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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at a meeting in Ottawa, Canada where she discussed financial distribution and natural resources. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor attends meeting on financial sector in federalism

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a meeting on administering finance and natural resources in a federal system held at the Novotel Hotel in Ottawa, Canada yesterday morning.

In the bilateral meeting, the State Counsellor discussed issues relating to equal financial distribution and administration of natural resources in a federal system.

In addition, the State

Counsellor will attend a formal lunch at the invitation of Canada's Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland, meet Speakers of the Senate and House of Commons separately, visit the Library of Par-

liament, meet with the Minister of International Development of Canada Mrs. Marie-Claude Bibeau and later in the evening meet with Myanmar citizens residing in Ottawa.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Nurse's uniforms discussed in Pyithu Hluttaw

THE work clothing of some hospital employees is misleading and potentially dangerous, a Hluttaw representative said yesterday, because patients and

others could mistake 4 month-trained staffs for full-fledged nurses.

The hospital uniform issue was one of many subjects dis-

cussed at the 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session 10th Day Meeting. At yesterday's Hluttaw meeting, Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency

put forward a motion asking for a way to differentiate among hospital employees who have varying amounts of medical training. **SEE PAGE-2**



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Pyithu Hluttaw

Nurse's uniforms discussed in Pyithu Hluttaw

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“Employing nurses who have only 4 months training dressed in scrubs in some private clinics and hospitals are very dangerous for patients and it does not comply with the law. It is prescribed in the law that uniforms for nurses are not allowed for those who are not acknowledged by the State.”



Daw Yin Min Hlaing of Gangaw constituency. **PHOTO: MNA**

Daw Yin Min Hlaing, further explained that “in the health sector, there are five kinds — nurses, health assistants, pharmacy, pharmacists

and alternative medicines. Out of them, only nurses are appointed as upper division clerks with the others appointed as 2nd township head officers.”

Daw Yin Min Hlaing's motion of urging the Government to upgrade the health sector of the State and reforming the country's nursing world, which she said would re-vitalise the public health sector, was seconded by the Hluttaw.

Major General Than Htut, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs, replied to a question raised by U R Moe Hsi of Khaunglanphu constituency as to whether there are any arrangements to build an all-season road up to the village of Nyitardi and to repair the weather-damaged Khaunglanphu—Nytardi Road.

“The 55-mile-long Khaunglanphu—Nytardi Road was built in the financial year of 2013-2014 with Ks328.13 million from the border area development fund. Out of the 55 mile-long road, a 10-mile section which located in the Department of Development of Border Areas and National Races will be repaired in fiscal year 2018-2019”,



Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. **PHOTO: MNA**

Major General Than Htut said.

U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction, replied to a question raised by U Kyaw Soe of Bamauk constituency as to where mile and furlong concrete posts will be erected on the Indaw-Bamauk-Mansi Road.

“The road is 39 miles and 6 furlongs long from mile stone 37/0 to 76/6. The above-said mile posts are systematically re-erected with 65 kilometer posts in substitution. Within mile post 37/0 to 76/6, there are 96 concrete bridges, 3 bailey bridges and 33 wooden bridges. All are numbered in serial”, U

Win Khaing said.

Afterward, Union Minister U Win Khaing replied to a question raised by U Nyan Lin of Shwepyitha constituency as to whether there are any arrangements to build tar roads or concrete roads instead of earthen paths, to dig road-side drainage channels and underground drainage channels.

“Depending upon the budget allotment in the coming financial years, remaining parts of the earthen roads will be upgraded into tar or concrete roads, as will the drainage channels, depending upon the budget

allotment”, U Win Khaing said.

U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction and Major General Than Htut, deputy minister for Border Affairs replied to the questions raised by U Khin Maung Myint of Yaksawk constituency, U Aung Kyaw Zan of Pauktaw constituency, U Sai Ngaung Hsaing Hein of Maukmai constituency, Daw Nan Kham Aye of Namtu constituency and U Aye Naing of Dagon Myothit (south).

At the 10th day meeting, a motion urging the Union Government to hold sports competitions after drawing up sports calendars from rural areas to urban areas and from basic education schools to universities and colleges, with a view to producing national-level sportsmen with the development of Myanmar's sports, presentation of the annual report of the Pyithu Hluttaw National Ethnic Affairs & Internal Peace Implementation Committee and discussions and approval of Inland Waterway Transport Law (draft) approved and sent by Amyotha Hluttaw were performed. — Kyaw Thu Htet (MNA) ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session holds 10th day meeting

Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of the Amyotha Hluttaw, reported the amendment of authorities of the committee for Amyotha Hluttaw Women & Children's Rights, getting the approval of the Hluttaw at the 10th day meeting of 5th regular session, 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw held at 10 am yesterday at the meeting hall of Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

U Win Maw Tun, Deputy Minister for Education, replied to a question raised by U Hwei Tin of constituency 11, in Chin State as to whether there have been any arrangements to upgrade basic education middle schools (branches) in the villages of Chindauk, Taron Ai and Kyeelei in Paletwa township, Chin State in the coming school year.

“The above-said schools were under the designated limits of students depending upon the

distance, but they were upgraded to the basic education middle schools on 23rd May 2017.”

Following this, Deputy Minister U Win Maw Tun replied to questions on the education sector raised by Daw May Than Nwe of constituency 11, Ayeyawady Region and U Myint Naing of constituency 5, Rakhine State.

Afterward, U Aung Thein, of constituency 12, Bago Region read out clarifications on the report of the drafting committee regarding the law on repatriation (bill) sent by the Pyithu Hluttaw with the amendment attached, followed by the approval of the Hluttaw.

Regarding the motion urging the Government to have certain subjects — health on reproduction, civil ethics and democracy, introduced and accepted in the syllabus for educational



Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than. **PHOTO: MNA**

college, state high schools and middle schools, presented by Dr Tin Tin Win of constituency 5 of Bago Region, parliamentarians discussed.

“Collaboration Skill includes the ability to cooperate, the ability to serve for people's benefits and the ability to achieve success through cooperation which are the practices of the

democracy.

The critical thinking skill is the ability to distinguish reasonably between right and wrong. It is of great necessity to settle capacity building in our country. Creativity skill is urgently needed in every sector in our country.

In building up our nation, lifting up of civil ethics and moral conduct in accordance with the

evolutionary system. To bring about quality education, civil ethics, subjects on democracy and knowledge on reproduction and health must be introduced and made for all to accept them.” As regards the motion, Dr Than Win of constituency 1, Mandalay Region, U Ye Htut of constituency 5, Sagaing Region, Tatmadaw representative Major Thein Lwin Htay, Daw Lwee Zar of constituency 6 from Kayah State, U Zaw Min of constituency 6, Sagaing Region, Dr Win Myint Chit of constituency 8, Bago Region, Dr Win Myint of constituency 11, Bago Region and U Hla Oo of constituency 4, Sagaing Region discussed respectively.

The 11th day meeting of 2nd Amyotha Hluttaw 5th regular session will be held on 8th June, it has been learnt. —Aung Ye Thwin & Aye Aye Thant (MNA) ■

State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Attends Forum of Federations Workshop

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was present at the workshop of experts from Canada regarding the effects of the federal system on social policies and economic development, from relations between governmental organisations towards a federal system, and the role of the judiciary as practiced by Canada arranged by the Forum of Federations, held at Andaz Ottawa Market Hotel, in Ottawa, Canada in the evening of 6 June. During the discussions, the State Counsellor spoke words of thanks saying that the present workshop had been of great help for sharing experiences on federalism in Canada, for the process of setting up a federal democratic nation in Myanmar. The forum was attended by 5 representatives from the Ministry of President's Office, the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office, the Office of the Union Attorney General, Peace Commission and Myanmar Central

Bank, 4 representatives from the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army), 4 representatives from ethnic groups who signed Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement and one representative each from Wa special region and Maile special region. Forum of Federations is an organisation carrying out the tasks of upgrading capacity building since 2012, in Myanmar, with the support of the Canadian Government.

The organisation is working towards spreading knowledge on federal administration in Myanmar and for upgrading the administrative capacity of those concerned in making decisions on practical implementation of democracy and federalism, and making arrangements for representatives from government and Hluttaw, responsible officials from political parties, news media and civil societies to attend workshops on federalism.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi poses for a documentary photo with attendants from the workshop arranged by the forum on federal nations held in Canada. **PHOTO: MNA**

2017 Asia Media Summit continues in Qingdao, China

The 2017 Asia Media Summit continued yesterday at the Shangri-La Hotel in Qingdao, the People's Republic of China.

The topic of discussion for the second day of the summit was "Media for No Poverty: Creating Public Awareness and Engagement."

Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint participated in the discussions with Bangladesh Minister of Information Hasanul Haq Inu, Vice President of Ningxia Radio and TV Station Mr. Zhongqi Niu, Associate Professor of Taylor's University Malaysia Dr. Ramachndran Ponnar and Undersecretary and Executive Director Mr. Joel Sy Egco of the Philippines' Presidential Task Force on Media Security. The discussion was led by Mr. Sami Zeidan, Senior Presenter of Al Jazeera English.

