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Firefighters prepare to distinguish fire after burning seized drugs at an event to mark International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, outside Yangon, Myanmar, on 26 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gov't burns illicit drug, observes Intl Day against Drug Abuse

MYANMAR government officials burned a stash of illegal drugs and precursors with a street value of Ks66 billion to commemorate the United Nations' International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Counternarcotics officials reported 8,800 drug cases in 2016 and the establishment of 85 new drug abuse treatment centers, including 26 at large medical institutions, 47 at smaller medi-

A project for community base treatment (CBT) is also being drafted ...

cal centers and 12 rehabilitation centers.

The event was attended by high-ranking government officials including Vice President U Myint Swe who vowed to increase the intensity of Myanmar's counternarcotics efforts.

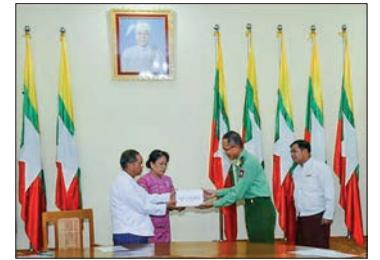
"With systematic monitoring, we should establish plans and efforts to solve the root causes of drug trafficking," said the Vice President. "Only then, shall we effectively reduce the

menace of the illicit drug trafficking."

The Vice President said that Myanmar law enforcement authorities were closely monitoring narcotic precursor chemical imports to keep them out of the hands of illicit traffickers.

While drug seizures went up in flames in Yangon security officials in Mandalay and Taunggyi destroyed confiscated drugs worth more than \$ 386 million.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th regular session holds its 21st day meeting

At the Pyithu Hluttaw meeting held yesterday, Dr Tun Naing, Deputy Minister for Electricity and Energy replied to the query raised by Daw Nam Kham Aye of Namtu constituency as to how much income has been received from the sale of natural gas of 12 billion cubic feet for 30-year period from Rakhine offshore which is 793 km long and when 5% of the earning from the approved sale will be handed over to the budget fund of the Shan State, "There is not yet a plan to hand over 5% of the profit from the sale of the natural gas to the budget fund of the Shan State. Under the law prescribed by the Union, only the earnings on oils and natural gases under the authority of Regions and States are required to be paid to the budget funds for Regions and States. Annually, Budget Fund of the Union is supplying deficits of Regions and States. A total of US \$ 121 million from earnings from the sale of natural gases during the FY 2013-2014 to FY 2016-2017 were paid to the Union Budget Fund."

The Deputy Minister added, "Shwe natural gas project, Rakhine offshore was launched

in 2010, and construction period lasted for 3 years or so. In the project, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC) invested 50.9%, Daewoo of ROK 25.041%, (ONGC) Oil and Natural Gas Company Limited 8.347%, GAIL (India) 4.1735%, KOGAS of ROK 4.1735% and Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise 7.365% respectively. Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise borrowed the loan amounting to Euro 86.16 million from China Development Bank to invest in the project. Of the loan, there are still left Euro 103.64 million with interest included to be repaid. For the time being, until now there is no profit as the said amount is being paid."

Major-General Aung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs replied to the question raised by Daw Mar Mar Khaing of Thaton constituency, "Arrangements had been made in 3 steps to equip police forces with modern weapons and firearms used in suppressing riots instead of out-dated and moribund weapons being used presently. In the FY 2012-2013, only 102 long distance communication equipments were installed, with 869



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

units installed in FY 2015-2016. In addition, 2838 teletypewriters were also installed. So as to fulfill the needed communication equipments, 10% of set-up needs are being demanded annually. Now that budget allotment for the FY 2017-2018 had been granted, arrangements are being made to buy 816 units of communication equipments under 7 titles. In the FY 2016-2017, firearms and related equipments, explosives, 10 machines of computer forensic network, video forensic including machines for examining tiny things and fake currency had been supplied. Portable X-ray machine which can detect

images in social forensic, scent detective machine for explosives, drone-hunting machine, video pole camera and bullet catcher collection chamber are to be bought again."

The Deputy Minister also added, "Arrangements are underway to amend new rates for hiring lodging house for police forces. Up to year 2010, there were altogether 1,844 vehicles in Myanmar Police Force, with more 2,648 units added to it during the period 2011 to 2017. In 2010, oils allotted for those vehicles were 50,000 gallons per month whereas 173,609 gallons are being used per month. From

2014 till 2016 every individual of the police forces including officers and other ranks at different levels was allowed one suit each plus other necessary suits with charge for sewing included. From 2017 on, every policeman is allowed two suits each plus other necessary suits with charge for sewing included. As for ration provision for police forces, each was granted up to Ks 1,800 per day with travelling allowance for investigation was allowed up to Ks 10,000 for one case as of FY 2016-2017. As for transportation charge of culprits, starting from FY 2013-2014, Ks 50,000 was granted for a major case, with Ks 30,000 for other and Ks 10,000 for a prevention case allowed respectively. Depending upon situations in which cases happen, a township police station was granted Ks 1.8 million to the maximum and Ks 100,000 to the minimum whereas for outpost police stations Ks 1.2 million to the maximum and Ks 30,000 as imprest amount, hence no need for police station to use their own money."—Kyaw Thu Htet, Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker left to attend 2nd Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments

PYITHU HLUTTAW Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and party left by air to Republic of Korea on evening of 25 June to attend the Second Meeting of Speakers of Eurasian Countries' Parliaments to be held from 26 June to 28 June in Seoul, South Korea.

The Deputy Speaker and party were seen off at Yangon

International Airport by Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and Deputy Speaker U Lin Naing Myint. The Deputy Speaker was accompanied by Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Kyaw Aung Lwin and Amyotha Hluttaw representative U Mahn Tun Kyaing.—Myanmar News Agency ■



U T Khun Myat, Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw, is seen off by officials as he leave for Seoul, South Korea. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

Reports on distribution of new medical equipment and proper procedures



Amyotha Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Oxygen concentrators were distributed to 39 central hospitals and at 36 state and region hospitals with 100 to 200 beds, according to Minister for Health and Sports Dr. Myint Htwe's address during yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw meeting.

Oxygen generators are portable medical devices designed to increase oxygen intake

for patients with respiratory distress or low oxygen levels in their blood.

U Aung Thein, a parliamentarian from the 12th constituency of Bago Region, complained that FY 2017-2018 funds allocated for construction of a new hospital at Dhammathaw village in Pakkaung Township in Bago was diverted, after ground was

broken, to construct a different hospital at Tapun village, Nattalin Township instead.

Dr. Myint Htwe said that the change of location took place without notifying the proper authorities, including the Ministry of Construction and the project planning office of the Ministry of Planning and Finance. —Thura Zaw (MNA) ■

Gov't burns illicit drug, observes Intl Day against Drug Abuse

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Students have been given direct and indirect educational training on drugs to prevent their usage. Educational videos, songs and news have also been broadcasted on MRTV and other channels in different languages, said Vice President U Myint Swe.

Myanmar is collaborating with regional countries, countries along the Mekong River, countries affiliated with BIM-STEAC and countries who have signed drug control treaties and also with international organisations like the UN for anti-drug campaigns.

At the UN's 30th general assembly of the Special Session on World Drug Problem in 2016, a road map has been designed which incorporates public health and development. A drug report in Myanmar is being carried out with help from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to help efforts in reducing drug addiction and drug production. A project for Community Base Treatment (CBT) is also being drafted and it will be used at the township level and



Vice President U Myint Swe views an exhibition commemorating the 2017 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking. PHOTO: MNA

trainings for facilitators are also being given.

"When creating a drug-free society, it is better to use an index that measures the level of drug related crimes and its dangers rather than the number of drug

confiscations to see how effective current drug prevention techniques are," said U Myint Swe.

It is important that everyone collaborates to devise new approaches to drug-related incidents given the complicated

mixture of society, economy, rule of law and judiciaries involved in drug incidents, he added.

The theme for 2017 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking is 'Listen First' which says that it is impor-

tant to listen to the feelings of our children and youths and to work together for their development, health and safety.

Afterwards, Mr. Jeremy Douglas, UNODC's Regional Representative for Southeast Asia and the Pacific, read the memorandum sent by the United Nations Secretary-General.

Chairman of the Central Committee for Drug Abuse Control (CCDAC), Union Minister Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, handed awards to six winners who created short novels, articles, poems, songs, photos and posters commemorating 2017 International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

Later, a video showing the performances of the CCDAC was played. This was followed by the Vice President taking a commemorative photo with the participants.

In 1987 the UN General Assembly decided to observe 26 June as International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking and Myanmar has now observed it for 30 years. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Discussion held to aid the injured people by landmine

Local and international landmine risk organizations met yesterday at the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement's offices in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to discuss measures to reduce injuries caused by remnant explosive devices.

The meeting was attended by Mr. Alexander Robert Renuik Mcaslan, Deputy Team Leader of the United Kingdom's Department for International Development-DFID and Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr. Win Myat Aye (MS-WRR), and representatives of the international landmine risk mitigation groups Halo Trust, Mine Advisory Group and Norwegian Peoples' Aid.

The organization of Department for International Development-DFID met the

organizations of The Halo Trust, Mine Advisory Group and Norwegian Peoples' Aid.

These organizations are funds supported organizations for the landmine risk cases of Myanmar by cooperation with Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MSWRR).

They discussed the strengths and weakness of current cooperation projects, the master plan and priorities of Mine Risk Education Team and the funds collecting plans for the projects of reducing mine risks. Also discussed were the cooperation processes between Mine Risk Education Team and Union Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee, the procedures of humanity aids for the injured people by mine. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Promoting National Unity at Ethnic Media Conference in Kayah State



Participants of the 5th Annual Ethnic Media Conference in Loikaw. PHOTO: MNA

The first day of the Fifth Annual Ethnic Media Conference opened with speeches and dances in Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday under the title "Promoting the Ethnic Media in Political Transition in Myanmar."

