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Myanmar enhances resilience to natural disasters with \$184m

A new project financed by the World Bank aims to strengthen Myanmar's capacity to respond to natural disasters and will also strengthen the aging infrastructure in Yangon.

Disasters cost the country over US\$184 million annually and disproportionately hurt the poor.

The Myanmar Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Management Project, approved yesterday by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors, will contribute US\$116 million in financing towards efforts to reduce the impact of flooding, improve the resilience of selected public facilities against earthquakes in Yangon, and enhance the union government's capacity to finance disaster response to emergencies across the country.

"As Yangon is rapidly developing, the growing urban population has placed the city's infrastructure under strain", said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein.

"Yangon faces high flood risks and is located in an earthquake-prone area. The project investments in the city's drainage system, public facilities, and critical infrastructure will help achieve our aim of delivering high quality public infrastructure and services in the city". The project is co-funded with a grant of US\$1 million from the Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF), a multi-donor trust fund.

It will help the Ministry of Planning and Finance to de-



Workers construct a bailey bridge yesterday on Yangon-Ann-Sittway Union Road in An, Rakhine State after floods caused by recent torrential rain washed away the bridge. Traffic returned to normal yesterday after completion of the 200-ft long bailey bridge. **PHOTO: MNA**

velop disaster risk financing instruments, mainstream resilience into public investment planning, reduce the financial costs of future disasters, and improve the capacity to manage and finance the response to possible future disasters.

"Disaster risk management is critical to reducing poverty. When food prices peak due

to disasters, and assets are lost, the poor and vulnerable feel the most pressure", said Abdoulaye Seck, the World Bank Country Manager for Myanmar. "The World Bank looks forward to supporting Myanmar's efforts in reducing human, economic and financial losses caused by natural disasters, in order for the country to protect its devel-

opment gains".

The loan is payable in 38 years, with no interest and with a six-year grace period. But the bank will impose service charges amounting to 0.75 per cent of the loan capital per year.

The project is part of Southeast Asia's regional program on disaster risk management financed by the World Bank,

which includes a series of projects in Cambodia, Myanmar, and Lao People's Democratic Republic. Currently, Myanmar is implementing the Myanmar Flood and Landslide Emergency Recovery Project, which supports the resilient recovery of communities impacted by the devastating floods of 2015.—GNLM ■

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Loans, exports and illegal satellite dishes discussed at Pyithu Hluttaw

By Kyaw Thu Htet (MNA)

Agricultural loans, efforts to increase exports, illegally installed TV satellite dishes were among the issues discussed at yesterday's Pyithu Hluttaw meeting.

A total of six questions and discussion and approval of one report were accomplished on the 16th Day Meeting of 2nd Pyithu Hluttaw 5th Regular Session held yesterday morning.

U Aung Htoo, Deputy Minister for Commerce replied to the question raised by U Sai Thiha Kyaw of Mongyai constituency on agricultural know-how, loans and exports.

"The Shan State Cabinet has been performing the tasks of sharing technical know-how for producing tomato juice and sauce, making arrangements for disbursing out loans with low-interest rates after linking with the Small & Medium Industrial Development Bank to the entrepreneurs of SMEs and linking with CB Bank for acquiring loans under the CGI System

(Credit Guarantee Insurance). Myanmar tea leaves are being sold to over 300 Tee Grasnher shops in Germany. Coffee seeds, the major agricultural produce of Shan State, were exported to the Czech Republic and United States of America starting from FY 2016-2017. Matters on increasing exports from Myanmar have been discussed at Myanmar-China Border Trade Cooperation Meetings and Myanmar-Thailand trade joint commission meetings. And, the Ministry is implementing Medium Term Programme (MTP)", the deputy minister said.

U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister, replied to the question raised by U Khin Maung Win of Lanmadaw constituency on illegally installed TV satellite dishes.

"According to the finally released communication law, issuing licences and collecting fees concerning illegally installed TV satellites need not be made. Those equipments are required to be imported in accord with



Pyithu Hluttaw being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

the export-import law and the custom law. But, supervision will be made for the acquisition of recommendations for technique on distribution of satellite equipments with communication system and transmission capacity included", U Thant Sin Maung said.

Afterward, U Thant Sin Maung, Union Minister for Transport and Communication and U Aung Htoo, deputy minister for commerce replied to the queries raised by U Kyaw Aung Lwin of Sedoktara con-

stituency, Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung constituency and Dr U Saw Naing of South Okkalapa constituency as regards fetching good prices for agricultural produces and building a jetty bridge and overpass.

Following that, concerning the report of Pyithu Hluttaw National Ethnic Affairs and Internal Peace Implementation Committee, U Nam Mon Htin of Machanbaw constituency, U Thet Naung of Lahe constituency, U Win Htoo of Namsam constituency, U Myint Oo of Thanatpin constituency,

U Sein Win of Maubin constituency, Daw Nam Than Than Lwin of Maubin, U Par Htan of Matupi constituency, U Lon Jon San Mai of Sumprabum constituency, U Soe Htay of Kawkareik constituency, U Sai Hsaing Mai of Mongkai constituency and Daw Wint Wah Tun of Shadaw constituency contributed.

After getting the decision of Hluttaw, U Win Myint, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw approved it.

The 5th regular session's 17th day meeting will be held on 19th June, 2017. ■

Amyotha Hluttaw

Modern farming zone possible in the future for Rakhine

By Aung Ye Thwin & Aye Aye Thant (MNA)

LACK of access to sufficient underground water is the main challenge for establishing a model farm at the border of Punnagyun and Yathedaung townships in Rakhine State, it was learnt yesterday.

"When we conducted a survey to establish the modern farm, we found a lack of water resources for the farm," said U Khin Maung Kyaw, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock

and Irrigation, at the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

The deputy minister made the remark in his response to a question from MP U Khin Maung Latt, of Rakhine State constituency 3, on plans to establish a model agriculture and livestock farming zone in Rakhine State.

The ministry has no plans to establish such a farm in regions and states as the budget has not been allocated, he said.

But modern farms will be established in regions and states when financial assistance from INGOs and budgets are allocated to regions and states in the future, said the deputy minister.

To improve the socio-economic status of the people in Rakhine State, 365 acres of seed production sites were established in 17 townships of Rakhine State in the 2016-2017 fiscal year to produce high-quality seeds of varietal purity for rice, winter peanuts and matpe (vigna mungo) in order for farmers to produce high-quality produce which would raise the income of the farmers.

Using these high-quality seeds of varietal purity, agricul-

ture zones for rainy season rice, winter peanuts and matpe totaling 6,000 acres were established in these 17 townships.

During the 2017-2018 sugarcane season, 1,350 acres of sugarcane were planted in model sites within the state to educate the local farmers on sugarcane planting. High-quality sugarcane seeds of varietal purity were also distributed to local farmers. An agricultural science (Kyauktaw) school was also established for agricultural sector development in Rakhine State, said the Deputy Minister.

The Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department is also taking part to develop the livestock breeding sector, he added.

Survey to be conducted for constructing dyke to prevent inflow of sea water in Mon State

Despite no plans to build a dyke to prevent inflow of sea water, which destroys paddies every year in several townships in Mon State, a further detailed survey will be carried out again to check whether the facility would actually benefit the paddy fields or not, said Dr Zaw Lin Htut of Mon State Constituency-9.



U Khin Maung Latt, of Rakhine State constituency 3.

He made the comment at yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw when asked whether there was any plan to construct sea-water dykes and related infrastructures in Tawgyi and Danu Kadike villages in Thaton Township, Mon State as rice fields in these villages were damaged by sea-water intrusion every year.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw said these villages are within the new Thuwunnawadi town and is situated along the southern portion of Bilin River and rainy season paddies are annually damaged by sea-water intrusion from the Bilin River.

To prevent sea-water intru-

sion, a dyke 12-miles long with an 8-foot crown and 22-foot bottom width and an average height of 7 feet would require an earth work of about 115,000 pits. The dyke, together with related infrastructure like water discharge pipes, would take about 5 months to build with 6 backhoes, 10 dump trucks and 3 bulldozers at a total estimated cost of about Ks680 million.

Deputy Minister U Hla Kyaw then replied to questions by U Okka Min of Taninthayi Region constituency 8 and U Khin Myo Win of Taninthayi Region constituency 12 on installing international standard Vessel Monitoring Systems (VMS) on fishing vessels and releasing cemetery land or creating new cemetery land.

In yesterday's hluttaw meeting, the Bill Committee report on the Canal Bill was returned by Pyithu Hluttaw after amendment and approval was read, enrollment for discussing the bill was announced, re-reading and explanation of the Bill Committee report on Oil and Petroleum Products Bill and the decision of the hluttaw was obtained. ■

Correction

The caption for a photo that appeared on page two of the 15 June issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar contained an error. The caption for the photo on the left accompanying the article headlined "Gov't to loan Ks100 million each to SMEs" should read, "U Khin Cho of Hlinebwe constituency". The Global New Light of Myanmar apologizes for the error.—Ed

70th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day convening Central Committee holds First Coordination Meeting

Vice President U Myint Swe, Patron of the 70th Anniversary of martyrs' day convening Central Committee addressed the first coordination meeting held at the meeting hall of the Office of the President in Nay Pyi Taw held at 9:30 am yesterday.

At the meeting, the Vice President said, "With a view to awakening patriotism in youths and so as not to forget the gratitude of the fallen martyrs who had sacrificed their lives for Independence, martyrs' day ceremonies are held annually. The 70th Anniversary of martyrs' day convening Central Committee and working committees had been formed in accordance with Notification 49/2017 dated 12th June 2017 issued by the Office of the President. Sub-committees for respective works are to be formed for the success of the ceremony."

