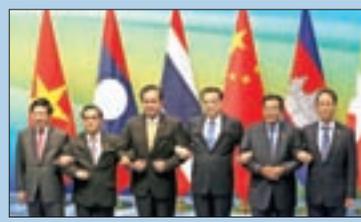


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8 Mile Junction flyover opened to ease traffic jams

A K15.8 billion flyover has been put into service to ease congestions at 8 Mile junction in Yangon Township, Yangon. An opening ceremony was held yesterday.

The 8 Mile Junction Flyover, built by Crown Advanced Construction Co Ltd, is located at the junction of Pyay Road, Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road and Kyaikwaing Pagoda Road. The 525-meter flyover carries a four-lane motorway with a main bridge of 465 metres and an approach bridges of 30 metres each.

Regarding a bus-stop at the entrance to the bridge, U Hla Aung, chair of All-Bus Line Control Committee, said that arrangements have been made to remove the bus-stop as it poses a danger to vehicles heading toward the bridge from Pyay Road.

He expressed his view that the new overpass will help relieve congestions at the junction.

Thanks to the opening of the new flyover at 8 Mile junction, buses and cars heading towards Yangon International Airports and the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway can now pass over the bridge not having to stop at the traffic lights underneath.

During the opening ceremony, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Myint Swe unveiled a stone inscription of the bridge. Yangon Region Hluttaw Speaker U Tin Maung Tun and officials formally opened the bridge. — *Soe Win-SP*



The newly opened overpass at 8 Mile Junction. PHOTO: HTAY AUNG (MIRROR)

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VACCINE MYSTERY

Parliament to discuss hepatitis B vaccine fatalities

A PROPOSAL has been submitted by Lower House MP U Myint Oo, a member of the National League for Democracy who represents Thanatpin Township, to discuss the deaths of three newborn babies after they were injected with a hepatitis B vaccine at Bago General Hospital.

The findings of a field study conducted by MP U Myint Oo on Bago General Hospital on 19 March will be presented to the Pyithu Hluttaw in a bid to uncover the truth behind the incident.

“I want to know whether the fatal hepatitis B vaccine was reg-

istered or not. I would also like to know about what preventive measures are in place [to stop such tragedies from happening in the future]. I don't believe these fatalities occurred during birth. It is probable they were a direct result of the vaccine. We also didn't get any samples during

inspection on the pharmacy responsible for selling the vaccine. A submission [of field study findings] has been made to the Pyithu Hluttaw Health Committee and to the Hluttaw itself for discussions to be held on the issue,” said U Myint Oo.

An inquiry will be held on

whether the hepatitis B vaccine was officially registered; the issuing of financial compensation to aggrieved families; whether there is a regulation on reliable care of hospital patients; and on what kinds of preventive protection are in place.

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Shwedagon Pagoda is crowded with devotees on the Full Moon of Tabaung. PHOTO: MNA

Buddha Pujaniya Tabaung festival celebrated at pagodas across Yangon

PAGODAS in Yangon such as Shwedagon, Sule, Botahtaung and Shwe Phone Pwint pagodas were packed with pilgrims celebrating the Buddha Pujaniya Festival on the Full Moon of Tabaung yesterday.

Thousands of devotees thronged Shwedagon Pagoda to celebrate the 2604th Buddha Pujaniya Tabaung Festival of the pagoda yesterday morning.

During the merit-sharing ceremony of the festival the congregation received nine precepts from State Ovacariya Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Gantavasaka Pandita Bhaddanta Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Bhaddanta Nandobasa and offered provisions to members of Sangha.

Likewise, Botahtaung Kyai-kaeat SandawU Pagoda in Seik-

kan Township, Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda in Pazudaung Township, Thiri Mingala Kaba-Aye Pagoda, Kyaik-waing Pagoda and Tooth Relic Pagoda (Yangon) in Mayangon Township, Lawka Chantha Abaya Labamuni Pagoda in Insein Township and Kyaikkasan Pagoda in Thingangyun Township were crowded with pilgrims on the Full Moon. —Yi Yi Myint/Ohnma Thant

Myanmar, China meet for trade promotion



The meeting for trade promotion between Myanmar and China is held. PHOTO: MNA

VICE PRESIDENT Dr Sai Mauk Kham and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang were both present at a bilateral meeting at Hotel Sheraton in Sanya town, Hainan,

China, yesterday.

They discussed ways to promote trade between the two countries by encouraging legal border trade. They

also discussed the construction of the Kunlun bridge. The meeting drew high-ranking officials from both sides. —Myanmar News Agency

ASEAN Scholarships available for Myanmar students

THE Singapore government is offering 2017 ASEAN Scholarship Awards for Myanmar students to pursue fulltime studies in Singapore, according to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to an application form sent by the Singapore Embassy in Myanmar to the minis-

try, Myanmar students who were born during the period from 2000 to 2002, who are in Grade 9 or above, who speak English and who have records of academic excellence are eligible to apply for the scholarships.

The selection of students for scholarship awards is scheduled

for this July, and results will be released in October after conducting interviews with the selected students in September.

Those interested are invited to send their applications to the Singapore Embassy in Yangon not later than 3 June. —Than Oo

Mandalay Mingalar market fire razes more than 300 shops, flats

Aung Thant Khaing

MORE than 300 shops and flats were gutted in a huge fire that engulfed Mingalar market in Chanayethasan Township, Mandalay Region last Tuesday.

The fire caused losses more than K 1 billion, according to the local police force.

Seven firemen and one red cross member have got injuries during the fighting with the fire and they are receiving treatment at the hospital.

Of 550 spaces, 298 including 19 flats and 43 shops were destroyed by the massive fire that raged for more than four hours according to the Mandalay City Development Committee. The gutted shops include an office, five showrooms and 263 clothing retail stores.

An inspection of the fire-ravaged market will be undertaken to ascertain the extent of the structural damage to the

building, said U Tun Kyi, committee member-6, adding that a decision on whether or not the market will need to be demolished will be made after the examination.

“Shop owners are allowed back into the market floor by floor in order to carry out their remaining belongings,” added committee member-6 on his inspection tour of the market yesterday.

Despite the market staying closed temporarily following the fire, shop owners and residents were allowed to remove their possessions yesterday under the close supervision of officials including Tatmadawmen and police officers.

“Most shops including mine had burned. Let me encourage victims not to be plunged into despair as I heard that KBZ Bank is planning to offer loans to the fire victims”, said U Kyaw Min, owner of the Sein & Mya mattress shop.—GNLM

Over 2,000 monkeys descend on Mandalay monastery



Monkeys are seen at Alaygu Monastery in Yetakhun mountain in Mandalay. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

OVER two thousands red monkeys, which inhabit the mountains of Shan State, have descended en masse to the Alaygu monastery, located on the Yetakhun mountain in Mandalay's Patheingyi township, according to monastery abbot U Thuriya.

The monastery first received three primate visitors back in 2013, but word must have spread of the monastery's favourable living conditions because this March saw thousands descend upon the building of religious worship, with the total number of primates within the monastery compound now totalling over two thousand, it is known.

“Three arrived at the beginning. But numbers slowly increased after they realized [the monastery] was a good source of food. Visiting pilgrims feed the groups of monkeys with bananas and watermelon. They've become tame and used to the presence of humans as a result. They live in groups on the top of the mountain on the tiers of the mon-

astery and at the base of mountain.” added abbot U Thuriya.

It is known the abbot of the Alaygu monastery looks after the monkeys which have come down from surrounding mountains to feed on fruits treated to them by visiting pilgrims and worshippers.

“The monkeys are very clever things, they can eat rice grains by peeling of the skin. They have become very used to humans and pose no danger to them anymore. They know when someone is going to feed them, arriving in groups. One group is made up of about 600 monkeys. Some have been relocated to Yankin mountain because there are so many of them.” said Ko Win Ko, a bamboo cutter from Yetakhun mountain.

The arrival of the primates to Alaygu monastery augmented the numbers of visitors who come to feed and take photos of the monkeys. The primates also attract local. —Myitmakha News Agency

Religious titles conferred on prominent monks, nuns

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein and his wife Daw Khin Khin Win attended a ceremony to confer religious titles and insignia on prominent monks at the Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Bamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa administered the five-fold Buddhist precepts of virtue to the congregation.

President U Thein Sein, Vice President U Nyan Tun, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Union Election Commission chairman U Tin Aye and high-ranking officials presented religious titles and insignia to members of the Sangha.

Missionary titles and insignia were also conferred on laypersons.

The religious titles presented at the ceremony included Abhidhaja Maharathaguru, Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika, Agga Maha Pandita, Agga Maha Saddhamma Jotika,



President U Thein Sein offers a religious title to a Buddhist monk. PHOTO: MNA

Aggamaha Ganthavacaka Pandita, Agga Maha Kammathana Cariya, Maha Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Maha Ganthavacaka Pandita, Maha Kammathana

Cariya, Saddhamma Jotikadhaja, Kammathana Cariya, Dhamma Kathika Bahujanahitadhara and Ganthavacaka Pandita.

The ceremony was followed

by a food-offering event, in which the congregation, led by the president, donated food and monastic offertories to monks and nuns.

The religious titles and insig-

nia were conferred on 152 monks and seven nuns, and missionary titles and insignia were conferred on 18 men and 37 women.—*Myanmar News Agency*

ITC to assist Kayah State in developing tourism

THE International Trade Centre will provide \$1.9 million to Kayah State in an effort to implement tourism development, aiming to create a three year project.

The three year project of Kayah State Tourism Development began in 2014 and will end in 2017.

The project will mainly help to strengthen the sector of cultural practices, traditions of the local ethnic communities, handicraft productions, road transport and communication.

The Myanmar Food Products Association will assist in improving the quality of food

products, design, packaging and increase sanitary measures.

These tours will be developed in collaboration with local tourism stakeholders such as communities, producers, local government, tour operators, guides and related enterprises

The local government and communities in Kayah need to enhance tourism in preparation for the arrival of great numbers of international visitors. Kayah State has been described as having potential for tourism following its winning of the “Diamond Award” at an International Travelling Show.—200

Parliament to discuss . . .

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The Ministry of Health is currently carrying out an investigation into the incident. Five other new-born babies injected with the same vaccine who were transferred to Yangon’s Yankin Children’s Hospital, as well as six other babies who remained at Bago General, have all been discharged and are reportedly in good health, according to the General Hospital Administrative body. “There is a need to provide accommodation to those travelling to Yangon [General

Hospital] from Bago. The working-class population of this region depends upon Bago General Hospital. We have many patients coming through our doors, which puts a strain on availability of beds and on our staff. The result of this scenario is that sometimes such incidents happen. These are not isolated cases to Bago General Hospital; they are the kinds of problems experienced [in hospitals] far and wide,” said U Ye Myint Aung, an official from the General Hospital Administrative body.



