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## CATCHING UP WITH NCA

### Non-signatories to NCA have four or five phases to pass for peace conference

**Ye Khaung Nyunt**

REMAINING ethnic groups who have not signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement will have four or five phases to pass to sit at the negotiation table on par with the earlier signatories, said

the secretary of the Preparatory Committee for the 21st Century Panglong Conference at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon on Thursday and Friday.

In an interview with the media, Preparatory Committee Sec-

retary U Hla Maung Shwe said the conference was expected to be held in late July or August.

The purpose of the two-day meeting was to set a precedent for the review of the amendment to the framework of the political dialogue, aiming to attract ethnic

armed organisations which are yet to sign the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

U Hla Maung Shwe quoted State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as saying that the conference should focus on political dialogue directly related to

peace, security, defence and federalism.

According to the state counsellor, the sooner the political dialogue reaches agreement, the sooner the task of nation building can be implemented.

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## Matriculation exam results released

THE matriculation exam results for the 2015-2016 academic year were released nationwide yesterday.

Mon State topped the nationwide passing rate with 39.37 per cent, followed by Mandalay Region with 35.50 per cent and Yangon Region with 33.21 per cent. Over 600,000 students sat the exam nationwide for the 2015-2016 academic year.

The passing rate of Regions and States across the country is 29.29% . This represents a drop of 8.31% compared with the last academic year which reached 37.6%.

Out of 19 students from the Insein Correctional Department who sat for the exam last April, 11 passed and two passed with a single distinction each.

Of the 636,237 students who took part in the exams at official centres in the country's regions and states as well as foreign examination centres in March, 190,388, or 29.92 per cent, passed.

According to statistics, the number of students who passed with distinctions was 47,024.

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Students crowding the notice boards in Yangon in the small hours to check the exam results. PHOTO: SHWE KO LAY

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## 180 youths participate in Myanmar Taekwondo Federation President's Cup

THE Myanmar Taekwondo Federation President's Cup 2016 kicked off at Thuwanna Gymnasium in Yangon yesterday.

A total of 180 contestants aged under 10, under 14, under 18 and those who have finished a summer basic training course are

participating in the competitions.

The President's cup was formally opened by U Mya Han, President of the Myanmar Taekwondo Federation in the presence of Permanent Secretary of Union Ministry of Health and Sports Dr Thet Khaing Win and

Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Yoo Jae Kyung.

The two-day event will end today while its prize presentation ceremony will be held this evening. —*Tin Soe (Myanma Alin)*



Two fighters compete in Myanmar Taekwondo Federation President's Cup 2016 . PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMAR ALIN)



Su Pwint Oo: PHOTO: MICHI KO HAN

## Su Pwint Oo will represent Myanmar at Miss Global 2016 Pageant in the Philippines

MISS Su Pwint Oo will represent Myanmar at the Miss Global 2016 contest following her crowning as the winner of Miss Global Myanmar, said the World-Class Myanmar CEO at a press conference at the City Star Hotel on Wednesday in Yangon.

There are altogether 30 contestants who competed in the Miss Global Myanmar beauty contest. According to the CEO of World-Class Myanmar the selection criteria is based on beauty, personality, ability and intelligence.

Ms Myanmar is the hold-

er of the following degrees and diplomas: B.A (Hons) Business with Human Resource Management (Newcastle, UK); Advanced Diploma in International Business Management (Southern Cross University, Australia); Diploma in Business Management (University of Bradford, UK) and LCCI Level 3 (UK).

There will be altogether about 50 countries participating in the fourth beauty contest (Miss Global) which will be held in Manila, Philippines this September. This is the second time Myanmar has participated.—*Khin Zar Li*

## Matriculation exam results released

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Of them, the number of students who received six distinctions was 893 while 29,258 students received distinction in one subject, 7,293 distinctions in two subjects, 4,650 distinctions in three subjects, 3,116 distinctions in four subjects and 1,814 received distinctions in five subjects.—*Than Oo (Lay Myat Hnar)*

## Non-signatories to NCA have four or five phases to pass for ...

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Political parties should organise a civil society forum to pool idea for other suitable agendas for the political dialogue, the secretary cited the state counsellor as saying.

When asked about the negotiations with the ethnic non-signatories, U Hla Maung Shwe responded that negotiations were under way to set dates for

discussion with Wa and Mongla ethnic armed groups.

The army has imposed some conditions on the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA), the Arakan Army (AA) and the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the secretary said, adding that they would explain those conditions to these ethnic armed groups.

## 'Thitsar' project underway to issue ID cards to schoolchildren in Rakhine State

A PROJECT to issue citizenship scrutiny certificates to students from the age of 10 onwards in schools in Rakhine State is underway, said Deputy Head of Rakhine State Immigration Department U Ko Ko Latt on Thursday.

Under the 'Thitsar' project the regional department is distributing ID cards to schoolchildren in the State where there are 3,143 schools in cooperation with school heads in respective townships.

According to the department, more than 24,353 students from 658 schools in Sittwe Township were issued ID cards and the project is set for completion within the timeframe of the 100-day plan.

The programme of issuing the citizenship scrutiny certi-

icates had already covered 288 schools in MraukU Township where there are 856 schools, distributing the cards to more than 28,098 students.

In Maungtau Township where there are 398 schools, immigration officers made field visits to 144 schools and presented the ID cards to more than 4,587 students.

So far over 7,800 students from 91 schools in Kyaukpyu where there are 717 schools and over 2,908 from 44 schools in Thandwe where there are 513 schools have been presented citizenship scrutiny cards.

The remaining students will be given the ID cards under the programme within the prescribed period, said the department. —*Maung Maung Myint Swe*

## BFM's 78th well strikes water in Kolam

A drilling in Kolam, Shan State (South) struck water on Friday, benefiting the people facing scarcity of drinking water.

The water gushed out of the well being drilled by the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation-BFM at the depth of 290 feet with a rate of 2,000 gallons of water per hour.

With the success of the drilling, the well becomes 79th tube-well of the BFM which has been carrying out the nationwide water supply project with seven drilling machine. Meanwhile, the foundation is supplying drinking water to the people in the water scarce areas by 43 water tankers. Since early April 2016, the foundation

has supplied more than 172,800 gallons of drinking water to people in villages in Sagaing in cooperation with local volunteers.

The foundation has also supplied drinking water to people in villages in Yangon Region, Taunggyi, Nyaung Shwe, Magwe, Chin State, Haka, Ealam, Mandalay, Myittha, Kume, Natogyi and Kyaukse from early April to date. As part of its efforts to combat water scarcity problems, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation has asked communities currently facing drought and/or a scarcity of fresh water to contact the foundation and arrange for fresh potable water to be delivered.—*Thiha Tun*



People collect drinking water from a water bowser of Brighter Future Myanmar. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

## INTERVIEW-Myanmar's new investment commission to tackle \$2.3 bln backlog



**Aung Naing Oo, Director General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration poses for photo, in his office in Yangon, Myanmar June 10, 2016.**  
PHOTO: REUTERS

YANGON — Myanmar's newly reformed investment commission will this month start scrutinizing some \$2.3 billion in proposed foreign investment projects that have been held up since April, a senior official said on Friday.

Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) swept to power in elections last November, and the United States eased sanctions against Myanmar in May, buoying hopes for a quick uptick of foreign investment into the country which has suffered from decades of economic hardship under military rule.

But since the new government took over in April, no proposed investments have been signed off on by the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC), a powerful body that decides which projects get the green light, as it awaited word on its reworked structure from the President's Office. President Htin Kyaw an-

nounced the new make-up of the group only on Tuesday.

Aung Naing Oo, who was re-appointed as the secretary of the commission, said 102 projects had been submitted since April and were awaiting approval. About a half of these proposals are foreign investment projects, whose total worth is around \$2.3 billion.

The delay, he said, happened because the NLD wanted to choose the proper people for the commission, but the long wait also raised concerns among the business community, fuelling speculation on how the NLD, made up of many activists and former political prisoners, would handle investment.

"There were some concerns from the business community. There were some rumours in the business community saying that there would be no MIC at all," Aung Naing Oo told Reuters.

"Plus, some investors who had already submitted their proposals to MIC were also concerned about the delays at MIC because, for them, time is money. The delay means they have to spend more money."

Aung Naing Oo said the first meeting of the revamped, 11-strong body headed by the planning and finance minister was likely to take place towards the end of June.

Aung Naing Oo said it would take around eight weeks to work through the proposals but that the MIC was still waiting on a list of investment sectors to prioritize from the NLD.

The go-ahead from the MIC does not guarantee investments will always progress smoothly, however. In May, lawmakers decided to scrap a \$70 million private hospital in Yangon backed by Malaysian group IHH Healthcare Berhad, which broke ground in

January. MPs criticized the tender process for the 4.3 acre plot for a lack of transparency.

On Wednesday, lawmakers terminated a proposed extension to a port terminal on the Yangon river citing environmental concerns.

Both projects had been approved by the MIC.

These decisions violated investment laws and risked undercutting investor confidence in the commission, said Aung Naing Oo.

"According to the law, the government guarantees there will be no termination of the projects approved by the MIC," said Aung Naing Oo.

"As an official responsible for investment promotion, it is not so good for the image of the country... If we really want to promote investment, we also need to consider (investor) protection." (Editing by Nick Macfie).—*Timothy Mclaughlin and Aung Hla Tun*

## Mandalay Department of Urban and Housing Development to sell over 500 affordable apartments

THE Mandalay Department of Urban and Housing Development will sell over 500 affordable apartments within the Mya Yee Nandar housing complex in Chanmyatharsi Township, said U Aung Kyaw Oo from the regional office of the department.

The building is its last phase of construction. The decision as to who are entitled to buy the flats will be made by the authorities. The estate is aimed at promoting the living standards of the public. If we are granted land, we will construct more housing estates, U Aung Kyaw Oo added.

Altogether the construction

of 180,000 apartments is planned from 2016 until 2021.

There is a total of 560 apartments and 14 five storied buildings which have been constructed on an 7.67 acre plot of land. The prices begin at K20.3 million for a ground floor flat, K20.8 million for a first floor flat, K19.3 million for a second floor flat, K17.8 million for a third floor flat and K16.3 million for a fourth floor flat, it has been learned.. The Mandalay Department of Urban and Housing Development constructed a total of 1,260 apartments for employees and 960 low-cost apartments in 2015.—*Aung thant khine*



**Affordable apartments in Mandalay awaiting their proprietors.** PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

## Yangon petrol refilling stations to be issued temporary licenses on gratis

THE Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise (MOGE) of the Ministry of Energy and Electric Power has announced it will issue temporary D(1) licenses on gratis to oil and gas refilling stations located within the greater Yangon Region.

In the past, license permits were reportedly issued by the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC).

The issuing of the temporary licenses commenced on 9 June in States and Regions across the country as part of the incumbent government's hundred day project initiatives.

"We surveyed petrol and gas refilling stations throughout the country so that we could legalize them by issuing them with temporary licenses. The list [of such

refilling stations] from Yangon was the first to be released which is why they will be the first to receive the licenses," said U Maung Maung Thaw, deputy director of the MOGE.

The D(1) temporary licenses will be valid for six-months from the date of issue through until the end of the year. Inspections will then be made during November and December months on those enterprises who received temporary licenses and, those found to be in-line with set rules and regulations, will be issued with official licenses on 1 January 2017, it is reported.