The Vice President added, "In taking responsibility for security, it needs to be performed with extreme care systematically. And, it is of great importance for all the people to know the facts about martyrs' day on which the



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses the 1st coordination meeting of 70th Anniversary of Martyrs' Day convening central committee. **PHOTO: MNA**

Father of Myanmar's Independence and other national leaders were assassinated. Articles, news features and interviews on Martyrs' day, Bogyoke Aung San's historic speeches, songs about martyrs' day and documentary films should be produced and disseminated. Only then will our posterity be able to know about martyrs who gave up their lives for the country and to protect the Independence and sovereignty of

the nation. The Bogyoke Aung San Museum will be opened for the public to observe and regard Bogyoke as the model for youths to emulate.

Concerted efforts must be made in every way for convening the 70th Anniversary of Martyrs' day successfully and meaningfully."

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, Chairman of the 70th anniversary

sary of Martyrs' day convening Central Committee explained about the formation of the central committee, working committees and sub-committees, with matters relating to the convening of the 70th Anniversary of martyrs' day clarified by Mayor of Yangon City UMaungMaungSoe, Secretary of the Central Committee.

Following that, Central Committee Members, deputy minister U Kyaw Tin, Maj-Gen Aung Soe,

U SoeRel, member of the UEC, Permanent Secretaries, Acting Permanent Secretary U Tun On, joint secretary of the central committee, working committee members and responsible officials explained respectively.

Finally, Vice President U MyintSwe gave concluding remarks regarding the explanations given followed by the conclusion of the meeting.—Myanmar News Agency ■



Union Minister for Information Dr. Pe Myint welcomed back by officials at Yangon International Airport. **PHOTO: MNA**

Union Minister for Information returns from Norway

Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint returned from Norway by air yesterday morning after attending the 2017 Edition of the Oslo Forum in Losby Manor, near Oslo, Norway from 13 to 14 June.

He was welcomed at Yan-

gon International airport by officials from the Ministry of Information.

Deputy Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information U Myint Kyaw also arrived back on the same flight. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye meets World Bank Senior Health Specialist

Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received World Bank Senior Health Specialist Daw Hnin Hnin Paing yesterday morning in his ministry.

During the meeting, the implementation of two of the four direct cash support programmes included in the eight programmes of the Myanmar National Social Protection Strategic Plan was discussed. Cash transfers for pregnant women and children up to the age of 2 and social pensions for those 90 and above were implemented while the remaining two were child allowance for children aged 3 to 5 and cash transfers for persons with disabilities.

Another programme, a nutrition programme for school-children, was discussed as an important social protection. Also discussed were the status of discussion with the World Bank on utilising US\$100 million in support with which the work



Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye meets World Bank Senior Health Specialist Daw Hnin Hnin Paing yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

process of providing sufficient nutrition in Myanmar is to be conducted, and a World Bank offer of assistance in information and communications technology (ICT) programmes conducted with the ministry's fund for the work process and coordinating with Ministry of

Education, Ministry of Health and Sports, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation on establishing a proper system to provide sufficient nutrition in Myanmar.—Myanmar News Agency ■

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edited.

Myanmar: close to lowest electricity production in Asia

AN official of General Electric (GE) said that Myanmar has one of the lowest electricity generations among the Asian countries, according to a report in Myawady newspaper yesterday.

According to the data of 2016, Myanmar electricity productivity was around 5,000 MW per year and it was less in productivity than the other Asian countries, according to Mr.Kazunari Fukui, an official from General Electric Company.

The current annual electricity productivity rate in Asian countries are 43,000 MW in Thailand, 32,000MW in Vietnam, 21,000MW in Philippines, 33,000MW in Malaysia, 13,000 MW in Singapore and 58,000 MW in Indonesia.

"Myanmar has many energy resources to generate the electricity such as hydroelectric energy, wind energy, geothermal energy, natural gas and other resources. Current annual elec-



Lawpita Hydroelectric Power Plant located in Kayah State. It is operated by Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise. **PHOTO: GNLM/PHOE KHWAR**

tricity generation in Myanmar was 4,994 MW, therefore, Myanmar should consider to increase its electricity generation in the

coming year" said Mr.Kazunari Fukui.

The World Bank said that electricity generation in My-

anmar was 5,000MW now, but, electricity consumption in Myanmar is expected to reach 25,000MW by 2030.—200 ■

Meiktila Township to get new power plant

A PROJECT will soon commence to establish a new 33/11 KV 5 MVA power plant near Hpalankyin Village in Meiktila Township, Mandalay Region, during the current fiscal year to supply electricity to the target villages, according to electricity authorities.

Based on the budget allot-

ted by the government, authorities will select as many villages as it can to supply power, said U Zaw Naing Win, assistant manager of the township electricity office under the Mandalay Electric Corporation.

Negotiations will be made between members of regional government and parliaments

to implement the new scheme, he added. There are 20 more villages near the project area and the majority of villages have no electricity at all. Residents of those villages get their electricity from solar panels and diesel engines.

The demand for electricity in Myanmar is estimated to

increase to 3,100 megawatts in 2017, meaning 244 megawatts are still needed. The government's current electricity generation capacity is only 2,856 megawatts, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu said at a ceremony of opening a paddy husk-powered plant in Nay Pyi Taw.—Chan Tha (Meiktila) ■

Library events and activities held for students

TO promote literacy and increase knowledge of students, the Information and Public Relations Department organized the mobile library event and activities were held in the school of

KuanThae village (Tawbaung) in Chaungzone Township, Mon State in the morning on 15 June.

Initially, Daw MiThuzar, Chief Officer of Information and Public Relations Department,

explained the importance of literacy role and the advantages of reading. Then, she explained prevention processes of illegal drug use and sale by hanging the posters on the wall. The short

biography of General Aung San and the activities of the president were also explained with many photos. Finally, the children were urged to read the books and papers.—IPRD/MoI ■

Free courses to boost English language skills of Myitkyina residents

ANYONE residing in Myitkyina, the capital city of Kachin State, can join the free English language and computer skill courses offered by the Small and Medium-sized Entrepreneurs Association in partnership with the International Labour Organisation.

U Wunna Tun, a company manager, said the certificate courses are due to open on 18 June at the OSS office beside the State High Court on Aungsan Road in Ayeya Ward. Upon completion of the two-month courses, trainees will receive an ILO-recognised certificate

that will help them gain good employment.

The major purposes of the proficiency courses are to reduce development gaps between urban and rural communities, especially for working age people, by promoting their capabilities. Since 2001, the free proficiency

courses have been opened in the region under the guidelines of the state government. One-to-one advice and guidance are also available under the programme.

Further information, dial 09 250159340 and 095199121 of programme organiser during office hours.—U Lay Gyi ■

Border trade value with ITC hits Ks7.2billion

Border trade value with the use of the Individual Trading Card (ITC) from 1st April to 2nd June reached over Ks7.2billion, according to the Commerce Ministry. Export value with the ITC as of 2nd May this FY was Ks449million, whereas import value with ITC hit over Ks6.7 billion, according to statistics provided by the Commerce Ministry.

Trade value with the ITC amounted to Ks7.2billion as of 2nd May in the current fiscal year. Out of border trade camps, Myawady and Kan Pike Tee border trade camps saw the largest trade value using the ITC.

The border trade values with ITC as of 2nd May this FY were over Ks223million in Tamu, over Ks6million in Muse, over Ks5.4billion in Myawady, Ks371million in Tachilek, over Ks54million in

Lweje, over Ks2.4million in Chinshwehaw, over Ks548million in Kan Pike Tee, over Ks106million in Kawthaung, over Ks134million in Reed, over Ks306million in Maw Taung and over Ks19million in Keng Tung, according to the official figures of the Commerce Ministry. The Trade Department issued a total of over 1,305 cards so far, including 292 cards from 21st Nov 2012 to 31st March 2013, 261 cards in FY 2013-2014, 317 cards in FY 2014-2015 FY, 146 cards in FY 2015-2016 and 248 cards in FY 2016-2017 and 41 cards as of 2nd May this FY, according to figures released by the ministry. A businessman can trade Ks3million a day with an ITC, and the trade department granted trade value up to Ks15million a day, which amounted to a five-day trade value.—Ko Khant ■

Fall of chrysanthemum prices pushed flower growers to losses

THERE are many Chrysanthemum growers in PyinOoLwin, Mandalay Region and they met the losses as the Chrysanthemum prices fall, according to a report in Myawady newspaper yesterday.

The selling price of the packaged flowers last year was over Ks2,000 but this year prices decreased to Ks1,300, therefore, the flower growers met losses.

The lands should be prepared by giving 2 to 3 ploughing

followed by the harrowing to prepare the beds for planting. One acre farm can prepare 100beds by separating 1.5ft from each other and each bed can grow nearly 1,200 plants. The soils of the beds should be wet before growing flowers.

Flowers must be watered two times in cold days and three times in hot days and fertilized twice a month. Chrysanthemum can be harvested and sold in the markets for three months after the cultivation.—200 ■

Thailand-Myanmar business matching to be held on 20th June

A delegation from the Board of Trade of Thailand will meet with Myanmar's entrepreneurs with the support of Thai embassy to Myanmar, according to a report yesterday in City News.

In a bid to cooperate in economy, trade and investment enterprises between Thailand and Myanmar, a business matching event will be held on 20th June from 1pm to 5pm at the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The delegation from the Board of Trade of Thailand plans

to conduct one-on-one business matching with each company concerning clothing and various personal goods, children's products, cosmetics, food and beverage manufacturing, steel industry, automobile industry, furniture industry, printing and design enterprises, interior services, and traditional pharmaceutical enterprises.

For further information, please call 01-2314344~49 (extension 121,122,123, or 311) of the International Relations Department of UMFCCI and/or mail ird@umfcci.com.mm.—YCDC ■

China first in overall foreign investment list

China ranked first on the list of foreign investment countries with overall investments of US\$18billion in 183 projects permitted as of end of May, according to the statistics of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

China's investment in Myanmar accounted for over 26 per cent of total foreign investment value. Singapore placed second with investments of over US\$16billion, followed by Thailand and Hong Kong at third and fourth place, respectively.

