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Myanmar's highest-ranking Buddhist Monks open annual meeting

Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa delivered the opening address in connection with the religious affairs and unity among the members of the Sangha. **(FULL STORY ON SEE PAGE -2)**



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PPST members meet the press after the meeting in Chiangmai in Thailand. **PHOTO: AUNG AUNG (CHIANGMAI)**

Peace process to be realized according to NCA

PPST forms NCA implementation review team

PEACE PROCESS Steering Team-PPST of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement-NCA held a meeting in Chiangmai in Thailand from 28 June to 2 July to review the peace process of the NCA.

After the meeting, the PPST met the press and answered the questions raised by the media.

The five-day meeting passed 17 issues and documented four records. The press release is the essence of the issues and

To proceed according to the NCA and to amend the parts that are against the NCA ...

records, said Chairman of Chin National Front Pu Zin Kyon.

The absence of a finalized framework and comprehensive political view at the national level political dialogues, and the confusion in passing decisive issues will be reviewed, and we are going to make best preparations after the Government, the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups have negotiated the results, explained Chairman of All Burma Students' Democratic

Front-ABSDF U Than Khe.

As regards the review of the peace process of the NCA, Chairman of Pa-O National Liberation Organization-PNLO U Okka said, there appeared the KNU assessment and RCSS assessment after the Union Peace Conference: the 21st Century Panglong. Consequently, the PPST will review the whole peace process and introduce reforms. So, it will take time.

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Seventh 47 member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 14th meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar's highest-ranking Buddhist Monks open annual meeting

THE Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, Myanmar's highest-ranking, government-sanctioned panel of Theravada Buddhist monks, convened its annual leadership meeting yesterday at Wizaya Dhamathabin Hall in Thiri Mingalar Kabaye Hill in Yangon.

The body, also known as the First Congregation of All Orders for the Purification, Perpetuation and Propagation of Sasana, or "doctrine," leads

Myanmar Buddhist monks and meets at least annually for three days to confer on matters of concern to the religious community.

The 47-member leadership committee is in charge of the religious affairs.

Yesterday's meeting was led by Chairman Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika Bharmo Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa,

Other members of the Committee and Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko were also present.

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Dwpitakadhara Bhaddanta Agga Dhama was master of ceremony and read the attendance list.

Sayadaw Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa delivered

the opening address in connection with the religious affairs and unity among the members of the Sangha (the speech will appear in this daily).

Then, Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko led a discussion on religious matters.

Donors Maha Tharay Sithu Lt. Gen. Ye Myint (Retired) and wife Dr. Daw Tin Lin Myint and family offered day meals to the committee members. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Peace process to be realized according...

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When we receive the PPST review, we will ask the Government, the Tatmadaw and the political parties to issue a joint review. We will introduce reforms after we have received all the reviews. We will finish the job in the coming August. The review was made with constructive approach and goodwill to ensure a guaranteed peace process and political dialogues,

The NCA implementation review team will be formed with two specially invited persons and the member of the respective groups of the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations. UPDJC vice-chair Phado Saw Kwe Htoo Win will take the helm.

It will be formed with 20 members. It will start the reform process in July and release the report in July end. Pu Zin Kyon said, review and reform will start in July. The results will be submitted to PPST in July end. PPST will present the issue at EAO conference. We will finalize the issue within one and a half month. We are planning to hold the EAO conference next month. The review of the political framework and the peace process of the NCA is the effort to proceed according to the NCA and to amend the parts that are against the NCA, according to the press meet. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

Peace Process Steering Team-PPST holds meeting

Peace Process Steering Team-PPST of the eight signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement held a meeting in Chiang-mai in Thailand from 28 June to 2 July. After the meeting, the team released an announcement at the press meet.

The press release said the ethnic-wise, region-wise and subject-wise national level political dialogues, work committee meetings, the second session of the Union peace Conference: the 21st Century Panglong and the advantages and disadvantages of the whole peace process including challenges could be reviewed.

According to the review, the important points including the role of the ethnic states, sharing of power between the Union

and the states, and the joint implementation of the peace agreements which are the main ethnic characteristics must be discussed.

The differences among the government, the Tatmadaw and the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement Signatory Ethnic Armed Organizations (NCA-S EAO) in their interpretation and understanding of the NCA were noticed. There was effectiveness in observing and implementing the basic principles, views and pledges in connection with the NCA.

But there were weaknesses in the part of freedom, equality and justice.

The broadening of the peace process was agreed with the aim of achieving greater success in

the peace process including the work of implementing the NCA and strengthening views and stance of NCA-S EAO groups.

In view of internal peace and national reconciliation, the PPST will realize a true federal democracy aspired by the entire people through the negotiations of the stakeholders within the scope of the NCP process. The eight signatories to the NCA are Karen National Union-KNU, KNU/Karen National Liberation Army (Peace Council), Democratic Karen Buddhist Army, Chin National Front, Pa-O National Liberation Organization, All Burma Students' Democratic Front, Restoration Council of Shan State and Arakan Liberation Party. —Ye Khaung Nyunt ■

United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees arrived at Sitway

Myint Maung Soe and Aung Kyaw Oo

by cooperation and patience, said commissioner.

Mr. Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees arrived at Sitway from Yangon and visited Dapaing Relief Camp. The refugees at the camp made discussions and submitted their requirements relating to education, health and social affairs to the minister.

The visit of Mr. Filippo Grandi and his group to Rakhine is the first time and the success will be met only

The UNHCR met with the families of the refugee camp and inquired about their accommodation, food, education and health condition.

The UNHCR met the Chief Minister of Rakhine State, U Nyi Pu and ministers at the office of State Government in the evening and discussed on wide scope concerning with peace and tranquility and development.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker visits State Ovadacariya Sayadaw

SPEAKER of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint attended the diamond jubilee of Maha Withutayama Zegon monastery in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The speaker greeted the

presiding monk of the monastery's State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Baddanta Kavisara.

The Sayadaw gave a blessing.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint pays respects to Sayadaw Baddanta Kavisara. **PHOTO: MNA**



UCSB Chairman Dr. Win Thein visits job candidates. **PHOTO: MNA**

UCSB chairman visits candidates sitting for civil service exam

THE Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) hosted civil service exams for 4,000 job candidates yesterday seeking 388 positions in 13 Myanmar government ministries.

UCSB Chairman Dr. Win Thein visited the testing centre in Ahlone and Lanmadaw townships of Yangon during the exam.

Other testing centres yes-

terday included Nay Pyi Taw, Mandalay, Magway and Mawlamyine.

Candidates who passed their written exams on Myanmar, English and general knowledge then submit to a psychological test and a personal interview. The UCSB also operates academies for some government job candidates.

—Myanmar News Agency ■

Flood Warning

ACCORDING to the 13:30 hrs MST observation today, the water level of Chindwin River at Phaung Pyin is observed as about 4 feet below its danger level.

It may exceed above its danger level during

the next 2 day.

It is especially advised to the people who settle near the river bank and low lying areas in Phaung Pyin Township, to take precaution measure.

—Department of Meteorology and Hydrology ■

UK and Myanmar discuss education reforms

BRITISH and Myanmar government officials discussed overhauling Myanmar's national education system at a planning meeting yesterday at Yangon University, according to a Myanmar News Agency report.

Union Minister for Education Dr. Myo Thein Gyi and British Minister of State Department for International Development (DFID) Mr. Alistair Burt discussed national curricula development, upgrading of

two-year colleges to four-year colleges, learning assessment methodologies, ethnic language courses in regions and states, reforms to Yangon University, British guest lecturer and academic exchange at Yangon University, English and job proficiency courses for university teachers, scholarship programs and distance learning.

On 1 July, the education minister visited a village high school opening in Magway Region. In a speech at the

event Dr. Myo Thein Gyi said the government has upgraded 5,099 schools during the current academic year. Enhancements include increased student enrollment, reformed primary curricula, dropout prevention programs, and new teacher training and parental information workshops teachers.

The Union minister also attended ceremonies to open upgraded high schools in Natmawk and Yenanchaung townships. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Myanmar official led by Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi hold meeting with British Counterparts. **PHOTO:MNA**

Yangon Region Chief Minister concludes European tour

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and party arrived back to Yangon on 1 July from the study trip to six European countries about the urban development according to MITV.

The visit was to study operations about the urbanization processes, especially on sectors like technology, public transportation, security, urban development sectors and others.

The Chief Minister and party left Yangon on 14th June to Belgium and extended their studying to Czech republic, Germany, Sweden, Italy, and Spain until June 30th.

Yangon Region Government announced to implement Yangon New Project in February this year which has been initiated during the previous government term.

The project includes five river-crossing bridges and city infrastructures.

It is learnt that the project will be carried in accordance with the project plan designed by the public company which will be formed under Yangon region government in cooperation with Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association (MCEA).—GNLM ■

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New mangroves to shore up the coast

YE TOWNSHIP will plant 18,000 mangrove trees on an island in Abaw Village, in Mon State to reinforce the coast against erosion and flooding, according to a township forest officer.