VP Dr Sai Mauk Kham poses for photo together with Mekong-Lancang Cooperation leaders. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attends first Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting

VICE-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham attended the first Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting held at the International Convention Centre in Sanya, Hainan Province, China yesterday.

The Summit was also attended by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and leaders of Mekong River countries. Present were representatives of Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam.

The Chinese Premier and

Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, who co-chaired the Summit, extended their greetings to all the participants.

During the summit, those present reviewed the progress in Mekong-Lancang cooperation and discussed further bi-lateral development plans.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-President Dr Sai Mauk Kham expressed his support to the cooperation machinery of leaders, ministers, high-ranking officials and working groups of

the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Leaders’ Meeting, adding that he also support to “principles” which are based on cooperation, equity, coordination, freedom, sharing profits, the United Nations’ Charter and international laws.

The Vice-President visited an exhibition zone of the Mekong-Lancang Cooperation Summit and attended the opening ceremony of the Summit as well as a joint press conference.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Demand dwindles for wooden wheelmakers

DEMAND for wooden carriage wheels is gradually declining in Yamethin Township, Mandalay Region, local wheelmakers say.

"It is linked to the declining of use of bullock carts in the region's transportation and agriculture sectors as people replace them with modern machinery," said one wheelmaker.

"In the past, we could sell seven sets of new bullock carts per year. The market has fallen into a decline over a few years.

We currently receive two to three orders from buyers each year," the wheelmaker said.

"We normally sell a bullock cart at a price of between K600,000 (US\$495) and K700,000 (\$577)."

The wooden wheels are mainly produced in Wayone Village, Yamethin Township. Currently, only four wheelmakers remain in the village.

They usually use teak and Padauk wood in making the traditional farm carts.—*Atkalay*



A wheelmaker working at the workplace. PHOTO: ATKALAY

Crime NEWS

199,600 yaba pills confiscated in Loilem, Phakant and Lashio

A COMBINED team comprising local police and an anti-drug squad in Loilem confiscated approximately 4.8 kilograms of ice and 199,600 yaba pills from a car on Mong Pan-Mong Ton road on Monday.

The combined team initially ordered the vehicle in question to pull over for questioning. However Aik Zai Yar, the driver of the car, and Yar War Po fled to the bank of the Thanlwin River. Police gave pursuit and captured Aik Zai Yar on the bank of the Thanlwin River, Yar War Po dived into the water and made his escape.

On 20 March, local police searched a motorbike being ridden by one Lin Aung and seized 20,000 yaba pills and 2.8 kilograms of solid opium oil in Phakant Township. Similarly, in



Aik Zai Yar alas Chit Thu together with seized yabba pills and ice. PHOTO: MPF

Lashio Township on Monday, authorities stopped and searched a man named Lauk Phin who was riding a motorcycle. Police seized 3,900 yaba pills from the

suspect. Charges have been filed against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Fire destroys home in Dimawhso



The firefighters putting out the fire. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP (IPRD)

A FIRE destroyed a house in Dawkhalightlin village, Dimawhso township, Kayah State on 20 March. The accident began at approximately 11:35am in the kitchen of a home owned by one U Ywe Yu, 42. The blaze quickly got out of control and ultimately consumed the family home. The fire was, however, put out within 12 minutes by firemen with the assistance of neighbours. A second house was damaged in the blaze.—*Township IPRD*

Nine wild elephants arrive in Ottarathiri

NINE wild elephants arrived near Petleggyi Tezu, Nay Pyi Taw-KanPya-Magwe road, milepost 9/5, Ottarathiri township, Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday. Officers from Forestry Department discovered that the wild elephants had crossed a 100-acre teak plantation around milepost

11/0, on 20 March and while on the move towards the northern part of Htandabin ravine.

The responsible personnel from the forestry department said that the wild elephants are native to the Ngaik Forest Reserve in Thegon township.—*Aung Ko (IPRD)*



Nine wild elephants seen at the milepost 9/5 on Nay Pyi Taw-KanPya-Magwe road. PHOTO: AUNG KO (IPRD)

Two-year old child killed in fire

A FIRE destroyed a house in ward 1, Nyaung Taw village, Moe Gaung township, Kachin State on 20 March.

According to an investigation the fire broke out when Myo Kyaw, 14, offered candle lights to Buddha in the home while the

house owner U Thein Aung was out. The fire was put out by firemen with the assistance of neighbours.

The fire killed Aung Aung Oo, 2, the son of the house owner. Police have taken action against Myo Kyaw.—*200*

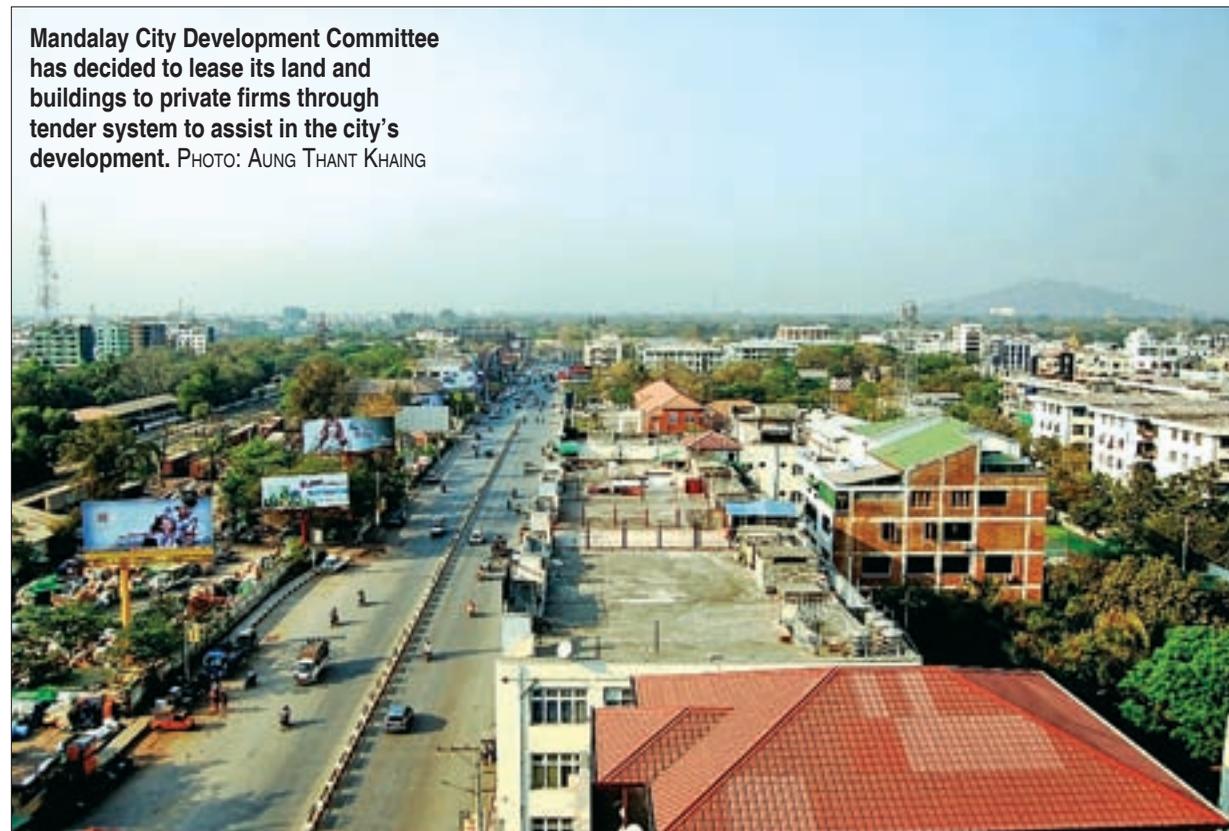
Collapse of river bank kills a woman

A WOMAN was killed by the collapse of the bank of Nat Htoo creek on Sunday in Pakokku township, according to police. According to an investigation the police identified the victim as Daw Win Nwet, 51, from Yay Cho village, Pakok-

ku township. According to the police she was fetching water from the creek when the bank collapsed on her.

Daw Win Nwe died on the spot. Local police are yet to make a final ruling on the case.—*Kyaw Zayyar*

LOCAL Business



Mandalay City Development Committee has decided to lease its land and buildings to private firms through tender system to assist in the city's development. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

MCDC to lease its land, buildings through tender system

THE Mandalay City Development Committee will begin to lease its land plots and buildings using the tender system from the beginning of the next fiscal year.

Buildings which have

been contracted with the BOT system, however, will not be included.

"The BOT system permits the leasing only of land plots. We couldn't invite a tender for such kinds of plots because

they have constructed buildings on it. But if the government projects are coming to exist or not yet off the ground, an invested company will have to move within three months", an official said.

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year the MCDC raised around K7.9 million from leasing the land plots of the Sinphyu Kan grounds and earned K30 million from leasing a land plot to Hotel Mandalay.—200

Luxury Swiss watches go on sale in Yangon

LUXURY Swiss produced watches, with a price tags ranging between K8-300 million (\$7900-260,000), have begun to go on sale in Myanmar's commercial capital, Yangon.

A sales showroom of Frank Muller Backes & Strauss, the company which produces the highend watches, officially opened

its doors on March 20, located within Yangon's Sedona Hotel.

"Our watches are not just used for the functional purpose of telling the time, they are a status symbol of those who own them," said Vartkess Knadjian, CEO of Backes and Strauss.

The luxury watches now on sale to the Myanmar

public are the result of combined efforts of the Swiss Frank Muller watchmakers company and British Backes and Strauss diamond cutters company.

According to Nicolas Rudaz, CEO of Frank Muller, the company was founded in 1992. The back cover of our watches feature the inscription "Master of

Complications", something of great pride, he said.

The Frank Muller Backes & Strauss Yangon showroom will blend Swiss craftsmanship with Myanmar culture, while those with an interest in the watches will be taught about the industry of watchmakers.—Myimakah News Agency

Foreign imports safeguard bill to be finalised next month

THE Ministry of Commerce will finalise the draft of a new safeguard law on imports of foreign goods in April, according to the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The law is being drafted by the ministry in cooperation with the UMFCCI.

The drafting of the law is aimed at providing legal

protection for local small and medium-sized enterprises, a spokesperson of the UMFCCI said.

