

Water supply projects completed in Kyauktaw

PAGE 3



Construction of advanced purchase apartments halts

PAGE 2



Analysis
More space for greater citizen engagement

PAGE 8

THE DAWN ON PEACE

Political Dialogue Framework Discussion Successful

AN agreement has been reached on the revision of the framework for political dialogue at the meeting of Preparatory Subcommittee-1 for the Union Peace Conference, also known as the the 21st Century Panglong Conference. The meeting was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Yangon at 10am yesterday.

The meeting included discussions on the points in chapters 7 and 8 of the political di-

alogue framework as well as miscellaneous chapters to be discussed by the ethnic armed organisations that have signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement (NCA).

After the meeting, the Preparatory Committee for the Union Peace Conference chairperson Dr Tin Myo Win said he was proud of the successful convention of the four-day meeting from 9 to 12 June. He said the success of the convention can be

attributed to the well-preparedness for the framework review and the patience of the members of Subcommittee-1, Lieutenant-General Yar Pyay and the leader of ethnic armed organisations.

He also said the non-signatories to NCA would be invited again to participate in the framework review meeting to allow them to participate in the Union Peace Conference.

“I believe that if the meet-

ing can yield a positive result, Myanmar will reach the goal of peace, which the entire world is hoping for,” he said.

Next, the vice chairperson of the Union Peace Conference Preparatory Subcommittee, Padoh Saw Kwe Htoo Win from Karen National Union (KNU), said the meeting was successful, that the framework is important to make political dialogue a success and that the framework focuses on peacebuilding,

which is a national objective. He said ceasefire is fundamental to peacebuilding.

“This sort of political issue is not just a problem taking place between the government and the ethnic minorities. It is a national concern, and it also concerns other groups,” he said.

The meeting came to an end at 1pm, and the attendees responded to the queries raised by local and foreign reporters.
—Ye Khaung Nyunt

MPF to export antivenom this year

Aye Min Soe

THE Ministry of Industry plans to export antivenom this year to countries in Asia, especially neighbouring countries that cannot produce antivenom.

“We are ready to export our products. Currently, we are contacting embassies of the countries that we will target to export antivenom, and we are waiting to be checked by the WHO,” said U Ko Ko Aung, the General Manager of the Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein), to *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

“We can supply as many of our products to the foreign market as buyers want,” he added.

Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho visited the Antivenom Factory in Hmawbi on Saturday, calling on officials to produce the product under a GMP system.

During his visit, the factory manager clarified plans to export the product.

About 10,000 snakebite incidences occur every year across the country, especially in rural areas, with a mortality rate of 10 per cent, doctors say.

With the aim of bringing down the country’s high rate of snakebite fatalities, the government-owned Myanmar Pharmaceutical Factory (Insein) has increased its anti-venom production.



Union Minister U Khin Maung Cho visits Antivenom Factory in Hmawbi on 11 June, 2016. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY

According to the factory’s deputy manager Dr Moe Moe Hlaing, the factory manufactured approximately 80,000 doses of both liquid and freeze-dried venom for cobras and vipers last fiscal

year. It produced 70,000 doses of anti-venom in the 2014-2015 fiscal year and more than 30,000 in 2012-2013.

Although varieties of meas-

ures against snakebites have been carried out, annual snakebite morbidity and mortality show no apparent decrease during last decade, according to former deputy health minister Dr Win Myint.

“The cause may be multi-factorial. One of the reasons is victims’ delaying in receiving anti-venom by, as well as the limited availability of safe and potent anti-venom in our country.”

Pyay farmers disconcerted over crop compensation deal

AN agreement has reportedly been struck between farmers and those responsible for the implementation of a 230KV two tier electric power line between Taungdingyi – Shwetaung for remuneration to be paid to farmers for the loss of their crops that will occur from erection of the power line.

Farmers from Thuhtay, Paungtamaw, Ashayetkoutepin and Maungson village tracts - all located in Pyay Township - originally objected to the project from commencing as it would involve the digging of foundations for, and erecting of, power line towers which would destroy their crops.

Farmers opened a case of litigation at the Paungde police station on 4 June in relation to the matter, sparking an immediate reaction from those with

responsibility over the project, who came to negotiate with the farmers last Monday, offering crop compensation.

“An agreement was made at the Paungde police station that crop compensation would be issued in relation to the halted power line issue. As the halting of this project would benefit nobody, negotiation has had to be made with some self-restraint,” said U Myo Nyunt Shwe, assistant director of the Ministry of Electric Power.

Negotiations from both sides ended with an agreement on crop compensations to be paid in full at the end of this August, although there was nothing mentioned about remuneration for farmland losses, according to resident farmers.

“They will use this land indefinitely, securing about

K200,000 a month from renting out these phone towers. They say this project is in the name of a national project, but, once complete, we won't be able to plant anything under the big towers anymore; it'll be theirs forever. This land will prove losses for generations of our sons to come. Working underneath the huge cables also pose life threatening dangers. How could we be satisfied with just crop compensation?” said U Than Nyunt, a local from Minkone village in Pyay Township.

Activities to erect the Taungdingyi – Shwetaung 240KV two tier power line, which will stretch a total of 104.5 miles, began back in 2015, while it is reported teams are currently in the process of attaching cables at 11 sections of the line. —*Myit-makha News Agency*

Construction of advanced purchase apartments halts



PHOTO: MYAT THANDAR MAUNG

THE construction of some apartments has come to a halt for various reasons following the cooling of the advanced purchase market.

Some contractors had to stop the construction of buildings as advanced purchasers cannot afford to continue the payments. The purchasers will lose their deposits.

“There are cases of contractors being sued for breach of contract,” said a contractor.

“Between 20 and 30 per cent

of construction works were forced to halt as the construction of the advanced purchase apartments has been suspended. The apartments are demanded only for rent,” said a representative of the Shwe Myay real estate company.

The cool real estate market can be attributed to rising real prices in Myanmar. Even middle-income people have reported not being able to afford the apartments.—200

Crime NEWS



Ya Zat poses with the drugs found in his possession.

Myeik man charged for drug dealing

A 29-YEAR-OLD man was arrested by local police on Friday after they found him in possession of a cache of yaba tablets and heroin in Myeik.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched a cargo boat owned by U Myint Soe heading from Myeik to Laae Village in Kyunsu Township. They inspected Ya Zat (aka Tay Zar Myint), a passenger on the ship, and found 17 yaba pills and K1.2 million in his possession.

Police later discovered over 2,000 yaba pills and nearly 300 packages of heroin behind the man's home. The suspect was placed under arrest by local police.—*Yan Naing*

Fire destroys general store, motorbikes in Pyin Oo Lwin



The aftermath of the general store fire.

A FIRE broke out in Pyin Oo Lwin on Sunday morning, destroying a general store and two motorbikes, according to a police report.

Police say no one was injured in the fire.

According to the investigation, the blaze was caused by a lit candle in the general store, which is located near a Buddhist monastery in Ward-12. The can-

dle reportedly fell over and ignited the table beneath it.

The flame was put under control within 30 minutes by a 20 firefighters led by U Hla Min from the township fire services department.

Action is being taken against the store owner Daw Sabithara, who will be charged under the Criminal Law.—*Zaw Min Htwe*

Fire breaks out in Taunggyi

AN electric fire broke out at a restaurant in Taunggyi Township, Shan State, on Friday, leaving no people injured, police reported yesterday.

According to investigators, the blaze was caused by overheated electrical wall switches

installed in Wityee Restaurant, located on Ayethawa Street in Ward-3. The fire spread quickly to nearby objects.

With the assistance of locals, around 50 firefighters put out the flame with the use of 12 fire engines from fire services

stations in Ayethaya, Taunggyi and Shwenyaung townships. They successfully put the blaze under control at around 2:30pm.

Ma Thae Wit Ye, the owner of the restaurant, has been charged by the police.—*Sai Than Kyaw*



Wityee Restaurant being burnt in Taunggyi.

Child electrocuted

A SEVEN-YEAR-OLD girl died on Friday when she was electrocuted in Magwe, the capital city of Magwe Region.

The girl's mother Daw Thet Maw Oo said Ma Nan Htet was electrocuted after she trod on a damaged electrical wire in a puddle near the junction between Natmauk Street and 19th Street.

The victim's mother said: “We live in Chanmyaethaya Village. On Friday morning, we walked through Ywathitpwekyo Ward to collect used plastic water bottles on the street. My daughter went to a small puddle to wash her legs, and then she died.”

Police are still investigating the case.—*Kyaw Zeya*

Water supply projects complete in Kyauktaw

WATER supply projects undertaken in Kyauktaw Township, Rakhine State, as part of the government's 100-day development plan have been brought to completion, according to the township's Rural Development Department.

The tasks for the reclamation of the lakes in four villages in the township to provide drinking water were completed in the first week of June.

A defunct lake in Mahamuni Village has been successfully dredged at a cost of K2 million by the Rural Development Department.

The lake has been filled with rain water and is ready to be put



Workers prepare for dredging a lake in Kyauktaw. PHOTO: MAUNG MAUNG MYINT SWE

to use by locals.

The recovery of the lakes in Mahamuni, Taungpauk, Ponna and Thebon villages was carried out at a total cost of K9 million (US\$7,500).

The lakes, each measuring 100 square feet, can now collect rain water and provide water to local residents.

The restoration of the water storage facilities will assist

local people in 284 villages and in five wards in the township in storing fresh water in order to enable villagers to get access to drinking water in the summer. —Maung Maung Myint Swe

K270 million credit scheme to support villages in Pyawbwe Township

IT has been reported that a total of K270 million will be allocated in the form of credit loans to nine villages from Mandalay Region's Pyawbwe Township, according to the 2016-17 Mya Sein Yaung project of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The project will be implemented as part of a the new government's hundred day project initiatives, with K30 million earmarked for each of the nine villages, to be issued during the beginning of July.

"Each village will equally receive K30 million each. It's a

kind of grant being supported in a bid to reduce poverty.

The funds will fall under three project titles: agriculture, livestock and small-scale industrial enterprise," said U Win Oo, deputy head of the Pyawbwe Township Department of Rural Development.

The villages to be allocated the credit loans are reported as being Kyaung Ywar, Pay Gone, Aye Than Gone, Kyauk Phyar, Thabyay Yoe, Kyi ywar, Ywar thit, Weh Laung and Kone Thar.

"The loans are not for misuse of other purpose. They're

being given specifically for the breeding of chickens, swine, cattle and goats, not for electricity and bridge construction. The department said they'll come and monitor our villages once a month," said U Aung Zaw, a representative of one hundred households.

It is known village committees are currently being formed across the nine villages, with committee members to be trained in accounting and management at the end of June.

The loans must be repaid after one year and will incur a

monthly interest rate of one percent. A contract will be signed by three borrowers when credit loans are issued.

If one of the borrowers cannot complete a repayment, the remaining two will be responsible for making a repayment on the others behalf. If nobody is in a position to take such responsibility then the village committee will be accountable.

It is reported ten villages were allocated credit loans by the same department as part of the previous year's project. —Myitmakha News Agency

Govt to tackle dengue in Mon State

SEVEN townships in Mon State that have seen the highest numbers of dengue haemorrhagic fever (DHF) cases are to be prioritised in a dengue fever prevention initiative as part of the new government's 100-day project, according to the Public Health Department of Mon State.