After the summit, the Union Minister met with Deputy Minister Mr. Tong Gang from the State Administration of Press, Publication, Radio, Film and Television of the People's Republic of China



Union Minister Dr. Pe Myint gives a lacquerware as a gift to the Bangladesh Minister of Information. **PHOTO: MNA**

(SAPPRFT) and discussed collaboration on the information sector, arranging expeditions for writers between the two countries and developing the literary culture.

The Union Minister next met with Deputy Chief Editor Ms. Li Pang from China Radio International and discussed collaboration in the telecommunications sector.

At afternoon, the Union Minister met with Bangladesh Minister of Information Hasanul Haq Inu and discussed establishing communications between the media of the two countries.

The summit was attended by more than 450 representatives from 48 countries and seven international organisations.—Myanmar News Agency ■

PRESS RELEASE

Diplomatic Relations established between the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Guinea

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the Republic of Guinea, desirous of promoting existing friendship and cooperation based on the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the norms of International Law in accordance with the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations, have established diplomatic relations at the level of Ambassadors, with effect from 6 June 2017.

The Joint Communiqué on the Establishment of Diplomatic Relations was signed by the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Guinea to the United Nations in New York on 6 June 2017.

The Republic of Guinea is the 120th country with which Myanmar has established diplomatic relations.—Ministry of Foreign Affairs ■

Correction

The Headline News that appeared on Vol. IV, No.51, 7th June 2017 issue, contained incorrect information.

The article stated "The Forum Hosted by the Myanmar Investors Development Association (MIDA) and Myanmar B2B Management Magazine was opened by the Vice President U Myint Swe by striking a ceremonial gong three times.

It should have been "The Forum Hosted by the Myanmar Investors Development Association (MIDA) was opened by the Vice President U Myint Swe by striking a ceremonial gong three times."—GNLM/May Thet Hnin ■

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Kyaw Myaing

SENIOR TRANSLATORSKhin Maung Oo
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Khin Maung Win (Chief Proof Reader)
Zaw Min, zawmin.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**REPORTER**Tun Aung Kyaw,
reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com**PHOTOGRAPHER**

Kyaw Zeya Win @ Phoe Khwar

COMPUTER TEAMTun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team),
Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin**EDITORIAL SECTION**(+95) (01)8604529,
Fax - (+95) (01) 8604305**CIRCULATION & DISTRIBUTION**San Lwin, (+95) (01) 8604532,
Hotline - 09 974424114**ADVERTISING & MARKETING**(+95) (01) 8604530,
Hotline - 09 974424848
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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

The meeting between Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Malaysian hold at the chamber's office in Mandalay yesterday. **PHOTO: THIHA KO KO**

Malaysian businessmen and Mandalay businessmen meet for cooperation

A delegation of Malaysian businessmen attended a meeting of the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry yesterday at the chamber's office at Yadanarbon Supercenter in Chanayetharzan Township.

The business delegation was led by Mr. Tan Sri Dato

Soong Siew Hoong and represented Malaysia's Expertise Resource Association.

U Aung Than, chair of Mandalay Chamber made an opening speech and said he looked forward to a long relationship between the two countries.

Dr. Maung Maung, secre-

tary of the Mandalay Chamber described opportunities for the investments and current market conditions. The businessmen discussed potential coordination in tourism, health, construction, imports and exports, construction, printing and vehicle manufacturing.—
Thiha Ko Ko ■

Companies apply to develop historical property

Eight development firms submitted applications to restore parkland at a royal estate in Mandalay called Mya-Nan-San-Kyaw-Shwe-Nan-Daw, according to the Myanmar Tourism Federation.

The property is an important piece of architectural

heritage in Mandalay and a major tourist destination. Developers will be required to follow historical conservation guidelines mandated by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, said U Khin Aung Tun, vice chairman of the Myanmar Tourism Federation.

The property includes gardens and three fortress walls known as the Innwa Hsin fortress wall, Sagaing Thapatan fortress wall and the Servant fortress wall.

The project is intended to attract more tourists to the site.— YCDC ■

Mandalay man stabbed to death, police arrest three suspects

CHANAYETHAZAN Township Police in Mandalay arrested three people on suspicion of stabbing a man to death with a knife on 5 June.

The victim, Aung Kyaw Soe, 27, was allegedly attacked near the intersection of 32nd and 73rd streets in Mandalay and stabbed two times – once in the back and once in the chest. Aung Kyaw Soe was taken to Mandalay Hospital where he died several hours later.

Police arrested Yan Aung, 20, also known as Bala and Ba Aye, 25, also known as, Zaw Oo, and Zaw Htet, 28, in connection with the death and cited charged them with homicide by a deadly weapon.—Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay) ■



Illegal cows seized in Gwa

Police seized a 10-wheel vehicle carrying twenty four cows on Gwa-Thandwe road in Gwa at 1 am yesterday in Rakhine State.

Police have taken action against the driver Naing Lin and Yan Shin Aung.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Stimulants seized in Maungtaw

Police seized 19,000 stimulant tablets found in Ngakhuya village in Maungtaw township, Rakhine State.

While the border guard police were patrolling along the area, they inspected suspicious looking two men near a prawn farm at about 1 am.

Police discovered 19,000 Amphetamine tablets worth Ks 38 million from a man. But, another man managed to escape from the scene.

Local Police force filed charges against Annawa Shar from Ngakhuya village and Ha Shein who has been fleeing.—
Myanmar News Agency ■

Jetty project planned in Ayeyawady dolphin habitat

NEW jetty construction is planned at the Mayan Chan Port in Aungmyaytharzan Township, Mandalay, according to a report in the Voice newspaper yesterday.

The project will add four new jetties at the port by November, according to the article, which quoted officials from the Foreign Travellers and Ferries Transport Association and the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

The jetties will be built to improve tourists' experiences through beautification of the environment and ease of travel.

The project, which is scheduled for completion by November, is currently in the final planning stages. Nearly 500 travellers visited Mayan Chan Port between November and April 2016. Endangered Ayeyawady dolphins, or orcaella brevirostris — and known to cooperate with local fishermen to herd fish into their nets akin to sheepdogs — are a major draw for tourists.—Kyaw Kyaw ■



Daw Hsint Hsint Aung, Myanmar Economic Bank General Manager. PHOTO: MRTV

Mobile payment system expanding in Myanmar

INTERVIEW of Myanmar Economic Bank General Manager Daw Hsint Hsint Aung and MRTV reporter Myo Zar Zar Oo broadcast on 6 June:

Q. When did the mobile payment system start? How is the mobile payment process working?

A. Mobile payment system is deposit and withdrawal of money and topping up the phone credits by using the mobile phone. The mobile payment system started on 15 October 2015. Currently, retired service personnel can withdraw pension payments, since 22 February 2016. About 146 retired service personnel are withdrawing the money by using mobile payment system.

Q. Can people still use the old pension book and E-pension card system?

A. It depends on the retired person. We allow them either to use the pension book or E-pension card, ATM card or mobile phone.

Q. Can you share the difference between the mobile system and the previous system? What are the strengths?

A. The strengths of the mobile payment system are:

1. For example, the retired person who withdraws their pension at the branch banks in Yangon Region can withdraw the pension at Myanma economic branch banks or at other agencies in Mandalay or other regions. Withdrawing the pension online can save time.
2. Previously, retired persons withdraw their entire pension when using their E-pension card. For example, if his pension is Ks 100,000, he has to withdraw the entire Ks 100,000.

But with mobile payments, the retired persons can withdraw partial amounts.

Q. What is the aim of introducing the mobile payment system?

A. 1. to save time, 2. to promote modern banking systems and 3. to enable withdrawing of pensions wherever you are.

Q. How do pensioners have to withdraw the money?

A. They may need a phone, which can be MPT or MEC Tel Sim Cards. Moreover, they need to register their mobile phones to be able to use mobile payment system.

Q. Can you please tell me the instructions as to how to register the mobile phone to use the mobile payment system?

A. Pensioners using keypad phones must send a "join" message to 1666 or use *666# USSD code.

Smartphone users can register in either Myanmar or English language via the application. The bank will send an SMS message to the pensioners to acknowledge that their persons have been credited to their accounts on the 18th of every month. After that, the retired salary can be withdrawn their pensions from the mobile phone.

Q. Do you have anything to add?

A. Under the direction of the union minister for planning and finance, the authorities are providing awareness of the mobile payment system through state-owned newspapers and pamphlets. As a result, more and more pensioners are using the mobile payment system and the ATM system. In fact, they can be said to be participating in the financial inclusion programme of the ministry. — MRTV ■

Myanmar Tourism Federation warns against unauthorized use of trademark

THE Myanmar Tourism Federation has issued an advisory against using its trademark without government approval.

The federation warned that unauthorized use of its trademark could result in official sanctions. Anyone who wishes

to apply to use the Myanmar Tourism Federation's trademark can email the agency at mtga.information@gmail.com.—200■

China-Myanmar border trade down by nearly US\$60 million in 56 days this FY

BORDER trade between China and Myanmar decreased US\$ 60 million as of 26 May this fiscal year, according to Commerce Ministry statistics.

China-Myanmar border trade from 1 April to 26 May this fiscal year comprised \$797 million, down from \$856 million during the same period last year.

The decrease in China-Myanmar border trade is attributed a significant decline of Muse border trade due to more stringent

Chinese restrictions on low quality goods. Muse border gate has the most trade of 16 Myanmar border gates: including Chinese entries at Lweje, Kanpikete, Chinshwehaw and Kengtung and Thailand entry points at Tachilek, Myawady, Kawthoung, Myeik, Hteeekhee, Maese and Mawtaung.