According to the official figures, 80 per cent of total businesses in the country are SMEs.

The law will cover 36 sections and nine chapters. It will include clauses on the standardisation of import goods and taxation

systems in order to prevent the possible impact of stiff market competition.

Myanmar sees a massive inflow of imported commodities, whose prices are cheaper than those of local products.

The foreign trade sector has declined more in the 2015-16 fiscal year than during the same period last fiscal year. Up to the first of

March this year, the foreign trade volume has reached US\$25.32 billion, which is \$769.56 million less than the last fiscal year.

The Ministry of Commerce is also drafting a law on value-added products and an anti-dumping law to create employment opportunities and develop the country's import sector.—ML/Union Daily

Asia Plastic conference aims to promote networks among businessmen

MYANMAR will host the Asia Plastic conference next year for the first time, said U Tun, chairman of the Myanmar Plastics Industry Association (MPIA).

The annual ASEAN Summit will also be held in Myanmar with a focus on raising collaboration among member countries on finding solutions for the plastic-related problems and challenges, as well as environmental pollution, U Tun added.

Organised by the MPIA, the conference aims to promote the country's plastic industry and protect the livelihoods of local businesspersons. Many entrepreneurs worry about a rise in competition under the ASEAN Economic Community.

During the summit, entrepreneurs from around the world will observe the current economic situation of Myanmar.—WWP/Union Daily

Exporters to pursue value-added jade products

JADE, which is one of Myanmar's key export products to China, has a great future, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar's jade is mainly exported to China and India, with China being the largest buyer. Merchants from China and Hong Kong usually purchase large quantities of jadeite at gems and jewellery emporiums held in Myanmar.

Myanmar generated US\$986.64 million from jade exports in the 2014-2015 fiscal year and \$1.01 billion in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Jade was Myanmar's second-largest export in both fiscal years.

"The industry needs state-of-the-art technologies and modern equipment to create value-added jade products," said U Tun Hla Aung, secretary of the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association.

"If we export the value-added products, exports of jade can generate a vast amount of foreign currency in future," he added.

Currently, Myanmar has only exported raw jade to its trade partners.—PPN/Union Daily

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Dated 24 March 2015

Malaysia's Mahathir sues PM Najib, alleging abuse of power

KUALA LUMPUR — Former Malaysian premier Mahathir Mohamad filed a suit against scandal-plagued Prime Minister Najib Razak yesterday, alleging corruption and abuse of power, his law firm said, the latest salvo in Mahathir's efforts to remove Najib from office.

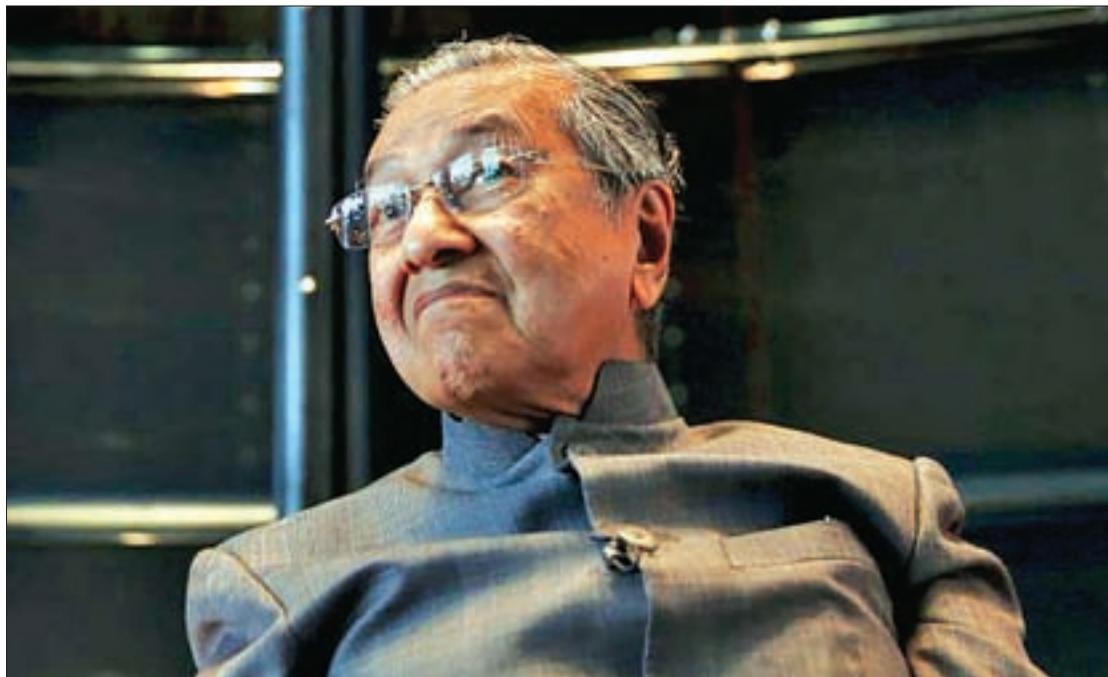
But it is unlikely to have any immediate impact as it will take months before any case is heard.

Najib has come under criticism over allegations of corruption linked to the debt-laden state fund (Malaysia Development Berhad (IMDB) and deposits into his private accounts worth around \$680 million. He has denied any wrongdoing, maintains that he did not use the funds for personal gain and this year he was cleared of any criminal offence or corruption.

Mahathir accused Najib in the lawsuit of the "corrupt practice of carrying out various steps that were actively and deliberately taken in bad faith ... to obstruct, interfere, impede and derail the various investigations and inquiries which were being conducted by various legal enforcement agencies".

Najib's office did not immediately reply to requests seeking comment.

Mahathir was joined in the lawsuit by Khairuddin bin Abu Hassan and Anina binti Saadudin, former members of the United Ma-



Malaysia's former prime minister Mahathir Mohamad is pictured during an interview with Reuters at his office in Petronas Towers, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

lay National Organisation (UMNO) which Najib heads.

Mahathir on 4 March joined hands with long-standing foes, including the party of the jailed Anwar Ibrahim, to crank up pressure on Najib to quit.

In a dramatic flourish, Mahathir read a statement signed by 58 politicians and anti-corruption activists at a news conference where he was flanked by opposition leaders and some members of

the ruling party he has now quit.

The plaintiffs in Wednesday's suit are seeking exemplary damages from Najib to the government of 2.6 billion ringgit (\$650 million) and aggravated damages of 42 million ringgit - equal to the amounts that were allegedly deposited into Najib's bank account.

Mahathir's lawyer, Haniff Khatri, told Reuters it would take three months for the court to de-

cide if the case would be heard.

"We don't go with empty hands, (we) have material, witnesses and we are confident of the outcome," he said. But political analysts weren't optimistic. "The real impact is very limited in the sense of legal terms," said Ibrahim Suffian, director of independent opinion polling firm Merdeka Centre. "This is going to be battle that is drawn out for a longer period." —Reuters

Cambodian, Russian ministers to meet next week over bilateral cooperation

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong will meet with visiting Russian Minister of Telecom and Mass Communication Nikolay Nikiforov next week to discuss ways to further enhance bilateral ties and cooperation, the foreign ministry said in statement yesterday.

The two ministers are due to co-chair the 9th session of the Cambodian-Russian intergovernmental commission for trade, economic, scientific and technical cooperation on 29 March, said the statement, adding that the protocol of the session will be signed at the end of the meeting. During his stay in Cambodia, Nikiforov is also scheduled to visit the kingdom's famed Angkor archeological park in northwestern Siem Reap province, it said.

Cambodia and Russia have been strengthening their ties and cooperation through the exchange of high-level visits.

In November last year, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev paid the first visit to Cambodia, where he held talks with Prime Minister Hun Sen and witnessed a signing ceremony of 10 bilateral agreements.—Xinhua

Indonesia-China economic relations unaffected by maritime row



Indonesian Finance Minister Bambang Brodjonegoro. PHOTO: REUTERS

JAKARTA — Indonesia's economic relations with China are unlikely to be affected by a maritime dispute between them, Indonesia's finance minister said yesterday.

"Both the president of China and Indonesia are very close ... In terms of the South China Sea we don't have any issue," finance minister Bambang Brodjonegoro told reporters.

Indonesia this week protested to China against what it called an infringement of its sovereignty by China's coastguard.—Reuters

Parliamentarians commemorate Singapore's founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew

SINGAPORE — Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Members of the Parliament, both past and present, commemorated the country's founding Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew yesterday at the Arts House, the Old Parliament House.

Lee Kuan Yew, who passed away on March 23, 2015, began his parliamentary career in 1955 and served as MP for Tanjong Pagar for the next 60 years, the longest period for any MP in Singapore.

That's why MPs gathered at the Old Parliament House to remember him, and the values that Lee Kuan Yew and his generation stood for, and the principles they steadfastly upheld in this House. Speaking at the remembrance ceremony, Singapore's minister for Culture, Community and Youth, leader of the House Grace Fu said that no history of Singapore's Parliament would be complete without Lee Kuan Yew.

"Lee Kuan Yew and his team left subsequent generations of leaders a rich legacy — that of strong institutions and systems based on multi-racialism, self-reliance, meritocracy, integrity and rule of law — values and princi-

ples that remain precious and important to us in this present day," said Grace Fu.

The minister added "We will emulate his spirit, and build on his inheritance to bring Singapore to greater heights".

Past Parliamentarians Abdullah Tarmugi, former Deputy Prime Minister and Member of Parliament Wong Kan Seng also delivered speeches to remember Lee Kuan Yew, recounting their experiences in the Parliament and sharing their memories of Lee Kuan Yew.

"My own description of Mr. Lee was that he was always proper," said Abdullah Tarmugi. "This single description encapsulates everything the man was. His sense of integrity and of right and wrong, his discipline and standards, his vision. Everything must be done right: nothing was too small to too unimportant."

Wong Kan Seng quoted many words Lee Kuan Yew made in the Parliament in his speech. He said these words still ring loud in his ears. "Every speech by him was an enriching experience."

"His legacy lives on in Singapore, in the values, principles and high standards that moved

Singapore from third world to first," said Wong. "I fervently hope that Singaporeans are committed to same purpose as Mr. Lee had dedicated his life towards — and that fighting for a better future for us all."

The ceremony also featured a video installation by Singapore filmmaker Royston Tan named "A Moment of Unity", which will also be shown at the National Museum of Singapore from yesterday. Besides, a permanent exhibition named "The Parliament in Singapore History" was launched at the Arts House yesterday to commemorate the first anniversary of Lee Kuan Yew's passing. The exhibition features critical historical milestones in Singapore's history and highlights the development of a legislature that contribute to Singapore's growth and progress.