Despite plans for the initiative to be carried out in all 10 of the state's townships, Mawlamyine, Mudon, Chaungzon, Thanbyuzayat, Kyaikmaraw, Ye and Paung townships are to be prioritised.

"Mon State is among those parts of the country, like Yangon, Ayeyawady and Bago regions, that experienced the highest numbers of dengue haemorrhagic fever cases last year. As such, we'll carry out a dengue fever prevention initiative as part of the 100-day project," said Dr Zaw Min Tun, head of the aforementioned department.

Last year, a total of 5,293 DHF patients were admitted to hospitals in Mon State, of whom four people died. The highest ratio of patients was in Mawlamyine Township with 1,267 cases and two fatalities, while Thabyazayat Township had the fewest cases with 542 patients.

By 18 January this year, dengue fever had started recurring in Kyaikmaraw Township, and 37 patients were hospitalised across the seven townships by May 21.

The health department is reportedly conducting educational awareness activities and campaigns as well as investing in insect repellent and related equipment across the state in a bid to mitigate the prevalence of dengue fever.

Dr Zaw Min Tun added that responsibility also lies with civil society organisations, the public and relevant authorities to cooperate in campaigning, supervising and inspecting measures to prevent outbreaks of dengue fever in the region.



A health staffer fumigates a classroom. PHOTO: MIN AUNG

ing and inspecting measures to prevent outbreaks of dengue fever in the region.

It is reported that medical supplies to treat dengue fever pa-

tients are currently of a sufficient quantity, but they would need to be replenished should outbreaks increase in the next few months. —Myitmakha News Agency

Sitagu Sayadaw gives dhamma talks in Moscow

AT the invitation of Khamba Lama Damba Ayushev, the Supreme Head of Russian Buddhists, Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara left for Russia on 9 June. At the Embassy of Myanmar in Moscow on 10 June, the Sayadaw gave talks to the Russian congregation on the significances of the four world religions, the essence of Buddhism and basic methods of mindfulness meditation known as Vipassana. The Sayadaw also responded to queries raised by Russian guests.

On 11 June, the Sitagu Sayadaw delivered a sermon on the fivefold virtues to Myanmar scholars in Moscow, followed by the sharing of merits gained from contributions made by the Myanmar ambassador to Russia and diplomats.

The Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara will be in Russia till 23 June.—Myanmar News Agency

Three Zabuthiri Tsp high schools to receive free transport

STUDENTS from three high schools in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw will receive free transport following the donation of 10 school buses by Hyundai, a South Korean auto manufacturer.

The pilot services are reported to start on 23 June at No 5, No 6 and No 7 basic education high schools in the township, according to U Soe Win, the regional education officer of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

"The school buses will each have a teacher on board, and they will transport students from five villages," he said.

The Hyundai Motor Company has donated 40 28-seater buses to the Ministry of Education, with U Soe Win saying all the vehicles will be used for high schools in the Zabuthiri Township.—Thein Ko Lwin

LOCAL Business

Jovago, SiteMinder partner to introduce fixed hotel room prices

JOVAGO Myanmar has announced that it has partnered with SiteMinder as of the first week of June to introduce a guaranteed fixed pricing system for hotel rooms across the country.

"Jovago's aim is to change the style of travel in Myanmar. Our cooperation with SiteMinder will be useful for travellers. Our customers will know in real-time, updated news of hotel room availability and changes in room prices," said Hugo Schleicher, the managing director of Jovago Myanmar.

The partnering of Jovago and SiteMinder will allow for hotel room prices and bookings services to be done in one place.

"It's convenient for me

as I can search through hotel rooms and find out prices in one place. Before, I had to scroll through many different prices while searching through Google. I think the Jovago website provides more details, while potential customers can know very quickly whether a room is available to book or not," said U Zaw Wai, a Jovago Myanmar customer.

SiteMinder is a data storage website used by hotels, tourism and online hotel booking services around the world.

Jovago.com is an online hotel booking service with 15 offices around the world, including in Yangon, which has connections with over 200,000 hotels worldwide.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Centralised gold market initiative lacks participation of gold entrepreneurs: MGEA

THE implementation of a centralised gold market cannot be accomplished because of lack of participation from gold traders, it is reported. "It's not the right time to implement a centralised gold market. The market needs a lot of room to develop and allow for a higher participation of entrepreneurs. The main barrier to established such a market is current tax levies. As such, the whole country must rely solely on the Yangon gold market," said a gold entrepreneur.

According to the Myanmar Gold Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA), the aim of implementing a centralised gold market is to develop the market, not only locally, but internationally as well.

U Kyaw Win, secretary of the MGEA, has stated plans are in place to hold talks on international procedures, together with the weaknesses and strengths of a centralised gold market in order to allow for its implementation.

"Some entrepreneurs are concerned that establishment of a



centralised gold market would be the demise of their current market. We're making effort for the existence of an official gold market and will hold talks with the new government in a bid to implement our plan," said U Kyaw Win.

The emergence of a centralised gold market would see international investment in the market, putting it on a platform which could compete with international markets, say the MGEA.

The MGEA has called upon

the government to lift restrictions imposed upon gold products during the tenure of the erstwhile government, but it is reported talks will be held with the Yangon Region Ministry of Commerce as these restrictions have yet to be lifted. The MGEA actually initiated the implementation of a centralised gold market since 2013 but plans have yet to leave the drawing board for lack of State support, it is known.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

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India's Modi notches upper-house gains, eyes Uttar Pradesh battle

ALLAHABAD — Prime Minister Narendra Modi has notched up gains in elections to India's upper house of parliament, and is seeking to drive home the advantage when his nationalist ruling party meets to devise a strategy to win India's biggest state.

Modi drew standing ovations from US lawmakers this week on a visit to Washington DC but, like President Barack Obama, has faced a struggle in his two years in power to get legislation through a hostile second chamber.

That job may have become slightly less difficult after his nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and its allies added five seats in Saturday's upper house polls, but with 74 seats in the 245-chamber they remain in a minority.

BJP leaders were due to meet later on Sunday to



Prime Minister Narendra Modi. PHOTO: REUTERS

finalise their strategy to win the 2017 election in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, knowing that defeat would handicap Modi and sap his chances of winning a second term.

"We have to win Uttar Pradesh to change the destiny of India," BJP national secretary Sidharth Nath Singh said to Reuters ahead of the two-day meeting in Allahabad, eastern Uttar Pradesh.

The opposition Congress alliance lost three seats to 71, with regional parties holding the balance of power, according to media tallies. With Congress down but not yet out, Modi will still have to cut deals to pass tax, labour and land reforms.

Modi swept Uttar Pradesh in the 2014 general election, helping him to claim the biggest lower-house majority in three decades.

But he is unlikely to repeat that result against tough opposition from regional parties.

A senior BJP official said Modi's closed-door brainstorming session would mobilise grassroots activists to consolidate the majority Hindu vote base and devise a formula to play up Hindu-Muslim polarisation and caste politics.—Reuters

Chinese, ASEAN foreign ministers to hold special meeting

BEIJING — Invited by Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, foreign ministers or representatives from ten nations of the ASEAN will attend a special meeting on Tuesday in southwest China's Yunnan Province. Foreign Ministry

spokesman Hong Lei made the announcement on Sunday.

ASEAN members include Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam.—Xinhua

Mahathir hounds scandal-ridden Malaysian PM in by-election campaign



Malaysia's former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad. PHOTO: REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's veteran former leader Mahathir Mohamad campaigned against his old party over the weekend, seeking to turn voters against scandal-tainted Prime Minister Najib Razak in two by-elections being fought next week.

Mahathir, who led the country for 22 years until his retirement in 2003, quit the United Malays National Organisation (UMNO) earlier this year in disgust over Najib's grip on the party despite allegations of massive corruption.

The feisty 90-year-old has teamed up with old foes in the Pakatan Harapan opposition alliance to remove Najib, his one-time protege.

"If the people want to see this country being robbed by the PM, who has now passed a law that makes him stronger than even the Agong (King)... If that's what the people want, they'll get what they deserve," Mahathir told a newsconference while campaigning on Saturday.

Najib, who denies any wrongdoing, has seen his popularity sink to all time lows because of a multi-billion dollar graft scandal at the 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) state fund and reports that around \$1 billion were deposited in his personal bank account.

The multi-ethnic Barisan Nasional coalition led by UMNO has lost support

among the Southeast Asian nation's ethnic Chinese and Indian minorities because the controversy, leaving the embattled premier desperately trying to shore up his Muslim Malay votebank.

Last month, UMNO convinced parliament to allow members to debate a bill submitted by the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS) — which has stayed outside the anti-Najib alliance — for the introduction of hudud, the Islamic penal code that sets punishments like amputation and stoning.

The constituencies being contested on 18 June, midway through the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, are largely Malay, and the only runner that the anti-Najib alliance has in the race is a new moderate Islamist party that splintered from PAS.

The by-elections at Sungai Besar and Kuala Kangsar will show how well support for Najib is holding up, with an eye to a national election due in 2018.

Mahathir on Saturday carried his anti-Najib message to Sungai Besar, a coastal town amid the paddy fields, coconut groves and palm oil plantations on the western side of the Malaysian Peninsula.

He called on voters to rally behind the candidate from the newly-formed National Trust Party, known as Amanah.

"It doesn't matter what party, these are parties for the people against Najib because he has committed a lot of corruption, including misappropriating up to 50 billion ringgit (\$12 billion) that cannot be explained," Mahathir said, referring to the troubles at 1MDB, whose advisory board had been chaired by Najib until recently.—Reuters

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Outgoing president warns Philippines about spectre of martial law

MANILA — Philippines President Benigno Aquino on Sunday appealed to Filipinos to defend their freedom and democracy and remain vigilant as he warned the horrors of martial law under the late Ferdinand Marcos could happen again.

In his last Independence Day speech before stepping down on 30 June, Aquino hailed the transformation of the Philippines during his term from being the "Sick Man of Asia" to one of the fastest growing economies. He said such progress came without disregard for the rule of law, due process and human rights.

As the Southeast Asian nation prepares for a change in leadership, some people fear Aquino's successor, Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte, could take a more authoritarian path.

Part of Aquino's speech was a video presentation about how his father and namesake and the entire family suffered during the martial law years. His father was assassinated in 1983 at Manila's international airport, three years before a mass uprising that toppled Marcos.

"If we are not going to be vigilant, it could happen again," Aquino said after the video presentation at the palace event attended by diplomats, top government officials and business executives.

Duterte remains hugely popular despite his comments about extrajudicial killings, calling bishops "sons of whores" and a joke about a murdered rape victim.

His latest controversial comment saying journalists were "not exempted from assassination" raised concerns, though he later clarified that he does "not condone nor tolerate killing of journalists, regardless of the motive of the killers, or the reason for their killing."

Duterte has also said he would allow the burial of Marcos at the Philippines' heroes' cemetery, despite strong opposition led by the Aquino family.

Marcos' son and namesake said on Saturday his father's body, which remains in a glass coffin in a mausoleum in his hometown Ilocos Norte, would be transferred to the heroes' cemetery possibly in September.—Reuters

China says more talks needed to build consensus on nuclear export club



China's President Xi Jinping (R) walks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi (2nd L) during his visit to the Sabarmati river front in Ahmedabad, on 17 September, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China said on Sunday that more talks were needed to build a consensus on which countries can join the main group controlling access to sensitive nuclear technology, after a push by the United States to include India.

