

# TRANSITION COMPLETE

## U HTIN KYAW SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT



Outgoing President U Thein Sein hands over insignia of the presidency to incoming President U Htin Kyaw at the ceremony to hand over the duties of presidency. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw took his oath of office at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday. Afterward, he delivered the inaugural speech in which he said his government will strive to amend the current constitution, which was passed in the referendum in 2008.

"I am responsible for the emergence of a constitution that will be in accord with the democratic norms suited to our country.

I am also aware that I need to be patient in realising this political objective, for which the people have long aspired," said the president.

He said his government will seek to implement four policies: national reconciliation; internal peace; the emergence of a constitution that will produce a democratic, federal union; and the improvement of the quality of life of the majority of the people.

Following the swearing-in ceremony at the parliament, a ceremony marking the handover of presidential duties from outgoing President U Thein Sein to incoming President U Htin Kyaw was held at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the ceremony, President U Thein Sein presented his successor with official documents,

a gold sash and a presidential insignia. After the ceremony, outgoing President U Thein Sein cordially greeted incoming President U Htin Kyaw. The two vice presidents, U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, were also sworn in at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the chairperson of the ruling National League for Democracy, was also sworn in yesterday together with

other Union ministers and officials.

Suu Kyi will lead four ministries: foreign affairs, education, electric & energy and the President's Office.

Mahn Jonny, the new chief minister of Ayeyawady Region, told reporters that the NLD-led government is ready to work in the interests of the people. He added that he will work to strengthen the rule of law as a priority.—GNLM



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President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin host presidential inaugural dinner

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Daw Aung San Suu Kyi joins National Defense and Security Council

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President U Htin Kyaw  
PHOTO: MNA

# The constitution to be in accord with democratic norms: President U Htin Kyaw

The following is the unofficial translation of the inaugural speech of President U Htin Kyaw at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw on 30 March.

FIRST of all, I would like to express my delight at being elected president by Pyidaungsu Hluttaw because it is a significant, historic event. As I have now become the president, I am the person who is accountable for the Union Parliament. [Myanmar's] second hluttaws and the governments resulting from the November 2015 election were formed to be in accordance with the policies of the National League for Democracy, led by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Our new government will implement the following policies:

- national reconciliation;
- internal peace;
- the emergence of a constitution that will lead to effectuation of a democratic, federal union; and
- raising the quality of life of the majority of the people.

I would like to emphasise the fact that I will invariably be cautious of my duty to keep these oaths. Moreover, I am responsible for the emergence of a constitution that is in accord with democratic norms suited to our country. I am also aware that I need to be patient enough to realise this political objective, for which the people have long aspired.

May I now conclude by emphasising that our Union government will exert strenuous efforts to fulfil the people's aspirations and wishes. I wish all citizens peace and prosperity in treading upon your respective paths of life.

## Appointment of Union Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 232 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and article 12 of the Union Government Law, the following persons have been appointed as Union Ministers.

No.	Union Minister	Ministry
1.	Daw Aung San Suu Kyi	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
		Ministry of President's Office
		Ministry of Electric Power and Energy
		Ministry of Education
2.	Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe	Ministry of Home Affairs
3.	Lt-Gen Sein Win	Ministry of Defence
4.	Lt-Gen Ye Aung	Ministry of Border Affairs
5.	Dr Pe Myint	Ministry of Information
6.	Thura U Aung Ko	Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture
7.	Dr Aung Thu	Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
8.	U Thant Sin Maung	Ministry of Transport and Communications
9.	U Ohn Win	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation
10.	U Thein Swe	Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population
11.	U Khin Maung Cho	Ministry of Industry
12.	Dr Than Myint	Ministry of Commerce
13.	Dr Myint Htwe	Ministry of Health
14.	U Kyaw Win	Ministry of Planning and Finance
15.	U Win Khaing	Ministry of Construction
16.	Dr Win Myat Aye	Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement
17.	U Ohn Maung	Ministry of Hotels and Tourism
18.	Naing Thet Lwin	Ministry of Ethnic Affairs

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe



Lt-Gen Sein Win



Lt-Gen Ye Aung



Dr Pe Myint



Thura U Aung Ko



Dr Aung Thu



U Thant Sin Maung



U Ohn Win



U Thein Swe



U Khin Maung Cho



Dr Than Myint



Dr Myint Htwe



U Kyaw Win



U Win Khaing



Dr Win Myat Aye



U Ohn Maung



Naing Thet Lwin





President U Htin Kyaw shakes hands with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi at the inaugural dinner. PHOTO: MNA

## President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin host presidential inaugural dinner

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin hosted a presidential inaugural dinner on the lawn of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

President U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Vice-President U Myint Swe and wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice-President U Henry Van Thio and wife Dr. Shwe Lwan cordially greeted Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, special guest, speak-

ers of the two houses of the parliament and their wives and the President's guests, Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla, Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of the Union Election Commission U Hla Thein a, Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Commander-in-Chief (Army)

Vice-Senior General Soe Win and wife Daw Than Than Nwe, Union Ministers, Chief Ministers, chairs of parliamentary committees, foreign ambassadors, diplomats and officials from the United Nations agencies.

After the state dinner the President and wife with those present enjoyed performances by vocalists and artists from the Fine Arts Department.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## Daw Aung San Suu Kyi joins National Defense and Security Council

MYANMAR'S new government formed a new 11-member National Defense and Security Council yesterday with President U Htin Kyaw as its chairman, according to an announcement from the President's Office.

The National Defence and Security Council also includes Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, chairperson of the National League for Democracy, and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, along with the two vice presidents, the speakers of the two houses of parliament, the deputy commander-in-chief of defence services and the ministers of defence, home affairs and border affairs.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi joins the council as the Union Minister for Foreign Affairs.—*GNLM*



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Commander-in-Chief Senior General Min Aung Hlaing are seen on the way to the parliament. PHOTO: MNA

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Notification 1/2016 7th Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME (Wednesday 30 March, 2016) Formation of Union Government

- In accordance with the provisions stated in article 200 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and article 6 (a) and (b) of the Union Government Law, the Union Government has been formed with the following persons:
- |  |   |
|--|---|
| (1) U Htin Kyaw                                    | President   |
| (2) U Myint Swe                                    | Vice-President  |
| (3) U Henry Van Thio                               | Vice-President  |
| (4) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi                           | Union Minister  |
|  | Ministry of Foreign Affairs   |
|  | Ministry of President's Office                                      |
|  | Ministry of Electric Power and Energy                               |
|  | Ministry of Education   |
| (5) Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe                                | Union Minister for Home Affairs                                     |
| (6) Lt-Gen Sein Win                                | Union Minister for Defense  |
| (7) Lt-Gen Ye Aung                                 | Union Minister for Border Affairs                                   |
| (8) Dr Pe Myint                                    | Union Minister for Information                                      |
| (9) Thura U Aung Ko                                | Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture                    |
| (10) Dr Aung Thu                                   | Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation            |
| (11) U Thant Sin Maung                             | Union Minister for Transport and Communications                     |
| (12) U Ohn Win                                     | Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation |
| (13) U Thein Swe                                   | Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population               |
| (14) U Khin Maung Cho                              | Union Minister for Industry   |
| (15) Dr Than Myint                                 | Union Minister for Commerce   |
| (16) Dr Myint Htwe                                 | Union Minister for Health   |
| (17) U Kyaw Win                                    | Union Minister for Planning and Finance                             |
| (18) U Win Khaing                                  | Union Minister for Construction                                     |
| (19) Dr Win Myat Aye                               | Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement          |
| (20) U Ohn Maung                                   | Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism                               |
| (21) Nai Thet Lwin                                 | Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs                                   |
| (22) Union Attorney-General                        | (to be announced)   |
| (23) Director-General of Union Government's Office | Secretary   |

*Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar*

### Republic of the Union of Myanmar President's Office Notification 2/2016 7th Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME (Wednesday 30 March, 2016) Formation of National Defense and Security Council

- In accordance with the provisions stated in article 201 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and article 10 (a) of the Union Government Law, the National Defense and Security Council has been formed with the following persons:
- |                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| (1) U Htin Kyaw                    | President                                     |
| (2) U Myint Swe                    | Vice-President                                |
| (3) U Henry Van Thio               | Vice-President                                |
| (4) U Win Myint                    | Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw                     |
| (5) Mahn Win Khaing Than           | Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw                    |
| (6) Senior General Min Aung Hlaing | Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services        |
| (7) Vice-Senior General Soe Win    | Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services |
| (8) Daw Aung San Suu Kyi           | Union Minister for Foreign Affairs            |
| (9) Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe                | Union Minister for Home Affairs               |
| (10) Lt-Gen Sein Win               | Union Minister for Defense                    |
| (11) Lt-Gen Ye Aung                | Union Minister for Border Affairs             |
- Under article 10 (b) of the Union Government Law, the secretary of the Union Government shall be the ex-officio secretary of the National Defense and Security Council.
- Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar*



Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President's Office  
Order 4/2016

7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME  
(Wednesday, 30 March, 2016)

### Appointment of Region/State Chief Ministers

IN accordance with the provisions stated in article 261 (c) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 19 (a) of the Union Government Law and article 6 (a) of the Region or State Government Law, the following persons approved by respective Region or State Hluttaws have been appointed as Region/State Chief Ministers:

- |                               |                   |
|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| (1) Dr Khet Aung              | Kachin State      |
| (2) U L Phaung Sho            | Kayah State       |
| (3) Daw Nann Khin Htway Myint | Kayin State       |
| (4) U Salai Lian Lwal         | Chin State        |
| (5) Dr Myint Naing            | Sagaing Region    |
| (6) Dr Lei Lei Maw            | Taninthayi Region |
| (7) U Win Thein               | Bago Region       |
| (8) Dr Aung Moe Nyo           | Magwe Region      |
| (9) Dr Zaw Myint Maung        | Mandalay Region   |
| (10) U Min Min Oo             | Mon State         |
| (11) U Nyi Pu                 | Rakhine State     |
| (12) U Phyo Min Thein         | Yangon Region     |
| (13) Dr Lin Htut              | Shan State        |
| (14) Mahn Johnny              | Ayeyawady Region  |

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President

Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President's Office  
Order 1/2016

7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME  
(Wednesday 30 March, 2016)

### Appointment of Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 327 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 16 (b) (2) of the Union Government Law and article 10 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law, U Myo Nyunt has been appointed as Chairman of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union.