U Sow Win, head of the Ye Township Department of Forestry said that different varieties of mangrove plants will be cultivated on 13 acres of vacant plots on Sonema Island this month.

Sonema Island, with an estimated 700 acres of farmland, frequently are flooded during the rainy season. Saltwater has damaged about half of that acreage.

Last fiscal year of 2016-2017, the forestry department planted more than 6,000 mangrove plants on 190 acres of land in Andin Village in Ye Township in



Thousands of mangroves will be grown on Sonema Island in Ye Township, Mon State.

PHOTO: HTUT HTUT (YE)

cooperation with local community.

The forest officer said that mangroves are crucial for the

coastal areas, serving as buffers between the land and the sea.

Coastlines throughout the

town are facing problems of coastal erosion and threat of the rising sea levels.—Htut Htut (Ye) ■

Uphill and downhill cycling contests to be held in Mandalay on 9 July

A mountain bike and photography competition is scheduled for 9 July in Mandalay, according to organizers.

The Mandalay Free Rider group is organizing the event in coordination with the Ministry of Health and Sports and Myanmar Cycling Federation.

The uphill bike course will begin at Yadanabon Diamond Plaza on 78th Street in Chanayethazan Township and end at Htooma Monastery.

A downhill event will take place at Nayka Hill situated

beside Waterfall Hill. The organizing body for uphill will award Ks200,000 to the first prize winner of the competition, Ks150,000 to the second prize winner, Ks100,000 to third prize winner, Ks70,000 to the fourth prize winner and Ks50,000 to the fifth prize winner. Runners up to 10th place will receive Ks10,000 cash.

The first prize winner in the downhill event will receive Ks200,000 cash, second prize receives Ks150,000 and third prize winners get Ks100,000.—Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay) ■



Mandalay is ready to host an uphill and downhill cycling contest. **PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MDY)**

Health and Sports Ministry plans to distribute contraceptive free of charge

THE Ministry of Health and Sports said it will distribute Sayana Press, an easy-to-use injectable contraceptive, free of charge nationwide, according to a report of the Myawady Daily issued on Saturday.

The contraceptive implant, one of the more popular birth control methods, will protect

women against pregnancy soon after the implant is put under the skin of their arms. Women are not required to see doctors to have the contraceptive injected as they can easily use the contraceptive by self-injection. With the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the ministry will provide

birth control implants to women who reside in both urban and rural areas within this fiscal year, targeting more than 200,000 populations.

Priority will be given to women in remote states. In the initial stage, the ministry will provide necessary trainings to over 3,000 midwives from 60

townships to share the method of contraceptive to the target audiences. According to research, one in six Myanmar women require contraceptives and 16 per cent of the total female population in the country experience unwanted pregnancies because they do not know the right methods of birth control.—001 ■

Stock trading on YSX valued at lackluster Ks1.5 billion in June



Yangon Stock Exchange in progress. **PHOTO: PHOE KHWAR**

THE FOUR companies listed on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) traded shares with an estimated value of Ks1.5 million in June, continuing a downward trade volume trajectory, according to data released by YSX.

First Myanmar Investment (FMI), Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings (MTSH), Myanmar Citizens Bank (MCB) and FPB are currently trading their shares on YSX.

FMI traded shares worth Ks 24 billion on YSX in March and Ks5.8 billion in April. When MTSH entered YSX on 20 May, FMI and MTSH trading value was estimated at Ks 16 billion in May, Ks 6.8 billion in June and Ks 3.7 billion in July. When MCB listed on YSX, monthly stock trading values of FMI, MTSH and MCB were estimated at Ks2.9 billion in August, Ks 2.4 billion in September, Ks 4 billion in October and Ks

2.2 billion in November. YSX stock trading in December reached a record low of Ks1.5 billion.

With the debut of First Private Bank (FPB) on YSX, the stock trading of four listed companies in Jan and Feb 2017 reached Ks 6 billion and Ks3.3 billion in March.

April's stock trading on YSX hit all-time low of over Ks1.2 billion, according to monthly report of YSX. —Mon Mon ■

Demand continues to grow in Mandalay rental market

REAL estate brokers in Mandalay say that the suburban rental market is seeing rising demand for affordable apartments this monsoon season, while the downtown condo market is cooling. Most Mandalay residents spend between Ks35 and Ks50 million for residential apartments, detached houses and 30x40 feet land plots in places such as Chanmyathazi and Pyigyitagon townships. Buyers

show little interest in purchasing houses more than Ks100 million, housing experts said. Property markets in downtown Mandalay are experiencing excess supply.

The rising demand for homes is directly linked to the seasonal religious tradition of Myanmar people who do not move from one place to another during the period of Buddhist rains retreat. The housing market is normally active prior to the

period of Buddhist lent. Houses as well as 30x60 feet land plots in Aungthayya, Htundon, Thinpangon, Kanthaya and Myayinanda wards have sold well this monsoon season, as the selling price for the majority of properties for sale in the areas have been reduced by owners since the beginning of this year. Real estate experts estimate that the country's property market will remain cool this year.—Yangon ■

Rice export volume in past three months 200% same period last FY

RICE export volume in the past three months FY2017-2018 is estimated at 600,000 tonnes, double of the volume during the same period last fiscal year, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Myanmar rice was exported to 30 countries in Asia, the European Union and Africa.

China is the main buyer of Myanmar rice and border trade is the easiest option for Myanmar's

smallholder-dominated rice production industry. China, however, has been cracking down on Myanmar's poor quality, broken grain rice and has barred entry to much of Myanmar's rice shipments. China has also cracked down recently on illegitimate Myanmar merchants' bank accounts in China.

The Commerce Ministry and Myanmar Rice Federation

are currently negotiating with the Chinese government to agree to let Myanmar export 200,000 tonnes of rice under a government to government deal.

Myanmar expects to export about 1.5 million tonnes of rice this fiscal year.

According to the Myanmar Rice Federation Myanmar's rice exports could fetch US\$1 billion a year by 2020. —Htet Myat ■

Capital goods imports by private sector decreases to \$1.4 billion

THE import of capital goods by the private sector exceeded US\$1.2 billion in the current financial year, a decrease of \$45 million matched against the same period of last year, according to official figures issued by the Commerce Ministry.

Between 1 April and 16 June of this year, the country imported capital goods amounting to \$1.422 billion from both normal trade and border trade camps. This time last FY, the im-

port value of capital goods was \$1.384 billion, including \$1.335 billion from the private sector.

In the first half of this FY, the private importers bought capital goods worth \$1.289 billion in total while the government imported only \$132.896 million worth of the similar kinds of products from international trade partners. The import of capital goods from the government sector was worth \$83.720 million which is more than the

same period of last year.

Myanmar predominantly imports intermediate goods, capital goods and a wide range of consumer products especially from her neighbours.

The country continues to trade with Asian countries, ASEAN member states, island nations, Middle East countries and some European and African states, and other western countries mainly through by sea.—GNLM ■

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India's Modi says cancelled registration of 100,000 companies



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi addresses a gathering during his visit to Gandhi Ashram in Ahmedabad, India, on 29 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

MUMBAI — India has cancelled the registration of more than 100,000 companies which were “in violation of laws”, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said, in the latest effort by the government against “black money” and tax evasion.

The decision was taken based on an extensive data analysis conducted by the government after Modi in November announced a sudden ban on high-value currency banknotes.

More than 300,000 firms had come under scanner for irregular transactions following the bank-note ban, while licences of more

than 100,000 firms had been cancelled, Modi said, without naming any company.

“This is not an ordinary decision,” Modi said late on Saturday while addressing a gathering of accountants, hours after launching the country’s landmark sales tax reform.

“Further stern measures will be taken in the coming days against companies which are violating the law.” While the decision to outlaw 500- and 1,000-rupee bank notes last year was part of a broader crackdown on corruption, the sudden withdrawal of 86

per cent of currency in circulation left businesses, farmers and households suffering.

Modi defended his decision, calling it a “fight” for the poor.

The government’s “data mining” exercise initiated after the November decision was still ongoing, Modi said.

The government will also take action against more than 37,000 identified “shell companies” which were found to be engaged in illegal transactions.

“The ones who have looted the poor, will have to return to the poor,” Modi said.—Reuters ■

Indonesia, Philippines jointly patrol Celebes Sea to cut off militants

MANILA — The Philippines and Indonesia will jointly patrol the Celebes Sea this week to stop Islamist militants reaching the Philippines’ restive southern island of Mindanao, where rebels have seized a city, an army spokesman said on Sunday.

The joint patrol is aimed at strengthening border security and improving interoperability, military spokesman Major Ezra Balagtey said in a statement. The two countries’ warships will sail from the Philippines’ Davao city on Thursday. “The coordinated patrol ... is intended to strengthen the security of the Davao Gulf and the common boundary of the two countries in the southern archipelago, particularly along the Celebes Sea,” said Balagtey.

Regional governments fear fighters sympathetic to the Islamic State group will cross maritime borders from Malaysia and Indonesia to join rebels who seized Marawi City five weeks ago.