In overall foreign direct

investment (FDI) values flowing into the country so far, the oil and gas sector made up over 31 per cent of FDI at over US\$22billion, followed by the power sector in second place with investments of over US\$20.5billion. The manufacturing and transportation and communications sectors follow the power sector with investments of over US\$11billion each.

The real estate sector received FDI of over US\$3.86billion while the mining sector attained over US\$2.89billion so far. The hotel and tourism sector placed seventh with investments of US\$2.85billion in

68 projects. Additionally, foreign investments are also entering the following sectors: livestock and fisheries; agriculture; industrial estate; construction and other services.

A total of US\$71.2billion worth of FDI flowed into the country so far, with over US\$923million in May. The fiscal year of 2017-2018 is expected to attain more than US\$6billion of FDI, it is learnt.

Foreign investment also flowed heavily into the manufacturing and real estate sectors in the past two months of the current fiscal year.—Htet Myat ■

Samsung introduces New Galaxy J5, J7 Pro Smartphones

Samsung Myanmar launched its new Galaxy J Pro (2017) series in Yangon yesterday.

The new handsets keep up the J series' history of offering powerful and stylish smartphones at affordable price points. Featuring a stylish metal body, the Galaxy J5 Pro and the Galaxy J7 Pro promise improved performance, camera and other upgraded features.

"The Galaxy J series is one of our best-selling smartphone series in Myanmar. We are confident that the new design of the J series and advanced technology will be satisfying for both our existing and our new customers," said Ko Zarni Win Htet, Head of IT & Mobile at Samsung Myanmar.



These devices feature advance security with the fingerprint scanner, while the Always-On-Display, which only available in Samsung Flagship devices is now available on the Galaxy J7 Pro (2017).

Other than the bold new curved and all metal design,

the Galaxy J Pro series also comes with the unique functionality of Dual Messenger solutions.

What this means is that these devices allows 1 user to create 2 Social Media accounts in 1 device without any complications.—GNLM ■

High demand for rare king prawns in Myanmar

Prawn merchants said there is a high demand for king prawn in both local and global markets but they are facing a scarcity of king prawns to ship to the markets, they said in Myawady newspaper yesterday.

King prawn fetches a high price in both local and global

markets and is consumed in China, Taipei and Hong Kong.

As seafood shops increase in Myanmar, demands for king prawn are now high in the local markets.

"The deaths of king prawns, rock shrimps and clams increased in this year due to the high temperature

in Myanmar. There are nearly 27 businessmen in Kyaukphyu Township who breed and export king prawns, rock shrimps and clams" said an official of Kyaukphyu Rock Shrimp Association.

King prawns currently sell at a price of Ks 1500 per Kg.—200 ■

Smoking kills nearly 0.7million of Myanmar people each year

NEARLY seven-hundred-thousand people die from smoking in Myanmar each year and it is very high when compared with other countries of the world, according to a report in Myawady newspaper yesterday.

The survey data showed that nearly 600,000 of total deaths are caused by smoking themselves and around 100,000 of the total deaths are caused

by exposure to second-hand smoke.

Smoking can cause oral cancer, lung cancer, stroke, carotid occlusive disease, ischemic heart disease and loss of toes and fingers.

Smoking kills around seven million people each year in the world and nearly 10 percent of total deaths are from Myanmar.

Total smoking rate in My-

anmar was 29.7 percent in 2009 and increased up to 43.2 percent in 2014.

Though government made smoke free zones and drafted master plans to reduce smoking by collecting high taxes and publishing pictures warning of side effects on cigarette packets, the plans were mostly unsuccessful as companies and people failed to participate.—200 ■



WY stimulant tablets and herion. PHOTO: 101

Stimulants seized

Officials from the Customs Department stopped and searched a passenger vehicle on Thursday en route from Lashio to Yangon and discovered drugs in a passenger's bag.

Acting on a tip-off, the officials searched the vehicle at the Kyauk Chaw combined

inspection gate at 16th mile. They found 3,990 WY stimulant tablets weighing 399 grams, 16,000 88&I stimulant tablets weighing 1.6 kilograms, 121 grams of heroin worth Ks108.42 million from the bag of the passenger.

On the same day, seven

cases of smuggling of illegal goods worth a total of about Ks 18 million occurred at the Yaypu inspection gate, followed by eight cases worth Ks 15.323 million at the Mayanchaung inspection gate, making a total of 15 cases worth Ks33.323 million.—101 ■

Training centres for autistic children scarce in Myanmar

There are only a few specialised training centres for children and young people with autism in Myanmar, according to a report in the Myawady Daily yesterday.

Autism is a neurodevelopment disorder characterised by impaired social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior. Currently, there are about 600,000 children with autism in Myanmar. The autistic children are unable to enjoy the same rights as normal children. The autistic children

do not develop the same way as other children, but show great perseverance in their hobbies, experts said.

"If we train them for suitable jobs, they will achieve success in their own businesses. But there are many children with autism who are badly in need of special care and attention in the country. Also, there are not enough public or private training centres for the children and the youths with autism", said an official from the Myanmar Autism Association.

The associations concerned are now conducting surveys to find out the number of people with autism.

"If we know the data, we will effectuate development for the autistic people in cooperation with local and international organisations and government departments", the official said.

There are currently 16 private autism centres nationwide: 10 in Yangon, three in Mandalay, two in Patheingyi township, and one in Pyin Oo Lwin township.—GNLM ■

High river level reached above 2ft on platform of Auk Set Taw Ya

STORMS bringing heavy rain increased water levels of Man creek in Ngape Township, Magway Region on 12 and 13 June and local residents got worried.

The water level of Man creek water storage dam showed 601.30 points at 6am on 14 June, it was 23.70 ft below from the spillway of the dam.

"The water in Yinshae water storage dam, south of the Ngape Township flowed through the spillway gate at 6:45pm on June

13. At 6am on 14 June, the water level reached 603 point, one foot above the maximum points, 602point. The supervising teams made to watch the conditions of the dams" said U MaungMaung Win, an official of Man Chaung water storage dam's maintenance team. The lower platform of Auk Set Taw Ya (Lower Golden Footprint) was flooded as the water from Patayin creeks and Ngapeman creek flowed into it.—Than NaingOo (ngape) ■

Heavy rain destroyed Myaukpyin Bridge in Mindone Township

HEAVY rain in Mindone Township, Thatyat District, Magway Region destroyed Myaukpyin bridge on the Mindone-Myaukpyin road at 10:30am on 13 June.

The bridge was 290ft length, 14ft width and 12ft height and nearly 80ft of the bridges and one central pillar of it were destroyed.

The bridge was built in 2015-2016 FY with the rural development budgets, using Ks165.3million by Asia Boom Company.

The township administrator, township police officer and officials from the rural development department went and inspected to make the rebuilding process soon.—ThetHtun (Mindone) ■

Man charged over illegal oversea employment business

A man was arrested on suspicion of illegal oversea employment services in Kyimyiding, Yangon Region, on 14th June, according to the police yesterday.

Acting on a tip-off, local police searched the house of U Soe Naing on 14th June and found him and four women, said the police. In an interrogation, U Soe Naing said he offered jobs

in Singapore with a salary of S\$450 to the three women each from Kyawhmu, Gyobingauk and Nattalin.

For service fee, he will get their salaries for six months as from the month they began to work in Singapore, he admitted to the police. He has been charged over doing illegal job employment services.—Myanmar News Agency ■

Two week training to be conducted for Yangon water taxi staffs

WATER taxi staff training will be conducted for two weeks including swimming and wearing life jackets, according to Tint Tint Myanmar Company published in Myawady newspapers yesterday.

Tint Tint Myanmar company will hire around 300 staff and relevant training for them would be conducted.

Currently, over 80 people have already applied and the applicants who live near the rivers and creeks will be given priority. Basic salary for water taxi staffs range from

Ks120,000 to Ks150,000 per month. Work hours are set from 6am to 2pm for morning shift and evening shift was set from 1pm to 8pm.

Tint Tint Myanmar company will invest Ks 37 billion for the water taxi projects with loans from KBZ Bank.

Water taxi will run under the inspection of Yangon Region Transport Authority (YRTA) and the permission of Myanmar port authority, inland water transport and department of water resource and river development.—200 ■

Australia introduces illegal gun amnesty after Islamist-inspired attacks

SYDNEY — Australia said on Friday it would introduce a three-month national gun amnesty, the first in more than 20 years, in a bid to reduce the number of illegal firearms which have been used in recent Islamist-inspired attacks.

Australian Justice Minister Michael Keenan said that from 1 July, locals can hand-in illegal firearms to authorities without prosecution.

"We are living in a time when our national security environment has deteriorated. Unfortunately, we have seen, through terror attacks in Australia that illegal guns have been used," said Keenan.

Australia's has some of the world's toughest gun control laws, introduced after the country's worst mass murder, when a gunman killed 35 people at Port Arthur in the island state of Tasmania in 1996.

Australia, which has banned all semi-automatic rifles and all semi-automatic and pump-action shotguns, and as a restrictive system of licensing and ownership controls, has had no mass shoot-



Mick Roelandts, firearms reform project manager for the New South Wales Police, looks at a pile of around 4,500 prohibited firearms that have been handed in over the past month under the Australian government's buy-back scheme in Sydney, Australia, on 28 July 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

ings since 1996. It is held up by many abroad as an example of the need for tighter gun controls in the United States.

But a 2016 report estimated there were 260,000 illegal firearms in Australia, some of which have been used by radicalised locals to commit attacks. In Australia's most deadly incident inspired by the Islamic State group, a gunman used an illegal firearm in a 2014 Sydney cafe siege in which

three people, including the hostage taker, were killed.

Earlier this month, gunman Yacub Khayre used an illegal firearm to kill a man in an apartment block in Melbourne and then held a woman hostage before police shot him dead. The attack was claimed by Islamic State and classified as "an act of terrorism" by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. —Reuters ■

China, ADB launch green financing platform to fight pollution

BEIJING — China and the Asia Development Bank (ADB) have launched a green financing platform to support efforts by small- and medium-sized enterprises to cut pollution in the smog-hit Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region, ADB said on Friday.