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President's Office  
Order 6/2016

7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME  
(Wednesday, 30 March, 2016)

### Appointment of Members of the Union Election Commission

In accord with the provisions stated in article 398 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 16 (b) of the Union Government Law and article 3 of the Union Election Commission Law, the following persons have been appointed as members of the Union Election Commission:

- (1) U Aung Myint
- (2) U Soe Rae
- (3) U Tun Khin
- (4) U Hla Tint

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President's Office  
Order 5/2016

7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME  
(Wednesday, 30 March, 2016)

### Appointment of Members of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union

In accord with the provisions stated in article 327 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 16 of the Union Government Law and article 10 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union Law, the following persons have been appointed as members of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union:

- (1) U Nyi Nyi
- (2) U Myint Win
- (3) U Myo Myint
- (4) U Khin Maung Cho
- (5) Daw Khin Htay Kywe
- (6) U Twar Kyin Paung
- (7) Daw Hla Myo Nwe
- (8) U Kyaw Hsan

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President's Office  
Notification 4/2016

7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME  
(Wednesday 30 March, 2016)

### Formation of Union Election Commission

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 398 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 9 (e) of the Union Government Law and article 13 of the Union Election Law, Union Election Commission has been formed with the following persons:

- |                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| (1) U Hla Thein  | Chairman |
| (2) U Aung Myint | Member   |
| (3) U Soe Rae    | Member   |
| (4) U Tun Khin   | Member   |
| (5) U Hla Tint   | Member   |

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Crime NEWS

# Yaba pills and heroin seized in Shan State

MEMBERS of the Myanmar Police Force discovered and seized yaba pills and heroin in Shan State on 26 March and on Monday of this week.

Members of local police unit No. 24 Anti-Drugs Squad based in Lashio stopped and searched a Nissan AD Van which was carrying multiple passengers around milepost NO. 80/4 at the entrance to Nawnghkio town on 26 March.

The search resulted in the seizure of 2925 yaba pills from a passenger

named Tun Naing Htay.

On Monday authorities stopped and searched a motorbike being driven by one Aung Myint who was accompanied by an individual identified as Julius on a street of Mongli village in Hsenwi Town and confiscated 121 grams of heroin which were being held in 11 soap boxes in addition to 1200 yaba pills from Julius.

On the same day police searched a Toyota being driven by one Soe Naing around milepost 98 near Bawathanthayar bridge in



Tun Naing Htay seen with seized yaba pills. PHOTO: MPF

Heho town and seized 3 grams of heroin and 170 yaba pills. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws. — Myanmar Police Force



Damaged cars seen at the scene for the accident. PHOTO: WAI YAN LIN (IPRD)

## Accident kills driver on Tachilek-Kengtung road

AN accident on the Tachilek-Kengtung road near Yan Shin Village, Tachilek Township, on 28 March, killed one person and injured eight others.

A Toyota Vigo heading to Tachilek from Tar Lay driven by U Sai Kham Mat collided head on with a Mitsubishi Rose bus en route

to Tar Lay Township from Tachilek driven by U Kyaw Myo Hein from Mahlaing Township. The bus was carrying five passengers when the Vigo hit it.

The accident killed U Sai Kham Mat on the spot. Eight passengers were seriously injured.—Wai Yan Lin (IPRD)

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President's Office  
Order 2/2016

7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME  
(Wednesday 30 March, 2016)

### Appointment of Chairman of Union Election Commission

In accord with the provisions stated in article 398 (a) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 16 (b) (3) of the Union Government Law and article 3 of the Union Election Commission Law, U Hla Thein has been appointed as Chairman of the Union Election Commission.

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

## Fire breaks out in Sintgaing

A fire destroyed a house at La Min eel brokerage at the bus station in Paleik Ward, Sintgaing Township, Mandalay Region, on 28 March.

The fire was caused by an overheated 15KV voltage regulator at the La Min eel brokerage owned by U Soe Aung. The fire spread to a

two-storey house north of the brokerage at around 3:30am.

The fire was put under control by firefighters and neighbours equipped with seven fire engines. The fire destroyed the 1,200-square-foot RC building and the 750-square-foot house.—Tin Tin Htwe (Sintgaing)

## Traffic accident happens in Kyimyindine

A traffic accident involving three vehicles broke out in front of the container terminal at Hteetan jetty in Kyimyindine township at 3:15 pm on 29 March.

A ten-wheel container truck driven by

Myo Zaw Tun hit another container vehicle from the back at the gate of the terminal, forcing it to bump into the rear of a Pro-box stopped in front. No one was injured in the accident.—Shwe Tine thar



# LOCAL Business

## Myanmar's economy to grow by 1.2 per cent: ADB

MYANMAR's economic growth will increase by 1.2 percent in the fiscal year 2016-2017, a report of Asian Development Bank estimated on Wednesday.

ADB launched a report for Myanmar's economic outlook 2016 Wednesday.

According to the report, Myanmar's economic growth will reach 8.4 percent in the fiscal year 2016-2017, up from 7.2 percent in 2015-2016.

The inflation will remain high at 9.5 percent for the 2016-2017 but will decrease to 8.5 percent in 2017-2018.

ADB said in the report that Myanmar's positive political de-

velopments and structural reform programs will help foster economic growth and investment.

Winfried Wicklein, ADB Country Director in Myanmar, said Myanmar's new government will face the challenges of advancing economic reform, addressing infrastructure and labor shortages and making progress towards peace and social cohesion.

Intensified efforts are needed to connect and develop rural areas to improve access to markets and services and to generate opportunities and jobs.

Foreign direct investment may increase due to the success-

ful political transition, especially investment flow to the special economic zones, transport, telecommunication and energy sectors. The risks for the economic growth are thin external and fiscal buffers, the capacity of the government to maintain reform momentum, ethnic and sectarian tensions and vulnerability to bad weather. Weakness of transport infrastructure provides poor access to markets and services. It also provide perpetuates poverty and regional inequality.

ADB estimated in the report that Myanmar needs 60 billion US dollars to upgrade transport systems until 2030.—Xinhua

## Owners of decorated bullock carts and horses doing well in Pwintbyu Township



A decorated bullock cart is seen at a ceremony in Pwintbyu Township. PHOTO: THURA TUN (PWINTBYU)

THE owners of decorated bullock carts and horses are enjoying healthy business in Pwintbyu Township as local people rent them to roam about during traditional ceremonies after harvesting season.

"Rice and peas fetched good prices this year so farmers have made many donations this year, more than in previous years. The daily rent for a no-

vation ceremony ranges from K10,000 in the surrounding areas to K15,000 in distant places. Sometimes, we get a rent up to K20,000 a day for two ceremonies, one in the morning and one in the evening. There is no much difference in the rent for bullock carts and horses," said U Win Shwe, owner of the carts from Tharzi village in the township.

Now that people have

turned to mechanised farming in agriculture, decorated bullock carts and horses are rarely found as they have been replaced with motorcycles and three-wheel motorcycles which facilitate transportation. The owners of the bullock carts and horses are earning a decent income at the moment, however, it has been reported.—Thura Tun (Pwintbyu)

## Organic chickens in upcountry villages seeing high demand

ORGANIC chickens traditionally bred in upcountry villages on a manageable local scale are in high demand, according to husbandry businessmen from Natmauk and Yeynangyaung

townships. The price of chickens rises as Thingyan Festival draws near. Prices range from K7,000 to K8,000 per viss. The price for live chickens is around K5,500 per viss, up from

K4,500 a few days ago. "There are many sellers as they can make good profits," said local poultry farmers from Natmauk, Gwaykon and Yeynangyaung.—SS/Union Daily



Labour shortages have caused bamboo matting to halt in Tatkon. PHOTO: THET OO (THATON)

## Bamboo matting business nearly halts in Tatkon

BAMBOO matting is in danger of going out of business in Tatkon due to a public loss of interest in bamboo matting produce and increasing labour shortages.

The soaring price of bamboo used for matting and shortages of skilled labour are likely to push business out of operation, said U Aung Than who runs a bamboo matting business in Tatkon Township.

Bamboo matting is mainly

used in the construction of fences, storage huts and barns. Currently, there are about ten bamboo matting businesses in the township. A single-layer bamboo matting is sold for K140 per square foot, and a double-layer bamboo matting for K200 per square foot.

The labour shortages being suffered in the town are reportedly due to skilled workers going abroad in search of higher income.—Thet Oo (Thaton)

## High demand on onions causes price rise

THE prices of onions have bounced back due to high demand following a month of decline.

Last month onion prices dropped from K525 to K375. Currently, onions are sold at prices ranging between K415 and K400 per viss (approximately 1.6 kilograms) depending on their quality.

The decline in price was due to the fact that supply exceeded demand in February. Earlier this month onion farmers said they found it difficult to sell their produce to border areas where sup-

ply was high as a result of onions coming in from various other sources. According to onion traders prices are starting to take off following a gradual surge in demand.

The cultivation of onions this year is reported to be 40 per cent less than last year, with a local onion grower fretting about its possible effect on future yield.

The price of onions peaked at K1,000 per viss last August as a direct consequence of high demand in foreign markets and low yields.—Union Daily



Onion farmers in upper Myanmar have earned high income from this year harvest as demand for the crop is high.



# Japan congratulates, welcomes new Myanmar government

TOKYO — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida sent congratulations to Myanmar on the establishment of its new government led by President Htin Kyaw, the Japanese government said in a statement yesterday.

“We are pleased that a transfer of government was realised peacefully through a democratic process and that a new page was added to the country’s history, in accordance with the Myanmar people’s wishes,” the statement said.

“Japan will thoroughly support Myanmar’s efforts for its development and prosperity, through both the public and private sectors.

We intend to further solidify the traditional friendship and cooperative relations with Myanmar,” it said.

Htin Kyaw, a trusted aide of Myanmar’s democracy icon Aung San Suu Kyi, was sworn in Wednesday as president of the Southeast Asian country, which now has its first democratically

elected government in more than 50 years.

Suu Kyi joined the new Cabinet, taking the foreign minister role as well as three others, during an inauguration ceremony held at parliament.

“Japan is certain that democratization, rule of law, economic reform and national reconciliation will be further promoted under the leadership” of President Htin Kyaw and Foreign Minister Suu Kyi, the statement said.—*Kyodo News*



President U Htin Kyaw.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## Japan seeks to join US-Philippines drills regularly

WASHINGTON — A senior official of the US Defence Department said Tuesday that Japan is in talks with the Philippines about participating in joint drills with the United States on a regular basis.

Amy Searight, deputy assistant secretary of defence for South and Southeast Asia, was referring to the Balikatan joint exercises the US and Philippine militaries conduct near the South China Sea, where the latter is involved in territorial disputes with China.

“Japan is talking to the Philippines about a Status of Forces Agreement, so that Japan can regularly participate in those kinds of exercises,” Searight told a think tank event in Washington.

The envisioned agreement would govern the operations of the Japanese Self-Defence Forces in the Philippines.

“Japan is participating (in the Balikatan drill) as an observer. Japan very much wants to participate more,” she said.—*Kyodo News*

## Court dismisses Malaysia Airlines’ bid to strike out MH370 suit

KUALA LUMPUR — A Malaysian court yesterday dismissed a bid by national flag carrier Malaysia Airlines Berhad (MAB) to throw out a suit filed by relatives of three passengers who went missing on flight MH370, opening the way for other relatives to sue the airline.

MH370 disappeared on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on 8 March 2014, with 239 passengers and crew on board. More than 50 suits have been filed in the Malaysian courts over the plane’s disap-

pearance, while others have been filed in the United States, Australia, and China.

The Kuala Lumpur High Court ruling is likely to come as a relief for relatives, many of whom had feared they would not be able to get compensation from Malaysia Airlines Systems (MAS) after it transferred all its assets and operations to MAB in a restructuring exercise last year. MAB had argued that it had no liability as it was set up eight months after the aircraft disappeared.