Nai Kasauh Mon, executive director of Burma News International (BNI) urged mainstream media outlets to provide increased assistance

for ethnic media. Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint responded that his ministry will do all it can to help development of ethnic media.

Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho said the media sector of the main pillars in Myanmar's democratic transition; others include the rule of law and governance.

Mr. Chris Hobbs, Deputy

Mission Director of USAID's Office of Democracy and Government and Say Reh Soe, chief editor of the Kantarawaddy Times, explained the requirements for the development of the ethnic media sector.

Conference participants discussed difficulties and potential opportunities for ethnic media outlets.—Kayah State (IPRD) ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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.gnlm@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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Mandalay beans and Pulscs market on decline despite unblocking of accounts

MANDALAY beans and Pulscs market remains on decline this week even after China has unfrozen over 300 bank accounts.

China banks froze Myanmar merchants' bank accounts through which Sino-Myanmar border transaction is made, causing some trade to halt starting from 15th June.

The declining market and ban on bank accounts adversely affected pea market. A three-basket bag of green gram slumped to Ks.110,000 from Ks. 130,000. Sales fell these days from 20,000 to 3,000 bags a day, said U Soe Win Myint a depot owners.

At present, China government has unfrozen the bank accounts, which increases the price a bit to Ks.115,000 per pigeon pea bag and so does the sales to 8,000 bags, he continued.

A bag of white sesame seeds fetches Ks.110,000 while the price of black sesame seeds is Ks.115,000 a bag. The newly harvested sesame



Mandalay vegetable market on decline despite unblocking of accounts. Photo: Zin Oo

seeds are currently entering the market.

The groundnut market is also dependent on China demand. The market is still cool these days. The price is likely to rise when there is a steady demand, he added.

In a bid to prevent manipulation of the prices, the State needs to institute government to government (G to G) system as soon as possible, U Soe Win Myint pointed out.

The pea prices at commodity depot in Mandalay are

around Ks.2,100 for a viss (3.6 pounds) of groundnut, around Ks.88,000 a three-basket-bag of mung bean, Ks.95,000 to 100,000 per bag of butter bean and Ks.245,000-250,000 per bag of CP corn. —Zin Oo (Myanmar Alin) ■

Betel nut export via Tamu border gate declines

BETEL NUT export through Tamu border camp between Myanmar and India are declining, said betel nut mer-

chants.

The export volume has been decreasing since last week of May.



The inflow of goods to the gate has decreased significantly on account of difficulties in transportation during the rainy season. The merchants in Tamu gate cannot help other than selling their stocks, said U Khin Maung Tint, the secretary of Tamu Merchants Association.

Nearly 4,000 tons of betel nut was exported to India last month whereas more than 3,000 tons are exported to India as of third week of June. There are nearly 150,000 acres of betel

nut plantation and Taninthayi, Ayeyawady regions and Mon State supply large volume of betel nut.

Cigarette, clothes, wheat flour, etc are imported by India into Myanmar. The prevailing price of betel nut is Ks. 6000 a viss (3.6 pounds). In betel nut export, a certificate for tax exemption and business licence are required to be sought from a township administrator, Myanmar Perennial Crops Enterprise and the Internal Revenue Department. —Zar Lin Thu ■

Green gram growers expect good price during harvest

GREEN gram growers from Tatkon Township are hoping to get good price during the harvest due to the high cost of pesticide and labour wages.

The newly harvested green gram is two-month crop. At present, the growers start to cut the crops. After three months, growers can

again harvest the next round of crops. The green gram cultivation is easy to make cash than other crops as the next crops yielded three months after harvesting depending on the good weather, said U Myint Soe, a green gram grower on three acres in Tatkon Township.

Currently, the green gram price is floating in the market, ranging from Ks 30,000 to Ks 45,000 per basket, he continued.

Although the green gram cultivation does not cost too much against other crops, the growers have to buy fertilizer and pesticide at a high cost. As

a result of this, the growers do not get a handsome profit as expected.

There is no much profit left for us due to the high cost of pesticide. If a basket of green gram fetch over Ks 40,000, it is profit-making for us, said U Myint Soe. —Maung Lwin (Tatkon) ■

Thai-Myanmar border trade value this FY exceeds that of last FY

VALUES of Thailand-Myanmar border trade from 1st April to 16th June this Financial Year 2017-2018 amounted to more than US\$250 million which showed increase of US\$9 million against last FY, according to the official figures released by the Commerce Ministry last Friday.

Myanmar and Thailand are conducting the border trade via these border gates; Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteekhee, Maese and Mawtaung.

During this FY, Myawady border gate which have the second largest trade value out of 16 border trade gates saw decrease of over US\$4 million compared to similar point of last FY. Tachilek and Hteekhee gates also witnessed a slight decrease in trade value against last FY.

Thailand-Myanmar border trade values as of 16th June this FY are US\$17.7 million in Tachilek, over US\$161 million in Myawady, US\$32.7 million in

Kawthoung, US\$35.8 million in Myeik, nearly US\$2 million in Hteekhee, nearly US\$1 million in Mawtaung and nearly US\$0.2 million in Maese.

The country is also trading with these neighbouring countries- China, India and Bangladesh. Sino-Myanmar border trade is through Muse, Lweje, Kanpiketee, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung gates while Myanmar is carrying out border trade with India via Tamu and Reed. The

country's border trade gates with Bangladesh are Sittway and Maungtau. Border gates as of 16th June this FY totaled nearly US\$1.5 billion which increased US\$50 million more than last FY.

Myanmar export agricultural products, forest products, animal products, minerals, fishery products, manufactured goods and other products while capital goods, raw industrial goods and consumer products are imported into the country. —Mon Mon ■

Import of intermediate goods increased by \$550 million

THE IMPORT value of intermediate goods increased by US\$550 million in the first half of the current financial year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

From 1 April to 16 June of this year, Myanmar's total imports of intermediate goods were valued at \$1.5 billion, including \$33.44 million from the government sector and \$1.51 billion from the private sector.

During the same period last year, Myanmar's imports of intermediate goods were valued at \$990 million. The total value of all imported goods in the current financial year was \$3.9 billion, including \$1.422 billion worth of capital goods and \$951 million worth of consumer goods.—Khine Khant ■

Hotel and tourism investments in Yangon Region increases by 36 per cent

HOTELS and tourism investments in Yangon Region increased by 36 per cent in the past five years, according to a report of Myawady Daily yesterday newspaper.

Those who want to run ho-

tels, motels, inns and guesthouses are seeking business licence in Yangon Region. Out of 183 applications for hotel operation, 103 are permitted to run the businesses. All the stakeholders in hotels and tourism industry

had been exerting efforts to develop the industry with formulation of projects since late 2011. There were 52 joint ventures in this industry from 2011 to 2016 and investments in this sector increased up to US\$2.92 billion.

About 1,400 hotels and guesthouses were granted business licence so far in 2016. More than 2,200 tour companies and 3,900 tour guide licences were issued so far, according to the Hotels and Tourism Ministry.—200 ■

Paid Content

Memorandum of Understanding on Yangon City Water Supply Project inked



Mayor U Maung Maung Soe delivers opening address at the signing ceremony. PHOTO: YCDC

Memorandum of Understanding on Yangon City Water Supply Project between Yangon City Development Committee and POWERCHINA International Group Limited and Thu Kha Yadanar Company Limited was signed on 23rd June 2017.

The signing ceremony was held at the office of Yangon City Development Committee at 10 am on 23rd June, with an opening address by Mayor of Yangon City U Maung Maung Soe.

Also present at the ceremony were Joint-Secretary of

the YCDC U Than, member of the committee Daw May May Thwe and head and deputy heads of department, directors of the POWERCHINA International Group Limited and Thu Kha Yadanar Company Ltd.

Following the opening

address of Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Thu Kha Yadanar Company Limited's Vice Chairman U Thaug Htike Min, POWERCHINA International Group Limited's Director Mr Huang Xiaofeng and Surbana Jurong Myanmar's Managing Director Mr. Lee Leong Seng spoke words of thanks.

Afterwards, Memorandum of Understanding on Yangon City Water Supply

Project was inked by U Aung San Win, Head of YCDC's Engineering Department (Water and Sanitation), U Thaug Htike Min, Vice-Chairman of Thu Kha Yadanar Company Limited, and Mr Huang Xiaofeng, POWERCHINA International Group Limited.

The signing ceremony ended following the attendees had the documentary photos taken.—CITY NEWS



U Aung San Win (left), U Thaug Htike Min and Mr Huang Xiaofeng shake hands after inking the MOU. PHOTO: YCDC

Trump, Modi seek rapport despite friction on trade, immigration

WASHINGTON — US President Donald Trump and Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will hold their first face-to-face meeting in Washington on Monday, seeking to boost US-Indian relations despite differences over trade, the Paris climate accord and immigration.

Their White House session promises less pomp than Modi's previous visits to Washington, which included former President Barack Obama taking him to the Martin Luther King Jr memorial in 2014.

But Trump administration officials have pointed to both leaders' impact on social media — each has more than 30 million Twitter followers — as proof that

they are cut from the same cloth, and predicted the two would get along well.

Trump built a Trump Tower property in Mumbai and spoke warmly of India during his presidential campaign last year.

"The White House is very interested in making this a special visit," said one senior official. "We're really seeking to roll out the red carpet."

Modi will try to strengthen ties that have appeared to loosen. Indian officials, noting both men's tendency to speak their mind, were anxious to see how they get along.