"It's good the government is issuing licenses to legalize petrol refilling stations. That said, one of the regulations of the D(1) li-

censes stipulates that gas canisters mustn't be changed, which will cause problems for small-scale enterprises," said U Naung Soe Moe, owner of Mya Yaung Kyai petrol gas refilling station in Yangon's Hlaingthaya Township. It is reported that temporary licenses will be issued for 186 refilling stations in the greater Yangon Region, with those located in northern and southern districts to be prioritised first.

Oil and natural gas have been distributed and sold in Myanmar by the Minister of Energy and Electric Power since 1986, while licenses for the import of such natural resources from abroad were issued in 2010 in a bid to meet the country's levels of consumption.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## HIV/AIDS awareness trainings conducted in Mandalay Region

MEMBERS of the public vulnerable to contracting HIV are currently being monitored and given awareness trainings, according to the Mandalay Region Department of Health.

Conduction of the awareness trainings began at the end of May and while continued for as long as deemed necessary with no time limit being imposed, the department has made it known.

"Numbers of those with HIV haven't dropped so we will conduct HIV/AIDS awareness initiatives in schools and with those people deemed venerable to contracting the virus," said an official of the Mandalay Region Department of Health.

Awareness trainings are being held by educational insti-

tutions, in partnership with the Department of Health, in areas where people are exposed to a higher risk of infection such as prisons, rehabilitation centres, as well as given to youths and those who have been away from home for over 5 years.

Moreover, it is reported the causes and habits which can lead to infection with HIV/AIDS have been included in school awareness trainings.

According to statistics of the Sexually Transmitted Diseases Prevention and Treatment Organization, there are nearly 800 sufferers of HIV/AIDS who currently take ART medication which prevents growth of the virus, comprising over 400 men and about 400 women.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## Flood-hit schools in Kawlin cleared as waters recede



Army, Police and Fire Brigade members are doing the cleaning of the school compound. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

THE Daung Myu creek became swollen by heavy torrential rain on Thursday with rising waters causing floods in six wards of Kawlin Township in Sagaing Region.

As the floodwater has now receded there are plans to re-

open local schools as soon as possible which were closed due to the floods. Members of the Tatmadaw, the Myanmar Police Force and the Fire Services Department, staff of the General Administrative Department and teachers committed themselves

to clearing up works inside and outside schools which were filled with mud and rubbish. The crews cleared away refuse and dirt before cleaning and restoring furniture. —Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

## Meter bill can now be paid online in Yangon

THE online system of paying meter bills is currently being implemented by the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation and Myanmar Computer Company Ltd. (MCC). Meter bills can now be paid online, according to Nay Pyi Taw Ministry of Electrical Power and Energy.

The Nay Pyi Taw Ministry of Electrical Power and Energy has said that meter bills can be paid using the online system in all time open stores on Thursday at a media conference. Arrangements are being made to use the Connect N Pay (CNP) system to collect meter bill payment at 24-hour stores, said U San Yu, Assistant Secre-

tary from Ministry of Electrical Power and Energy.

The online meter bill payment system in 24-hour stores is connected to the Asia Green Development Bank (AGD)'s True Money system, First Private Bank's Mu Kyat system and CB bank, he added.

The Myanmar Computer Company Ltd (MCC) is working in collaboration with the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation to collect the payments for meter bills through the use of True Money Myanmar, said U Ko Ko, General Manager from Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation.—Thein Ko Lwin

## Crime NEWS

### Probox car plunges into 300-foot ravine

A PROBOX car accident occurred at milepost 25/2 on the Hsipaw- Namhsan road near Namtu township, Shan State (North) on Wednesday.

According to an investigation, the vehicle was en route to Lilu village with Reverend Bhaddanta Kosalla, 58, onboard along with five monks. The car lost control and plunged into a 300-foot ravine when the Sayadaw lost control because of high speed.

The accident killed the Sayadaw and a monk on the spot while four other monks were seriously injured. They are undergoing medical treatment at the local General Hospital. Police from Namtu township have filed dangerous driving charges.—Sai (Hsipaw)



People seen in the ravine to get to the car. PHOTO: SAI (HSIPAW)

### Yaba seized in Loilem

A COMBINED investigation team comprising officers and staff from Loilem township seized yaba from a Probox vehicle on the Pinlaung- Laikha highway on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, the police searched one Sai Oo, the passenger and discovered 6,000 yaba pills.

Similarly, police in Mongsi township searched motorcycle driver Le Yin Hsawt with Shee Line Wan on board and discovered 4,800 yaba pills between Pan Hote and Man Kant village on Wednesday.

Local police in Taunggyi township seized 1,700 yaba pills from motorcycle driver Myo Min Ko near Ban Kwe village, Taunggyi township.

Likewise, local police in Lashio township discovered 1,592 yaba pills on motorcycle driver Naing Win at milepost 80/4 on the Muse-Mandalay highway, Nawngkhio township on Thursday. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force



The suspect seen together with the drugs seized. PHOTO: MPF



The 12-wheel truck seen overturned. PHOTO: U YE (KATHA)

### 12-wheel vehicle overturns, killing two men in Htigyaing

A 12-wheel vehicle carrying cement bags en route to Myitkyina from Shwebo being driven by one Aung Hsan, 25, overturned near milepost 113/5 in Htigyaing on Shwebo- Myitkyina road, on Thursday, leaving two dead.

The 12-wheel vehicle plunged down into a ravine and turned over after the driver lost control of the vehicle.

The driver and the conductor were killed and the car was badly damaged in the accident. The police have opened a case and taken posthumous action against the driver.—U Ye (Katha)

### Vehicle collision kills two

A SURF vehicle collided head on with a motorcycle on the Sein Taung village road, Mudon township, Mon State, on Thursday, leaving two people dead.

According to an investigation, the SURF was being driven by one Kyaw Zayar Lin alias Ah Lin, 25, who crashed with

motorcycle driver Ah Nyai, 30, who had one Aung Moe, 49, on board.

The accident killed the driver and the passenger from the motorcycle at the scene of the accident. The vehicle driver was found to be guilty of careless driving by local police.—Mudon Maung Maung

## 12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Finance Ministers' Meeting calls for regional connectivity

ULAN BATOR — The 12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Finance Ministers' Meeting was held in Ulan Bator, the capital of Mongolia, on Friday, which called for increased connectivity between the two continents.

The meeting was attended by the finance ministers and representatives from 43 ASEM member countries and high-ranking officials from various international organisations, including Jin Liqun, president of Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

Mongolian Prime Minister Saikhanbileg Chimed addressed the participants and stressed importance of the meeting for strengthening Asia-Europe connectivity and making the ASEM process more relevant for the peoples of the two regions.

Representatives conducted a comprehensive discussion on a range of issues of common interests based on the theme "Partnership for Prosperous



Participants attend the 12<sup>th</sup> Asia-Europe Finance Ministers' Meeting in Ulan Bator, Mongolia, on 10 June, 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

Connectivity Between Asia and Europe" underlining the need for Asia and Europe to foster cooperation through an enhanced partnership with the ultimate goal of securing stronger, more sustainable and balanced global growth and promoting shared prosperity.

China's initiatives on building Silk Road Economic Belt and 21<sup>st</sup> century Maritime Silk Road have caught much attention of representatives in the meeting.

In an open discussion of the meeting, Singapore's representative said that we should have more inter-re-

gional connectivity initiatives, the "One Belt, One Road" is a good example of how connectivity between Europe and Asia can be strengthened.

Stressing the importance of China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative, Jin Liqun said the program can boost ties between Europe

and Asia.

"We would certainly highlight importance of this project, which will have positive spillover effect and impact on regional development. So there's natural overlap between AIIB and 'One Belt, One Road' programme", said Jin.

Mitsuhiro Furusawa, Deputy Managing Director of the International Monetary Fund, calls for using fiscal space and low funding cost environment to build needed and appropriate infrastructure that can connect Asia and Europe.

According to the meeting's communique, ministers reiterated their commitment to increased connectivity between their regions through promoting inter-regional investment and trade flows, rules-based multinational trading system and liberalization of trade in goods and services.

The next Asia-Europe Finance Ministers' Meeting will be held in Bulgaria in 2018.—Xinhua

## China to install tsunami detection buoys in South China Sea

BEIJING — China plans to install tsunami detection buoys in the South China Sea and waters east of the Ryukyu Trench and Taiwan Island.

They will be linked to international tsunami warning networks, providing early warnings for China's east and south coasts and nearby countries, said Yuan Ye, director of the tsunami warning centre of the State Oceanic Administration (SOA), earlier this week.

Some buoys have been installed west of the Manila Trench, which has the potential to generate a tsunami event in the South China Sea, Yuan said.

Located along the earthquake zone of the Pacific Rim, China faces threats from regional and trans-ocean tsunami. In particular, those originating from the Nankai Trough and Manila Trench may seriously threaten the South China Sea.

China's tsunami warning network can warn of events in the whole Pacific within five minutes, in the northern and western part of the ocean in one minute and in the South China Sea in 30 seconds.

The network receives data from about 800 tide and current stations and 60 tsunami detection buoys around the world, in addition to 112 tidal stations along the country's own coast. In the first 15 years of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, more than ten tsunami disasters were recorded, compared with the average level of one in every six years in the previous century.—Xinhua

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## China, Nepal connected with optical fiber for first time

KATHMANDU — China and Nepal are now connected with optical fiber network for the first time through the Geelong (Key-rong)-Rasuwgadhi border point, which has ended Nepal's sole dependence on India for connecting the Himalayan country with global telecom service.

State-owned Nepal Telecom (NT) announced on Saturday that its optical fiber network has been connected with that of China Telecom Corporation Limited.

"After establishing

connection, we conducted technical test about two weeks ago," Dilliram Adhikari, joint spokesperson of NT told Xinhua.

He said that the NT would start commercial use of connected fiber very soon.

The telecom giant announced last month that it had completed laying the optical fiber to the Rasuwagadhi border point and now fibers of the two countries have been connected.

The NT laid the optical fiber to Rasuwagadhi from capital Kathmandu via Gal-

chhi of Dhading District and Dhunche of Rasuwa District, paving the way for interconnection with Chinese fiber network.

According to Adhikari, Nepal now can be directly linked with Hong Kong Data Centre, which is one of the two biggest global data centers in Asia, through the Chinese mainland. "The use of the Chinese route to connect with Hong Kong Data Center will help enhancing quality of internet services in Nepal because of shorter distance," said Adhikari.—Xinhua

## Leakage of toxic fumes: two killed on board INS Vikramaditya

NEW DELHI — At least two people, including a civilian, were on Friday killed and another two injured following leakage of toxic fumes from the sewage plant on board Russian-made aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, which was undergoing repairs at Karwar in the south Indian Karnataka state.

The incident of gas leakage took place at about 5:00 PM (local time) while the ship was undergoing maintenance repairs.

Maintenance work was being undertaken in the Sewage Treatment

Plant (STP) compartment. Due to inhalation of the toxic fumes, four personnel (two naval sailors and two civilian workers) were evacuated to Naval Hospital at Karwar, a statement by the Indian Navy said.