The country conducts border trade with Bangladesh via Sittway and Maungtau gates and with India at Tamu and Reed border gates. —Ko Htet ■

Myanmar company proposes 30 MW solar generation plant near Maubin

A Myanmar company wants to build a 30-megawatt solar power generation plant in the Hlaingthaya industrial zone, according to a report yesterday in the Myawady Daily newspaper.

The project would be second solar plant to be constructed by the Won Toll Company, Ltd., which is currently building a similar facility near Maubin in the Ayeyawady Region with a Thai company. The estimated cost of that project is

US\$ 90 million.

"Hlaingthaya industrial zones needs more electrical power", a Won Toll official told the newspaper. "Therefore, we have planned to generate 300 MW per day. Currently, we are looking for power customers. When we can find customers, we will ask permission from the government".

The company plans to construct similar solar power stations in Yangon.— 200 ■

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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**

Message from State Counsellor on 20th Anniversary of BIMSTEC

TODAY marks the 20th Anniversary of the founding of the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) which was set up to accelerate economic growth and social progress in the sub-region through joint endeavours in a spirit of equality and partnership. On this auspicious day, it gives me great pleasure to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to the Governments and peoples of all BIMSTEC Members States. The name-Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) – clearly explains the focus areas of the organization. BIMSTEC began by promoting cooperation.

Today it is striving for integration and its efforts are gaining momentum. Now, a market of 1.5 billion people with a combined GDP of USD 2.5 trillion,

BIMSTEC offers tremendous potential for the economic and social development of the region. BIMSTEC is deserving of congratulations for the progress made since its inception 20 years ago. We recognize also that there is still much that remains to be done by the peoples and the governments of BIMSTEC to achieve their goals of peace, progress and prosperity. I believe that together we can overcome all these challenges we may have to face.

With its geographical position as a land bridge between South Asia and South East Asia, Myanmar shall continue to participate in the regional integration process actively to fulfill the objectives of the organization, and to meet the aspirations of the people of the BIMSTEC.

*Aung San Suu Kyi
Nay Pyi Taw
6th June 2017*

Japan, Laos PMs meet in Tokyo to talk joint development

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and his Laotian counterpart Thongloun Sisolith met on Wednesday in Tokyo to discuss implementation of a plan to spur development in Laos and other issues.

During a previous meeting in Vientiane last September, Abe and Thongloun agreed on the plan involving investment in transport, power generation and distribution, human resources, agriculture and public works.

They are expected to discuss concrete implementation of that plan, including Japanese support for efforts by the Laotian government to ensure fiscal stability, terminal expansion at Vientiane's Wattay international airport, and educational exchanges to Japan of young Laotian public-sector workers. Laos is a target destination for the Abe administration's push

for "high-quality" infrastructure investment in countries in the Asia-Pacific region, aimed at reaping both economic and strategic benefits. The leaders will also likely reiterate their commitment to concluding soon a high-quality Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership trade deal.

The RCEP negotiations involve the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, plus Japan, Australia, China, India, New Zealand and South Korea, which together account for about half the world's population and 30 per cent of the global economy and trade.

Ahead of some ASEAN meetings, Abe and Thongloun are also likely to discuss the situation in the South China Sea, where China has been reclaiming land and building military facilities to bolster its

territorial claims.

According to Japanese government officials, Abe will seek to affirm Laos' support for maintaining international order in the Indo-Pacific region through freedom of navigation and the rule of law. Abe and Thongloun may also discuss North Korea's nuclear and ballistic missile development programmes, affirming coordination in ensuring UN Security Council resolutions including sanctions on the North are stringently enforced.

Earlier in the day, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his Laotian counterpart Saleumxay Kommasith discussed ongoing initiatives between the two countries.

Thongloun attended a conference on the future of Asia in Tokyo earlier in the week. He is scheduled to leave Japan on Thursday.—Kyodo News ■

Nepal's Deuba makes first cabinet picks to guide elections

KATHMANDU — Nepal's new prime minister, Sher Bahadur Deuba, named his first cabinet appointments on Wednesday and put a former Maoist guerrilla in charge of holding the final round of local elections, the first such elections in two decades.

The 70-year-old Deuba replaced Prachanda, a former rebel commander, as prime minister after a parliamentary vote on Tuesday. He has pledged to complete the remaining phase of village and municipal assembly elections set for 28 June, leading to provincial and national elections before the end of the year.

The first phase of local polls was held on 14 May.

"These are early appointments and the prime minister will expand the cabinet in consultation with coalition partners," said Deuba's aide and nephew, Bhanu Deuba.

The main appointment was Home Minister Janardan Shar-



Nepal's newly elected Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba (C) shakes hands with the outgoing Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal also known as Prachanda (R) after being elected for Prime Minister in Kathmandu, Nepal on 6 June, 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ma, a former guerrilla fighter, who will be in charge of overseeing all three elections the government hopes will complete a difficult transition since the monarchy was abolished in 2008.

The president's office said three members of the ethnic Madhesi minority were among the seven appointments.

Those appointments are seen as a bid to appease the Madhesi, who live on the southern plains bordering India and say a new constitution that creates new provinces will unfairly consolidate the power of the country's hill elite over them.

Among others appointed to the cabinet was Krishna Bahadur Mahara, also a Maoist, who will be a deputy prime minister in charge of the foreign ministry, the president's office said in a statement. Gyanendra Bahadur Karki from the ruling Nepali Congress will be finance minister.—Reuters ■

Militants in Philippines had planned to set up an Islamist enclave

MARAWI CITY, (Philippines) — Islamist militants locked in an urban battle with troops in the southern Philippines had planned to carve out an enclave of their own, officials said on Wednesday after the emergence of a video showing their leaders in a secret strategy meeting.

The footage, found on a mobile phone as government forces closed in on the fighters in Marawi City, showed a group of men in a room discussing how they would take hostages from a school, seal off roads and capture a highway into the lakeside town.

“There was indeed a bigger plan and it was supposed to wreak more havoc,” military spokesman Restituto Padilla told a news conference after the video became public.

The battle for Marawi has raised concern that Islamic State, on a back foot in Syria and Iraq, is building a regional base on the Philippine island of Mindanao that could pose a threat to neighbouring Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore too.

Officials said that, among the several hundred militants who seized the town on 23 May, there were about 40 foreigners from Indonesia and Malaysia but also fighters from India, Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Chechnya.

The military has said that the fighters are increasingly penned in around a built-up area of the town, and troops have been clearing houses that the militants had defended with snipers for the past two weeks.

Philippine senators said members of the upper house were last week shown the video of the militants making their plans, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters on Wednesday.

Seated at a table was Isnilon Hapilon, the leader of the Abu Sayyaf rebel group who was proclaimed by Islamic State last year as its “emir” of Southeast Asia. The US State Department has



Cayamora Maute, a man who said he was the father of two brothers whose Maute group of Islamist militants led the seizure of Marawi city two weeks ago, is guarded by police women inside the police station after his arrest in Davao city, southern Philippines on 6 June, 2017. PHOTO:REUTERS

offered a bounty of up to \$5 million for his arrest.

Hapilon has formed an alliance with the Maute group, a tactically smart, social-media savvy outfit, and at least two other factions that have lined up behind the ultra-radical Islamic State.

“It was clear that these terrorists, the Maute group, their end goal is to make Marawi ... independent, or to separate from the republic,” Senator JV Ejercito told Reuters.

“With a plan like this, this is already rebellion and a threat to national security, so declaration of martial law is justified,” he said, referring to the martial law declared by President Rodrigo Duterte across Mindanao when the siege began. The Associated Press first reported on the video on Tuesday. Armed forces Chief of Staff General Eduardo Año told the agency that the images showed an intention to dismember “a portion of the Philippine territory by occupying the whole of Marawi City and establishing their own Islamic state or government”.

The fighters prepared for a long siege, stockpiling arms and food in tunnels, basements, mosques and madrasas, or Islamic religious schools, military officials say. The Philippines is

largely Christian, but Marawi City is overwhelmingly Muslim.

Progress in the military campaign has been slow because hundreds of civilians are still trapped or being held hostage, some as human shields, the military said.

A Catholic priest and about a dozen of his parishioners were taken on the first day of the battle by militants who burst into the town’s cathedral and set it alight.

Military spokesman Padilla appealed to social media users not to circulate material - such as video images of the militants destroying religious statues and pulling down a cross inside a church — that may fan religious tension. “Let us not buy into the plan of these terror groups to inflame the feelings of our other religions,” he said. “This is not a religious war.”

A four-hour ceasefire to evacuate residents trapped in the town was interrupted by gunfire on Sunday, leaving some 500 to 600 inside with dwindling supplies of food and water. Officials say that 1,545 civilians have been rescued.

The latest numbers for militants killed in the battle is 134, along with 39 security personnel. The authorities have put the civilian death toll at between 20 and 38.—Reuters ■

S Korean FM nominee says dual approach of sanctions, dialogue to DPRK

SEOUL — South Korean Foreign Minister nominee Kang Kyung-wha said Wednesday that she will take a dual approach of sanctions and dialogue towards the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) if she takes office.