The area, home to six of China's 10 smoggiest cities in the first quarter of this year, has promised to upgrade or shut vast swathes of polluting industry as it tries to meet 2017 air quality targets.

But financing the transition to cleaner energy has proved one of its biggest challenges, especially in poorer rural regions of Hebei, where the switch from coal to natural gas is expected to cost at least 300 billion yuan (\$44.04 billion) over the 2016-2020 period.

The financing platform was launched by the ADB and the China National Investment and Guaranty Corporation (I&G), the State Development and Investment

Corporation (SDIC), as well as China's finance ministry and National Development and Reform Commission.

The bank late last year approved a loan of 458 million euros (\$510.58 million) for the platform, which it says will leverage 3.6 billion euros in domestic commercial financing.

According to Hebei delegates attending an annual session of parliament in March, the government is only expected to provide around 10-15 per cent of the 3-4 trillion yuan of green investment China needs every year over the next five years.

China began to develop green financing in 2007, and more than 8 trillion yuan in "green credit", used to finance clean projects, has been issued. However, environmental financing mechanisms remain inadequate, especially when it comes to tackling widespread soil and water pollution, and SMEs have also struggled to get funding.—Reuters ■

In Philippines battle, troops pinned down by sniper fire, Molotov cocktails

MARAWI CITY, (PHILIPPINES) — When Philippines troops advanced on positions held by Islamist militants in a southern city last Friday they were caught in a kill zone.

Thirteen soldiers died and about 40 were wounded during a 14-hour battle that showed recapturing Marawi City from an estimated 150-200 Islamic State militants was becoming harder by the day.

The troops were hit by rocket propelled grenades and came under sniper fire as they crossed bridges over the Agus river towards the city's commercial centre, an area held by the militants since 23 May.

"The snipers are good, they make sure that with every shot, someone is killed or wounded," said Pendaton Guro, a retired colonel who recognised the popping sound of the high caliber rifles while watching the battle daily from his rooftop overlooking the city.

The offensive to retake the town, in the middle of the southern Philippines region of Mindanao, is now in its fourth week.



A view of the Maute group stronghold with an ISIS flag in Marawi City. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

And, the longer the militants hold out, the more President Rodrigo Duterte's image as a strong man could suffer.

Two weeks ago the general leading the offensive was relieved of command, and Duterte assured Filipinos that Marawi would be cleared of militants in a matter of days.

The protracted battle is reinforcing fears in nearby Indonesia and Malaysia, both of which have Muslim majorities, that Islamic State could seek to set up a regional caliphate as it holds onto territory in Southeast Asia for the first time.

During last Friday's assault, Technical Sergeant Maha-

mud Darang said his armoured carrier came under fire from a black-clad militant firing rocket-propelled grenades as a column of troops crossed the Agus River towards the commercial centre of Marawi City, an area held by the militants since 23 May.

The first grenade hit the

ground in front of them, Darang told Reuters. He then spotted the shooter, just before he fired again.

"He was on the third floor of a building. Then the second one came right into the vehicle and blew up," said Darang, speaking from a hospital bed, his head and shoulders bandaged from shrapnel wounds.

One soldier died and Darang and some of the others were wounded. Bleeding, the 21-year army veteran ordered his comrades to dismount from the burning vehicle and take cover in a nearby building.

The four soldiers were rescued later and taken to hospital.

The rest of the contingent also came under withering fire from militants in buildings, six to seven storeys high, as they crossed the low-lying Mapandi bridge over the river. Some were hit by Molotov cocktails.

Despite his hostile attitude to Washington since taking power a year ago, Duterte could be forced to seek greater support from the United States.—Reuters ■

It is easier said than done, but we must change!

By Khin Maung Oo

Undeniably, every individual, especially each and every one of us who had ever experienced misfortunes wants a good change. So as to liberate ourselves out of the shadow of a bad system or society, we must try ourselves to make a move. “Nothing venture, nothing win,” as the saying goes. Much as we may face difficulties on our way of changing to the new goal, our concerted efforts will take us to our destination one day or another, on one condition that we must have a good leader so that the latter can lead us to a brighter world we hoped for as soon as possible. For saying so, it cannot be

assumed that the whole duty of bringing about the brighter world is to be left to the leader. At the same time, a leader must have good and obedient followers. In fact, we are all followers.

After living in fear for several decades under the suppression of the previous governments, we tried to be free from them out of our firm determination. Now, we have good leaders and a democratic government we had hoped for. We had been and will be ready to follow and support our government. As known by all, a pile of bad legacies were left to the current government, which will have yet to take much time to solve these. Apart from vested interests of the old

system that will blame, find faults with, severely criticize and harm us and our community in one way or another, we must all get ready to contribute our labors in building up a bright future for our younger generation. Plus, we are responsible for persuading them to join us. In a short period of time the country saw many changes. Who will deny it? We and they themselves are beginning to enjoy the fruits of our efforts to change. They may be well convinced that unprecedented changes will be accomplished in a few years to come, and they will be willing to join us. For saying so, we need not call them those who would like to jump into the band-wagon. As a matter of

fact, we are all in the same boat.

Here, I would like to remind ourselves that we as well need to change our dirty or adulterated minds and mindsets, which were stained with bad habits and spirits because of living in the dirty society, for ages. Selfishness, egoism, ultra-opportunism, one-upmanship etc., are inter alia among the evil habits. Had we blamed others without abandoning ours, the three fingers would point at ourselves in return. It may be easier said than done. However, by following the path laid down by our leaders, let us give up our old habits and change our mindsets for the sake of our offspring to build a just, peaceful and prosperous nation. ■

Combating Land Degradation And Drought

The solution for the lack of agriculture in Myanmar's dry zones could come from Israel, where half of the country's is considered a desert.

Approximately one quarter of the population of Myanmar live in the area that is considered Dry Zone (in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway regions). Insufficient rains and lack of water management make it difficult for the communities living there to produce enough agriculture products, hence leading to food insecurity and poverty. The area affected by these conditions is gradually growing. Desert is taking over.

Desertification means land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas as a result of human activity, climate change and various additional factors. As a result of land degradation yields decrease and in their wake the economic situation of farmers, particularly in the poorer areas of the developing countries, weakens and frequently leads to hunger, strife and massive emigration.

In 1994, the United Nations General Assembly declared June 17 the “World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought” in order to promote public awareness and this date has been observed since 1995. The World Day to Combat Desertification is a unique occasion to remind everybody that desertification can be effectively tackled, that solutions are possible, and that key tools to this aim lay in strengthened community participation and co-operation at all levels.

In order to combat desertification a country should apply a holistic approach, integrating several elements like water recycling, reclamation and



Agriculture in central Myanmar, which is considered a dry zone, is challenging because of frequent drought. **PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE**

reuse, water management and efficient irrigation, agriculture adjusted to arid environments, treating soil erosion, reduce salinization, improve mitigation and adaptation to climate change, and afforestation, to mention few.

In Israel, more than half of its area is desert, and it has to confront the challenge of desertification for many years. It is done by careful planning, research and development of technologies and methods to reduce the influence of the phenomena, and even increase the cultivated area in regions with almost

no rain through the year around.

The knowhow that was accumulated along the years is shared through MASHAV (Israel Agency for International Development Cooperation), INGOs and private companies. An example for such transfer of knowledge could be found in Ethiopia where Israeli nonprofit organization “Fair Planet” helps Ethiopian farmers to fight hunger by providing high-quality seeds, partly developed in Israel, that can better withstand harsh climate conditions, and are more resistant to pests and

increase crop yields fivefold.

The state of Israel is working closely with the UNCCD in order to match its major efforts in the area to the goals, plans and the framework of the UN's Convention for Combating Desertification. Israel is willing to share its knowhow and technology with Myanmar, in order to combat desertification and improve the life of the people in draught-related areas. — GNLM

Ref: <http://nocamels.com/2017/05/israelis-fight-hunger-ethiopia-farmers/>
<http://themimu.info/>



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker holds talks with Russian Ambassador in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. **PHOTO: MNA**

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets Russian Ambassador

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received H.E. Mr. Nikolay Listopadov, Russian Ambassador to Myanmar, yesterday at the building of the Amyotha Hluttaw in Nay Pyi Taw.

At the meeting, they discussed matters relating to the

promotion of bilateral relations and cooperation between the two counties.

Also present were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials from Amyotha Hluttaw. —Myanmar News Agency ■



Awareness-giving ceremony of Human Rights in progress. **PHOTO: MNA**

Awareness of Human Rights given to staff of MoI

A ceremony to give awareness to human rights was held in the hall of the Ministry of Information (MoI) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the session, U Win Mya, Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC), explained the basic concepts of human rights and the Declaration of Human Rights while Dr Myint Kyi, a member of MNHRC, also discussed matters relating to forming of the My-

anmar National Human Rights Commission and its activities. Afterwards, commissioners of MNHRC answered questions raised by the attendees of the Ministry of Information.

The awareness-giving session was attended by the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Information, the Director-Generals, the Managing Directors and other officials. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Accused assailant died

A man appearing in court for alleged involvement in an attack on the Koetankauk police station in Yathetaung Township in Rakhine State suffered stomach pains and died while being taken to the hospital for medical treatment on Thursday. As the

accused, Ali Mullah, appeared before the court on Wednesday afternoon, he fell unconscious because of acute stomach pain. He was taken by the security to Sittway General Hospital, where he died en route. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets families of the air crash victims

Defence Services Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing yesterday met with families of the air crash victims, thanked the departmental personnel and volunteers in the search and recovery operation and was briefed on the search and recovery operation.

First, the Senior General met with Tatmadaw officers and personnel and families onboard the crashed plane in Mingaladon Air Force Headquarter office.

The Senior General then met with families of the four Tatmadaw personnel and family members who were onboard the crashed plane in Dawei military base guest house, remaining families of 46 Tatmadaw officer, personnel and family members in Myeik air force base meeting hall and remaining families of 14 Tatmadaw officer, personnel and family members in Botepyin airport guest house and provided cash assistance.