Two personnel, namely Rakesh Kumar Shipwright Artificer Class 4, and Mohandas Kolambkar, an employee of Royal Marine, succumbed due to gas inhalation, it said.

The next of kin of the deceased have been informed. The condition of the other two personnel is stable, the statement said.



PHOTO: PTI

The Navy has ordered an inquiry into the incident and action has been taken to render the compartment and area on the ship safe.

INS Vikramaditya is

India's largest naval ship and equipped with a variety of integral weapons and sensors and it was undergoing maintenance repair since 1 June.—PTI

## ACT cancels entrance exam in South Korea, Hong Kong after test leak

WASHINGTON — The ACT college-entrance exam was canceled Saturday for all test-takers in South Korea and Hong Kong in the latest example of how an East Asia cheating epidemic is roiling American higher education.

The incident marked the first known cancellation of the high-stakes exam for an entire country, according to ACT spokesman Ed Colby.

ACT Inc, the Iowa-based nonprofit that operates the test, said it halted the test after discovering that it had leaked in advance.

“ACT has just received credible evidence that test materials intended for administration in these regions have been compromised,” ACT said in a statement.

The cancellation came only hours before students were to take the exam, which is used by most US colleges to assess applicants.

Colby declined to discuss how the test had leaked or where. He said ACT discovered evidence

of the breach on Friday.

Colby said the cancellation affected about 5,500 students who were scheduled to take the test at 56 different test centres. They will receive refunds of registration fees. He said it was “not feasible” to reschedule the exam; the ACT will not be administered again until September.

“It impacts innocent students who had no involvement in any kind of wrong activities,” he said.

South Korea has become notorious for standardised-test cheating rings. In May 2013, the College Board, which administers the rival SAT college-entrance exam, was forced to cancel its test for the entire country because exam materials had leaked. Tutors and owners of private South Korean test-cram companies currently are on trial in Seoul in that incident.

Test security issues are not limited to South Korea. As Reuters detailed in March, a vibrant

industry in China has been exploiting the College Board’s practice of recycling SAT test forms by acquiring past exams and feeding their clients test questions in advance.

Since October 2014, the College Board has delayed issuing test scores in Asia six times and canceled an exam sitting in two locations there — steps that the New York-based not-for-profit takes when it has evidence that test materials have been compromised.

Overseas demand for taking the ACT and the SAT is rising as more and more foreign students seek entry into American universities. The ACT surpassed the SAT in the United States as the most widely taken college entrance test in 2012.

The ACT trails the SAT outside America, but has been growing rapidly abroad in recent years, according to ACT officials. —Reuters

## Indian men given life for gang-rape of Danish tourist

NEW DELHI — Five Indian men were sentenced to life in prison on Friday for raping a Danish tourist in the heart of New Delhi’s tourist district in 2014, in a case that reignited worries about sexual violence against women in India.

The men, all in their twenties, were found guilty by a Delhi court on Monday for robbing and raping the 52-year old Dane at a secluded spot close to New Delhi railway station.

“All the five convicts have been sentenced to rigorous life imprisonment for their offences,” additional public prosecutor Atul Shrivastava, told Reuters at the court.

The Dane was walking through an area of narrow lanes near Delhi’s Paharganj district, a tourist area packed with backpacker hotels, on the evening of 14 January 2014, when she asked a group of men for directions to her hotel.

The men then lured the woman to an area near New Delhi railway station where they raped her and robbed her at knife-point, the prosecution said in its chargesheet.

India was shaken into deep soul-searching about entrenched violence against women after the fatal gang-rape in December 2012 of a female student on a bus in New Delhi.

The crime, which sent thousands of Indians onto the streets in protest against what many saw as the failure of authorities to protect women, encouraged the government to enact tougher jail sentences for rapists. Police accused nine men of attacking the Danish woman in 2014. Three are juveniles being tried in a separate court while a fourth died during the trial. Lawyer D.K. Sharma, representing the five convicted men, said his clients would appeal against the verdict.—Reuters



College students attend a class at a private cram school in Busan, about 420 km (261 miles) southeast of Seoul, on 28 October 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Indian aid worker abducted in Afghan capital

KABUL — An Indian woman working for an international aid group has been abducted in the Afghan capital, Kabul, her family said on Friday and her country’s foreign minister promised to do everything possible to rescue her.

Judith D’Souza, who works for the Aga Khan Foundation, is believed to have been kidnapped on Thursday night, her sister, Agnes, told reporters in her home city of Kolkata, in eastern India.

The family learned the news in a call from Indian Embassy officials in Kabul in the early hours of the morning.

Responding, Indian foreign minister Sushma Swaraj tweeted: The Aga Khan Foundation

is part of the Aga Khan Development Network, which has channelled nearly \$750 million into Afghanistan’s reconstruction.

It said in a statement that an unnamed staff member had been abducted but provided no further details. “Every effort is being made to secure the safe release of the staff member,” the organisation said.

Afghan government officials were not immediately available for comment.

Kidnapping, by both militants and criminals, is a significant problem in Afghanistan. While the overwhelming majority of victims are Afghans, some foreigners have also been taken in recent years.—Reuters

## String of likely bear attacks claim 4<sup>th</sup> victim in northern Japan

AKITA — The corpse of a person who appeared to have been attacked by a bear was found in a forest in Akita Prefecture in northern Japan on Friday, police said, possibly the fourth victim in a string of bear attacks in the area.

The body was so severely mauled that the police have yet to identify the victim.

But the police were looking for 74-year-old Tsuwa Suzuki in the area where they found the body in a mountain forest in Kazuno, Akita, after she was reported missing the previous day.

Near the spot where the

body was found, the police found a car Suzuki had apparently used as well as a mobile phone and food inside the vehicle. Suzuki, who lives in Towada in neighboring Aomori Prefecture, is believed to have gone to the area to pick edible wild plants.

On 21 and 22 May two men in their 70s were found dead in the forest where they had gone to harvest bamboo shoots, and on 30 May the body of a man in his 60s was found in the area.

Their wounds have led the police to believe that they were killed by bears.

Takeshi Komatsu, a veteri-

narian with the municipal government of Kitaakita in Akita, said that because the attacks appear to have occurred in a limited area over a short period of time, all four people were likely killed by the same bear.

Noting that the victims had been severely mauled, Komatsu said, “After tasting humans, the bear may have learned it can eat them.”

Later Friday, a hunter killed a bear in the forest in Kazuno, the police said. The police will look into whether it was the bear that likely assaulted some or all of the victims.—Kyodo News



Photo taken on 10 June 2016, shows a forest in the northern Japan city of Kazuno, in which four bodies, apparently the victims of bear attacks, have been found since late May. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



The images of US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton (L) and Republican Presidential candidate Donald Trump are seen painted on decorative pumpkins created by artist John Kettman in LaSalle, Illinois, US, on 8 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Clinton leads Trump by 11 points in White House race — Reuters/Ipsos

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton leads Donald Trump by 11 points in the US presidential race, showing little change after she became the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee this week, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Friday.

The online poll, conducted from Monday to Friday, shows 46 per cent of likely voters support Clinton while 34.8 per cent back Trump. Another 19.2 per cent support neither candidate. Their parties hold conventions in July ahead of a 8 November election.

Clinton's lead was nearly the same a week ago, before she had amassed enough convention delegates to win the nomination and before Trump drew criticism from leaders of both parties for questioning the impartiality of a Mexican-American judge.

Trump, 69, enjoyed a bigger boost after becoming the presumptive Republican nominee in May. Having trailed Clinton, 68, for most of the year, Trump briefly erased a double-digit gap and pulled about even with the former secretary of state.

Clinton this week defeated party rival Bernie Sanders, 74, in four of six nominating contests, most notably California and New Jersey, and won the endorsements of President Barack Obama, Vice President Joe Biden, Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and other party leaders.

Trump this week sparred with party leaders and struggled with questions about his now-defunct Trump University. A lawsuit accuses Trump and the for-profit school of defrauding thousands of people, including many who paid as much as

\$35,000 to learn Trump's real estate strategies.

A wealthy businessman who asserts the lawsuit is politically motivated, Trump said presiding US District Judge Gonzalo Cucriel was biased against him because of Trump's plans to build a wall on the border with Mexico. Trump later added that Muslim judges could be biased against him also because of his pledge to temporarily ban Muslims from entering the country.

Trump's comments drew sharp criticism from Republican leaders, including House Speaker Paul Ryan and Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell. Trump later said he would no longer talk about the judge.

Friday's results had 1,276 respondents and a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3.2 percentage points.—Reuters

## 'Leave' 10 points ahead in ORB poll on Britain's EU referendum

LONDON —The "Leave" camp was 10 points ahead of "Remain" with less than two weeks to go before Britain's referendum on whether to stay in the European Union, according to a poll by ORB for *The Independent* newspaper published on Friday.

It was the biggest lead enjoyed by those wanting Britain to quit the 28-member bloc since the poll series started a year ago, *The Independent* said.

Britons will vote on 23 June on whether to leave the world's largest free trading area, a decision with far-reaching implications for politics, the economy, trade, defence and migration in Britain and the rest of the EU.

The official Vote Leave

campaign said on Twitter: "We don't believe the ORB online poll, our data suggests it's closer to 50-50." It gave no further details, and the campaign could not immediately be reached for further comment.

ORB's online survey of 2,000 people, conducted on 8-9 June, suggested that "Leave" was on 55 per cent, versus 45 per cent for "Remain".

The data was weighted to take account of how likely to vote people said they were. Those surveyed were not given the option of answering "don't know".

In an article accompanying the poll results, *The Independent* said "Leave" had extended its lead by four points since the

last poll in the series, conducted in April. A year ago, "Remain" was ahead by 10 points.

When the poll data was not weighted for likelihood to vote, the result was "Leave" on 53 per cent, up three points since April, and "Remain" down three points on 47 per cent.

The poll also found that 78 per cent of "Leave" supporters said they would definitely vote, while only 66 per cent of those favouring "Remain" said the same.

Overall, opinion polls have been painting a confusing picture, with those conducted online tending to show "Leave" doing better than in those conducted by telephone — with a few exceptions.—Reuters

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Dallas police shoot man who charged officer at airport

DALLAS — A policeman shot a man with rocks in his hands who charged the officer after vandalizing a woman's car outside the Love Field airport in Dallas on Friday, prompting a temporary shutdown of parts of the facility, police said.

Dallas police in a written description of the incident said the suspect, whom they identified as Shawn Diamond, 29, the father of the woman's children, had according to witnesses told the officer, "You're going to have to shoot me."

Diamond, who had a rock in each hand, later made a "quick approach directly at the officer" and the policeman fired his handgun, striking Diamond, the police description said.—Reuters

#### Italy's Renzi says Brexit would be a disaster for Britain

ROME — Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said on Friday it would be a "disaster" for Britain if its voters choose to leave the European Union at this month's referendum, and it would also hurt the rest of Europe.

"It's clear that it would be a disaster for the British," Renzi said at a conference near Genoa in northern Italy, when asked about the possibility that the 23 June vote produces a victory for those who want to quit the EU.

"It would be a dreadful mistake for both Britain and Europe," Renzi said. He added that this outcome would produce short-term market instability but he did not think it would harm Italy's interests in the medium to long term.—Reuters

#### German economy minister urges quick addition of Russia to G7

BERLIN — The Group of Seven (G7) leading industrial nations should quickly allow Russia to rejoin the economic organisation, German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel said in an interview published on Thursday. "Russia is an important global player and not a regional power," Gabriel told the *Russlandkontrovers.de* website.