Kang made the remarks in the parliamentary confirmation hearing for her nomination as the country’s first female foreign minister. The top diplomat post does not require a parliamentary approval, though the nominee is needed to go through the hearing. She said in her opening remarks that the DPRK’s nuclear program is an issue directly relevant to survival of South Korean people, upon which top priority should be placed for the peaceful Korean Peninsula.

While sternly dealing with the DPRK’s further provocations, South Korea would actively participate in international cooperation through UN Security Council resolutions to block Pyongyang from advancing its nuclear and missile capability and deterring further provocations, Kang said.

The top South Korean diplomat nominee, however, said sanctions and pressure toward Pyongyang should not be the ends themselves but the means to denuclearize the DPRK, vowing to make concerted efforts to resume talks with the DPRK for the denuclearization.

Asked about the resumption of the closed-down inter-Korean factory park, Kang said discussions will be required with UN Security Council member countries when actively considering the resumption.

She proposed two conditions for the active consideration, including the progress in denuclearization and changes in the atmosphere of the international community toward the

DPRK. The Kaesong Industrial Complex in the DPRK’s border town of Kaesong, just north of the inter-Korean land border, was shut down by the previous South Korean government following Pyongyang’s fourth nuclear test in January last year. At the time, it was the last remaining inter-Korean economic cooperation project.

Kang said the resumed operation of the Kaesong factory park could become the first step toward an inter-Korean economic cooperation by easing tensions and building trust between the two sides, though she noted that the situations have got different from the time when it was first launched.

Touching on the US Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defence system, Kang said she would consider sending senior-level delegates to China.

Kang told the confirmation hearing that communications between South Korea and China should be maintained through a variety of channels to narrow differences in how to recognize the THAAD issue.

Since President Moon Jae-in took office on 10 May, Kang said, the special envoys of South Korea were dispatched to China, while leaders of the two countries held a telephone conversation. The FM nominee said the THAAD deployment lacked public discussions and failed to win the public consensus, reiterating the new government’s stance that the THAAD installation requires parliamentary discussions. In her earlier opening remarks, Kang pledged to develop the bilateral strategic cooperative partnership with China by restoring trust and strengthening sincere communications between the two countries.—Xinhua ■

China a global leader in sustainable energy: World Bank

BEIJING — China ranked 21st in sustainable energy regulation, with its renewable energy score well above the global average and close to OECD countries in many dimensions, according to a World Bank report released in Beijing on

Wednesday.

China scored 81 in the first Regulatory Indicators for Sustainable Energy (RISE), a policy scorecard covering energy access, energy efficiency and renewable energy in 111 countries.

Denmark took the top spot with a score of 94, while Canada and the United States took second and third places, respectively. Over the past few years, China saw more investment and installation in renewable energy than any other

country, the report said, which made China the highest ranking country in East Asia and second highest among all middle-income countries. “However, as the GDP growth, as well as power demand, decelerates, it is critical to shift

the mindset from installing more megawatts to actually delivering clean energy to consumers,” said Yao Zhao, World Bank renewable energy expert who leads the renewable energy pillar of RISE.—Xinhua ■

Health insurance a real shot in the arm for improvement of health conditions

Tha Sein

Most recently, a national health insurance system that includes effective implementation of universal health coverage, providing timely health care services to all including the poor was high on the agenda at the Parliament.

In that regard, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe said to the Parliament that there was no law yet that provided work-site safety for health personnel at work, and that steps were being taken to promptly enact a law that guaranteed work-site safety for medical personnel including health assistants and midwives. The minister

added that priority was being given to the appointment of required specialists, but that there was a need to simultaneously purchase and install supporting medical equipment.

Because of the pitiful amount of money the successive governments had historically spent on healthcare, the country continues to struggle with basic problems related to healthcare services. Some medical professionals are facing a heavy workload as many hospitals are understaffed and underequipped. If the problem of understaffing persists, it will lead to a brain drain as more medical personnel leave for the better resources and pay on offer at private hospitals. The

number of medical personnel should be in line with the number of patients.

It is safe to say that the country's healthcare services have not kept pace with those of its neighbors. Poor people will eventually suffer because they would not get good basic health services from the government so long as the country is deprived of universal health coverage.

Against the backdrop of these many pressing needs, a clear set of priorities on how to spend limited government resources will be necessary to ensure that the healthcare system is sustainable.

The concept of free medical service for all is theoretically perfect. However,

the financial losses of state hospitals raise the question of whether solvent patients should pay for service to help hospital stay financially afloat and be able to help needy patients. The government is well aware of the need to significantly increase spending on the country's healthcare system, which is now a matter for debate.

Although the health conditions in the country have been improving in the time of the new administration, there is a lack of facilities and healthcare professionals. A new attempt to introduce a health insurance is a real shot in the arm for further improvement of the conditions. ■

Law for the Public

Written by Maung Sarga

It was some 60 years ago when we were in our salad days. In those days, there used to have played gramophones/record players & turntables as radios were not used widely yet, not to mention cassettes and televisions. The then events such as novitiation or wedding celebrations used to rent these gramophones, playing recorded music and stories on history by putting turntables on machines loudly enough for those from nearby villages to hear.

Stories by the then well-known Myanmar Zat Performers such as U Pho Sein, U Aung Moun, U Shwe Kyi Nyo, U Sein Aung Min & Shwe Man U Tin Maung were sweet & pleasant so much so that they could never quench people's desire to hear. Remarkably enough, humorous jokes by U Dhat Hsi and U Dhat Hsan's recorded jokes were very popular, nearly ubiquitous in all celebrations. Among them, one still impressed in my mind, which reads, "Never want next law to be promulgated! ----- It's the kind for mom to be afraid!" As a boy, I failed to ponder its meaning. Yet, let me share my thoughts as to why the joke was said, as time went by.

Why are people afraid of new laws to be enacted more and more?

On thinking about it, the joke was found to have intentionally been made to show people's fear of increasing laws and rules.

Why were people in those days afraid of this? It may be attributed to two things. The first one was that they never wanted laws which would restrict them from doing freely, with the second one thought to be the scourge for the people because of power and malpractices by exercising newly enacted laws.

Seeming restriction laws over people

I hereby will describe the said some of the seeming restriction laws over the public throughout Myanmar law history. After gaining Myanmar's Independence, 1950 Emergency Provisions Act was enacted. It was said to be the seeming restriction law over the public. Those trying to harm law & order and stability of the country used to have been arrested under section 5 (J) of the above law. Voices were made aloud saying that the suspect was not released yet till one month, despite many days more than five nights/days. (Here it needs to give a few explanations. "J" in the English alphabetical order is the tenth one. In Myanmar alphabetical order, the tenth is called "ည." But, ည also means night. So, some people misconstrue 5 J as 5 nights.) In 2017 when the incumbent government is taking office, the said law was completely abolished.

At the very advent of the revolutionary government's coup, law on nationalization of privately-owned factories, mills and enterprises was enacted. After making laws on entrusting authorities to build the socialist economic system, exports, imports, production and trade & commerce were under control. Simultaneously, BSPP (Burma Socialist Program Party) government issued law-like orders/statutes such as demonetization orders, causing economic crisis and anxieties among people.

State Law & Order Restoration Council (SLORC) and (SPSDC) State Peace, Stability & Development Council made enactment of laws and amendment of laws respectively. Drawing and promulgation of 2008 Constituency took time a lot. In 2010, multi-party democratic general elections were held, creating Hluttaw & government as a transitional reform. During these periods, law on

peaceful procession was also said to be tantamount to restriction over the public. Soon after promulgating the law, it had to be amended. Nowadays as well, voices are being heard that communication law's section 66 (D) restricts much on the public.

A law may be just, fair and rightful in a period or in an event, but it is impossible to be in harmony with situations in changing political systems and in every event. It should be reviewed as to whether every law is comprehensively beneficial just in an era. Some laws and rules are found to cause ill effects on the other side, though they may be right for a particular situation.

Freedom from fear of laws

For which do we enact laws. It is just to bring about the benefits of the State and its people. Protective & productive laws have to be enacted with a view to peace, stability and development of the country and survival of the people in a safe and happy way. A law must be

Much as legislators legislate with a view to bringing about benefits for the people, people are afraid of laws due to incompetence and weakness of those who manipulate laws. In fact, no one needs to be afraid of laws, on one condition that every individual needs to follow laws. Plus, people must take part in compiling laws.

designed for the public, not for the governing body to suppress and frighten the people. Just by promulgating laws, we are not dutiful yet. Following that, we are responsible for implementing as per the law. Every country has a government taking responsibility of the country and its people according to laws. Hence, a law can be said to be a contract indirectly bonded between the people and the government. Thus, both sides are required to abide by it.

Exemplary statement

Very recently, in a meeting of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, a discussion was made as to the amended law (draft) on 1949 prostitute suppression act. Initially, it was called "Law on eradication of prostitutes," later renamed as "Prostitute suppression act." In the present amended law (draft), amendments had been made aiming at increased punishments. Thura U Shwe Mann, commission chairman stressed, "It is necessary to ponder as to whether the naming, "prostitute suppression" is rightful or not. Unavoidably, they chose such a livelihood. Will it be convenient just by increasing punishments? Such and such facts as to how we can save their lives, which kinds of jobs we can create for them and in which way we can guide them to go on right paths should be included in promulgating it.