The Arts House functioned as Singapore's first Parliament House from 1965 to 1999, which is regarded as the country's oldest government and public building. Within the Chamber was where Singapore's first Parliament sat, debated and passed the laws that helped build and define the city state.—Xinhua

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PICTURE OF THE DAY



ANJI—Tea farmers perform dragon dance to celebrate harvest season at a Baicha green tea garden in Xilong Township of Anji County, east China's Zhejiang Province, on 23 March 2016. Anji County, which is well-known for its Baicha green tea, produced 1,870 metric tons of tea in 2015 with production value at 2.224 billion yuan (342.27 million US dollars). PHOTO: XINHUA

Pyongyang threatens to strike South Korean presidential office

PYONGYANG — The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) yesterday threatened to launch retaliatory strikes at South Korea's presidential office, in response to the ongoing joint military drills by South Korea and the United States.

The DPRK's armed forces will be oriented to wage a retaliatory battle to eliminate South Korean President Park Geun-hye's administration, said a statement issued by the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea and carried by the state-run news agency KCNA.

The strikes may start from

the presidential office, Chongwadae, or nearby locations, it added.

The statement threatened that once the buttons of large-caliber multiple rocket launchers are pushed, the presidential office would be "reduced to a sea in flames and ashes."

On Monday, DPRK top leader Kim Jong Un guided the test firing of a new-type large-caliber multiple rocket launcher, the second time he has watched the test firing of the newly developed rocket launching system in a month.

When guiding the test firing of the new-type rocket launch-

er for the first time on 3 March, Kim ordered the military to be prepared to fire the country's deployed nuclear warheads at any time.

On 7 March, South Korea and the United States kicked off their joint annual war games, dubbed "Key Resolve" and "Foal Eagle".

The "Key Resolve" command post exercise ended last Friday, but the "Foal Eagle" field training exercises will last until 30 April.

Pyongyang has repeatedly condemned the joint military exercises, claiming that they are "war rehearsals for northward invasion."—*Xinhua*

Islamic State claims killing of Christian in Bangladesh as 'lesson to others'

DHAKA — Islamic State claimed responsibility for stabbing a Christian to death in Bangladesh as a "lesson to others", an online group that monitors extremist activity said, the latest killing declared by the militant group in the Muslim-majority nation. The South Asian country has seen a surge in Islamist violence in which liberal activists, members of minority Muslim sects and other religious groups have been targeted.

The US-based SITE Intelligence Group said Islamic State claimed responsibility for killing Hussein Ali Sarkar in Kurigram, north of Dhaka.

The group reported on Twitter that a "security detachment" killed the "preacher" to be a "lesson to others".

Police said the 68-year-old victim converted to Christianity from Islam in 1999 but was not

a preacher. Kurigram district police chief Tobarak Ullah said three attackers stabbed him while he was having his morning walk.

"They left the scene exploding crude bombs to create panic," Ullah told Reuters by telephone.

Three men were picked up for questioning, he said.

Over the last few months, Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the killings of two foreigners, attacks on members of minority Muslim sects and other religious groups, but police say domestic militant group Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen was behind the attacks. At least five militants of Jamaat-ul-Mujahideen have been killed in shootouts since November, as security forces have stepped up a crackdown on militants seeking to make the moderate Muslim nation of 160 million a sharia-based state.—*Reuters*

Fireworks factory catches fire in India, killing 5

NEW DELHI — At least five people were killed and 12 others suffered burn injuries in a fire incident at a fireworks factory in India's western state of Rajasthan, officials said yesterday.

The explosion took place late Tuesday evening at Chainpura village of Kota district, about 253 km south of Jaipur city, the capital of Rajasthan.

"In a fire incident at firecracker factory here last evening, five people were killed and 12 others were injured," an official said. "The blaze triggered explosions in the fireworks factory."

India's state-run broadcaster- All India Radio said the in-

jured were admitted in hospital.

The cause of explosion was not immediately known. However, primary investigations point at mishandling of the combustible material inside the factory.

Accidental explosions are common at Indian fireworks factories.

Apart from factories, many households in Indian villages are making firecrackers illegally for local religious festivals, weddings and other ceremonies.

Firecrackers are set off during festivals, weddings and other merrymaking ceremonies across India.—*Xinhua*

Australia announces A\$1 billion clean energy fund, in break with past

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday the country would establish a A\$1 billion (\$761.60 million) clean-energy innovation fund, in a major departure from his predecessor's much maligned approach to combating climate change.

Conservative former Prime Minister Tony Abbott was criticized by environmental groups for lagging behind other advanced economies when he announced cuts to Australia's greenhouse gas emissions last year.

Abbott, a climate change skeptic who was ousted in a party coup by Turnbull in September, also faced criticism for his strong support for the coal industry and for scrapping an ambitious carbon tax and emissions trading plan in 2014.

Turnbull said the new fund would focus on investing in high-tech clean energy technologies.

"What that is going to do is every year invest A\$100 million in the smartest, most cutting edge Australian clean-energy technologies and businesses to ensure that we ... play our part in cracking the very hard problems, the challenging technical difficulties that we face in terms of reducing emissions," he told reporters.

Abbott pledged that the world's largest exporter of coal and iron ore would cut emissions by 26-28 per cent of 2005 levels by 2030, a target he submitted as part of negotiations on a global climate deal in Paris last year.

Abbott also sought and failed to scrap the country's Clean Energy Finance Corporation and the Australian Renewable Ener-

gy Agency, which Turnbull said yesterday would be retained.

Australia is one of the largest carbon emitters on a per capita basis due to its reliance on coal-fired power plants, and critics say it has done little to match ambitious targets set by the United States and Europe.

Environment Minister Greg Hunt, speaking alongside Turnbull, said the fund would help achieve Australia's ultimate aim of reducing emissions to zero.

"This will be investing in storage, in new battery technology, in smart grids, in some of the exciting solar visions that people have hoped for and imagined for Australia but which are only now really becoming reality," he said.

Public support for more action on climate change is strong in Australia, according to recent



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull speaks during a media conference at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, on 21 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

polls. A poll released in August by the Climate Institute showed 63 per cent of Australians wanted more action on climate change, up six percentage points from 2014. Turnbull, who has long

held progressive views on climate change, has drawn criticism since coming to power for not moving more swiftly to strengthen Australia's response to climate change.—*Reuters*

OPINION

Many shades of corruption

Kyaw Thura

TO most people in their workday lives, the notion of 'corruption' seems to carry connotations of the dishonest appropriation of state funds by governmental officials for their personal gain. To others, the problem includes both the demand and the supply sides, in the sense that it takes two

hands to clap. However, the definition of corruption should not be so narrow.

Much has been written about the correlation between the supply and demand sides, linking the nature of corrupt practices to the systemic, public, private and individual planes. From the Buddhist point of view, there are four corrupt practices, namely, favouritism, anger or hate, delusion or ignorance and fear or intimidation.

In its common sense, the practice of corruption has its roots bypassing red tape in government offices. Nowadays, bribery has become conventional behaviour. This systemic corruption stirs up public anger because people have to grease the palm of officers to get documents signed and permits granted.

Needless to say, many people have the tendency to boast of intimacy with authorities in the hope that such familiarity will breed favouritism. As a direct consequence, the prac-

tice of name-dropping is fashionable.

Showing favouritism in the pretext of obedience to seniors in office is a form of corruption. In addition, seniors seem to be under the delusion that asking for favours from juniors, with or without intimidation, to get things done for their relatives or acquaintances is morally justifiable. All things considered, corruption in any form is unethical.

Write for us

We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email khinmaungaye.hotmail@gmail.com with your name and title.

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

WORLD T.B. DAY 2016

Dr. Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe
Retired State Medical Superintendent

IT sounds alarming that one-third of the entire global population is infected with Tuberculosis, a socio-economical disease. In Myanmar too T.B is a public health problem. To raise awareness among general public, World T.B. Day is held all over the world, including Myanmar on March 24 every year.

In my opinion, people should have some basic knowledge for Tuberculosis such as how it occurs, what the signs and symptoms are, how it spreads. There should also be general knowledge for TB not to be mistaken for some other similar diseases and how it is diagnosed, treated and what its possible outcome and clinical course are. Treatment, no doubt, is the task of care-givers such as doctors, nurses, laboratory technicians, assisted by social health workers, DOTS care providers and the family members.

- T.B is Airborne droplet transmission of Mycobacterium tuberculosis bacillus
- Organisms replicate within the alveoli
- The emergence of multidrug-resistant organisms is primarily due to failure to complete the required long courses of therapy
- Some positive PPDs are due to previous inoculation with BCG vaccine
- Most cases of active disease involve reactivation of a previous infection
- As such patient should live a healthy life style with proper rest, nutritious diet, suitable physical exercise, including playing Chin-

Lon, avoidance of tobacco and excess liquor.

Tuberculosis should not be mistaken for –

- Bacterial pneumonia
 - Lung cancer
 - Sarcoidosis
 - HIV
 - Congestive Heart Failure
 - Fungal infection
 - Lung abscess
 - Lymphoma
 - Vasculitis
- One should be alert for such warning signs as –
- Fever
 - Night sweats
 - Weight loss
 - Fatigue
 - Cough
 - Hemoptysis
 - Pleuritic chest pain
 - Dyspnea is uncommon
 - Pleural effusion
 - Extrapulmonary involvement: Lymph nodes, bones, joints, genitourinary, CNS, abdomen, pericardium, pleura; symptoms of organ dysfunction may be present.

As mentioned above, one-third of the world's population is infected; fewer have active disease Groups who require screening PPDs: HIV, close contacts of active TB cases. IV drug users, DM, silicosis, immunosuppression, cancer cases. ESRD, health care workers, low-income and migrant groups.