China is seen as leading opposition to the US move to include India in the 48-nation Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), but other countries, including New Zealand, Turkey, South Africa and Austria also oppose Indian membership, according to diplomats.

The NSG aims to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons by restricting the sale of items that can be used to make those arms.

India already enjoys most of the benefits of membership under a 2008 exemption to NSG rules granted to support its nuclear co-operation deal with Washington, even though India has developed atomic weapons and never signed

the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the main global arms control pact.

“Large differences” remain over the issue of non-NPT countries joining the NSG, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in an online statement.

“With regard to what to do on the issue of non-NPT signatories joining (the NSG), China consistently supports having ample discussion on this to seek consensus and agreement and come to a unanimous decision,” Hong said.

“The NPT is the political and legal basis for the entire international non-proliferation system,” Hong said, adding that China would support the group in further talks to come to a consensus at an early date.

Opponents argue that granting India membership would further undermine efforts to prevent

proliferation. It would also infuriate India's rival Pakistan, which responded to India's membership bid with one of its own and has the backing of its close ally China.

Pakistan joining would be unacceptable to many, given its track record. The scientist that headed its nuclear weapons programme ran an illicit network for years that sold nuclear secrets to countries including North Korea and Iran.

A decision on Indian membership is not expected before an NSG plenary meeting in Seoul on 20 June, but diplomats have said Washington has been pressuring hold-outs.

Most of the hold-outs oppose the idea of admitting a non-NPT state such as India and argue that if it is to be admitted, it should be under criteria that apply equally to all states rather than under a “tailor-made” solution for a US ally.—Reuters

Tokyo talent agency chief arrested over model forced to act in porn

TOKYO — Police have arrested a former talent agency president on suspicion of forcing a woman to act in pornographic videos, investigative sources said Sunday.

Three people including the president were arrested Saturday on suspicion of dispatching a model contracted with the agency in her 20s to a video producer in September 2013 and coercing her to

have sex on camera, they said.

The three suspects allegedly violated the law regulating temp worker agency businesses, which bans temp agencies from dispatching workers for harmful work against public morals.

The Tokyo talent agency, Marks Japan, demanded the victim perform in adult videos after she signed a contract as a model in

2009, the sources said. She tried to reject the demand, but the agency said she must pay penalties for the breach of the contract if she refused, they said.

The woman was forced to perform in porn videos until she was able to cancel the contract in 2014, according to the sources.

The woman told the Metropolitan Police Department in the

fall of last year that she was forced to appear in the videos. The Tokyo police raided Marks Japan and the video producer in late May, they said. Human Rights Now, a Tokyo-based advocacy group, in March revealed an increase in the number of cases in which women have been forced to appear in pornographic videos after being solicited to become fashion models or

TV personalities.

The number of cases of counseling with support groups for victims rose to 81 in 2015 from 32 in 2014 — after only one case each in 2012 and 2013, according to the group. In many cases, young women signed contracts with companies without knowing they would be pressured to have sex on camera, the group said.—Kyodo News

LDP could support no-confidence motion against Tokyo governor

TOKYO — The ruling Liberal Democratic Party could support a no-confidence motion mooted by some assembly members against Tokyo Gov. Yoichi Masuzoe over his alleged misuse of political funds, a key LDP member said Sunday.

“It depends on what Mr. Masuzoe says. If he continues making explanations similar to the previous ones (at the metropolitan assembly), we would not be satisfied,” Hakubun Shimomura, a special advisor to LDP President and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said during a TV appearance. The Tokyo assembly's General Affairs Committee plans to hold intensive deliberations on the fund scandal Monday with the governor attending.

Shimomura, a veteran House of Representatives member and former education minister, said the no-confidence motion may be submitted to the assembly Wednesday.

“What is important is whether Mr. Masuzoe would take the opportunity (of the intensive deliberations) as the last chance for him and answer sincerely,” Shimomura said on the Fuji Television programme.

Despite growing public criticism, Masuzoe, a former health minister, expressed his intention to remain in his post.

Representatives of each faction in the assembly grilled Masuzoe on Tuesday and Wednesday, only to draw similar explanations from the governor about why the expenses were necessary and his plan to stay in office.

Last Monday, a report on the use of political funds mainly between 2009 and 2014 compiled by two lawyers picked by Masuzoe said the governor's use of some 4.4 million yen (\$41,000) in political funds was “improper” but not illegal.

For example, the report concluded that six hotel stays worth 802,000 yen and 14 instances of dining totaling 336,000 yen were “inappropriately” booked as political expenditures as they likely included his family.

The former welfare minister was also under fire for frequently using official cars to visit his vacation home in a hot spring resort area in Kanagawa Prefecture, southwest of Tokyo, and costly overseas business trips.—Kyodo News

Blast from ‘self-made’ explosive injures three in Shanghai airport

SHANGHAI — A blast caused by “self-made explosive materials” injured three people at a terminal in Shanghai's Pudong International Airport on Sunday, the Shanghai Airport Authority said.

The explosion occurred near the airport's Terminal Two tick-

eting area shortly after 2pm and the people who were injured were transported for medical treatment, the authority said in a short statement on its official microblog.

Police had already taken control of the incident area and flight schedules were not disrupt-

ed, it said. China's official Xinhua news agency said the injuries were light and that the incident is under investigation.

Unverified pictures on China's Weibo microblog showed a person on a gurney being wheeled away by medical attendants.—Reuters



Paramilitary policemen guard near the site of a blast at a terminal in Shanghai's Pudong International Airport, China, on 12 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Meg Whitman, Chief Executive Officer of Hewlett-Packard Enterprise Co. PHOTO: REUTERS

HP CEO Whitman compares Trump to Hitler, Mussolini

WASHINGTON—Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co chief executive and Republican donor Meg Whitman reiterated her opposition to Donald Trump as the party's presidential nominee and compared him to fascist leaders Adolf Hitler and Benito Mussolini, according to media and two sources.

Whitman made the comment Friday at a conference hosted by previous Republican nominee Mitt Romney, while she challenged US Speaker of the House of Representatives Paul Ryan on his endorsement of Trump, the *Washington Post* reported on Saturday.

Two participants at the off-the-record session in Park City, Utah confirmed Whitman's language to Reuters. Whitman could not immediately be reached for comment.

A billionaire and former supporter of failed candidate New Jersey Governor Chris

Christie, Whitman has been actively working to stop Trump's nomination, including fundraising for an anti-Trump Super PAC.

In February, the technology CEO called Trump "unfit" to be president. Since then, Trump has become the presumptive Republican nominee and is likely to run against Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton in the 8 November election.

Ryan, addressing the 300 attendees of the session, explained the difficulty he had with the decision to endorse, the *Post* said, including weathering pressure from House Republicans to lend his backing to Trump.

After weeks of holding out, Ryan endorsed the New York businessman in early June, breaking with a number of establishment Republicans who see Trump's rhetoric as damaging to the party. The opponents include Romney, Republicans' 2012

presidential nominee, who chose Ryan as his running mate.

Romney has blasted Trump in recent weeks for attacks he has made on the Mexican-American judge presiding over a case against him, with Romney warning on Friday about the effect that "trickle-down racism" could have on the country.

As the presumptive nominee, Trump now has to balance maintaining the outsider style that helped propel him to the nomination, while courting Republican insiders, who could be critical to financing a general election campaign against a well-funded Clinton.

Trump on Saturday showed no inclination to make peace with his critics. He went on Twitter to note how Romney "choked like a dog" when he lost to then-incumbent President Barack Obama in 2012 and reiterated it at his campaign stops. —Reuters

CIA chief expects release of 9/11 documents to clear Saudi Arabia

WASHINGTON — CIA chief John Brennan said on Sunday he expects 28 classified pages of a US congressional report into the 11 September, 2001 attacks on the United States to be published, absolving Saudi Arabia of any responsibility.

"So these 28 pages I believe are going to come out and I think it's good that they come out. People shouldn't take them as evidence of Saudi complicity in the attacks," Brennan said in an interview with Saudi-owned Arabiya TV, according to a transcript provided by the network.

The withheld section of the 2002 report is central to a dispute over whether Americans should be able to sue the Saudi govern-

ment, a key US ally, for damages.

The US Senate passed a bill on 17 May allowing the families of 11 September victims to do so, setting up a potential showdown with the White House, which has threatened a veto.

Saudi Arabia denies providing any support for the 19 hijackers — most of whom were Saudi citizens — who killed nearly 3,000 people in the 11 September attacks. Riyadh strongly objects to the bill.

It has said it might sell up to \$750 billion in US securities and other American assets if it became law.

Brennan called the 28-page section merely a "preliminary review."

"The 9/11 commission looked very thoroughly at these allegations of Saudi involvement ... their conclusion was that there was no evidence to indicate that the Saudi government as an institution or senior Saudi officials individually had supported the 9/11 attacks," he added.

The Office of the US Director of National Intelligence is reviewing the material to see whether it can be declassified.

Former US Senator Bob Graham, who co-chaired the congressional inquiry into the attacks, said in April that the White House will likely make a decision by June on whether it would release the classified pages. —Reuters

UN Secretary-General's message on International Albinism Awareness Day

13 June 2016

Albinism is found in every country and society in the world, regardless of people's ethnicity or gender. Sadly, discrimination and stigmatization of people with albinism also exists to varying degrees all over the world.

Albinism has often been subjected to mystification, triggering erroneous beliefs and myths.

The completely mistaken belief that potions or amulets made from the body parts of people with albinism have magical powers has given rise in some countries to a demand for such human remains. This has led to attacks, abductions and killings of people with albinism, and even to the theft of their bodies from graveyards.

Thanks to the long history of discrimination and stigmatization of albinism, in some places, people with this condition may live in abject poverty, without access to basic services like accommodation, healthcare and education.

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda pledges to leave no one behind. That includes people with albinism. The cycle of attacks, discrimination and poverty must be broken.

On this second International Albinism Awareness Day, I welcome the appointment of the first Independent Expert on the human rights of people with albinism.

I call on all countries and stakeholders to recognize that human rights apply to all people everywhere, including people with albinism. I urge them to make special efforts to end the discrimination that threatens the wellbeing, health and even the lives of people with albinism, and to target them with programmes that will enable them to play a full part in society.—UNIC/Yangon

NEWS IN BRIEF

One killed in Istanbul explosion, gas leak suspected — CNN Turk

ISTANBUL — An explosion in central Istanbul killed one person and injured another on Sunday after what could have been a gas leak, CNN Turk reported.

Emergency crews found the body of a street vendor at the scene in an apartment block in the upscale Cihangir neighbourhood, the channel said. A taxi driver was badly hurt when falling cement hit his car, it added. It was too early to say what caused the explosion which also sparked a fire in the unoccupied flat, the TV station said.—Reuters

Iraq army says secures first safe exit route for civilians in Falluja

BAGHDAD — The Iraqi army said on Sunday it had secured the first "relatively safe" exit route for civilians trying to leave Falluja, Islamic State's besieged stronghold near Baghdad.

An exit route was secured on Saturday southwest of Falluja, known as al-Salam (Peace) Junction, Joint Operation Command spokesman Brigadier Gen. Yahya Rasool told Reuters.

"There were exit routes previously, but this is the first to be completely secure and it's relatively safe," he said.—Reuters

Kazakhstan says all Islamist attack suspects detained

ALMATY — Kazakh security forces detained three men on Sunday suspected of being Islamist militants linked to deadly attacks a week earlier in the city of Akrobo, the National Security Committee said.