The former one had been enacted for long. The old must be abolished to draw up a new law, keeping new ideas in our minds. And, the wording "suppression" must be deleted. The wording "Law on prostitute," is enough. Otherwise, another suitable name is required to be given." The above-said statement should be a noteworthy one whenever a law is made. In making legislation, it must be drawn up to be productive laws for the nation and the people instead of seeming restriction laws over the public. Law must be for the people.

The Y-8-200F transport plane at Myeik Airport before it disappeared during its flight to Yangon yesterday. PHOTO: MNA



Military plane with 108 onboard missing

A MILITARY aircraft carrying 108 military and family members, including 15 children, went missing off the coast of Taninthayi yesterday, the military said last night.

The Myanmar Air Force aircraft left the city of Myeik, in Taninthayi Region, located in the southernmost of the country on the coast of an island on the Andaman Sea, on its way to Yangon, military and civil aviation officials said.

The Chinese-made Y-8-200F turbo-prop transport plane left Myeik at 1:06pm yesterday, heading north to Yangon on a regular weekly flight that visits several coastal towns, officials said.

The plane lost contact 29 minutes after takeoff while flying at 18,000 feet over the Andaman Sea, about 70 kilometers west of the town of Dawei, the military said.

“We don’t know what exactly happened to this plane after the loss of contact,” said Kyaw Kyaw Htay, a civil aviation official at



The circle in the map shows the location where contact with the plane was lost. PHOTO: MNA

Myeik airport.

Military authorities said the 108 passengers on board included 35 military officers, 14 of whom were members of the flight crew, 15 children, and 58 civilian adults.

The maximum capacity of the aircraft is 200 people, said a military officer.

The members of the cockpit

crew were experienced aviators with a total of nearly 9,000 hours of combined flight time, according to military sources.

Lt. Col. Nyein Chan, the head pilot, has 3,162 hours of flying experience. The first co-pilot, Lt. Col. Soe Thu Win, has 3,161 hours of flight time.

The second co-pilot, Maj. Thant Zin Htay, has 2,403 hours of flying experience.

The plane was carrying a load of 2.4 tonnes of cargo, the military said.

Kyaw Kyaw Htay said the weather had been “normal” with good visibility when the plane took off.

Four navy ships and two aircraft from the Air Force launched rescue operations at 2pm in the area where the Y-8-200F plane reportedly lost contact with the airport. The search continued as darkness fell.

The plane was bought in March 2016 and had a total of 809 flying hours, the military said.

— MNA, Reuters ■

Union Minister Dr. Than Myint receives delegation from MIDA

Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce, welcomed a delegation led by U Khin Maung Aye, President of Myanmar Investor Development Association (MIDA), in the meeting hall of the Ministry of Commerce yesterday.

U Khin Maung Aye and his associates had attended the Myanmar Investment Forum 2017 held in Nay Pyi Taw from 6 to 7 June. The Union Minister and his guests talked about the various topics presented at the forum including

the One Belt, One Road initiative and investment opportunities in Myanmar presented by business representatives from the People’s Republic of China.

They also talked about efforts to ease restrictions and work for smoother transitions in the trading sector, attracting foreign direct investment and developing potential sections of the trading sector, which were all kept on discussion at the forum. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Commerce, Dr. Than Myint holds a meeting with U Khin Maung Aye, President of Myanmar Investor Development Association, and his delegation, to discuss the recent Myanmar Investment Forum 2017. PHOTO: MNA

Law for the Public

FROM PAGE 8

Achieve people's force together with people for the people!

Concurrently, I came to notice statements posted by Thura U Shwe Mann on facebook pages. Here are some excerpts from the post titled, “people’s force.”

Preparation, cancellation and compilation of laws for the emergence of laws which will be just & fair and bring about benefits for the people are under way.

It is of importance to abide by existing laws.

Persons & organizations that exercise laws are more

important, and responsible.

If so, every individual can live under rule of law. Responsible persons & organizations must be controlled in a right way through people’s force. People’s force & participation must be emphatically lifted up for drawing laws, keeping laws & rule of law.

Under the title, “For people to live in safety and comfort”

Provided that law-abiding people are afraid of lawless ones, Had law-keeping persons & organizations failed to act according to law people will be insecure state, Responsible persons are required to find out those who lack obeying laws in

accordance with the laws for people to live in secure state, it was described.

According to above-mentioned statements, it is obvious that legislators play an important role.

People’s force must be achieved together with the people for the people, which is the essence of democracy.

Emergence of law people love through people's participation

To sum it up, much as legislators legislate with a view to bringing about benefits for the people, people are afraid of laws due to incompetence and weakness of those who manip-

ulate laws. In fact, no one needs to be afraid of laws, on one condition that every individual needs to follow laws.

Plus, people must take part in compiling laws.

In making a law, it is necessary to find out solution, study, review and scrutinize in every aspect over actual situations, experiences and sufferings, attitudes and suggestions by discussing not only with responsible persons and organizations but also with related social societies, supporting groups and affected persons.

By taking lessons from past events, assessing what are happening and making relevant decisions for what should be done, we can acquire long-lasting and fruitful results.

People’s government must implement the law people’s

representatives compiled, approved and promulgated, based on people’s attitudes and suggestions, together with the people. By doing so, people can enjoy the effects of laws in a rightful way and have rights, protection and care granted by laws, to the full.

Thus, people will learn to respect and abide by the law and they will learn to love the people’s government who implement in accord with the law by taking responsibilities, with their heart-felt trust.

May good laws people adore emerge by taking people’s force together with the people for the sake of the people, and succeed in serving people and the country!

Translated by Khin Maung Oo (Tada-U)



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May gives an election campaign speech to Conservative Party supporters in Norwich on 7 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Political leaders hunt for votes on last day of tumultuous British election campaign

LONDON — British politicians raced around the country on Wednesday, the final day of campaigning for a parliamentary election that will define Britain's approach to leaving the European Union but has been overshadowed by two militant attacks in as many weeks.

Prime Minister Theresa May and her husband Philip were greeted with jeers of "Vote Labour" as they visited a London meat market. Later in the morning she enjoyed a warmer reception 70 miles (110 km) away at a bowls club in Southampton, while Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party, started the day in the Scottish city of Glasgow. May unexpectedly called the 8 June election seven weeks ago, seeking to boost her parliamentary majority ahead of the start of Brexit negotiations and to win more time to deal with the impact of the EU divorce.

But the campaign has seen a number of unexpected twists, including the deadliest militant attack in Britain since 2005 and the shrinking of May's once commanding lead of over 20 percentage points in opinion polls.

Attacks by Islamist militants in Manchester and London threw the spotlight on security, while May was forced to backtrack on a social care policy pledge in a

move that pundits said was unprecedented in British election campaign history.

"Give me your backing in the polling station tomorrow to battle for Britain in Brussels," May said in a statement. "Get those negotiations wrong and the consequences will be dire."

May has repeatedly said only she can deliver the right deal for Britain and that opponents would lead its \$2.5 trillion economy to ruin in the negotiations with the EU.

Pollsters expect May to win a majority. But if she fails to beat handsomely the 12-seat majority her predecessor David Cameron won in 2015, her electoral gamble will have failed and her authority will be undermined both inside her Conservative Party and at talks with the 27 other EU leaders. When May stunned political opponents and financial markets by calling the snap election, her poll ratings indicated she could be on course to win a landslide majority on a par with the 1983 majority of 144 won by Margaret Thatcher. But May's poll lead has shrunk over the past three weeks. Latest polls put her party anywhere between 12 to 1 point ahead. One projection said she would win a majority of 64 seats.

At least five opinion polls are expected before polling stations

open at 0600 GMT on Thursday.

Britons have until 2100 GMT to vote, and there will be an exit poll as soon as voting ends. The first handful of seat results are then expected to be announced by 2300 GMT, with the vast majority of the 650 constituencies due to announce results between 0200 GMT and 0500 GMT on Friday morning. Britain's top-selling newspaper The Sun urged its readers to back the Conservatives, nicknamed the Tories.

"The Tories alone are committed to seeing Brexit through in full," the Sun said in a full-page editorial. The right-wing Daily Mail said a vote for May was a "vote to save Britain".

But opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, a socialist once written off by many as a no-hoper leading his party to its worst election defeat, has run a strong campaign. The Daily Mirror urged voters to "give hope a chance" and back Corbyn in Thursday's vote. The last week of campaigning has been held in the shadow of an attack by three Islamist militants who on Saturday drove a van into pedestrians on London Bridge before attacking revellers in bars and restaurants with knives, killing at least seven people and injuring dozens. British police hunting for a missing Frenchman found

a body in the river, which could lift the toll to eight. Security has been increased nationwide to counter any threat and the issue has dominated the final weeks of campaigning.

Corbyn has put the Conservatives on the back foot over the matter, criticising May for a drop in police numbers in her time as interior minister. May hit back with a pledge to crack down on Islamist extremism and strengthen police powers.

"If human rights laws get in the way of doing these things, we will change those laws to make sure we can do them," May said in an interview with the Sun.

Two of the three London Bridge attackers were known to authorities before Saturday's attack. Italy said it had flagged Youssef Zaghba as a potential risk after he moved to England last year, while Khuram Butt was known to British security services. Opponents accused May of undermining the rights of citizens for political gain.