About 300 militants, 82 members of the Philippines’ security force and 44 civilians have been killed in fighting.

The coordinated patrol is the third in the region in a month as pirates and militants step up attacks on commercial shipping. The Philippines was joined by the United States on Saturday to patrol southern Philippine waters. Two weeks ago, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines jointly patrolled their common maritime borders in the Celebes Sea and Sulu Sea. —Reuters ■

Steam eruption of Indonesia’s volcano injures 10 tourists

JAKARTA — Ten visitors were wounded by a phreatic eruption of a volcano in Central Java province of western Indonesia on Sunday, two senior officials said.

Head of National Volcanology Agency Kasbani told Xinhua that the eruption took place at about 12:00 a.m. Jakarta time (0500 GMT), spewing ash by up to 50 meters to the sky and emitting cold lava.

The agency has banned visitors from entering the Seleri crater, one of the ten craters in the Dieng volcano area, by a radius

of 100 meters from the crater as volcanologists observed a hike in the accumulation of steam, said Kasbani.

“The tourists were already in the area of 15 meters from the Seleri crater today (Sunday) when the eruption occurred,” he told Xinhua by phone. Spokesman of the national disaster management agency Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said that the eruption injured 10 visitors. The injured visitors have been rushed to a nearby health clinic for medical treatment.—Xinhua ■

Voting begins in Tokyo assembly election, Koike’s new party in focus

TOKYO — Voting began Sunday in the Tokyo metropolitan assembly election as Gov. Yuriko Koike’s new party and allies aim to displace Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s ruling party as the leading force in the capital.

The race is widely viewed as a referendum on Koike’s first year in office after she became Tokyo’s first female governor in August last year. With Abe’s Liberal Democratic Party facing an uphill battle, the election is also being seen as a barometer for national politics, although no national election is scheduled until late 2018. Opinion polls have shown Koike’s Tomin First no Kai (Tokyoites First party) gaining momentum after Abe saw his approval rating drop amid allegations of favoritism related to two school projects and his pushing through contentious legislation targeting the planning of crimes that critics say could infringe civil liberties.

The LDP suffered more embarrassment in the days leading up to the poll when two close allies of Abe became embroiled in controversy. Defence Minister Tomomi Inada came under fire for appearing to make political use of the Self-Defence Forces in a stump speech for a party candidate and former education minister Hakubun Shimomura, who heads the party’s Tokyo chapter, was accused of mishandling political donations.

This followed the revelation of an audio recording in which a junior female LDP lawmaker



A voter casts a ballot at a polling station in Tokyo on 2 July 2017 for the Tokyo metropolitan assembly election. **PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

allegedly abused one of her secretaries physically and verbally.

One of the key issues in the 127-seat assembly race is the Tsukiji fish market relocation plan the governor announced just before the official campaigning began. Koike said the metro government will transfer the market to the nearby Toyosu waterfront district for five years before returning it to a redeveloped site in Tsukiji.

The LDP has lambasted the timing of Koike’s announcement as an election tactic and wants the original plan of permanently transferring the market to Toyosu revived. The initial relocation project had stalled over concerns about pollution at the new site.

A total of 259 people, including a record 65 women, have filed candidacies for the race. The LDP has officially endorsed 60 candidates, with Koike’s party fielding 50, the Japanese Communist Party 37, and the

Democratic Party and Komeito 23 each, among other parties. Koike’s Tomin First has also backed 11 independent candidates. Komeito is the LDP’s coalition partner in national politics but is allied with Tomin First in the metro election.

The reform-minded Koike, who was an LDP lawmaker and Cabinet minister, has pledged to change the opaque decision-making process in the local legislature, which controls a budget comparable to that of Sweden. Currently, the LDP holds 57 seats, followed by Komeito with 22 and the Japanese Communist Party with 17. The Democratic Party has seven and Tomin First six.

Other issues debated in the campaign included how to proceed with preparations for the 2020 Olympics and Paralympics, and measures to reduce the number of children on nursery waiting lists.—Kyodo News ■

Snipers, bombs, mortars — Philippine troops battle against Islamists

MARAWI CITY, (PHILIPPINES) — Sprawled on the boarded-up balcony of a two-storey house, the barrel of his rifle poked into a hole cut in the wood, the Philippine army sniper calls for quiet before taking his shot.

“Firing,” he says evenly, before the .50 calibre shot rings out, sending tremors through the house. He was firing at a home less than a kilometre (a half mile) away, believed to be a stronghold of Islamist militants who have been holed up in Marawi City for over five weeks.

A spotter sat next to him, with his scope set into another hole. The two spoke quietly to each other as the sniper took three more shots across the Agus river into the



Filipino soldiers launch a mortar from their combat position as government troops continue their assault against insurgents from the Maute group in Marawi city, Philippines on 1 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

militant-held commercial district of Marawi, now a battleground strewn with debris from ruined buildings. Scores of bodies are

rotting in the area, and the stench mixes with the smell of gunpowder.

Thousands of soldiers are battling to retake the

southern Philippine city, where militants loyal to Islamic State launched a lightning strike on 23 May.

The southern Philip-

pines has been marred for decades by insurgency and banditry.

But the intensity of the battle in Marawi and the presence of foreign fighters from Indonesia, Malaysia, Yemen and Chechnya fighting alongside local militants has raised concerns that the region may be becoming a Southeast Asian hub for Islamic State as it loses ground in Iraq and Syria.

As troops poured in to contain the siege, few were expecting a slow, difficult and unfamiliar urban war.

“We are used to insurgencies...but a deployment of this magnitude, this kind of conflict is a challenge for our troops,” said Lt Col Christopher Tampus, one of the officers commanding ground operations in Marawi.

He said progress in clearing the city has been hindered by militant fire and booby traps like gas tanks rigged with grenades.

After weeks of military airstrikes and shelling, Marawi, a lakeside city of around 200,000 is now a ghost town, the centre of which has been reduced to charred rubble and hollow structures.

Buildings in the military-controlled areas of the city are still standing but deserted after residents fled.

Authorities estimate around 100 to 120 fighters, some of them as young as 16 years, remain holed up in the commercial district of the city, down from around 500 at the beginning of the siege.—Reuters ■

Seven Japanese killed in terrorist attack in Bangladesh remembered

DHAKA — Homage was paid Saturday to the seven Japanese killed in an attack by Islamic militants on the Holey Artisan Bakery in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on the first anniversary of the incident.

The Japanese were among the 20 hostages killed when five young militants, armed with guns and knives, attacked a restaurant especially popular among foreigners in Dhaka's Gulshan diplomatic district on the night of 1 July, 2016.

Altogether 29 peo-

ple died in the incident, including all five of the attackers, two police officers and two restaurant workers.

At around 7:25 am Saturday, Japanese Ambassador Masato Watanabe, accompanied by a number of Japan International Cooperation Agency officials, came to the restaurant to observe a moment of silence in remembrance.

All seven of the Japanese killed — five men and two women — were associated with JICA, a Japanese government-funded

organization created to provide technical assistance and other help in developing nations.

On behalf of Bangladesh's ruling party Awami League, General Secretary and minister in charge of communication Obaidul Quader placed floral wreaths at the Holey Artisan premises at about 10 am. A delegation of the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party led by Senior Secretary General Ruhul Kabir Rizvi also placed a floral wreath at the site.—Kyodo News ■

Trump to speak by phone with Japan, China leaders about North Korea

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump will hold separate telephone talks on Sunday with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Chinese President Xi Jinping about North Korea's nuclear weapons programme, the White House said.

Trump wants to discuss the issue with the Japanese and Chinese leaders ahead of the Group of 20 summit starting Friday in Germany, a source close to Japan-US relations said.

On the sidelines of the summit, Trump is set to hold bilateral talks with

Xi and trilateral talks with Abe and South Korean President Moon Jae In, with North Korea's nuclear weapons programme expected to be a primary focus of both meetings. Trump and Abe are expected to confirm coordination in dealing with North Korea after the US leader and Moon affirmed Friday the need to apply “maximum pressure” on the reclusive state to curb its nuclear and missile programmes.

In talks with Xi, the US president is likely to urge China to apply more pressure on North Korea,

given Beijing is the main economic and diplomatic benefactor of Pyongyang.

However, Xi's response could be affected by Beijing's irritation at two actions taken Thursday by Washington — sanctioning a Chinese bank accused of laundering money for North Korea, and approving the sale of arms to Taiwan. China, which regards Taiwan as part of its territory, said Friday the United States must correct its recent “wrongdoings” to avoid further damaging the sound development of bilateral ties.—Kyodo News ■

Five dead, four missing in C China mudslide

CHANGSHA — As of Sunday afternoon, the death toll from a mudslide in central China's Hunan Province had risen to five, while another four people remain missing, according to local government.

Nineteen others were injured in the mudslide, which happened at about 4 pm Saturday in Zuta Village, Ningxiang County, after continuous heavy rain since Friday.