He also met with departments, organisations, civil societies and local people who helped



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greets with local people who helped in the search and recovery operation for crashed plane. **PHOTO: MNA**

in the search and recovery operation yesterday at Dawei town hall.

Around 5 p.m. on 15 June, the tail portion of the plane was found in the area where it disappeared from the radar. Tatmadaw (navy) vessels and fishing vessels combed the area with much difficulties after which the discovery was made. The search operation is continuing in the area and once the Black Box is recovered, some

answers can be obtained and it will be announced truthfully said the Senior General.

The Senior General then presented cash which was received by the Taninthayi region government minister for security and border affairs. The Senior General also presented cash and document to honor the crew of the fishing vessel that found the tail portion of the plane. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Union Attorney General meets guests

Union Attorney General U Tun Tun Oo received head of International Institute for Democracy (International IDEA) Myanmar Mr. Mark McDowell yesterday morning at the meeting hall of the Union Attorney General's Office.

Matters relating to processes in which International

IDEA is cooperating and to continue cooperating, International IDEA providing technical advice on legal matters of the constitution, holding workshop on basic fundamentals of federal system and practice, providing training courses on federal system and constitution to attorneys of the Legislative Vetting

and Advising Department of the Union Attorney General Office and holding workshop on the role of attorney general in a federal system were discussed.

Present at the meeting were Deputy Attorney General U Win Myint and Director General U Min Swe. —Myanmar News Agency ■

Construction of CSA Training Centre discussed

Dr Win Thein, the chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, received a delegation led by Mr. Masayuki Karasawa, the chief representative of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Myanmar Office in the hall of Union Civil Service Board in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters concerning

the situation on the assistance of JICA in the public service reform process, cooperation with National Personnel Authority of Japan, providing training programmes for development of human resources and capacity building and arrangements to provide scholarships.

Additionally, they also discussed matters on construction of the Civil Services Academy

(CSA) Training Centre in Nay Pyi Taw, which will have 200-bed dormitories to provide the capacity-building courses for officers.

Also present at the meeting were U Saw Valentine, member of the Union Civil Service Board, permanent secretary U Khin Maung Win and deputy permanent secretary U Myint Swe. —Myanmar News Agency

Exam Results from Inaccessible Exam Centres to be broadcast by Myanmar Radio

Examination Results of the Basic Education High School, held in March, 2017 will be released at 6 am on Saturday 17th June

simultaneously nationwide, with the candidates who passed the exam from inaccessible examination centres of Regions and

State to be broadcast from Myanmar Radio's national races' channels at 6 o'clock of the same day as in previous years. —MNA

US congressman's condition improves but still critical after shooting

WASHINGTON — US Representative Steve Scalise's condition has improved but remained critical on Thursday, a day after a man who had expressed anger toward President Donald Trump opened fire on Republican lawmakers at a baseball practice.

Trump on Thursday reiterated his call for unity in the aftermath of the shooting in the Washington suburb of Alexandria, Virginia. But Nancy Pelosi, the top Democrat in the House of Representatives, criticized some Republicans who have blamed the shooting on vitriol from the political left.

Scalise, a congressman from Louisiana who is the No. 3 House Republican, suffered injuries to internal organs, broken bones and severe bleeding after being shot in the left hip on a baseball field where he and other lawmakers were practicing for a charity baseball game.

Scalise underwent a second surgery for internal injuries and a broken leg — his third procedure overall — and remained in critical condition but had shown improvement, MedStar Washington Hospital Center said in a statement on Thursday.

Scalise, 51, and three others were wounded when a man identified as James Hodgkinson, 66, from the St. Louis suburb of Belleville, Illinois, opened fire on the lawmakers. The others wounded were a police officer, a congressional aide and a lobbyist.

Hodgkinson, who had a history of posting angry messages against Trump and other Republicans on social media, died after being wounded by police.



Police investigate a shooting scene after a gunman opened fire on Republican members of Congress during a baseball practice near Washington in Alexandria, Virginia. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

The US Capitol Police said Hodgkinson used a 9 mm handgun and a 7.62-caliber rifle in the shooting, and traces run by investigators showed he evidently acquired the weapons legally.

"Both were purchased by the shooter from federal firearms licensees," the Capitol Police said in a statement. "We currently have no evidence to suggest that the purchases were not lawful."

The FBI recovered a cellphone, computer and camera from Hodgkinson's van and was examining them for evidence, the statement said.

Trump, who visited Scalise at the hospital on Wednesday, said the congressman was "in some trouble but he's going to be okay, we hope."

"It's been much more difficult than people even thought at the time," Trump told reporters at the White House on Thursday, adding he also visited the wounded Capitol Police officer at the hospital.

Vice President Mike Pence earlier on Thursday said he visited the hospital where Scalise was being treated.

Republican members of Congress played their Democratic colleagues in a charity game on Thursday night at Nationals Park, home of the Washington Nationals Major League Baseball team, with thousands of spectators attending.

The lawmakers took the field with many wearing hats to honor Scalise. When the members of the Republican team

were announced, mention of Scalise's name drew a standing ovation throughout the stadium.

The shooting has raised questions about lawmakers' security, renewed the nation's contentious debate over guns and drawn new attention to the harsh rhetoric that reflects America's political polarization.

Trump, in a video message played at the game, said the event had "a much deeper level of meaning" because of the shooting.

"In Washington we have our disagreements, but we all agree that we are here to serve this nation we love and the people who call it home," Trump said. "That's the source of unity and more than ever we must embrace it."—Reuters ■

WORLD BRIEFS

May urges Qatar, Saudi and Bahrain to ease tensions

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May urged the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and Qatar on Thursday to take steps to reduce tensions that have led the Arab world's biggest powers to cut ties with Qatar.

"The Prime Minister raised the ongoing isolation of Qatar in the Gulf region, calling on all sides to urgently de-escalate the situation, engage meaningfully in dialogue, and restore Gulf Cooperation Council unity at the earliest possible opportunity," a spokesperson for May said in a statement. Qatar should "continue to build on the progress it has already made to address the scourge of radicalisation and terrorism in the region, in partnership with its Gulf allies," the spokesperson added.—Reuters ■

Four local labours killed in eastern Afghan blast

MEHTARLAM, (Afghanistan) — Four Afghan civilians were killed after a vehicle they were travelling touched off an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in eastern Laghman Province Friday morning, the provincial government said.

"The incident occurred in Alingar district at 5:30 am local time. The victims were local labors travelling to a construction site and their vehicle was also destroyed by the blast," it said in a statement. The statement blamed the Taliban militant group for the incident and strongly condemned the attack.—Xinhua ■

Russian airstrike may have killed IS leader in Syria, says Defence Ministry

MOSCOW — A Russian airstrike may have killed Islamic State leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi in northern Syria on May 28, the Russian Defence Ministry said Friday. It said in a statement that Russian Su-35 and Su-34 warplanes carried out a strike against a location in a Raqqa suburb, where IS leaders met, killing several high-ranking commanders, 30 middle-level field commanders and up to 300 militants.—Xinhua ■

Poland plans Trump-era defence spending splurge, critics say 'unrealistic'

WARSAW — Poland's new plans to nearly double defence spending and add a further 100,000 personnel to its armed forces seem, on paper, to be just what NATO allies need to counter US President Donald Trump's charge that Europe does not pay enough for its security.

Partly a response to Moscow's actions in Poland's eastern neighbour Ukraine, the "Concept of Defence of the Republic

of Poland" aims to enable Warsaw to resist any possible Russian aggression without having to rely so much on help from the thousands of US and other NATO troops already based in Poland.

But the plan risks alienating Poland's allies, could allow Russia to exploit new weaknesses and may prove financially ruinous for Warsaw, NATO diplomats, security analysts and some in the Polish military and

government say. "In no more than 12 years Poland will be able to defend itself with its own armed forces," Defence Minister Antoni Macierewicz said when presenting the strategy in late May.

The right-wing Law and Justice (PiS) government's strategy essentially focuses on what it sees as Russia's goal to "create a new international order". It assumes a prolonged "aggressive

stance" from Moscow towards Poland and its allies.

Macierewicz has accused Poland's previous centrist government of underestimating threats from Russia, which in 2014 annexed Ukraine's Crimea peninsula. He has also stressed the need to boost the domestic defence industry, scrapping some earlier plans to buy equipment including drones from abroad.—Reuters ■

Syrians refugees head home on foot from Turkey for Eid holiday

CILVEGOZU, (TURKEY) — Carrying suitcases, shopping bags and toddlers, thousands of refugees walked back home into Syria from Turkey on Thursday ahead of the Eid festival that marks the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Turkey has taken in some 3 million Syrian migrants since the start of civil war in 2011, making it home to the world's largest refugee population.

Now Ankara is giving Syrian refugees the right to return to Turkey within a month if they want to go home to celebrate the Eid al-Fitr holiday.

Some said they wanted to start again in their homeland, and would return within the month if it did not work out, while others said they wanted to return to Syria for good, citing the difficulty of finding employment in Turkey.

"One day you can find a job, the other day you can't," said Sevsen Um Mustafa as she walked toward the border crossing with two daughters in tow. "Sometimes they make you work but they don't pay. Even if they do, it's not enough."

"Even smelling the soil of Aleppo is better than here," said the former Aleppo resident. "I'd



A Syrian boy runs with the others, who say they are returning to Syria ahead of the Eid al-Fitr, near the Turkish Cilvegozu border gate, located opposite of Syrian crossing point Bab al-Hawa in Reyhanli, in the southern Hatay Province, Turkey, on 15 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

rather die there because of war than here because of starvation."

The majority of Syrian refugees in Turkey live outside the government-built camps and struggle to make ends meet as the cost of food, rent and clothing usually exceeds their incomes.

The government, which tightened its border security after a 2016 deal with the European Union to stem illegal migration,

estimates it has spent some \$25 billion on housing the refugees.

