipal Family Park Zoo. The programme is being undertaken by the Toyota zoo, Ueno Zoological Gardens in Tokyo and Omachi Alpine Museum in Nagano Prefecture, using 22 eggs collected at Mt Norikura in central Japan.

The Japanese rock ptarmigans, an endangered species designated as a special natural treasure, are mainly found in mountainous areas of the country's central regions. Their population is estimated to have been around 3,000 in the 1980s, but have declined to less than 2,000 due partly to their vulnerability to natural enemies such as foxes and crows. —Kyoyodo News ■

Home of England "Bloody Mary" queen re-opens after facelift

LONDON — A 12th century castle which played a part in seeing the first female queen gain the throne of England has re-opened after a 1.6-million-US-dollar conservation project.

Framlington Castle in the southern county of Suffolk, was used over centuries as the centre of a vast network of power and influence to a 17th century home for the poor.

It reopened its doors Friday giving visitors a chance to explore its rich history spanning 900 years.

To mark the re-opening, a new exhibition has been created within the castle's workhouse, which features an interactive walkthrough of the castle's varied owners that bring the history of its past inhabitants to life.

Previous residents include Mary Tudor, daughter of King Henry VIII, who was stationed at the castle when she was proclaimed queen of England in 1553. —Xinhua ■

mitv Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(19-6-2017 07:00am ~ 20-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Innovative Handiworks Based on The Art of Line Drawing
07:46	Am	Five Hair Relic Enshrined Pagoda
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	History and Mystery Behind The Caves
08:50	Am	Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Lucky Boy
09:42	Am	Conflict & Solution Between Man & Elephant
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
10:42	Am	A Chance to Change Their Future

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-8) (Part-1)
07:53	Pm	My Life & My Art
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes: Pre Kayaw (Their Life and Customs) (Part-1)
08:51	Pm	Wet Markets in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market

(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
(19-6-2017, Monrday)

6:00 Am
♦ Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw
7:00 Am
♦ Breakfast News
7:35 Am
♦ MRTV Travelogue
8:35 Am
♦ Women in Myanmar Society
9:10 Am
♦ Peace Music Festival Talks
9:45 Am
♦ World Heritage "Tiner" (Germany)
10:30 Am
♦ Soultion for Agriculture
11:10 Am
♦ Documentary (ASEAN)
11:35 Am
♦ MRTV Youth's Programme
12:50 Pm
♦ Fine Arys - Bosom of Dramatic Performance
1:50 Pm
♦ Tasy Trip
3:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
4:20 Pm
♦ University of Discance Education (TV Lecture) - Second Years (Geography)
5:05 Pm
♦ This Week's Special Interest
5:20 Pm
♦ Teleplay
5:35 Pm
♦ Yes or No Talks Show
6:20 Pm
♦ Football Magazine
6:35 Pm
♦ Law Affairs
7:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series
8:00 Pm
♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report
8:35 Pm
♦ Documentary (Mandalay Palace)
9:15 Pm
♦ TV Drama Series

Mayweather says accepted McGregor fight as fans wanted it

MICHIGAN — Boxer Floyd Mayweather agreed to a cross-over fight with mixed martial arts champions Conor McGregor because his fans wanted it, the 40-year-old has said.

Mayweather, who retired in 2015 with an unbeaten record of 49-0, and UFC lightweight champion McGregor will clash in a 12-round fight in Las Vegas on 26 August after teasing the event for nearly a year.

"McGregor is a tough competitor. People all around the world demanded this fight so I had to give them what they wanted to see," Mayweather is quoted as saying by sports website BlackSports Online.com. "They asked for this fight. I was in retirement, but they wanted me back and I'm back."

The multi-division boxing world champion is favourite to beat McGregor, who never boxed professionally, in Las Vegas.—Reuters ■

Lyon in 'advanced talks' to sign Chelsea forward Traore

LYON — Olympique Lyonnais are expecting competition from various clubs as they hold "advanced talks" to sign midfielder Bertrand Traore from Premier League champions Chelsea, the Ligue 1 team's president Jean-Michel Aulas said. The 21-year-old, who made 12 appearances for Chelsea in the 2015-16 season, was loaned out to Ajax Amsterdam last season, where he scored 13 goals to help them reach the Europa League final and finish second in the Dutch league.

"We want to bring Bertrand Traore to the club," Aulas told reporters at a press conference to unveil the club's newly signed defender Fernando Marcal. "There are advanced talks there, but many clubs are interested. "We absolutely want to do the deal." The Burkina Faso international signed a new three-year contract at Chelsea in 2016.—Reuters ■

Rewarding ceremony of 2017Myanmar Domestic Golf Tour held in Bago

THE fourth day and rewarding ceremony for 2017 Myanmar Domestic Golf Tour was held at Hantharwaddy Golf Resort in Bago yesterday.

The ceremony held after the third match was mainly sponsored by Myawaddy Bank limited under the supervision of Myanmar Golf Association (MGA) and Myanmar Professional Golfer Association (PGA).

Firstly, secretary-General of MGA U Myat Khaing contributed Ks 20 lakh to the Golf Resort and General Manger of Hantharwaddy Golf Resort U Tint Zaw received the cash.

Chairman of MGA U Ko Ko Aye also paid certificate of honour to Managing Director of Myawaddy Bank Limited U Yu Wai.

Amateur male golfer Lin thae who got third prize in the second day and professional golfer Zaw Zaw Latt who got third prize in the third day as the Hole in One prizes of the competition were rewarded 10 lakh respectively by U Yu Wai, U Ko Ko Aye and Director of Hantharwaddy Golf Resort, Mr. Khin. Afterward, in amateur female golfer competition, May Oo Khaing who got second by 285 strokes and Thin Wai Khaing who won first by 231 strokes were rewarded by U Sein Than, Director of the golf resort.

Professional golfer Thein Zaw Myint (R) receives first prize as he won first in the competition. **PHOTO:MGA**

In amateur male golfer competition U Than Tun gave prices for Thiha Htay who got second by 285 strokes and Maung Mae who won first prize by 284 strokes.

In professional golfer competition, Thein Zaw Myint who was able to get ten under par strokes was rewarded first prize by U Yu Lwin and U Soe Thein, Vice Managing Director of MEC.

All the 2017 Myanmar Domestic Golf Tours were sponsored by Mottama Holdings Co.,Ltd, Myanmar Zwe Mann Co.,Ltd, MWD Bank, Phyo Si Thu Teak Plantatoin (Myanmar) & Bago Yoma Eco Resort , KBZ Bank, Innwa Bank and Shwe Mann Thu Express Group respectively.—Phoe Thaw Zin ■

Myanmar takes third for U-15 match in Vietnam

MYANMAR took third place in U-15 Invitation Cup 2017 that was held in Vietnam after playing match with host Vietnam yesterday evening.

Myanmar drew Vietnam 0-0 and Indonesia stroke Vietnam 1-0 after the last matches

Indonesia gained 7 points and won the first, Vietnam gained 5 points to second and Myanmar achieved 2 points to third respectively.

Myanmar was defeated by Indonesia 4-1 at the open match of the tournament and got drew Chinese Taipei and Vietnam 0-0 respectively.

Myanmar took participates in the tournament so as to train the ability and experiences for 2017 AFF U 15 Youth Championship that is going be hosted in Thailand.—Ye Yint Shine ■

Li makes history at US Open before third round 82

ERIN, (Wisconsin) — Haotong Li made a small piece of history by surviving the halfway cut at the US Open, but closed out a frustrating third round with a quadruple-bogey at the par-five 18th on Saturday.

Li found the rough with his tee shot on 18 and hacked it out with an eight-iron, but his ball settled into a deep divot on the fairway, before his third shot bounded through the green into more nasty grass, from where he took six more shots to hole out for a 10-over 82 at Erin Hills.

The disappointed 21-year-old declined to be interviewed.

The final-hole struggle was in marked contrast to his second-round rally, when he became the first player from China to make the cut at a US Open, according to US Golf Association records.

China's Haotong Li. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

On Friday, Li birdied two of his final three holes to make the cut with a shot to spare, even hitting the flagstick with his approach shot at his 17th hole, the par-four eighth.

Li turned professional at age 16 and won the Volvo China Open last year on the European Tour, securing a two-year membership and qualifying for the Rio Olympics.

He is hoping to receive a few sponsor exemptions on the PGA Tour this year and earn enough FedExCup points to have a shot at the Web.com Tour Finals and a path to a PGA Tour card.

Li is among the Chinese golfers following in the footsteps of Liang Wen-chong, who finished eighth at the 2010 PGA Championship. —Reuters ■