To diagnose TB:–

- Chest X-ray
 - Primary TB: Lower lung infiltrates; adenopathy
 - Latent TB: Nodules and fibrosis in upper lung
 - Reactivation TB: Upper lung infiltrates, cavitation

- Miliary TB: Disseminated small nodules
 - Gohn complex: Granuloma with bacilli in center plus calcified lymph node
 - Sputum (need three samples): Shows acid-fast bacilli
 - Tuberculin skin test (PPD): Most common screening test
 - 15 mm of induration is positive if no risk factors
 - 10 mm of induration is positive for patients at risk
 - 5 mm is positive for patients with HIV, recent exposure, or suggestive CXR
 - HIV testing should be done in all new TB patients
 - Biopsy (node, liver, or bone marrow) to confirm diagnosis in extrapulmonary TB
- Regarding Prognosis and Clinical Course:–**
- Primary TB: Usually asymptomatic or a self-limited; non-infectious; leads to latent TB
 - Active TB: Clinical symptoms; positive sputum, or CXR consistent with TB; 65% 5-year mortality if untreated; easily curable
- Management includes:–**
- Report cases to public health authorities
 - Respiratory isolation
 - There are multiple guide lines of treatment with slight differences.
 - Active TB: Isoniazid (INH) and rifampin (Rif) for 6 months plus pyrazinamide (PZA) for 2 months
 - Add ethambutol in areas of INH resistance (most of the US) pending culture
- Although treatment is mainly concerned with National Tuberculosis Program, Ministry of Health, co-operated with INGOs; NGOs, in the form of Public Private Partnership (PPP). Community participation is the key and all community members should be aware of this public health problem and socio-economic hazard.
- *****

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

GIBBONS represent different species and sub species of majestic Asian apes like the orangutan and are distributed across SW China, NE India, Bangladesh and SE Asia. All the gibbon species from China across India and SE Asia are severely impacted by anthropogenic pressures and are in urgent need of conservation. One of the highly endangered ape species of Asia and grossly under studied are facing vulnerability of habitat fragmentation and destruction due to illegal encroachments by local human residents and poachers, indiscriminate poaching and illegal capture for the underground pet trade and wildlife markets of China, South and SE Asia, Far East, Middle East and Western nations. Apes are

closer to humans in terms of evolution and their behaviors are important in understanding both human and animal behaviors and the intricate evolutionary linkages among them. Although other ape species such as gorillas, chimpanzees, bonobos and orangutans are well studied; however, very little behavioral studies have been conducted on highly intelligent species like gibbons in Asia in their natural habitats. Exploring the intricate life of these highly intelligent, vocal, territorial and arboreal ape species could throw important lights in the evolutionary understanding of their behaviors.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

JPN grants US\$739,262 for four schools, one road construction



Japanese Ambassador Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI exchange notes after signing a grant contract with one of chairpersons of state/region committees. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY EMBASSY OF JAPANESE

JAPANESE Ambassador Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI, and chairpersons of the committees from the states and regions concerned signed the grant contracts for five projects on 17 March.

Under these contracts, Japan's Grant Assistance for Grass-roots Human Security Projects (GGP) Scheme will provide a total of US\$739,262 to four projects for building schools and one project for upgrading one village road.

Under the grant scheme, the Japanese would

fund US\$94,713 to construction of Ein Du Kindergarten in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State with); US\$231,077 to construction of Pin He Village Basic Education Branch Middle School in Mohnyin Township, Kachin State; US\$204,235 to Construction of Hnaring Village Basic Education High School in Tan Ta Lang Township, Chin State; US\$111,178 to upgrading of Tha Yet Pin Kwin-Gyo Gone Village Road in Einme Township, Ayeyarwady Region and

US\$98,059 to construction of Boe U Sein Village Basic Education High School in Waw Township, Bago Region.

The Government of Japan has assisted 770 various grass-roots projects in Myanmar under the GGP scheme since 1993: the number consisting of 365 education projects, 195 healthcare projects, 138 public welfare and environment projects, 37 infrastructure projects and 35 other projects. —GNLM

Mandalay traffic light control centre undergoes testing



Officials visit the control centre for 11 real-time traffic lights in Mandalay.

PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

A CONTROL centre for 11 real-time traffic lights in Mandalay were put on a test run on Tuesday ahead of the planned opening of the operation slated for next month.

The control centre, worth K270 million was built by the Mandalay City Development Committee

in cooperation with Dream Light Technology Co Ltd.

Installation of the traffic light control systems on downtown roads is now nearing completion, said an official from the MCDC's engineering department.

Underground sensors will inform the control

centre of real-time vehicle volume levels to help alleviate traffic congestion in Mandalay city, he added.

So far, real-time traffic light controls had been installed only on high-traffic roads in Mandalay, where they are set to become fully operational next month.

—Aung Thant Khaing

Shweku Bridge needs repairs

A WOODEN bridge that connects Thazi Township to Nyaungyan Village, Mandalay Region, is in need of renovations, locals say.

Parts of the Shweku Bridge are seriously damaged, which raises the likelihood of car accidents at night, according to local residents.

The bridge is 120 feet long, 14 feet wide and 15 feet high. More than 10,000 residents from 13 villages in the Nyaungyan area rely on the bridge for their livelihoods.

The villagers have



Shweku wooden bridge. PHOTO: MAUNG KO

asked local authorities to repair the old bridge to help residents enjoy bet- ter transportation and a smooth flow of commodities.—Maung Ko

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(4.3.2016)

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Dated 24th March 2016

Obama challenges Communist-led Cuba with call for democracy



President Barack Obama and Cuban President Raul Castro gesture after a news conference as part of Obama's three-day visit to Cuba, in Havana. PHOTO: REUTERS

HAVANA — US President Barack Obama challenged Cuba's Communist government with an impassioned call for democracy and economic reforms on Tuesday, addressing the Cuban people directly in a historic speech broadcast throughout the island.

Taking the stage at Havana's Grand Theater with President Raul Castro in attendance, Obama said he was in Cuba to extend a hand of friendship and "bury the last remnant" of the Cold War in the Americas.

But he also pressed hard for economic and political reforms and greater openness in a one-party state where the government stifles dissent, Internet access is low and the media is in state hands.

His speech was the high point of a 48-hour trip made possible by his agreement with Castro in December 2014 to cast aside decades of hostility that began soon after Cuba's 1959 revolution, and work to normalise relations.

Nonetheless, Obama threw down a very public gauntlet to Castro, saying Cubans cannot realise their full potential if his government does not allow change and relax its grip on Cuban politics and society.

"I believe citizens should be free to speak their minds without fear," Obama told the audience on the final day of his visit. "Voters should be able to choose their governments in free and democratic elections."

"Not everybody agrees with me on this, not everybody agrees with the American people on this but I believe those human rights are universal. I believe they're the rights of the American people, the Cuban people and people around the world," Obama said.

The hand-picked audience

cheered him repeatedly, especially when he criticised the long-standing US economic embargo against Cuba, spoke glowingly of Cubans' talents and praised the country's achievements in healthcare and education.

The spectacle of the leader of the United States, the superpower to the north for long reviled by Cuba's government, standing in Havana and urging such changes in a speech broadcast into homes across the island would have been unthinkable before the two countries began their rapprochement 15 months ago.

Since then, Obama has repeatedly used his executive powers to relax trade and travel restrictions, while also pushing Cuba to accelerate cautious market-style reforms introduced by Castro and allow greater political and economic freedom.

Castro has welcomed Obama's moves while insisting that a new relationship with the old enemy does not mean Cuba plans to change its political system.

The audience of more than 1,000 people at Obama's speech on Tuesday included officials and business people from both countries, US lawmakers and members of Cuba's cultural elite.

Obama drew sustained applause when he reiterated his call for the US Congress to lift the embargo, which he called "an outdated burden on the Cuban people."

But the response was more muted when he challenged Castro to allow greater political liberties.

Obama went straight from the speech to a private meeting with prominent dissidents on the island, a few of whom object to his engagement policy.

"As far as I am concerned nothing has changed, the repres-

sion continues," said Berta Soler from the Ladies in White group, who met Obama at the embassy.

Cuba's government dismisses the dissidents as mercenaries without public support but Obama applauded their work and "extraordinary courage."

Obama sees his dramatic shift away from a decades-old policy of trying to isolate and weaken Cuba as a success story and wants to make it an irreversible part of his legacy by the time he leaves office in January.

Still, major obstacles remain to full normalisation of ties, notably the differences over human rights, the Republican-controlled US Congress' refusal to lift the embargo and Washington's resistance to discussing the return of the US naval base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Obama's critics at home have criticised his visit to Cuba as a premature reward to the Communist government. US House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan, a Republican, said on Tuesday the trip legitimises what he called Castro's "tyrannical dictatorship."

With his words carried live by Cuba's state-run media, Obama sought to persuade ordinary Cubans that his new policy was focused primarily on helping them to improve their lives.

Standing at a lectern flanked by US and Cuban flags, he laid out a hopeful vision of future relations and told Cubans "it's up to you" to take steps to change the country.

Obama pointedly stopped short of what some of his critics had demanded — that he echo US President Ronald Reagan's famous exhortation in a 1987 speech in West Berlin for Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to tear down the Berlin Wall.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brussels airport attacker still at large named as Najim Laachraoui — DH

BRUSSELS — The Brussels airport attacker still at large is Najim Laachraoui, 25, a man already sought by the police since Monday, Belgian newspaper *DH* said.

Laachraoui's DNA has been found in houses used by the Paris attackers last year, prosecutors said on Monday, and he had travelled to Hungary in September with Paris attacks prime suspect Salah Abdeslam.—Reuters

Russian transport regulator starts checks on budget airlines — TASS

MOSCOW — Russian state transport agency Rostransnadzor has started checks on budget airlines, TASS news agency reported yesterday.

Russian investigators are currently examining the flight recorders from a plane operated by Dubai-based budget carrier Flydubai, which crashed in southern Russia on Saturday, killing all 62 people on board.—Reuters

NZ man jailed for 8 years over infant formula contamination threat

WELLINGTON — A businessman was sentenced to eight-and-a-half years in prison yesterday for threatening to contaminate infant formula in New Zealand, the world's largest dairy exporter.

Jeremy Kerr pleaded guilty to two counts of blackmail after sending threatening letters to New Zealand's national farmers' group and dairy giant Fonterra in 2014.

The messages were accompanied by packages of infant formula laced with pesticide 1080 and demanded that use of the toxic pesticide be stopped. Kerr's business sold a competing pesticide.

Police said in October they had arrested a man after an 11-month investigation. A court in Auckland, New Zealand's largest city, found that Kerr was motivated by financial gain.

"The impact on Fonterra, Federated Farmers and the potential impact on New Zealand's trade relationships with China and other countries was extremely serious," said Justice Geoffrey Venning in sentencing Kerr.

China is the biggest buyer of New Zealand dairy products. The head of a New Zealand exporters' group said last year there had been a fall in Chinese demand after the threat to infant formula, which is prized among China's middle class.—Reuters

Zimbabwe to ban foreign firms in breach of local ownership law

HARARE — Zimbabwe will from 1 April cancel licences for foreign firms, including those operating mines and banks, that have not complied with a law to sell majority shares to locals, Empowerment Minister Patrick Zhuwao said yesterday.