Everyone linked to the 5 June attacks had now been detained or neutralised, it added, without going into further detail. At least 25 people including 18 attackers died during the assaults on a national guard base and firearms shops, and in the subsequent manhunt. Authorities have not identified the attackers, but President Nursultan Nazarbayev said they were Salafists, the followers of an ultra-conservative school of Islam, who had received instructions from abroad.—Reuters

Shooting breaks out at Florida gay nightclub — media

ORLANDO — A number of people were reported to have shot early on Sunday at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, local media said.

The violence erupted at the Pulse nightclub, which urged patrons in a post on its Facebook page to "get out" and "keep running."

Local media reported that a number of people, ranging from seven to as many as 20, had been shot but there were no confirmed fatalities. Several patrons posted on social media that a gunman was holed up inside and was holding hostages.—Reuters

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 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.

More space for greater citizen engagement

Kyaw Thura

IT is hard to believe that a country rich in natural resources like Myanmar lags so far behind others in terms of economic development. What lies at the bottom of this predicament is political instability, which has encumbered successive governments with the adoption and execution of policies crucial for economic development.

Now that the second democratically elected civilian government has been in office for

more than two months, it is time for the incumbent to develop technically sound policies for development, in addition to its 100-day plan. It is understandable that the country has many sensitive issues to grapple with, in addition to the perverse behavioral norms among public officials who seek to extract personal benefits from the public sector—a legacy left by successive governments in Myanmar—but work ought to be done to improve

where possible.

The time is ripe for the incumbent to make a difference in Myanmar politics by providing more space for greater citizen engagement with the intention of making politics work for development rather than against it. The participation of citizens in the political process with the help of the media will ensure greater transparency about the actions of the government and the consequences of its actions.

This will enable ordinary

people to work with the government at all levels and build effective public sector institutions to cope with community issues, thereby helping stabilise the whole political situation.

Therefore, all stakeholders across the political spectrum should encourage citizen engagement and transparency by improving the political behaviour of citizens and public officials. In this way, public participation can be promoted to ensure good governance.

Who love their children most?

Tin Maung Than

SOME parents love to tell bad things about their children, while others wish to reveal only the good parts.

The first kind of mamas and papas will tell you how difficult for them to raise their children who are fond of rejecting their ideas and guidelines; who want to go their own way while ignoring all their advices ever, and never acknowledging the value of parental love but always believing that parents must look after them because it's just their responsibility. And then they will tell you the sacrifices they are making on their part, and the ungratefulness of their children in responding to their deeds.

Pessimistic parents

Truly, many children will be unsatisfied with the care and support provided by their parents, especially during their early

teens, as their society and their experience are not matured enough to let them understand the parental love and care. Even in their early 20s it may still be difficult for some of them to appreciate this because it is very hard for them to imagine themselves in the place of their parents.

Only when they get married or have children of their own or are matured enough they will start understanding the parental love and the gratitude they own to their mom and dad.

And if you have no children parents in this category will say, "You are very lucky. There is no one to give you trouble. Your life is totally peaceful.", which in reality can be the words of sympathy for you to be a barren.

As they always see their kids from the negative point of view, let me name them "pessimistic parents" but they in reality are not.

Optimistic parents

Now we go to another kind of parents who are always optimistic about their children. These parents will tell you how smart and clever their children are and the superiority of their kids over their peers in classroom, at play, in sports or in social dealings. They are always happy to see their children gaining the upper-hand. They indulge their kids to the utmost degree and are always ready to make concessions to their demands. They are afraid that punishments or strict rules may have adverse effects making their kids timid, indecisive and shy. As for their boys and girls, these parents have a heart of gold so tender that it's enough to forgive them forever in any circumstances. So they would be included in the category of "optimistic moms and dads".

But here too, children are sometimes not satisfied with their parents. The kids on their part

may have many many more wants than the parents can fulfill.

Silent parents

Apart from these two categories there is another type of parents. They are the parents who rarely or never tell others whether their children are good or bad. This kind of parents can be found most in modest and conservative families. They, as a rule, control, teach and guide their children in an unassuming manner. We have neighbors whose eldest daughter is a house surgeon and the other two younger daughters are studying at the medical university. They all passed their matriculation examinations with six distinctions. But the parents have never grumbled about the hardships they had to overcome in raising their kid to reach that level or said anything good about their kids. So, I would like to name them "silent parents".

As the family is so compact, we have no idea whether the kids

may have any complaints about their parents.

But we all know that no one is perfect. The imperfectness could be on the part of both the parents and their children. So it is normal that parent-children relations in every family will have some obstacles or problems.

But what the children should understand is that whether their parents are optimistic parents, pessimistic parents or silent parents their parents love them as other parents do. Whichever category they are in parents' love for their children is ever immeasurable and unrivaled.

Oscar Wilde once said, "Children begin by loving their parents; as they grow older they judge them; sometimes they forgive them." Yes children have the right to judge their parents, but they should never forget the value of parental love their moms and dads have for them throughout their whole life!

Myanmar nationals offered apartments in Malaysia condominium project Grand Medini Condominium

THE Kae Alliance company has announced three apartments, from over 60 apartments for sale in a condominium complex to be constructed in the Malaysian town of Iskandar, will be sold to Myanmar nationals.

It is reported the construction company will take responsibility for the paying of a two-per cent tax over the three apartments which will be sold under special terms, while a two-per cent tax

must be levied to regional government during the time of application of a land grant, with one-per cent to be paid to cover legal expenses.

"The Myanmar nationals are being sold these apartments as part of a special opportunity. The apartments will be located in Tower C of the Grand Medini Condominium. The apartments in Tower C come fully furnished, while apartments in Towers A and B are

unfurnished," says U Kyaw Min Zin, executive official of the Kae Alliance company.

It is reported a buyers event will be held at Yangon's Park Royal hotel this 19 June by the Malaysian Grand Global construction company, the party responsible for the building of the Grand Medini Condominium.

"If the apartments cannot be lived in by the buyer after the time of purchase, the construction com-

pany will reimburse the buyer with five per cent of the apartment's rental value once every three-months over the course of a year. If a decision is made to purchase one of the apartments, it will be paid for via instalments as each stage of the project is completed," added U Kyaw Min Zin.

Upon completion of construction, the buyer is obligated to settle up to 95 per cent of the apartment price until it is ready to be lived in.

The remaining amount can be paid over a two-year period, while it is reported the market price of the condominium apartments range between K140-300 million.

Construction on the Grand Medini Condominium began in 2015, with a completion date scheduled for October 2018. The condominium will comprise a total of 672 apartments spread across three tower blocks.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

UCSB chairman arrives back after attending ICT Human Capacity Development, WIFI in RoK

DR. WIN THEIN, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, arrived back from Republic of Korea after attending the Regional Forum on “ICT Human Capacity Development and Launch of the Women and ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI)” organized by the United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (UN-APCICT) of Korea.

After attending the Regional Forum on ICT Human Capacity Development and Launch of the Women and ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI) which was held on 9-10 June 2016, in Incheon, RoK at the invitation of United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (UN-APCICT) of Korea, Dr. Win Thein, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board (UCSB), arrived back here by Korean Air this evening.

The purpose of the Regional Forum was to review the ICT human capacity development needs in Asia and the Pacific in view of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, the changing ICT landscape and to strengthen partnership and knowledge sharing on ICT hu-

man capacity development for sustainable development.

The participants at the forum included policymakers and leaders from governments as well as representatives and ICTD stakeholders from civil society, academia, private sector, and other international/sub-regional organizations.

Chairman Dr. Win Thein took part in the “High-Level Roundtable Discussion on ICT Human capacity Development for an Inclusive Digital Society” and discussed the Government’s ICT capacity development priorities and strategies, the evolution of ICT capacity

development in the last ten years and the gaps or challenges, the changes in the ICT landscape and 2030 agenda on the Government’s ICT capacity development strategy and the future plans.

Overall, the Chairman’s visit to UN-APCICT and attendance of the “Regional Forum on ICT Human Capacity Development and Launch of the Women and ICT Frontier Initiative (WIFI)” was successful in improving relationship between Union Civil Service Board and UN-APCICT.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Region forum on ICT Humen capacity Development in progress. PHOTO:UCSB

Baby elephant found in Ayeyawady



The baby elephant greets a human.

A BABY elephant was found by locals near mile post No 7/1 on Ngayokekaungtaung Road in Patheingyi District, Ayeyawady Region.

The female elephant is 33-inches high, and her trunk is 15 inches long. The length between her nose and tail is 57 inches.

It is estimated that the age of the calf is no more than one month. The baby elephant is currently residing at the Tinchang Village administrator’s office. Authorities plan to hand over the calf to the government-owned timber camp run by the Forestry Department in Patheingyi Township.—*Township IPRD*

Myanma Railways to raise ticket fare

TRANSPORT authorities plan to raise ticket prices from K50 to K100 with the aim of expanding the operating budget for Yangon’s circular train, which is operated by Myanma Railways, said U Nyi Nyi Lwin, an MR representative.

However, the price increase will not be maintained if the public does not approve of the move,

Nyi Nyi Lwin added.

Representatives of MR announced the new plan to commuters and requested their recommendations. MR is also planning to set up a fixed-fare for circular trains, which run a 15-mile route. Around 70,000 people, including middle-income residents of Yangon, use the circular trains every day, according to MR.—*200*

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The article titled “Beware of intergenerational injustice” written by Khin Maung Aye in Opinion in GNLM on 7 June 2016 reminds readers to do justice to future generations. I really appreciate his far-sighted opinion insightful analysis. To sum up, it is about doing justice to the generations after us while working for sustainable development, for they also have anticipatory rights.

For this to happen practically in Myanmar, fundamental necessities are there to be addressed and promoted first. Though many environmentalists have argued that environmental crisis is a moral or ethical issue, it does not apply to certain situations. What I want to point out here is that, though I completely agree to it, I also would like to argue further that environmental crisis is more than ethical or moral issue particularly in Myanmar, where around 80% of the population are in the poverty line and in illiteracy list.

Poverty, as you know, is one of the main causes of environmental crisis, and ignorance

is the result of poverty, or vice versa. They go together and adversely affect each other. For example, it is unavoidable for the people in the rural areas to cut trees for the kitchen, since there is no sufficient hydroelectric energy—without firewood, the underprivileged or the have-nots have no other means for cooking. Moreover, people hunt animals down (sometimes) by means of burning the forest, which destroys large areas of land, not because they want to exploit nature, but because it has been their traditional means of making a living. Actually, they do not know how hazardous it is to do so; what they only know is they do it for their survival. They do not think about the negative consequences of their deeds because they cannot. In other words, they are not to be blamed because they have no access to environmental awareness or education.

Therefore, when it comes to tackling with environmental issues, it is very essential for the environmentalists, the government and the privileged or the haves to think from the perspec-

tive of the margins, rather than blaming for their misdeeds to the environment. For environmental sustainability to be realized in the country, it is high time for the central or regional government and religious groups to cooperate in the process of environmental healing and poverty reduction. At the same time, it is appropriate to acknowledge that the poor are poor because they lack education, and the illiterate are illiterate because they are poor. Therefore, the central or regional government and individual educated religious groups are even fully responsible for poverty reduction and environmental sustainability, which can be done through long-term workshops, seminars and projects. Let us, the minority privileged and educated, attentively and sympathetically listen to the voices of the majority underprivileged and uneducated in the rural areas. Our environment and the underprivileged are standing side by side, eagerly waiting for freedom and liberation from bondage.