"Many people will see it for what it is, which is a rather crass last minute attempt to divert attention from the much more difficult questions around our anti-terrorism policy," said former deputy prime minister Nick Clegg, a Liberal Democrat.—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

Kremlin says Iran attack shows needs to unite against terrorism

MOSCOW — The Kremlin said on Wednesday that an attack on two targets in Tehran by armed men underlined the need for countries to pool their efforts to fight against terrorism, something it said meant working closely with Muslim nations.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has long been calling for greater international co-operation to combat the Islamic State militant group, but Russian government officials say they have been dismayed by Washington's reluctance to collaborate with Moscow on the issue.—Reuters ■

German cabinet backs troop pullout from Turkey air base after row

BERLIN — Germany's cabinet on Wednesday backed the planned withdrawal of troops from the Incirlik air base in southern Turkey, a German government source said in response to a row over access to its soldiers there.

Germany plans to move the 280 German soldiers to an airbase in Jordan but has stressed it wants to minimise disruption that move would cause to the US-led coalition operation against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, of which it is part. Turkey had imposed restrictions on German lawmakers' access to the soldiers. For historical reasons, and to prevent abuses, the German armed forces are subordinated to parliament, not the government, meaning lawmakers have oversight of the troops.—Reuters ■

UAE wants to change Qatar's policy, "not regime" — Arabiya TV

DUBAI — The United Arab Emirates wants to change Qatar's policies but not "its regime", Saudi-owned Al Arabiya television said on Wednesday, citing a government official.

The UAE, along with Saudi Arabia, Egypt and others severed diplomatic ties with Qatar on Monday over alleged support for Islamist groups and Iran.—Reuters ■

Attackers bomb Iran parliament and mausoleum, at least 12 dead — Iranian media

LONDON — Suicide bombers and gunmen attacked Iran's parliament and the Mausoleum of Ayatollah Khomeini in Tehran on Wednesday morning, killing at least 12 people in a twin assault at the heart of the Islamic Republic, Iranian officials and media said.

Islamic State claimed responsibility and released a video purporting to show gunmen inside the parliament building and one man, who appeared wounded, on the floor.

The rare attacks were the first claimed by the hardline Sunni Muslim militant group inside the Shi'ite Muslim country. Iran is one of the powers leading the fight against Islamic State militants in neighbouring Iraq and, beyond that, Syria.

Attackers dressed as women burst through parliament's main entrance in central Tehran, deputy interior minister Mohammad Hossein Zolfaghari said, according to the semi-official Tasnim news agency.

"One of them was shot dead and another one detonated his suicide vest," he said.

About five hours after the first reports, Iranian news agencies said four people who had attacked parliament were dead and the incident was over.

At least 12 people were killed by the attackers, the head of Iran's emergency department, Pir-Hossein Kolivand, was quoted as saying by state broadcaster IRIB.

"I was inside the parliament when shooting happened. Everyone was shocked and scared. I saw two men shooting randomly," said one journalist at the scene, who asked not to be named.

Soon after the assault on parliament, another bomber det-



Members of Iranian forces run during a gunmen attack at the parliament's building in central Tehran, Iran, on 7 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

onated a suicide vest near the shrine of the Republic's revered founder, Ayatollah Khomeini, a few kilometres south of the city, Zolfaghari said, according to Tasnim.

A second attacker was shot dead, he said.

The Intelligence Ministry said security forces had arrested another "terrorist team" planning a third attack, without giving further details.

The attacks took place less than a month after the re-election of President Hassan Rouhani, a moderate, whose landslide victory defeated candidates supported by the hardline clergy and the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), which is responsible for national security.

"The atmosphere is tense. It is a blow to Rouhani. How can four armed men enter the parliament, where a very tight security has always been in place," said a senior official, who asked

not to be named.

The Intelligence Ministry called on people to be vigilant and report any suspicious movement. Despite unconfirmed reports of a hostage situation, state television said parliament had resumed, and broadcast footage of what it said was the opening session proceeding normally.

"Some coward terrorists infiltrated one of the buildings of parliament. They were confronted. It was not a major issue. Our security forces have taken necessary steps," parliament speaker Ali Larijani said in an open session broadcast live by state TV.

Attacks are highly rare in Tehran and other major cities though a Sunni militant group named Jundallah and its splinter group Ansar al Furqan have been waging a deadly insurgency, mostly in more remote areas, for almost a decade.

Iran's restive Sistan and Baluchestan province, in the southeast on the borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan, is home to the Balouch minority and has long been a hotbed of Sunni insurgents fighting the Shi'ite-led Islamic Republic.

Last year Iranian authorities said they had foiled a plot by Sunni militants to bomb targets in Tehran and other cities during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Islamic State has often urged its fighters to attack Iranian targets and lambasted "heretic" Shi'ite Iran for helping the Syrian and Iraqi governments battle Islamic State, which considers Shi'ites to be infidels.

The video released by Islamic State's news agency Amaq included an audio track of a man saying: "Oh God, thank you. Do you think we will leave? No! We will remain, God willing." —Reuters ■

South African ANC's Mantashe bemoans damage on party by leaked emails

JOHANNESBURG — South Africa's ruling African National Congress party is being damaged by leaked emails alleging fraud in the awarding of state contracts, ANC Secretary General Gwede Mantashe said on Wednesday. AmaBhungane, a non-profit group that has a strong track record of exposing what its says is government corruption, last week released some of more than 100,000 leaked emails and documents.

It said the emails show companies owned by the Gupta family unduly influence the awarding of government contracts worth hundreds of millions of dollars. Reuters was not able to independently verify the allegations.

President Jacob Zuma has denied wrongdoing and the Gupta family and its companies have also denied all allegations of influence-peddling or improper dealings.

Mantashe's comments come six months before the ANC, Nelson Mandela's erstwhile liberation movement that has ruled since the end of apartheid in 1994, holds a conference where members will choose a successor to Zuma.

He said the debate about removing the 75-year old leader would become "less complex" when a new ANC leader is chosen at the party conference in December.

Zuma, who has survived two no-confidence votes within the party in the last six months, can stay in power until a 2019 election. —Reuters ■

Pro-Assad alliance threatens to hit US positions in Syria

BEIRUT — A military alliance fighting in support of President Bashar al-Assad said on Wednesday it could hit US positions in Syria, warning that its "self-restraint" over US air strikes on government forces would end if Washington crossed "red lines".

The threat marks an escalation of tensions between the United States and Iran-backed

forces over control of Syria's southeastern frontier with Iraq, where the United States has been training Syrian rebels at a base inside Syrian territory.

The United States launched air strikes on Tuesday against what it said were Iranian-backed fighters who it said posed a threat to US and US-backed forces in the area, the second such attack

in three weeks.

The statement from the pro-Assad alliance was issued in the name of the "commander of the operations room of the forces allied to Syria", and was circulated by a military news unit run by the Lebanese group Hezbollah, one of Assad's military allies.

Assad's allies also include Iran and Russia. The statement

did not spell out whether Moscow was a signatory to it.

"America knows well that the blood of the sons of Syria, the Syrian Arab Army, and its allies is not cheap, and the capacity to strike their positions in Syria, and their surroundings, is available when circumstances will it," the statement said.

It said such attacks could be carried out with "different

missile and military systems, in the light of the deployment of American forces in the region".

The statement added that the silence of "the allies of Syria" thus far was not a sign of weakness but "an exercise in self-restraint" to allow for "other solutions".

"This will not last if America goes further, and crosses the red lines," it said.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV ARCA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ARCA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: THE NEW LIGHT OF
MYANMAR PTE LTD**

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CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV TRAN AN-05 VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TRAN AN-05 VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T(1) where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: BAY LINE SHIPPING PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR SOLO VOY. NO (752)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR SOLO VOY. NO (752) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE
LTD**

Phone No: 2301185



Joint crews of Russia's aerospace force and the manufacturers maintained the radar's test operation. PHOTO: TASS

Anti-missile 'umbrella' to be created over Russia's entire territory

MOSCOW — Russia's defence industry has proposed to the Defence Ministry a rational missile defence option that will allow for opening an anti-missile umbrella over the country's whole territory, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin said on Wednesday.

"The joint working group for creating the technical basis of Russia's air and space defence, which I have led since

2012, has arrived at the conclusion that the industry and military scientists have managed to propose to the Defence Ministry a rational option of creating the country's missile defence shield, including the ground and space components. Once Russia's integral space system is in place, Russia will find itself under an anti-missile umbrella," he said.

Earlier, the commander of Russia's space

force, Lieutenant-General Aleksandr Golovko said the new generation radar Voronezh-DM, commissioned in the Krasnoyarsk Territory, will enter combat duty by the end of this year. This radar is capable of identifying ballistic and hypersonic targets 6,000 kilometers away. It has been used in the experimental mode since the end of last year. Joint crews of Russia's aerospace force and the manufacturers

maintained the radar's test operation.

The radar has spotted six launches of inter-continental ballistic missiles so far. The northeastern part of the Pacific and the North are within the radar's area of responsibility.

The Voronezh-DM radar, built in the Krasnoyarsk Territory, is an integral element of the missile attack warning system.—Tass ■

Watergate "pales" compared with Trump-Russia, former US intelligence head

SYDNEY — The Watergate scandal pales in comparison to events in Washington surrounding US President Donald Trump and alleged links between his campaign and Russia, former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper said on Wednesday.