But the court did not accept that, instead ruling that MAB’s liability would be determined in a trial, government lawyer Alice Loke Yee Ching told reporters.

“It was not plain and obvious that MAB is not a proper party (to the suit). That should only be determined by the full trial,” she said.

The suit ruled yesterday was filed by two teenagers whose parents and older brother were on the plane on the ill-fated flight. It will be the first case against the airline to be heard in

Malaysia, more than two years after the plane went missing.

The court, however, dismissed the teenagers’ bid to also hold the Malaysian government and two of its entities liable for the plane’s disappearance.

The family’s lawyer, Sanjeet Kaur Deo, told reporters the court had ruled that while the government had a duty of care to the plaintiffs, “there was no breach of that duty”.

She said the family would appeal the court’s decision.—*Reuters*

### THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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## Thailand eyes luxury tourists, operators say keep them safe

BANGKOK — Thailand needs to do more to keep its tourists safe if it wants to achieve its objective of attracting more high-end travellers, operators say, or it risks losing out to its up-and-coming neighbours.

With its palm-fringed beaches, Buddhist culture and racy nightlife, Thailand has been the poster child for Asian tourism for decades, attracting a range of visitors from backpackers and adventure-seekers, to families and culture vultures.

In recent years, increasing numbers of Chinese tourists have joined the mix. But dark clouds could be forming even as a record 32 million tourists are expected this year. The industry, which accounts for 10 per cent of gross domestic product, has been resilient to political upheaval over the last decade that has included violent street protests and military coups.

Even a deadly 2015 bomb attack on a Bangkok shrine popular with tourists failed to dent arrivals to any discernable degree.

But crime and accidents, and the perception Thailand is becoming a mass market, could pose a bigger threat to the government plan. The murder of two British tourists in 2014 hit world headlines. This month, two French women filed complaints of rape.

Woeful road safety, accidents at sea, scams and even angry elephants have added to what seems

like a never-ending litany of bad news. “Visitor volume is high but with that the probability of crime also increases,” Surapong Techaruwichit, chairman of the Hotel Association of Thailand, told Reuters. “We need to reassure tourists that Thailand is safe.”

The government’s Tourism Authority now wants to focus on “quality tourism”, and has launched a campaign to attract visitors who spend more, and hopefully stay out of trouble.

“Many people say tourists come here because it is a cheap destination. This needs to change,”

Tourism and Sports Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul told a tourist safety workshop last week.

But luring more discerning travellers might not be so easy.

“If we want to attract the high end we need to reassure them. Meeting our target luxury-traveller target will be harder after the recent negative publicity,” said Surapong.

The figures can be frightening. Fourteen US citizens died of unnatural causes in Thailand from January to June 2015, higher than the 11 who died in France, a top destination for US tourists, accord-

ing to US State Department figures. Thailand had the second-highest number of deaths of British nationals in 2014 after Spain, which is the top holiday spot for Britons, British Foreign Office figures show. Major General Surachet Hakphan, commander of the Tourist Police, says things will change. The men and women in his division will focus on safety, he said.

“Elephants trampling on tourists and tourists having their legs cut off by speed boats, this won’t happen any more,” Surachet told Reuters, referring to two recent fatal accidents. Jason Friedman, managing director at J.M. Friedman & Co. — Bespoke Hospitality Services, said despite the bad news, Thailand had managed to preserve its image as a holiday paradise. “People want to believe Thailand is a great place and nothing goes wrong here — this is a perception that works in our favour,” Friedman told Reuters.

For Friedman, who focuses on the high-end, the bigger risk is the volume of arrivals creates the impression that Thailand has become a mass market. Or as Friedman puts it: industrial tourism.

Tourists wanting off-the-beaten-track travel need not look far, he said. “The industrial-strength tourism will push people away. They have started looking for remote beaches in Cambodia or Myanmar,” he said.—*Reuters*



Tourists stroll at Wat Rong Khun also known as the White Temple designed by Thai visual artist Chalermchai Kositpipat in Chiang Rai Province, Thailand, on 4 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



# US hopes China will agree to talk about South Korea missile defence

WASHINGTON — A senior US diplomat said on Tuesday he hopes China will accept an offer for a technical briefing on a new missile defence system the United States wants to deploy in South Korea, a prospect Beijing sees as a threat to its national security.

US Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system was necessary for the United States to protect itself and regional allies from North Korean missile attacks.

“We realise China may not believe us and also proposed to go through the technology and specifications with them ... and prepared to explain to what the technology does and what it doesn’t do and hopefully they will take us up on that proposal,” Blinken told Washington’s Brookings Institution.

Blinken spoke ahead of a visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Washington for a nuclear security summit that will have concerns about North Korea high on the agenda.

The United States and South Korea agreed to begin talks on possible THAAD deployment last month after North Korea tested its fourth nuclear bomb on 6 January and launched a long-range rocket on 7 February.

China backed tough new sanctions on North Korea following the tests but has voiced opposition to THAAD as its radar has a range that would extend far beyond the Korean peninsula and into China.

Asked whether China would accept a US briefing on THAAD, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei would not directly reply, repeating China did not view the matter “as sim-



US Deputy Secretary of State Anthony Blinken attends an interview with Reuters in Paris, on 4 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ply a technical one”.

“The THAAD system exceeds the normal defensive needs of the Korean peninsula, threatens China’s reasonable national security interests and damages regional strategic stability,” Hong told a news briefing in Beijing yesterday.

South Korea’s military said on Tuesday that North Korea test fired a short-range missile on its east coast in the latest of a string of launches that Pyongyang has characterised as a response to the

sanctions. US President Barack Obama will meet South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday to discuss North Korea’s nuclear programme, ahead of a bilateral meeting between Obama and Xi later that day.

Blinken said THAAD deployment was a necessary step until Pyongyang’s behaviour changed.

“None of these steps are directed against China but we have also been very clear that as long

as this persists ... we will have to take steps,” he said.

Obama’s deputy national security adviser, Ben Rhodes, said China had stepped up pressure on North Korea, but this had to be shown to change Pyongyang’s calculus.

“We’ve had good support from China, but we clearly believe that there’s more that will continue to have to be done, including on enforcing the sanctions we have put into place,” Rhodes told reporters.—*Reuters*

## China warns Taiwan over new law governing cross-strait relations

BEIJING — The Chinese government warned Taiwan yesterday that the passage of a proposed new law governing relations between the two could seriously damage the basis for talks, and that Beijing opposed any obstacles to developing ties.

China has looked on with suspicion at Taiwan since Tsai Ing-wen and her pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) won presidential and parliamentary elections in January on the back of a wave of anti-China sentiment.

In 2014, hundreds of students occupied Taiwan’s parliament for weeks in protests nicknamed the Sunflower Movement, demanding more transparency and fearful of China’s growing economic and political influence on the democratic island.

The protests over the 2013 Cross-Strait Service Trade Agreement, which aimed to open up investment from both sides in industries such as banking, healthcare, and tourism, were the largest display of anti-China sentiment in Taiwan in years.

The DPP is proposing Taiwan’s parliament first passes a so-called cross-Taiwan Strait supervision law before it will consider agreeing to the trade pact.

China is worried that the law would stymie future agreements with Taiwan.

Asked about the law, a spokesman for China’s Taiwan Affairs Office said the basis for talks between the two sides should not be damaged.

“Anything that damages the basis for consultations and negotiations between the two sides of the strait, interferes in or impedes relevant progress or puts up man-made blocks on the development of ties, we will resolutely oppose,” spokesman An Fengshan said at a regular briefing.

He did not elaborate.

The trade deal has stalled in Taiwan’s parliament, although the manner in which the self-ruled island moves forward in the current February-to-May session will be seen as a sign of how Tsai will steer Taiwan-China ties.

China’s trade minister last month urged Taiwan to pass the trade pact.

China considers Taiwan a wayward province, to be brought under its control by force if necessary. Defeated Nationalist forces fled to the island in 1949 after the Chinese civil war. — *Reuters*

## Sri Lanka reiterates no threat to national security after discovery of explosives, ammunition

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka yesterday reiterated that there was no threat to the country’s national security despite allegations by the opposition that the Tamil Tiger rebels maybe try to regroup.

Opposition parliamentarian and former president’s son, Nimal Rajapakse, yesterday tweeted that the recovery of a suicide jacket and explosives from a house in the former war-torn north earlier in the day raised questions if the Tamil Tiger rebels were trying to regroup in the island nation.

However, Defence Secretary Karunasena Hettiarachchi

told Xinhua that the recovery was “nothing extraordinary” as such explosives and ammunition were hidden by the rebels during the war period.

“We recover various kind of ammunition very often as these were all hidden by the LTTE during the war.

So the question of our national security being threatened does not arise,” Hettiarachchi said.

In addition to the suicide jacket, police also discovered a stock of explosives and bullets which were hidden in a house in Chawakachcheri, in the north.

Police had reportedly raided the house on a tip-off that the owner had in his possession drugs and marijuana and the suspect had fled the area during the raid.

The opposition has called on the government to take responsibility for the “breakdown in security” and take control of the escalating crime rate.

Sri Lankan forces defeated the Tamil Tiger rebels in May 2009, ending a 30-year civil conflict. The island’s north remained the stronghold of the rebels before they were militarily defeated.—*Xinhua*

## Japan opens priority immigration lanes at Narita, Kansai airports



The fast lane immigration counter at the Kansai International Airport near Osaka on 30 March. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

OSAKA — Japan launched priority immigration lanes yesterday at major international airports serving Tokyo and Osaka to speed up procedures for conference attendees and VIPs.

The service was launched at Kansai International Airport and Narita airport under a government plan for tourism promotion. VIP passengers are allowed to enter the fast lanes upon showing a coupon provided by their airlines.

Kansai airport, the international gateway for Osaka, Kyoto, Kobe and other western Japan cities, set up two

fast lanes each at its south and north immigration counters.

After 10am, visitors from South Korea were among the first to use the service.

Meanwhile, at Narita airport serving the greater Tokyo area, a total of eight fast lanes opened at its Terminal 1 and 2 buildings, with each flight bringing in about five such users.

The Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism Ministry said it will also consider expanding the services to other airports including Tokyo’s Haneda. —*Kyodo News*



## — OPINION —

# From a man of his word to a man of the people

Kyaw Thura

“I will always be loyal to the Union of Myanmar and will always put non-disintegration of the union, national unity and perpetuation of sovereignty at the forefront.”

These were the words coming out of the mouths of the new president and two vice presidents at the swearing-in ceremony in parliament yesterday, with each of them holding the consti-

tution in their hands while taking an oath simultaneously by repeating after Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than.

In his address to the parliament following the oath, new president U Htin Kyaw vowed that his new government would make every effort to secure national reconciliation so as to ensure lasting peace across the country and enhance the living standards of the people, hinting at the emergence of a constitution that reflects democratic standards appropriate for the country.

Despite this, amending the constitution is not an easy task since the military representatives retain a quarter of parliamentary seats, a power effective enough to have a veto on any amendments the new government may wish to make.

To his great credit, since his government's inception in 2011, President U Thein Sein has started the reform processes in ending half a century of military rule, signing a nationwide ceasefire agreement with eight ethnic armed organisations,

holding a historic election considered the freest and the fairest in recent history and promising a smooth transfer of state responsibility to his successor.