They will have one-on-one talks followed by statements to the news media without taking



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and US President Donald Trump. PHOTO: REUTERS

questions. They will then have a working dinner, the first time Trump has played host to a foreign dignitary at a White House dinner.

"If the chemistry is good, everything else gets sorted," said an Indian official. "The only way is up. How much up we go depends on the leaders. If they click, we go up higher."

While progress is expected in defence trade and cooperation, there are frictions elsewhere.

Trump, who campaigned on an "America First" platform, has been troubled by the growing US trade deficit with India. He has

called for reform of the H-1B visa system that has benefited Indian tech firms.

He set the United States on a path to withdraw from the Paris climate agreement and accused India of negotiating unscrupulously for the accord in order to walk away with billions of dollars in aid.

Meanwhile, Indian officials reject suggestions that Modi's "Make in India" platform is protectionist and complain about the US regulatory process for generic pharmaceuticals and rules on fruit exports to the United States.

They stress the importance

of the huge Indian market to US firms and major growth in areas such as aviation, which offer significant opportunities for US manufacturers.

Rick Rossow, an India expert at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, said the frictions in US-Indian relations since Trump took office on 20 January add gravity to the meeting.

"The meeting will provide more clarity on whether the past six months have been Act 1 in a surprising friendship or Round 1 of a protracted slugging match," he said.—Reuters ■

Viet Nam to block Facebook accounts whose owners trade online but refuse to pay tax

HANOI — Viet Nam's relevant agencies will coordinate with Facebook to block accounts whose owners actively trade products on the social network but refuse to pay taxes, local media reported on Monday.

The Vietnamese General Department of Taxation has instructed tax departments nationwide to take strong measures to deal with online traders which make revenues of over 100 million Vietnamese dong (more than 4,400 US dollars) but refuse to pay tax, daily newspaper Tuoi Tre (Youth) reported. "We don't want to resort to this measure (blocking Facebook accounts), but will have to do that if such online traders insist on refusing to pay taxes," the newspaper quoted an official from the tax agency as saying.

The Hanoi Department of Taxation has recently sent letters to owners of nearly 13,500 Facebook accounts

which have trading activities, proposing them to pay taxes. Local newspaper Tien Phong (Pioneer) quoted the department's latest statistics, in Hanoi, there are nearly 17,000 Facebook accounts which engage in trading products or services on the social network. Last month, the Ho Chi Minh City Department of Taxation sent letters to owners of nearly 13,500 social network accounts, proposing them to complete tax registration at tax offices. However, most of the account owners have yet to show up.

By the end of February 2016, Viet Nam had 35 million Facebook users, or one-thirds of the country's population, Facebook announced in late March 2016.

Facebook is the dominant social network in Viet Nam, with few Vietnamese people using other social networks.—Xinhua ■

Japan to mull accelerating missile defence upgrades

TOKYO — Japan will consider accelerating upgrades to its ballistic missile defence system in cooperation with the United States given threats from recent North Korean missiles launched with a higher trajectory and falling faster toward their targets, a Japanese government source said on Sunday.

Possible introduction of a land-based Aegis missile defence system known as Aegis Ashore will be the main topic of a Japan-US foreign and defence ministers' meeting to be held in Washington next month, the source said.

The Defence Ministry will request a budget for the next fiscal year from April 2018 necessary to prepare for Aegis Ashore deployment, according to the source. The current fleet of Maritime Self-Defence Force ships equipped with the Aegis missile defence system may not be enough to shield the country's entire territory against North Korean ballistic missiles if they are launched with a higher trajectory to make them fall faster and at a



Ground-based Patriot Advanced Capability-3 interceptors remain on standby at the premises of the Defense Ministry in Tokyo at 11:18 am on 13 April, 2012, even though the North Korean rocket launch earlier in the morning ended in failure. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

steeper angle, the source said.

Japan now has six Aegis-equipped destroyers, with four of them capable of intercepting ballistic missiles. The government is upgrading the remaining two destroyers to give them ballistic missile defence capabilities and plans to deploy two new ones.

While the current Aegis system uses SM-3 missiles, Tokyo

and Washington are jointly developing SM-3 Block 2A missiles with enhanced defensive coverage and accuracy.

A North Korean missile launched on 14 May, believed to be a new medium-range type, traveled some 800 kilometres and fell in the Sea of Japan after reaching an altitude of over 2,000 km, according to the Defence Ministry.—Kyodo News ■

S Korean president's approval rating stays high despite controversy over security issues

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in kept his approval rating at a relatively high level despite controversy over security issues, a survey showed on Monday.

According to local pollster Realmeter, Moon's support rate was 74.2 per cent last week, down 1.4 percentage points from a week earlier.

The support scores fell for the second consecutive week, but Moon's rating was higher than his predecessors tallied in an early presidency. Moon came into office on 10 May.

The result was based on a poll of 2,531 voters conducted from last Monday to Friday. It has 1.9 percentage points in margin of error with a 95-per cent confidence level.

The fall in support for Moon came amid controversy over comments, which made in Washington by Moon Chung-in, the president's special advisor on security, unification and foreign affairs.

The presidential special advisor said on 16 June that if the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) stops any nuclear and missile provocations, the South Korea-US joint military exercises and the deployment of the US military strategic assets in South Korea could be scaled down



South Korean President Moon Jae-in . PHOTO:XINHUA

through discussions with the US side. The main opposition Liberty Korea Party denounced the advisor's comments, worrying about the weakening of the US-South Korea alliance.

A fraction of conservative voters withdrew their support for Moon because of his special advisor's comments, but Moon's approval rating remained at a high level.

Moon was scheduled to leave for Washington on Wednesday for the two-day summit meeting in Washington with US President Donald Trump. The DPRK's nuclear

and missile issues were expected to be one of the main agendas during the upcoming summit.

Meanwhile, Moon's ruling Democratic Party garnered 53.6 per cent of support last week, unchanged from the prior week.

It was followed by the Liberty Korea Party with 14.5 per cent, which was down 0.2 percentage points from a week earlier. Approval ratings for the centrist People's Party and the minor progressive Justice Party stood both at 6.3 per cent. The minor conservative Righteous Party gained 6.2 per cent in support scores.—Xinhua ■

LDP urges gov't to protect farm sector in Japan-EU trade talks

TOKYO — The ruling Liberal Democratic Party urged the government on Monday to ensure Japan's key industries such as pork, beef, dairy and lumber remain protected through tariffs in ongoing free trade talks between Japan and the European Union.

In the proposal compiled by the LDP and presented to Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, the party also called for the elimination of the current 10-per cent tariff on Japanese automobiles by the 28-member bloc, as the two sides make final arrangements to seal a broad

agreement on the pact.

"I want the government and the LDP to consult with each other as much as possible" ahead of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Europe next month, Koya Nishikawa, former agriculture minister who heads LDP representations on a Japan-EU free trade agreement, said at the outset of the meeting with Kishida.

Kishida said, "With regard to the content of negotiations, there have been both gains and losses. We cannot make any predictions. From this week to next week, I expect the tense

situation to continue."

After the meeting, Nishikawa quoted Kishida as saying that the negotiations are at a "difficult stage" but that the LDP proposal would be firmly considered in the free trade talks.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Saturday Japan is "accelerating final arrangements" so that broad agreement on the free trade deal will be struck early next month at a Japan-EU leaders' meeting planned on the occasion of Group of 20 major economies' summit in Hamburg, Germany.—Kyodo News ■

Mongolians go to polls to elect new president

ULAN BATOR — Mongolians on Monday went to the polls to elect a new president, amid a protracted economic crisis and deep-seated worries about corruption.

Nearly 2 million eligible voters will choose from three candidates, who have all pledged to turn around the landlocked country's troubled economy, still plagued by a sharp fall in global commodity prices. The three have faced corruption allegations.

The election appears to be a two-horse race between Miyeombo Enkhbold of the ruling Mongolian People's Party and Khaltmaa Battulga of the opposition Democratic Party.

Enkhbold, 52, a former prime minister, is leader of the Mongolian People's Party, which scored a sweeping victory in last year's parliamentary election. His election would bolster the governing party forced to implement austerity measures to secure a recently negotiated \$5.5

billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

Battulga, 54, a former martial arts star, previously served as minister of industry and agriculture, and of construction and urban development. He has voiced skepticism over China's growing influence in the country with a population of 3 million, whose economy is heavily dependent on the mining industry.

Voting will end at 10 pm local time and the outcome is expected to be known on Tuesday. A candidate must have an absolute majority of the votes to become the successor to Tsakhiajiin Elbegdorj, a member of the Democratic Party, who has served his second and final four-year term in office.

There could be a runoff ballot in two weeks depending on how the third candidate, Sainkhuu Ganbaatar of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party, performs in the election.

— Kyodo News ■

Available @

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

သတင်းစာများကို ဤဆိုင်များတွင်ဝယ်ယူဖတ်ရှုနိုင်ပါပြီ

- Market Place by City Mart (6.5 Mile)
- Market Place by City Mart (Damasidi Road)
- City Mart (Aung San Stadium)
- City Mart (47th street)
- City Mart (Yankin)
- City Mart (China Town)
- City Mart (Myay Ni Gone)
- City Mart (FMI)
- City Mart (Junction Square)
- City Mart (Junction Maw Tin)
- City Mart (Sule Square)
- City Mart (Star City - Thanlyin)
- City Mart (Waizayandar)
- City Mart (Hledan)
- City Mart (Myanmar Plaza)
- Ocean North Point (9 mile)
- Ocean Shwegonedine

Ocean City Supercenter City Mart Supermarket

Try our best to prevent all forms of terrorist acts

By Dr Tha Sein

SOUTHEAST Asia today is not only the target of the Islamic State (IS) but an actual threat to peace and stability in the region. The disgraceful story of Marawi City in the southern Philippines is a threat to ASEAN neighbors including Myanmar. The incident demonstrated both the power and ruthlessness the IS wishes to show.