Clapper questioned Trump's continued pro-Russian stance, saying his sharing of intelligence with Russia "reflect either ignorance or disrespect, and either is very problematic".

"I think if you compare the two that Watergate pales, really, in my view,

compared to what we're confronting now," Clapper told reporters in Canberra, Australia's capital.

The break-in at the Democratic National Committee headquarters in the Watergate Hotel in Washington in 1972, and subsequent cover-up, brought down former Republican US President Richard Nixon in 1974.

Clapper's appearance in Canberra comes before highly anticipated testimony by sacked FBI director James Comey before the Senate intelligence committee on Thursday.

The committee is ex-

amining whether Trump's campaign colluded with Russian officials to interfere in the US presidential election.

Trump in May removed Comey as director of FBI, despite a US Justice Department probe into contacts between presidential aides and Russia, raising the spectre of political interference in the investigation.

Trump has called the probe a "witch hunt" and said there was no collusion between his campaign and Russia.

Clapper said it was "inexplicable" that Trump

continued his pro-Russian stance despite evidence Moscow sought to interfere in the 2016 US presidential election.

"His subsequent actions, sharing sensitive intelligence with the Russians and compromising its source, reflect either ignorance or disrespect and either is very problematic," said Clapper.

Trump disclosed highly classified information about a planned Islamic State operation to Russia's foreign minister in an Oval Office meeting in May, two US officials have said.—Reuters ■

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China says Zambia let go 31 Chinese held for illegal mining

BEIJING — Dozens of Chinese nationals who had been held for illegal mining in Zambia have departed the African country to return home, China's Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday.

China had complained that Zambia provided no strong evidence of crimes committed by

the 31 arrested in the copperbelt town of Chingola, including a pregnant woman and two victims of malaria.

But Zambia's immigration chief had told Zambian media the Chinese would have to be deported for violating the law.

"After repeated rep-

resentations by China's Foreign Ministry and its embassy in Zambia, on the afternoon of 6 June, the 31 Chinese citizens that had been seized and detained boarded a plane and left Zambia smoothly to return home," ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said.

In a letter, the 31 had

expressed their "satisfaction" with the Chinese embassy's efforts on their behalf, Hua told a regular news briefing.

Chinese companies have invested more than \$1 billion in copper-rich Zambia, but there has been animosity, with some Zambian workers accusing firms of abuses and

underpaying.

In 2012, Zambian miners killed a Chinese supervisor and seriously wounded another in a pay dispute at a coal mine. Zambian police charged two Chinese supervisors at the same coal mine with attempted murder two years earlier, after the shooting of 13 miners

in a pay dispute.

Resource-hungry China is investing heavily in Africa, a supplier of oil and raw materials, such as copper and uranium, but critics have warned its companies take with them their poor track record on workers' rights and environmental protection.—Reuters ■

Space race or cosmic cooperation? China strongly calls for the latter

BEIJING — China is looking towards increased cooperation with international space leaders, it stressed on Tuesday at the Global Space Exploration Conference (GLEX 2017) currently being held in Beijing.

In a letter of congratulations sent to the conference by Chinese President Xi Jinping, he said that China wants to enhance cooperation with the international community in peaceful space exploration and development.

Xi noted that progress in space science and technology will benefit people around the world and China wants to use space exploration achievements to create a better future for mankind.

"China is expanding cooperation with the United Nations (UN) in space exploration, and will disclose projects later this year," said Yang Liwei, China's first astronaut and current deputy director of the China Manned Space Engineering Office.

The country has previously undertaken bilateral cooperation with various countries and institutions and is now looking towards multilateral projects. China will carry out joint projects with the UN Office of Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA) including astronaut training, space station scientific experiments and multi-

lateral application of such experiments, said Yang.

"Rather than a space race, I think cooperation is always good and worldwide cooperation is even better. I hope we can breach Earth's crises by having worldwide cooperation in space," said Jan Woerner, director general of the European Space Agency (ESA).

"We should not try to duplicate everything, and if we join forces we can do even more with the same amount of money," he added.

The conference, which ends Thursday, was jointly held by the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) and the Chinese Society of Astronautics and follows the GLEX 2012 conference held in Washington DC.

International space engineers and delegates from leading aerospace companies including Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Airbus attended the conference.

Although China has completed many successful space exploration projects, the country's space expeditions are far from over.

At the conference, Yang said that China plans to use a Long March-5 carrier rocket to launch the core module of the country's manned space station in 2019 and build a space station around 2022.—Xinhua ■

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Hello Tomorrow

Not afraid of being honest, I'm an open book: Kevin Hart

LOS ANGELES — Kevin Hart, who found success in films, television and stand-up, is now set to make his debut in the world of writing as he launched his memoir "I Can't Make This Up: Life Lessons" which documents his rise to fame.

He has devoted many chapters to his childhood which gives thorough introduction of his family members and friends and some personal memories from his

youth. The 37-year-old comedian told USA Today that he wrote his new book as motivation for others, to show one can go through "the good, the bad and the ugly" and find success.

"I'm not afraid of being honest, I'm an open book. I'm a person. My life is real, it's not a facade. I'm not afraid to show I'm human," Hart said at a BookCon event.

The comedian's memoir will go on sale today.—Reuters ■



Actor and stand-up comedian Kevin Hart will publish an inspirational memoir, titled "From the Hart". **PHOTO: PTI**

Lena Dunham thanks fans for support after illness

LOS ANGELES — Actress-comedienne Lena Dunham, who is recovering from endometriosis surgery, has thanked her fans for their support.

The 31-year-old actress had to undergo surgery for the disease last month, and has taken to Instagram to tell her followers that she's been internet shopping like a "self pity fiend".

Posting a picture of herself preparing to leave the house in

checked pyjamas, the "Girls" star wrote, "You are now meeting the dark underbelly of my stuck-in-bed times- internet shopping like a self pity fiend.

"But it's always women designers who are pushing the ball forward (is my excuse!) Making the radical choice to write out of PJs today Love you all for the support — what used to be oversharing is now a loving community, bless (sic).—PTI



Actress Lena Dunham of the TV series "Girls" at the 70th annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, California on 13 January, 2013. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Horror thriller 'It Comes at Night' stems from personal tale

LOS ANGELES — Trey Edward Shults burst onto the movie scene two years ago with his first film, festival favorite "Krisha," made on a paltry \$30,000 budget with his own family members as actors.

"Krisha," a 2015 film about addiction that drew from the writer-director's personal life, went on to be one of the best reviewed films of the year and won several awards.

Now Shults, 27, appears to have done it again with a horror and psychological thriller, prompted by a deeply personal experience, that has scored glowing reviews.

"It Comes at Night," out in US movie theaters on Friday, revolves around a family of three, led by dad Paul (Joel Edgerton), that is trying to survive in a plague-infested North America.

The film starts with a shocking death and develops further into unease and paranoia when another family of three turns up at the rustic, remote home asking for refuge. Paul begrudgingly agrees.

Shults said the impetus for what he calls a scary, emotional and non-conventional horror film, came from his own father's death.

"The opening scene of the movie... is what I said to my

dad on his deathbed, and he was full of fear and regret and he didn't want to let go.

"It was a traumatic thing that changed my life and two months after that I wrote this script and it like spewed out of me in three days... I was clearly grappling with the emotions that were going on in my head and applying that to this fictional narrative," he said.

Shults said much of the character of teen son Travis, who has nightmares, is also based on himself.

"I have trouble sleeping at night. I'm really a night owl and night is when my brain is really active and it's when everyone else is asleep and you have to confront your own thoughts in a world that's quiet."

Despite the glowing reviews, one person who has not watched the finished film is Shults himself.

"We did a small test screening with a way rougher cut a while back and I had a few drinks and I broke down sobbing at the end of it uncontrollably, which I think was due to the fact of the personal nature of the movie but also just how exhausted I was from working and a few drinks," he said.

"I haven't watched it since."—Reuters ■

Al Pacino to play Penn State football coach in new movie

LOS ANGELES — Oscar-winning actor Al Pacino is set to star as former Penn State football coach Joe Paterno in a new HBO movie about Jerry Sandusky sex scandal.

The summary for the film reads: "After becoming the winningest coach in college football history, Joe Paterno is embroiled in Penn State's Jerry Sandusky sexual abuse scandal, challenging his legacy and forcing him to face questions of institutional failure on behalf of the victims", reported Variety.

Barry Levinson will direct, while Debora Cahn, John C Richards and David McKenna will write the screenplay for the untitled film. Paterno, often referred to as JoePa, is widely regarded



US director/actor Al Pacino gives two thumbs-up as he arrives for the British premiere of his film "Salome and Wilde Salome" at Southbank in central London, on 21 September 2014. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

as one of the best college football coaches of all time.

However, his career came to a sudden halt in 2011 when his assistant coach Sandusky's crimes

came to light, with a 2012 report concluding that Paterno and other Penn State officials were aware of Sandusky's actions but chose to stay mum.—Reuters ■

Palestinian grandfather, 81, sits high school exams (again)

HEBRON—A year into his ninth decade, Abdel-Qader Abu Ajameyah is studying hard and hoping for the best as he sits exams for his high school diploma.