Many parts of the county received over 200 mm of precipitation within 24 hours, with flooding disrupting traffic and telecommunications and raising water levels in reservoirs and rivers above warning levels. A rescue and search operation is underway. Hunan has experienced a severe flooding after torrential rain over the last 10 days. Since 22 June, flooding has inundated parts

of several cities, forced 311,300 people to evacuate, damaged 295,160 hectares of crops and destroyed 6,369 houses.

On Sunday morning, the water level in the section of Xiangjiang River, a major tributary of Yangtze River, in the provincial capital Changsha had exceeded the previous record high of 39.18 meters set by a massive flood in 1998.—Xinhua ■

TENDER NOTICE (No. MY-H27-B6-12)

The Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed the Exchange of Notes dated February 17th, 2016, concerning the Japanese grant assistance for the Project for the Reconstruction of Flood-Affected Schools. Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) is acting as the procurement agent for and on behalf of Department of Basic Education, Ministry of Education, for procuring the products and services in accordance with the E/N. Interested bidders are invited to submit the Bid as follows.

Services to be procured	: Reconstruction of Schools
Target Region	: Ayeyarwady Region
Place of Distribution for Tender Documents	: JICS Myanmar Project Office
Date of Distribution	: July 3rd, 2017 – July 12th, 2017
Pre Bid Meeting	: 14:00 on July 14th, 2017
Bid Submission	: 10:00 - 12:00 on August 9th, 2017
Bid Opening	: 13:00 on August 9th, 2017

Further information is available on JICS's website (<http://www.jics.or.jp/jics.html-e/index.php>) or contact to JICS Myanmar Project Office (Room No. 904 La Pyayt Wun Plaza, No.37, Alanpya Pagoda Road, Dagon Township, Yangon, Myanmar). E-mail address: gmqj8780@jics.jp, matoba_satoshi@jics.or.jp, jics.yangon@gmail.com

Creation of Job Opportunities

Khin Maung Oo

MUCH has been heard about illegal Myanmar migrant workers returning from Thailand. Just prior to this, news about attempts to search for them by their worried families and parents occupied the pages of our news media. This is the result of the Management of Foreign Workers Act 2017 which came into effect on 23 June 2017 by Executive Decree.

As regards this affair, the Meeting of Experts on Myanmar-Thailand Labor Affairs was held yesterday in Yangon. From this, we were slightly relieved to hear that the Prime Minister of Thailand has delayed the enforcement of the above law for four months to give time for foreign workers to come into compliance with the law.

As for the Myanmar Government,

prior to the occurrence of this affair it had made arrangements for educating and sharing knowledge on labor affairs with Myanmar migrant workers through labor officers serving at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, instructing these workers to apply for residential permits or to return home if they failed to get residential permits. Yet, due to language deficiency, failure to know the exact day and date when the above law would come into effect and because of poor education, many arrests were made. Under the new employment law, employers and employees are likely to be subject to punishment by fine and imprisonment.

Out of several millions of Myanmar citizens working abroad, most went to Thailand through illegal routes. Technicians and scholars went to foreign countries to work as lab-

orers. Such an exodus of workers to foreign countries may lead to loss of human resources and brain drain for the country.

Though earning much income from working abroad rather than in our own country, we have to live far away from our beloved families and we are likely to suffer from social evils. Presently, most Myanmar laborers are facing many difficulties, more and more are trying to work abroad, like being attracted to bright lights. This may be attributed to various weaknesses in the national economy during the time of previous governments.

With a view to solving this problem, the Union Government and responsible officials are trying their best with a clear vision and a well formulated strategy. However, better and more effective arrangements are urgently

required to be laid down. What is needed now is to bring about creation of more and more job opportunities by encouraging the emergence of local industries with better paying jobs. The present Government is working very hard to increase direct foreign investments and to develop a strong and vibrant private sector. Some economists even see the private sector as “the engine of growth”.

To sum it up, the Union Government has been implementing projects to open vocational training schools which can guarantee jobs for future generations. As the far-sighted plans of the present government bear fruit, with more factories and economic enterprises hiring more workers with higher pay scales, the need for our workers to go abroad will decrease day by day. ■

Purifying heart is nobler than saying sugar-coated words

By: Tommy Pauk

MAN is a social animal. Social etiquette is important in human life, but an act of pretence is unacceptable. It is hard to read the inner character and minds of individuals. When we associate with each other for a certain length of time, we can understand the inner characters fairly. Purifying hearts implies that we exercise our minds to be clean, honest and simple when we deal with others constantly. It is human nature that we like to listen or hear sugar-coated words said by others. If the words of a person are in uniformity with his or her action, others would trust him or her. Consequently, that kind of person might be regarded as a decent person. Normally, peoples' true inner characters and mindsets are incomprehensible and indecipherable before we know their true behaviors and conduct. Some people use to superficially act with sugar-coated words with others in relationship. Such superficial relationship does not last long.

A person who does well or does no harm to others is nobler than a person who says sugar-coated words superficially. We ought to cultivate our mindsets that must be proportionate in ego and in philanthropy in human society. According to Psychological findings, the heredity and environment influence or steer a person's character in his or her life. In other words, a man's good character or bad character reflects his or her

heredity and environment in deed. Psychologists find that man is the best actor for pretence in social dealing in human race. The bad guys are clever enough to hide their bad characters by using sugar-coated words when they deal with simple people in every corner of life. If the ill-bred persons outnumber the well-bred persons in a community or a society, it will never prosper. They pretend to be generous or kind persons. Metaphorically, we use our heart as our mind and purifying heart implies that we clean our mind to lead our life in dealing with fellow humans. In other words, we try to nurture compassion, loving kindness and integrity and we must kill the dirty minds such as jealousy, hatred, inordinate greed, dishonesty and unjust act. We ought to act or behave or conduct decently and honestly to others in human society. A person who keeps up the pretence usually says sugar-coated words in order to convince others that he or she is being good-natured. We could be cheated by sugar-coated words of unscrupulous persons once in our life time.

The purified hearts can create harmonious and pleasant atmosphere in a certain society or community as their minds are always calm and noble in dealing with fellow citizens as well as fellow humans. They would never disrupt nor exploit others on any circumstances. Due to having purified hearts, they become noble persons for the community and

their country concerned.

That is why those who are purifying their hearts are nobler than that of those who are saying sugar-coated words for cheating and taking advantages on simple and naïve people. The unscrupulous persons use sugar-coated words as tools for gaining personal benefits in business, politics and gambling etc. We the ordinary or simple people would not associate with them again once we are exploited or cheated by them. We are aware that the tricky or unscrupulous people use the technique of using sugar-coated words in the circle of human society indeed. Whoever says sugar-coated words must have some intention to win over or persuade the targeted persons. If the targeted persons take pleasure on the sugar-coated words, they will surely fall into the trap of the unscrupulous persons. Normally, the unscrupulous persons hide their inner characters by using sugar-coated words whenever they deal with decent or simple people. We humans should purify our hearts throughout our life in order to enjoy happy relationship among our fellow humans on earth. Pretentious act or practice like saying sugar-coated words can cause detriment to society and community concerned. Unless we purify our hearts, our judgment or attitude or dealing cannot be righteous and fair. Obviously, purifying heart is a kind of noble practice and the practice of saying sugar-coated words is one kind of

pretence indeed. Therefore, we must be cautious enough to deal with persons those who use to say sugar-coated words in social dealing or business dealing. Totally, we ought to avoid such persons in social life and in doing business circle. In addition, we should contribute to our society or community whole-heartedly and deal with others with purified hearts so that we can build a harmonious and peaceful nation in the world. A notion describing “Purifying heart is nobler than saying sugar-coated words” will be very helpful for us to live on earth. ■

The bad guys are clever enough to hide their bad characters by using sugar-coated words when they deal with simple people in every corner of life. If the ill-bred persons outnumber the well-bred persons in a community or a society, it will never prosper.

75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee of Mahawithutarama Zaygone Monastery held at Pyinmana



Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win presents offertories to Sayadaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

75th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee of Mahawithutarama Zaygone Monastery of Pyinmana, Naypyitaw Council Region was held at that monastery at 1pm of 1st July.

Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Wisara, presiding Sayadaw of Mahawithutarama Middle Monastery, Pakokku, Magwe Region, Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Tayjaniya, presiding Sayadaw, Shwetaung Pariyatti Monastery, Yenanchaung, Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Kawithara, presiding Sayadaw, Mahawithutayama Zegone Monastery, Pyinmana, Naypyitaw Region and lesser monks attended the ceremony. Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services, Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe

Win, Union Minister for Ministry of Defense Lt-Gen Sein Win, President of Naypyitaw Council Dr. Myo Aung, Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy, Air) General Mya Tun Oo, high ranking officials from the office of Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services, Commander of Naypyitaw Command, members of Naypyitaw Council and invited guests were also present at the ceremony.

The guests led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services received five precepts from Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Wisara, presiding Sayadaw of Mahawithutarama Middle Monastery, Pakokku and then the monks were reciting the Metta Sutta.

Afterwards, Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Wisara, presiding Sayadaw of

Mahawithutarama Middle Monastery, Pakokku, Magwe Region, Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Kawithara, presiding Sayadaw, Mahawithutayama Zegone Monastery, Pyinmana, gave sermon of Theraniya Avadhakahta and President of Naypyitaw Council supplicated the religious affairs.