All things considered, Wednesday's ceremony to handover state responsibility from the predecessor to his successor is in a sense a historic occasion of a man of his word passing the baton to a man of the people.

## Write for us

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

# Melting of polar ice—Myanmar is adversely effected

Bahauddin Foizee

THE ice at the earth's polar regions is the largest store of fresh water on the planet and plays an imperative role in maintaining earth's environmental balance. As ice in these regions melts, it affects the ocean height, temperature, and circulation — which, in turn, gradually changes earth's climate. Myanmar is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world due to climate change. Besides its major problem of armed insurgencies, Myanmar's vulnerability to climate change is very alarming. The overall economic development of the country is likely be troubled to a considerable extent in near future by the adverse affects of climate change.

Among the major impacts of the climate change — particularly of the global warming — the increasing rise in sea-levels every year has been the most alarming one so far, with the possibility of submerging a substantial portion of 'flood-prone' coastal areas of Myanmar under water by 2050 (a prediction made in the 4th assessment report by the International Panel on Climate Change or IPCC). The major cause behind the rise in sea-level is the melting of ice of different regions, mostly of the south and north poles.

## Global warming

The global warming is one of the major incentives for climate change. It is a global phenomenon causing much damage to the resources of the globe, making life of the living beings, including human, miserable. Global warming has caused the weather of different regions to change drastically and disproportionately. Ice is melting rapidly in the ice-covered regions because of this global warming.

Melting of ice, without any doubt, causes the sea-levels to rise. The effects of the continuation of the rise in sea-levels are deep. It would submerge many areas around the globe, especially the coastal ones; and perhaps it will not take decades for the coastlines to change.

The rise in sea-levels has been causing more floods, especially during storms. Higher sea-levels have increased the size of the flow of water that the superstorms generally bring into inland from the ocean. Some short term impacts of rise in sea-level (especially due to polar ice melting) are regularly experienced these days by many victims around the globe. The Tsunami is an ideal example of what sort of disaster the rise in sea-level, caused by melting of polar ice, could lead us upto.

## North Pole

The North Pole is the northernmost point on the globe and located amid waters of the Arctic Ocean. The whole region is generally referred to as the Arctic region, which is warming faster than other areas across the globe. In this region, temperature has increased over the decades by an alarming rate compared to the rest of the globe, and it seems that temperature in this region will continue to increase if measures are not taken to reduce this increasing trend. The warming atmosphere, along with a changed weather-pattern, is causing Arctic ice to melt at such alarming rapidity that a greater portion of Arctic ice will be gone in next two decades, and an ice-free Arctic summer could be experienced by next four decades, as claimed by the experts in this field. The ice of the region is already reduced by as much as 50% compared to the 1950s. The

impacts of declining ice-cover in the Arctic are far-reaching, from species endangerment to the weakening of global ocean circulation, to massive rise in sea-levels.

Since the Arctic region was inaccessible because of the layers of thick ice, there were less territorial disputes until the beginning of this century. However, the rapid melting of ice in the region is making it a more accessible zone for commercial fishing, fresh water, minerals, coal, iron, copper, oil, gas and shipping. Arctic states — Canada, Denmark (via Greenland), Russia, Norway and the U.S. — are in rush to exploit all these opportunities. Their rush will only increase the warming of the region through their presence, through the external materials or organisms that they bring into the region with them and through their drilling for energy extraction from the region.

## South Pole

While the North Pole is located amid waters of an ocean, the South Pole lies on a continental land mass. The Antarctica Continent and the Antarctic Ocean make up the surroundings of the South Pole, and the region is widely referred to as the Antarctic region. Thousands of tourists and researchers visit the region, especially the Antarctic Peninsula, every year. More scientists, more tourists, more research stations, more countries involved in exploration for mineral and other resources, and greater access to the region in general are making the region increasingly warmer. Moreover, an increase in visitors means more boats/ships, other external materials brought by them, more carbon dioxide and so on. Therefore, the disturbances to the

region's fragile environment are ever increasing with these pollutions. The carbon emissions in the far away human inhabited areas are also contributing to the increasing warming of the Antarctic region.

The region is governed by the Antarctic Treaty System, a series of international agreements that regulates research and tourism related to the region. However, such a legal regime is too weak to legally bind countries not to exploit the region. Therefore, there is every possibility that the need for fossil fuels and mineral resources might urge countries to take such actions in this region that would pollute the cold, yet so clean, Antarctic region.

## Impact upon Myanmar

Melting of polar ice is scary for many reasons, and the scariest is the rise in sea-level, as mentioned earlier. In long run, the coastline and coastal cities will be lost. But in the short term, it will cause more damage through floods and powerful storms that might bring water into inland with them, causing devastation like that of the Tsunami.

With flat and low-lying landscape, the whole coastal area of Myanmar is highly vulnerable to such floods and storms. A sizable portion of Myanmar's population live in the coastal areas, where majority of the population are affected, directly or indirectly, by coastal floods or tidal flows, salinity, tropical cyclones, erosion of river-bank etc. With the rise of sea-level "even by a metre", Myanmar could lose a substantial percentage of its total coastal landmass under the sea water, turning millions of inhabitants living in the coastal areas of Myanmar into climate refugees.

Moreover, the freshwater sources in the coastal areas of Myanmar face deep intrusion of saline water from the Bay of Bengal during the dry season. The melting of polar ice in its gradual process will only deteriorate the existing situation to a great extent.

## Wrapping up

German scholars from Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research warned that if incentives of the global warming, especially the carbon emissions in the atmosphere, are not reduced immediately worldwide, a series of unstoppable events will be triggered, causing dramatic rise in sea-levels and the total annihilation of coastal cities inhabited by millions of people. This of course does not exclude Myanmar. While this is a comparatively long term impact of global warming, or of melting of polar ice to be precise, Myanmar is likely to experience more 'immediate' adverse impacts, as mentioned earlier. Agriculture, industry, school, hospitals, roads, bridges, livelihoods, marine resources, forestry, biodiversity, human health and other utility services will suffer severely.

All in all, earth's temperatures are rising, the ocean water is warming, polar ice is melting, and sea levels are going up. It is high time for Myanmar to start working on real solutions along with other most affected countries. Myanmar must start addressing these above mentioned concerns with utmost urgency in the global platforms.

**Bahauddin Foizee, Lecturer at Dhaka Centre for Law & Economics, legal practitioner and regularly writes on global affairs.**



Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President's Office  
Order 7/2016  
7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME  
(Wednesday, 30 March, 2016)  
Appointment of Region/State Ethnic Affairs Ministers

In accordance with the provisions stated in section 262 (f) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 19 (c) of Union Government Law and article 10 (a) (2) of Region or State Government Law, the following persons submitted by respective Region or State Chief Ministers have been appointed as Region/State Ethnic Affairs Ministers.

(1) Kachin State	
(a) U Khin Maung Myint (a) U Deik	Ministry of Bamar Ethnic Affairs
(b) U Sai Sein Lin	Ministry of Shan Ethnic Affairs
(c) U Ar Ti Yaw Han	Ministry of Lisu Ethnic Affairs
(d) U Yan Nam Pheung	Ministry of Rawang Ethnic Affairs
(2) Kayah State	
(a) U Hla Myo Swe	Ministry of Bamar Ethnic Affairs
(3) Kayin State	
(a) U Tay Za Htut Hlaing Htway	Ministry of Bamar Ethnic Affairs
(b) U Min Tin Win	Ministry of Mon Ethnic Affairs
(c) U Khun Myo Tint	Ministry of Pa-O Ethnic Affairs
(4) Sagaing Region	
(a) Daw Hmway Hmway Khin	Ministry of Shan Ethnic Affairs
(b) U Lar Htaung Htan	Ministry of Chin Ethnic Affairs
(5) Taninthayi Region	
(a) U Saw Lu Kar	Ministry of Kayin Ethnic Affairs
(6) Bagon Region	
(a) Daw Naw Pwal Hsay	Ministry of Kayin Ethnic Affairs
(7) Magway Region	
(1) U Hla Tun	Ministry of Chin Ethnic Affairs
(8) Mandalay Region	
(1) U Sai Kyaw Zaw	Ministry of Shan Ethnic Affairs
(9) Mon State	
(a) U Shwe Myint	Ministry of Bamar Ethnic Affairs
(b) Daw San Wint Khine	Ministry of Pa-O Ethnic Affairs
(c) U Aung Myint Khaing	Ministry of Kayin Ethnic Affairs
(10) Rakhine State	
(a) U Pon Bway	Ministry of Chin Ethnic Affairs
(11) Yangon Region	
(a) Daw Pan Thinzar Myo	Ministry of Kayin Ethnic Affairs
(b) U Zaw Aye Maung	Ministry of Rakhine Ethnic Affairs
(12) Shan State	
(a) Dr Aung Than Maung	Ministry of Bamar Ethnic Affairs
(b) U Zote Daung	Ministry of Kachin Ethnic Affairs
(c) U Gu Hsar	Ministry of Lisu Ethnic Affairs
(d) U Yaw That	Ministry of Lahu Ethnic Affairs
(e) U Ah Bay Hla	Ministry of Akha Ethnic Affairs
(f) Dr Tun Hlaing	Ministry of Intha Ethnic Affairs
(g) U Khun Aye Maung	Ministry of Kayan (a) Padaung Ethnic Affairs
(13) Ayeyawady Region	
(a) Ga Moe Myat Myat Thu	Ministry of Kayin Ethnic Affairs
(b) U Tin Saw	Ministry of Rakhine Ethnic Affairs

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
President's Office  
Notification 3/2016  
7<sup>th</sup> Waning of Tabaung, 1377 ME  
(Wednesday 30 March, 2016)  
Formation of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union

In accordance with the provisions stated in article 320 of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 9 (d) of the Union Government Law and article 3 of the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union, Constitutional Tribunal of the Union has been formed with the following persons.

(1) U Myo Nyunt	Chairman
(2) U Nyi Nyi	Member
(3) U Myint Win	Member
(4) U Myo Myint	Member
(5) U Khin Maung Cho	Member
(6) Daw Khin Htay Kywe	Member
(7) U Twar Kyin Paung	Member
(8) Daw Hla Myo Nwe	Member
(9) U Kyaw Hsan	Member

Sd/ Htin Kyaw  
President  
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ambassador Daw Yin Yin Myint presents her Credentials to Czech President

DAW Yin Yin Myint, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Czech Republic presented her Credentials to His Excellency Mr. Miloš Zeman, President of the Czech Republic on 22 March in Prague.—MNA

INSPIRED BY DAW AUNG SAN SUU KYI'S POEM IN THE QUIET LAND

In the Land of Freedom

In the land of freedom, we, the people, sing  
the anthem of liberty to choose who serve us, and who we serve.  
In the country of freedom, we, the people, decide  
how all we possess may be tapped.  
In the state of freedom, we, the people, hold  
our future in our hands.  
In the nation of freedom, we, the national brethrens, stand  
tall, equal and united.  
In the depths of our heart, we, the unbreakable, enshrine  
the love for liberty, paid dearly with the freedom of *Ahmay* and so many.  
In the minds of we, the awakened, forever inscribed are  
the words: all succeeding generations will be equal,  
and free to choose the nation's path.  
In the hands of we, the unchained, is  
our birthright that determines who our country will be led!