Sincerely,
Peter Lian

People’s Forum

Quality and Standards

Quality is the key word for ensuring success for ventures undertaken in areas of business production of goods or provision of services regardless of size of the business enterprises and their local or foreign targeted markets.

Competitiveness of the products marketed against similar products, local or imported of comparable quality against the set price will ensure success of the business enterprise. Similarly, the service sector business, on quality and cost of the service provided will eventually depend, state of the business of service provider as to whether it is both successful and popular.

Prerequisite for systems of quality assurance are ‘standards of products or performance’ whether they be set by the concerned industry or by government for reasons of public safety as well for obligations of protecting the public from exploitation by persons of doubtful ethic.

Quality of goods and services to be assured effectively need ‘quality standards’ to be adhered to faithfully. It’s in the comprehensive ‘Consumer Protection Law’ enacted in March 2014 by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw. Standards monitored by the concerned authorities in the production of goods or provision of services will ensure that the consumers are well protected from sub-standard products and services marketed.

Lokethar

Iraqi forces gain ground against Islamic State south of Mosul

MOSUL — Iraqi troops advanced against Islamic State south of Mosul on Sunday as the US-led coalition intensifies its campaign against the militants on multiple fronts across their self-proclaimed caliphate.

Officers involved in the operation said Iraqi forces had moved toward the village of Haj Ali in tanks and armored vehicles under cover of coalition air strikes and artillery fire, capturing another village on the way.

“In the beginning they resisted but when they saw the force they withdrew,” said an Iraqi officer speaking from the newly recaptured village of Kharaiab Jabr, adjacent to Haj Ali.

Haj Ali sits on the eastern bank of the Tigris river, opposite the Islamic State hub of Qayara, where there is an airfield that is set to serve as a staging ground for future operations to recapture Mosul, about 60 km (40 miles) north.

Islamic State overran Mosul two years ago and went on to proclaim a caliphate straddling Iraq and Syria but has come under increasing pressure in recent months, losing ground to an array of forces.

Iraqi forces are also advancing on the edge of the Islamic State bastion of Falluja further



Iraqi soldiers firing a rocket toward Islamic State militants on the outskirts of the Makhmour south of Mosul, Iraq, on 25 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

south, while in Syria US-backed forces are encircling the militant-held town of Manbij.

Iraqi troops were deployed to the northern Makhmour area earlier this year and launched an operation in March touting it as the beginning of a bigger campaign to retake Mosul — the largest city

under militant control.

Since then, Iraqi forces have made modest gains, capturing a handful of villages on the eastern bank of the river Tigris.

The commander of the operation blamed the slow pace on a lack of tanks and said he did not have enough men to hold ground

after it was retaken from the militants.

Last week, Iraq deployed an armored division along with boats and bridges to cross the river to Qayara, control of which would also isolate Mosul from territory the militants control further south and east.—Reuters

US drone attack kills 4 IS militants in Afghanistan

JALALABAD, (Afghanistan) — Some four militants of the Islamic State (IS) were killed in a US drone strike in Afghanistan’s eastern province of Nangarhar Saturday night, the provincial government said on Sunday.

“An international forces’ pilotless plane fired two missiles in Mahmando locality, Achin district last night. As a result four IS militants were killed,” it said in a statement.

The Afghan security forces have beefed up security operations against militants recently as spring and summer known as fighting seasons are drawing near in the country.

Achin district bordering Pakistan has been the scene of heavy clashes between IS militants and security forces backed by pro-government local militiamen over the past couple of months.

The militant group has yet to make comments.—Xinhua

Without help, families face lonely search for Europe’s missing refugee children

ATHENS — After losing its way in the dark waters of the Aegean between Turkey and the Greek island of Lesbos, the small wooden boat carrying Ghulam Haidar, his young family and nearly 50 other passengers was hit by strong winds and waves.

As the boat sank, Haidar managed to save his seven-year-old son, Shahzad, but he lost sight of the others. For the past eight months he has been in Turkey searching for his wife Shila, his daughter Zahra, 8, and his three-year-old son Behzad.

“I’m just living to find my family,” said Haidar, who is from Afghanistan. He has contacted coast guards, immigration officers, international aid groups and the authorities in both Greece and Turkey. But so far, he’s found nothing.

His two missing children smile cheekily in a photo posted on the Facebook page “Search and find your family for refugees”.

The page posts photographs and information about missing refugees, and has dealt with 172 cases of missing children since September, said its Austria-based

founder Jimmy Nagy.

It was through this page that the Thomson Reuters Foundation made contact with Haidar, but so far his pleas for information have answered none of his questions about his missing family.

“I’ve searched all the hospitals but I’ve found no sign of them or their bodies. That’s why I believe they are alive,” Haidar said by phone from Istanbul.

Like Haidar, many other families who have fled war and poverty in the Middle East, Africa and Asia, are searching for missing

children. Without help, they are left to conduct their desperate investigations alone.

In January, the EU’s criminal intelligence agency Europol said at least 10,000 unaccompanied child refugees had vanished after arriving in Europe, at risk of falling prey to trafficking gangs.

Many missing or unaccompanied children are thought to be in Greece, the EU country that has become the staging post for attempts by refugees and migrants hoping to reach wealthier northern Europe.

With many camps and deten-

tion facilities in Greece full, Karen Shalev-Greene, director of the Centre for the Study of Missing Persons at the University of Portsmouth, believes that hundreds of children are living in squats or on the street — making them vulnerable to exploitation.

In Exarcheia, an Athens neighbourhood plastered with anarchist posters, an old school building is being used as a squat. Toddlers weave around bags of rice donated by a Chinese charity in a building now home to over 300 refugee and migrant families.—Reuters

Dubai airport shut Saturday for over an hour; 22 flights diverted — executive

DUBAI — Dubai International Airport, the world’s busiest airport for international travel, closed its airspace for 69 minutes due to unauthorised drone activity on Saturday, causing 22 flights to be diverted, aviation authorities said.

Government-owned Dubai Airports, which operates Dubai’s two main airports, said in a statement the closure lasted between 11:36am and 12:45pm (0639-0745 GMT), and Dubai Airports chief executive Paul Griffiths said thousands of passengers suffered disruption to their journeys.

Sixteen of the diverted flights went to Dubai World Central, Dubai’s other main airport, a

Dubai Airports spokesperson told Reuters. Dubai, a trade, tourism and investment hub for the Gulf region, is one of seven emirates that make up the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

“This is a very serious incident and we obviously take the safety of our customers and our staff extremely seriously,” Griffiths told Dubai’s Dubaieye 103.8 radio.

“As you can imagine, this is the busiest international airport in the world and there was major inconvenience to thousands of passengers ... There are very clear restrictions and no fly zones around all airports in the UAE, saying that this type of activity is

actually illegal.”

The flying of drones is prohibited within 5 km (3 miles) of airports, helipads, landing areas or manned aircraft in the UAE.

Around the world the use of civil drones, whether for commercial purposes or just as a leisure activity, is rising.

That popularity has led to increasing reports of near-misses with commercial aircraft, such as when a Lufthansa plane was approaching Warsaw airport last month.

Aviation concerns focus on smaller drones, operated like model planes and flown for recreation, because their users are often not familiar with the rules



A ground staff member arranges luggage trolleys at the Emirates terminal at Dubai International Airport, on 7 January 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

of the air.

The UK’s Civil Aviation Authority issued a warning in July 2015 after seven incidents where drones had flown near planes at different British airports in less than a year.

Recognising the threat, the European Commission conceded in 2015 that “drone accidents will happen” and has charged its aviation safety agency arm with developing common rules for operating drones in Europe.—Reuters

Panasonic, Beijing Automotive to build electric vehicle parts in China

OSAKA — Panasonic Corp. and Beijing Automotive Group plan to jointly set up a company later this year to produce electric vehicle parts in China, Panasonic officials said Sunday.

President Kazuhiro Tsuga of the Japanese electronics maker visited China in May and sealed an agreement with Beijing Automotive, a major Chinese automaker, the officials said.

Panasonic, which is shutting down its production of liquid crystal display panels for televisions in Japan, envisions getting into the green car market in China, where the central government is promoting new generations of electric vehicles to fight pollution.

Beijing Automotive is

expected to take a stake of about 54 per cent of the new company, with the remaining roughly 46 per cent to be contributed by Panasonic's unit overseeing Chinese operations, according to the officials.

A factory will be set up in Tianjin. Panasonic envisions beginning mass-production of air-conditioners for electric vehicles to be built by Beijing Automotive and other manufacturers possibly from around 2018, according to the officials. Panasonic logged some 1.3 trillion yen sales in automotive-related business in a fiscal year ended in March. The Japanese company hopes to raise sales to 2 trillion yen in the fiscal year ending in March 2019.—*Kyodo News*

Messaging app operator Line to go public on Tokyo bourse 15 July



A woman walks past the logo of Line Corp at the company's headquarters in Tokyo, Japan on 2 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — The Tokyo Stock Exchange gave approval Friday for Japanese messaging app operator Line Corp. to go public on its bourse on 15 July, in what is expected to be the largest initial public offering in Japan this year.

Its listing on the New York Stock Exchange is also planned for 14 July upon approval from relevant authorities, said the wholly owned subsidiary of South Korean Internet giant Naver Corp.

The IPO is expected to value Line at around 588 billion yen (around \$5.5 billion), with the indicative per-share price set at 2,800 yen.

Line said in a statement it decided on the dual IPO to "further enhance its strong position in Asia and to continue a more active global expansion."

By raising around 100 billion yen through the IPO, the

Tokyo-based messaging application operator is aiming to bolster its overseas business and develop new services to better compete with overseas rivals.

Its user base still lags far behind such social media-related companies as Facebook of the United States and Tencent of China.

Line began free voice calls and messaging services in June 2011, and had around 218.4 million global monthly users as of 31 March.

Having launching new services including mobile payment, Line intends to increase its international name recognition through the dual listing.

Naver plans to remain as Line's parent company after the listings on the two bourses.

Nomura Securities Co. will be among the lead managers for the IPO.—*Kyodo News*

Lenovo looks beyond computers with slick new phones

SAN FRANCISCO — Chinese computer titan Lenovo showcased a series of new smartphones, including a keenly-awaited Tango handset and new Moto Z models that can be transformed into video projectors or powerful speakers.

A market-ready PHAB2 Pro smartphone imbued with Google-created Tango augmented reality technology was given star treatment at a Lenovo Tech World gathering in San Francisco.

PHAB2 can sense and map its surroundings, enabling holograms to be overlaid on real world settings for anything from game play to figuring out which size sofa would fit in a room.

The big-screen gadget will be available globally in September for \$499.

"It is a pretty incredible piece of technology for, really, a great price," said Tango engineering director Johnny Lee.

In what Lenovo chief executive Yang Yuanqing billed as perhaps the most important announcement at the event, Lenovo also unveiled new Moto Z

smartphones that can be customized with "mods" — specialised pieces of hardware that snap into



PHOTO: PTI

place magnetically to give handsets added capabilities.

For example, one mod let a Moto Z project video on walls or ceilings at sizes as large as a 70-inch television screen.

Another mod turned Moto Z handsets into powerful speakers.