The 81-year-old, a retired food salesman from Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, took the national test for the first time last year but failed. So he's having another go.

A father of 14 children, he has been studying five hours a day and doing his best to concentrate despite the attempts of some of his 36 grandchildren to get him to play.

"I like education," he said with pride, wearing a formal suit and tie. "There is no limit for someone to study, it does not stop at a certain age."

"I want to set an example to generations — never

stop learning."

Abu Ajameyah is taking the exams in a room set aside for him at a local school. A recent stroke has restricted his hand movement, making it difficult to write, so he dictates the answers to a woman aide who fills in the papers.

Figures from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics show illiteracy among Palestinians aged 15 and above stands at just 3.3 percent, one of the lowest rates in the Arab world.

Abu Ajameyah gets support from his family, especially his wife, who is constantly trying to keep the grandchildren distracted while he studies.

"My mother takes care of all my father's needs as if he was an 18-year-old high school student," said 43-year-old Zakaria, one of

Abu Ajameyah's sons. "We all encourage him and we are all very proud of him."

Zakaria said his father began school in a village near Ramla, in what is now Israel, before Israel's creation in 1948. During the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, Abu Ajameyah's family was forced to flee, becoming refugees in the West Bank.

Abu Ajameyah soon gave up school to work selling food, and only started thinking about studying again once he retired decades later.

He said his aim now is to be on a par with his children and grandchildren.

The exam results are due in mid-July. The family is getting ready for a celebration if he passes, but his son says he doesn't plan to go on to university. —Reuters ■



Elderly Palestinian man Abdel-Qader Abu Ajameyah, 81, dictates his answers to an aid as he takes a high school Arabic Language exam, in the West Bank city of Hebron on 5 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

U Tin Win
Age (89)
UNICEF (retired) .Yangon

Residing at No.429, Apt (7B), 6th ward, corner of Thein Phyu road and Merchant road, Botahtaung Township, Yangon – husband of Daw Tin Tin Hla; father of U Myo Aung (Victor Win) Daw Aye Aye Mun, (U Min Din) – Daw Nwe Nwe Yee, U Aung Khin – Daw Mar Mar Lwin , U Myat Htun (Andrew Win) – Michelle Win (Habibah); grandfather of Saint Sandy Aung (Sandy Win), Phyu Sin Thu (Amanda Win), Alfred (Ali), Zikra – passed away on the 1st of June, 2017 (Thursday) at his home and was buried on the 2nd of June, 2017 (Friday) at Yay way cemetery, for all friends and family near and afar.

The loving family

ဘုရား၊ ရဟန်း၊ ကျောင်းဒါယကာကြီး
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ကျန်ရစ်သူမိသားစု

Scientists hope to show humankind originated in Mediterranean

SOFIA — A team of excavators in Bulgaria has resumed a search for fossils of an ape-like creature which may be the oldest-known direct ancestor of man and whose discovery has challenged the central hypothesis that humankind originated in Africa.

The Graecopithecus

freybergi, who lived 7.2 million years ago, is known only from a lower jawbone, unearthed in 1944 in Greece, and an isolated tooth, found in 2009 near the Bulgarian town of Chirpan, where excavations have now restarted.

"It would be great to find a whole skeleton but

a thigh would also help us a lot," Professor Nikolai Spassov, head of Bulgaria's National Museum of Natural History, told Reuters.

The scientific consensus long has been that humanity's ape-like ancestors, known as hominins, originated in Africa. — Reuters ■



Professor Nikolai Spassov shows fossils in his office in Bulgaria's National Museum of Natural History in Sofia, Bulgaria on 29 May, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar International

Programme Schedule

(8-6-2017 07:00am ~ 9-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News	10:26	Am	Historic Temples of Massiveness and Unique Structure
07:25	Am	Ancient Shwe-San-Taw Pagoda	10:42	Am	Development Momentum Of Sittway
07:41	Am	The Green Corner (Epi-6)	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) -Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am~11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
		"Papier-mache Bead & Bird"	Prime Time		
07:52	Am	Capable Though Disabled	07:03	Pm	News
08:03	Am	News	07:26	Pm	Myanmar Invites You
08:27	Am	The Longest Living Siblings (Part-2)	07:43	Pm	Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat"
08:48	Am	Paper Flower	08:03	Pm	News
08:54	Am	Sticky Shan Snack	08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP-4)
09:03	Am	News	08:38	Pm	Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
09:25	Am	Product of Myanmar - Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar	(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) -Wednesday Repeat(07:00 Am~11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
09:42	Am	The Hills of Phowintaung and Shwebataung			
10:03	Am	News	(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)		

Hometown Crowd Won't Bother Vitaly Bigdash in Second World Title Defence

YANGON, Myanmar — Even if Vitaly Bigdash is entering enemy territory for his world championship rematch against Burmese mixed martial arts (MMA) superstar Aung La N Sang, the Russian standout assures that he is in no way intimidated with his opponent's hometown advantage.

Both men are set to collide for the second time in the main event of ONE: LIGHT OF A NATION, which takes place at the Thuwunna Indoor Stadium in Yangon, Myanmar on 30 June.

Bigdash is not new to overseas trips as he has won his last two out-of-the-country matches, but it will be his first time to face a local favorite on his home-soil.

Given that the marquee match-up will be held in Myanmar, Bigdash stressed that the scheduled five-round world title encounter with Aung La is his chance to prove his worth as an indomitable champion and a world-class MMA athlete.

"I am not bothered whatsoever fighting in Myanmar against a beloved Burmese

fighter. It's a tough task, but I have to step up and prove that I am fighting champion. It's not all the time that I will have the luxury to fight in my own comfort zone," he said.

"Aung La N Sang is revered by his people. I will show his countrymen that I am the real champion. I might be the holding the most prestigious title in the world today, but I'm also coming to Yangon, Myanmar as a conqueror," Bigdash added.

Bigdash successfully defended his ONE Middleweight World Championship title against Aung La, winning by unanimous decision this past January.

As Bigdash stakes his coveted gold-plated strap again versus Aung La in his native turf, the Russian champion is not perturbed by what may be a hometown decision favoring his Burmese foe.

"I'm not worried about a hometown decision. I'm confident that it will be an even playing field in our second title fight," he stated. Bigdash confid-



Aung La N Sang & Vitaly Bigdash . PHOTO: ONE CHAMPIONSHIP

ed that he is not bothered with the fact that most Burmese combat-adoring fanatics will be rooting for Aung La on fight night.

"I am not going to zone out. It doesn't matter if they will cheer or boo. It's all energy. The more they are into the fight, the more pumped up I get," he shared.

Owning four knockout victories and four submission wins, Bigdash eyes a decisive triumph as he shares the ONE Championship cage with Aung La

once more.

"I am not worried about the hometown advantage because a true champion can fight anywhere and under any circumstance.

I am excited to get back inside the cage and expect nothing less than a spectacular showing in Myanmar. Although I respect Aung La N Sang and what he brings to the table, I am returning home victorious and with my belt still over my shoulder," he ended.—GNLM ■



Switzerland's Tímea Bacsinszky celebrates winning her quarter final match against France's Kristina Mladenovic at Roland Garros in Paris, France on 6 June, 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bacsinszky turns nightmare into dream at the French Open

PARIS — Tímea Bacsinszky's day started with a nightmare but ended as a dream.

The Swiss reached the French Open semi-finals for the second time, with a rain-interrupted 6-4, 6-4 victory against local favourite Kristina Mladenovic, where she will face Latvia's Jelena Ostapenko. Despite the tough conditions and the partisan crowd, the 30th seed managed to control her emotions to produce her best tennis, after having a nightmare in her sleep and waking up nervous. "I really get nervous.

Last night I went to bed more or less at 11:00. I woke up at 4:00," she told a news conference. "Could not sleep for an hour. Went back to sleep. Woke up earlier than my alarm. My heart was beating. Like, it was a rush." That came at the end of an agitated night for Bacsinszky, who explained her nightmare.

"I remember that I had, like, three towels that I wanted to give to my siblings because I have three, but I forgot them in the closet," she said. "So it was a big drama, so I could not get into the plane without giving the towels of the French Open, and I woke up and I was sweating. It was terrible for me. "So probably if I would not be playing a quarter-final of a grand slam, I would probably not have these kind of nightmare issues." —Reuters ■

PU team crowned Myanmar Futsal Federation 2017

PYAY United (PU) won the 2017 Myanmar Futsal Federation championship yesterday beating White Colour, 15 to 5 in the 16th and final game of the season. The championship tournament was held at the National Indoor Stadium No. 1 in Thuwana Township.

Other teams participating in the final games included Yarmanya, Yangon City, Myoma, Myanmar Imperial College (MIC) and Victoria University College (VUC).

Champion PU came out ahead with 50 points, MIC came in second place with 47 points and VUC came in third place with 44 points. Seven other teams including Yangon City and Myoma received runners up prizes. Pyae Phyto Maung from PU team won the most



PHOTO: PHOE THAW ZIN

valuable player award and Myat Kyaw Aung from Yangon City won the best goalkeeper award.

Titans XII team won an award for good sportsmanship. The champion PU team won Ks10

million, MIC won Ks75 million and VUC won Ks50 million. —Nyi Myat Thawda ■