"It's either you comply or you close shop," Zhuwao said.

Zimbabwe had given foreign-owned firms a March 2016 deadline to submit plans on how to comply with a law requiring them to sell at least 51 per cent shares to locals.—Reuters

Arrested United State sailor admits to Okinawa rape charge

NAHA — A US Navy sailor arrested on suspicion of raping a Japanese woman in Okinawa has admitted to the charge, having initially denied it, investigative sources said yesterday.

Justin Castellanos, 24, a seaman at the US Marines' Camp Schwab in northern Okinawa, was arrested on 13 March on suspicion of raping the woman in her 40s at a hotel in the prefectural capital of Naha early that morning.

Police allege Castellanos took the woman, a tourist from southwestern Japan's Fukuoka Prefecture, into his room after finding her asleep in a hotel corridor and raped her there.

The suspect and the woman were both staying at the hotel but were not acquainted, the police said.

The alleged rape has stirred protests by thousands of people in Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of US military facilities in Japan.—Kyodo News

Belgium bombings raise security alerts at US airports

NEW YORK — Major US transportation hubs were placed on alert on Tuesday and Denver International Airport briefly evacuated part of its main terminal in a false alarm there hours after suicide bombings in Brussels killed at least 30 people.

Despite public safety concerns unleashed by the violence in Belgium's capital, US Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson said the agency had no intelligence that would point to a similar attack being plotted against the United States.

But the State Department issued a travel alert warning US citizens in Europe to avoid crowded places, to be vigilant when in public or using mass transit and to exercise extra caution during religious holidays and at large festivals and events.

"Terrorist groups continue to plan near-term attacks throughout Europe, targeting sporting events, tourist sites, restaurants, and transportation," it said in a statement.

The Brussels bombings reverberated on the 2016 US presidential campaign trail, with Democratic contender Hillary Clinton declaring that more needed to be done to confront the Islamic State



A member of the NYPD Joint Terrorism Task Force patrol Grand Central Station in the Manhattan borough in New York, on 22 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

militants who claimed responsibility for the attacks.

The Republican front-runner in the White House race, Donald Trump, called again for tighter border security and suggested US intelligence services could use torture to head off future attacks.

Some of the country's busiest airports and other transportation facilities were placed on heightened security status, as illustrated by a greater law enforcement presence.

Large numbers of uniformed police officers

and National Guard troops dressed in battle fatigues and carrying rifles patrolled New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport. Several US carriers — Delta Air Lines Inc (DAL.N), United Continental Holdings Inc (UAL.N) and American Airlines Group Inc (AAL.O) — said they cancelled or re-routed flights as a result of the Brussels attacks.

At mid afternoon, authorities at the Denver airport evacuated two levels on the west side of the main terminal after several packages that appeared

suspicious were spotted near ticket counters, airport spokeswoman Stacey Stegman said.

Denver police, FBI and US Transportation Security Administration officers converged on the airport, but the packages were ultimately deemed to pose no threat, and the terminal was fully reopened within two hours.

Several airlines were affected by the scare, including American Airlines, Aeroméxico, Air Canada, Lufthansa and British Airways, the airport said. — Reuters

Syrian refugees denied critical healthcare in Jordan — Amnesty

LONDON — Syrian refugees in Jordan are finding it very difficult to get medical care because of Jordanian fees and bureaucracy, and shrinking humanitarian financial support, rights group Amnesty International said yesterday.

Many refugees cannot afford the fees for medical care imposed by the Jordanian government in 2014, and some, injured in the Syrian conflict, have died after being turned away at the border, Amnesty said in a report.

There are 630,000 Syrian refugees in Jordan reg-

istered with the UN refugee agency (UNHCR), the vast majority of them living in poverty outside the refugee camps, Amnesty said.

"Lengthy bureaucratic procedures and additional health care fees pose huge obstacles to those of them requiring medical treatment," Sherif Elsayed-Ali, head of refugee and migrants' rights at Amnesty International, said in a statement.

"The user fees imposed by Jordan may not appear to be high but are unaffordable for most refugees who are struggling to feed their families, and leave many unable

to access the critical care they need."

Refugees who have left the camps unofficially or re-entered Jordan after going back to Syria are not eligible to receive documents required by the Jordanian authorities to obtain public services, including healthcare, it said.

Falling humanitarian support has contributed to the problem, as only 26 percent of Jordan's funding requirements for health had been met at the end of 2015, Amnesty said.

Some refugees with critical injuries have been

denied access, despite a provision allowing entry for those with war-related injuries, since Jordan imposed restrictions in 2012 on Syrians trying to cross the border, Amnesty said.

The main reasons for refusal of entry were lack of identity documents (ID) or the injuries not being life-threatening, it said.

In July, 14 injured people, among them five children with shrapnel wounds, were prevented from entering Jordan and four of them died while waiting at the border, Amnesty said. — Reuters

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The Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Dated 24 March 2016

Imm@kcyangon.com

Over 30 killed in Brussels terror attacks, police hunt suspect

BRUSSELS — Over 30 people were killed and about 230 others were injured as explosions hit the international airport and a subway station in the Belgian capital Brussels on Tuesday, authorities said, with police issuing a wanted notice for a suspect thought to be involved.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for

the two bomb attacks.

Police released an image of possible suspects from Zaventem airport CCTV footage showing three men pushing luggage trolleys in the terminal.

Two of them are thought to have carried out suicide attacks at the airport, killing 14 people, while the third man could be at large, according to

Belgian federal prosecutor Frederic Van Leeuw.

Another explosion at the Maelbeek subway station near the European Union headquarters in the Belgian capital killed at least 20 people.

Islamic State said in a statement posted online that their attackers carried out the suicide bombings and "black days" will be

brought in return for aggression against the group.

The Islamic State-linked Amaq Agency earlier said, "Islamic State fighters carried out a series of bombings with explosive belts and devices on Tuesday, targeting an airport and a central metro station."

The report implied that the attacks were mounted in Brussels because Belgium

is "a country participating in the international coalition against the Islamic State."

In raids across the country, police found a nail-filled bomb and an Islamic State flag in an apartment in the municipality of Schaerbeek, north of Brussels.

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel said at a press conference, "What we

have feared has happened. Our country and citizens have been hit by a terrorist attack, in a violent and cowardly way."

"I would like to stress that in this tragic and dark moment for our country, I call for calm and solidarity. We are facing a difficult time, but we have to face this unified as one." —Kyodo News

Zimbabwean 'wizard' bewitches a bumper crop amid drought

GAVU — Among his neighbours, Phillip Tshuma, 67, is considered a wizard who commands the rains with the help of goblins. How else could he grow a bumper crop of ripening maize, sorghum, millet and peanuts in a season when many farmers in Zimbabwe have written off their crops?

In truth, the farmer from Gavu, a village in arid Hwange District, about 450 km north of Bulawayo, can't control the weather. But he can predict it fairly accurately.

Using a well-worn record book, a green plastic rain gauge, and a mobile phone on which he receives climate-related information via SMS, Tshuma makes farming decisions based on the weather patterns in his area, including when to plant, how to till the soil and how much fertiliser to apply.

Tshuma is one of a

thousand small-scale farmers in southern Zimbabwe benefiting from a project called Climate Smart Agriculture: Combating the El Niño Phenomenon.

Launched in Jambezi ward in 2013, the project is part of the nation's plan to manage threats such as droughts by strengthening systems to provide early warnings about risks to agriculture from climate change and related weather problems.

Bringing together the Ministry of Agriculture's Department of Agricultural Technical and Extension Services (AGRITEX), the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), and local telecommunications services provider ECONET, the project teaches farmers to use weather-monitoring techniques and climate-smart agriculture practices to maintain food security in



Farmers Simnai and Philip Tshuma check their sorghum crop in Gavu, in Zimbabwe's drought-stricken Hwange District. PHOTO: REUTERS

rain-scarce parts of the country.

Last season, Tshuma and his wife Simnai harvested 1.5 tonnes of millet, one tonne of sorghum, and a quarter tonne of groundnuts. This season he expects to harvest four tonnes of millet and nearly 2.5 tonnes of sorghum, despite a drought that has slashed neighbours' maize harvests.

"This year I have done

so much better in my fields than some of my neighbours that some people say I am irrigating my crops or I have goblins who work magic. But that is not true," Tshuma said.

With \$30,000 of funding from ICRISAT, the project teaches techniques to help farmers improve their harvests while cutting their costs. Those include mulching fields to save

water, planting crops in dug-out basins filled with manure, planting different types of crops together in a field and using fertiliser in small doses just where it is needed.

It also aims to convince farmers to swap their traditional crops for more drought-tolerant ones, no easy feat in a region where maize is a diet staple.

"Sorghum and millet are not only climate smart but nutritionally smart. We call them smart foods because they are good for us, good for the environment and good for smallholder farmers to manage climate change, diversify their income and increase their profitability," said David Bergvinson, ICRISAT's director general.

Switching to more resilient crops is crucial because "climate change is hitting us hard and fast," he said.

According to the Unit-

ed Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, climate-smart agriculture can help farmers produce more and become more resilient to shocks, boosting food security even as climate change-related extreme weather strengthens.

The practices and techniques the project promotes are part of Zimbabwe's plan to deal with climate change, submitted as part of a new global climate deal agreed in Paris last December.

The current El Niño-induced drought in Zimbabwe is one of the worst the country has seen in a quarter century. More than 3 million Zimbabweans are facing hunger due to a maize shortfall of more than 1 million tonnes, about half of what the country requires each year.

Zimbabwe has been forced to declare a state of national disaster and is appealing for \$1.6 billion in food aid.—Reuters



The bow of a derelict boat possibly from the March 2011 tsunami in Japan is seen floating off the coast of Oregon, United States, in this undated photo from the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wrecked vessel washed ashore in Oregon may be from Japan tsunami

PORTLAND — Algae and an oyster are among the clues Oregon biologists believe may link the vestiges of a sea-ravaged boat that washed up on a state beach on Tuesday to the devastating 2011 tsunami in Japan.

Five years after Japan's magnitude 9.0 earthquake set off a series of massive tsunami waves that demolished a swath of Japan's Pacific coastline and killed nearly 20,000 people, debris—and sea creatures—from the disaster are still finding their way to the Oregon shore, said Chris Havel, a spokesman for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.

"That kind of habitat attracts living animals even if it's floating out in the ocean," Havel said. "We should not

be surprised to continue to see debris from Japan wash up on the shores."