Myo Myint

# New government advised to curb farming sector expenses

OVERTURES will be made to the new government to curb production expenses within respective farming sectors, according to the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF).

Dr Soe Htun, deputy chair of the MRF, has made it known submissions have been made to the government in the past suggesting the cultivation of quality varieties of paddy, better production methods, and construction of basic agriculture infrastructure in a bid to mitigate production expenses incurred in agricultural sectors.

“In a bid to alleviate heavy interest rates on debt encumbered by farmers, we will give the suggestion of curbing production expenses,” said U Chit Khaing, chair of the MRF.

Farmers are currently experiencing difficulties within the agricultural sector because of high fertilizer prices and a shortage of labour during times of harvest.

“During the term of the new government, we will work to increase the capacity of rice exports to foreign countries. We have plans to work together with the UMFCCL, MRPA and the Rice and Paddy Traders Association for the development of the rice and paddy sector,” said U Myint Cho, director of the Department of Trade Promotion.

A total of 1.8 million tonnes of rice was exported abroad during the 2014-15 fiscal year, with the figure for the current fiscal year, as of March 8, standing at 1.5 million tonnes, according to the Ministry of Commerce.—Myitmakah News Agency



Farmers select quality seeds for growing seedlings in Bogalay.  
PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



## Trump drops pledge to back Republican presidential nominee other than himself



Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a Town Hall in Janesville, Wisconsin on 29 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Republican front-runner Donald Trump on Tuesday abandoned a pledge to support a party presidential nominee other than himself, a sign of increasing friction with chief rival Ted Cruz.

“No, I don’t anymore,” Trump replied, when asked at a CNN town hall event whether he still supported a pledge he made last year to support whoever is the Republican nominee for the 8 November election.

Trump’s signing of a loyalty pledge last September was important in helping him gain credibility within the Republican National Committee. The pledge was also signed by all his rivals for the presidential nomination.

His aboutface came as he tries to fend off a challenge from Cruz, a US senator from Texas who is running second to the New York billionaire in the race for the 1,237 delegates needed to win the nomination.

Trump and Cruz were enmeshed in a fight last week in-

volving their wives, with a Cruz SuperPAC publishing a provocative photo of Trump’s former model wife, Melania, and Trump retaliating by tweeting an unflattering photo of Cruz’s wife, Heidi.

Cruz, asked earlier at the CNN town hall whether he also would honour the pledge to support the nominee if it was not himself, declined to give a straight answer.

“Let me tell you my solution to that,” Cruz said. “Donald is not going to be the GOP nominee. We’re going to beat him.”

GOP is the acronym for Grand Old Party, a nickname for the Republican Party.

Trump said he could do without Cruz’s support.

“I watched him tonight and I watched how tormented he was when you asked him that question,” Trump told CNN moderator Anderson Cooper. “I don’t want to have him be tormented. Let me just tell you I don’t want his support, I don’t need his sup-

port. I don’t want him to be uncomfortable.”

Trump also said he recognised that several of those who have dropped out of the race might harbor ill feelings towards him, mentioning former Florida Governor Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Governor Scott Walker and US Senator Rand Paul of Kentucky.

Walker endorsed Cruz earlier on Tuesday, with Wisconsin’s primary vote coming up on 5 April.

“I drove him out of the race,” Trump said of Walker, who abandoned his presidential bid last autumn. “I drove Jeb Bush out of the race, I drove Rand Paul out of the race. I understand why they don’t like me.” A third Republican presidential candidate, Ohio Governor John Kasich, was also tentative about honouring the pledge. He told the town hall he had been “disturbed by some of the things I’ve seen” during the campaign, adding, “I want to see how this finishes out.”—*Reuters*

## Ex-civil servant says UK would struggle to agree to EU exit in 2 years

LONDON — Britain would struggle to negotiate an exit from the European Union within a two-year deadline if voters decide to leave the bloc in June’s referendum, the country’s former top civil servant said yesterday. Britons are due to vote on 23 June on whether to stay in the 28-nation bloc.

If they decide to leave, EU rules state that Britain will have two years to hammer out the terms of its new relationship with the EU on issues such as trade and the status of foreign residents.

If by mid-2018, Britain has

not agreed, its membership will simply end unless all the other EU states agree an extension.

“We have to negotiate our entry to the single market, we have to negotiate our future relationship with the EU and then we have to negotiate our trade treaties with all other countries. So there’s a lot to be done,” Gus O’Donnell, cabinet secretary between 2005 and 2011, told BBC radio.

“Obviously, at the end of two years anything we haven’t negotiated has to be extended by unanimity of a vote excluding

us, so that’s a bit scary.”

A document from the British government in February suggested that a British exit could lead to 10 years or more of negotiations, causing uncertainty which would damage businesses trade and investment.

Campaigners who want Britain to leave the bloc say EU states would be keen to get a new deal quickly in order to maintain their exports to Britain. They also dispute whether Britain would be subject to the two-year rule for negotiating an exit.—*Reuters*

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Cyprus remands suspected hijacker who wanted to see ex-wife

LARNACA — A court in Cyprus yesterday remanded an Egyptian national in custody on suspicion of hijacking an EgyptAir aircraft with a fake suicide belt and diverting it to the east Mediterranean island.

The suspect, whom Cypriot and Egyptian authorities have identified as Seif Eldin Mustafa, 59, surrendered on Tuesday after commandeering the domestic Alexandria-Cairo flight and diverting it to Larnaca in Cyprus with 72 passengers and crew on board.

All hostages were released unharmed. The apparent suicide vest was a thick white belt with pockets holding containers and wires protruding, and that police say was fake.—*Reuters*

#### Russia: Iranian missile tests do not violate UN resolution — Interfa

MOSCOW — Iran’s test launches of nuclear-capable missiles did not violate a United Nations Security Council resolution, the Interfax news agency cited a Russian foreign ministry representative as saying yesterday.

The United States and its European allies said in a joint letter seen by Reuters on Tuesday that the launches has defied the resolution that endorsed last year’s historic nuclear deal.

“The resolution does not ban (the tests),” Interfax cited Mikhail Ulyanov, head of the ministry’s department for non-proliferation and arms control, as saying.—*Reuters*

#### Vucic: Refugee crisis has only been postponed, not solved

BELGRADE — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said yesterday that the refugee crisis had only been postponed, not solved.

“This is the biggest refugee crisis since World War II. It has shook the foundations of the EU and showed that EU countries are motivated by selfishness rather than solidarity,” Vucic said at a conference titled ‘Asylum and migration system: refugee crisis and reform processes’, which is under way in Belgrade.

The crisis, Vucic said, had showed how all the other countries, which were not part of the EU, treated refugees, how the rule of law was followed and how principles were respected.

Serbia will do everything it can to be part of a comprehensive solution, if any be there, he said. “If no common European solution is found, we will behave as people and respect the principles of solidarity,” said Vucic.—*Tanjung*

#### South Korean fighter jet crashes, no casualty reported

SEOUL — A South Korean fighter jet yesterday crashed in the southeastern region, with no casualty reported, Yonhap news agency reported citing the military.

The KF-16 combat plane went down at about 4pm (0700 GMT) in the southeastern county of Cheongsong for an unidentified reason. The Air Force formed a task force to investigate the incident.

Two pilots successfully ejected from the falling plane. At the site, fire broke out after the crash.

No casualties have been reported as the fighter jet crashed at a nearby hill where there are no private residences.—*Xinhua*

#### Yemeni army advances against al Qaeda in southern city

ADEN — The Yemeni army backed by local fighters seized control of parts of Aden held by al Qaeda yesterday as part of a push to clear the hardline group from its stronghold in the southern port city, a security official said.

The forces took over the central prison, surrounding buildings and residential areas in Mansoura district after three days of clashes. They captured several fighters while others fled, the official said. Aden is the temporary home of Yemen’s government which was forced out of the capital Sanaa by a separate conflict with Iran-allied Houthi rebels in 2014. The war has drawn in a Saudi-led military alliance and killed more than 6,000 people.

Islamist militants from al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) and Islamic State have exploited the chaos in the year-long war, especially in the southern provinces.—*Reuters*



# Russia, despite draw down, shipping more to Syria than removing

MOSCOW — When Vladimir Putin announced the withdrawal of most of Russia's military contingent from Syria there was an expectation that the Yauza, a Russian naval ice-breaker and one of the mission's main supply vessels, would return home to its Arctic Ocean port.

Instead, three days after Putin's 14 March declaration, the Yauza, part of the "Syrian Express", the nickname given to the ships that have kept Russian forces supplied, left the Russian Black Sea port of Novorossiysk for Tartous, Russia's naval facility in Syria.

Whatever it was carrying was heavy; it sat so low in the water that its load line was barely visible.

Its movements and those of other Russian ships in the two weeks since Putin's announcement of a partial withdrawal suggest Moscow has in fact shipped more equipment and supplies to Syria than it has brought back in the same period, a Reuters analysis shows.

It is not known what



The Russian Navy's transport ship Yauza, with the Bosphorus bridge in the background, sets sail in the Bosphorus, on its way to the Mediterranean Sea, in Istanbul, Turkey on 20 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the ships were carrying or how much equipment has been flown out in giant cargo planes accompanying returning war planes.

But the movements

— while only a partial snapshot — suggest Russia is working intensively to maintain its military infrastructure in Syria and to supply the Syrian army so

that it can scale up again swiftly if need be.

Putin has not detailed what would prompt such a move, but any perceived threat to Russia's bases in

Syria or any sign that President Bashar al-Assad, Moscow's closest Middle East ally, was in peril would be likely to trigger a powerful return.

Russia operates an air base in Hmeymim and a naval facility at Tartous. Putin has said Russia will keep both and that they will need to be well protected.

"Since the main part of the force de facto stayed there, there is no reason to reduce the traffic," said Mikhail Barabanov, a senior research fellow at the Moscow-based CAST military think tank. "Supplies for the Syrian army remain significant as well."

Moscow has not revealed the size of its force in Syria, nor has it given details of its partial withdrawal. Reuters has calculated that around half of Russia's fixed-wing strike force based in Syria flew out of the country in the days after the partial draw down was made public. The precise number of planes Russia had was secret, but analysis suggested it had about 36 fixed-wing military jets there.

On Monday, state TV showed three heavy attack helicopters being flown out of Syria along with some support staff.—Reuters

## Russia police say blast kills officer, Islamic State claims responsibility

MOSCOW — One police officer was killed and two injured late on Tuesday when two vehicles were blown up by an explosive device in Russia's Dagestan region, police said, while the Islamic State group said it was behind the attack.

"Two cars were blown up, the type of explosive device has not been established yet," Fatima Ubaidatova, a spokeswoman for the Dagestani police, told Reuters by phone.

The Amaq news agency, which supports the Islamic State group, posted online a statement saying its local affiliate was behind the attack.

The Amaq statement said the blast killed 10 security officers. Reuters was unable to independently verify the casualty numbers.

Islamic State has in the past said it was behind violent attacks on security forces in the North Cau-

casus, the volatile mainly Muslim part of Russia where Dagestan is located.