"That is why I am calling for Russia to rejoin the group, and turn the G7 back into the G8."

*Russlandkontrovers.de* is the website of the established German-Russian Forum, which was founded in 1993 and includes over 400 leaders from industry, politics and academia.

Russia and the G7 — Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States — made up the G8 until Moscow's membership was suspended in 2014 after Russian troops invaded and annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula.—Reuters

#### Air France pilots start strike on second day of Euro 2016

PARIS — Air France pilots went on a four-day strike over pay cuts on Saturday that could disrupt transport plans for football fans on the second day of Europe's football championship.

Air France, part of Franco-Dutch group (AIRF.PA), said on Saturday it estimated that about 25 per cent of its pilots would strike. Union SNPL said 70 per cent of pilots would not show up.

"I heard this morning the SNPL president saying that 70 per cent of the pilots would strike, which is not the case. Our estimate today is that 25 per cent of the pilots are taking part in the movement," Chief Executive Frederic Gagey told RTL radio.

Air France said in a statement that on Saturday it was operating 83 percent of flights - 93 per cent of the long-haul flights from Paris, 91 per cent of its domestic flights and 73 per cent of its medium-haul flights to and from Paris-Charles de Gaulle airport.—Reuters

#### Russia defends its naval vessels' sailing near Senkakus

MOSCOW — The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Friday the country's sailing of three naval vessels near the disputed Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea was just a passage in the high seas.

In response to a query from Kyodo News, the ministry said it was a normal operation in keeping with international vessel navigation and that Russia was surprised by Japan's reaction.

The Japanese Defence Ministry has said it spotted three Russian military ships in a contiguous zone near the Senkakus early Thursday.

It is the first official reaction from Moscow on the incident. The Russian Foreign Ministry did not comment on whether the Russian vessels' sailing was related to that of a Chinese naval ship seen in the contiguous zone at around the same time.—Kyodo News

# Opinion

## Write for us

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

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

## What is behind the declined pass rate?

Kyaw Thura

**T**HE matriculation examination results for 2015-2016 academic year came out yesterday, but with a drop in the pass rate compared with that of the previous year. The pass rate last year stood at 37.60%, while the pass rate this year was just 29.92%. Last year, a total of 597,946 students took the exams. Of them, 224,847 passed. This year, the number of exam takers was 636,237, of whom just 190,388 passed.

It is, therefore, necessary

to consider why the pass rate dropped this year. One reason must be related to the pervasive use of social media. It is undeniable that social media has become an integral part of modern society, affecting the behaviour of users, especially teenagers. Researchers have described Facebook as a major attraction for a large number of netizens. With smartphones and tablets becoming easily available, teenagers are found to be more addicted to social networking than school-

ing.

Another thing to take into consideration is a survey conducted by Pew Research Centre in 2015. According to its finding, 72 per cent of high school and 78 per cent of college students spend time on social media like Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. This indicates that the student population involved in this virtual world of social networking is not small.

Rather than prohibited, students should be advised

that studying is secondary to none in this stage of their life and that social media should be used for learning new skills, acquiring good habits and seeking knowledge so as to develop moral character. It is, therefore, absolutely vital for educational institutions and parents to adopt proper regulations and disciplines concerning the use of social media by students. Social media should not be a medium that robs them of their time to be spent on learning.

## The Stray Dogs: Should They be Culled?

Khin Maung Myint

**M**OST people would agree that the stray dogs are nuisances, even if they are not rabid or do not bite anyone. They can be found almost everywhere: in markets, on the roads and streets, inside some tea shops and roadside eateries and sometimes even on the football grounds while the games are going on. I don't think I'll need to go on mentioning all the places they can be found, because it may not end. Most of the stray dogs are infested with lice and one kind of skin infection or the other and thus they are very disgusting that no health-conscious person would like to get in contact with them.

According to a WHO fact sheet, just a contact with them could cause the rabies virus to be transmitted to human. Our roads and streets, especially in the crowded residential areas, are swarming with stray dogs and hence dogs' poo or feces are littered everywhere. Thus, their presence among the human, especially at the markets and eateries are undesirable and unacceptable, as they can cause health problems.

Another bothersome problem is, their barking, howling and whining during the nights, especially during the late hours of the night and the early hours before the dawn. For light sleepers and those who are suffering from insomnia and sick people, they are not only very annoying, but also have serious effects on their health. Those who stay in the crowded residential wards, like me, will agree with my statement.

Aside from the annoyances caused by these stray dogs another problem, which is the worst, is

to be bitten by them. The victim of a dog bite must try to get immediate treatment with a preventive injection as soon as possible. The injections are sometimes not readily available and are quite expensive too. One would be lucky if that dog didn't die in a few days after biting, otherwise one would be headed for big trouble, which could cost him his life.

The WHO had reported a few months ago that a very high percentage, about seventy or so, if I remember correctly, of the stray dogs in Yangon are rabid and Myanmar is also classified as a high rabies endemic country. Although there are other animals such as , rodents, bats and cats, etc, which also carry rabies viruses, the causes of deaths due to rabies were mostly caused by dog bites. According to a news item in the 9 June 2016 issue of The Global New Light of Myanmar, there were over 60,000 recorded cases, out of which over 1000 succumbed to rabies in the whole country last year. I wonder how many stray dogs are there in the whole country.

In the past, the Yangon Municipality authorities periodically culled the stray dogs by poisoning them. However, as the times had changed and many dog lovers opposed such actions, they are no more seen to be carried out. Recently, there are arguments on the social media concerning the eradication of the stray dogs. While the general populace want the stray dogs to be eradicated, the dog lovers are ardently against it. Today, what we are experiencing in our residential ward is: if someone tried to protect oneself from a charging stray dog by throwing stones at the dog or kicking or hitting it with something, someone

would appear and give a tongue-lashing. Such confrontations not only end up in abuses and curses, but they sometimes got out of control that led to blows and even to murders. However, if someone had been bitten by that same dog, you wouldn't be able to find the owner.

In my opinion, the street dogs or stray dogs should be cleared from the roads and streets of the city, for good, by one way or the other. By thus saying, I don't mean that they must be culled. There are many ways and means to do that. In most foreign countries they catch the stray dogs and impound them in shelters after immunizing them. Dog lovers who want to adopt them can go to those places to choose the ones they want to adopt. Those that are not adopted are sterilized and have to remain in the pound until their deaths.

However, the method to offer for adoption wouldn't be applicable to our country, as most street dogs are of multi mix breeds and most are rabid, no one would care to take them into their homes as pets. Thus, to get rid of the stray dogs from our streets, the only option is to terminate them. Again, I'm not suggesting that they should be culled. One method is to catch them and impound them in shelters until they passed away in the natural way. However, that could be difficult due to high expenses involved. Thus, the next option would be to immunize them and at the same time sterilize them and just leave them to roam the streets until their deaths. This method would only partially solve the problem, because although they may not cause deaths due to rabies to human, they would still be bother-

some to the populace for quite awhile before they totally disappeared.

Although when the stray street dogs disappeared there would still remain the pets of the dog lovers. Thus strict regulations should be in place to control the dogs and cats kept as pets. They should be properly registered and issued permits or licenses, which are subjected to renewal regularly after the pets are vaccinated to immunize them against rabies. Pets should have collars to indicate that they are properly registered and immunized. Pet owners should also be instructed as to the DO and DON'Ts, while taking their pets out for walks. They should have leashes on at all times so that it would be easy to control their dogs. They should not let their pets to pee or poo in the streets indiscriminately. Its their duty not to litter the neighbourhood with animal feces.

Here, I would like to share a very interesting experience with the readers. I once noticed a Korean expatriate walking his dog, inside the Kandawgyi Bogyoke Park, early one morning. The dog had a leash on and at one place his dog pulled him away off the footpath and the man just went along, then the dog released himself. After the dog had finished, the Korean pulled out a plastic bag from his pant pocket and scooped away the dog's poo and took it away. From what I witnessed, I understood straight away that it must be compulsory in their country to take care not to litter the public places with animal feces. It's a good practice that should be introduced in our country and insist, or rather, strictly enforce the dog lovers to observe.

Before concluding, I would

like to mention an excerpt from the WHO fact sheet ( updated March 2916), which is as follows:---

- Rabies is a vaccine-preventable viral disease, which occurs in more than 150 countries and territories.
- Dogs are the source of the vast majority of human rabies deaths, contributing up to 99% of all rabies transmissions to humans.
- Rabies elimination is feasible by vaccinating dogs.
- Infections cause tens of thousands of deaths per year, mostly in Asia and Africa.
- 40% of people who are bitten by suspect rabid animals are children under 15 years of age.
- Immediate wound cleansing with soap and water after contact with a suspect rabid animal can be life-saving.
- Every year, more than 15 million people would receive a post-bite vaccination. This is estimated to prevent hundreds of thousands of rabies deaths annually.

Finally, I would like to advise the public to take great care not to be bitten by dogs, whether they are pets or pests. I had came across many dog owners, who are reluctant to spend money to immunize their pets. So, if you are bitten by a dog, take proper treatment from a specialized hospital for rabies prevention, even if the dog happens to be a pet. Pet owners too, should take great care to immunize their pets regularly for the safety of their family members and others in the community. **Dog owners should realize that dogs may be pets for some but they pests for others.**

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## Sugar price rises in domestic market



A woman farmer grows sugarcane in central Myanmar. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

SINCE the beginning of June, the price of sugar has risen slightly in the local market due to increased demand from China, said merchants based in Mandalay.

Merchants are currently selling sugar at a price of nearly K700,000 (US\$586) per tonne in the local market, while the price of sugar in the Chinese market is 5,000 yuan (\$838), said U Sein Tun, the general secretary of the Myanmar Sugar and Sugarcane Product Entrepreneurs Association. Approximately 20,000 bags of sugar entered the Muse border trade camp in the first week of June. The total weight of each bag is 50 kilos.

The price of sugar increased by K30 per viss (3.6 pounds) this month. The current selling price is between K1,140 and K1,150 per viss, said a shop owner.—*Ye Lin Htet*

## Commander-in-Chief (Navy)'s Shield Sepak Takraw C'ship concludes



Sepak Takraw player flying in the air to smash the caneball. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

THE Final matches of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Service (Navy)'s Shield Sepak takraw championship tournament and prizes presentation ceremony was held in the hall of Thanlyin station area on Friday. On the behalf of the Command-

er-in-Chief (Navy), commodore Aung Zaw Hlaing, Commander of Naval Training Command Headquarters gave an address at the ceremony.

After the final matches, Commodore Aung Zaw Hlaing gave the Championship Shield

to the winning team while officials presented second and third place prizes.

A total of fourteen teams took part in the tournament which began on 31 May.—*Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

## Mr Simon Long from the Economist to share Media knowledge in Yangon

ORGANISED by KBZ Group, a special media knowledge sharing session presented by Mr Simon Long, the Banyan columnist will be taken place in the I3 Conference Room No. 441,

Ground Floor of New University Avenue in Sayar San Quarter, Bahan Township, Yangon between 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. on 15 June.