The state has provided US and Japanese officials with the boat's ID number and could hear back within a couple of days.

Barring a clear official identification, research on the animals tucked inside could help confirm whether the flotsam originated some 5,000 miles (8,000 km) away — more than double the distance from Canada to Mexico, said John Chapman, a biologist from Oregon State University who is testing the samples.

In addition to the oyster and algae, biologists took a barnacle shell and a planes crab for testing.

The biology of the molluscs shows Asian origin,

and the wreckage "does look like something that would have come from the tsunami," Chapman said.

In 2012, a massive, 66-foot-(20-metre-) long dock ripped from its moorings in Japan and floated up 15 months later on a beach north of Newport, Oregon, southwest of Portland. A year ago, remains of a boat filled with live fish native to Japanese waters washed ashore. The 16-foot-(5-metre-) long chunk of boat landed on Tuesday morning near Coos Bay, about 200 miles (320 km) south of Portland, and was expected to be disposed of in a landfill by the end of the day, said Calum Stevenson, ocean shore specialist for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (4/2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-091(15-16)	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump (300GPM x 500PSI) with Engine (1) Set	US\$
(2)	IFB-092(15-16)	Skid Mounted Crude Transfer Pump (200GPM x 150FT HD) with Engine (1) Set	US\$
(3)	IFB-093(15-16)	Spares for NKK Compressor KJB2 with Waukesha L7042 Gas Engine (24) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-094(15-16)	Spares for NKK Compressor KB2 with Waukesha H2475 Gas Engine (21) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-095(15-16)	CNG Filling Dispenser (2) Units	US\$
(6)	IFB-096(15-16)	Spares for P9390GL Waukesha Engine / Cooper MH64 Compressor and Ariel JGk4 Compressor (26) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-097(15-16)	Spares for Ajax DPC600 Compressor (20) Items	US\$
(8)	IFB-098(15-16)	Spares for Waukesha 12VAT 27GL Engine (42) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-099(15-16)	Spares for Waukesha L 7042 GSI Engine and Ariel JGK4 Compressor (9) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-100(15-16)	Spares for Waukesha F2895 Engine and Ariel JGE2 Compressor (53) Items	US\$
(11)	IFB-101(15-16)	Spares for FLC504 Derrick Shaker Unit (7) Items	US\$
(12)	IFB-102(15-16)	Coalescing Gas Filters (Horizontal Type) (2) Nos	US\$
(13)	IFB-103(15-16)	Maintenance and Inspection Requirements for Ywama Gas Distribution Station (1) Lot	US\$
(14)	IFB-104(15-16)	Maintenance and Inspection Requirements for PLC (Daw Nyein) (1) Lot	US\$
(15)	DMP/L-018(15-16)	HP Ao Copier / Plotter and Digital Multi Function Colour Copier (A3) for Geological Use (2) Items	KS
(16)	DMP/L-019(15-16)	M.S Plate, M.S Rod & Angle Iron for Craft Boats (6) Nos Repairing Job	KS
(17)	DMP/L-020(15-16)	M.S Plate, M.S Pipe, M.S Rod & Angle Iron for River Craft MTB-5 Repairing Job	KS
(18)	DMP/L-021(15-16)	Air Compressor (4" x 4" Reciprocating with 12-13HP Diesel Engine) (4) Sets	KS
(19)	DMP/L-022(15-16)	Water Transfer Pump with Motor and Water Transfer Pump with Engine (2) Items	KS

Tender Closing Date & Time - 28-4-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 21st March, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Congratulations!

The Chairman and central executive committee of the Myanmar Gems And Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association (MGJEA) have congratulated U Aung Ko Win, patron of MGJEA and chairman of Kanbawza Bank Limited, on his standing first for four consecutive years out of 1,000 entrepreneurs who pay the highest amount of income tax throughout the country for the 2014-2015 tax assessment year according to the announcement dated 18 March, 2016 released by the Internal Revenue Department, Ministry of Finance, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and wished him defending this position for many, many years to come through exertion of increased effort to contribute towards nation-building activities.



**Chairman and executive committee,
Myanmar Gems and Jewellery
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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER APEX VOY NO (476N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO (476N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2016 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
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (460N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR BIAK VOY NO (460N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

'Batman v Superman' can empower audiences, actor Irons says

LONDON — British actor Jeremy Irons believes audiences will feel “empowered” by action film “Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice”, because it could make change in an “injust” society seem more tangible.

The “Man of Steel” sequel sees Batman (Ben Affleck) and Superman (Henry Cavill) together on the big screen for the first time. It also stars Jesse Eisenberg as Lex Luthor and Gal Gadot as Wonder Woman.

Audiences can expect elements from both comics in the film as the two superheroes face off. Irons, 67, portrays Alfred, Bruce Wayne’s technology-savvy butler turned father figure.

“There are so many injustices in the world and in our society, more and more it seems as we watch the refugees, as we watch the gap between the rich and the poor, we’d love to be able to do something about it,” Irons said in an interview.

“And our politicians don’t seem to be facing that, they’re just worrying about things that don’t seem important but catch the headlines. And I think when you go and see a film like this with these superheroes it’s just two hours where you think ‘oh yes, look how things are being changed, blowing up and I feel empowered as an audience member’, in a strange way.”
—Reuters

Anthony Hopkins feted at Royal Television Society Awards

LONDON — Oscar-winning actor Anthony Hopkins was honoured with the top acting prize at Britain’s Royal Television Society Awards.

The 78-year-old actor added another trophy to his collection at the London prizegiving as he was handed the male actor award for his performance in UK TV show “The Dresser”, beating out the likes of Tom Courtenay (Unforgotten) and Adam Long (Don’t Take My Baby), reported Contactmusic.

Former “Coronation Street” star Suranne Jones earned the female actor prize for her new drama “Doctor Foster”, claiming the honour over Wolf Hall’s Claire Foy and Home Fires’ “Claire Rushbrook”.—PTI

Director Francis Lawrence looks back on ‘The Hunger Games’ franchise

LOS ANGELES — The final DVD of “The Hunger Games” franchise is released on Tuesday, marking an end to the hugely popular series starring Jennifer Lawrence.

The four films, of which the last hit cinemas last November, were based on the dystopian trilogy by author Suzanne Collins.

And while the cast and crew have bid farewell to the franchise, some have said they would be keen to continue the adventure should Collins write a spin-off.

When asked if he would consider making another

“Hunger Games” film, director Francis Lawrence told Reuters: “I would, yeah, well if it was the right idea and the right story, absolutely I would, but it would have to come from Suzanne (Collins).”

“Well I know (studio) Lionsgate is talking about prequels or sequels, but I’m not part of that process right now.”

Lawrence also reflected on his leading lady, Jennifer Lawrence who portrayed heroine Katniss Everdeen. One DVD excerpt shows the actress being congratulated for her work but when a comment



The star of “The Hunger Games” films, actress Jennifer Lawrence, stands next to the franchise’s three-time director Francis Lawrence at the 66th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France. PHOTO: REUTERS

is made saying she never complained on set, the whole cast and crew start laughing.

“Oh because she complains every day pretty much and it’s in a really fun way, it’s part of Jen’s personality ... We all know she loves being on set. It’s kind of what she considers home, it feels safe to her,” he said.

“But she’s also got the personality that the second she’s there and on set, she’s usually complaining about when lunch is and she’ll start asking after the first shot ... It’s just part of the personality and it’s also part of a joke but that’s why everybody started laughing because they know her personality.”—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Kesha appeals court decision, likening recording contract to slavery

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Kesha has appealed a court decision that ties her to a recording contract with companies owned by music producer Dr. Luke, who she has accused of rape, saying the ruling was akin to slavery.

The “Tik Tok” singer, 28, has been seeking to nullify her six-album recording contract with her producer Dr. Luke, his associated record labels, and Sony Music. But a judge in February declined to release her from the contract, prompting a #FreeKesha social media campaign and an outpouring of support from big name singers including Taylor Swift, Kelly Clarkson, Lady Gaga and Miley Cyrus. Dr. Luke, whose real name is Lukasz Gottwald, has denied allegations of rape and emotional abuse filed in a 2014 lawsuit

and is countersuing. Both of those cases have yet to come to trial.

In court documents filed on Saturday, Kesha’s lawyer appealed the February decision by New York Supreme Court Justice Shirley Kornreich, saying the court erred in finding that Kesha could record without interference from Gottwald.

“Although it (the court) recognised that ‘slavery was done away with a long time ago’ and that ‘(y)ou can’t force someone to work... in a situation in which they don’t want to work,’ the court’s ruling requiring Kesha to work for Gottwald’s companies, purportedly without his involvement, does just that,” Kesha’s attorney Mark Geragos wrote.

Dr. Luke’s attorney, Christine Lepera, has argued that Kesha, who burst onto the music scene in 2009, is already free to record music with other producers under her contract and that she has presented no evidence to support her claims of rape.—Reuters

Harrison Ford ‘excited’ about ‘Indiana Jones 5’

LONDON — Veteran actor Harrison Ford is as excited about returning to “Indiana Jones” as his fans.

The 73-year-old actor said he was “looking forward” to working on the fifth installment of the film with Steven Spielberg, reported Digital Spy.

“I’ll be ready. I’m excited about it. Steven Spielberg (had) this chance to revisit this character which has brought pleasure to so many people...Not to mention

me,” Ford said.

“It’s great fun to work with this character. It’s great fun to work with Steven. I’m looking forward to it,” he added. The new installment will be written by “Kingdom of the Crystal Skull” writer.

Indy was introduced to audiences in 1981’s classic “Raiders of the Lost Ark,” and returned in sequels “Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom” (1984) and “Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade” (1989).—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

Pakistan's first women-only rickshaw service struggles after just a year



Pink Rickshaw driver Parveen Bibi looks for prospective passengers in Lahore, Pakistan on 17 November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

LAHORE, (Pakistan) — Pakistan's first women-only rickshaw service was meant to provide its staff with a new way of gaining financial independence and its passengers with the chance of a ride without being groped and harassed by male drivers.

But, after just a year in busi-

ness, the "Pink Rickshaw" in the Punjabi city of Lahore, is struggling. Help has been promised by a Scotland-based charity, run by pop star Annie Lennox, and Pink Rickshaw founder, Zar Aslam, said she hopes to get the money for ten rickshaws by September. Aslam, who herself narrowly escaped kidnap-

ping in a rickshaw when she was a student, told Reuters she had aimed to have 25 of the pink-and-white rickshaws on the road by mid-2016 but the manufacturers have sent only six, and three are too old to use. "There are several women waiting to get the rickshaws," said Aslam, who also runs the Environment Protection Fund, a Pakistani non-profit agency. The rickshaws cost about \$3,000 each, and more if you add tracking and anti-theft systems.