Authorities did not give any figures on how many Syrians have returned so far. A Reuters witness said at least 3,000 people crossed on foot through the dusty Cilvegozu border crossing into Syria during several hours on Thursday.

Ankara introduced work permits for Syrians in 2016 but many,

like 22-year-old Muhammed Ali, said opportunities are scarce.

"Even if I worked for the whole month, I'd have 200-300 liras (\$57-\$85) left over after paying the rent," said Ali, who was heading back to his hometown of Afrin, in northwest Syria after four years of working as a textile labourer in Istanbul.

"I had no rights of leave, no insurance. I was miserable."

The offer to return applies to Syrian nationals with valid travel documents who cross through the Cilvegozu and Oncupinar border gates, authorities said. The Eid al-Fitr holiday begins on 25 June. Those who wish to return can do so until 14 July.

Anyone who comes back after that will be treated as new arrival and subject to the regular immigration process, a local official at the Hatay governor's office said.

Facing criticism from Western allies that it was too slow to stop the flow of jihadists from Syria, Turkey has fortified its 900 km (560 miles) border with fences, minefields, ditches and a wall. In August 2016 it launched a military campaign in Syria and drove Islamic State militants from its border.

Authorities say thousands of Syrians have since returned to Syrian towns freed from Islamic State. Still, Turkey's biggest cities and border provinces still host hundreds of thousands of refugees. Images from Turkey's state-run broadcaster TRT also showed hundreds of refugees waiting near Oncupinar border crossing in the southeastern Turkish province of Kilis.—Reuters ■

Iraqi PM Abadi postpones visit to Saudi Arabia amid Gulf rift



Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi (C) walks during his visit to Mosul, Iraq, on 29 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

BAGHDAD — Iraq's Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi postponed a Saudi Arabia visit to avoid taking sides in the rift between the kingdom and Qatar, Iraqi of-

ficials said on Thursday.

Wednesday's planned visit was postponed "so that it would not be considered as supporting one side against the other", Jab-

bar al-Abadi, a lawmaker close to the prime minister, told Reuters.

Qatar is facing a severe economic and diplomatic boycott by Saudi Arabia and its regional allies who cut ties last week, in the worst rift among Gulf Arab states in years.

They accuse Qatar of funding terrorism, fomenting regional unrest and cosying up to their enemy Iran, all of which Qatar denies.

Abadi's visit to Saudi Arabia was to foster reconciliation between the Sunni Muslim kingdom and majority Shi'ite Iraq - and help heal deep and bitter divisions between Iraq's Shi'ites and Sunnis.

Abadi's office confirmed that the visit, during which Abadi was to meet with Saudi King Salman, was postponed, possibly to next week, without giving a reason.—Reuters ■

Colombia's FARC leader says all weapons to be handed over by 20 June

OSLO — The leader of Colombia's Marxist FARC rebel group said on Thursday all the group's weapons will be handed over to the United Nations by June 20 as planned, part of a peace deal to end more than 52 years of war.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) need to give up the last 40 per cent of their arms, as agreed last year with the government of President Juan Manuel Santos. Nearly 60 per cent of their arms were handed over by Tuesday.

"We have taken the political decision. We respect the agreement and we will implement it, whatever it takes," FARC leader Rodrigo Londono, known as Timochenko, told Reuters.

Under the accord, rejected in a public referendum but pushed through by congress, the FARC will become a po-

litical party and most fighters will receive an amnesty after explaining their actions publicly.

Londono said the FARC were discussing internally the name of their future political party, which could be ultimately decided at a FARC congress in August. "We are working with the date of August, the middle or the end of August. It could also be the beginning of September," he said, declining to say which options for names were on the table. "The Congress will decide all these things ... democratically," he said.

Londono was speaking after discussing the peace process together with Colombia's Foreign Minister Maria Angela Holguin, in a rare joint public appearance outside Colombia by a member of the government and a FARC leader.—Reuters ■

Macron says France must be country that 'thinks and moves like a startup'

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron laid out his vision for a digital future on Thursday, saying he wants France to undergo a revolution so that it becomes a country that “thinks and moves like a startup”.

Speaking at the Viva Technology conference in Paris, Macron repeated he wanted to reform labor laws to give more decision-making powers to companies and lower corporate tax.

The state should act as an enabler — not a constraint — for innovators and entrepreneurs, he said. The French president said he would limit the wealth tax to cover just property in order to help businesses, and would create a single levy of 30 per cent on capital



French President Emmanuel Macron (C) holds a device at the Viva Technology event dedicated to start-ups development, innovation and digital technology in Paris, France, on 15 June 2017. PHOTO: REUTERS

income so as not to scare businesses away.

“When an entrepreneur has too much success, he gets stigmatized and, in general, he gets taxed. This is over!”, Macron told a crowd of start-up founders, investors and students.

“I’m proud of you,” he told the audience, drawing applause. “Every-

where, women and men want to innovate. France is in the middle of becoming a nation of startups,” he said. France’s startup scene has been gaining traction, with investment by venture capital funds booming and expectations high for a business-friendly government under Macron, whose “Republic on the Move” (LREM) party

looks set for a landslide victory in Sunday’s parliamentary elections.

Bpifrance, the state investment bank which has in effect become France’s number one venture capital fund, told Reuters this week that is increasing its investment pot to 1 billion euros (\$1.12 billion).

Macron, who during his campaign promised that 10 billion euros would be invested in innovation, said France needed only to carry out a technological revolution but to transform society as a whole, across all business sectors. “We will drive through these transformation without delay,” Macron promised. “You do not wait, because your competitors do not wait.” —Reuters ■

Searchers drill to locate men missing in southern Chile mine

SANTIAGO — Chilean authorities began a fresh drill on Thursday to try to locate two miners who went missing a week ago when the mine in which they were working was flooded. A landslide on Friday at a section of the Delia mine, part of Canadian-listed Mandalay Resources’ Cerro Bayo gold and silver complex in Chile’s southern Aysen region, sparked the flooding from a nearby lake. The two missing miners have been identified as Enrique Ojeda and Jorge Sanchez. Authorities have not made contact with them and do not know if they were killed or survived by reaching an emergency shelter, which is located some 200 meters (220

yards) underground and around 50 meters from the site of the landslide.

The events recall the 2010 mining accident in Copiapo, northern Chile, when 33 miners made world headlines after they survived in an emergency shelter for nearly 10 weeks before being rescued.

Snowfall in recent days has complicated the rescue effort, authorities said. “The government has deployed a large team of experts in drilling, water handling, search and security that is working 24 hours,” said Mining Minister Aurora Williams, after visiting the site and meeting with the families of the missing miners on Wednesday. —Reuters ■

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV NESHAT VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NESHAT VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM’S DAY NOTICE

MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC HA LONG VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MIP where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT**

Phone No: 2301185

Global power sector emissions to peak in 2026

PARIS — Global emissions of greenhouse gases from the power sector are expected to peak in 2026, but will still be some way above levels needed to limit temperature rises in line with the Paris climate agreement, research showed on Thursday.

Overall, \$10.2 trillion will be invested in new global power generation between 2017 and 2040, with renewable power sources such as wind and solar accounting for almost three quarters of that, a report by Bloomberg New Energy Finance (BNEF) said.

By 2040, global emissions are expected to be 4 per cent below 2016’s levels, but an additional \$5.3 trillion investment in renewable power would be needed by 2040 to keep rising global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit).

Under the 2015 Paris deal, more than 190 countries pledged

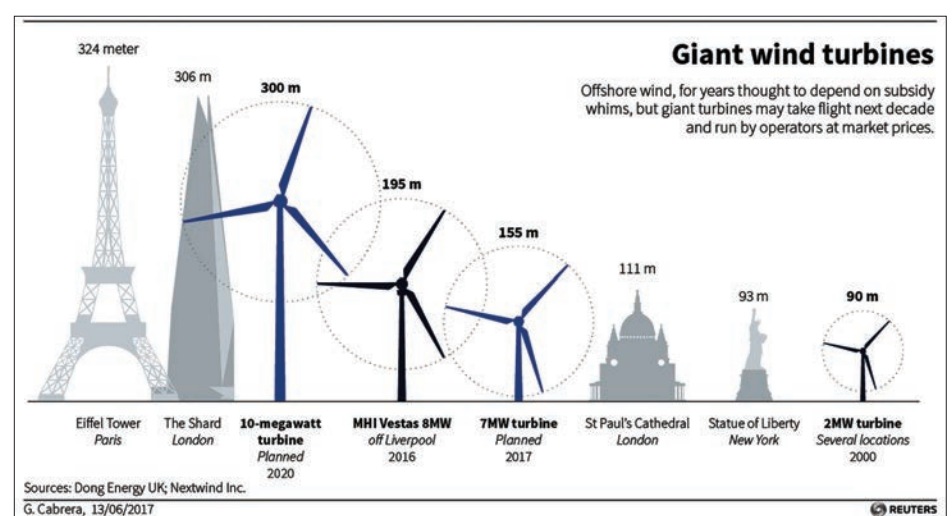


PHOTO: REUTERS

to curb greenhouse gas emissions to keep planet-warming well below 2 degrees to stave off the worst effects of climate change.

The report said the costs of renewable power were expected to continue to fall, with the cost of solar tipped to fall by 66 per cent by 2040.

The cost of offshore wind power is forecast to fall by 71 per cent by 2040, helped in part by increased competition and economies of scale from larger projects and bigger turbines.

US President Donald

Trump said this month he would withdraw his country from the Paris Agreement, but the report said the move is unlikely to revive the US coal industry.

Coal-fired power generation in the United States is expected to fall by 51 per cent by 2040, with a 169 per cent increase in renewable power helping to fill the void.

“The greening of the world’s electricity system is unstoppable, thanks to rapidly falling costs for solar and wind power, and a growing role for batteries, including those

in electric vehicles,” said BNEF analyst Seb Henbest, the report’s lead author.