Then, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services offered offertories to Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Wisara, presiding Sayadaw of Mahawithutarama Middle Monastery, Pakokku and monetary donations to Abhidhaja Maharattha Guru Bhaddanta Kawithara, presiding Sayadaw, Mahawithutayama Zegone Monastery, Pyinmana. Other high ranking officials also offered the offertories.—Myanmar News Agency ■

New tax rate to be levied on transfer of vehicle ownership

TRANSFERS of car ownership will be taxed at a rate between Ks500,000 and Ks3 million starting today, according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily. The tax is calculated based on the car's appraised value.—GNLM ■

66,050 yaba pills seized in Mangaladon



Seized Yaba pills, Ks350,000 and one hand phone seen together with suspect. **PHOTO: MNA**

Mingaladon Police officers raided a house owned by Min Thu Soe (also known as Chit Ko Ko San), 41, in Yesutaung Ward, Htaukkyint Town, Mingaladon Township on Friday 30 June and confiscated 66,050 Yaba pills, Ks350,000 and one hand phone. Police have filed charge against the suspect under the Anti-Narcotic Drug and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar News Agency ■

POEM

Repatriation of Myanmar Workers Abroad

Many Myanmar workers abroad suffer miseries sent by human traffickers and illegal 'Agencies.' Some as illegal migrants apprehended, often being imprisoned and awaiting deportation.

Myanmar Embassies in concerned countries in cooperation with donors and civil societies are doing the necessary in implementation of the Myanmar workers' safe repatriation.

Having said that, it's needed to examine who for their misery, is primarily to blame. No doubt it's the 'Rings' of human traffickers engaged in sending and 'sale' of the workers. Their 'Modern Slavery' must be exposed on information by the returnees disclosed, and action under the law on trafficking should be taken to stop the 'Rings' operating.

According to some of the repatriated workers it seems many had gone on false 'job offers', no 'work permits' obtained by the employers, mostly recruited by the local illegal 'Agencies' (and by some legal Agencies cutting corners,) illegally sending the unsuspecting workers to their 'counterparts' serving the employers. Its imperative to find the concerned 'Agencies' through information from the returnees. They should be sought out and action taken under the Overseas Employment Legislation.

If action is not taken against the above 'senders' the offenses will be repeated by the offenders and there just might be no end to the repatriation of Myanmar workers abroad facing deportation.

Lokethar

More Y-8 plane wreckage recovered

Papers and aluminum parts from a Chinese-made Y-8 Tatmadaw transport plane that crashed into the Andaman Sea on 7 June were found yesterday night, according to Myanmar's Office of the Command-

er-in-Chief.

The wreckage was salvaged by navy vessels and local fishing boats which have been combing the sea floor with divers and sonar.—Myanmar News Agency ■



salvaged papers. **PHOTO: MNA**



A piece of aluminum. **PHOTO: MNA**

Invitation to young writers for Sunday section

The Global New Light of Myanmar is accepting submissions of poetry, opinion, articles, essays and short stories from young people for its weekly Sunday Next Generation Platform. Interested candidates can send their works to the Global New Light of Myanmar at No. 150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon or by email to dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with the following information: (1) Sector you wish to be included in (poetry, opinion, etc.), (2) Real name and (if different) your penname, (3) Your level of education, (4) Name of your School/College/University, (5) A written note of declaration that the submitted piece is your original work and has not been submitted to any other news or magazine publishing houses, (6) A color photo of the submitter, (7) Copy of your NRC card, (8) Contact information (email address, mobile number, etc.).— Editorial Department, The Global New Light of Myanmar news office

UN boss strikes upbeat note as Cyprus talks continue

NEW YORK — A “clear understanding” has been reached at talks between Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot leaders and their backers on what is needed to reach a comprehensive agreement to reunite the island, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Saturday.

Guterres, who arrived on Friday on the third day of negotiations in the Swiss resort of Crans-Montana, has lent his weight to the effort to unite Cyprus under a federal umbrella.

He gave no details, but said in a statement that he had held a “positive, results-oriented” meeting with Greek Cypriot leader Nicos Anastasiades and Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa Akıncı, as well as Greek Foreign Minister Nikos Kotzias and Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu



United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres takes part in a news conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York, US, on 20 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

that evening.

“A clear understanding emerged of the essential elements of a package that might lead to a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus,” Guterres’

spokesman said in a statement issued on Saturday as political-level talks continued after Guterres left.

“The Secretary-General remains fully engaged in these

efforts to deliver a comprehensive settlement to the people of Cyprus.”

Alan Duncan, Britain’s minister for Europe, and Frans Timmermans, vice president of the European Commission, also participated, a UN spokesman said. Greece, Turkey and Britain are the three guarantor powers.

Cyprus was split in a Turkish invasion in 1974, triggered by a brief Greek-inspired coup. Turkey supports a breakaway Turkish Cypriot state in northern Cyprus.

Two issues have proved especially vexing: Turkish Cypriot demands for a rotating presidency, and Greek Cypriot demands that Turkey withdraws all of its 30,000 troops from the island and renounces its intervention rights.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

13 killed, 12 injured in road accident in Russia’s Tatarstan

MOSCOW — At least 13 people were killed and 12 others injured when a bus collided with a truck near the city of Zainsk in Russia’s Republic of Tatarstan in west-central Russia, the regional health ministry said Sunday.

The passenger bus with 28 people on board overturned and caught fire after colliding with the truck on a highway connecting the cities of Samara and Izhevsk at about 00:40 local time on Sunday (21:40 GMT on Saturday), reports said.—Xinhua ■

Mild earthquake rattles northeastern Bangladesh

DHAKA — A 4.7-magnitude earthquake struck Bangladesh’s northeastern Sylhet region on Sunday, according to a meteorologist of the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD).

Meteorologist Jahirul Islam told Xinhua that the earthquake was centered in the Indian state of Manipur and the epicenter was 436 km northeast of the Bangladesh capital of Dhaka.

Many Sylhet people reportedly ran out to the streets after the earthquake, but others thought it was no more than a leg twitch.—Xinhua ■

Two mountaineers missing in Pakistani Himalayas feared dead

ISLAMABAD — Pakistani authorities believe that two mountaineers, a Spaniard and an Argentinian, missing for over a week in Pakistan’s northern Himalayan mountains perished in an avalanche, officials said on Sunday.

Alberto Zerain Berasategi from Spain and Mariano Galvan from Argentina were last heard from on 23 June while at the 6,100 metre base of Nanga Parbat, the world’s ninth-highest mountain, said Karrar Haidri, spokesman for the Alpine Club of Pakistan.—Reuters ■

Trump praises veterans, hits media at Kennedy Center event

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump honoured military veterans in Washington on Saturday at a Kennedy Center event that resembled both a political rally and an evangelical Christian religious service ahead of the 4 July Independence Day holiday.

Using the podium again to lash out at the news media, Trump worked to energise evangelicals in his political base, noting that the US currency was inscribed with the words: “In God We Trust.”

“Since the signing of the Declaration of Independence 241 years ago, America always affirmed that liberty comes from our creator. Our rights are given to us by God, and no earthly force can ever take those rights away,” he said.

Attendees at the event for veterans waved miniature American flags from their seats in the theatre and raised their hands as a sign of praise while a large choir sang ahead of Trump’s remarks.

The president praised veterans from each of the US military branches and highlighted his administration’s work to reform veterans’ services.

Trump, who is spending a long weekend at his property in



US President Donald Trump speaks at the Celebrate Freedom Rally in Washington, US, on 1 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Bedminster, New Jersey, flew back to Washington for the rally but did not spend the night at the White House, preferring to return to Bedminster.

Later, in a rare late-night post on Twitter, which he uses prolifically and sometimes controversially, Trump wrote:

“We will always take care of our GREAT VETERANS. You

have shed your blood, poured your love, and bared your soul, in defence of our country.”

Trump has held campaign-like rallies regularly during his first few months in the White House and kicked off his own re-election campaign far earlier than other incumbents in recent history.

Part of his strategy to con-

nect with his supporters has included criticizing the media, and he included harsh words for the press again in his remarks.

“The fake media is trying to silence us, but we will not let them,” he said. “The fake media tried to stop us from going to the White House. But I’m president, and they’re not.”—Reuters ■

Three car bombs hit Damascus, seven people killed

BEIRUT — Three car bombs exploded in Damascus on Sunday, state media reported, and seven people were killed in one of the blasts, a police officer said, the biggest such attack in the Syrian capital since a series of suicide attacks in March.

One of the suicide bombers blew himself up in Tahrir square in central Damascus after being encircled by the authorities.

The police officer at the scene said seven people were killed and 13 wounded in that attack. The other two car bombs were destroyed by the authorities, state media said.

State TV said the casualty toll had been minimised because the security forces had prevented “the terrorists from reaching their targets”, saying they had aimed to target busy areas on the first day back to work after the Eid al-Fitr holiday.