Mr Simon Long, the Ban-

yan columnist of The Economist Magazine, will be speaking on the dynamics of a global newsroom and how local media can reach out to global audiences.—*Lin Aung Htet*

## People's Forum

### Experience

It is "Experience" that we get from time investment. From its true outcome, we get knowledge. And then, it is accumulated and it changes into the wisdom, from its wisdom, we think of for our perception.

It is a basic need not to do with care about and strong motivation. It can be said that the essential tool as well as the most important to carry out administrative mechanism.

The process of performing to step out for our goals and implementing a target must be based on good experience, from our good teachers or administrators.

A speech from their experience what the wisdoms give is like a stepping stone, a ladder, or a special drug for the learners who are studying to get knowledge not only science but also arts. "Experience" is a form of lesson in his or her life. In Myanmar' proverb", there is a saying that we have to approach and obey at the" three headed – person" and get their advices to us. This means that experienced person is a good teacher in our life – long learning program and our own experience from our work cannot be exchanged it by money.

We, human beings get the lessons from our life by doing our practices and change our attitude, manner, and how to act in our life. We get others' experiences by reading their written books, by listening their talks or discussion.

We hand over our experience from generation to generation through the written books, called knowledge and we teach one to another about our experience by practices.

If we are proficient in our specialized subjects perfectly, we can do our work skillfully, and our work environment will be better. Our ability will be developed to implement our work program and our outcome or result will be standardized.

So, within the work environment, talks, discussion and training program among the colleagues, advisors from locals or other countries, and high-ranking experienced person are essential needs for the administrators / managers or subordinates.

To get the enormous developments, it is essential to exchange our experiences from one country to another and mutual reconciliation, speculation are taken part in the important processes for developing countries. Getting many experiences and having much knowledge is a good deed for a learner day by day.

So, the word "General Knowledge" is very prominent in our every society. To do administration (appeared as admin over 30 years ago), we need not only "knowledge" (in Myanmar "Thuta") but also practice (in Myanmar Muta).

In our organization, files, records, charts, tables are one kind of representative from their experiences gathering from their practices. We reference their experiences not from the human beings directly by face to face but from the reading materials. We get facts and figures, and also information. This transforms into our experience as for general knowledge not only for us but also for human relations. But, we need to collect the most suitable knowledge from our good practices.

*With Love  
Lwin Zar Naing Win*

## Vocational training course opened in Waw Tsp



Vocational training course opening ceremony in progress. PHOTO: 017

AS part of the 100-day plan of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, a fruit-based foodstuff-making course was opened in Waw Township, Bago Region on 8 June.

The vocation training

course was conducted by Bago Region Small and Medium Enterprise Department.

Altogether 22 trainees are taking the course set to last for seven days till 14 June. —

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## UN convoys bring food to besieged Syrian towns of Daraya, Douma



A still image from video released on 10 June 2016 shows vehicles from the United Nations and Syrian Arab Red Crescent delivering a month's supply of food to Daraya, a Syrian town under siege by government forces. PHOTO: REUTERS

GENEVA/BEIRUT — International aid convoys have reached two Syrian rebel-held towns near Damascus, marking the first delivery of food supplies to Daraya since 2012, after the government granted permission for the trips, the United Nations said on Friday.

Trucks from the United Na-

tions and Syrian Arab Red Crescent brought a month's supply of food for 2,400 people to Daraya, Jens Laerke, spokesman of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), said.

A separate inter-agency convoy entered Douma in rebel-held Eastern Ghouta near Damascus lat-

er on Friday, he said.

Any sense of relief inside Daraya was short-lived, however, because the food supplies would not last a month and the UN had underestimated the number of people living there at present, the local council and a monitoring group reported.

"They managed to get through all the checkpoints to get in there, deliver overnight, stock what needed to be stocked and provide food for the first time in years to people inside Daraya," Laerke told a news briefing.

Malnutrition has been reported in Daraya, which is only 12 km (7 miles) from Damascus, where a first convoy with non-food supplies was allowed to enter on 1 June. UN mediator Staffan de Mistura, speaking to reporters on Thursday, said President Bashar al-Assad's government had approved UN land convoys to 15 of 17 government-besieged areas in June. Air drops remain an option if the convoys did not move, he said.

Hussam Aala, Syria's ambassador to the UN in Geneva, told

Reuters on Friday: "Discussions are still going on about one pending location. The rest were all approved."

Access to al Waer in Homs province was still under discussion, he said.

Health and hygiene items for Daraya's estimated population of 4,000 were also delivered overnight and will be distributed by Red Crescent workers, Laerke said.

"However of course we call for unconditional, unimpeded and sustained access to all people in need," he said, noting that 4.6 million people are trapped in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. Some 1.9 tonnes of medicines for chronic diseases such as hypertension and diabetes as well as antibiotics, from the World Health Organization were on that convoy, spokesman Tarik Jasarevic said. However, the government did not approve delivery of three burns kits that would have been enough to treat about 30 people with dressings and pain killers, rejecting them from the approved list,

Jasarevic said.

There was also anger and frustration at the insufficient amount of food aid delivered, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. The British-based group tracks the war using sources on the ground.

It cited the Daraya local council as saying the supplies brought in would not last two weeks. The council says the population of Daraya is over 8,000, — more than double the UN estimates.

Council spokesman Hossam Ayyash said it was unclear how the aid, which would cater for only a quarter of the besieged population, would be distributed.

"Of course we are grateful to the team that brought in the supplies, but unfortunately they are not sufficient. We don't know what decision will be taken (on how to distribute the aid), but it won't be able to be shared out among everyone who's here," Ayyash said. On Friday government helicopters stepped up their barrel bombing of Daraya, the Observatory and local council said.—Reuters

## Libyan forces claim port in Islamic State stronghold of Sirte

TRIPOLI — Forces aligned with Libya's unity government said on Friday they had taken control of the port of Sirte, making further gains in Islamic State's North African stronghold.

Brigades largely composed of fighters from Misrata advanced this week to the perimeter of Sirte's city centre, after launching a counter attack against Islamic State last month and driving the militant group back along the coastal road between the two cities.

The brigades are part of an operation supported by Libya's UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA), which arrived in Tripoli in March and has been gradually working to estab-

lish its authority.

Western powers see it as the best bet for trying to unite Libya's political and armed factions against Islamic State and for restoring some stability to the oil-rich North African country.

A source from the operations room in Misrata said fighters from the front line in the south of Sirte had looped round to the seafront to capture the port, which lies about 5 km (3 miles) east of the city centre.

The brigades have advanced more swiftly than many expected, though their progress has been hampered by suicide bombers, mines and snipers.

Clashes in Sirte on Friday left 11 brigade members dead and



Soldiers from a force aligned with Libya's new unity government walk along a road during an advance on the eastern and southern outskirts of Sirte, on 9 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

35 wounded, the operations room source said. More than 100 fighters from the GNA-backed brigades have been killed and more than 500 wounded since the campaign to recapture Sirte began in early May.

Islamic State started ex-

panding into Libya in 2014 as the political turmoil and conflict in the country worsened. It took full control of Sirte last year, but has struggled to retain territory or win support elsewhere in Libya.

As the brigades based in Misrata have advanced on Sirte

from the west, a separate force that controls some of Libya's key oil terminals and is also aligned with the GNA has pushed Islamic State back from the east. It reached Harawa, a town about 70 km from Sirte, on Thursday.—Reuters

## US, Iraqi officials can't confirm report Islamic State leader wounded

BAGHDAD — US and Iraqi officials said on Friday they could not confirm a report by an Iraqi TV channel that Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi had been wounded in an air strike in northern Iraq.

A spokesman for the US-led coalition fighting the radical Islamist militants, Colonel Chris Garver, said in an email that he had seen the reports but had "nothing to confirm this at this time".

Brett McGurk, the US envoy to the coalition, told a daily briefing

at the White House in Washington that there was no reason to believe that Baghdadi was not alive "even though we haven't heard of him since late last year."

"We presume that he's still alive," he added. "It's really a matter of time for him."

Kurdish and Arab security officials in northern Iraq said they also could not confirm the report.

Al Sumariya TV cited a local source in the northern province of Nineveh saying that Baghdadi and other Islamic State leaders were

wounded on Thursday in a coalition air strike on one of the group's command headquarters close to the Syrian border. The channel has good connections with Shi'ite politicians and Iraqi forces engaged in the battle against Islamic State.

There have been several reports in the past that Baghdadi, whose real name is Ibrahim al-Samarrai, was killed or wounded after proclaiming himself caliph of all Muslims two years ago.

In the last audio message, posted at the end of December

on Twitter accounts that had published Islamic State statements previously, Baghdadi said the air strikes carried out by Russia and the US-led coalition had failed to weaken the group.

The ultra-hardline Sunni group is under increased pressure in both Iraq and Syria, and the territory under its control has shrunk significantly since 2014, limiting the potential for its leaders to move around or seek shelter.

The US earlier this year announced an intensification of the

war on Islamic State with more air strikes and more American troops on the ground to advise and assist allied forces. The US-led coalition has regularly flown raids out of Erbil, the capital of Iraq's Kurdistan region, in operations aimed at killing and capturing Islamic State leaders. A Kurdish intelligence official and an Arab from the Baaj area west of Mosul said the US-led coalition had conducted such a raid there earlier this week.

The coalition did not confirm this raid.—Reuters

## In mapping eclipses, world's first computer maybe also told fortunes

ATHENS — A 2,000-year-old astronomical calculator used by ancient Greeks to chart the movement of the sun, moon and planets may also have had another purpose — fortune telling, say researchers.

Heralded as the world's first computer, the Antikythera Mechanism is a system of intricate bronze gears dating to around 60 BC, used by ancient Greeks to track solar and lunar eclipses.

It was retrieved from a shipwreck discovered off the Greek island of Antikythera in 1901.

While researchers had previously focused on its internal mechanisms, a decades-long study is now attempting to decode min-

ute inscriptions on the remaining fragments of its outer surfaces.

"It confirms that the mechanism displayed planets as well as showing the position of the sun and the moon in the sky," said Mike Edmunds, an astrophysics professor from the University of Cardiff in Wales who is part of the research project team.

But in creating heaven's mirror, its ancient engineers may have also given in to a less scientific urge — man's perpetual curiosity about what the future holds.

Edmunds, who has worked on the project for about 12 years, said decoding of the inscriptions also threw up an interesting nugget — the colour of a forthcoming

eclipse.

"We are not quite sure how to interpret this, to be fair, but it could hark back to suggestions that the colour of an eclipse was some sort of omen or signal. Certain colours might be better for what's coming than other colours," he told a presentation in Athens.

"If that is so, and we are interpreting that correctly, this is the first instance we have in the mechanism of any real mention of astrology rather than astronomy," he said.

Nonetheless, the overriding objective of the mechanism was astronomical and not astrological, he said.



Visitors look at the displayed fragments of the ancient Antikythera Mechanism at the National Archaeological Museum in Athens, Greece, on 9 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The texts were meant to help the viewer to understand what was the meaning of all the different points and dials, what it would teach them about the cosmos that they lived in ... and

about how, through cycles of time this related to their lives," said Alexander Jones, a history professor at the Institute for the Study of the Ancient World in New York.—Reuters

## The bright side: global 'light pollution' obscures starry nights

WASHINGTON — When Vincent van Gogh peered out the window of the Saint-Paul asylum at the nighttime sky in Saint-Rémy in 1889, he saw the brilliant light of innumerable stars over southern France that inspired his evocative painting "The Starry Night."