"The first few rickshaws we bought were expensive but now we're looking at cheaper models," she said. "The only disappointment is to get the funding for more rickshaws because the demand is out there and it is just a matter of getting all the funds together," Aslam said. That would help women who, like Parveen Bibi, want to zip around town making a living and making life easier in a country where sexual crime is rife and often goes without being reported or punished. —Reuters

On Alexandria's Fouad Street, some have a longing for the elegant past



A 1955 Ford standard Bird and a 1968 Mercedes are worked on at a car repair shop, which used to service the monarch's vehicles, at Fouad street in Alexandria, Egypt, on 5 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ALEXANDRIA (Egypt) — Along Fouad Street, a Costa coffee shop near old buildings with Italian and French architecture reminds Egyptians that commercial ventures threaten to erase traces of Alexandria's aristocratic past.

Named after King Fouad I, who died in 1936, the street is a throwback to a time when the arts flourished in a cosmopolitan city that is now overcrowded and dilapidated like many of Egypt's urban centres.

Some, like architect and urban planning teacher Ahmed Hassan, are pushing to preserve some relics of the bygone era while keeping pace with growing businesses — the goal of his "Save Alex" initiative, launched in 2012.

"We aim to try to find a balance between civil society and profit-driven private sector to protect the heritage buildings from getting demolished," Hassan told Reuters.

"We want a system where all stake holders agree on a system to keep the heritage."

In the past, the city founded by Alexander the Great and once

considered the jewel of the Mediterranean, featured a fusion of communities — Greek, Italians, Armenians, Muslims, Christians and Jews.

Fouad Street is the most potent symbol of Alexandria's grand history, with its elegant villas and antique shops. At a car repair shop once used to service the monarch's vehicles, for example, mechanics work over cars from the 1930s and 1960s. Sigma, a company with a branch that has been investing in heritage building, hopes to keep some of the magic of the past turning a profit at the same time.

CEO Laithy Mekawy was influenced by the three years he spent as an architect in Istanbul, where he observed the restoration of historic buildings.

He turned a television company on the ground floor of the old Société Immobilière building, an 1928 Neo-Renaissance structure, into "L Passage", a food and cafes court with well known brands. "I've always loved walking on a Friday morning on Fouad street," Laithy said, describing the weekend day in predominantly Muslim Egypt. — Reuters

Flowers in full bloom in east China



WUYUAN — The scenery of Qingyuan Village of Duanshen Township in Wuyuan County, east China's Jiangxi Province on 22 March 2016. Flowers are in full bloom in Wuyuan County. PHOTO: XINHUA

mitv Myanmar International

(24-3-2016 07:00am ~ 25-3-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	History Of Wishfulfilling Mai-Lamu Pagodas
07:44	Am	Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar HR Conference 2015 (Part- V)
08:45	Am	Ywar Thit's Monhinkhar
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products Of Myanmar - Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar
09:42	Am	The Hills Of Phowintaung And Shwebataung
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Kyauk Gu Umin Cave Gu Pha Ya
10:42	Am	Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A visit to Htam Hsan Cave A Miraculous Place
07:55	Pm	Hip-Hop and Design
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
08:38	Pm	Bollywood Actress "Laila Khan" (Born & Raised in Myanmar) (Part-II)

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

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(24-3-2016, Thursday)

6:00 pm	9:00 pm
• Weather Report	• Music Programme
• Music Programme	9:10 pm
6:30 pm	• English Premier League
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	Review (Part-2)
6:50 pm	9:30 pm
• Music Programme	• Life In NightArt In Life
7:00 pm	(Ep-1)
• International Drama Series	10:20 pm
7:50 pm	• Myanmar Video
• International Drama Series	Midnight
8:30 pm	• Close Down.
• Cartoon Programme "BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE (Part- XVIII)"	

From 24-3-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm
To 25-3-2016(Friday) 6:00 Pm

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

Shirt sponsor revenue up 13% in top Euro leagues

LONDON — Revenue from shirt sponsorship in Europe's top leagues has risen 13 per cent to 830 million euros (655.9 million pounds) this season, powered by a 35 per cent increase in England's Premier League, according to a new report.

The Repucom European Football Jersey Report said revenue in 2015-16 had gone up from 736 million euros last season.

The document covered shirt sponsorship deals in the Premier League, Germany's Bundesliga, Spain's La Liga, Ligue 1 in France, Italy's Serie A and the Dutch championship.

The biggest rise was in the Premier League with shirt sponsorship revenue reaching 330 million euros, almost 40 per cent of the total for Europe's top six leagues.

"At its current rate of growth we could see European football shirt sponsorship investment top one billion euros within the next few seasons," said Repucom UK and Ireland managing director Jon Stainer.

"The Premier League continues to drive this trend with year on year investment growing faster than any other league on the continent. It is an industry that attracts big money from abroad which underlines the appeal European football has internationally."

The United Arab Emirates is the biggest investor in the top six leagues with 163 million euros spent on shirt sponsorship in 2015-16, an increase of nine per cent on its outlay last season.

Germany (136 million euros) is the second highest followed by the United States (87 million), driven largely by investment from the automobile sector.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Suarez says he won't change his game on return from bite ban

MONTEVIDEO — Uruguay striker Luis Suarez said he will not change the way he plays, but will come back to international football with 'moderation' when he makes an expected return on Friday from a nine-match ban for biting.

Suarez is set to face Brazil in a 2018 World Cup qualifier after sitting out nine competitive international fixtures for biting Italy defender Giorgio Chiellini at the last World Cup in Brazil almost two years ago.

The Barcelona player has managed to keep out of trouble for his club since the incident but said he will not change his aggressive style that has helped to make him one of the world's deadliest strikers.

"I am going to have

the same attitude, I will still run, still pressure, still argue because no one is going to change the way I play," he told reporters ahead of Friday's match in Recife.

"But with moderation, like I am doing now at Barcelona, being more intelligent about a lot of things, trying to take advantage of the situations life is putting in front of me..."

"The only thing I want to do is play with the national side again and enjoy the warmth of the fans."

Uruguay have enjoyed a good start to their qualifying campaign, winning three out of their four games to sit in second place in the 10-team table, behind Ecuador, the only side to win all of their games so far.

After facing Brazil, Uruguay return home to play Peru next Tuesday.—Reuters

Manchester United line up pre-season games in China

LONDON — Manchester United look set to play Premier League rivals Manchester City in a 'derby' in Beijing in July after announcing on Tuesday an eight-day pre-season tour of China.

United, who have said they will play two games in China, did not give details of dates or opponents but the Manchester Evening News reported that a game with City was pencilled in.

City have already confirmed they will play in the International Champions Cup (ICC) China tournament (www.internationalchampionscup.com) and media reports have indicated that Bundesliga side Borussia Dortmund will also be involved.

City will have a new man-

ager by July, with Bayern Munich's Pep Guardiola joining the club at the end of the season, while Louis van Gaal's future at United looks increasingly uncertain with media reports linking Jose Mourinho to the job.

A consortium led by China Media Capital (CMC) Holdings and CITIC Capital agreed in December to take a stake of more than 13 per cent in the group that owns Manchester City.

China has more Manchester United fans than any other country, according to the Old Trafford club, with more than 107 million compared to Britain's population of about 62 million.

"Manchester United has strong historical links with Chi-

na and we are very proud of our relationship and of our fans throughout the country," United vice-chairman Ed Woodward said in a statement.

"A total of almost 500,000 supporters have attended previous games during our visits to China and we have always enjoyed exceptional support in the country."

United have made 10 trips to China, with the first in 1975.

United would have a window in late July for the China tour, with the Euro 2016 finals ending on 10 July and a Wayne Rooney testimonial match scheduled for 3 August in Manchester to mark his 12 years at the club.

The Premier League season starts on the weekend of 13 August.—Reuters



Manchester United club logo. PHOTO: REUTERS

Systematic drug use in Russian swimming: The Times

BERLIN — Russia has undertaken systematic doping in swimming for years, the *Times* newspaper said yesterday, as the nation battles a drugs problem that could prevent the country's track and field squad from competing at the Rio de Janeiro Olympics.

The *English* newspaper said its investigation had unearthed "systematic" drug use in the sport, where more than a dozen Russian swimmers were suspended in the past three years for doping.

The *Times* said Dr Sergei Portugalov, Chief of the Russian Athletics Federation's Medical Commission, who was said to have provided banned substances to Russian athletes, was also in-

involved in swimming.

Dr Portugalov was named in a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) report on systematic doping in Russian athletics a few months ago.

"Calls for Russian swimmers to be excluded from the Games will grow after the investigation revealed that Portugalov, the doctor recommended for a lifetime ban by WADA as a key player at the heart of Russia's doping scandal, actively encouraged the national swimming team to adopt a systematic doping policy," the newspaper said.

"Since 2009, when Portugalov first offered to 'assist' Russian swimming, 23 swimmers have

been handed suspensions for doping and the tally for all aquatic sports exceeds 40 in the past decade."

Russian Swimming Federation President Vladimir Salnikov, and the authority's spokeswoman Margarita Balakireva were not immediately available for comment.

The report comes only a day after Russia's wrestling federation said there were "tens" of positive tests among its athletes could miss out on the Olympics.

Russian sport was thrown into turmoil last year when a report by WADA exposed endemic cheating and corruption in Russian athletics.—Reuters

West Ham sign Lanzini on permanent deal

LONDON — West Ham United have agreed a permanent deal to sign Argentine attacking midfielder Manuel Lanzini from Al Jazira, according to the London club's co-chairman David Sullivan.

The 23-year-old, who joined West Ham in July, has netted five goals in the league and will complete the deal when the transfer window reopens.

Lanzini was brought in on a season-long loan from the UAE club last July, with an option to make the move permanent.

Sullivan confirmed that the club has signed Lanzini on

a permanent deal. His son Jack Sullivan also tweeted that the player would sign a four-year contract.

He said: "Lanzini is a WHU player for the next 4 seasons, with a further 2 year option."

Lanzini has scored six goals in 22 appearances in all competitions for West Ham.

The Buenos Aires-born midfielder made his professional debut for River Plate as a 17-year-old and spent the 2011-12 season with Brazilian club Fluminense before moving to the UAE in 2014.—Reuters