People inspect the damage at one of the blast sites in Damascus, Syria, on 2 July, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Footage broadcast by state TV from Tahrir Square showed roads scattered with debris, several badly damaged

cars, and another one that had been turned into a pile of twisted metal.

Footage broadcast another

of the blast sites showed what appeared to be the remains of a person and badly damaged vehicles outside a mosque in

the Baytara traffic circle near the Old City.

In March, two suicide bomb attacks in Damascus killed several dozen people, most of them at the Palace of Justice courthouse near the Old City. Islamic State claimed responsibility for that attack.

Also in March, a double suicide attack in the capital killed scores of people, most of them Iraqi Shi'ite pilgrims.

That attack was claimed by the Tahrir al-Sham alliance of Islamist insurgents, which is spearheaded by a jihadist group formerly known as the Nusra Front.

Syrian government forces, which have defeated rebel fighters in several suburbs of Damascus over the last year, are currently battling insurgents in the Jobar and Ain Tarma areas on the capital's eastern outskirts.—Reuters ■

Syrian government dismisses report on sarin attack

DAMASCUS — The Syrian government on Saturday dismissed a report by the international chemical weapons watchdog that said the banned nerve agent sarin was used in an April attack in northern Syria, saying it lacked “any credibility”.

Western governments including the United States have said the Syrian government carried out the attack in the town of Khan Sheikhoun which killed dozens of people. The Syrian government has denied using chemical weapons.

The attack prompted a US missile strike against a Syrian air base which Washington said was used to launch the strike. The report into the attack was

circulated to members of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) in The Hague, but was not made public.

In a statement, the Syrian foreign ministry said the fact-finding team had based its report on “the testimonies offered by terrorists in Turkey”. Turkey is a major backer of the Syrian opposition to President Bashar al-Assad.

After interviewing witnesses and examining samples, the fact-finding mission of the OPCW concluded that “a large number of people, some of whom died, were exposed to sarin or a sarin-like substance”.

Russia, Assad's most power-

ful ally, has described the report as biased.

The attack on 4 April in the town of Khan Sheikhoun in northern Idlib province was the most deadly in Syria's civil war in more than three years. Western intelligence agencies had also blamed the Assad government. Syrian officials have repeatedly denied using banned toxins in the conflict.

A joint United Nations and OPCW investigation has found Syrian government forces were responsible for three chlorine gas attacks in 2014 and 2015 and that Islamic State militants used mustard gas.

Syria joined the chemicals weapons convention in 2013 under a Russian-US agreement, averting military intervention under then US President Barack Obama. The United States said on Wednesday the Syrian government appeared to have heeded a warning this week from Washington not to carry out a chemical weapons attack.

Russia warned it would respond proportionately if the United States took pre-emptive measures against Syrian forces after Washington said on Monday it appeared the Syrian military was preparing to conduct a chemical weapons attack.—Reuters ■



A man breathes through an oxygen mask, after what rescue workers described as a suspected gas attack in the town of Khan Sheikhoun in rebel-held Idlib, Syria, on 4 April 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

IS militants behead 10 Taliban fighters in northern Afghanistan

KABUL — Militants loyal to Islamic State (IS) have beheaded 10 fighters from the rival Taliban group in the northern Jawzjan province, a local newspaper the Daily Weesa reported on Sunday.

The IS fighters, according to the newspaper, captured Aq-balaq village in Darzab district on Wednesday and arrested 10 Taliban fighters and beheaded them on Friday.

Both the Taliban and IS militants have been fighting for consolidating positions in

parts of Darzab district over the past several weeks. Neither Taliban nor IS group has made comment on the report.

The rival Taliban and IS group have fought for control of territory in parts of the war-battered country over the past two years.

Darzab district and some isolated parts of Jowzjan province with Sheberghan as its capital, 390 km north of Kabul, have been the scene of Taliban and IS activities over the past more than one year.—Xinhua ■

Yemen's cholera death toll rises to 1,500: WHO

SANA'A — The death toll from a major cholera outbreak in Yemen has risen to 1,500, Nevio Zagaria, the World Health Organization's (WHO) representative in Yemen, said on Saturday, and appealed for more help to put an end to the epidemic.

Yemen has been devastated by a 27-month war between a Saudi-led coalition and the armed Iran-aligned Houthis

group, making it a breeding ground for the disease, which spreads by faeces getting into food or water and thrives in places with poor sanitation.

Speaking at a joint news conference with representatives of the United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) and the World Bank, Zagaria said that had been some 246,000 suspected cases in the period to June 30.—Reuters ■

Nineteen dead after shootouts with police in Mexico's Sinaloa state

MEXICO CITY — Nineteen people were killed in Mexico's northwestern state of Sinaloa late on Friday in a run of related shootouts between police and gunmen, state authorities said.

Armed men in pickup trucks opened fire on a group of police officers on a major highway near the beach resort of Mazatlan, according to the state police and state attorney general's office.

State Public Security Minister Genaro Robles Casillas said in a news conference on Saturday that drug gangs have been fighting over trafficking routes in the area where the violence occurred.

Aided by federal forces, the police fought off the attackers and pursued them to the nearby town of La Amapa, where the gunfight resumed, according to a press release from the state police.

Seventeen gunmen were killed in the shootouts with police, and

another two people died nearby in what appears to be earlier, related shootings, the attorney general's office said in another press release.

No police died. However, five suffered gunshots and are in stable condition, with two of those officers suffering head wounds, according to state police. Found at the scene were 16 semi-automatic rifles, nine handguns and a shotgun, the attorney general's office said. The coastal state of Sinaloa is a focal point in Mexico's drug war. It is home to the Sinaloa cartel, whose most well known boss, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, was extradited to the United States in January to face trial. Police killed 17 people for every officer lost in gunbattles in 2014, according to a study by Mexico's National Autonomous University, a number experts say is consistent with excessive use of force. —Reuters ■

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Dated 3rd July 2017 lmm@kcyangon.com



German Chancellor Angela Merkel delivers a speech during of a memorial ceremony in honour of late former German Chancellor Helmut Kohl at the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on 1 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

World leaders bid farewell to Germany's Kohl as force for European unity

SPEYER, (GERMANY) — Leaders from the United States, Russia and across Europe paid tribute on Saturday to former German chancellor Helmut Kohl as the architect of German reunification and a driving force for European integration.

Kohl, who died on 16 June at 87, was lauded at a ceremony at the European Parliament as a dedicated European who abhorred war by former US President Bill Clin-

ton, Russia Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker and other figures.

A funeral service was held later on Saturday with 900 invited guests at Speyer Cathedral, where as a teenager Kohl found shelter from World War II aerial bombings.

His casket was flown by helicopter from Strasbourg to his hometown Ludwigshafen before

being carried by boat up the Rhine to Speyer, one of Germany's oldest towns where Kohl took former world leaders including Clinton, George H.W. Bush, Mikhail Gorbachev, Boris Yeltsin and Margaret Thatcher for private meetings.

"Helmut Kohl gave us the chance to be involved in something bigger than ourselves, bigger than our terms in office and bigger than our fleeting careers," Clin-

ton said in Strasbourg of the man who was German chancellor from 1982 to 1998 and oversaw German reunification in 1990.

The two-hour memorial in Strasbourg, a city that has often changed hands and now lies in France, symbolised the role Kohl played in reconciling the two erstwhile enemies France and Germany while driving European integration forward.—Reuters ■

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Tower of human skulls in Mexico casts new light on Aztecs

MEXICO CITY — A tower of human skulls unearthed beneath the heart of Mexico City has raised new questions about the culture of sacrifice in the Aztec Empire after crania of women and children surfaced among the hundreds embedded in the forbidding structure.

Archaeologists have found more than 650 skulls caked in lime and thousands of fragments in the cylindrical edifice near the site of the Templo Mayor, one of the main temples in the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan, which later became Mexico City.

The tower is believed to form part of the Huey Tzompantli, a massive array of skulls that struck fear into the Spanish conquistadores when they captured the city under Hernan Cortes, and mentioned the structure in contemporary accounts.

Historians relate how the severed heads of captured warriors adorned tzompantli, or skull racks, found in a number of Mesoamerican cultures before the Spanish conquest.

But the archaeological dig in the bowels of old Mexico City that began in



Skulls are seen at a site where more than 650 skulls caked in lime and thousands of fragments were found, in the cylindrical edifice near Templo Mayor, one of the main temples in the Aztec capital Tenochtitlan, which later became Mexico City, Mexico, on 30 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

2015 suggests that picture was not complete.

“We were expecting just men, obviously young men, as warriors would be, and the thing about the women and children is that you’d think they wouldn’t be going to war,” said Rodrigo Bolanos, a biological anthropologist investigating the find. “Something is happening that we have no record of, and this is really new, a first in the Huey Tzompantli,” he added.

Raul Barrera, one of the archaeologists work-

ing at the site alongside the huge Metropolitan Cathedral built over the Templo Mayor, said the skulls would have been set in the tower after they had stood on public display on the tzompantli.