Homes and businesses with their own renewable generation sources, such as solar panels, are expected to be able to use and even sell the power they generate by storing it in batteries in their cars.

Electric vehicles and their batteries are forecast to account for 12-13 per cent of electricity generation by 2040 in Europe and the United States, the report said. —Reuters ■

Asia stocks steady after US tech rout, yen slips as BOJ stands pat

SINGAPORE — Asian stocks steadied on Friday, taking in stride the resumption of the US technology rout overnight, and European shares look set for a positive start following Thursday's losses.

The Japanese yen remained near a two-week low against the dollar after the Bank of Japan left monetary policy unchanged as expected even as its US counterpart signaled further tightening.

It was trading 0.3 per cent lower at 111.23 yen JPY=D4 per dollar after the BOJ left in place its programme to buy Japanese government bonds, and kept its short-term interest rate target at minus 0.1 per cent and its 10-year government bond yield target at around zero per cent.

As expected, the cen-



A man walks in front of a screen showing today's movements of Nikkei share average outside a brokerage in Tokyo, Japan, on 2 June 2016. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

tral bank offered a more upbeat view on private consumption and overseas economies, signaling its confidence that the recovery was gaining momentum.

Japan's Nikkei .N225 advanced 0.7 per cent, narrowing its loss for the week to 0.3 per cent.

"The market was relieved that there was no mention of an exit strate-

gy, at least for now," said Yoshinori Shigemi, global market strategist at JP-Morgan Asset Management.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific

shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS slipped about 0.1 per cent, on track to end the week down 0.85 per cent.

Financial spread-betters expect Britain's FTSE 100 .FTSE, Germany's DAX .GDAXI and France's CAC 40 .FCHI to all open up about 0.2 per cent.

Overnight, the Nasdaq .IXIC led losses on Wall Street with a 0.5 per cent drop, dragged lower by shares including Apple .AAPL.O and Alphabet (GOOGL.O) that tumbled on bearish analysts' reports. The S&P 500 technology index .SPLRCT also declined 0.5 per cent.

The broader S&P 500 index .SPX fell 0.2 per cent and the Dow Jones Industrial Average .DJI slipped 0.1 per cent.

"It was a brutal day

for the tech sector once again as investors are increasingly more worried about the (Federal Reserve) tightening cycle and how that would put a number of firms in trouble," Naeem Aslam, chief market analyst at ThinkMarkets in London, wrote in a note.

"The tech boom has been on the back of easy money and lower interest rates. Both of them are leaving town."

South Korea's KO-SPI .KS11 slipped about 0.1 per cent, surrendering early gains. The biggest company, Samsung Electronics (005930.KS) added 0.1 per cent.

The second biggest firm, semiconductor concern SK Hynix (000660.KS), hit a 15-year high before pulling back to trade 0.2 per cent lower.—Reuters ■

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (175)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY. NO (175) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MIN LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE MV PACITA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACITA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S NEW GOLDEN SEA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE MV BAGAN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BAGAN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIM'S DAY NOTICE MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THANLWIN STAR VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2017 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD**

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Miley Cyrus delivers surprise performance in NYC subway



PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Singer Miley Cyrus surprised fans at the Rockefeller Center subway station in New York City with her performance of “Party in the USA”.

The 24-year-old singer performed her hit song with Jimmy Fallon at the station.

The “Malibu” songstress donned a black wig, cowboy hat and sunglasses, while Jimmy wore a light brown wig with super long bangs to cover his face, reported Ace Showbiz.

The duo performed Dolly Parton’s classic “Jolene” and attracted many fans.

After the performance, Miley and Jimmy revealed their identity and started singing “Party in the USA”.

Fans of the “Wrecking Ball” singer were singing along with her and recorded the surprise performance on their phones.

During her appearance on “Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon”, Miley also delivered a hilarious version of Ed Sheeran’s “Shape of You” using Google Translate.

—PTI ■



PHOTO: PTI

You have be a show at business, not in real life: Priyanka

MUMBAI — Actress Priyanka Chopra says an artiste can act their way through the reel life, but off-camera one should stick to their own true selves.

The 34-year-old actress, who was ranked social media’s favourite performer by Top Actors chart, a ranking of the most popular actors on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube and Google Plus, conducted a Q and A on the internet after she received the good news.

Priyanka is currently shooting in Prague and started a quick #AskPC session with her Twitter followers.

When one of the fans asked the “Quantico” actress how she manages to stay grounded in the challenging world of showbiz, she replied, “You have be a show at business, not in real life.”

Priyanka said “haters don’t exist in her world”.

On dealing with negativity, the “Baywatch” actress wrote, “It’s hard to. It hurts

too.. But you have to live on the side of your truth and go on. And slowly time heals everything.”

When a fan asked, “What’s the one advice to women who want to be achievers in their chosen field?”, Priyanka replied, “When you choose something give it your all..”

On making a choice between her home and travels, the National Award-winning actress wrote, “Home is where the heart is. If you can’t carry your heart where you go you’ll always be homeless even at home.”

About love, she wrote it “absolutely exists... In beautiful forms all around. We just have to recognise it”.

Priyanka also answered a fan’s question who asked her if she ever felt apprehensive about things.

She said, “Everything I do something new I’m apprehensive. But courage of conviction is what I go with.”

—PTI ■

Kim Kardashian criticised for new advert

LOS ANGELES — Reality TV star Kim Kardashian received backlash after she released a photo on her social media accounts to promote her new cosmetic line, KKW Beauty.

Fans took to social media to express their disappointment in the 36-year-old reality TV star for purposely making her face darker in her new make-up campaign, reported

Ace Showbiz.

Kim posted the controversial photo on her Instagram and Twitter accounts. “@KKWBEAUTY Creme Contour & Highlight Kit 6.21.17 KKW-BEAUTY.COM,” she wrote in the caption.

Fans on Twitter were unhappy with how Kim looked in the photo.

One commented on Instagram, “I just think that that’s

not contouring because it’s a little too dark everywhere and if it’s not black face it’s a little too close.”

Another wrote, “Why did she retouch the photo to make herself look so much darker.”

“You dont have to do black-face,” a fan tweeted alongside photos of Kim with her natural skin tone and her darkened skin tone.—PTI ■

Patty Jenkins has mixed feelings about women-only Wonder Woman screenings

NEW YORK — Director Patty Jenkins said she might not be completely onboard with the idea of organising women-only shows of her recently-released superhero epic film “Wonder Woman”.

The comments of the 45-year-old filmmaker, who has received critical acclaim for the Gal Gadot-starrer DC

film, come after a theatre in Austin showed a woman-only show of the movie, reported Elle magazine.

“I actually have sort of mixed feelings about all of that only because I do believe in not excluding anyone from anything. And so, on the one hand, I’m so delighted by those screenings and want people to

be able to have those screenings.

“On the other hand I can imagine being offended if I’m excluded from those screenings, particularly because Wonder Woman herself has a very, very passionate fan base, many of whom are men,” Jenkins told The Frame.

—PTI ■

‘Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt’ renewed for season four

LOS ANGELES — “Unbreakable Kimmy Schmidt” is returning for the fourth season.

The show has been renewed by Netflix for its next installment after the third season of the Ellie Kemper-led comedy garnered acclaim last month, according to The Hollywood Reporter.

NBC originally ordered the series, which is about a

woman starting afresh in New York after spending 15 years locked up in a, before moving to Netflix.

Eventually, the streaming service picked up the show for two series.

The star cast includes Tius Burgess, Carol Kane, and Jane Krakowski, along with show creator Tina Fey appearing in the first season.—PTI ■



Cheng Yongmao, the engineer in charge of the reconstruction project on the Jiankou section of the Great Wall, looks as the sun rises over the wall, located in Huairou District, north of Beijing, China, on 7 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

China's Great Wall repaired with simple tools, bricks of old

BEIJING — At one of the most treacherous and least restored stretches of China's Great Wall, a line of pack mules halted upon emerging from the gloom of a dense forest draped in mist and dew.

Laden with 150 kg (330 pounds) of bricks each, the seven animals finally got moving in response to the coaxing and swearing of their masters, eager to gain altitude before the sun climbed high in the sky.

For more than a dec-

ade, mules have been crucial in the effort to restore Jiankou, a serpentine 20-km (12-mile) section of the wall about 70 km (44 miles) north of central Beijing that is notorious for its ridges and perilous slopes.

"The path is too steep and the mountains are too high, so the bricks can only be transported by mules," said local mule owner Cao Xinhua, who has worked on Great Wall restoration projects in the mountains north of Beijing for 10 years.

Where they could, workers used the original bricks that had broken off the wall over the centuries. When they found none, they used new bricks made to exacting specifications.

"We have to stick to the original format, the original material and the original craftsmanship, so that we can better preserve the historical and cultural values," said Cheng Yongmao, the engineer leading Jiankou's restoration.

Cheng, 61, who has

repaired 17 km (11 miles) of the Great Wall since 2003, belongs to the 16th generation in a long line of traditional brick makers.

A government clamp-down on pollution has forced the closure of almost all brick-making factories in Beijing and nearby provinces, Cheng said.

If he ran out of bricks, Cheng added, he would have to look for bricks left elsewhere or request the central government to consider reopening some brick factories.—Reuters ■

As art flies off the walls at Basel, buyers beware, experts warn

BASEL, (SWITZERLAND) — "When did so many people start caring about contemporary art?" wondered Marc Glimcher, head of the Pace gallery empire, as he busily made deals at Art Basel's VIP preview this week.

With 291 galleries from 35 countries presenting 4,000 artists' works, the world's most prestigious art fair is as much a place to hobnob as it is to buy and sell an estimated 2.5 billion to 3 billion euros (\$2.8-3.4 billion) of art.

This year's fair — hard on the heels of a \$110.5 million sale of a Jean-Michel Basquiat painting at a Sotheby's auction in New York — got off to a fast clip, dispelling a somber market mood last year. At the Levy

Gorvy booth, a collector snatched up a small Joan Miro on paper while the gallery's co-founder and former Christie's chairman Brett Gorvy showed another potential buyer a nearby work. A large painting from the late German artist Sigmar Polke's flamingo and heron series, which caught the eyes of four buyers, sold for around \$12 million, while a \$32 million Basquiat attracted museum curators and dealers.