"This phone can transform itself," said Hollywood star and

Lenovo spokesman Ashton Kutcher.

"This is actually a full-blown game-changer."

Lenovo also launched a smartphone mod programme for developers, enticing them with a million-dollar prize for a mod that best integrates handsets with services hosted in the Internet cloud.

Moto Z will be available in the United States in coming months through carrier Verizon, with models debuting globally later in the year, according to Lenovo.

Pricing was not disclosed.

Moto Z is made by Motorola, which Lenovo bought from Google in early 2014 in a deal valued at \$2.91 billion.

The acquisition was part of a strategy by Lenovo to look beyond personal computers, where it is a market powerhouse, to a future of nearly everything being smart and connected to the Internet, according to Yang.

"Devices will become entry points for diverse content and services," he said.—*PTI*

Desktops, laptops still popular mode of accessing Internet: TCS

NEW DELHI — Even as smartphone sales grow at a double-digit pace in the country, desktops and laptops still remain the most popular mode of accessing Internet by teenagers, a survey by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) showed.

According to TCS GenZ Survey, desktops, home PCs and laptops are the most popular mode of accessing the Internet (44 per cent), closely followed by smartphones (43 per cent).

However, smartphones remain the most coveted electronic gadget (83 per cent) amongst teenagers in the country.

"Technology has transformed young India. The gadgets considered as luxuries earlier have swiftly become necessities making an impact on both their student and personal lives. The survey was undertaken to get a pulse of the digital habits of school students from class 8-12,"

the Survey said. About 26 per cent respondents said they spend at least an hour everyday online, while 27 per cent said they respond to notifications within 5 minutes of receiving them.

Facebook leads the forefront in terms of usage (86 per cent) followed by Google+ (65 per cent). The survey found that boys are more active online and on social networking sites as compared to the girls.

Another 49 per cent said their online activities are monitored by parents and 48 per cent respondents said their parents have access to their online accounts.

The teenagers are also moving away from organised learning environment, towards the online learning space indicating the popularity that do-it-yourself (DIY) and collaborative learning is gaining. About 21 per cent respondents said they used video

chat to learn a new hobby, followed by school assignments (20.5 per cent) and educational tutorials (15 per cent).

Not surprisingly, WhatsApp was rated as the most popular instant messaging platform (71 per cent), distantly followed by SMS (12 per cent).

However, face to face communication is still the most preferred way of communication with friends (40 per cent) as compared to phone calls and social media, the survey pointed.

A majority of the teenagers (87 per cent) said they shop online with electronic gadgets (57 per cent) being the most popular buy, followed by books (50 per cent) and clothes (37 per cent).

For their dose of news, Gen Z prefers TV and newspapers (79 per cent) followed by links from friends/family on Facebook (38 per cent) and online sources (34 per cent).—*PTI*

Crown Princess Masako appears at greenery event with prince



Japan's Crown Princess Masako (R) and her husband Crown Prince Naruhito arrive at a greenery conservation event at Kashiwanoha Park in the city of Kashiwa, near Tokyo, on 12 June, 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CHIBA, (Japan) — Japan's Crown Princess Masako, who is receiving treatment for a stress-induced illness, attended a greenery conservation event in Chiba Prefecture with her husband Crown Prince Naruhito on Sunday.

It was her first appearance for an official duty outside the capital since October when the couple visited Kagoshima Prefecture. She last attended the annual ceremony to commend civic groups working to promote greenery in Yokohama seven years ago.

Crown Prince Naruhito, the elder son of Emperor Akihito, addressed the meeting in Kashiwa, Chiba Prefecture, stressing the importance of involvement of a broad range of people in conserving greenery and water resources.

The couple also took part in a tree planting ceremony at a square within the park where the event was staged.

A man from Kanazawa, Ishikawa Prefecture, told Crown Princess Masako that his city is sponsoring next year's event. The 52-year-old princess told the man, "I'm looking forward to it."—*Kyodo News*

Germany's Gabriel compares anti-immigrant AfD party to Nazis

BERLIN — German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel compared members of the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party to the Nazis in comments published on Sunday, and said some of them wanted to take German society back to the 1960s.

Speaking to the Funke Media Group, Gabriel said the AfD, which has caused outrage in the political mainstream with a string of remarks about immigrants and Muslims over the past few months, was trying to provoke a reaction.

"Everything that they are say-

ing, I've already heard — just to be clear — from my own father, who was a Nazi to his last breath," Gabriel told the group, which owns the Berliner Morgenpost and the Hamburger Abendblatt papers among others.

Support for the AfD has risen amid deepening public unease over Chancellor Angela Merkel's open-door policy for refugees, which brought some 1.1 million migrants to Germany last year. The party is now represented in eight of 18 regional state assemblies, and has about 15 per cent support in national opinion polls.

Last month, AfD Vice Chair Alexander Gauland caused a storm when he said people in Germany would not want to have national soccer star Jerome Boateng, born in Berlin to a Ghanaian father, as their neighbour.

AfD leader Frauke Petry apologised to Boateng, but herself caused controversy earlier this year when she suggested police be given powers to use firearms against illegal immigrants.

Gabriel said some AfD members opposed modern Germany's cosmopolitan and liberal values.

"They want to go back to the

repressed old West German republic of the 1960s, when women were still at home and foreigners, gays and lesbians had to be invisible, and where old army songs were sung over a beer in the evening," he said.

The AfD has said the influx of mainly Muslims fleeing conflicts in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan makes the "Islamisation of Germany" a real threat.

In May, the party backed a manifesto pledge that says Islam is not compatible with the German constitution and calls for a ban on minarets and the burqa.—*Reuters*

EU vote shapes political landscape in Britain's north

NEWCASTLE, (England) — With a waxed jacket over a crisp suit, and very southern vowels, former commodity broker Nigel Farage cuts an incongruous figure in England's industrial north as he campaigns for Britain to leave the European Union.

But his populist, anti-immigrant message touches a chord among the crowd at a rally in the city of Newcastle, just as it has in other parts of the north, where many working-class voters have been alienated by the demise of much of the region's coal and steel industries.

Farage is campaigning for Britons to vote "Leave" in a 23 June referendum on the country's EU membership, pitting him against Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron and the main opposition Labour Party.

Looking beyond the referendum, Farage is a headache for Labour, which fears his UK Independence Party (UKIP) is stealing Labour supporters in traditional strongholds.

Stopping to debate with admirers and critics in rain in Newcastle, a city about 250 miles (400 km) northeast of London, Farage relishes the exchanges.

"One thing I have noticed in a lot of big northern cities and towns is that people's feeling of patriotism, of nation, is very much more on their sleeve than it might be in Surrey," Farage told Reuters, referring to the affluent southern English county.

"So I think in a lot of these northern towns and cities, it's a very important battle ground," he said of the referendum that will determine Britain's future in Europe and shape the domestic political landscape before a

2020 parliamentary poll. Farage is a polarising figure. And while he gets heckled by younger voters who ask him how much he earns and others questioning whether he's racist — something he denies — his message hits home for many in the northeast, where Britain's changing economy has offered little for those left without work. With unemployment levels close to 9 per cent, compared to last year's national average of 5.4 per cent, many feel abandoned by a far-off government in the capital and are turning their backs on Labour, which they see as out of touch. It is by no means UKIP territory yet. At the last election in 2015, won by the Conservatives, Labour held onto many of its seats in the northeast.

But Farage's party moved into

second place in several constituencies, prompting Labour to start some soul-searching.

"Socially conservative, working-class voters who value family, work, fairness and national security are the most likely to have deserted the party," said an independent inquiry on Labour's future which was published last month.

Local polls on 5 May did little to change that picture despite the election last September of a new leader, Jeremy Corbyn. "Has Labour been learning the lessons of (its parliamentary election) defeat and making progress? The results suggest not," the report said of the party's fewer than expected election gains. Though four years remain until the next parliamentary election for Labour to gain ground, the loss of support in its tradition-

al heartlands has sparked concern among Labour officials. Labour did not comment specifically on its strategy in the northeast, but said the party's goal with its "Labour In for Britain" campaign was "connecting with Labour voters".

"Our goal is to get Labour voters to vote to remain," a spokesman said. But self-described "reformed socialist", 75-year-old former local government worker Peter Curtis is a case in point. A lifelong Labour supporter, he now backs Farage.

"Labour has lost its grass roots. People feel disenfranchised, especially over Europe," said Curtis, whose birthday coincides with the vote when he is hoping to receive his "best possible present" of a British exit, or Brexit. "This is my last passion in life to come out of the European Union."—*Reuters*



Leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party Nigel Farage holds a placard as he launches his party's EU referendum tour bus in London, Britain on 20 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

UK's Cameron warns health services, pensions could face cuts post-Brexit

LONDON — Pensions and the publicly funded National Health Service could face cuts if Britons vote to leave the European Union, Prime Minister David Cameron told a Sunday newspaper, seeking to win support from some of the most pro-Brexit members of the public.

Polls, which show Britons are evenly divided ahead of a 23 June referendum on EU membership, also indicate the elderly are among the most likely to turn out on polling day and are also among the most eurosceptic voters.

With less than two weeks until the vote, Cameron warned

that annual pension increases, free television licences and bus passes could all be cut to make up for a "black hole" in the public finances, the *Observer* newspaper reported.

"You would have to start cutting things that people really value, whether it is the money

going to the NHS or whether it is support for our pension system," Cameron was quoted as saying.

But in a sign of increasing division within Cameron's ruling Conservative Party, a former minister and prominent 'Leave' campaigner accused him of making a "baseless threat."

"What we now have is a vindictive and desperate attempt to bully and frighten the British people — particularly pensioners — all in a frantic bid to rescue a failing campaign," Iain Duncan Smith said, in an emailed statement from the 'Leave' campaign. David Cameron.—*Reuters*

French government backs police after Euro 2016 fan violence

MARSEILLE, (France) — The French government on Sunday rallied behind police in city of Marseille after three days of fan violence marred the opening days of the Euro 2016 soccer tournament and raised questions over policing tactics and security inside the stadiums.

Several hundred English and Russian fans squared off in Marseille on Saturday, hurling beer bottles and chairs and drawing volleys of tear gas from riot police who struggled to contain the skirmishes in the narrow streets of the Old Port.

Later, Russian supporters charged at their English counterparts inside Marseille's Stade Velodrome after the match, forcing panicked supporters to scale over barriers.

Then there were ugly exchanges along the Mediterranean coast between Northern Irish fans and locals in the city of Nice, where riot police again intervened.

"If there is a failure, it is that of soccer which is sick because some of its fans drink excessively and fight," Pierre-Henri Brandet, spokesman from



Fans clash in the stadium after the game at Stade Velodrome, Marseille on 11 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

French interior Ministry, said on BFM-TV.

Marseille's mayor said he saluted the "exemplary action of the police forces both national and local".

The Russian team could now draw sanctions from European soccer's governing body, UEFA, for crowd trouble.

As expected, UEFA said it would open an investigation, including into racist behaviour and the setting off of fireworks.

There is also likely to be public scrutiny of the reaction of stewards, who seemed caught by surprise as masked Russian fans kicked and punched retreating fans.

In Marseille, some

English fans suggested the French riot police had reacted heavy-handedly and been quick to fire tear gas. Thirty-five people were hurt in the fighting, including one English fan who suffered a heart attack.

Marseille police chief Laurent Nunez told France Info radio that his force's response and prevented "much more serious damage". A total of 15 people were arrested in the city over three days.