Roughly six meters in diameter, the tower stood on the corner of the chapel of Huitzilopochtli, Aztec god of the sun, war and human sacrifice. Its base has yet to be unearthed. There was no doubt that the tower was one of the skull edifices mentioned by Andres de Tapia, a

Spanish soldier who accompanied Cortes in the 1521 conquest of Mexico, Barrera said.

In his account of the campaign, de Tapia said he counted tens of thousands of skulls at what became known as the Huey Tzompantli. Barrera said 676 skulls had so far been found, and that the number would rise as excavations went on. The Aztecs and other Mesoamerican peoples performed ritualistic human sacrifices as offerings to the sun. —Reuters ■

New York doctor sent email to paper before hospital rampage

NEW YORK — A doctor who killed another physician at a New York City medical centre and wounded six other people before taking his own life had sent an email to a newspaper blaming hospital officials for wrecking his career, the New York Daily News reported on Saturday.

The paper posted on its website a copy of the email that appeared to have been sent by Dr Henry Bello hours before the deadly shooting on Friday afternoon at Bronx-Lebanon Hospital Center.

The gunman, wearing a white medical lab coat, stalked two floors of the hospital, opening fire on victims before trying

to set himself on fire and then shooting himself to death, Police Commissioner James O’Neill said on Friday. He was dead when police found him.

In the email, Bello said the hospital blocked his path to obtaining a license to practice medicine in New York state.

“First, I was told it was because I always kept to myself. Then it was because of an altercation with a nurse,” Bello said in the email. He said he had been accused of threatening a colleague, one in a series of what he called “bogus complaints.”

The email did not appear to threaten violence.—Reuters ■



NYPD officers work outside Bronx-Lebanon Hospital, after an incident in which a gunman fired shots inside the hospital, in New York City, US, on 30 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Northern Ireland power-sharing deal unlikely in coming days, Sinn Fein says

BELFAST, (Northern Ireland) — Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said on Saturday that Northern Ireland’s political parties were unlikely to reach a deal to restore the province’s power-sharing agreement in the next few days.

The region has been locked in a political crisis since January’s collapse of the coalition between pro-British unionists and Irish nationalists mandated under a 1998 peace deal that ended three decades of sectarian violence.

The British government last week said last week it would give the parties a few more days to agree a way to restore the

executive after the latest deadline passed without a deal. Britain’s minister for Northern Ireland, James Brokenshire, is

due to update parliament on Monday. “I think it is very unlikely that there will be an agreement by Monday,” Adams said in a statement. If power-sharing is not restored, Northern Ireland risks reverting to direct rule from London for the first time in a decade, a step backwards in the delicate balance between mainly Catholic Irish nationalists seeking union with Ireland and predominantly Protestant unionists who want to stay in the United Kingdom.—Reuters ■



Sinn Fein’s party president Gerry Adams addresses journalists in Belfast, Northern Ireland, on 9 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Invitation of Expression of Interest (EOI) for long-term lease in Nay Pyi Taw Cement Factory under Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Nay Pyi Taw

Nay Pyi Taw Cement Factory under Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee is intended to cooperate with Local or Foreign companies as long-term lease.

As a first step, Companies who interested in that cooperation are required to submit their Expression of Interest (EOI) not later than 4 :00pm (Myanmar Standard Time) on (1.9.2017) to Chairman, Tender Committee, City Hall, Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Nay Pyi Taw, Republic of The Union of Myanmar.

Interested Companies can inquiry and take over the EOI form and other indications at procurement section, sub office of cement factory, City Hall , Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee, Nay Pyi Taw, commencing from (4.7.2017) by presenting document of company profile.

Document of company profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Record and Regulation of Company
- Name of Foreign Technology Partner

(For more information: Please Contact : 067- 432312, 09-5110331)

Tender Committee
Nay Pyi Taw Development Committee

Adele cancels remainder of world tour with damaged vocal cords

LONDON — Singer Adele has canceled the last two sell-out shows of her world tour due to take place at London's Wembley Stadium this weekend after damaging her vocal cords.

Adele, 29, said she went to see a throat doctor on Friday night, who advised her not to perform.

She had already performed two nights to crowds at Wembley, but said that she had been struggling vocally.

"To say I'm heartbroken would be an understatement," Adele, said on her Twitter page.

One of the biggest selling artists in the world, she said she was so desperate perform that she had even considered miming at the shows.

"I've never done it and I cannot in a million years do that to you," she said. "It wouldn't be the real me up there."

Adele said refunds would be available if the shows could not be rescheduled.

The Grammy-award singer has previously had to cancel concerts due to problems with her throat following vocal cord surgery in 2011.—Reuters ■



Adele sings "Hello" at the 59th Annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles, California, US, on 12 February 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**



Mariah Carey's tribute to tragic fan

LONDON — Pop star Mariah Carey paid tribute to her fan Martyn Hett, who died in the Manchester terror attack, via a video message.

Hett, 29, was a huge fan of Mariah and she addressed mourners at his funeral with a touching message, reported Metro. She said, "I feel like I am talking to Martyn and I am talking to his spirit. I just wanted to say that I love you and I'm so happy that we got a chance to meet."

"I know that you're shining down on us from heaven and I'm happy that all your family and your friends are gathered together in honour of you. And that I played a strong role in your life, it's a huge honour to me. And I just want to send love to everyone." Martyn was one of the victims of the Manchester terror attack in May, when a suicide bomber detonated a device after Ariana Grande's concert at the city's arena.—PTI ■

Luke Skywalker's lightsaber sold for USD 4,50,000

LOS ANGELES — Luke Skywalker's special weapon from "Star Wars" sold at auction for over USD 4,50,000.

The lightsaber, used by Mark Hamill as Skywalker in "Star Wars: A New Hope" and "The Empire Strikes Back", was purchased by Orlando-based Ripley company, reported Orlando Sentinel. The prop was originally part of the collection owned by producer Gary Kurtz. Ripley, however, is

not saying where the lightsaber will be displayed. The company has also secured a 15-foot version of the film series' Millennium Falcon ship, created from nearly a million matchsticks by Iowa artist Patrick Acton.

"We've been looking for 'Star Wars' stuff for a few months now in order to complement that when it comes," said Edward Meyer, vice president of archives and exhibits for Ripley.—PTI ■

Olivia de Havilland sues FX Networks over depiction in 'Feud'

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actress Olivia de Havilland filed a lawsuit against FX Networks on Friday, saying she did not give her permission to be portrayed in the miniseries "Feud: Bette and Joan" and that her depiction in the show had harmed her reputation.

Lawyers for de Havilland, whose 101st birthday is on Saturday, said the network and Ryan Murphy Productions did not consult with her and that she is the only living person to be depicted in the eight-part miniseries.

De Havilland was portrayed by Catherine Zeta-Jones in "Feud," which starred Jessica Lange as Joan Crawford and Susan Sarandon as Bette Davis. The series explored the complex tension and bad blood between the two Hollywood screen legends in the later years of their life, especially during their filming on 1962's "What Ever Happened to Baby Jane."

Critics warmly received the series, touting it as a strong contender for next month's Emmy nominations.

De Havilland's complaint was filed in Los Angeles Superior Court. Representative for Murphy and FX Networks, a unit of Twenty-First Century Fox Inc did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests

for comment. In an April interview with The Hollywood Reporter, Murphy said he did not contact de Havilland because he "didn't want to be disrespectful and ask her, 'Did this happen? Did that happen? What was your take on that?'"

In the complaint, lawyers criticized Zeta-Jones' depiction of de Havilland giving an interview that they said had never taken place in real life, even though the series intended for viewers to believe it was true.

The complaint adds that de Havilland was portrayed as a "petty gossip" in the show, which her lawyers argued was damaging to her "professional reputation for integrity, honesty, generosity, self-sacrifice

and dignity."

The complaint requests a jury trial to determine damages that include emotional distress and economic losses as well as profits made by defendants using de Havilland's likeness.

De Havilland, best known for the 1939 film "Gone With the Wind," won two Oscars in a career spanning 50 movies that was also marked by a legendary feud with younger sister and fellow Oscar-winner Joan Fontaine that was worthy of a screenplay. Fontaine died in 2013.

De Havilland moved to Paris in the 1950s, where she currently resides, and has only made rare public appearances since retiring.—Reuters ■



Actress Olivia de Havilland, 89, two-time Academy Award winner, arrives for the 'Academy Tribute to Olivia de Havilland' at the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences, Beverly Hills in 2006. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

On rainy 150th birthday, nation celebrates the meaning of Canada

OTTAWA — Canada's long-anticipated 150th birthday celebrations on Saturday were marked by heavy rains and some protests, though the downpour failed to dampen spirits of revellers who thronged in large numbers to enjoy musical performances and parades.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau kicked off celebrations amid heavy security and some 25,000 people assembled at a large outdoor celebration in front of the national Parliament in Ottawa, where Irish singer Bono and

other members of rock band U2 enthralled the audience.

"When others build walls, you open doors; when others divide, your arms are open wide; where you lead, others follow," Bono said.