Dagestan, where Kremlin critics say widespread poverty and corruption help feed religious extremism, last saw similar attacks on police in February. Some militants in Dagestan, which borders Chechnya where Moscow led two wars against separatists in 1990s, have sworn allegiance to Islamic State.—Reuters

## Blasts and heavy gunfire heard in Tripoli

TRIPOLI — Several loud explosions followed by heavy gunfire were heard over Tripoli in the early hours of yesterday, a Reuters reporter said.

The cause of the firing was not immediately clear, but the Libyan capital has been on edge amid speculation that a UN-backed unity government was about to travel to Tripoli from Tunisia.

The self-declared government in Tripoli and some armed factions in the city oppose the uni-

ty government and have warned it not to move.

The Tripoli government was brought to power after armed brigades backing it won a battle for the capital in 2014.

A rival government moved to eastern Libya.

The unity government is the result of a December deal to heal Libya's divisions and end its armed conflict, but the new government has faced opposition from hardliners in both the east and west of the country.

On Sunday and Monday Tripoli's airspace was closed for periods of several hours, a move that the unity government's Presidential Council said was designed to prevent it travelling into Libya.

Tripoli Prime Minister Khalifa Ghwel said in a statement late on Tuesday that the airspace had been closed to "protect the souls of the people following the Presidential Council's inappropriate behaviour".—Reuters

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CS TINA VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CS TINA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NORDANA SOPHIE VOY NO (510338)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NORDANA SOPHIE VOY NO (510338) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W-3 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 BENLINE AGENCIES  
(S'PORE) PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301186

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SEIYO HONOR VOY NO (003)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SEIYO HONOR VOY NO (003) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301191/2301178



## Iran missile tests have caused alarm — UN's Ban

GENEVA — UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said yesterday that Iran's ballistic missile had caused "alarm" and it would be up to the major powers to decide whether fresh sanctions should be applied.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards conducted ballistic missile tests earlier this month, in what they said was a demonstration of Iran's non-nuclear deterrent power.

Ban, speaking to reporters in Geneva on the sidelines of a conference on Syrian refugees, said: "Out of this agreement (with major powers), now Iranians have launched ballistic missiles. It is true that that has caused alarm and concern.

"But what kinds of sanctions, what kind of measures should be applied is up to the Security Council members," he said.—*Reuters*

## Vulin: Serbia will never recognise independence of KiM

KOSOVSKA MITROVICA — Serbian Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy Aleksandar Vulin said Tuesday that Serbia would never recognise Kosovo as an independent state.

"Serbia will respect its own Constitution, Kosovo-Metohija will never be recognised as an independent state and Serbia has not the least intention to change the policy," Vulin told reporters, replying to a question of how Serbia would react if recognition of KiM was put before Serbia as a precondition for joining the Eu-



**Serbian Minister of Labour, Employment, Veteran and Social Policy Aleksandar Vulin.** PHOTO: TANJUG

ropean Union.

Vulin stressed that Kosovo is an integral part of Serbia and that Serbia respected Security Council Resolution 1244 and behaved accordingly.

"All those who think they can direct Serbia's domestic or external politics must know that this is impossible," said Vulin.—*Tanjug*



**Ji Wenlin, then mayor of Haikou city, speaks at the opening ceremony of a yacht race in Haikou, Hainan Province in 2011.** PHOTO: REUTERS

## Ally of disgraced China security chief gets 12 years in jail for graft

BEIJING — A former deputy governor of China's southern province of Hainan has been sentenced to 12 years in prison for corruption, the official Xinhua news agency said yesterday.

Ji Wenlin was a one-time ally of Zhou Yongkang, the country's once-powerful domestic security boss, who was felled by President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign.

Xi has warned that rampant corruption threatens the survival of the ruling Communist Party and has waged a campaign against graft in the past three years that has swept up scores

of senior officials in the party, the government, the military and state-owned companies.

Investigators began looking into Ji's activities as early as 2014, Xinhua said, adding that he used his position to seek benefits, including investments for several companies, illegally obtaining 20.4 million yuan (\$3.2 million) in assets and bribes.

Ji's official biography says he worked under Zhou when the latter was the party boss of the southwestern Sichuan province and the public security minister, among other posts. Zhou was jailed for life last June.

Several key Zhou allies have been ensnared in the anti-graft campaign, including Jiang Jiemin, the former top regulator of state-owned assets.

In another report, Xinhua said the trial of a former senior official who had vigorously backed Xi's anti-graft campaign had begun.

Wang Min, the one-time Communist Party boss of Jinan city, about 300 km (185 miles) south of the capital, Beijing, is suspected of procuring property and other favours for companies, and of taking bribes.—*Reuters*

## Italy demands release of marine on day India seeks better ties at summit

THE HAGUE — Italy yesterday asked judges in The Hague to order India to release a detained Italian marine, hours before Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi was due at an EU-India summit in Brussels at which he aims to defuse the long-running row with Rome.

In 2012, India arrested two Italian marines who were escorting an oil tanker on suspicion of killing two fishermen they mistook for pirates. Though they were not charged, the pair were barred from leaving the country.

Massimiliano Latorre was allowed to return home last year for medical treatment, but Salvatore Girone has for four years been confined to Delhi, where he lives at the Italian embassy and reports weekly to Indian police.

The case moved to the Per-

manent Court of Arbitration in The Hague after India and Italy agreed to suspend all domestic legal proceedings.

Addressing the United Nations tribunal, Francesco Azzarello, Italy's lead lawyer in the case, pledged that Girone would be returned to India to face charges should it bring them once the Hague arbitration is finished.

"The only reason Girone is not allowed to leave India is so that he can act as a de facto guarantee of Italy's obligation to return him for trial," Azzarello said. "A human being cannot be used as a guarantee of the conduct of a state."

Waiting until the end of the case in The Hague, where proceedings are often lengthy, could leave Girone detained without charge for up to eight

years, thousands of kilometres from his wife and young children, he said.

India hopes the Brussels summit will bring a thaw in ties with the EU and persuade Italy to refrain from blocking India's membership of a key global group on missile technology. Rome single-handedly scuppered India's bid to join last year.

As part of a broad agenda, the EU plans to raise the issue of the marines with Modi, according to an internal EU council note seen by Reuters.

Italy argues the case of the two marines was beyond the jurisdiction of Indian courts. Marines are viewed by Italy as state officials immune to foreign prosecution. Italy paid \$190,000 in compensation to each victim's family.—*Reuters*

## Nepal should attract investment from China to achieve economic growth: ADB

KATHMANDU — Asian Development Bank (ADB) suggested that Nepal should grab the opportunities from neighbour China to achieve the targeted economic growth rate for the next two years.

Launching Asian Development Outlook 2016 here yesterday, ADB said Asia's leading economy China's structural change in imports can create immense opportunities for the border-sharing Nepal.

"China's structural change is a golden chance for Nepal. Thus, it's perfect time to attract direct foreign investment from the northern neighbour to strengthen economy," Kenichi Yokoyama, ADB Country Director for Nepal, said while addressing the programme.

ADB has projected a 1.5-per cent economic growth rate of the quake ravaged Nepal for the fiscal year 2016 after a 3-per cent growth last year.

ADP projected a slow growth pace for this year in regard to

slow post-earthquake reconstruction, trade and transit disruption followed by months-long economic blockade and unfavorable monsoon creating troubles in agriculture sector.

However, the growth rate is expected to pick up to 4.8 per cent in 2017 through stabilisation of political climate, acceleration of reconstruction and normal monsoon favouring agricultural growth. ADB is of view that there is an urgent need to accelerate reconstruction and implementation of development programmes to prevent a further slowdown in economic growth.

The economic growth of Himalayan country is possible only through the speedy reconstruction drive and focusing on sectors of energy, tourism and agriculture, the bank said.

Nepal witnessed an inflation rate of 7.2 per cent in 2015 whereas it was significantly higher in January this year, standing at 12.1 per cent.—*Xinhua*



# Brazil's biggest party quits ruling coalition, Rousseff isolated

BRASILIA — Brazil's largest party announced on Tuesday it was leaving President Dilma Rousseff's governing coalition and pulling its members from her government, a departure that sharply raises the odds she could be impeached in a matter of months.

The Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) took just a few minutes to decide unanimously in a packed leadership meeting that its six ministers in Rousseff's Cabinet and all other party members with government appointments must resign immediately.

Under Brazil's presidential system, Rousseff will remain in office but the break cripples her fight against impeachment proceedings in Congress, which

could put Vice President Michel Temer, leader of the PMDB, in the presidential seat.

Rousseff has denied any wrongdoing and called the impeachment efforts a coup to oust her ruling Workers' Party (PT).

The opposition is pressing to impeach her for allegedly breaking budget laws to boost spending in the run-up to her 2014 re-election.

Their efforts gained steam as more than 1 million Brazilians took to the streets this month to protest at the worst recession in decades and a vast corruption scandal at state oil company Petrobras (PETR4.SA) that has reached the president's inner circle.

"We're going to try to change the country. The economic and social crisis is

very serious," Senator Romero Juca, the PMDB's first vice-president, said after the rowdy meeting in which party members chanted "Temer President" and "Out with the PT."

The loss of Rousseff's main coalition partner may prompt smaller parties to abandon the government, leaving Brazil's first female president increasingly isolated as the impeachment process nears a vote in the lower house, expected in mid-April. It would be Brazil's first impeachment since former President Fernando Collor de Mello was put on trial in the Senate in 1992 for corruption.

Rousseff's struggles are just a part of a broad crisis in Brazil, which was hailed until recently as one of the world's most promising de-

veloping countries alongside China, India and Russia.

Brazil's economy shrank 3.8 per cent last year and is on track for the worst two-year recession in more than a century, according to economists. The government is also grappling with an epidemic of the mosquito-borne Zika virus as it scrambles to prepare for the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in August.

Rousseff will seek new coalition allies and form a new government by the end of the week, her chief of staff Jaques Wagner told reporters. Rousseff canceled a trip to a nuclear security summit in Washington because of the deepening political crisis, two government officials told Reuters on Tuesday.

She requires the backing of 171 members of con-

gress — or one-third of the lower house — to block impeachment. The loss of the PMDB's 68 votes, means the PT — which has 58 members — must rely heavily on its smaller coalition partners.

Including allies such as the Progressive Party (PP), the Republican Party (PR) and the Social Democratic Party (PSD), the government believes it can muster 180 votes. However, the PP will meet on Wednesday to decide whether to withdraw from the governing coalition.

If the lower house backs impeachment, the Senate must then decide by a simple majority whether to put Rousseff on trial, at which point she would be temporarily suspended and Temer would become acting presi-

dent. The Senate could vote on that as soon as early May.

Investors weary of Rousseff's interventionist economic policies and a deepening recession have cheered the prospect of her ouster, boosting Brazil's currency 8 per cent this year as the benchmark Bovespa stock index .BVSP rose 19 per cent.