"I always said I won't leave in a downturn or when the market is riding a rocket to the top," said top dealmaker Gorvy on his departure from Christie's in December to join forces with dealer Dominique Levy.

"It feels like there's a nice steady rise." —Reuters ■



Lisa Schiff, New York based art advisor looks at the artwork 'Rob Pruitt's Official Art World/Celebrity Look-Alikes from 2016/2017' by US artist Rob Pruitt at the Unlimited exhibition during the Art Basel in Basel, Switzerland, on 13 June 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Programme Schedule

(17-6-2017 07:00am ~ 18-6-2017 07:00am) MST

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Great Shwedagon-The Sacred Hair Relics Hailing Pogodas
07:54	Am	Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-make Skin Care Product
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Taung Byone Nat Festival (Ep-2)
08:53	Am	School for the Blind
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar's Beauty and Nature "Beach"
09:52	Am	Talented Musicians
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	NEXGEN: Next Generation (Swam Yee Tun Lwin)
10:36	Am	Yathe Taung Township In A Nut-Shell

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Friday 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	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-3)
07:43	Pm	Sweet Delicacy Of Pathein
07:51	Pm	Today Myanmar: Water Hyacinths
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Hanthawaddy U Win Tin: A Fearless Man (Ep-1)
08:55	Pm	Now in Yangon

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

Programme Schedule
(17-6-2017, Saturday)

6:00 Am	◆ Paritta by Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw	2:25 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series
7:00 Am	◆ Breakfast News	4:35 Pm	◆ Teleplay
7:35 Am	◆ Weekly Sport Info	5:05 Pm	◆ Documentary (ASEAN)
8:35 Am	◆ Pan Pyo Khin (Part-17)	5:25 Pm	◆ Documentary (Weather Report)
9:10 Am	◆ Documentary	5:45 Pm	◆ NHK Programme "All about Rice" (Let's Eat Rice)
10:40 Am	◆ Peom For Children	6:20 Pm	◆ Go For Gold
11:00 Am	◆ Health and Vegetables (Part-8)	6:35 Pm	◆ Tasty Trip
11:35 Am	◆ Game for Children	8:00 Pm	◆ News/ International News/ Weather Report
12:30 Pm	◆ TV Drama Series	8:35 Pm	◆ Road to SEA Game
1:50 Pm	◆ Talk on Old Flim (Part-1)	◆ Documentary (Myanmar Investment Forum 2017)	
		◆ Myanmar Movies (Part-1)	

Myanmar U22 to play friendly match against All Stars team

MYANMAR U22 which is preparing for international matches will play friendly match with Myanmar All Stars Club at Thuwanna Stadium in Yangon on 24 June. The most favourite players from Myanmar national league will be included in Myanmar All Stars Club and the match is intended for showing Myanmar player's abilities in front of football fans and to unite the minds of Myanmar players.

"We need to watch out which team will win after the match as though Myanmar U22

are composing with young players who had played U20 world cup in New Zealand and All Stars also includes experienced former Myanmar players", said a Myanmar football fan.

Myanmar All Star team is going to be handled by U Kyaw Lwin from Ayeyawady United FC, U Myint Ko from Shan United FC and U Soe Myat Min from Shan United FC.

All Myanmar football fans will be allowed to enter the stadium for the match without paying any charges.— Kyaw Zin Lin ■

Myanmar women national football team hopes gold medal for 29th SEA Game

MYANMAR women national football team, one of the best teams in Asia, is aiming for a gold medal in the upcoming SEA game and began special training since 30 May.

Although Myanmar got victories over Asian international matches, it never won the gold medal for SEA game so Myanmar women players are willing to gain such kind of achievement in the upcoming SEA game.

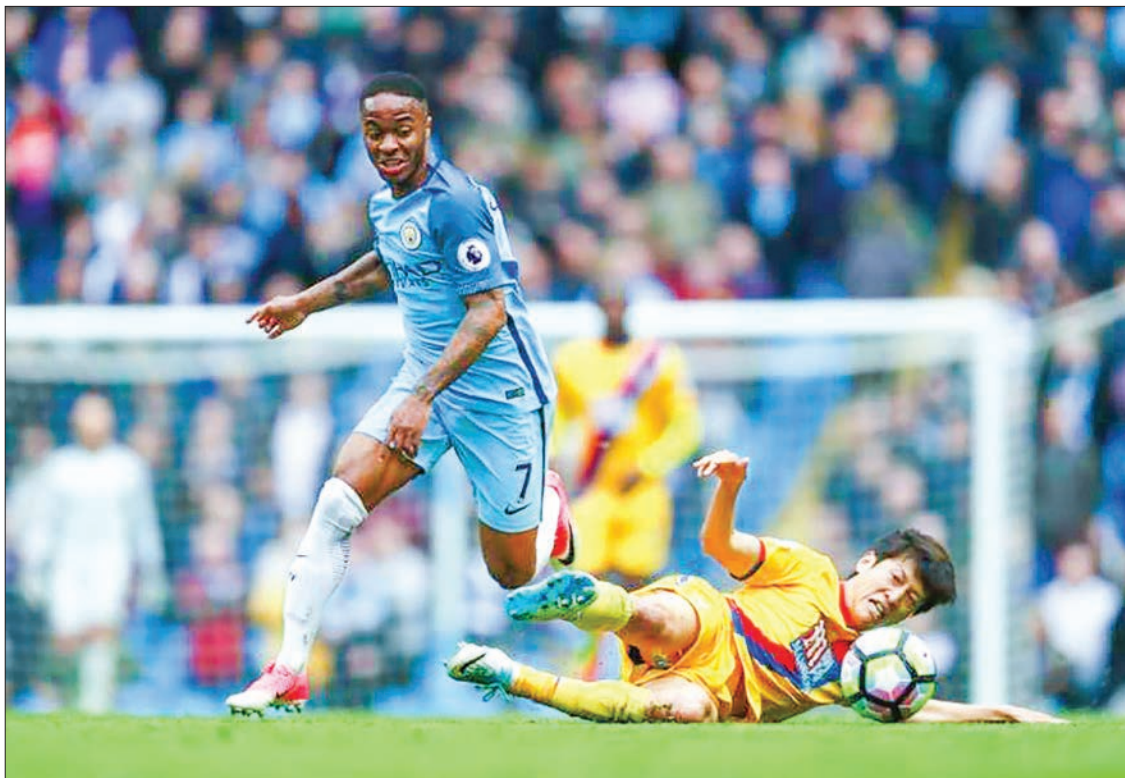
Myanmar players have been camping since 30 May

in Yangon and coached by expectorate Coach Roger Reijners. The team is composed of 27 players including San San Maw, Khin Moe Wai, Yi Yi Oo and Naw Arr Luarr Phaw who played brilliantly in international tournaments.

Myanmar will play at least four international matches starting from the end of this month before SEA Game as it wants to gain more experiences and will be able to prepare in time according to the matches' result.—Shine Htet Zaw ■



Myanmar women players train with Coach Roger Reijners. **PHOTO: PHOE THAW ZIN**



Manchester City's Raheem Sterling in action with Crystal Palace's Lee Chung-yong at Etihad Stadium on 6 May 2017. **PHOTO: REUTERS**

Sterling expects Man City to 'punish' opponents

LONDON — Manchester City have the talent to compete on all fronts if they cut down defensive mistakes next season, winger Raheem Sterling has said.

Manager Pep Guardiola ended his debut campaign without a trophy as City finished third in the league after sloppy defending cost them crucial points to end their title hopes.

Their Champions League campaign was dogged by similar issues as City failed to protect a two-goal lead against French side AS Monaco and were knocked out

in the Round of 16, but Sterling remains hopeful for the future.

"With the team, the players and the manager we have, it's looking to be good in the future," Sterling told the club's official website. (www.mancity.com)

"We're a team that can punish teams. We need to defend better as a unit — not letting in as many cheap goals. That's what has cost us — our own mistakes and collective errors on the field.

"Once we become more street-wise, we'll be a real force."

The 22-year-old England

international scored 10 goals in all competitions last season and believes that Guardiola can help him develop further.

"He's a massive influence for everyone," Sterling said.

"He can always give everyone advice and for a player like me, it's great to be learning from someone like that.

"He told me to be myself and express myself. He said my natural ability will always come through once I do that. It's a privilege to work my trade under him."—Reuters ■

Schippers wins, disqualified and then reinstated

OSLO — World champion Dafne Schippers was involved in a bizarre women's 200 metres at the Oslo Diamond League meeting on Thursday when the Dutchwoman false-started, was allowed to race and won, was then disqualified and finally reinstated.

Canadian Olympic bronze medallist Andre De Grasse had a far more straightforward victory as he edged home to win the 100 metres with his best time of the season.

Britain's Jake Wightman pulled off a shock win in the men's 1500 metres and Olym-

pic champion Kerron Clement came in last in the men's 400 metres hurdles, won by Norwegian Karsten Warholm.

But all the drama surrounded Schippers, celebrating her 25th birthday, who made a false start in her race but was allowed to continue after signalling to officials that she could not hear.

The Dutchwoman won comfortably in 22.31 seconds before her disqualification was announced and Ivorian Murielle Ahoure, who finished in 22.74, was handed the win.

"It was noisy at the start, so much noise, very hard to

concentrate," said Schippers. "Such races happen sometimes so I must accept it."

However, one hour later, the Diamond League organisers tweeted: "Confirmation: Dafne Schippers reinstated as winner in the 200m with a time of 22.31." No further explanation was given. De Grasse, hoping to give Usain Bolt a run for his money at the world championships in London in August, won in 10.01 seconds, one hundredth of a second ahead of Britain's Chijindu Ujah with Ben Youssef Meite of Ivory Coast third in 10.03.—Reuters ■