In recent months, security forces in Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore have stopped most IS plots, including a plan to kill the king of Saudi Arabia in Kuala Lumpur.

An arm of jihadist group has occupied and caused the destruction of a city of 200,000 in the southern Philippines. The battle to liberate

Marawi is about to enter its second month. Southeast Asian governments are worried that the incident in the southern Philippines could be the prelude to further violence as the militant group tries to establish a foothold in their region.

More recently, security forces found a tunnel, homemade weapons, shelters, rations, utensils and other items in the Mayu Mountains of Rakhine State.

Three armed attackers were killed in self-defence during the two-day area clearance operation. The security forces who managed to expose secret plots of terrorists and terrorist training deserve much praise. The discovery should also serve as a warning.

For Rakhine State, a lot of unnecessary harm and bad feelings have been caused by instability and insecurity. No area of the country is as deeply involved in murderous acts as the southwest. The number of those who were arrested or killed by insurgent groups in eight months in the restive region stood 56. Continued killings elsewhere show there is still much to do.

The atrocities are designed to cow both the peaceful people and the government as well as to gain more international attention. Such forms of perpetrations are wholly unacceptable and should not be tolerated.

The government restored peace and stability to the volatile region in the wake of the 9 October attacks.

The Rakhine problem is certainly different from that in other parts of the country, and it has something to do with the ARSA. According to Mawlawi Jirabhu, in-charge of the ARSA who was arrested on 20 June, it was learnt that the 9 October attacks were carried out by Aqua Mul Mujahidan-AMM.

Prevention is better than cure. Effective preventive measures are to be taken to solve the long standing problems of the region.

Otherwise, Rakhine State could turn out to be a troubled city like in the southern Philippines.

Realizing the actual situation, we must now scramble and try our best to prevent all forms of terrorist acts. ■

Narration of Events and Thoughts on Democratization on the 48th Anniversary of Burma's Internal Unity Advisory Board's Submission of Report

By Dr. Myint Zan

On 29 November 1968 the Chairman of the Revolutionary Council of the Union of Burma the late General Ne Win 'invited' (or is it summoned?) 33 former politicians, all of them males, to submit proposals to achieve 'internal unity'.

General Ne Win had, prior to his invitation (and to redeploy the euphemism used then) had detained them or put a few of these invitees into 'protective custody'. Among the invitees that day, among others, the late U Nu, the late U Ba Swe, the late U Kyaw Nyein had spent stints up to a few years in the protective custody of General Ne Win's Revolutionary Council.

In his speech of 29 November 1968 General Ne Win raised the issue among others whether to 'revert' to or amend the old (1947) Constitution or perhaps to draw up a new Constitution. General Ne Win also asked the invited politicians to keep the deliberations confidential and he said 'please reflect tonight' whether they wanted to join a Board (in Burmese AH PHWEI) that he was forming.

I think ALL of those invited responded to accept General Ne Win's invitation.

I recall listening on MYANMA ATHAN ('Voice of Burma') on the night of 2 December 1968 where the announcer read a decree signed by 'Bo [Commander] Ne Win of the formation of the 'Internal Unity Advisory Board' (IUAB) whose term was scheduled to end on 31 May 1969. (Informally it was known as the '33 men Advisory Board'.)

Again, I recall reading that on the night of 31 May 1969 diplomats attending a certain function at an Embassy left

the function early to listen to the Burma Broadcasting Service (BBS) English language news which started either at 9:15 or 9:30 pm. The diplomats left the function early to be in time for the radio news in English.

Nothing, in the news came on the night of 31 May 1969. No news 'emanate' regarding the '33 Men advisory Board' the next night also.

But on the morning of 2 June 1969 General Ne Win met with (perhaps) 32 out of the 33 members of IUAB. Before the term of the IUAB ended among the '33' former Prime Minister U Nu left Burma for India on the pretense of taking medical treatment abroad. Professor Robert Taylor writes in his book *General Ne Win: A Political Biography* (ISEAS Publications, 2015) that General Ne Win and his colleagues in the Revolutionary Council suspected or gauged that U Nu's then 'illness' was a subterfuge but still decided to let U Nu go abroad as they felt that due to U Nu's popularity among segments of the then Burmese population he would be better abroad than 'internally'.

General Ne Win's speech of 2 June 1969 was somewhat anti-climatic in contrast to the speech of 29 November 1968 where he, among others, said that the meeting was not only of considerable importance (in Burmese TAW TAW AYAE KYEE) but 'an extremely important meeting' (in Burmese IN-MATAN-AYAE-KYEE-DET-AGSI-AWAI -PAR-PAE.)

In his 2 June 1969 he said QUOTE I have not yet read your report UNQUOTE and though he apparently had not read the Report in full he knew about parts of it since he expressed his

skepticism if not, in so many words, opposition to form a 'a government of national unity' as proposed by some members of the '33'.

On or about 5 February 1969, U Nu, about two months before he left Burma for India submitted an 'interim proposal' to the Revolutionary Council. In his proposal which was published in full in early June 1969 in all State-owned newspapers U Nu wrote that QUOTE currently there is no one who would dare even touch the Revolutionary Government with their fingers (literal translation by the writer) UNQUOTE and in such a situation IF General Ne Win and the Revolutionary government were to hand back power to him it would be an act of physical and moral courage (in Burmese LET YONE YI and HNA LONE YI).

U Nu also stated that he made his proposal in good faith because of his good will that he wanted the Revolutionary government to be a government 'freely elected by the people'. Otherwise, wrote U Nu, the 'Revolutionary government would remain as those obtained power through a [military] coup'. (The writer's own direct translation; I clearly recall that The Working People's Daily translated as 'The Revolutionary Council would be those who came into power by force'.)

And U Nu wrote that as soon as General Ne Win transferred power to him he would convene Parliament (that was abolished by decree by General Ne Win as Chairman of the Revolutionary Council in March 1962) and he would make sure that the Parliament elect General Ne Win as President. General Ne Win would be eligible to serve two

full terms as President. General Ne Win did not mention or comment on the 'interim' report of U Nu in his speech of 2 June 1969.

Decades later may be around 2010 or so I read on line that on or about 5 November 1963 while U Nu was still incarcerated (let's eschew 'protective custody') he had written to General Ne Win stating similar proposals.

On what grounds did U Nu expect that General Ne Win who, in late 1963, ignored or disregarded U Nu's proposals would accept them more than five years later in mid-1969? Again decades later I read in a Burmese language source that U Nu had said in or around April 1969 in an interview with a newspaper in India that QUOTE Around June 1969 (repeat June 1969) Parliamentary democracy would be restored in Burma. UNQUOTE.

Fast forward to June 1990. In the immediate aftermath of the dishonored (okay 'null') elections of May 1990 I recall reading in TIME magazine published in early June 1990 that a foreign diplomat commented that QUOTE The State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC) will be in power next week, the SLORC will be in power two years from next week [June 1992] UNQUOTE. How truly, how TRULY the diplomat spoke.

And what false hopes or indeed false promises- though in a sense this statement emerging out of the writer's own bitterness does not constitute nor should it be construed as impugning U Nu's (general) moral integrity- had U Nu made in the late 1960s and early 1970s regarding the 'restoration of Parliamentary democracy'?

TO BE CONTINUED

Cash assistance donated to survivors of Y-8 plane crash

THE family of Vice President U Myint Swe and his wife, Daw Khin Thet Htay, donated Ks 1.5 million to the survivors of military personnel, air crews and other victims who died in the 7 June crash of a Y-8 Tatmadaw transport plane of the southern coast of Myanmar, according to a report yesterday by the Myanmar News Agency.

Union Auditor General U Maw Than collected Ks3 million in cash assistance from his employees at the Office of the Union Auditor General for victims' families. Union Minister for Defence Lt-Gen Sein Win accepted the donations on behalf of the victims' survivors in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Vice President U Myint Swe and his wife, Daw Khin Thet Htay, donated Ks 1.5 million to families of Y-8 plane crash victims. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint promotes local culture at 5th Ethnic Media Conference

UNION Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint and Kayah State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho delivered opening speeches at the 5th Ethnic Media Conference held in township hall, Loikaw, Kayah State yesterday morning.

Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint said the Ministry of Information is striving to promote ethnic media and literature.

"Currently, ethnic language programs are broadcast and published from state-owned television, radio and newspapers and we consider it to be our duty to do so," said the Union Minister. "However, what is being accomplished is still too little and there needs to be more coordination with ethnic media and related state and region governments."

The Union Minister expressed his hope that ethnic media would also enhance the peace process.

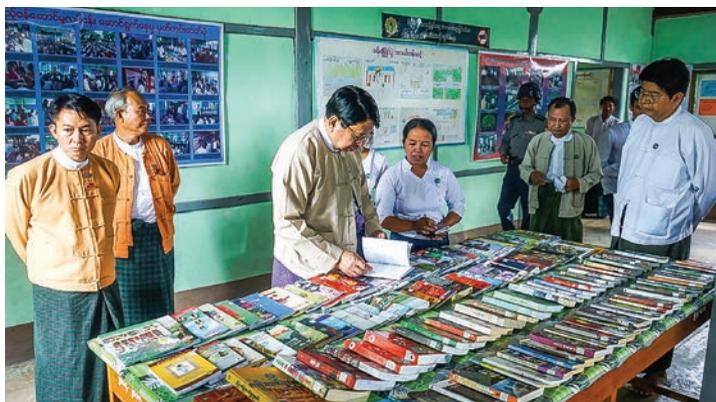
Past ethnic media conferences were held in Mawlamyine, Mon State in 2013, Taunggyi, Shan State in 2014, Haka, Chin State in 2015 and MraukU, Rakhine State in 2016. This year's

conference was hosted by Burma News International and Kantarawaddy Times.

In the afternoon, the Union Minister met with State Chief Minister U L Phaung Sho and state ministers at state government meeting hall and discussed a proposal for a new high-rise building that includes an upscale cinema and community centre on the site of the old Thiri Cinema in Loikaw. On 25 June, the Union Minister visited the proposed building site and saw a television news production shoot. The Union Minister also visited the In-

formation and Public Relations Department of Loikaw District and Dimawhso Township offices where accompanying Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary U Myo Myint Maung, Myanmar Radio and Television Director General U Myint Htway and IPRD Director General U Maung Pe discussed their respective sectors.

Dr. Pe Myint encouraged the gathering to establish a public library and community centre in the long run to promote ethnic literature, culture and literacy. — State IPRD ■



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint visits a public library during his visit in Loikaw. **PHOTO: MNA**

Reporters suspected of relations with TNLA investigated

PROBES are being conducted into reporters who have been detained by troops of the Tatmadaw on suspicion of having relations with TNLA armed group.

The troops found seven suspects including two from DVB News Agency, one from the Irrawaddy News Agency on board of two cars en-route from Namh-

san to Hsipaw near the village of Phayargyi in Namhsan township at 3:30 pm yesterday.

During the interrogation, it is found that they returned after meeting with TNLA armed group, which are making attempts to harm rule of law and peace and stability in the area, fighting against the Union gov-

ernment and leading committee of the Palaung Self-administered Zone.

They have been handed over to the police station in Lashio Township for further investigation, according to the Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Villager injured in Maungtau Township spear attack

NOROSLAM, a villager of Leikya Myauk village, Leikya village tract in Maungtau Township in Rakhine State was attacked by a group of six people and speared on the morning of 25 June.

Noroslam was praying when he was attacked. A fellow villager named Mawlawi Har-

dooular is suspected of participating in the assault.

Noroslam sustained injuries to his back and left arm before he fled and reported the incident to the Leikya Police Station. At least five other alleged attackers are still at large. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Suspect arrested in Maungtau

AMA Ali, a leader of the Tat Oo Chaung Village Tract in Maungtau Township, was attacked by a group of at least 10 masked assailants and stabbed to death on 17 June.

One man allegedly involved in the murder, Mar Mout Tau Yu was arrested in Bagone Alae village on 25 June. — Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior Level Official Management Course No/4 Opened

OPENING ceremony of senior level official management course No/4 was held at Nawarat Hall of the Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) yesterday. Present at the ceremony were Dr Win Thein, Chairman of Union Civil Service Board, U Myint Win, member of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, members of the UCSB, rector of the CICS (Upper Myanmar) and responsible officials, high-ranking officials-cum-trainees.

At the ceremony, Dr Win Thein said "The present course was opened with a view to upgrade capacities of high-ranking officials who are presently serving as senior officials in the sector of management. The course will last for 8 weeks, conducting "Public Administration Responsiveness Trainings, Code of Ethics, Anti-Corruption, Competency Frameworks" as overseas lectures, with "Constitutions and Federal Ideas" to be conducted by Hanns Seidel Foundation, "ICT and Sustainable Development, Project Management, Social Media for Development" by UN-APCIC, "Irish Civil Service Competency Frameworks and Health Management" by EU(GOPA) for 5 weeks.

Similarly, internal lectures—syllabus and curriculum compiled in accord with the international standards will be conducted by respective ministers, deputy minis-

ters, permanent secretaries, director-generals and internal professionals and experts for 3 weeks." And, he added, "Implementing the tasks of emergence of federal democratic systems, Union Peace and development of the public's social lives, ability and capacity of the staff in the nation are of great importance.

The present training can fulfill capacities and abilities needed for all staff in the nation.

As for the governmental servicemen there will be transparency and emergence of good governance and clean government provided that they are equipped with ethics and qualified management skills. Government servicemen are actually the driving forces practically implementing policies of the government, concurrently the ones who are responsible for fundamental services for the public.

As governmental servicemen represent the government, they play the important role in building up the trust between the government and the people. In such a transitional period of the nation, people have greater expectation over government servicemen, unlike in the olden days. Only if the present trainees can provide perfect supports in accord with the present situation, can the good governance which guarantees responsibility and accountability be implemented." — Myanmar News Agency ■

WORLD
BRIEFS

Britain's Prime Minister, Theresa May, poses for a photograph with Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Leader Arlene Foster, Deputy Leader Nigel Dodds, and Chief Whip Jeffrey Donaldson, outside 10 Downing Street, in central London, Britain on 26 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

UK PM May nears deal to prop up government with Northern Irish DUP

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May drew closer to clinching a deal to prop up her minority government on Monday as she prepared to meet the leader of the Northern Irish Protestant party.

After May lost her majority in parliament on 8 June with a failed gamble on a snap election, she is trying to secure the backing of the small Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) and its 10 lawmakers, though talks have dragged on for more than two weeks.

DUP leader Arlene Foster, who is due to meet the prime minister in Downing Street at 0930 GMT, said she was hoping to finalise a deal with May's Conservatives.

"We are close to concluding

an appropriate agreement with the Conservative Party to support a minority government on a confidence and supply basis," Foster, who travelled to London on Sunday, wrote in the Belfast Telegraph.

"It is a massive opportunity, but a responsibility I do not take lightly. We are determined to utilise this position to help deliver stable government in the United Kingdom and address long-standing issues which affect everyone in Northern Ireland."

A spokesman for the DUP confirmed Foster would meet May at 0930 GMT.

A deal would allow May to pass legislation with the backing of the DUP in the 650-seat parliament, and stay in power as she

attempts to negotiate Britain's exit from the European Union.

Her position remains insecure, however, with speculation she could face a leadership challenge.

Some senior Conservatives have voiced unease at a deal with the DUP, saying it could put at risk the 1998 peace settlement in Northern Ireland, known as the Good Friday Agreement. Foster said a deal with May could help drive a second deal on power sharing in the province.

Northern Ireland has been in crisis since Sinn Fein pulled out of government in January, prompting an election in March and a series of missed deadlines to restore the compulsory coalition between Irish Catholic nationalists and pro-British

Protestant unionists.

"I think that this agreement will bring the prospects of doing a deal at (the Belfast parliament) Stormont closer because this will have a positive impact in relation to Northern Ireland," Foster told Sky, adding that a second deal on power sharing in the province could be reached this week too.

"I very much hope that this week we will be able to conclude on two agreements."

The latest deadline set by the British government for the parties in Northern Ireland to reach an agreement is Thursday. Sinn Fein said last week that "time was running out" given the lack of knowledge about the impact of any Conservative/DUP deal. —Reuters ■

South Africa imposes countrywide ban of sale of live hens to contain avian flu

CAPE TOWN — South Africa has placed a general ban on the sale of live hens throughout the country in a bid to control an outbreak of highly contagious H5N8 bird flu, but no humans have been affected, the government said on Monday. Exports of processed poultry products, live chickens and fresh produce continues depending on the requirements of importing countries, the department of agriculture said in a statement. —Reuters ■

Italy's centre-right wins in local vote in blow to Renzi

ROME — Italy's centre-right parties hammered their centre-left rivals in mayoral elections, official results showed on Monday, a win that is likely to put pressure on the ruling Democratic Party (PD) ahead of a national vote due in less than a year. An alliance of Silvio Berlusconi's Forza Italia party and the anti-immigrant Northern League won 55 per cent of the votes in the northern port city of Genoa, traditionally left-wing stronghold, where the right will govern for the first time in more than five decades. —Reuters ■

Top US court to review scope of Dodd-Frank whistleblower protections

WASHINGTON — The US Supreme Court agreed on Monday to take up a case that promises broad implications for when corporate insiders who blow the whistle on alleged misconduct can be shielded from retaliation by their employers.

The justices will hear Digital Realty Trust Inc's appeal of a lower court ruling in favour of an executive who the San Francisco-based company fired after he complained internally about alleged misconduct by his supervisor but never reported the matter to the US Securities and Exchange Commission. —Reuters ■

Mosul battle to end in days as troops advance in Old City — Iraqi general

MOSUL (Iraq) — The battle to take full control of Mosul from Islamic State will be over in a few days and an attempted fight-back by the militants failed, an Iraqi general told Reuters on Monday.

“Only a small part remains in the city, specifically the Old City,” said Lieutenant General Abdul Ghani al-Assadi, commander of the Counter Terrorism Service (CTS) elite units in Mosul.

“From a military perspective, Daesh (Islamic State) is finished,” Assadi said. “It lost its fighting spirit and its balance, we are making calls to them to surrender or die.”

The area now under Islamic State control in Mosul, once the militant group’s de facto capital in Iraq, is less than 2 sq kms, the Iraqi military said.

An attempt by Islamic State militants late on Sunday to return to neighbourhoods outside the Old City failed, Assadi said, adding the city would fall “in very few days, God willing”.

The CTS is leading the fight in the densely populated maze of narrow alleyways of the historic Old City which lies by the western bank of the Tigris river.

A US-led international coalition is providing air and ground support in the eight-month-old offensive.

The militants last week destroyed the historic Grand al-Nuri Mosque and its leaning minaret from which their leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi declared a caliphate spanning parts of Iraq and Syria three years ago. The mosque’s grounds remain under the militants’ control.



Smoke billows after an air strike by Iraqi forces towards the positions of the Islamic State militants in the Old City of Mosul, Iraq on 25 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iraqi troops captured the neighbourhood of al-Faruq in the northwestern side of the Old City facing the mosque, the military said on Monday.

Iraqi forces took the eastern side of Mosul from Islamic State in January, after 100 days of fighting, and started attacking the western side in February.

Up to 350 militants are estimated by the Iraqi military to be besieged in the Old City, dug in among civilians in crumbling houses and making extensive use of booby traps, suicide bombers and sniper fire to slow down the troops’ advance.

Assadi said Iraqi forces had linked up along al-Faruq, a main street bisecting the Old City, and would start pushing east, toward the river. “It will be the final episode,” he said.

More than 50,000 civilians, about half the Old City’s popula-

tion, remain trapped behind Islamic State lines with little food, water or medicines, according to those who escaped.

Aid organizations say Islamic State has stopped many from leaving, using them as human shields. Hundreds of civilians fleeing the Old City have been killed in the past three weeks.

Islamic State has carried out sporadic suicide bombings in parts of Mosul using sleeper cells. It launched a wave of such attacks late on Sunday, trying to take control of a district west of the Old City, Hay al-Tanak, and the nearby Yarmuk neighbourhood.

Social media carried posts showing black smoke and reports that it came from houses and cars set alight by the militants. Witnesses said residents had fled the two neighbour-

hoods.

Assadi said the attempt to take over the neighbourhoods had failed and the militants were now besieged in one or two pockets of Hay al-Tanak. A curfew was in force over western Mosul, a Reuters correspondent reported.

The fall of Mosul would mark the end of the Iraqi half of the “caliphate”, but Islamic State remains in control of large areas of both Iraq and Syria.

Baghdadi has left the fighting in Mosul to local commanders and has been assumed to be hiding in the Iraqi-Syrian border area. There has been no confirmation of Russian reports over the past days that he has been killed.

In Syria, the insurgents’ “capital” Raqqa, is nearly encircled by a US-backed, Kurdish-led coalition.— Reuters ■

US-backed Syrian groups take Raqqa district from Islamic State

BEIRUT — A US-backed Syrian coalition of Kurdish and Arab groups advanced against Islamic State in the jihadists’ Syrian capital of Raqqa on Sunday, taking the al-Qadisia district, they said.

The Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) began its assault on Raqqa earlier this month after a long campaign to isolate Islamic State inside the city.

It took Qadisia, located in the west of Raqqa, after three days of intense fighting, it said

in a statement on one of its official social media feeds.

The SDF has pushed Islamic State from swathes of northern Syria over the past 18 months.

Turkey-backed Syrian rebels have also taken territory from it and the Syrian army has this year advanced rapidly against it in desert areas.

The US-backed coalition has supported SDF advances against the jihadist group throughout the Raqqa cam-

paign with artillery and air strikes, including some against Islamic State leaders.

This month, the coalition said its air strikes had killed Turki Binali, a Bahraini cleric who was the group’s top religious authority and the most senior known Gulf Arab in Islamic State.

It also said last week it killed Fawaz al-Rawi, who it said was an important Islamic State financier, in an air strike in Syria.

However, coalition air raids have also caused large numbers of civilian casualties, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a Britain-based war monitor.

It said on Saturday that coalition airstrikes in and around Raqqa had killed nearly 700 civilians so far this year. The coalition says it works hard to avoid killing civilians and investigates all reports that it has done so.— Reuters ■

Irish naval ship rescues 712 people near Libya — defence forces

DUBLIN,— An Irish naval ship rescued 712 people including pregnant women and infants off the coast of the Libyan capital of Tripoli as part of an international migrant rescue effort, Ireland’s Defence Forces said on Monday.

The LÉ Eithne ship led the rescue of multiple vessels in distress 40 kilometres northwest of Tripoli throughout Sunday. Six migrants, including one baby, were revived from states of unconsciousness. The ship will transport the people, including 14 pregnant women and four infants below the age of four months, to a designated “port of safety” to be handed over to Italian authorities.

“I’m very proud to say all lives were saved, no lives were lost. It was a complex operation where lives were at stake at every turn over a full eight-hour period,” Commander Brian Fitzgerald told national broadcaster RTE from the ship. “Overall, they were really in a wretched condition but in all cases healthy enough to undertake the journey to a port of safety.”— Reuters ■

Iran urges Europe to help promote dialogue in Persian Gulf

BERLIN,— Iran’s foreign minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, called on Europe on Monday to use its influence to promote dialogue in the Persian Gulf after Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain cut ties with Qatar earlier this month.

Blaming Iran or Qatar for “terrorism” is an attempt by those countries to avoid taking responsibility for their own failures in addressing the demands of their own people, he said in a speech in the German capital in which he argued for a new regional security mechanism for the Gulf countries. “One day it’s Iran, today it’s Qatar,” he said. “It’s an attempt to evade responsibility, escape accountability for this very fundamental ... failure of the state system to address, to respond to the demands of its populace.”— Reuters ■

Kremlin comments on dispute between Telegram founder and telecom watchdog

MOSCOW — Russian Presidential Spokesman Dmitry Peskov has declined to comment on the dispute between Telegram messenger founder Pavel Durov and Russia's telecom watchdog Roskomnadzor.

"I would like to point out that this is not in our competence, it is (head of Roskomnadzor Alexander) Zharov who tackles the issues that concern regulations and the current legislation," Peskov told reporters.

When asked what messenger the Kremlin press service would use if Telegram got blocked, Peskov said: "we will switch to another, we'll see which one is the best, there are some to choose from, as there is competition in this sphere."

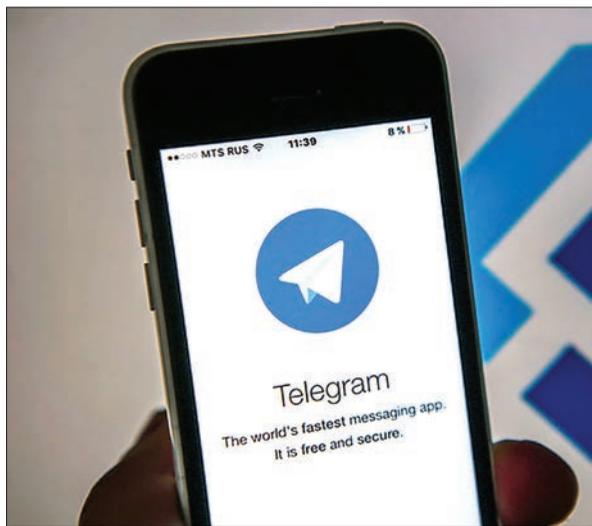


PHOTO: TASS

The Kremlin spokesman also declined to comment on Durov's statement in which he said that Roskomnadzor's demands ran contrary to the article of the Russian Constitution concerning correspondence privacy.

According to Telegram founder, it is

impossible to provide decryption keys to the special services as these keys are only available on the users' devices.

"This issue is not for us to deal with," the Russian presidential spokesman said.

Head of the Russian telecom watchdog Roskomnadzor Alex-

ander Zharov earlier personally requested that Durov provide data about Telegram's managing company so that it could be included in the information disseminator register as it should be done in accordance with the Russian legislation.

In case Telegram does not provide this data in due time, the messenger will be blocked in Russia until the information is provided.

According to Russia's Federal Security Service (FSB), members of international terrorist organizations active in Russia use Telegram the most.

In particular, those involved in the 3 April terrorist attack on the St Petersburg metro were Telegram users. —Tass ■

New US ambassador to China says North Korea a top priority

BEIJING — The new US ambassador to China has said that stopping the threat posed by North Korea will be a top priority, along with resolving the US-China trade imbalance, according to a video message to the Chinese people released on Monday.

Terry Branstad, a former Iowa governor, has been described by Beijing as an "old friend" of China. Branstad was confirmed on 24 May as President Donald Trump's new ambassador to China but his arrival date has yet to be announced.

"Resolving the bilateral trade imbalance, stopping the North Korea threat, and expand-

ing people-to-people ties will be my top priorities," Branstad said in the video message, which was released on a popular Chinese video-streaming platform.

Trump has placed high hopes on China and its president, Xi Jinping, exerting greater influence on North Korea, although he said last week Chinese efforts to rein in the reclusive North's nuclear and missile programmes had failed.

China's foreign ministry regularly says that Beijing is doing all that it can with regard to North Korea by implementing United Nations Security Council sanctions, while also pushing for greater di-

alogue to reduce tensions.

US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said he had pressed China to ramp up economic and political pressure on North Korea during his meeting with top diplomat Yang Jiechi in Washington last week.

"We face many of the same challenges. A strong US-China relationship can contribute to solutions," Branstad said in the video, without giving details about how he hoped to work with China.

Branstad also recounted his three decades of engagement with China, from his first visit there in 1984 to hosting Xi, then a county-level Commu-

nist Party leader, in Iowa in 1985, and then again in 2012 when Xi was vice president.

Trump pledged during his campaign to take a tough stance on Chinese trade practices deemed unfair to the United States, but his rhetoric softened after a friendlier-than-expected meeting with Xi in Florida in April.

Shortly after their meeting, Trump said he had told Xi that China would get a better trade deal if it worked to rein in the North. China is neighbouring North Korea's lone major ally. The United States ran a trade deficit of \$347 billion with China last year, US Treasury figures show.—Reuters ■

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GLODEN SEA
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Indonesia police find Islamic State propaganda targeting children

JAKARTA — Indonesian police have found hundreds of books containing Islamic State propaganda targeting children at the home of a suspect arrested in connection with the stabbing death of an officer, a police spokeswoman said on Monday.

Another suspected militant was shot and killed by police during Sunday's attack on a police station in Medan, the capital of North Sumatra province.

The wife of the arrested man told police her husband had spent six months in Syria in 2013, said police spokeswoman Rina Sari Ginting, adding this was still being investigated.

Police believe the men were part of Jemaah Ansharut Daulah (JAD), an umbrella organization on a US State Department "terrorist" list



A Mobile Brigade Corps police officer stands guard by police vehicles, following an attack on a police post, that left one officer dead in Medan, Indonesia on 25 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS.**

which supports Islamic State and has hundreds of Indonesian followers.

"We can see from the pattern of their attack that it is likely they belong to the JAD network," said Ginting.

There is concern about a rise of militancy in Indonesia, which has the world's biggest Muslim population.

Islamic State sympathisers have carried out a series of mostly low-level

attacks over the past few years, and there are fears about the return of hundreds of Indonesians who have gone to Syria to support Islamic State.

The books aimed at children found at the

home of the arrested man were written in Indonesian and included pictures and messages supportive of dying in jihad, or holy war, Ginting said.

They appeared to be designed and printed by the suspect, she said.

Police believe the suspects had intended not only to kill police during Sunday's knife attack but also to seize their guns.

Out of 12 people being questioned in connection with the attack, one had been made a suspect and is alleged to have helped the attackers by surveying the police headquarters, she said.

Police were also investigating whether the attackers were linked to three suspected militants who were arrested on June 6 in the area by anti-terrorism police. —Reuters ■

Beijing police destroy seized narcotics

BEIJING — Beijing police on Sunday destroyed 1.4 tonnes of narcotics, which had been seized in various operations between 2014 and 2015. The haul included heroin, methamphetamine, cocaine, ketamine, and caffeine. The drugs were destroyed at Beijing Cement Plant, incinerated in furnaces up to 2,700 degree Celsius.

In 2016, Beijing police arrested more than 10,000 suspects in 1,366 narcotics cases. Beijing has over 36,000 registered drug addicts, most of whom use synthetic drugs like methamphetamine, according to Liu Yi, deputy director with the municipal narcotics control commission. "Beijing police face a tough battle against drugs and therefore have 'zero tolerance' for drug-related crimes," said Liu.—Xinhua ■

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Corbyn puts politics centre stage at Glastonbury Festival

GLASTONBURY, (England) — Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn got a rock star reception at Glastonbury Festival on Saturday, telling a headliner-sized crowd that millions of young people who voted for him would not be silenced or sidelined.

Dismissed as a left-wing no-hoper before elections on June 8, Corbyn attracted a surge of support from 18-24 year-olds that helped his Labour Party deny Prime Minister Theresa May a parliamentary majority.

The 68-year old's popularity at Worthy Farm in south-west England could be measured by the number of pro-Corbyn banners on display and Corbyn T-shirts.

They easily outnumbered those for the biggest names on the musical bill — Radiohead, Foo Fighters and Ed Sheeran — and the chant “Oh, Jeremy Corbyn” rang round the world's biggest greenfield festival.

Appearing between British singer-songwriter Craig David and US rap act Run The Jewels, Corbyn — who promised during



Britain's opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn and Michael Eavis acknowledge the crowd after addressing revellers from the Pyramid Stage at Worthy Farm in Somerset during the Glastonbury Festival in Britain, on 24 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

campaigning to abolish tuition fees — said he was proud to have led Labour into an election that delivered the biggest increase in the party's support since 1945.

“But what was even more inspiring was the number of young people who got involved for the very first time because they were fed up with being denigrated, fed

up with being told they don't matter (and) fed up with being told they never participate,” he said to cheers from the crowd.

“And that politics that got out

of the box isn't going back into the box.”

Corbyn, invited to speak on the famous stage by festival founder Michael Eavis, said Glastonbury was about people coming together in support of causes like environmentalism.

“There is only one planet — not even Donald Trump believes there is another planet somewhere else,” he said.

Eleri Angharad, a 25-year-old musician sporting a Corbyn T-shirt, said the veteran socialist was authentic.

“He makes an effort to connect with people, and people connect back with him,” she said.

She said she wasn't surprised by his support among young people, having seen his popularity rise on social media. “I don't read newspapers, I don't know anybody who does,” she said.

But not every young person was won over. “It's very smart to target our age with tuition fees,” said 18-year old Hannah, who voted for the first time on June 8. “He's targeting the naive of our generation.” —Reuters ■

Box Office: ‘Transformers: The Last Knight’ Opens to Franchise Low \$69.1 Million

LOS ANGELES — It seems the “Transformers” franchise is rusty.

As of Sunday morning “Transformers: The Last Knight,” the fifth installment directed by Michael Bay, looks to bring in \$69.1 million from 4,069 domestic locations during its five-day opening weekend. That's a franchise low for the sequel from Paramount and Hasbro, behind the first in the modern series, which earned \$70.5 million in 2007. “The Last Knight” carries an estimated \$217 million production budget.

This makes “Transformers: The Last Knight” the latest summer blockbuster to bank on overseas ticket sales to have a shot at turning a profit. In China, the big-budget action sequel made \$41 million in its opening day alone. The projected international come through Sunday is \$196.2 million, powered by \$123.4 million in China. “The Last Knight” comes at a time when Paramount could have used an all-around hit, fol-

lowing recent misses “Baywatch” and “Ghost in the Shell.” While the latest “Transformers” movie has been advertised as “the final chapter” and Bay's last go-around, the franchise will continue — Paramount has at least two more movies slated, including a spinoff that could star Hailee Steinfeld. The franchise has historically been massively profitable and seen solid multiples for the studio. Together, the first four earned over \$1.3 billion domestically and well over \$3.5 billion worldwide. The latest take on the series centers on an alliance between Bumblebee, Cade Yeager — who Mark Wahlberg also played in 2014's “Age of Extinction” — and roles played by franchise newcomers Anthony Hopkins and Laura Haddock. Together, the team works together to save the world. Audiences have earned the film a B+ CinemaScore, while critics have mostly dismissed it — it currently holds a 15% fresh rating on Rotten Tomatoes.—Reuters ■

Barry Gibb brings Bee Gees' disco fever to Glasto's legends slot



Barry Gibb performs on the Pyramid Stage at Worthy Farm in Somerset during the Glastonbury Festival in Glastonbury, Britain, on 25 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

GLASTONBURY, (England) — Barry Gibb brought some Sunday afternoon fever to the legends slot at Glastonbury Festival when he entertained a huge crowd with Bee Gees hits “Stayin' Alive”, “How Deep is Your Love”, “Night Fever” and “Tragedy”.

The songs all featured on the soundtrack to “Saturday Night

Fever”, released 40 years, and festival goers at the Pyramid Stage were dressed up and ready to play homage to the movie and music that defined disco.

“Stayin' Alive”, the first of a string of hits Gibb played from the movie, had the whole field of revellers and the stage's security team disco dancing in the afternoon sunshine.

Gibb formed the Bee Gees in 1958 with his two brothers Robin and Maurice, who have both died. The group has sold more than 220 million records.

The Sunday afternoon “legends” slot has become one of the most popular at the festival, and previous occupants including Dolly Parton and Lionel Richie have drawn huge audiences and seen record sales surge after appearing. Gibb dedicated the song “Words” to the people of Manchester and London after terror attacks in both cities and a devastating fire in London in recent weeks.

Glastonbury, which is known affectionately as “Glasto”, opened on Friday with a minute's silence to reflect the events, and many performers have dedicated songs to the victims and those affected. The mood on the Pyramid Stage quickly lightened when Gibb donned a gold lame jacket from an audience member to sing disco hit “Tragedy”. —Reuters ■

Thousands celebrate gay pride in US city of Chicago with costumes, parade

CHICAGO — Chicago's famous Boystown neighbourhood attracted thousands of people Sunday afternoon to celebrate gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, and queer sexual orientations.

Each year a parade flows a 4-kilometre stretch through Chicago's north side, featuring colourful floats, unique costumes, dance music, and more.

While these parades occur nationwide in the United States, Chicago's parade draws crowds from all over the country. Matt Ensign, 19, has been to Pride parades in his home state of Oregon, but this year he celebrated Pride in Chicago

for the first time.

"I came out to join the festivities and have a good time. This is my first year in Chicago so this is my first Pride here. I usually celebrate Pride in Portland, but this will probably be the biggest one I've ever experienced since it's such a big city," Ensign told Xinhua.

CJ Jeffries, an East Coast native, drew rainbow flags on herself and others with markers. In the past she celebrated Pride in Providence, Rhode Island and Boston, Massachusetts.

"This is my first Chicago Pride. Coming to the parade is how I celebrate.

This is a big celebration," Jeffries said.

Many Chicagoans come back to Boystown year after year, like Katrina Delgrosso, who came to Chicago's Pride parade for the last three years.

"I usually come out here to celebrate being gay and just be happy," Delgrosso told Xinhua.

Many people who celebrate Pride aren't gay but support those who are. One Wisconsin woman named Laurie came to enjoy the festivities and support her cousin Rob who came to celebrate from Rockford, Illinois.

"I go to the parade be-

cause it's different," Laurie said. "You don't see many parades like this. People dress up and I just get a kick out of it."

"Here you get to see floats and decorations and music. It's colorful and it means a lot to everybody. It's a day to just be yourself," Rob added.

Chicago celebrates Pride over two weekends. The weekend before the parade is Pridefest, a festival with music, costumes, food, and more celebration. The Pride festival and parade will return to Chicago next summer with more unique floats, costumes, and festivities.—Xinhua ■



The logo of the social network Facebook is seen on a beach during the Cannes Lions Festival in Cannes, France, on 21 June, 2017.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Facebook in talks to produce original TV-quality shows: WSJ

NEW DELHI — Facebook Inc (FB.O) is in talks with Hollywood studios about producing scripted, TV-quality shows, with an aim of launching original programming by late summer; the Wall Street Journal reported on Sunday.

The social networking giant has indicated that it was willing to commit to production budgets as high as \$3 million per episode, in meetings with Hollywood talent agencies, the Journal reported, citing people familiar with the matter.

Facebook is hoping to target audiences from ages 13 to 34, with a focus on the 17 to 30 range. The company has already lined up "Strangers", a relationship drama, and a game show, "Last State Standing", the report said.

Facebook could not be immediately reached for comment.

The company is expected to release episodes in a traditional manner, instead of dropping an

entire season in one go like Netflix Inc (NFLX.O) and Amazon.com Inc (AMZN.O), WSJ reported.

The company is also willing to share its viewership data with Hollywood, the report said.

Apple Inc (AAPL.O) hired co-presidents of Sony Pictures Television, Jamie Erlicht and Zack Van Amburg, earlier this month, to lead its video-programming efforts.

Apple began its long-awaited move into original television series last week, with a reality show called "Planet of the Apps", an unscripted show about developers trying to interest celebrity mentors with a 60-second pitch on an escalator.

The company's future programming plans include an adaptation of comedian James Corden's "Carpool Karaoke" segment from his CBS Corp (CBS.N) show that will begin airing in August.

—Reuters ■



A participant takes part in the 48th Annual Chicago Pride Parade in Chicago, the United States on 25 June, 2017. PHOTO:XINHUA

Myanmar International
Programme Schedule

(27-6-2017 07:00am ~ 28-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03 Am News	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)	
07:25 Am Geographic Center of Myanmar	(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)	
07:45 Am Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part-I)		
08:03 Am News	Prime Time	
08:26 Am Myanmar Prehistory	07:03 Pm News	
08:50 Am Mobile House	07:26 Pm A Day out With Sarah (Ep-3)	
09:03 Am News	07:51 Pm Fascinating Shopping in Thirimingalar Market	
09:26 Am Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw	08:03 Pm News	
09:44 Am Young Talents: Animator Swan Thura Htun	08:25 Pm Taste of Myanmar (Papaya Salad)	
09:50 Am Today Myanmar: Alley Garden	08:45 Pm Young Lady Musician: Nge Nge Lay	
10:03 Am News	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)	
10:26 Am Gardener: King Orange Plantation	(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)	
10:39 Am Bago: A City Of Famous Historic Pagoda	(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)	

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

Programme Schedule
(27-6-2017, Monday)

<p>6:00 Am ♦ Paritta by Hilly Region Ministry Sayadaw</p> <p>7:00 Am ♦ Breakfast News</p> <p>8:35 Am ♦ Law Affairs</p> <p>9:10 Pm ♦ Documentary</p> <p>9:35 Pm ♦ MRTV's Youth Programme</p> <p>11:25 Am ♦ Documentary</p> <p>12:30 Am ♦ TV Drama Series</p> <p>1:00 Am ♦ Radio Drama</p> <p>1:45 Am ♦ Yes or No Talk Show (Part-2)</p> <p>2:05 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series</p>	<p>3:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series</p> <p>5:05 Pm ♦ Fassion Talk Show</p> <p>5:35 Pm ♦ Money Talk Myanmar</p> <p>6:20 Pm ♦ Football Magazine</p> <p>6:35 Pm ♦ Kyae Pwint Myae Yae Yin Khone Than</p> <p>6:35 Pm ♦ Real Story Real Movie</p> <p>7:15 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series</p> <p>8:00 Pm ♦ News/ International News/ Weather Report</p> <p>8:35 Pm ♦ Documentary</p> <p>9:00 Pm ♦ Life Struggles</p> <p>9:30 Pm ♦ TV Drama Series</p>
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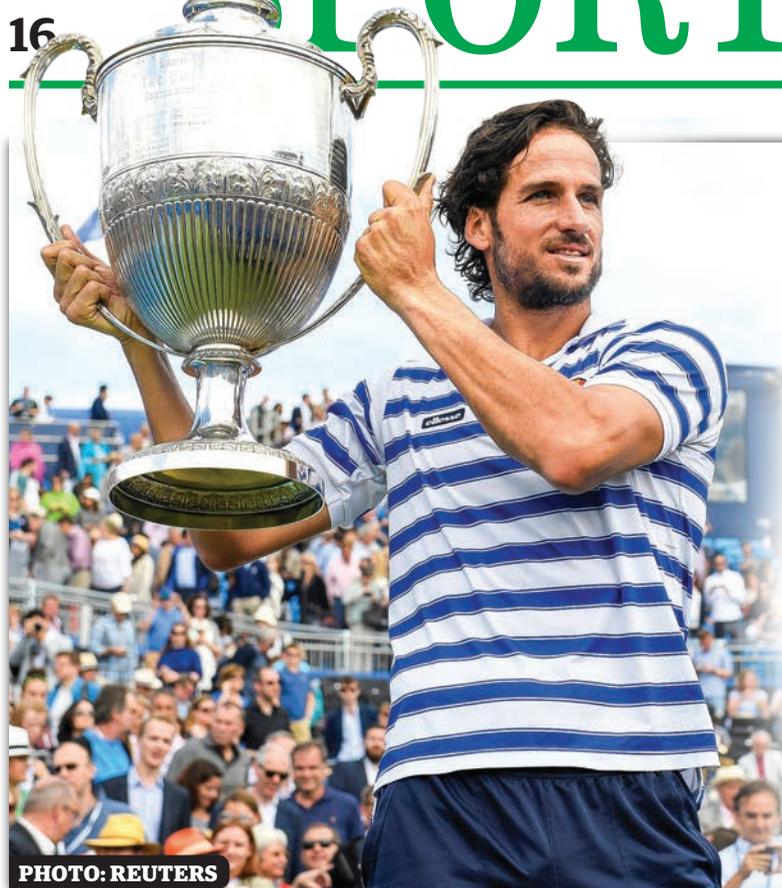


PHOTO: REUTERS

Lopez beats Cilic in nail-biting Queen's Club final

LONDON — Spanish veteran Feliciano Lopez claimed the biggest title of his long career when he battled back to beat Marin Cilic 4-6, 7-6(2), 7-6(8) in a nerve-wracking final of the Aegon Championships at Queen's Club on Sunday.

The 35-year-old, who suffered a heartbreaking defeat in the 2014 final when he held a match point against Grigor Dimitrov, this time saved

a match point in a tense final set tiebreak before toppling the Croat. Lopez saved his match point with a steely volley at 5-6 in the breaker before Cilic fended off two. Then, at the third time of asking, crowd favourite Lopez could celebrate after fourth seed Cilic pulled a forehand into the tramlines.

It was Lopez's sixth career title and third on grass. —Reuters ■

Federer demolishes Zverev to win ninth Halle title

HALLE, Germany — World number five Roger Federer clinched a record ninth Halle Open title on Sunday, crushing last year's finalist Alexander Zverev 6-1, 6-3 to lay down a marker in the lead-up to Wimbledon.

The 18-times grand slam champion, who skipped the claycourt season after winning the Australian Open and titles in Indian Wells and Miami, to prepare for the grass, is in ominous form and won in Halle without dropping a single set all week.

The 35-year-old, defeated in his first comeback match in Stuttgart last week, was aggressive from the start, breaking in the first game to take control. —Reuters ■

Myanmar selects U-22 football players in preparation for KBZ Bank Challenge Cup

Myanmar will send 23 top-ranked U-22 football players to compete in the KBZ Bank Challenge Cup scheduled for 28 June-2 July in Yangon, according to announcement by Myanmar Football Federation yesterday.

The 23 players include Si Thu Aung, one of Myanmar best

young players.

Director U Thann Toe Aung, Head of Coach Gerd Friedrich, Assistant Coaches U Kyi Lwin and U Zaw Win Tun will manage the team. Myanmar will play Cambodia on 28 June, Hong Kong on 30 June and Japanese University Club on 2 July. —Shine Htet Zaw ■



Myanmar football players celebrate during a match. PHOTO: SOE NYUNT

Australia see positives despite early exit in Russia

MOSCOW — The Confederations Cup was a missed opportunity for Australia but the Socceroos should gain confidence from their improvement during the tournament in Russia, coach Ange Postecoglou has said.

Australia bowed out with a 1-1 draw against Chile on Sunday, having needed a two-goal win to reach the semi-finals.

Chile advanced to play Portugal for a spot in the final, with Germany taking on Mexico in the other semi-final.

The 48th-ranked Socceroos were lambasted at home for their disjointed performance in a 2-0 loss to a second string Germany, but held African champions Cameroon to a 1-1 draw and dictated terms against fourth-ranked Chile for much of the match.

"We're obviously very disappointed," Postecoglou told Australian media after the Moscow stalemate. —Reuters ■

Myanmar U-18 national football team to compete China U-20 Challenge Cup

In preparation for 2017 AFF U-18 Youth Championship, Myanmar under-18 national football team will play in China under-20 Challenge Cup in Shanghai, China in July, according to an announcement by the Myanmar Football Federation.

The team's opponents have not yet been announced by tournament organizers, said Myanmar U-18 Head Coach Bun Berli.

Myanmar's U-18 team won fourth place in Vietnam's U-19 Challenge Competition in April.

Myanmar U-18 is preparing to compete for 2018 Asian Football Confederation U-19 Championship qualification next year and the 2017 ASEAN Football Federation U-18 Championship this year. —Kyaw Zin Lin ■



Myanmar youth players sing Myanmar's national anthem before a match. PHOTO: MFF