But nights no longer are so starry for billions of people. About 83 per cent of the world's population, including more than 99 per cent in Europe and the United States, live in areas beset by nocturnal "light pollution" from the incessant glow of electric lights, researchers said on Friday.

It is so pervasive that more than a third of people globally, including nearly 80 per cent of North Americans and 60 per cent of Europeans, cannot see the luminous band of the Milky Way, a familiar nighttime sight for the eons of human existence.

"It is surprising how in a few

decades of lighting growth we have enveloped most of humanity in a curtain of light that hides the view of the greatest wonder of nature: the universe itself," said Fabio Falchi of the Light Pollution Science and Technology Institute in Italy, who led the research published in the journal *Science Advances*.

"Our civilization's roots are connected to the night sky in every field, from literature to art to philosophy to religion and, of course, to science."

Physicist Christopher Kyba of the GFZ German Research Centre for Geosciences added, "Appreciating beauty is just part of what makes us human."

The researchers used satellite and sky brightness data to create a global atlas of light pollution, the artificial illumination of the night sky sufficient to substantially wash out starlight. It is one of humanity's most omnipresent forms of

environmental alteration, exemplified by the nocturnal glow over cities. "Countries even as large as Italy or Spain or France or Germany do not have any single spot in their territory with a pristine night sky," Falchi added.

Despite the American West's vast open spaces, almost half of US territory has light-polluted nights. The East Coast is particularly hit hard, with only part of Maine and the islands at the end of the Florida Keys having pristine sky quality, US National Park Service researcher Dan Duriscoe said.

The most light-polluted country is Singapore. The hardest-hit G20 countries are Italy and South Korea.

Only small areas in western Europe remain relatively unaffected, mostly in Scotland, Sweden and Norway. Australia and Africa are least-affected among the populated continents.—Reuters



The 'Milky Way' is seen in the night sky around telescopes and camps of people over rocks in the White Desert north of the Farafra Oasis southwest of Cairo in May 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Africa can attain zero new HIV infections by 2030: Zambian minister

LUSAKA — A senior Zambian official said on Friday that it was possible for Africa to achieve zero new HIV infections by 2030 as well as zero AIDS death. Minister of Health Joseph Kasonde said the rate of new infections has declined or stabilised in many African nations while AIDS-related deaths were declining due to an expansion of treatment programmes. Speaking in his capacity as Chair of the African Group at the United Nations (UN) during a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on ending HIV and AIDS in New York, the Zambian minister said the 54-member African Group believes that the goals could be attained because of political will shown by governments.

"Despite this progress, there is still much more left to be done. About 2.1 million were newly infected with HIV in 2015, two thirds of whom were in Africa which remains the epicenter of HIV. We note with alarm the sus-

tained vulnerability of young people, especially young women and adolescent girls to HIV infections in Africa," he said, according to a statement released by Zambia's Permanent Mission to the UN.

The minister said the African Group applauded the achievement of reaching 15 million people living with HIV with antiretroviral therapy before the December 2015 deadline. He, however, said the African Group recognises that poverty and unemployment exacerbated HIV and AIDS, and the continent was calling for increased resources devoted to HIV and AIDS response. He said exceptional action was required at all levels to curb the devastating effects of HIV and AIDS. The meeting, convened by the President of the General Assembly Mogens Lykketoft, adopted the political declaration on the fast track to accelerate the fight against HIV and to end the AIDS epidemic by 2030.—Xinhua

## Zika virus confirmed in man back from Latin America

TOKYO — The Japanese health ministry said on Friday that Zika virus infection has been detected in a man who returned from Latin America, the seventh confirmed case in the country of infection of the mosquito-borne virus this year.

The man in his 30s living in Osaka was found after he came back to Japan on Monday to have contracted the virus after spending about two weeks in areas where the spread of the infectious disease was confirmed. He did not stay in Brazil, according to the Ministry of Health, Labour and Welfare.

He was diagnosed with Zika virus infection on Thursday at an

Osaka medical institution after developing a fever and rash and currently is staying at home for recovery. While the Zika virus usually causes mild symptoms, such as skin rashes and headaches, it is suspected to cause abnormally small head sizes in newborn children, a condition called microcephaly, when women contract the virus during pregnancy. Brazil has seen a rapid increase in such cases. As a way of preventing the spread of the disease in Japan, the ministry has been calling on those who returned from Zika endemic areas to take measures such as using bug spray for about two weeks so as not to be bitten by a mosquito.—Kyodo News

## Poland approves closer surveillance of foreigners ahead of NATO summit, pope visit

WARSAW — Poland's parliament tightened anti-terrorism laws on Friday ahead of hosting two high-profile events, giving security forces the right to more closely monitor the movements of foreign citizens and hold suspects for longer without charges.

Poland is one of several eastern European states reviewing its anti-terror laws in the wake of the Islamist attacks in Brussels in March, signalling the region's growing concern that it may no longer be immune to the threat.

In early July, heads of

NATO members, including US President Barack Obama, will hold a summit in Warsaw at which they are likely to agree to deploy more troops on the alliance's eastern flank to counter Russia's renewed assertiveness.

Two weeks later, the southern city of Krakow will host the World Youth Day, a Catholic celebration due to be attended by Pope Francis and some two million pilgrims from across the world.

Both events pose a clear terrorism risk, experts say.

"Poland does not face

any immediate threats from Islamist militants, but we are no longer an anonymous country for them," a high-rank security source told Reuters on condition of anonymity.

The ruling conservative Law and Justice (PiS) party says the new legislation is needed to address those threats. The new law gives the state security service the right to conduct surveillance of foreign citizens for up to three months without prior court approval.

It allows for suspects to be held for 14 days without charges but with

court approval, expanding the current period of 48 hours a suspect can be held without charges.

The regulation also makes it easier for foreigners to be deported if considered a threat, and regulates the sale and usage of pay-as-you-go SIM cards, which are now sold freely and anonymously.

Critics say the legislation gives the secret services excessive powers, and see the move as part of the ruling party's efforts to strengthen its grip on key institutions.

Rights group Amnesty International described the bill as dangerous, saying it gives "seemingly unlimited powers" to Poland's intelligence services.

In order to become law, the bill must be approved by the upper chamber of parliament, where PiS also has a majority, and be signed into force by the president — both likely to be a formality.

Separately, a pan-European rights body recommended on Friday that Poland introduce more checks to the surveillance powers of police under another law amended by the ruling party.—Reuters

## Brazil's Rousseff calls for referendum on early elections



Suspended Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff in Brasilia, Brazil, on 30 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BRASILIA — Brazil's Dilma Rousseff said she would call a referendum on holding early elections if she is reinstated as president, an offer analysts saw as a bid to sway undecided senators to help clear her in an impeachment trial.

If Rousseff survives the Senate trial, expected to conclude in August, the Constitution would provide for her to serve out her term until 2018, although she would be scarred and in a weak position to govern.

Rousseff's proposal for early elections, which emerged on Thursday, is seen by many political analysts as a way out of Brazil's political crisis because it would subject a political class tainted by scandal to a popular vote.

Rousseff's supporters have questioned the legitimacy of an interim government led by her Vice President Michel Temer, which is governing while she is suspended for the duration of the trial.

Just one in 10 Brazilians view Temer's government positively and a majority want new elections this year, a poll showed this week. The survey also showed that nearly two-thirds of Brazilians support Rousseff's impeachment.

"We must consult the population to rebuild a constitutional pact that was broken by the impeachment process," Rousseff said in an interview on Thursday on government television channel TV Brasil.

Rousseff told a group of senators and political allies on Thursday that she was open to the holding of a plebiscite for the country to decide new elections, the *Folha de S.Paulo* newspaper reported.

The leftist leader was suspended on 12 May when

the Senate voted 55-22 to put her on trial for allegedly breaking budget laws. To block her conviction and definitive ouster she needs five more votes, or one-third of the Senate.

Temer's camp has opposed the idea of early elections, which would require a constitutional amendment by Congress.

A wave of scandals stemming from a corruption investigation at state oil company Petrobras (PETR4.SA) have buffeted his month-old government and weakened the resolve to remove Rousseff among some senators who voted for the impeachment trial.

Business leaders and investors have praised Temer for picking a strong economic team led by former central bank governor Finance Minister Henrique Meirelles to rescue Brazil from a fiscal crisis and the worst recession since the 1930s.

But his popularity has been undermined by policy reversals and allegations by prosecutors — based on recordings leaked to the media — that members of his Cabinet and the leader of his Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PDMB) sought to obstruct the investigation into the massive graft scheme at Petrobras.

Temer has cancelled a trip to northeastern Brazil, the first travel plans of his interim term, in order to personally deliver a proposed constitutional amendment to Congress on Wednesday, according to two presidential aides who asked not to be named.

The proposed amendment capping public spending growth is a centrepiece of Temer's plan to restore fiscal discipline and get a handle on Brazil's burgeoning debt load.—Reuters



Soldiers demonstrate their skills during a military police exercise, ahead of the NATO summit in July in Warsaw, at the PGE National Stadium in Warsaw, Poland, on 24 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Venezuela opposition moves forward in recall referendum request

CARACAS — Venezuela's elections council said on Friday it will begin a process of validating signatures of citizens seeking a recall referendum against President Nicolas Maduro, a small step in the opposition's effort to remove a deeply unpopular leader.

Adversaries of the ruling Socialist Party say the election authority is seeking to stall the referendum against Maduro, who is facing heavy criticism due to a steep recession, the world's highest inflation and Soviet-like product shortages.

The elections council next week will allow citizens who wish to withdraw their names from a list of 1.4 million valid signatures to do so, elections chief Tibisay Lucena said in a news conference.

The following week, voters who want to leave

their names on the list will have to return to have their fingerprints double-checked by elections authorities.

This stage of the process involves collecting signatures from 1 per cent of the electoral registry.

But the elections council will still have 20 working days to determine if the opposition will move to the next stage of seeking the recall, which consists of collecting signatures from 20 per cent of the voter registry.

Opposition leaders have accused the electoral authority of repeatedly changing criteria needed to trigger a recall and adding unnecessary obstacles to slow a referendum that Maduro would likely lose.

Maduro insists the opposition does not actually want a referendum, but rather are seeking a coup.

The elections coun-

cil invalidated nearly 605,000 signatures, almost half of which were due to errors in filling out forms and 11,000 because the signatures corresponded to deceased citizens.

Two-time presidential candidate Henrique Capriles, the most visible face of the recall campaign, said his signature was arbitrarily rejected

along with that of other opposition leaders.

"On what grounds does Ms. Lucena reject my signature?" asked Capriles in response.

If Maduro lost a recall vote this year, fresh elections would be held. But if the vote happens after 10 January, Maduro would be replaced by his vice president.—Reuters



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro greets supporters as he arrives to an event for handing over houses in Caracas, Venezuela, on 9 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# French riot police disperse English and Russian soccer fans in Marseille

PARIS — French police stepped in to break up small groups of English and Russian soccer fans who squared up and hurled taunts at one another in Marseille on Friday, ahead of the opening match of the Euro 2016 soccer tournament.