However, many analysts warn that impeachment could usher in a period of political turmoil, with several senior PMDB figures also targeted by the graft investigation. Temer aides said he was ready to lead Brazil with policies restoring business confidence. Temer's plan is expected to include drastic cuts in public spending to close a fiscal deficit that cost Brazil its investment-grade credit rating.—Reuters

## Cambodia's economy remains strong over next 2 years: ADB

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia's economy is expected to remain strong over the next two years, driven by garment and footwear manufacturing, construction, and services, according to the Asian Development Bank (ADB)'s annual economic outlook yesterday.

The bank's outlook forecasts gross domestic product (GDP) growth for Cambodia of 7 per cent for 2016 — the same rate achieved in 2015 — before slightly up to 7.1 per cent in 2017.

"With continued expansion in industry and services, diversification in the garments and light manufacturing sectors and in export destinations, Cambodia is expected to exhibit robust economic growth over the next two years," Samiuela

Tukuafu, ADB country director for Cambodia, said in a press conference here.

"To sustain growth, Cambodia needs to further diversify its economy and provide further opportunity for employment by attracting new industries," he said.

According to the report, growth in industry is projected at 9.5 per cent this year, supported by further diversification in products with higher value added such as garments, footwear and electronics. The service sector is expected to expand by 7.8 per cent, it said, adding that agriculture is projected to grow by 1.6 per cent, assuming favourable weather.

It said growth in construction is expected to continue moderately in comparison to the rapid pace of recent years.—Xinhua

### PICTURE OF THE DAY



Dancers perform during the dance drama "Dream of the Maritime Silk Road" at a performance hall in Kuala Lumpur, capital of Malaysia, on 29 March, 2016. The dance drama featuring Chinese father and son who set sails on the ancient Maritime Silk Road centuries ago debuted in Southeast Asia on Tuesday. PHOTO: XINHUA

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO ( )

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES  
Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2016 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.

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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 PATHEIN STAR VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.3.2016 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.

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SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT  
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING  
LINE PTE LTD  
Phone No: 2301185





PHOTO: REUTERS

## Leonardo DiCaprio fights for Indonesian elephants' future

LOS ANGELES — Actor and environmental activist Leonardo DiCaprio took a trip to the jungles of Indonesia over the weekend in a bid to garner support for the creation of a nature sanctuary on the island of Sumatra.

DiCaprio, 41, took to Instagram to share a photo of himself standing alongside two fellow environmentalist and two endangered elephants.

"The lowland rainforest of the Leuser Ecosystem are considered the world's best remaining habitat for the critically endangered Sumatran elephant," wrote DiCaprio.

The actor, who has been a strong advocate for global environmental issues, explained that the ele-

phants and other animals living in the Leuser rainforest habitats are under threat after plans were announced to destroy patches of forest for commercial use.

"Ancient elephant migratory patterns are still used by some of the last wild herds of Sumatran elephants. But the expansion of Palm Oil plantations is fragmenting the forest and cutting off key elephant migratory corridors, making it more difficult for elephant families to find adequate sources of food and water."

Not only does the Leuser Ecosystem provide habitats for animals, but it also supplies clean water to the citizens living in the area and its watersheds help protect from natural disasters.

To help combat the problem, DiCaprio's namesake organisation, The Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, is teaming up with local partners to establish a "mega-fauna sanctuary in the Leuser Ecosystem."

Along with elephants, the Leuser Ecosystem is the "last place on Earth" where orangutans, tigers and rhinos coexist.—PTI



Journalists take pictures with their mobile phones as director Woody Allen attends a news conference during the 68<sup>th</sup> Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, southern France, on 15 May 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Woody Allen's 'Cafe Society' to open Cannes film festival

CANNES — Woody Allen's "Cafe Society" will kick off this year's Cannes film festival, organisers said on Tuesday, the third time the acclaimed American writer and director has opened the event with one of his movies.

Allen has previously opened the prestigious annual festival, held in the south of France, with "Hollywood Ending" in 2002 and "Midnight in Paris" in 2011.

"Cafe Society", which stars "The Social Network" actor Jesse Eisenberg and "Twilight" actress Kristen Stewart, will screen out of competition on 11 May.

The movie is the 14<sup>th</sup> out of competition screening at Cannes for Allen, according to festival organisers.

The film tells the story of a young man who arrives in Hollywood during the 1930s hoping to work in the film industry, falls in love, and finds himself swept up in the cafe society that defined the spirit of the age, they said in a statement.

The 69<sup>th</sup> Cannes film festival will run from 11-22 May. "Mad Max" director George Miller will head the competition jury.—Reuters

## Beijing Int'l Film Festival to screen 500 movies

BEIJING — Around 500 films will be put on screen during the sixth Beijing International Film Festival (BJIFF), which will open on 16 April.

A total of 2,329 films from 105 countries and regions have registered to take part in the screenings and award ceremony, with 1,964 foreign films and 365

produced in China.

A total of 500 films have been picked for audiences in Beijing, where about 1,000 showings will be launched in 25 cinemas and five universities. A preview of this year's film selection will begin on 8 April and showings will last until the last day of the festival on the 23.

This year's selections feature 20 themes including "China story," "window to Asia," "power of writing" and "maiden works."

Last year, more than 300 films were screened during the fifth BJIFF, which generated over 13.8 billion yuan (about 2.2 billion US dollars) in contracts.—Xinhua

## Oscar-winning actress Patty Duke dies, age 69

COEUR D'ALENE — Oscar-winning American actress Patty Duke, widely known for the 1960s show "The Patty Duke Show," died on Tuesday, her representative told Reuters. She was 69 years old.

Duke died Tuesday morning in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho from sepsis due to a ruptured intestine, her spokesman Mitchell Stubbs said.

"She was a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a friend, a mental health advocate and a cultural icon. She will be greatly missed," Stubbs said.

Born Anna Duke in New York in 1946, the actress began working as a child in commercials, television and on stage.

She won a best supporting actress Oscar for playing deaf-blind author and activist Helen Keller in 1962's "The Miracle Worker" at age 16, and later won an Emmy for playing Keller's instructor Annie Sullivan in 1979's TV movie of the same



Actress Patty Duke. PHOTO: REUTERS

name. Helen Keller Services, a group dedicated to improving lives of those with visual and hearing impairment, said it was saddened by Duke's death.

"Her performance in The Miracle Worker brought Helen Keller's indomitable spirit to life and inspired generations to pursue careers serving the deaf-blind community," the organisation said in a statement.

The actress also starred in her own sitcom, "The Patty Duke

Show" from 1963 to 1966, and had a role in 1967's "Valley of the Dolls."

She later became president of the Screen Actor's Guild in the 1980s, and also became an advocate for mental health issues after being diagnosed with bipolar disorder in 1982.

The actress was married four times and has three children, including "Lord of the Rings" actor Sean Astin and "The Facts of Life" actor Mackenzie Astin.—Reuters

## Singer P Susheela enters Guinness World Records

CHENNAI — Legendary playback singer of South Indian languages, P Susheela, celebrated for her versatility, has entered the Guinness World Records for recording highest number of songs in several languages in a career spanning over half a century.

"Pulapaka Susheela Mohan (born 1935) has reportedly recorded upto 17,695 solo, duet and chorus backed songs in over six Indian languages since the 1960s, as verified on 28 January 2016," said a citation of the Guinness World Records.

She has sung songs in Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Kannada, Hindi and other Indian languages.

Speaking to reporters here, she said it was "a big honour having sung so many thousands of songs" and recalled how her debut began in Tamil film "Petra Thai" in 1952 (a duet 'Etharku Azhathai' with A M Raja) and how film producer AV Meyappa Chettiar supported her by identifying her talent during her early years.

"I will sing even now, if I

get the opportunity," the 80-year-old playback singer said adding she had sung all kinds of songs and had learnt the nuances the hard way.

"I came to Chennai only after getting trained in Carnatic music, so it was not that difficult," she said and recalled how her "practice sessions made my voice more good."

The acclaimed singer has won many awards including National Awards and honours of several State governments in her long singing career which includes the Kalaimamani Award of Tamil Nadu (1991) and Ragupathy Vangayya Award of Andhra Pradesh (2004).

Praised as melody queen, "Enthan vullam tullu vilyaduvathum yeno," "unnai kan thedutey" "brindavanam nandakumaranum yavarukkum" were among her Tamil super hit songs.

In 2011, Asha Bhosle featured in the Guinness World Records for 11,000 solos, duets and chorus supported songs in over a dozen Indian languages.—PTI



## ASLEEP IN JESUS

**Htusaw Jon Krasu (a) U Maung Maung Lay**  
(Retd. Timber Rep:) KLING GmbH Germany  
Aged (76)

Htusaw Jon Krasu (a) U Maung Maung Lay, beloved son of (Dr.Robin Krasu-Dr.Phyllis Krasu), beloved husband of Daw E McIntyre (a) Betty, father of (Ag Myo Thant (a) Robin Krasu - Tin Min Thu), Kyaw Soe Thant (a) Christopher Krasu - Khin Aye Maw, grand father of Min Maw Khant (a) Adrian Krasu and Su Myat Htwe (a) Trudy Ann Krasu, borther of Daw Stella Aung - U Than Tun Aung, Prof: Dr.Mary Krasu (Retd: O.G Specialist), passed away peacefully on the 28<sup>th</sup> March 2016 in No.(78) Padamyar Lane, Yadanar Housing Estate, Tharketa Township, Yangon at 8:00 am local time.

Bereaved Family

## Central China tourist town to abolish admission fee

CHANGSHA — A tourist destination in central China's Hunan Province will not charge the admission fee from tourists when they visit Fenghuang old town, local authorities said Monday.

Each tourist currently pays 148 yuan (23 US dollars) to enter Fenghuang, known as "China's most beautiful old town" for its well-preserved architecture dating back more than 300 years.

From 10 April, 2016, tourists will not be charged to enter the town though entrance fees to sites within the town will remain, according

to the town publicity office. An agreement made three years ago between the county government and three local companies to administer the town will expire soon. The government informed the three companies of the changes on Sunday in an letter which mentioned that retailers and merchants in the town were opposed to the fee. Fenghuang began to charge admission in 2013 in the face of protests by local store owners who claimed it would reduce their revenue. Before that, tourists could enter the town for free. —Xinhua

## Mongolia's steppes host camel derby and beauty parade



Contestants ride during a camel race at "Temeenii bayar", the Camel Festival, in Dalanzadgad, Umnugobi aimag, Mongolia, on 7 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

DALANZADGAD (Mongolia) — Out in the Gobi Desert, the crowd, many in colorful Mongolian traditional dress, admire the shaggy-haired, cud-chewing camels as they plod by in a beauty parade.

Later, many of their owners mount their beasts to drive them on a dusty, chaotic 15-km (nine miles)

race across the steppeland.

It's all part of Mongolia's Camel Festival — an event as central to traditional nomadic life as the bactrian camel itself, a woolly, two-humped beast that sports a flowing beard of hair.

Guinness World records classes the race, that is part of the two-day fes-

tival, as the largest camel race in the world, drawing 1,108 participants from across Mongolia to the site outside Dalanzadgad in Umnugovi Province.