But the bad weather meant a fly-past featuring Canadian warplanes was cancelled and later on, an evening concert was delayed by an hour to allow the rain storms to pass.

The long-anticipated Canada Day festivities, which included other fea-

tures such as acrobats, and special citizenship ceremonies across large cities, concluded with fireworks.

Trudeau, accompanied by Britain's Prince Charles, shook hands with some of the thousands of revellers who converged on Canada's capital Ottawa.

"Canada is a country made strong not in spite of our differences but because of them," Trudeau told the gathering. "We don't aspire to be a melting pot — indeed, we know true strength and

resilience flows through Canadian diversity."

Still, in the run-up to the celebrations, some controversy was stirred at home, particularly among First Nations who noted Canada's history of mistreatment of indigenous people.

Activists erected a teepee on Parliament Hill on Thursday in protest.

On Saturday, about 100 indigenous protesters marched through Toronto, carrying red flags and with some holding the Canadian national flag upside down.—Reuters ■

Drone classes to train more skilled pilots growing in Japan

KOFU (Japan) — Schools offering lessons in piloting drones are increasing in Japan as more seasoned operators are needed for industrial purposes such as logistics as well as disaster response.

While simply flying a drone is not a complicated process, operating them for surveying or disaster sites requires certain techniques.

In March, the drone pilot school in the city of Kai, Yamanashi Prefecture, operated by the Japan Aviation Academy, lowered the eligibility for entrance from age 20 to 16. In addition to practical coaching, students at the school can learn about civil aviation and radio laws, as well as understanding sudden weather changes from the movement of clouds and wind direction.

"The lessons are practical and I am learning a lot. I hope to use the skills for disaster preven-

tion and helping people," said Tsurugi Hatano, a 16-year-old high school student in the city of Tsuru, Yamanashi.

As of the end of May, more than 100 such schools are operating in Japan, according to the Japan UAS Industrial Development Association and the Drone Pilot Association. Many drones used for surveying are equipped with global positioning systems and their propellers are usually automatically adjusted.

But for their stable flight even in times of system failures, certain operational techniques are necessary to prevent them from being swept away by strong winds. In June, the Yamanashi Survey and Planning Association began sending employees of its member companies to the drone pilot school to improve their skills.

— Kyodo News ■



A couple takes a 'selfie' in front of a large inflatable duck installation on the waterfront on Canada Day, as the country marks its 150th anniversary with 'Canada 150' celebrations, in Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on 1 July 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Price of air-travel to plummet as passenger numbers grow: Australian expert

CANBERRA — The cost of air travel will continue to plummet as passenger numbers grow, an Australian expert has forecast on Sunday.

Lyell Strambi, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Melbourne Airport, said airport investment in infrastructure such as automated terminals was pushing down the cost for airlines.

"If you look at air travel pricing over the long run we'll see the prices continually come down, and airports are part of that story," Strambi told Australian media on the 20th anniversary of the privatization of the Melbourne Airport.

"For us to be successful, we need airlines to be successful," he said.

"For airlines to be successful they need to be driving cheaper and cheaper fares for their customers for the given level of quality they want to achieve. "The traveller yields the benefit for that with lower fares."

The number of annual passengers using the Melbourne Airport has more than doubled from 14 million in 1997 to 35 million in 2017, a trend that Strambi expects to continue. He said the airport was in the early stages of planning a fifth terminal to combat the rapid growth.—Xinhua ■



Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(3-7-2017 07:00am ~ 4-7-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations — Gem Stone Painting
07:46	Am	MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The World's Largest Book
08:51	Am	Egg Shell
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA OBOE)
09:51	Am	Philatelic Pleasure
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	School for the Blind (Kyee Myin Dine)

10:52 Am Kindhearted Pet Lovers

(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	New
07:27	Pm	Talk Show: MOBILE WEEK (Samsung)
07:47	Pm	Artistic Erosion on Steel: Kyi Wynn
08:03	Pm	New
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes: Zahau (Their Life and Customs)
08:49	Pm	Yangon Markets: Da Nyin Gone 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)

Myanmar loses 1-2 to Japanese University Club in final U-22 football match

Kyaw Zin Lin

MYANMAR lost to Japanese University Club 1-2 in the final football match of the KBZ tournament in Thuwanna Stadium yesterday night.

Japanese University Club scored the first goal at 4 minutes by Japanese player Yu Ke Ta who headed the ball into the goal on a corner kick.

Following the first goal, the Japanese team played more aggressively keeping the ball on offense. Myanmar midfielders and defenders cleared well in the first half and held their opponents to one goal. During the second half, Myanmar changed their tactics and attacked on offense more often. Myanmar striker Aung Thu scored the team's first goal on a penalty kick.

The Japanese team coun-



Myanmar shining player Si Thu Aung seen in a match. **PHOTO: SUPPLIED**

tered with their second goal at 89 minutes by Ei Sarkar who overwhelmed Myanmar's defenders and touched the ball into the net.

Myanmar won \$5,000 and

Japanese University Club won \$10,000 in tournament prize money. Myanmar striker Aung Thu was named the best player of the tournament. ■

Djokovic adds Ancic to team after Eastbourne triumph

EASTBOURNE, (Britain) — Novak Djokovic looked to have regained his confidence and form just in time for another concerted Wimbledon assault as he carved out an emphatic win over Gael Monfils in the Aegon International grass-court final at Eastbourne on Saturday.

Djokovic once again wrapped up a 6-3, 6-4 victory over the Frenchman he consistently gets the better of, lifting the title in his first visit to Devonshire Park without dropping a single set.

The Serb then confirmed on court that his friend, former Croatian player Mario Ancic, would be a new part of his coaching team, along with Andre Agassi, at Wimbledon next week.

"It was my first time at Eastbourne and I hope I can

see you guys in the years to come," Djokovic told the crowd. "This is the best possible preparation for next week, so hopefully I can go on from here."

The ever-popular Monfils could only congratulate his conqueror and note ruefully: "Well done, Novak. We played for the 14th time and it's 14-0. Well done again!"

It was only Djokovic's second title of a difficult year in which he has struggled for form, faced injuries and split with his long-standing coaching team.

However, on Saturday just as throughout the week at a tournament whose organisers were delighted to offer him a wild card to compete, the 30-year-old seemed rejuvenated by the bracing English seaside air.—Reuters ■

Horn stuns Pacquiao to win WBO welterweight world title

BRISBANE, (Australia) — Australia's Jeff Horn stunned Filipino Manny Pacquiao in a bloody Brisbane battle to claim a unanimous 12-round decision and win the WBO world welterweight title in front of 50,000 fans at Lang Park on Sunday.

The unheralded 29-year-old former schoolteacher, who improved his record to 17-0-1, was awarded the win over the eight-division world champion by scores of 117-111, 115-113 and 115-113.

"I'm so happy, I can't explain my feelings," Horn said at ringside, before welcoming the prospect of a rematch.

"I've just believed since I was very young that I could do this."

Pacquiao, one of the finest boxers of his generation, paid the price for a slow start and his inability to end the fight with a knockout.

The 38-year-old was knocked off his stride by the aggression of the taller and heavier Australian in the early rounds but looked to have weathered the storm as the fight wore on and Horn tired.

With blood pouring from both sides of his forehead after accidental butts, the southpaw launched a fierce assault on Horn



Jeff Horn of Australia punches Manny Pacquiao of the Philippines during WBO World Welterweight Title in Brisbane, Australia, on 2 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

which nearly ended the contest in round nine.

"Show me something in this round, or I'm going to stop the fight," the referee warned the Australian.

Horn, who was cut above his right eye in round two, said he had been exhausted and rattled by the Filipino's punches.

"It was hard, hard getting through that round, hard getting hit, getting caught with a shot and then continue on," Horn said.

"(But) I was like 'settle down everyone, I'm fine'. I was recovering pretty quickly."

The Australian showed remarkable powers of recuperation as he battled gamely on through

the final three rounds with Pacquiao, who earned the last of his 38 knockouts in 2009, unable to capitalise on his dominance.

The bout ended with the fighters in a clinch on the ropes and although Pacquiao gave a little shuffle and a grin to show he had plenty left in the tank, his fate was in the hands of the judges.

"Very tough. I didn't expect that tough," said Pacquiao, whose record now reads 59-7-2. "It's okay, it's part of the game. That's the decision of the judges, I respect that."

Pacquiao, who had hoped for an impressive victory to fire talk of another fight against Floyd Mayweather Jr, said he would "absolutely" return for the contracted rematch against Horn.

An emotional Horn brandished a walking stick as he also called out the undefeated Mayweather, who has come out of retirement at 40 years of age for a 12-round crossover boxing match against mixed martial arts champion Conor McGregor.

"This is no joke, which one does he want? The walking stick or the gloves?" the Queenslander said. The loss stunned people in the Philippines, where Pacquiao, now a high-profile senator, has long been a national hero.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's spokesman, Ernesto Abella, said the loss "would not diminish the honours he bestowed to the people and to the flag".

"Nothing will change: Senator Manny Pacquiao will remain our People's Champ," Abella said.—Reuters ■