Reuters TV footage showed one bare-chested supporter in the back of a police van and a handcuffed English supporter being frogmarched by two officers along the edge of Marseille's old harbour.

"Officers separated groups of English and Russian supporters," one police source said, adding that at least two arrests had been made. "They fired tear gas to disperse some drunk Englishmen."

In the 1998 World Cup, England fans were involved in serious disorder over several days in Marseille before and after a match against Tunisia.

About 1,000 police will be deployed in the Mediterranean city as up to 70,000 England fans and 20,000 Russians arrive throughout Friday and Saturday ahead of the match between the two countries.

Late on Thursday



A teargas grenade explodes near an England fan ahead of England's EURO 2016 match in Marseille, France, on 10 June.

PHOTO: REUTERS

night, about 100 England fans and 50 local residents were involved in another fracas in the streets around the Vieux Port (Old Port) area, where several English and Irish bars are located. Chairs were hurled around and windows

smashed before police gained control.

The tournament kicks off with France still under a state of emergency after Islamist militants launched simultaneous assaults on entertainment venues in Paris in November, killing 130

people. Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henri Brandet said Friday night's trouble amounted to a scuffle between fans that did not call security measures into question.

British police would work closely with their

French counterparts in Marseille and would seek banning orders for any England fans causing trouble, Assistant Chief Constable Mark Roberts said. The English Football Association condemned the fans' behaviour.—Reuters

## Dutch test fly new F-35A fighter jets at international air show

AMSTERDAM — Two Dutch F-35A fighter jets made their debut at an international air show on Friday, conducting demonstration flights in the Netherlands.

The radar-evading warplanes, which will eventually replace the Dutch Air Force's fleet of F-16s, are conducting two weeks of noise testing by Dutch pilots.

The US Marine Corps has already declared the F-35B model ready for combat, but the conventional takeoff and landing A-model is still completing testing. The US Air Force expects to declare an initial squadron of F-35A jets ready for combat between August and December this year.

The Netherlands, which helped fund development of the new stealthy fighter jet, known in the Netherlands as the Joint Strike Fighter, plans to purchase 37 of THE planes in total. The next order will be for a batch of eight jets. Thousands of onlookers gathered at the air force base in the northern city of Leeuwarden, 150 km (90 miles) north of the capital Amsterdam, for the first fly-overs on Friday. The planes are scheduled to fly again on Saturday.—Reuters

# US approves flights to Cuba by six American carriers

WASHINGTON — The United States has approved flights on six US airlines to Cuban cities other than Havana, linking the former Cold War foes closer together, the US Transportation Department said in a statement on Friday.

The green light lets airlines schedule flights to the communist-ruled island

for the first time in decades. Until now, air travel to Cuba has been limited to charter services.

Flights will begin as early as the fall, the department said.

American will have nonstop service from Miami, the largest Cuban community in the United States; Southwest, JetBlue

and Silver Airways will fly from nearby Fort Lauderdale; Frontier will add flights from Chicago and Philadelphia; and Sun Country will serve Minneapolis.

"For avid travellers — that means 155 weekly trips," Transportation Secretary Anthony Foxx said in an online bulletin. "It is an exciting time in Ameri-

can history as we continue to make inroads toward safe scheduled passenger and cargo flights to Cuba."

The department said it approved every route proposal outside Havana except for those of charter operator Eastern Airlines. A ban on tourism to Cuba remains part of US law. However, President Barack

Obama has authorised exceptions since the countries began restoring relations in December 2014. US travellers must meet one of 12 criteria such as being Cuban-American or taking part in educational tours or journalistic activity.

Airlines expect a gradual, though potentially bigger payout from the flights

than is typical for Caribbean destinations.

Strong demand will come from Cuban-Americans visiting relatives, leisure travellers desiring a once off-limits experience, and executives paying for business-class fares to evaluate commercial opportunities, experts said.—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC XIAMEN VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC XIAMEN VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.6.2016 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT  
(S'PORE) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PERLA VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PERLA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.6.2016 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEA  
CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CSC ZHONG HAI VOY NO (039)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CSC ZHONG HAI VOY NO (039) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.6.2016 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: M/S ECL (S'PORE) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301191/2301178



Cyrus, Hemsworth. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Cyrus, Hemsworth will tie the knot on a beach in Australia?

LONDON — Pop star Miley Cyrus and Liam Hemsworth will reportedly tie the knot on the beach.

The “Wrecking Ball” hitmaker rekindled her romance with Liam in late 2015, two years after they called off their engagement, and this time they have both gone out of their way to keep the private reunion low-key.

Cyrus has been spotted wearing the diamond ring “The Hunger Games” star gave her when he proposed on her left ring finger, and while the couple has yet to confirm if its wedding plans are officially back on, reported *Daily Mirror*.

“They’re getting married on the beach,” a source said.

“Their parents are doing most of the work. It’s been easy!”

Earlier this year (16), “The Hunger Games” star dismissed rumours he was officially engaged again and insisted the pair was not heading down the aisle anytime soon.

It is unclear when the reported “beach” wedding will take place, but it will most likely be a private affair.—PTI

## Steven Tyler to release his debut solo album on 15 July

LONDON — Aerosmith frontman Steven Tyler is set to release his debut solo album on 15 July.

The 68-year-old musician has co-produced the 13-track album, “We’re All Somebody From Somewhere,” and will release a single with the same name on 24 June, reported *Femalefirst*.

“I headed down to Nashville last spring to start working on this project, wrote some kick ass songs with some of Music City’s finest songwriters and now we get to share them with the world on 15 July,” Tyler said.

For his album, Tyler has made a shift to country music, which he calls the new Rock ‘n’ Roll.

“It’s not just about porches, dogs and kicking your boots up. It’s a whole lot more. It’s about being real. And nothing is more real than understanding we’re all just somebody from somewhere,” he said.—PTI

## Singer Grimmie dies after Orlando shooting, suspect dead



Macy’s iHeartRadio Rising Star Christina Grimmie performs during the 2015 iHeartRadio Music Festival at the MGM Grand Garden Arena in Las Vegas, Nevada in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ORLANDO — Singer Christina Grimmie, who gained fame as a contestant on television singing contest “The Voice,” died after being shot at a concert in Orlando on Friday, police said on social media.

Grimmie was signing autographs with band members of Before You Exit, with whom she performed earlier, when a gunman approached and opened fire before her brother tackled him at the Plaza Live music venue, the

Orlando Police Department said on Twitter.

Grimmie died from her injuries, the department said in a post early Saturday.

The suspect shot and killed himself, police tweeted.

Grimmie placed third during the 2014 season of the “The Voice,” a singing competition on NBC.

“We are heartbroken,” said “The Voice” in a Twitter post late Friday.—Reuters

## Lindsay Lohan’s fiance planning lavish birthday party

LONDON — Actress Lindsay Lohan’s fiance, Egor Tarabasov, is planning a lavish birthday bash to ring in her 30<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Tarabasov, 22, has organised the party on the island of Mykonos and has invited her closest friends, reported *Femalefirst*.

The real estate agent proposed to the “Mean Girls” star

in April after a whirlwind romance and while Lindsay has not yet confirmed the engagement, she insisted she is “really happy” with him.

Her father Michael Lohan has praised Egor as a “great influence” who wants to help his daughter get her career back on track.—PTI



Actress Lindsay Lohan. PHOTO: REUTERS

## ‘The Shield’ actor Michael Jace gets 40 years to life for murder of wife

LOS ANGELES — Actor Michael Jace, best known for playing a policeman on the TV drama “The Shield,” was sentenced on Friday to 40 years to life for shooting his wife dead in front of the couple’s two children at their Los Angeles home, a court official said.

Jace, 53, received a credit of 754 days served for his time spent imprisoned since his arrest for the May 2014 killing of April Jace, Los Angeles criminal court clerk Melody Ramirez said.

Ramirez said family mem-

bers of the victim, April Jace, gave emotional statements in court on Friday.

“My first thought on my mind most mornings is, ‘Your daughter has been murdered,’” April Jace’s mother Kay Henry told the court in tears, according to the *Los Angeles Times*. The paper said she added that when her daughter was killed, “we both died.” The actor was upset that his wife wanted a divorce when he shot her once in the back and twice more in the legs, according to prosecutors.

He then called authorities and reported that he had shot his wife, prosecutors said. The couple’s sons, ages 8 and 5 at the time, watched the killing in the family’s South Los Angeles home, prosecutors said. She was 40 years old when she was slain.

Jace’s attorneys acknowledged in court that he shot his wife, arguing instead that the shooting was not premeditated. Jace was convicted of second-degree murder, an intentional killing that was not premeditated, in May.—Reuters

# After boom years, vintage car market cools ahead of Zurich auction

ZURICH — After years of double digit growth, the price of vintage cars has stopped soaring and they may no longer be seen as the smart choice for wealthy investors, some of whom will attend an auction of valuable autos in Zurich this weekend.

With global interest rates at ultra-low levels and stock markets in the doldrums, classic cars had joined property, paintings, and wine as attractive alternative investments.

As a result, prices of cars like classic Porsches and Jaguars surged around 16 per cent in both 2014 and 2015 following a near 47 per cent rise in 2013, according to data from Historic Automobile Group International (HAGI), a consultancy.

But the brakes have been

applied this year, with average prices rising by around 1 per cent, according to HAGI.

“It’s not a bubble and it’s not bursting, but the market is going sideways at the moment,” said HAGI’s Dietrich Hatlapa, adding that supply had caught up with demand.

“The boom times appear to be over, but the market is resilient and high quality cars will continue to be sold at top prices.”

Oldtimer Galerie International, which is organising the car auction in Zurich this weekend, also expects the market to cool.

“The market can’t always go up,” said Beat Leu from the company. “It is impossible to rise, rise, rise.”

Vintage Ferraris and Aston Martins with price tags acceler-

ating to 1.4 million Swiss francs (\$1.45 million) are due to go under the hammer at an ice rink overlooking Lake Zurich.

Among the people present will be Filippo Pignatti Morano, fund manager of the Swiss-based Classic Car Fund, who has built up a collection of 11 vintage cars with a value of just under 10 million euros.

Over the last three years the fund has managed a net average return of 7 per cent per year, he said, although with more assets it is aiming for up to 12 per cent in the next few years.

He said classic cars would continue to interest investors.

“There is a big demand for vintage cars because they are tangible assets that are in limited supply,” he said.



A 1973 Ferrari Dino 246 GT (front) is shown with other vintage cars during a preview of an auction by Swiss Oldtimer Galerie International in Zurich, Switzerland, on 10 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Not all the prospective bidders at a preview on Friday were investors.

“For me it’s totally about the joy of the cars,” said Willy Gabrielli. “The cars can go up and down in value, but if they make some money that’s a nice side

effect.”  
Christophe Apotheloz, another visitor, bought a Ferrari for 60,000 francs and sold it for 430,000 francs 30 years later. “You can make money,” he said. “But it’s difficult and you have to be lucky.”—Reuters

# Studies find ‘super bacteria’ in Rio’s Olympic venues, top beaches

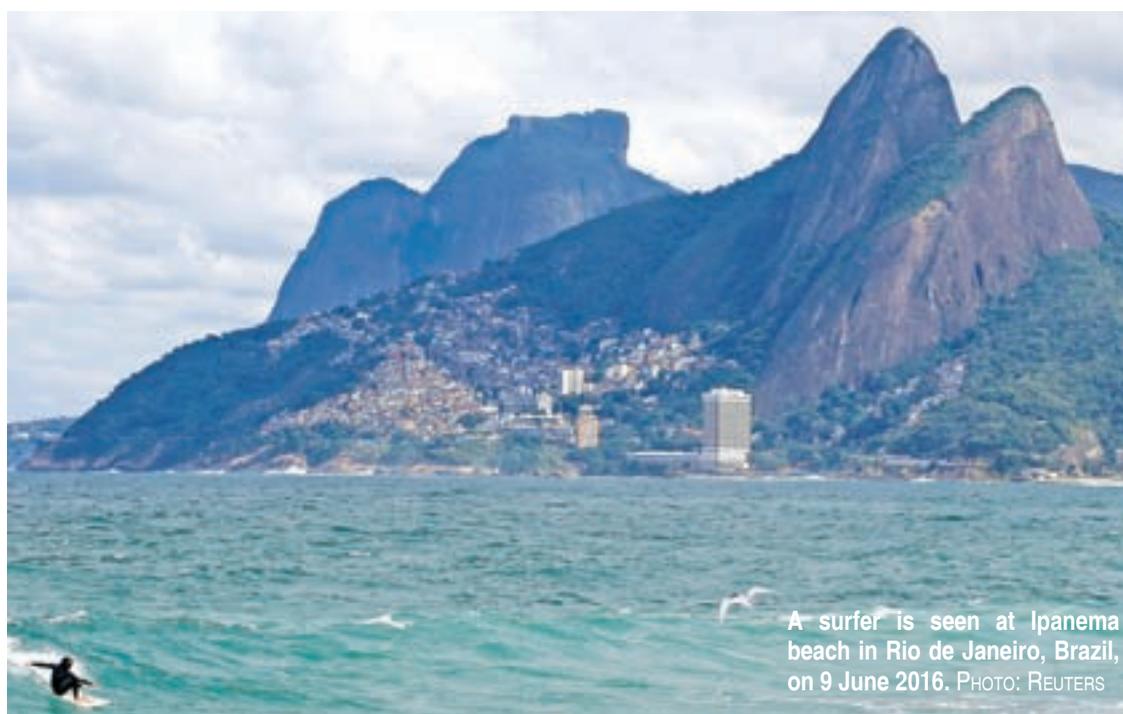
RIO DE JANEIRO — Scientists have found dangerous drug-resistant “super bacteria” off beaches in Rio de Janeiro that will host Olympic swimming events and in a lagoon where rowing and canoe athletes will compete when the Games start on 5 August.

The findings from two unpublished academic studies seen by Reuters concern Rio’s most popular spots for tourists and greatly increase the areas known to be infected by the microbes normally found only in hospitals.

They also heighten concerns that Rio’s sewage-infested waterways are unsafe.

A study published in late 2014 had shown the presence of the super bacteria — classified by the US Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as an urgent public health threat — off one of the beaches in Guanabara Bay, where sailing and wind-surfing events will be held during the Games.

The first of the two new studies, reviewed in September by scientists at the Interscience Conference on Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy in San Diego, showed the presence



A surfer is seen at Ipanema beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 9 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

of the microbes at five of Rio’s showcase beaches, including the ocean-front Copacabana, where open-water and triathlon swimming will take place.

The other four were Ipanema, Leblon, Botafogo and Flamengo.

The super bacteria can cause hard-to-treat urinary, gastrointes-

tinal, pulmonary and bloodstream infections, along with meningitis. The CDC says studies show that these bacteria contribute to death in up to half of patients infected.

The second new study, by the Brazilian federal government’s Oswaldo Cruz Foundation lab, which will be published next

month by the American Society for Microbiology, found the genes of super bacteria in the Rodrigo de Freitas lagoon in the heart of Rio and in a river that empties into Guanabara Bay.

Waste from countless hospitals, in addition to hundreds of thousands of households, pours

into storm drains, rivers and streams crisscrossing Rio, allowing the super bacteria to spread outside the city’s hospitals in recent years.

Renata Picao, a professor at Rio’s federal university and lead researcher of the first study, said the contamination of Rio’s famous beaches was the result of a lack of basic sanitation in the metropolitan area of 12 million people.

“These bacteria should not be present in these waters. They should not be present in the sea,” said Picao from her lab in northern Rio, itself enveloped by stench from Guanabara Bay.

Cleaning the city’s waterways was meant to be one of the Games’ greatest legacies and a high-profile promise in the official 2009 bid document Rio used to win the right to host South America’s first Olympics.

That goal has instead transformed into an embarrassing failure, with athletes lamenting the stench of sewage and complaining about debris that bangs into and clings to boats in Guanabara Bay, potential hazards for a fair competition.—Reuters

**MRTV Entertainment Channel**  
(12-6-2016, Sunday)

<b>06 : 00 pm</b>	<b>07 : 00 pm</b>
• Weather Report	• Myanmar Video
• Music Programme	<b>09 : 10 pm</b>
	• MRTV Entertainment Music
<b>06 : 30 pm</b>	<b>09 : 30 pm</b>
• Waso Charity Feast	• Myanmar Movie
<b>06 : 40 pm</b>	<b>12 : 00 pm</b>
• International Movie	• Close Down.
Songs	

From 12-6-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm  
To 13-6-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm

**mitv Myanmar International**  
(12-6-2016 07:00am ~ 13-6-2016 7:00am) MST

**Today Fresh**

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Five-Star Ocean Liners in Myanmar Waters
07:41	Am	Lucrative Myanma Rattan Industry
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Elephant Catching and Scaring Trip Mile Stone 26
08:39	Am	Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
08:54	Am	Guiding Star of Song Birds
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Visit to Kyauk Kyi
09:43	Am	Mt. Naw Bu Baw
09:53	Am	The Pride of Myanmar “Traditional Handicraft”

10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Discovering Tribes “MUUN (Ep - I)”
10:48	Am	Safari World

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

**Prime Time**

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	To My Dream City (Part- 2)
07:43	Pm	Kid’s Home
07:49	Pm	Today Myanmar: Alleviation of Betel Quid
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Great Po Sein
08:51	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Cubism

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)-Today Repeat(09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

# Hosts France get Euro 2016 party started on peaceful Paris night

PARIS — Hosts France enjoyed an uplifting start to Euro 2016 as Dimitri Payet's superb last-gasp strike bailed out Les Bleus in a 2-1 victory over a stubborn Romania side at the Stade de France on a peaceful night in the capital on Friday.

Starting the month-long tournament amid strikes to protest against a labour law and terror fears seven months after Islamic attacks on Paris killed 130, the national team lightened the mood thanks to Payet's 20-metre drive into the top corner.

Didier Deschamps' team seemed to be heading for a gloomy draw but a moment of magic from talismanic West Ham United player Payet left the home fans celebrating a memorable win on a serene Paris evening to get the finals off to a fine start.

There were no incidents reported in and around the sta-

dium, where there was a heavy security presence, or at the fan zone, where some 90,000 people were expected to watch the Group A game on giant screens near the Eiffel tower.

French president Francois Hollande, who last November was rushed away from the stadium with German Chancellor Angela Merkel after suicide bombers detonated devices near the arena, was seen shaking hands with fans on his way out on Friday.

Security was tight at the Stade de France and fans had been urged to arrive early to have time to go through a double security perimeter with two successive security checks under the watchful eyes of armed police with bulletproof vests.

There were only cheers inside the stadium, however, as Payet wrapped up the three points following Olivier Gir-

oud's headed opening goal for the hosts just before the hour that was cancelled out by Bogdan Stancu's penalty eight minutes later.

A kitsch opening ceremony, featuring about 100 can-can dancers, a techno cover of Edith Piaf's 'La Vie En Rose' and aerobatics by the Patrouille de France jets, launched the event.

France had not played a competitive game in two years and Romania, who had only conceded twice in the qualifying campaign, were a stern reminder that Les Bleus need to be on their toes if they are to win a first title since their Euro 2000 triumph.

"Had we won by two or three goals that might have misled us slightly whereas the fact we won late in the day, that shows there are going to be no easy matches," man-of-the-match Payet told reporters. —Reuters



Romania's Ciprian Tatarusanu clears the ball during EURO 2016 at Stade de France, Saint-Denis near Paris, France on 10 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Roger Federer of Switzerland serves during Italy Open in Rome, Italy on 11 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# Federer beats Mayer to reach semis in Stuttgart

STUTTGART — Roger Federer turned on the style to win 10 of the last 11 points in a 7-6(2), 7-6(1) defeat of Germany's Florian Mayer and reach the semi-finals of the Mercedes Cup in Stuttgart on Friday.

World number 226 Mayer had three set points in the second set when Federer served at 5-6 but the Swiss 17-times grand slam champion found another gear to finish the job in straight sets.

"Two matches in a row, it's beautiful right now," Federer, who pulled out of the French Open with a back injury, said of his grasscourt buildup ahead of this month's Wimbledon.

The 34-year-old seven-times Wimbledon champion will now play rising Austrian

Dominic Thiem in the semi-finals. Federer looked to be moving well on the slick grass and his serve clicked throughout apart from when he was broken by Mayer early in the second set.

He battled back from 15-40 in the 12<sup>th</sup> game of the second set and then saved another set point with an unreturnable serve.

Federer was immaculate in the tiebreak, treating the crowd to some glorious winners as he strolled into a 6-0 lead.

He claimed victory with a clean winner on his second match point — moving ahead of Ivan Lendl into second place on the all-time list for ATP career match wins with 1,072. —Reuters

# Messi grabs three as Argentina ease into quarter-finals

CHICAGO — Lionel Messi came off the bench to score a hat-trick in just 18 minutes on Friday as Argentina hammered Panama 5-0 and eased into the quarter-finals of the Copa America.

Argentina were 1-0 up at half-time thanks to a Nicolas Otamendi goal after just six minutes.

Panama lost Anibal Godoy to a red card after half an hour but the Central Americans held on until Messi, who missed Argentina's opening win against Chile with a sore back, replaced Augusto Fernandez after 61 minutes. The Barcelona forward started gingerly but grabbed Argentina's second in the 68<sup>th</sup> minute by steering home a left foot shot after a rebound fell to him in the Panama box.

He scored a gorgeous second with a 25-yard free kick just nine minutes later and then with some fancy footwork in the box gave himself enough space to slot home his third and Argentina's fourth in the 86<sup>th</sup> minute.

Sergio Aguero, another substitute, made it 5-0 with a header in the final moments.

"My back was a bit painful at the start but it went away," said Messi, who was cheered every time he touched the ball by the 53,000 crowd in Chicago.

"I think we are where we want to be, which is getting better," he told TV cameras after the game.

The result came after Chile had beaten Bolivia in the other Group D game. Argentina have six points from two games, while Bolivia have none and are out.

Chile and Panama both have three and will face off on Tuesday to decide who join Argentina in the quarter-finals.

Goals in the first and last minutes of the second half from Bayern Munich midfielder Arturo Vidal were enough to help the reigning champions overcome Bolivia in Boston. —Reuters



Argentina midfielder Lionel Messi (10) scores a goal against Panama defender Roderick Miller (5) in the second half during the group play stage of the 2016 Copa America Centenario at Soldier Field. PHOTO: REUTERS