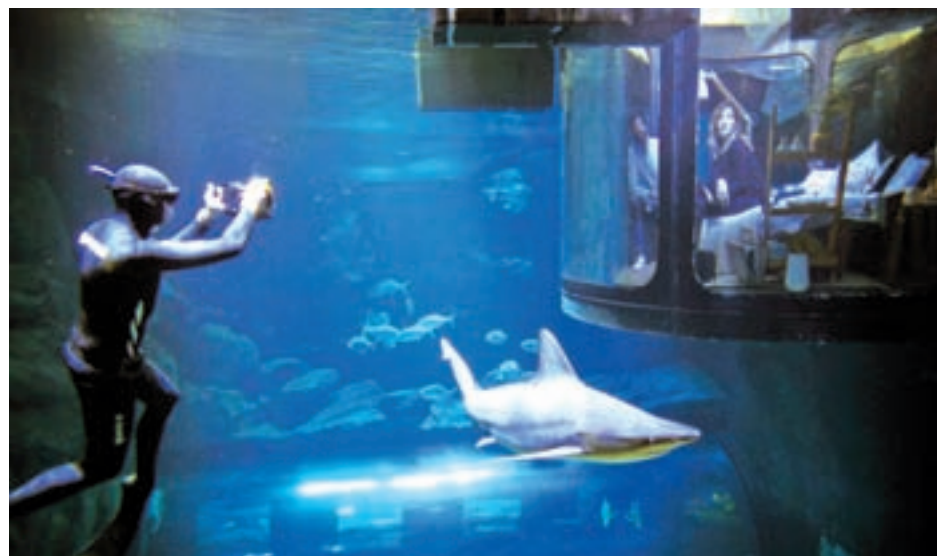
This year, the winning camel romped home in 35 minutes and 12 seconds on the wind-swept steppe, according to the records website.

The bactrian camel itself is a beast of burden that normally carries everything that is required for a Mongolian to be able to build and live in a traditional Mongolian tent. They cost about \$750 per piece. Known fairly or unfairly for their feisty temperament, some ploughed into the crowd of spectators, though no injuries were reported.

"Your camel has to be bad-tempered for riders to get a place here," one person joked to another.

Many families trekked for at least seven hours from the capital Ulan Bator to watch the competition. There are minimal conditions to enter: the camels must be pure breed Mongolian bactrian and at least four years old. Entry is free.

Camel wool is vital for making clothes, blankets, jackets and socks, and also can be twined into rope. Camel meat, similar to goat, is eaten in steamed and fried dumplings. —Reuters



A diver takes pictures as people look at sharks from an underwater room structure installed in the Aquarium of Paris, France, on 14 March 2016. Airbnb and the Aquarium of Paris offer contest winners a night underwater sleeping with sharks and create a research platform for "misunderstood" shark species. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Sleep tight and don't let the sharks bite at Paris aquarium

PARIS — The house rules are clear: No swimming at night, keep your head and feet in the bedroom at all times, and avoid watching "Jaws" beforehand. It might put you off the sharks circling your bed.

A room with a very special view — 35 of the much feared creatures — is up for grabs at the Paris Aquarium for those looking for a night's sleep with a difference. Submerged in a 10-metre-(33-foot)-

deep aquarium with just a see-through wall separating guests from the sharks swimming in 3 million liters of water, the cylinder-shaped room for two, with a round-shaped bed occupying most of the space, is not for the faint-hearted.

But for those curious and brave enough, it will be available for three nights in April as part of a competition organised by the aquarium and holiday home rental website

Airbnb. The underwater sleepover will also aim to teach the three winners and their guests about the species, with host, freediver Fred Buyle, introducing them to their overnight neighbours by "danc(ing) alongside the sharks".

"Sharks are really, really misunderstood ... People need to understand that sharks are not dangerous, there are only dangerous behaviours with sharks," Buyle said. —Reuters

**mitv Myanmar International**

(31-3-2016 07:00am ~ 1-4-2016 7:00am) MST

### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Discovering Tribes "Lisu: Their Life and Customs (Part- II)"
07:49	Am	Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	.....Changes
08:41	Am	Ywar Thit's Monhinkhar
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products Of Myanmar - Seashells Products

09:47	Am	Beauties Of Makyee Island - Island Of Tamarind Tree
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Reviving and Promoting a Traditional Festival
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday Repeat (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)		
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		

### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	The Most Prominent Resort And Residence - Ngapali
07:51	Pm	Kayah Style
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts
08:41	Pm	Tea
08:48	Pm	Horse Cart Driver
(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)		
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)		
(For Detailed Schedule - <a href="http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule">www.myanmaritv.com/schedule</a> )		

**MRTV Entertainment Channel**

(31-3-2016, Thursday)

6:00 pm	• Weather Report	"BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE" (Part-23)
• Music Programme	8:50 pm	• Music Programme
6:30 pm	• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	9:00 pm
6:40 pm	• Music Programme	• A Night of Dancing With Phoe Chit
7:00 pm	• International Drama Series	9:30 pm
7:40 pm	• International Drama Series	• International Movie Songs
8:30 pm	• Cartoon Programme	9:40 pm
		• Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMAR DRUM)
		10:10 pm
		• Myanmar Video

From 31-3-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm  
To 1-4-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.



## Rooney excited by competition for England places

LONDON — Injured captain Wayne Rooney is excited to be part of the fierce competition for places in England's starting line-up for the Euro 2016 finals in France.

The 30-year-old striker's place in the first-team has come under serious threat from in-form Tottenham Hotspur forward Harry Kane and Leicester City's Jamie Vardy, with both leading the scoring charts in the Premier League this campaign.

"I have never taken my place for granted. Obviously, you want to play and it is great that competition is now there.

With the quality we have got, it is exciting to be a part of," Rooney, England's record goal-scorer, told ITV on Tuesday.

Rooney has been out since 13 February with a knee ligament problem but is expected to return in time for Manchester United's league trip to face Tottenham at White Hart Lane on 10 April.

"If everything goes according to plan, I'm back outside running now and I'm hoping to be full training within the next week or 10 days, so not too far away," Rooney said.

The average age of the

England side in Saturday's 3-2 win over Germany was just 24 and Rooney acknowledged that the balance between age and experience will be a key factor in determining their success in France. "There are so many of them that have not been to a major tournament. There's a lot of young players," he said.

"The likes of myself, Joe Hart and Gary Cahill can give them advice and make them feel more comfortable."

England face Russia, Slovakia and Wales in Group B of the 24-team tournament that starts on 10 June.—Reuters

## Messi scores 50<sup>th</sup> Argentina goal in 2-0 win over Bolivia

CORDOBA — Lionel Messi scored his 50<sup>th</sup> international goal to help Argentina beat Bolivia 2-0 in a 2018 World Cup qualifier on Tuesday.

The win put Argentina third in the South American group with 11 points from six matches, two points behind joint leaders Ecuador and Uruguay.

Ecuador suffered their first loss in the group, going down 3-1 in Colombia, while Uruguay scored a 1-0 home win over Peru.

Argentina defender Gabriel Mercado, who scored the winner in Thursday's 2-1 away victory over Chile, opened the scoring in the 21<sup>st</sup> minute against Bolivia.

Argentina were awarded a penalty in the 29<sup>th</sup> minute after Ronald Eguino fouled midfielder Ever Banega, and Messi made no mistake from the spot to net his 50<sup>th</sup> goal for Argentina, putting him within six of Gabriel Batistuta's record.

"This (campaign) is very long and what's important is that we won and remain on course," Messi told TyC Sports. "I'm happy with goal number 50 but more because we won and this helps to keep growing."

Argentina coach Gerardo Martino said it had been

crucial to get the two wins.

"It was fundamental to get the six points," he told TyC Sports of the two wins. "I think we played a serious match and won well."

Argentina could have gone ahead after 10 seconds with a quick attack down the left from the opening kickoff but Angel Di Maria's shot was blocked by goalkeeper Carlos Lampe and Banega hit the bar with the rebound. Di Maria limped off after half an hour and was replaced by Angel Correa.

Argentina squandered several other chances to score against a side they put 12 goals past in two friendlies last year. They are a point ahead of Colombia and Chile, who came from behind to beat Venezuela 4-1.

Brazil and Paraguay have nine points after their 2-2 draw in Asuncion.

The top four teams in the 10-nation group qualify for the 2018 World Cup finals, while the fifth-placed side goes into an inter-continental play-off.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Another Miami seed falls as number five Halep exits

MIAMI — Another high seed fell at the Miami Open as number five Simona Halep was sent packing by Timea Bacsinszky 4-6, 6-3, 6-2 in the quarter-finals in Florida on Tuesday.

Romanian Halep appeared well-placed for victory when she took the first set.

It was only the second set Bacsinszky had dropped during the tournament, and the 19<sup>th</sup>-seeded Swiss made sure it would be her last of the day as she prevailed in a match that stretched nearly two hours and 30 minutes.

Watched by a crowd that included Swiss ski champion Lara Gut, Bacsinszky ended the match in style with a cross-court backhand winner. "I came back from a long road," 26-year-old, who has battled back from injury, said in a courtside interview.

"For the past year she (Halep) has been an inspiration for me because I believe in hard work and I know she's one of the players which work really hard. To be able to play that well against her and catch the win is really amazing."

Halep's exit left the event

with only one of the top 12 women's seeds — number two Angelique Kerber, the Australian Open champion. Bacsinszky will meet Russian Sevltana Kuznetsova in the semi-finals after the 15<sup>th</sup> seed beat compatriot Ekaterina Makarova 6-7(3), 6-4, 6-3.

Kuznetsova shocked world number one Serena Williams in straight sets a day earlier, and is playing past the third round of a tournament for the first time since January. She dropped the first set but battled back in a topsy-turvy second before breaking Makarova three times in the decider.

Bacsinszky has taken down some big names en route to the semi-final, disposing of third seed Agnieszka Radwanska and 16<sup>th</sup> seed Ana Ivanovic in previous rounds.

Her Miami form follows on from a stellar 2015 campaign during which she cracked the world top 10 for the first time and won two tournaments before a knee injury prematurely halted her campaign in October.—Reuters

## Djokovic into Miami quarters with win over Thiem

MIAMI — World number one Novak Djokovic beat Austrian Dominic Thiem 6-3, 6-4 in the fourth round of the Miami Open in Florida on Tuesday.

Djokovic needed four match points before finally prevailing against the 22-year-old, whose thunderous forehands frequently had the Serb on the back foot.

Thiem could not capitalise on his chances, however, and in the end Djokovic's consistency proved the difference and he advanced after one hour and 50 minutes.

"I stayed tough when it was most needed," Djokovic told the ATP Tour website. "In the important moments I just tried to make him play, make him run."

"He has very powerful

strokes from the back of the court, so he either makes some really amazing shots, down the line mostly, and some great inside out forehands, or he makes a mistake. "It was a straight-set win, but far from easy."

Up next for Djokovic, who had nine double faults, his most in a three-set match since 2010, is a quarter-final against Tomas Berdych after the Czech beat Frenchman Richard Gasquet 6-4, 3-6, 7-5 in a contest that stretched nearly two hours and 30 minutes in blistering heat.

Japan's Kei Nishikori beat Roberto Bautista 6-2, 6-4 to set up a meeting with France's Gael Monfils, who got past Grigor Dimitrov 6-7(5), 6-3, 6-3.—Reuters