While the tournament is being played under a state of emergency after militant Islamists attacked Paris in November, French police will be under pressure to snuff out the fan violence.—Reuters

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Central Committee for Holding Myanma Gems Emporium The Announcement of Fifty-Third Myanmar Gems Emporium

1. Under the supervision of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, Central Committee for Holding Myanma Gems Emporium will hold the Fifty-Third Myanmar Gems Emporium at the Maniradana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw from 24th June, 2016 to 6th July, 2016.

2. Rough jade, rough gems, cut and polished gemstones, finished products, jewelries, pearls of gems quality, carvings, sculptures, gems pictures and gold and silver wares which are produced in Myanmar will be on display and sold in Euro currency at the Emporium.

3. Jade lots, Gems lots and pearl lots are set at the reserve prices and will be sold through the open tender system and competitive bidding system as follows:-

Sr.	Description	Open Tender Reserve price (Euro)	Competitive Bidding Reserve price (Euro)
(a)	Gems	500 to 20,000	20,001 and above
(b)	Jade	4,000 to 200,000	200,001 and above
(c)	Pearl	1,000 to 10,000	10,001 and above

4. Except those who were blacklisted for their default in the previous Emporiums, foreign buyers eligible for the following qualifications will be granted admission to the Emporium:-

- The invited person with the invitation card by the Emporium Central Committee;
- The person who received the invitation card from the Foreign Jade Associations;
- The person who received the invitation card from the respective Embassies and Consulate Generals;
- Those foreign buyers will be permitted to bid on the lots up to twenty times the minimum deposit paid by the types of gemstones. The minimum deposit to be paid and the amount permitted to bid are as follows:-

Sr.	Type	Deposit to be paid	Permitted amount to bid
(i)	Gems	€10,000	€ 200,000
(ii)	Jade	€ 50,000	€ 1,000,000

(e) For those who plan to bid over the amount permitted by the minimum deposit, the 5% deposit of the anticipated purchases will be required to put into the Account No. **EEM 400034** opened with the Myanmar Economic Bank (Nay Pyi Taw) by the name of Central Committee of 53rd Emporium (Deposit), not later than the following deadline:-

Sr.	Description	Bidding System	Date
i	Gems	Open Tender/Competitive Bidding	26.6.2016
ii	Jade	Open Tender	27.6.2016
		Competitive Bidding	3.7.2016

5. Starting on 13th June, 2016, Registration Body will provide foreign merchants who have paid deposit with the Entrance cards issuing services at the Merchants Registration Office in Maniradana Jade Hall.

6. Starting on 1st June 2016, Application Forms for admission to Emporium will be available for download at www.mining.gov.mm and www.mge.gov.mm in order to be filled up ahead, and for those who are desirous of submitting applications via online, arrangements have been made to enable the submission of application through the Online Preregistration system at the website address of Myanmar Gem Enterprise, www.mge.gov.mm. The following information will be required to make the Entrance Card:-

- Name, Position and Passport Number;
- National Scrutiny Card Number (Passport Issuing Country);
- Photocopy of passport;
- Two passport photos taken within one month;
- Complete contact information, Phone No., Fax. No. and E-mail;
- Admission fee (U.S. dollar)

7. Buyers shall settle payment for their purchases before the payment deadline as prescribed in the Sale Agreement. For those who are desirous of bringing their fully paid purchased lots along with them during the course of Emporium, the necessary arrangements have been made to enable so.

8. Shipment of fully paid purchased lots to the buyer will be made on the EX Works basis on which Emporium Central Committee will be responsible for loading the items onto the Transportation Vehicles from the Emporium Hall and office works while the buyers themselves or their authorized representatives will be held liable for the remaining shipping processes.

9. For more information and further assistances, please feel free to contact us at:

- Phone no. +95 67 414498
- Fax no. +95 67 414497
- E-mail address mge@e-mining.gov.mm.

Central Committee for Holding Myanma Gems Emporium

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PHOTO: REUTERS

'Voice' singer Christina Grimmie fatally shot after Florida show

ORLANDO — A man thought to be a deranged fan fatally shot Christina Grimmie, a rising singing star who gained fame on YouTube and as a contestant on television's "The Voice," while she was signing autographs after a concert in Orlando, Florida, police said on Saturday.

The suspect, identified as 27-year-old Kevin James Loibl of St. Petersburg, Florida, died of a self-inflicted gunshot wound after he was tackled by the 22-year-old singer's brother in the Friday evening attack, Orlando police said.

Loibl is believed to have travelled to Orlando for the event. He had two loaded handguns, additional ammunition and a hunting knife at the time of the shooting, police said.

Orlando Police Chief John

Mina told reporters the suspect did not appear to have a criminal record and there was no indication he and Grimmie knew each other. Mina said it appeared he may have been a deranged fan.

"We believe he came here to commit this crime," Mina said.

Grimmie, who had just performed as the opening act for the band Before You Exit, was inside the Plaza Live concert hall signing autographs at the time of the shooting.

The suspect approached Grimmie and opened fire. He was then rushed by the singer's brother.

"Her brother, Marcus, is a hero and possibly saved countless other lives. He is not injured," Orlando police said in a statement, adding there were about 120 people at the venue at the time.

Christina Grimmie was taken to a local hospital in critical condition and died early Saturday morning. The suspect died at the scene of the shooting.

Although patrons had their bags and purses checked for weapons at the venue, there were no metal detectors and the security guards were unarmed, Mina said.

Grimmie's brother mourned the loss of his sister in a Facebook post on Saturday.

"Christina was more than my sister," *People* magazine reported the post as saying. "She was a partner in life. A superstar. A goofball. Introverted. And a friend to everyone. Genuinely. But above all ... she was my baby sister. I honestly don't know what I'll do without her," he wrote in the post.—*Reuters*

For Ethiopians, 'Mother India' mother of all films

ADDIS ABABA —For Ethiopians, Bollywood is synonymous with "Mother India" and such is the popularity of the Nargis-Sunil Dutt starrer movie that it continues to enthrall them even after 59 years of its release.

While recent Bollywood blockbusters like "Veer Zara", "Kuch Kuch Hota hai", "Karan Arjun" have earned their actors Salman and Shah Rukh Khan a huge fan following, thanks to their dubbing in local language Amharic, Ethiopians embraced the Mehboob Khan helmed classic without even understanding a word of Hindi.

Earlier, Indian movies were available with subtitles or sometimes even without that. But still the people understood them without any knowledge about Hindi.

"I watched the movie (Mother India) some 40 years ago. Now a lot of people know and watch Indian movies. Even if they do not understand it, they watch it. In terms of Indian movies, almost everybody now is able to have a cable TV in their house even in the remote areas," Soloman Tadesse, CEO of Ethiopian Tourism Organisation said here.

Almost everyone who was asked about Bollywood in the country- everyone has a unique story to share about 'Mother India'.

"I love 'Mother India' and cried for half an hour after

watching it," said Dorse, owner of a souvenir shop.

Other movies like "Karan Arjun", "Kuch Kuch Hota Hai", "Veer Zara" are favourites with Shah Rukh and Salman being the most loved actors in the country.

"I have watched 'Karan Arjun' and I love Shah Rukh and Salman," Deteste, an employee at the Kuriftu Resort in Bahir Dar said.

With the advent of cable television, movies are now being translated in the local language Amharic and made available to Ethiopians.

"Cable TV brings Indian movies. Recently an Ethiopian company started dubbing the movies in Amharic. There is a lot of similarity in the mindset, culture and temperament among the people of both the countries," Tadesse said.

With the beautiful landscapes in Africa, many Bollywood movies have been shot in countries like Egypt and South Africa but Ethiopia has been untapped by the Bollywood producers despite the scenic beauty of the place.

The tourism department is now working to draw Indian producers to the country.

"We are in talks with Indian producers and trying to get them to picturise the movies in our country," said an official of the Ethiopian Tourism Organisation.—*PTI*

Singers vie to play Shkreli, America's 'most-hated man', in musical

NEW YORK — Fourteen fame-hungry young men tried to out-smug each other at a small studio in Manhattan's Theater District on Saturday to prove they could play 'America's most hated man' in a new musical comedy about pilloried former drug executive Martin Shkreli.

The hour-long production, titled "Martin Shkreli's Game: How Bill Murray Joined the Wu-Tang Clan," is based on Shkreli's controversial \$2 million purchase last year of the sole copy of the hip-hop group's latest album.

Set to open in July, it is a fictionalized account of comedian Bill Murray joining forces with the rappers to steal the album back.

Shkreli, the 33-year-old former chief of Turing Pharmaceuticals, sparked outrage last year and earned the title of the country's most-hated man on the internet when he raised the price of the life-saving anti-parasitic infection drug Daraprim by more than 5,000 per cent.

In December, US authorities arrested him on fraud charges unrelated to Daraprim, saying he ran his investment funds and companies almost like a Ponzi scheme.

"We thought, 'What kind of world is this where Martin Shkreli and Wu-Tang are thrown together?'" said the show's co-producer and lyricist Lauren Gundrum.

"It seemed like such a ridiculous thing," added Joel Esher, fellow producer and composer of the play. "Truth is crazier



Actor Conor Hall auditions for new musical "Martin Shkreli's Game" based on the former chief executive officer of Turing Pharmaceuticals, at a rehearsal space in the Manhattan borough of New York, US, on 11 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

than fiction sometimes and we said, "That might be a great thing to turn into a musical."

So did the 14 hopefuls who came to Ripley-Grier Studios on Saturday afternoon prepared to audition for the lead roles of Shkreli and Murray.

A casting call for the character of Shkreli described him as "a pharmaceutical executive; extremely wealthy and likes to flaunt it; enjoys screwing people over; outwardly on a quest for power, inwardly insecure and immature."

One auditioner, 22-year-old Matt Weinstein, flipped over a music stand pretending it was a chess board — a passion of Shkreli's — to prove his versatility. "At first I was like, 'What the you-know-what is this show about?' I've done weird jobs in the past but this was different,"

he said. Shkreli made further headlines in February — and increased public hostility toward him — when he refused to answer questions by a Congressional committee.

Instead he laughed, twirled a pencil and yawned, and later called the lawmakers "imbeciles" on Twitter. "I want you to really play up the smugness right now," one judge asked an auditioner. "I want you to pretend you know more than anyone else in this room no matter what you are talking about. Like, if you're talking to an astrophysicist, you still know more about astrophysics." Shkreli publicly acknowledged the production, which is scheduled to premiere on 19 July at the Midtown International Theater Festival in New York, on his official Twitter page on 8 June.—*Reuters*

Record-setting wooden building to be erected on Vancouver campus

VANCOUVER — The construction of a record-setting 53-metre high tower building with mostly wooden material is under way on the campus of the University of British Columbia (UBC) in Vancouver, west Canada.

Its bold and green design aims to demonstrate that building large, wooden structures isn't too much complex, Russell Acton, principal architect from the building designer Acton Ostry Architects, told Xinhua Saturday.

"It's got less of an environmental impact with respect to producing greenhouse gases," he said, adding that the 18-storey building will serve as a student dormitory.

He said the design is hybrid, using concrete for a podium on

the first floor, and for two core structures.

"Absolutely it's as strong. There are particular code requirements, building code requirements that we have to adhere to and prove out that it's as strong as a concrete or steel building. It will perform similarly to the same level as concrete or steel when in a seismic event," Acton noted.

