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VP U Myint Swe visits Bogyoke Aung San Museum in Yangon which shows the humble life of the late national leader of Myanmar. **PHOTO: MNA**

VP U Myint Swe reviews final preparations for Martyrs' Day

Vice President U Myint Swe yesterday morning visited Martyrs' Mausoleum in Bahan township, Yangon where preparations for the 70th Anniversary Martyrs' Day were under way.

The Vice President, patron

of the Central Committee for the Observance of 70th Anniversary Martyrs' Day, attended a briefing on plans for a graphic presentation of the nation's struggle for independence.

The Vice President also re-

viewed, the renovation of the stairs and ceremonial decorations of the mausoleum and other aspects of the compound.

The Vice President then visited Bogyoke Aung San Museum where preparations

for the ceremony were taking place. He inspected plans to exhibit a statue of Bogyoke Aung San and the late leader's rare photos and personal items.—Myanmar News Agency ■



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Home Affairs Minister commemorates International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking; vows increased drug prevention, services

By Lieutenant General Kyaw Swe, Union Minister for Home Affairs

26th June, 2017

Today, being the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, ceremonies commemorating the international day against drug abuse and illicit trafficking will be celebrated across the nations in the world.

Since the time when the United Nations General Assembly designated 26 June as the international day against drug abuse in 1987 regional prevention teams that have been fighting against narcotic and psychotropic drugs will observe their 30th anniversary celebration today.

Similarly, seized narcotic drugs will be burned in Yangon, Mandalay and Taunggyi simultaneously as in previous years.

With a view for the whole populace to be able to participate in the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, starting from the year 1998, there have been annual competitions for short story, article, poem, song, photograph, computerized poster, freelance slogan writing and contests for painting, cartoon, poster and computerized painting for primary, middle and high school students. Counternarcotics agencies will present prizes to the winners during today's ceremonies.

This year, 107 prize winners out of 3,246 competitors in all will be rewarded. Regional teams formed by central counternarcotics committee include NGOs, civil society groups, religious organizations and entrepreneurs at various levels, including the Nay Pyi Taw Council, region, state, district, township, ward and village officials.

The government has been eradicating by two methods—eradication of production and eradication of drug abuse. Under the process of eradication of production, prevention and management, we have promoted development assistance, crop substitution, assistance with livestock breeding, and we have controlled precursor chemicals. Under the process of eradication of drug abuse, we have promoted medical treatment, rehabilitation, youth education and international cooperation.

The prevention and management team performed 17 regional special operations between May 2013 and February 2017. Teams for development assistance performed built roads and bridges. They also enhanced education, health, reclaimed farming land, promoted water projects and power plants and TV transmission

stations. The team also promoted the new construction of religious edifices and residences. The team also promoted livelihoods by promoting better livestock breeding practices, including veterinary treatment and dissemination of breeding knowledge.

In order to provide alternatives to poppy cultivation the team has promoted the distribution of perennial plants, seeds, fertilizers and insecticides, better techniques, farming test plots and reclamation of farm land.

The team also promoted enhanced control systems for precursor chemicals used in the manufacture of narcotics, including the creation of a monitoring committee for controlled substances tasked with supervising storage, shipment, purchasing and distribution of imported precursor chemicals in accord with the law.

For systematic treatment of drug abuse, 26 centers for medical treatment of drug addicts and 47 branches were opened in townships as well as 46 methadone substitution centers opened in townships in which drug abuse is critical.

In addition to direct treatment solutions, public health projects aimed at reducing drug abuse are also being implemented. Currently, one-stop services are also being provided for addicts.

Being a chronic illness, drug addiction cannot be easily cured. Only rehabilitation can help addicts be free from abusing drugs. Hence, the rehabilitation department had formed voluntary drug supervision teams to perform the tasks of giving physical and spiritual rehabilitation to drug addicts who received treatments, including vocational training and supplementary care services.

To reduce drug abuse rates, students are directly and indirectly being educated at an early age, using school-level educative teams, presenting talks, wall-chart writings, distributing slogans, including drug prevention messages in school lessons, presenting shows and exhibitions and providing teacher trainings on the subject of drug prevention.

In addition to the education sector, MRTV is broadcasting educational programs about the dangers of drugs in Myanmar in English and ethnic languages with the intention of providing knowledge about the dangers of narcotics.

Counternarcotics efforts also involves cooperation with neighboring nations in the Mekong region, with

the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multisectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC), the UN and other international organizations.

To assist with the process of drug abuse prevention UNODC is conducting a survey in Myanmar.

The survey of drug abuse will include information required to protect the country from the dangers of drugs, hence the need to make concerted effort in respective sectors for its success.

Addicts require better services and treatment without being stigmatized or discriminated against. Addicts deserve our sympathy and the understanding that drug addiction is a curable illness.

As for the education sector, it needs to be well versed in the causes of drug abuse, so that it can impart knowledge about drug addiction that is empirical and grounded in facts.

Regarding drug prevention, success must be measured by reduction of drug-related crimes, dangers and fear. Progress in human societies are measured by indices that show the extent by which drug abuse is reduced as well as drug seizure figures. This is how we will build a secure and happy human society which is free from dangers of narcotics.

While planning projects and working processes it was discovered that the dangers of drugs can be effectively reduced only if there are adequate systems to address the sources of the problem and if such systems are implemented in a fact-based, empirical way.

Drug crimes closely correlated with illegal international trafficking and the activities of organized criminal networks. With the development of new commercial routes, crimes involving the trafficking illicit goods, including drugs, have increased, hence the need to prevent illicit trafficking and cross-border crimes with increased fervor.

The Union and state governments are coordinating all governmental organizations and departments to fight drug crimes and drug abuse. Likewise the public needs make individual efforts and join in common cause.

In accord with this year's motto, "Listen First" the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, we hereby call on our people to listen to the concerns and needs of our youth and simultaneously support their development and health by reducing drug abuse.

Mandalay Night Market opens to massive crowds

MANDALAY will formally open the Yandanapon Night Market consisting three zones at the foot of Mandalay Hill in mid-July, according to a report yesterday in Mandalay Yandanapon newspaper.

The market which held a three-day pre-sale event on 23-25 June will offer three stall sales packages including 20 x 40-foot stalls for Ks 800,000 per month in Zone A, 10 x 20-foot stalls for Ks 400,000 per month

at Zone B, and 10 x 10-foot cosmetic stalls for Ks 120,000 per month and food stalls for Ks 150,000 per month.

Dr Ye Lwin, the mayor of Mandalay, and other officials attended the soft opening ceremony. At the three-day pre-opening the market featured food stalls, traditional music, puppet shows and art exhibitions. The well attended event ran from 4 p.m. until 10 p.m.—ThihaKoKo (Mandalay)■



A large number of shoppers and window-shoppers visit Mandalay Night Market. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MDY)

National League for Democracy holds seventh formal meeting

Myanmar's governing party addressed economic and political challenges faced by the nation and by various regions and states, obstacles to the peace process and internal party issues at its seventh annual leadership meeting in Bahan on Saturday and Sunday. Attendees included 120 members of the central executive committee, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, region and state NLD central committee members, chief ministers and region and state hluttaw speakers.

Region and state NLD central committee members read out

political reports.

Other topics taken up by the conference included the drug problem, land seizures and financial issues. The party also reorganized aspects of its bureaucracy, established new political courses, collected annual membership fees, planned a youth conference and organized documentation of region and state reports. The NLD leadership predicted strong economic growth and increased investment, said Monywa U Aung Shin, a central committee member.

—Myanmar News Agency ■



NLD members meet the press after the seventh formal meeting. **PHOTO: MNA**



Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye presents cash assistance for victims of battles. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister pledges support for victims of battles in Shan State and other northern residents

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye visited Shan State to provide assistance to residents of the northern territory, where armed conflict between armed ethnic and government forces have caused displacement and other societal challenges.

Dr. Win Myat Aye pledged Ks3 million to purchase a vehicle for humanitarian relief work, Ks2.4 million for traditional cultural organisations and Ks50,000 each for hospitalized victims of recent violence in the area.

The Union Minister also

promised the government would provide continued socioeconomic development to enable the state to become more resilient to natural and manmade disasters and to promote democratic standards.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister and his entourage visited the Sin Shwe Li Home for the elderly, donated clothes and money and spoke with elderly residents. The Union Minister also visited the Youth Training School of Social Welfare Department in Lashio and greeted young trainees. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Transport and Communications Minister meets Rahkine staff, touts MraukU airport project

Union Minister for Transport and Communications U Thant Zin Maung visited MraukU in Rakhine State in northwest Myanmar yesterday to pledge his support for their work.

The Union Minister emphasized the importance of their role, especially in Rakh-

ine, one of the least developed states in Myanmar. After his address, the Union Minister inspected progress on a new airport project in MraukU.

The construction project is one of the most important in Rakhine State as it will open the region to more tourism and

investment.

MraukU was once the capital of the ancient Rakhine Kingdom. Promoters of the construction project say that the many pagodas and other ancient structures in the area will help create a destination to rival Bagan. —IPRD ■

Antiquated buses to be retired by end of June



Buses that are 22 years or older will be prohibited from taking the roads at the end of June, according to an announcement yesterday by the Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA).

On 20 June, Yangon Bus Service, an agency of YRTA, submitted a list of 4,700 municipal transport vehicles that have been in service since 1995 and need to be retired by the end of

the month.

"We are permitting older coaches to run until the end of June and afterwards, they will be replaced with new buses," said Dr. Maung Aung of the authority. Under the replacement program, older busers started to be deregistered and retired November. Bus operators who fail to observe the rules will face revocation of operating license.

Although the list shows the number of registered city buses at over 7,000, less than 3,800 are in operation.

The list includes 4,700 outdated transport vehicles including minibuses, which will be replaced with 2,600 new buses – 1,000 bought by the government and 1,600 by the private sector, said Dr. Maung Aung. —Su Hnin Lei ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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ACTING CHIEF EDITORAye Min Soe,
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**EXPATRIATE CONSULTANT EDITOR**Mark Angeles,
markrangeles@gmail.com
Solomon Moore,
solomon.moore@mutualinformationasia.com**SENIOR EDITORIAL CONSULTANT**

Kyaw Myaing

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

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

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

MEKONG Innovative Startup Tourism (MIST) intend to incubate new tourism industry companies, match them with investors and expand Myanmar's travel sector in 2018, according to press release issued on Saturday.

MIST began in December 2016 as a joint venture between the Mekong Tourism Coordinating Office and Government of Australia and Asian Development Bank (ADB) supported Mekong Business Initiative (MBI). It includes a Startup Accelerator for early-stage startups from Cambodia, Laos PDR, Myanmar and Viet Nam. MIST received more than 250 applications in 2017.

GoP, a travel tech startup from Myanmar, won the first prize of US \$10,000 at Mekong Business Initiative Tourism Innovation Grants Award.

On 9 June, MIST tourism accelerator announced three other winners of the Mekong Business Initiative Innovation Grants Award for 2017, includ-



Mekong Innovative Startup Tourism (MIST) in progress. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

ing Artisan Origins of Traditional Arts and Ethnology Centre (TAEC), a social enterprise from Laos, Cambodia's Camboticket and Viet Nam's Chameleon City. The travel tech startups each received \$7,000 grants.

"We are so happy to receive award of 2017 Mekong Business Innovation Grant and proud to win the prize representing from Myanmar. During the MIST Tourism Accelerator program, Topics shared by mature startups, inves-

tors and big travel tech companies were also very interesting. We plan to use the grant that we received to scale our technology and marketing," said U Nyunt Win Aung, CEO of GoP which won first prize. —GNLM ■

Ongo Recruitment Day held in Myanmar

ONGO Digital Payment Services held a recruitment session for sales agent positions at Sule Shangri-La hotel in Yangon on 24 June, according to a press release from work.com.mm.

The company announced that it would pay successful ap-

plicants a monthly salary of at least Ks 300,000. Successful candidates would also be provided Lenovo tablets and the opportunity to earn monthly performance bonuses. Ongo Company will also cover mobile top-ups, internet access and transpor-

tation expenses to the sale staff. Ongo will provide capacity building and training courses to the sale staff, including the financial training courses.

Thuta Lin, a public relations manager from work.com.mm, said "we are very proud to

hold the Ongo Recruitment Day jointly with The Ongo Digital Payment Services Company. We also believe that these kinds of job fair will be effective for the people who are currently looking for the job opportunities". —GNLM ■

Art competition to be held to commemorate Martyr Day

An art competition will be held to commemorate the Martyrs' Day at the Old Secretariat on 19 July, according to a report from Myanmar News Agency yesterday.

The competition will be held with an aim to honour

the Martyrs for their sacrifices through art. Children between 10 and 14 in Yangon region were invited to participate in the competition.

Winners will be selected based on creativity, interpretation of Martyrs' Day and overall

aesthetics.

The winner will receive a cash price of Ks 300,000, first runner-up will receive Ks 200,000 and the second runner-up, Ks 100,000. Other finalists will receive consolation prizes. All participants will

receive a certificate of honour.

The 40 art works, including the winners' art, will be exhibited in the art gallery at the Old Secretariat on Martyrs' Day. The exhibition will be open to the public.—Phoe Thant (MNA) ■

Carpentry training course opened for Rakhine State youth

A carpentry training course was held at MraukU District Rural Development Department office in Rakhine State, according to a report from Information and Public Re-

lations Department (IPRD) yesterday.

The two-week carpentry training course started on 23 June, 2017 to enhance job opportunities for Minbya,

Kyauktaw and Myaybon township youth.

Trainers from Dual Tech are leading the training course. Fifty trainees from the four townships are at-

tending the two-week training course. Thirty per cent of the coursework will focus on class work, while the remaining time will focus on carpentry techniques.— District IPRD ■

Write for us

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

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



Traditional shoulder wool bags sell well in schooling season

According to the bag producers, the market is very active before and beginning of schooling period starting from June. In the remaining months, the market is in the normal condition. The price of bag is based on size and design. The good quality bag is worth Ks6,000 the most this season.—Nway Nadi (Myitnge) ■

Trade deficit tops \$1.4 billion in current FY

was \$91 million in FY2012-2013 and increased to \$2.555 billion in FY2013-2014, \$4.109 billion in FY2014-2015, \$5.441 billion in FY2015-2016 and \$5.5 billion in FY2016-2017. Among the factors to blame for the trade deficit are increases in luxury imports and decrease in export trade.—
Shwe Khine ■

**Border trade over US\$1.4 billion,
decrease of US\$ 19 million in export**

1 million at Kengtung, US\$17.7 million at Tachilek, US\$161 million at Myawady, US\$32.6 million at Kawthoung, US\$35.8 million at Myeik, US\$1.97 million at HteeKhee, under US\$1 million at Mawtaung, under US\$1 million at Maese, under US\$1 million at Sittway, US\$2.24 million at Maungtaw, US\$6.27 million at Tamu and US\$9.39 million at Reed.—GNLM ■

Only left-hand drive vehicles permitted to import next year

Most imported foreign-made cars in Myanmar are right-hand drive vehicles from Japan. After 2018, imported left-hand drive cars will likely originate in China and South Korea.—200 ■

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

တနင်္ဂနွေနေ့တိုင်း **“Sunday Special”** အချုပ်ပို (၈)
မျက်နှာပါဝင်သော The Global New Light of Myanmar
နေ့စဉ်ထုတ် သတင်းစာကို အောက်ပါမြို့များတွင် ဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

နေပြည်တော်

မြန်မာ့အသံနှင့်ရေဒီယိုဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၇) နေပြည်တော်၊
သတင်းနှင့်စာနယ်ဇင်းလုပ်ငန်း (ရုံးချုပ်)၊
စီမံရေးရာဌာန၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၄၂၁၁၈

နေပြည်တော်

နေပြည်တော်သတင်းစာတိုက် (တပ်ကုန်း)
ဧည့်သည်ခန်းမ၊ ရေပင်လမ်းခွဲ၊ နေပြည်တော်၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၆၇၃၆၁၄၈၊ ၀၆၇၃၆၁၂၉

ရန်ကုန်

The Global New Light of
Myanmar သတင်းစာတိုက်၊ အမှတ် ၁၅၀၊
ငါးထပ်ကြီးဘုရားလမ်း၊ ဟန်းမြို့နယ်၊ ရန်ကုန်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၁၀၆၀၄၅၃၂၊ ၀၉၉၇၄၄၂၄၁၄

မန္တလေး

လမ်း (၂၀ x ၂၀) ကြား၊ (၈၂ x ၈၃) လမ်းကြား၊ ပုလဲခွေ
ရောင်းရင်း၊ မန္တလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၂၃၂၂၂၀၂၊ ၀၂၃၂၂၅၀၀

တောင်ကြီး

ရုံးကြီးလမ်း၊ သစ်တောရပ်ကွက်၊ တောင်ကြီးမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၈၁၂၁၁၆၄၊ ၀၉၅၂၁၄၃၇၇

မကွေး

နတ်မောက်လမ်း၊ တပ်မ (၈၈) တပ်နယ်ချေးအနီး၊
မကွေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၆၃၂၃၇၃၂

မန္တလေး

မြို့သစ် (၃-၁)၊ အမှတ် (၁) လမ်းသွယ်၊ မြို့ပတ်လမ်း၊
ကျိုင်းတုံမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၄၂၂၄၉၂

ကလေး

အောင်ဇေယျရပ်ကွက်၊ မြို့နယ်အားကစားကွင်းအနီး၊
ကလေးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၃၂၂၁၃၃

မြစ်ကြီးနား

အမှတ် (၄၁)၊ ရေရပ်ကွက်၊ အောင်ဆန်းလမ်း၊
မြစ်ကြီးနားမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၄၂၂၄၆၂

စစ်တွေ

ရမ္မာဝတီလမ်းနှင့် ကမ္ဘာ့သိုလ်ရိပ်သာလမ်း၊
မီးတက်ကြီးအနီး၊ မန်းကျည်းခြင်ရပ်ကွက်၊ စစ်တွေမြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၄၃၂၃၀၆၈

လားရှိုး

ဟူးမွန်ကျေးရွာထိပ်၊ ဟူးမွန်ဆည်ဘယ်ဘက်ခြမ်း၊
(၁၂) ရပ်ကွက်၊ မန်ဆူဘုရားရွာ၊ အဝရလမ်း၊
လားရှိုးမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၈၂၂၄၀၆၇

ဗြိတ်

မေတ္တာလမ်း၊ ရှမ်းချောင်းရပ်၊ ကလေးကျေးရွာအုပ်စု၊
ဗြိတ်မြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၅၉၄၂၁၈၃

မော်လမြိုင်

ကြာအင်းကျေးရွာ၊ မော်လမြိုင်မြို့၊
ဖုန်း - ၀၅၇၂၂၂၅၊ ၀၅၇၂၂၇၆၆

မုံရွာ

မုံရွာရပ်ကွက်၊ ဆက်သွယ်ရေးတာဝါတိုင်းအနီး၊
မုံရွာမြို့၊ ဖုန်း - ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၇၊ ၀၇၁၂၆၅၃၃

Hotline - 09974424848
marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

China calls on Pakistan, Afghanistan to improve ties

ISLAMABAD — Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said Saturday that tensions between Pakistan and Afghanistan are not conducive to their stability and development as well as regional cooperation, calling on both countries to meet each other halfway so as to improve bilateral ties.

Wang made the call during his meeting with Pakistani top foreign affairs advisor Sartaj Aziz. He said that Pakistan and Afghanistan should send the international community a positive signal that the two sides are willing to restore mutual trust and conduct cooperation through bilateral channels.

Wang also said that China supports the two sides in seeking to establish a crisis managing mechanism as quickly as possible so as to properly deal with contingencies and to form a trilateral meeting system among foreign ministers of China, Afghanistan and Pakistan in order to enhance dialogue and cooperation in all areas.

For his part, Aziz said that Pakistan is willing to intensify communication and improve re-

lations with the Afghan side and to support the political reconciliation process in Afghanistan as these are in line with both countries' common interests.

The advisor said that the Pakistani side has made political and diplomatic efforts on the issue and is willing to activate relevant dialogue mechanisms and channels, adding that it requires the two sides to meet each other halfway.

He added that Pakistan is willing to form the trilateral foreign ministers meeting system and Pak-Afghan crisis managing mechanism through negotiations to enhance talks and cooperation and properly handle divergences.

On China-Pakistan ties, Wang said that Pakistan is China's all-weather strategic cooperative partner and the relationship is a unique one in China's foreign relations and is tested by history.

He added that China is willing to improve strategic communication and strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with Pakistan in order to maintain the two countries' common



Visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) shakes hands with Pakistani top foreign affairs advisor Sartaj Aziz during their meeting in Islamabad, Pakistan, on 24 June 2017. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

interests.

The Chinese foreign minister highlighted that counter terrorism is an important content of bilateral relations and expressed thanks to the Pakistani side for its firm support for China's fight against the violent terrorist group the "East Turkistan Islamic Movement."

Wang also hailed Pakistan's important contribution to the international counter terrorism

cause as it is in the frontline of global fight against terror.

Aziz said that international counter terrorism situation is getting tougher recently as terror incidents have occurred more frequently, and Pakistan has suffered a lot from terrorist attacks. He pledged that Pakistan will make greater efforts to fight against terrorism of all forms together with the international community.—Xinhua ■

Cambodia ruling party big winner in local elections

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's ruling party of Prime Minister Hun Sen won over two-thirds of the commune chief posts in this month's nationwide local elections, according to official results released Sunday by the National Election Committee.

In the 3 June local elections for 11,572 seats in 1,646 commune councils, the ruling Cambodian People's Party won 1,156 of the commune chief posts and 6,503 seats overall, the results showed.

The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party won 5,007 seats but only 489 commune chief posts, or 29.7 per cent of the total.

Only one commune chief post was won by any of the 10 other political parties that fielded candidates. Elections are held every five years in Cambodia for councils composed of five to 11 members for communes, or clusters of villages.

In the 2012 elections, the ruling CPP won 1,592 of the 1,633 commune chief positions up for grabs, while the now defunct opposition Sam Rainsy Party won 22, the Human Rights Party 18, and the royalist FUNCINPEC party one. The results reflected popular support for the various parties and the challenge opposition parties face to attract more votes in next year's national election.

Voter turnout in the latest local elections was 89.52 per cent, or approximately 7 million of the 7.8 million Cambodians registered to vote, according to the NEC. That was up sharply from about 65 percent in the 2012 local elections. Nearly 2 million Cambodians did not register to vote as they are working in foreign countries, most in Thailand and in South Korea.—Kyodo News ■

Australian police use pepper spray to stop clashes at anti-immigration rally

SYDNEY — Australian police fired pepper spray to break up clashes between right-wing nationalists and anti-racism protesters on the streets of Melbourne on Sunday, the latest protest held by anti-immigration groups in the country. Far-right activists from the True Blue Crew, which says it is opposed to refugees and the "Islamisation" of Australia, faced off with members of a left-wing coalition promoting tolerance in the city.

Australia has seen a rise in far-right activist groups and political parties opposed to Islam

and Asian immigration following a number of 'lone wolf' attacks by home-grown Islamist radicals.

Victoria Police said one person was arrested for possession of a weapon and one detained for breach of the peace, and a knife and a knuckle duster were confiscated.

"Police were forced to deploy capsicum spray when a small number of protestors attempted to breach a police line, with one person given aftercare as a result of the capsicum spray," a spokeswoman said.

TV footage showed national-

ist protesters holding Australian flags on poles or draped around their shoulders, while opposition protesters held placards with anti-racism messages.

The rally attracted hundreds of protesters and a heavy police presence kept the opposing groups separated, local media reported. Australia, a staunch ally of the US, has been on high alert for home-grown Islamist attacks since 2014 and authorities say they have thwarted a number of plots. Far-right groups and political parties like Pauline Hanson's One Nation have seized on the

mood to push anti-immigration agendas. Concern about immigration has also seeped into the mainstream political discourse, with the governing Liberal-National coalition vowing to tighten rules around citizenship and require applicants to demonstrate how they have embraced "Australian values". Phillip Galea, a fixture at rallies organised by the True Blue Crew, was charged with planning a terror attack in August last year. It was the first time federal terrorism laws had been used to target such right-wing groups.—Reuters ■

15 found dead in SW China landslide burying 120

MAOXIAN, (Sichuan) — Fifteen people have been confirmed dead in a landslide in southwest China's Sichuan Province early Saturday that buried more than 120 people from 62 homes.

Rescuers had retrieved 15 bodies from the debris by 10 p.m. Saturday, the rescue headquarters said.

The search and rescue operation was underway overnight and people have been sent to observe potential secondary disasters.

Rescuers were combing the area with life detectors and sniffer dogs but no new signs of life have been found.

"We won't give up as long

as there is a slim of chance," said one rescuer.

Xu Zhiwen, executive deputy governor of the Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture of Aba that the landslide struck, said the identities of 118 missing will be soon made public on the government's website.

Xu also cleared up worries that some tourists might be among the buried as the village is in a tourist site.

All 142 tourists that entered the site Friday have been reached, said Xu.

The landslide from a high part of a mountain in Aba prefecture hit Xinmo Village in Maoxian County at about 6 a.m., blocking a 2-km section

of river and burying 1,600 meters of road.

The provincial government has launched the highest level of disaster relief response and sent rescue teams to the site.

Currently, more than 3,000 workers with life-detection instruments are engaged in the search for survivors.

The provincial department of land and resources said the landslide was caused by heavy rain. An estimated 18 million cubic meters of earth mass fell some 1,600 meters, engulfing half of Xinmo Village.

Geological experts at the site said the chance of survival for the people buried was really slim.—Xinhua ■



Rescuers work at the accident site after a landslide occurred in Xinmo Village of Maoxian County, Tibetan and Qiang Autonomous Prefecture of Aba, southwest China's Sichuan Province, on 24 June 2017. Fifteen people have been confirmed dead in the landslide in Sichuan early Saturday that buried more than 120 people from 62 homes. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

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For **GRABTAXI HOLDINGS PTE. LTD.**,
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
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lmm@kcyangon.com

Accomplishment of Tripartite Results of Virtue

Khin Maung Oo

DURING the administrations of previous governments, foreign investments and joint-ventures between governments and private sectors and citizen entrepreneurs were allowed under the 30-or-60-year-long-term projects in response to the need of the nation, it was learnt. In doing so, some enterprises were found to have been beneficial to the country and its people, with some found to have been harmful to the national interest, environment and social lives of people.

Consecutively allowed projects include extraction of teak, production of oil and natural gas, exploitation of pearl, jade and gems, mining minerals and gravel, building deep sea ports,

urban city development, construction enterprises, factories and mills and exports and imports etc. At the present time when interests of the nation and its people are given priority and proper focus, if people systematically submitted that some permitted projects harmed public benefits and interests, the authorities concerned are scrutinizing them and necessary negotiations are being made. If the complaints were found to be true that they really harmed people's interests, withdrawal of licensed plots, investigating and arresting violators and making violators pay compensation are being carried out. For example, it was found that mineral and metal projects and some power plants were stopped and project contracts were renewed.

Old contracts were found to have had uncertainty for the Union Government's side in sharing benefits between the two sides. Hence, new contracts were inked, resulting in full acquirement of benefits for the public interest. For this, we must acknowledge specific efforts for bringing about the interests of the people and the nation. Moreover, socio-economic life of local people and environmental factors were successfully reviewed. And we must welcome laying down plans as to how to remedy destruction of the natural environment and how to conserve it. We are essentially required to scrutinize projects which greatly affect great impacts over the natural environment and social lives. Now, people's representatives are suggesting that projects for

heavy industries under implementation should be re-scrutinized for the sake of the nation and the people. So, they should be reviewed if they really affected local people's interest, or not.

Thus, in accomplishing projects, we wholeheartedly support the arrangements that projects which will be beneficial to the nation and the public and compatible with the principles of the nation are to be granted in accord with laws, rules and regulations. In addition, tripartite results of virtue which will be beneficial to investors, the nation and the whole populace should be implemented, after careful scrutiny whether projects may harm local people and the environment though they produce good results for the nation. ■

Myanmar and the One Belt One Road Initiative

Kyaw Win (Labour)

According to a news item in the Global New Light of Myanmar, State Counsellor of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, headed a delegation from Myanmar to attend the One Belt One Road Forum held in Beijing, People's Republic of China from 14th to 15th May 2017.

A news item appearing in the 17th of May issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar mentions that "Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Government of the People's Republic of China on Cooperation within the Framework of the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road Initiative" were among the several documents signed by representatives of The Republic of China and The Union of the Republic of Myanmar.

A Press Release appearing in the 18th of May issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar gave some details regarding the participation of the Myanmar Delegation and in particular State Counsellor HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's interventions at the Leaders' Round Table held at Yanqi Lake International Conference Centre in Beijing on the 15th of May. Amongst the interventions made by State Counsellor HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the Round Table according to the Press Release, and I quote "She also stressed that the projects under the Initiative would be most effective if they are designed to re-enforce or complement on-going and future projects of respective nations and regional organizations".

To quote again "She added that each partner country has its own characteristics and the best multi-national initiatives are those aligned well

with national plans". Furthermore "She emphasized the need to ensure that business activities are carried out in a socially and environmentally responsible manner." She also mentioned that "The creation of employment opportunities for local peoples is also an important factor."

With regard to Myanmar's future participation in the OBOR initiative, taking into account both by China and Myanmar the suggestions made by State Counsellor HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, if I may, with due respect to the Economists and Experts in Myanmar, I would like to express my humble opinion particularly regarding the quote "The creation of employment opportunities for local peoples is also an important factor" as most of my long career of over 40 years as a Government servant had been spent with issues of employment and human resources development.

The OBOR initiative will possibly link land and sea routes and reduce the cost and time of transportation of goods. It will benefit participating countries by making available to their people all varieties of goods of acceptable quality at affordable prices. It's envisaged as a two way process by which the participating countries can also export their products to China's markets and other linked countries more efficiently and at a lesser cost than at present. It may hopefully, also improve Myanmar's current border trade with China.

Regarding the creation of employment opportunities, of course the bulk of job creation of the infrastructure building will end with the completion of the roads, railways and the sea ports. After the completion of such projects, national income to Myanmar would be from facilitating trading and the flow of goods between the participating countries. In this regard the greatest employment

opportunities would be created in the service sector, including transport and logistics. After all enhancing Trade and Tourism is one sure way of increasing employment opportunities in the service sector.

Considering the long term effects on manufacturing industries first and foremost the larger of the Myanmar's industries both in the private and public sector could partner with the Chinese and other participating countries' enterprises in investing in profitable undertakings in the Industrial Zones envisaged. Possibly Myanmar industries could, in joint ventures with their foreign counterparts, availing themselves of the advantages of their host country's finance, technology and management practices, take to producing goods for export which are based primarily on resources of Myanmar. Such ventures will create employment opportunities for Myanmar workers. Myanmar must train more competent Managers, Professionals, Technicians and Skilled Workers starting now, to reap the full benefits such increased employment opportunities.

Myanmar's manufacturing entities comprise of more than 90% Small and Medium Enterprises. As a rule SMEs, whether in the formal or informal sectors, account for creating the major share of employment opportunities. The small and medium Myanmar enterprises making a host of consumer products, taking into account their current levels of technology, productivity, and product quality, will need extensive financing to be able to upgrade and compete with imported products in the local consumer products market. Many of the Small and Medium enterprise could perhaps link in to the supply chain of the large enterprises and produce export quality components and parts for International

Manufacturing Concerns and create export earnings and at the same time create substantial employment opportunities for Myanmar workers.

Fortunately for Myanmar, it is rich in natural resources including, land: large areas of which are still virgin; water: with long rivers and creeks crisscrossing the length and breadth of the country and the annual monsoons providing water from above; forests: though somewhat depleted but can still be renewed; oil and gas: many reserves remain untapped; minerals: which have not been extracted fully; a long seacoast: with fish and marine resources which have not been harvested fully and most of all it's people who could show their full worth if only the opportunities were there. In my opinion it may turn out to be a win-win situation if further investments, within the context of OBOR initiative and current national plans, could be made available to the Agriculture, Fishery and Aquaculture, Livestock Breeding and Horticulture sectors to the point of enabling these sectors to substantially increase export of quality assured produce/products to participating countries including China. This will enable Myanmar to use the OBOR initiative to further increase export earnings of the abovementioned sectors, enhance rural employment and incomes and reduce poverty, which incidentally is the first of the Sustainable Development Goals of the UN.

Of course such long term projects of the OBOR initiative spanning possibly decades, will have significant impact on the lives of the peoples and societies, and hence need to be thought out taking into account the social and environmental impacts, to be of optimum benefit to participating countries as was pointed out by State Counsellor HE Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. ■

Workshop for drawing curriculum held

WORKSHOP for drawing curriculum for 4-year degree course at Educational Colleges held at Yangon University Pinlon Hall at 1pm yesterday was attended by Union Minister for Education, Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.

Then, Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi gave memento presents to course trainers and responsible personnel of UNESCO International Bureau of Education – UNESCO's Global Center for Excellence for Curriculum Development.

The Core Competencies Training (CCT) from Educational Colleges and Universities of Education, educationists from Basic Education and educational planning and research department, 85 representatives in total attended the workshop which was held from June 19 to 25.

The Ministry of Education



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi gives memento present to an official.
PHOTO: MNA

is treating new curriculum to be used in Education Degree Colleges and basing on the review of those curriculum drawn in 2015-16 the implementing is carried on with the help of STEM project of UNESCO. The present meeting is the first of the

six and the professionals from UNESCO International Bureau of Education-UNESCO's Global Center for Excellence for Curriculum Development and educationists will explain regarding the curriculum treating.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Village administrator killed in Maungtaw Township

A group of people killed a village administrator with swords in Maungtaw Township on 24 June, according to a report of Myanmar News Agency on 25 June.

A group of 15 people wearing masks broke the doors and attacked Abu Harshine, the village administrator of Chaung-taga village, Padin village-tract

with swords to death while he was at his home. His son Arze-muraman, 22 and daughter Zuhighda, 5, were wounded as they tried to help their father.

The dead body and two victims were sent to the Maung-taw hospital.

The police are searching the terrorists to file charges.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Four local ethnic people were attacked by swords and killed two

VILLAGERS from Tarein village were attacked with knives by terrorists and two of them were killed, it is reported.

While U San Tha, U Kyan Thein Aung, U Aung Kyaw and U Ko Ko Thein were searching the turtles at the foot of the hill on the south side of Kyein Chaung-Taung Pyo car road at about 10 am, 8 terrorists arrived and attacked them with the swords. In the brawl two of the villagers were killed and U Kyan Thein Aung and U San Tha could manage to escape with U Kyan Thein Aung wounded.

According to the statement of the escapees the security

forces of local police station rushed to the place where attack occurred and in clearing the area they got to a group of houses where they interrogated Kalamhyar aged 55. According to his statement Maung Soe and Sarut from Donepaik village of Aung Sit Pyin village-tract were known to leave their house bringing the wooden stick. They were brought to the Kyein chaung station and interrogated.

Dead bodies of U Aung Kyaw and U Ko Ko Thein were discovered near the spot of incident at about 11.30 am yesterday.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Tons of illegal timber seized in Kayin

A total of 6.03 tons of illegal lumber was seized in Hpa-an Township, the capital of Kayin State on 24 June.

Acting on informant information about illegally felled trees were lying on the banks of Thanlwin River near Win Kyan village, Win Kyan village-tract in Hpa-an Township, a joint team of Hpa-an Township Forestry

Department officials and Htone local police searched the area with witnesses and found 87 logs of the Padauk tree or the Pterocarpus macrocarpus, a termite resistant hardwood tree native to Myanmar and India and often used for furniture.

No suspects have yet been reported.—Min Thu, TunTun-Htwe (Hpa-an) ■



The Embassy of India in Yangon organizes Yoga demonstration cum performance at the People's Park.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Third International Day Of Yoga celebrated

TO mark the 3rd International Day of Yoga, the Embassy of India in Yangon organized a Yoga demonstration cum performance at the People's Park, Gate No.1, Pyay Road, on 25 June, 2017 (Sunday) from 0800 – 10.00 hrs.

The event included performance of common yoga protocol which was participated from (12) yoga associations/practitioners in Myanmar. Along

with the programme, the Yoga instructors command on each posture and benefits of Yoga for well being and fitness.

The United Nations General Assembly on 11 December, 2014, designated 21 June as the 'International Day of Yoga' recognizing the benefits of practicing Yoga for holistic approach to health and well-being of the world's population.

The Embassy of India also organized a number of events such as the quiz contest on Yoga and Naturopathy on 18th June, 2017, Essay writing contest on 22nd June, 2017 as curtain raiser events before our main event at various venues like People's Park, Maha Bandula Park, Kyai-kkasan Sports Stadium, Mawlamyine, Taungoo, Zeyawaddy, Sittway and Mandalay.—Phoe Thant ■



Personal of Forest Department and police seize illegal timber in Hpa-an.
PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Merkel's conservatives widen lead three months before German vote

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives widened their lead over the Social Democrats (SPD) to 15 points in a weekly opinion poll by the Emnid institute published on Sunday, three months before the 24 September election.

The Christian Democrats (CDU) and its CSU Bavarian sister party were steady at 39 percentage points in the Emnid poll published in Bild am Sonn-

tag newspaper, while the SPD fell one percentage point to 24.

The SPD had surged from 16 points behind the CDU/CSU in mid-January to a 33-32 lead in mid-February after nominating Martin Schulz as chancellor candidate.

The SPD held even with the CDU/CSU at 33-33 until early April before falling behind.

Merkel's conservatives won three regional elections

in the last three months while the initial euphoria surrounding Schulz, a former European Parliament president, wore off.

Despite the widening lead, Merkel's CDU/CSU is far short of a majority and might have a difficult time finding a junior coalition partner.

Their preferred partner, the Free Democrats (FDP) were steady at 7 percentage points in the Emnid poll. The pro-environ-

ment Greens, who could form a centre-left coalition with the SPD or a centre-right alliance with the CDU/CSU, were up 1 point to 8 percentage points. The far-left Left party were steady at 9.

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD), ostracized by the other parties and without any coalition partner options, was steady at 8 percentage points.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Forest fire threatens Spain's Donana National Park, 2,000 evacuated

MADRID — A forest fire which began late on Saturday close to the town of Moguer in the province of Huelva (south-west Spain) has forced the evacuation of an estimated 2,000 people from several hotels and two campsites in the region and the declaration of a 'Level One' emergency.

The Environment Spokesman for the regional government of Andalusia, Jose Gregorio Fiscal, told Spanish media that the flames have penetrated in the Donana National Park, which is one of the most important wetland reserves in Europe.

He explained that he "did not rule out," that the fire, which began at around 21:30 local time, had been started deliberately at a time when winds of up to 60 kilometers an hour and "high temperatures," had made it impossible to use aircraft to combat the flames.—Xinhua ■

French President Macron, PM Philippe approval ratings rise

PARIS — The popularity of France's President Emmanuel Macron and Prime Minister Edouard Philippe is on the rise, an Ifop poll showed on Sunday.

Some 64 per cent of the people polled said they were satisfied with Macron against 62 per cent in May, the Ifop poll for the Journal du Dimanche showed. Philippe's approval ratings rose to 64 per cent from 55 per cent in May.—Reuters ■

Afghan president calls upon Taliban to join peace process

KABUL — Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani once again called upon Taliban militants on Sunday to give up fighting and join the peace and national reconciliation process. "If you are Afghans you should join the peace process to help stabilize peace and security in the country," President Ghani said in his message after performing Eid prayer in Presidential Palace.—Xinhua ■

London tower blocks evacuated as 34 buildings fail fire tests

LONDON — Britain said 34 high-rise apartment blocks had failed fire safety checks carried out after the deadly Grenfell Tower blaze, including several in north London where residents were forced to evacuate amid chaotic scenes.

British officials have conducted tests on some 600 high-rise buildings across England after fire ravaged the Grenfell social tower block in west London on 14 June, killing at least 79 people in the capital's most deadly blaze since World War II.

The Department for Communities said 34 apartment blocks had failed tests in 17 parts of the country, from London in the southeast to Manchester in the north and Plymouth on the southwest coast.

Prime Minister Theresa May, who was forced to apologise for the government's initial slow response to the tragedy, said the authorities were now racing to establish what needed to be done.

"In some cases it's possible to take mitigating action," she told Sky news. "In others it's been necessary for people to move out on a temporary basis and that is what happened in Camden last night."

Some 4,000 residents of the Chalcots Estate in Camden, north London, were told to vacate their apartments on Friday after the Fire Brigade ruled that their blocks were unsafe.



Firefighters enter the Taplow Tower residential block, as residents were evacuated as a precautionary measure following concerns over the type of cladding used on the outside of the building on the Chalcots Estate in north London, Britain, on 24 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Emerging into the streets on a hot night, residents clutched children, pets and small amounts of clothing and food to try to find a bed in a local hotel or with family or friends. Many were directed to inflatable beds laid out on the floor of the local sports hall.

"I know it's difficult but Grenfell changes everything," Georgia Gould, Leader of Camden Council, said in a statement. "I don't believe we can take any risks with our residents' safety."

May said the local authority would be given all the means necessary to make sure people had somewhere to stay.

Residents complained of first hearing about the evacua-

tion from the media and getting very short notice to leave from city officials going door-to-door. Not all residents agreed to go, as they felt the evacuation was an over-reaction.

"It was farcical communication," 21-year-old Daniel Tackaberry told Reuters outside a nearby sports centre where the local council had laid out air beds. "You don't get everyone to leave this quickly."

Several local councils said they were removing cladding from the facades of buildings that had failed the tests. In Camden, however, the London Fire Brigade found a number of faults, including concern about clad-

ding, faulty fire doors and holes in compartment walls that could help a fire to spread.

Gould, the Camden council's leader, said it would take up to four weeks to repair the blocks that were evacuated.

Communities Secretary Sajid Javid said the government was working with local authorities and fire services to address any problems that had been found. "We are now rapidly identifying buildings of concern: samples are being tested very quickly; fire inspectors are checking the safety of the buildings as a whole; and we have issued interim safety guidance," he said.—Reuters ■

Oil truck explosion kills 146 people in Pakistan

LAHORE, (PAKISTAN) — An oil tanker crashed and exploded on a road in Pakistan on Sunday, killing 146 people, many of whom were collecting leaking fuel before it ignited, government officials and rescue workers said.

The speeding tanker overturned on a sharp bend on a highway on the outskirts of the city of Bahawalpur. The driver lost control when the vehicle blew a tire, a provincial government spokesman said.

A large crowd of people gathered, many to collect fuel in containers, and the tanker exploded in a huge fireball about 45 minutes later. Rescue workers said that about 80 people had been injured.

“People of the area and passers by had started gathering fuel when it exploded, burning everybody,” provincial government spokesman Malik



A soldier stands guard amid burnt out cars and motorcycles at the scene of an oil tanker explosion in Bahawalpur, Pakistan, on 25 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Muhammad Ahmed Khan told Reuters.

An estimated 20 children were among the dead, he said.

The accident happened the day before Pakistan celebrates the Eid al-Fitr festival, when families get together to celebrate the end of the fasting month of Ramadan.

Many bodies were burned beyond recognition and television pictures

showed piles of burnt out motorcycles, apparently those of people who were collecting fuel or watching events unfold.

Police had tried to clear the area before the tanker exploded but people ignored them, Khan said, adding that the initial crash had blocked the road, causing a traffic tailback.

The driver of the tanker survived the accident and was taken into police

custody, he said.

The explosion took place on a stretch of highway cutting through the village of Ramzan Joya.

Khalil Ahmed, a 57-year-old former government employee who lives in the village, said he had lost 12 relatives in the fire, which firefighters extinguished in two hours.

“One body has been recovered and 11 others are still missing,” Ahmed said.

“After the spill, people began calling their relatives to come and gather the oil, and some showed up from nearby villages as well. There must have been 500 people gathered when the fire began.”

Oil is a precious commodity for villagers in Pakistan, where more than 60 percent of the population survives on \$3 a day, according to a World Bank survey.—Reuters ■

At least eleven die in Colombia coal mine explosion

CUCUNUBA, (Colombia) — At least eleven miners at an underground coal mine in Colombia have died and two remain missing after an explosion caused by methane gas, the government said on Saturday.

The explosion took place on Friday in the Cucunuba municipality in Cundinamarca province, an area where illegal underground coal mining is widespread and accidents are not uncommon.

“The partial total is 11

dead, one injured and two trapped,” the government said in a statement.

“The last three bodies have been located and will be taken to the mouth of the mine to be handed over to the relevant authorities.” Legal coal mining in the mountainous Andean country, the world’s fifth-largest exporter of coal, is dominated by Cerrejon, Drummond Co Inc [DRMND.UL] and Glencore PLC [GLEN.L].—Reuters ■



Rescue personnel coordinate to search for missing miners after an explosion at an underground coal mine on Friday, in Cucunuba, Colombia, on 24 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
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(doing business as Sekisui Seikei, Ltd.),
C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,
Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,
Botataung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.
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kmma@kcyangon.com

marketing@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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M5.6 quake rocks central Japan

TOKYO—An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 shook the central Japan prefecture of Nagano on Sunday morning, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. The quake at 7:02 am originated at a shallow

depth in the mountainous region and registered upper 5 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 7 in Otaki and Kiso in the prefecture. One person was reported as receiving minor injuries during the quake. Local officials also received reports of minor damage to houses and fallen rocks, while some train services were temporarily disrupted. After initially reporting the quake as having a magnitude of 5.7, the weather agency revised its assessment to 5.6.—Kyodo News ■



Photo taken 25 June, 2017, shows broken windows at a car dealership in the town of Kiso, Nagano Prefecture in central Japan following a magnitude 5.6 earthquake that struck the area earlier that day. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

UN Secretary General's Message on the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking

26 June 2017

Last year, at the UN General Assembly Special Session on the World Drug Problem (UNGASS), the international community took steps to mobilize a multifaceted, collective response to the full range of issues related to drug abuse and illicit trafficking. Governments came together to chart a new path forward that is more effective and humane, and leaves no one behind.

UNGASS was a ground-breaking moment that provided a detailed and forward-looking blueprint for action. Together, we must honour the unanimous commitments made to reduce drug abuse, illicit trafficking and the harm that drugs cause, and to ensure that our approach promotes equality, human rights, sustainable development, and greater peace and security.

I know from personal experience how an approach based on prevention and treatment can yield positive results. As Prime Minister of Portugal, I used the flexibility afforded by the three international drug control conventions to introduce non-criminal responses to the possession of drugs for personal use. Greater resources were allocated to prevention, treatment, and social reintegration programs, including harm reduction measures.

Portugal now has one of the lowest death rates for drug use in Europe. In 2001, Portugal had the highest rate of HIV amongst injecting drug users in the region; since the introduction of the new policy, this rate, and rates of all sexually transmitted diseases, have decreased dramatically. Overall drug use rates have also fallen.

I am proud of these results and hope this experience will contribute to the discussion and encourage Member States to continue exploring comprehensive and evidence-based solutions.

The UNGASS follow-up process provides us with an institutional framework to learn from each other and share best practices. It is vital that we examine the effectiveness of the War on Drugs approach, and its consequences for human rights.

Despite the risks and challenges inherent in tackling this global problem, I hope and believe we are on the right path, and that together we can implement a coordinated, balanced and comprehensive approach that leads to sustainable solutions.

This would be the best possible way to implement the UNGASS recommendations and to have a positive impact on the lives of millions of people around the world.—UNIC/Yangon

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C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

Dated 26th June 2017

kmma@kcyangon.com

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For **ZOJIRUSHI CORPORATION**,

C/o Kelvin Chia Yangon Ltd.,

Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),

Corner of Mahabandoola Road and Thein Phyu Road,

Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar.

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kmma@kcyangon.com

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France's Macron to back push for global environment rights pact

PARIS—French President Emmanuel Macron promised on Saturday to play an active role in a campaign aimed at securing a global pact to protect the human right to a clean and healthy environment.

He made the pledge at a meeting at Sorbonne Uni-

versity where politicians, legal experts and activists presented him with draft proposals for such a pact.

Macron has been pushing to maintain momentum generated by a global agreement to combat climate change reached in Paris in 2015, after President

Donald Trump pulled the United States out, drawing condemnation from other leaders. "On the basis of this draft proposal, I pledge to act ...so that the work initiated continues, so that we reach a text, convince our partners, place these efforts under the aegis of the UN ...

and from September have the basis of a world environment pact," Macron told his audience.

The pact should eventually be put to the United Nations for adoption and impose legally-binding obligations on signatory states, its drafters — comprising

legal experts from several countries — have said. Attendees at the Sorbonne included former California governor turned green activist Arnold Schwarzenegger and former United Nations chief Ban Ki-moon.

It was chaired by former prime minister Lau-

rent Fabius, who chaired the 2015 conference on climate change. Under the Paris accord, countries committed to reducing emissions of greenhouse gases generated by burning fossil fuels that are blamed by scientists for warming the planet.—Reuters ■

Criminal gangs kill 11 in Mexico's Veracruz state

MEXICO CITY — Eleven people were killed in Mexico's Veracruz state by criminal gangs on Saturday, including four children and the head of the state's federal police and two other federal police officers, Governor Miguel

Angel Yunes said. Veracruz is home to rival drug cartels including the Zetas and Jalisco New Generation, or CJNG, which are fighting over drug trafficking turf.

Armed gunmen shot and killed the three police officers, including the

head of the federal police in Veracruz, Camilo Juan Castagne, at a restaurant in the city of Cardel. In the port city of Coatzacoalcas, two adults and four children were killed, while two women were killed in the city of Orizaba. —Reuters ■

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Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC), Corner of Mahabandoola Road and
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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
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Level 8A, Union Financial Centre (UFC),
Corner of Mahabandoola Road & Thein Phyu Road, Botahtaung Tsp, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
lmm@kcyangon.com

Dated 26 June 2017

University students promote 2020 Tokyo Games in dance, music competition

TOKYO — Students from 12 universities gathered in Tokyo on Saturday to compete in dance, music and sports performances at an event to promote the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Around 1,000 performers and spectators joined the “Tokyo 2020 Student Cultural Festival” at Meiji Gakuin University, hosted by the games organizing committee in cooperation with universities. The event was held to celebrate Olympic Day on 23 June, as the International Olympic Committee was established on that day in 1894.

“Through the event, we want to build momentum and promote Olympic education toward the 2020 Tokyo Games,” said organizing committee spokeswoman Kaori Fujiwara, who added it’s hoped to hold more such events



Students of Tokai University perform at an event in Tokyo on 24 June, 2017, to promote the 2020 Tokyo Olympic and Paralympic Games. They won the best performance award at the event where around 300 university students competed in dance, music and sports performances. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

nationwide ahead of the 2020 Games.

Around 300 students of 16

teams from 12 universities, including Keio University, Toyo University and Tokyo Kasei Uni-

versity, participated, and competed in such events as basketball and Japanese drumming.

“I felt very proud of joining in the event and if possible, I want to try my best to help inspire athletes and people in Japan at the time of the Tokyo Games,” said Taiki Kasuga, 20, a third-grade student of Waseda University’s School of Culture, Media and Society and member of the university’s male cheerleading group Shockers.

Students from Tokai University won the best performance award with their traditional Japanese dance-looking performance.

“I hope today’s excitement will boost momentum for the 2020 Games,” said Yukihiro Nunomura, vice director general of the organizing committee.

At the event, the organizing committee also set up booths to explain its preparatory work for the Games.—Kyodo News ■

Priyanka Chopra to endorse Skill India campaign

NEW DELHI — Actress Priyanka Chopra will soon be seen endorsing government’s flagship Skill India campaign, with the National Skill Development Corporation roping in the Bollywood celebrity as an ambassador for the initiative.

The former Miss World and Bollywood star who is now making waves in Hollywood with her acting prowess, herself expressed interest in the initiative and will collaborate on a pro bono basis.

Priyanka will use her celebrity status to motivate youngsters to hone their abilities through a media campaign.

Earlier, Indian cricket captain Virat Kohli, batting legend Sachin Tendulkar, Bollywood actors Sidharth Malhotra and Shabana Azmi and singer Mohit Chauhan had also become goodwill envoys for Skill India.

“As brand ambassador we have given a letter to Priyanka Chopra. The interest had come

from her,” National Skill Development Corporation MD and CEO Manish Kumar told PTI.

Kumar said the media team associated with NSDC is working on how to project Priyanka most effectively through the campaign, as she has emerged as a global youth icon.

However, the 34-year-old had recently received a backlash with online trolls criticising the dress she wore to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Berlin during his four-nation trip.

The short floral dress that Priyanka wore for the meeting did not go down well with social media users who slammed her for being inappropriately dressed.

The Skill India campaign was launched by Prime Minister Modi in July 2015. The government aims to train 40 crore people by 2022 through its skilling initiatives.—PTI ■

Let’s make Delhi roads safer, urges Sidharth Malhotra



PHOTO: PTI

NEW DELHI — Actor Sidharth Malhotra has requested Delhi-zens to make the roads of the city safer by shunning drunk driving and not performing stunts while riding.

The 32-year-old actor, who is currently shooting for his upcoming film “Aiyaary” in the capital, joined the road safety activity, organised by Delhi Traffic Police at India Gate, to spread awareness on anti-drunken driving and anti-stunt riding.

“I was shooting here, so when I heard Delhi Traffic Po-

lice has started this campaign, I was happy to become a part of this initiative. Anyone of us can be involved in a road accident. Drunk and stunt driving should be avoided.

“Please abide by the traffic rules. Let’s make Delhi roads safer, so that people can drive easily and avoid accidents. Hopefully, this will make a difference and our authorities will make sure, we are safer,” told the reporters here. Recalling his college days, the “Baar Baar Dekho” actor said although he had his

fair share of fun on the roads in the city, he used to follow the traffic rules.

He added, “It is not only about you, it is also about your friends, family and other people on the road. Please keep the spirit alive, Delhi. Roam around, have fun but be in control and be responsible. Today, you can call a cab whenever you want. So, please use such apps. Please don’t drink and drive.”

Being a recognised face among the youth, Sidharth’s voice will resonate the younger generation and that is what made him a “good choice” for the campaign.

A K Singh, DSP (Traffic) told PTI, “Sidharth is a young face and we thought he would be a good choice to inspire the youth about practising traffic rules and ask them not to indulge in drunk driving or any dangerous stunts.”

While Ved Prakash Vats, sub-inspector, Road Safety Cell added the youth needs to be more responsible when they are driving and think about their kith and kin.—PTI ■

Chinese dragon dance graces anti — crime event in South Africa

CAPE TOWN — The Chinese traditional dragon dance added much fanfare to an anti-crime event taking place on Saturday in Atlantis, a crime-stricken community outside Cape Town.

The event, codenamed "Youth Making Noise Against Crime", was held to mark the "Youth Month" in the country. This was an initiative aimed at highlighting the seriousness of violent criminal activities that are currently affecting South Africa's youth. Since the beginning of 2017, there have already been 24 reported cases of youth deaths as a result of violent crimes such as robbery, rape, human trafficking and drug abuse.

The event was organized by the Milnerton Community Police Forum (CPF) Cluster Board in conjunction with the nine police stations within the cluster congregated in Atlantis to demonstrate

their stand against crime and gang violence. Commander of the Milnerton police cluster Major General Aneeqah Jordan urged the youngsters present at the event to follow the right path and make something of themselves.

With proper conduct, the children can achieve their goals and become respected members of society, Jordan said.

As an offering of friendship and support, representatives from the Cape Town Chinese community, led by Chinese Consul General Kang Yong attended the event.

They brought with them the traditional Chinese dragon dance, a symbol of power, prosperity and peace. Kang expressed his love for South Africa and its people, saying: "The chil-

dren are the future of this nation. It is vital that they stay away from gang activity and learn to respect their teachers and family." The dragon dance, performed by members of the Chinese Huaxing Artistic Troop in Cape Town, cheered up the youths who burst into applause. Alice Matisha, 13, told Xinhua that she never saw dragon dance before. —Xinhua ■



Folk artists perform Chinese traditional dragon dance during an anti-crime event named "Youth Making Noise Against Crime" in Atlantis, a crime-stricken community outside Cape Town in South Africa, on 24 June 2017. The event was held to mark the "Youth Month" in the country. **PHOTO: XINHUA**

Service helping grandparents stay in touch seeing growth in Japan

TOKYO — Two online services using technology to allow grandparents to overcome the distance between them and their grandchildren are proving popular in Japan.

One is provided by "Mago Channeru" (Grandchildren Channel), introduced by Tokyo-based startup Chikaku Inc. in 2016. Using the technology, family members can watch on television high-quality images and videos uploaded via the company's application with a simple click of a remote control.

The main draw of the system is that users can simply plug the device into their television with one cable, allowing its built-in internet data link to download pictures and videos.

People on the receiving end are notified of the arrival of new images by a blinking light, and the sender is also notified once somebody accesses them.

For some grandparents, it has become routine to watch how their grandchildren are growing every day. Goro Shintani, 72, and his wife Yumiko, 68, who live in Tokyo's Setagaya Ward, said the device's ease of use has made them feel like their grandchildren are "always near." Their two daughters live with their families in the United States and Okinawa, respectively.

Chikaku President Kenji Kajiware was inspired to create the service when he witnessed his Hyogo Prefecture-based parents' joy upon seeing their distant grandchild via the internet.

"When they see (their grandchildren's images) on a big screen, it makes them feel as if they are right there in front of them," said Kajiware, who formerly worked for a Japanese subsidiary of Apple Inc. The device, costing 19,800



Supplied photo shows a smartphone user perusing photos of schoolchildren uploaded by their parents through online service Snap Snap. Online services employing technology to allow grandparents to overcome the distance between themselves and their grandchildren are proving popular in Japan. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

yen (\$177), is available online and at some department stores in Tokyo. Despite the service's 1,480 yen per month subscription fee, sales have been impressive, according to the company.

In a similar vein, Photocreate Co., which provides an online portal for schoolchildren's pictures shot by professional photographers, added a new feature to its service in May, allowing distant grandparents to see images uploaded by parents.

The online picture service "Snap Snap," which was introduced by the Tokyo-based company in 2006, has been used by 5,000 schools and kindergartens across Japan. It allows users to peruse and buy pictures of events such as excursions and athletic festivals via the internet so schools do not need to display printed versions.

With the new feature "Kodomo Arubamu" (Children's Album), parents can create an album by choosing pictures saved in the system, and with a few steps the children's grandparents can see the images on their smartphones and computers. "We want to improve communication among family members by sharing a record of their growing children," a Photocreate representative said. —Kyodo News ■

Cultural exchanges between mainland, Hong Kong maintain sound development

BEIJING — Cultural exchanges between the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong have developed well since Hong Kong returned to the motherland in 1997, Ding Wei, vice minister of culture, said Sunday.

Cultural exchanges between the mainland and

Hong Kong have become more close, rich and sound, forming an all-dimensional, wide-ranging and multi-channel communication pattern, Ding said ahead of the region's 20th anniversary of return.

"The exchanges have promoted Chinese culture

in Hong Kong and enhanced Hong Kong's recognition of the country, the nation and Chinese culture," Ding said.

Since Hong Kong returned to the motherland, each year saw an average of 750 exchange programs with 10,000 people attending in the past few years, which

double the number in the early years of Hong Kong's return, Ding said.

In 2005, the mainland and Hong Kong signed an agreement on closer cultural ties, mapping out the fields and channels of cultural cooperation, Ding said. — Xinhua ■

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(26-6-2017 07:00am ~ 27-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations — Lacquer Ware Making
07:52	Am	Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
08:03	Am	News
08:27	Am	The two brilliant Mountaineers (MT. EVEREST)
08:55	Am	Scented Buddha Images
09:03	Am	News
09:25	Am	Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA DRUM)
09:49	Am	A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-2)

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Clam Farming
10:42	Am	SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)

(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-10) (Part -1)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	A Highland with Peace and Charm
08:45	Pm	Now in Mandalay
08:50	Pm	Nature Charm of Myanmar Rain
08:54	Pm	Now in Yangon

(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)

—Kyodo News ■



Sepak takraw players competing their best during the competition. **PHOTO: KYI SOE LIN**

States and Divisions Sepak takraw Competition 2017 holds in Nay Pyi Taw

Competition for final and the third place in 2017 Sepak takraw 2 men event representing for all Regions and States will be held at Wunna Theikdi Stadium in Nay Pyi Taw today.

Both knock-out matches and quarter-final was held yesterday.

As the knock-out matches,

Kayin State team defeated Mandalay Region team, Bago Region team won Nay Pyi Taw team, Sagaing Region team defeated Ayeyawady team and Yangon Region team beat Mon State and the winning teams went into Semi-final.

In the quarter-final matches, Bago defeated Kayin and Yagon

beat Sagaing accordingly and both winning teams stepped up for Final match and the losers in semi-final will fight for the third place today.

After the final match, other competitions for men and women two players' event will be held at the same place.—Kyi Soe Lin ■

Myanmar fighting boxers gained victory in Myanmar's Lethwei challenge competition

MYANMAR'S Lethwei challenge competition of four countries' boxers of Myanmar, Thai, Cambodia and Uzbekistan was held in Their Phyu Indoor Stadium in Yangon yesterday.

The competition was held under the supervision of Ministry of Health and Sports and sponsored by Modern Myanmar Synergy Group & H and S Group.

Two local matches and five international matches were held in the competition.

In the fighting fixture, not

only Daung Phyu Lay and Khun Lin Htet but Ye Yint Thwe and Salai Chan Myae also finished draw in their matches of local competition.

Kayin Lay defeated Bun nann (Thailand), Moe hein defeated Hlai Phey (Cambodia), kyel Sin Phyo defeated Din Bosai (Thailand) Mike Yine Lay defeated Tolar Bay (Uzbekistan) and Saw Gaw Htoo defeated Parutsamwe (Thailand) respectively during the competition.

—Aye Min Thu ■



Myanmar boxer Sawgaw Mudho and Thailand boxer Perut Samwe fights for the victory. **PHOTO: KHIN MG WIN (THE MIRROR)**

Striker Costa hard to replace at Chelsea, says Lampard

LONDON — Premier League champions Chelsea will find it difficult to replace influential striker Diego Costa if he departs in the current transfer window, club legend Frank Lampard has said.

Costa, 28, has been Chelsea's top scorer in all three seasons since joining the club in 2014, leading them to two league title wins.

Earlier this month, the Spain international said that he would leave Stamford Bridge after being told by manager Antonio Conte that he was not a part of the club's future plans.

"He's a fantastic striker and we all saw that last season and since he's been at Chelsea. He would be very difficult to replace, there's no doubt about it," Lampard told Sky Sports.

"He's an all-round physical presence that also has the

quality to get goals, that's not easy to find in the modern day."

Costa scored 22 goals in 42 appearances for the London side last season but the club have been linked with a move to get Everton striker Romelu Lukaku, who scored 26 goals last campaign, back to Stamford Bridge.

"He's (Lukaku) certainly developed to a huge degree since he left the club (in 2014), Romelu would certainly be a good option. The only thing Chelsea have to look at is the inflated market that is around now, it makes it very tough," Lampard said. Costa has said he would favour a return to former club Atletico Madrid but the Spanish side are unable to register new players until January 2018 due to a transfer ban by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS).—Reuters ■

Ronaldo sets Portugal on way to Confederations Cup semis

ST. PETERSBURG, (Russia) — European champions Portugal comfortably dispatched New Zealand 4-0 to reach the Confederations Cup semi-finals on Saturday after Cristiano Ronaldo set them on their way with a penalty.

Portugal's all-time leading scorer swept the ball home in the 33rd minute, his 75th goal for his country, and Bernardo Silva added the second four minutes later.

A solo effort from Andre Silva, his eighth goal in 11 appearances, in the 80th minute and a stoppage-time goal from substitute Nani completed the scoring.

It was a typically efficient performance from Portugal who never looked in real danger despite a sluggish start. However, it was not all good news as Bernardo Silva went off injured at halftime, while a needless and reckless challenge from Pepe, with his side 2-0 up, earned the controversial central defender his second yellow card of the tournament, ruling him out



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo scores their first goal from the penalty spot at Saint Petersburg Stadium, St. Petersburg, Russia, on 24 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

of Wednesday's semi-final.

"It was an odd game - we were in control, but they started creating problems, and if it had got back to 2-1, it could have got complicated," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos.

New Zealand goalkeeper Stefan Marinovic, who helped Underhaching win promotion from

the German fourth division last season, kept the score down with a superb second-half display.

The Oceania champions were far from disgraced but have now competed in the tournament four times without winning a game and have an overall record of 11 defeats and a draw in 12 matches.—Reuters ■