The dormitory building, named Brock Commons, is designed to accommodate 400 students and expected to be completed by September 2017 with an investment of 53 million Canadian dollars (more than 41 million US dollars).

According to the UBC, the wooden material to be used, in-

cluding cross laminated timber floors and glued laminated timber wall pillars, will be all produced and pre-fabricated in Canada, partly in an effort to boost local forestry industry.

John Metras, managing director of the UBC infrastructure development, described such a massive use of timber for institutional buildings as an "evolution".

"We have eight other projects where we've used mass timber in lower-rise applications, so this is the first building at an 18-storey height," he said.

The designers said the structure should last as long as a steel or concrete tower of the same size, or having a life length of about 60 to 100 years.—Xinhua

Qilou old street listed as one of Chinese famous historic streets



HAIKOU — A woman and her kid sit on a sculpture while visiting the Qilou old street in Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province, on 10 June 2016, during the Dragon Boat Festival holiday. The Qilou old street, a famous street featuring multi-story southeast Asian style buildings integrating Chinese and European architectural styles, was listed as one of the Chinese famous historic streets. PHOTO: XINHUA

Mickey takes on the locals with Disney's \$5.5bln Shanghai bet

SHANGHAI — As the opening of the \$5.5 billion Shanghai Disneyland draws near, Walt Disney Co has a challenge.

The hold of rival Asian characters such as China's homegrown Boonie Bears or Big Big Wolf means seven-year-olds like Li Yixuan have less time for Mickey Mouse and Friends.

As Li settles on the living room floor for 15 minutes of cartoons before homework and bed, Disney doesn't get a look-in this time, as his favourite animated hero, Ultraman Ace from the hit Japanese series, does battle with space dinosaurs.

And as the number of competing theme parks in China soars, it will become even harder to win the hearts of Chinese children — and open the wallets of their parents — to fuel long-term traffic after the turnstiles start clicking on 16 June.

"When we get kids now to write down their favorite cartoon character, very few put down Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck," said Song Lei, Hong Kong-based director at Anima-



People visit Disney Town of Shanghai Disney Resort in Shanghai, China, on 26 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tion-Comic-Game Group, the organiser of Asia's biggest annual fair for comics, anime and games.

"Instead it's what is being broadcast on television, what they're seeing in their day-to-day," he said. That means the

Boonie Bears duo and mischievous, super-powered pig GG Bond, he said.

That's not helped by a ban on imported cartoons during the late afternoon "golden hour" peak viewing time for children.

China's attitude to Disney

is ambivalent, reflecting a clash between nationalistic sentiment and the desire for American-style consumption among the growing middle class.

China's military-linked PLA Daily warned of what it said was "invisible propagand-

da" in Disney's "Zootopia". Yet Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger got a presidential welcome from Xi Jinping in May, and Disney has been granted "special" trademark protection.

And Disney is still enjoying a banner year at the box office in China. "Zootopia", "Captain America: Civil War", "The Jungle Book" and "Star Wars: the Force Awakens" are among the 10 most-watched movies of 2016, reaping more than \$690 million in ticket sales, according to Box Office Mojo. Characters from those films will feature at the Shanghai resort.

"There are people that love Disney and those that don't, for a variety of reasons," said Chris Yoshii, Asia-Pacific vice president for AECOM and a member of the Themed Entertainment Association. He predicts China's theme park market will overtake the United States in the "not too distant future".

But that's by no means all Disney. About 2,500 parks are planned in China, including Japanese brand Hello Kitty, and there is already a "Dwarf Empire" in Yunnan.—Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(13-6-2016, Monday)

06 : 00 pm	• Weather Report	• International Drama Series
06 : 30 pm	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	08 : 30 pm
06 : 40 pm	• MRTV Entertainment Music	• MRTV Entertainment Music
07 : 00 pm	• Cartoon Programme "Barbie in the Pink Shoes" (Part-3)	09 : 20 pm
07 : 40 pm	• International Drama Series	• International Movie Songs
		09 : 40 pm
		• Lantern Floating Festival in Kyauk Kyi Township
		09 : 50 pm
		• Music Programme
		10 : 10 pm
		• Myanmar Video

From 13-6-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm
To 14-6-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm

mitv Myanmar International

(13-6-2016 07:00am ~ 14-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Creations- Gem Stone Painting)
07:45	Am	MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	News Extra- Korea-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
08:46	Am	Traditional Customs of Holy Waso
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Novicehood in Myanmar
09:51	Am	Thin Byu Mat

10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	Continuation In Rural Tradition

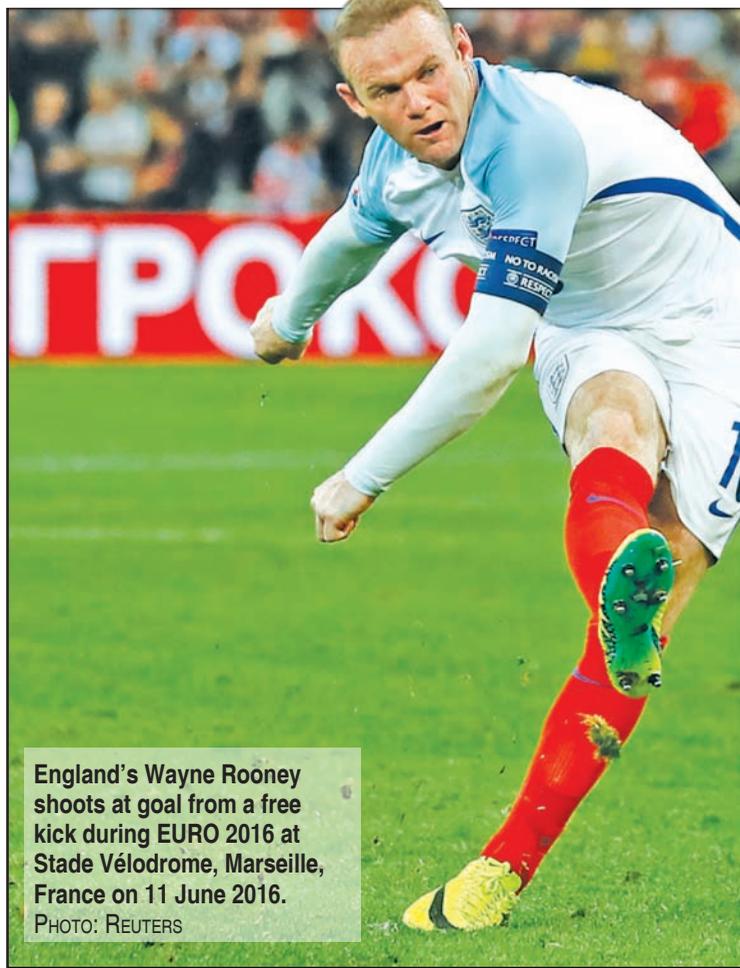
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Sunday Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)-Today Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	Food Trip (EP-9) (Part-2)
07:45	Pm	Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Noodle With Fermented Soya Bean)
08:43	Pm	A Snake Catcher

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

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



England's Wayne Rooney shoots at goal from a free kick during EURO 2016 at Stade Vélodrome, Marseille, France on 11 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Late Russia goal snatches 1-1 draw against England

MARSEILLE (France) — A stoppage-time goal by Vasili Berezutski, helped over the line by Denis Glushakov, gave Russia an unlikely 1-1 Euro 2016 draw with England on Saturday after Eric Dier appeared to have won the game.

England were on top for most of the game, producing a performance of verve and confidence that belied the youth of the squad, and were well worth the lead earned by Dier's brilliant free kick from the edge of the box after 73 minutes. Vast swathes of England fans filling most of the 67,000 Stade Velodrome seats were acclaiming the win only for captain Berezutski to leap above Danny Rose and loop a header beyond Joe Hart that

substitute Glushakov touched, seemingly over the line, although organisers UEFA awarded the skipper the goal.

"I think we played very well the whole game and to give away the draw like that at the end is very disappointing," said Dier.

"We didn't see it out in the right way but we didn't lose.

"We have got to pick ourselves up and go again. I thought our level was extremely high...we did everything right."

The equaliser meant England have failed to win their opening game in any of their nine appearances at the European Championship and puts Wales in pole position in Group B after their earlier 2-1 win over Slovakia. There were ugly scenes at the end of the match as scores of Russian supporters advanced on their England counterparts, tearing

down flags and throwing missiles while stewards stood on the pitch and watched. The trouble was the latest chapter in three days and nights of disorder in the city with officials braced for more as the supporters, plus another 80,000 from the fan zone, converge on the Old Port area.

It had all looked so promising for England as coach Roy Hodgson sent out a team oozing attacking talent, opting to use the experience of captain Wayne Rooney as a midfield fulcrum and Harry Kane as lone striker. The formation worked superbly as wide men Raheem Sterling and Adam Lallana, ably supported by rampaging full backs Rose and Kyle Walker, penetrated a porous-looking Russian defence at will in one of the most vibrant 45-minute spells England have put together for years.—Reuters

Bale and substitute Robson-Kanu give Wales opening win

BORDEAUX, (France) — Gareth Bale got Wales' Euro 2016 campaign off to a perfect start with an early goal and substitute Hal Robson-Kanu struck a late winner as they beat Slovakia 2-1 in the opening Group B match on Saturday.

After a 58-year wait to qualify for a major tournament, it was just the outcome Wales had hoped for and their fans forming the majority of the 37,831 crowd celebrated rapturously as the players went into an equally delighted huddle in front of them.

"What an experience," said manager Chris Coleman, whose

side will now go into Thursday's second match against neighbours England on a high.

Coleman made the right call in sending on Robson-Kanu with just under 20 minutes left "to get us further up the pitch".

The striker, without a club after his contract at English Championship (second tier) Reading ended, scored with a scuffed shot through a defender's legs in the 81st minute following a pass by Aaron Ramsey after Bale had put the Welsh in front early on with a free kick that deceived Slovakia keeper Matus Kozacik.

Slovakia, who should

have scored after five minutes when Marek Hamsik dribbled past three players only to see his goalbound shot cleared off the line by Ben Davies, equalised through substitute Ondrej Duda with his first touch on the hour.

Robson-Kanu also did what was asked of him after replacing surprise selection Jonny Williams.

"It wasn't the best finish but one we're all happy about," he told reporters. Bale added: "When the subs come on they have to make an impact

and Hal was amaz-

ing when he came on."

Coleman started with the team's talisman, Bale, as the main striker — a position in which he has sometimes become isolated in the past.

A 20th goal for his country, the first of which came against Slovakia as a 17 year-old in 2006, emphasised Bale's importance once again.

Wales also used a goalkeeper in Danny Ward, who had made only two previous appearances as a substitute, and played only twice for his Premier League club Liverpool.

He was called in to replace regular keeper Wayne Hennes-

sey, who was said by Coleman to be "devastated" by a back injury he suffered in the warm-up.

Slovakia, unbeaten in a recent run that included winning away to world champions Germany, improved either side of the interval and rallied again in an exciting finish during which Adam Nemec almost made it the day of the understudies by heading against a post.

Wales made the most of their reprieve from Hamsik's slalom when Champions League winner Bale was given his first sight of goal and caught Kozacik on the wrong foot from almost 30 metres.—Reuters



Wales' Gareth Bale celebrates scoring their first goal during EURO 2016 at Stade de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France on 11 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS