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# JUSTICE IN ACTION

## Police arrest six following cargo ship robbery in Mandalay

Aung Thant Khaing

POLICE arrested several suspects who were allegedly involved in robbing a coal cargo ship in the Ayayawady River in Mandalay a day after the crime was committed, according to local police Monday.

The armed robbery took place in the river at around 3pm on Sunday near Latsaungyu Village in Tada U Township.

The police apprehended six suspects yesterday, and two remain at large. The suspects are accused of attacking and robbing property worth more than K3.1 million (US\$2,627). Disguising themselves as travellers, the eight robbers approached the ship, named the Loi Samsis, in a motor boat and asked the bosun of the ship to steer it to shallow waters, after which the ship was stranded.

The robbers allegedly broke the ship's windows and took jewellery, cash and other items.

The robbers also attacked police with knives and homemade



Police seized knives, swords and property from the robbers. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE



petrol bombs while they were being chased on the river.

One suspect was interrogated after being caught on a sandbank where the robbers left their boat,

leading to the arrest of five more suspects.

"The robbery happened while our patrol team was at another place in the river. We are in hot

pursuit of the remaining robbers," said a police inspector from the Tada U Township Police Station.

About five robbery cases were reported in April in the township,

most of them having taken place on the river. Villages along the river in the township are vulnerable to armed robberies, especially during high tide.

## Chevron Puts Myanmar Gas Block Stakes Worth \$1.3 Billion Up For Sale: Sources



A vehicle is being filled up at a compressed natural gas (CNG) station in Yangon on 14 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US oil and gas major Chevron Corp has put all of its Myanmar gas block stakes up for sale, which at a combined likely valuation of \$1.3 billion, would be the biggest deal involving Myanmar assets to date, financial sources familiar with the matter said.

The sale, part of Chevron's efforts to preserve cash and retreat from non-core assets in the wake of sliding oil prices, is seen as setting the tone for future deals in a country that is opening up for business after historic elections last year.

San Ramon, California-based Chevron is working with a US investment bank on the deal, the sources said, declining to be identified as the sale process has not been

made public.

Chevron, which has been operating in Myanmar for about two decades, declined to comment.

It owns 28.3 per cent of the Yadana and Sein gas fields operated by France's Total SA in the Andaman Sea, which mostly supplies Thai power plants and also has a stake in the pipeline company that transports the gas to the Thai border. Some of the gas is also supplied to Myanmar.

In addition, it has a 99 per cent stake in exploration Block A5 in the promising Rakhine Basin, an area where Woodside Petroleum has recently discovered gas.

Chevron's net daily natural gas production in Myanmar last



A Chevron gas station sign is seen in Del Mar, California, in this April 25, 2013 file photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

year averaged 117 million cubic feet.

Chevron is also seeking buyers for its Asian geothermal energy blocks valued at about \$3 billion, sources familiar with matter have said.—Reuters



## 14 patients die in Mandalay hospital during Thingyan



Volunteers transport injured people to Mandalay Hospital during water festival. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

AMONG a total of 761 people hospitalised during the Thingyan festival in Mandalay, 14 died while receiving treatment, according to a public relations officer for Mandalay General Hospital.

Almost half of the hospitalised patients were injured in road accidents, while 25 per cent were

injured in fights and in other situations, said U Min Lwin, the public relations officer.

Although this year's festival was celebrated for five days instead of the usual four, the number of people to be hospitalised was lower than in each of the past three years, added the public relations officer. According

to some sources, there were 30 deaths during the festival period in Mandalay, including the 14 who died in the hospital.

Figures show that 28 out of 750 patients died in the hospital in 2015, while 22 out of 972 died in 2014 and 13 out of 739 died in 2013. — *Aung Thant Khaing*

## Thailand to boost technical capacity in Myanmar gemstones industry

THE Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association (MGJEA) has released its plans for neighbouring Thailand to become involved in partnerships within Myanmar's gemstone industry under the new NLD-led government.

Previously, China has been the only foreign country to have a presence in Myanmar's gemstone industry, but an inaugural study visit by the Thai Geological Institute of Thalam (GIT) to the Myanmar's gem-rich Mogoke region on 22 March of this year indicates changing times.

"[Myanmar] needs to work together with Thailand, primarily in regard to technology, in order to heighten the quality of Myanmar's gemstones. There will be cooperation with Thailand within extractive industries for the foreseeable future," explained U Hpone Myint Aung, vice chair of the MGJEA.

GIT comprises members from the Thai Ministry of Commerce as well as academics and gemstone entrepreneurs. The delegation arrived in Myanmar with the aim to invest in technology and machinery that would allow



for mutually beneficial joint operations within Myanmar's gemstone industry.

"We would be able to provide assistance in showcasing Myanmar's precious stones at gem and jewellery stores in the Thai capital of Bangkok. There can also be collaboration between businessmen [from both countries]. We also want to help in light of the falling market for Myanmar gems in China. When comparing the value of Myanmar gems with those in the world market, the latter is of more in-

terest," said GIT's chairperson. Myanmar's Ministry of Mines prohibits foreigners from conducting extraction or commercial activities within Myanmar's gemstones industry, though it allows them to purchase stones from gems and jewellery sale emporiums, according to the MGJEA. The MGJEA also stated that Myanmar lacks the technological capacity to break into the world market and is currently in a position whereby it can only produce uncut gem stones. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

## One killed, 24 injured in 80 Thingyan-related cases in Yangon

ONE person was killed and 24 were injured in Yangon in 80 cases reported during this year's Thingyan festival, according to the Yangon Region Police Force.

According to figures released by Yangon Region Police Force, the reports of death and injury were fewer in number this

year than last year.

During last year's festival period, three people died and 69 were injured in Yangon in 70 Thingyan-related cases.

Among 80 reported cases, including five cases of pick-pocketing this year, eight people were injured in three traffic-related cases, and 16 were hurt in

11 fights. One person was killed.

There were 241 Thingyan-related cases across the country this year, resulting in 35 deaths and 316 injuries.

The Yangon Region Police Force, deployed more than 8,000 police officers to ensure security and safety for Thingyan revelers this year. — *Ko Moe*

## Sagaing paddy farms inundated with silt

FARMERS in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, have expressed a need for government assistance to be able to re-cultivate their paddy crops in time for the coming rainy season.

Subsiding floods in the region in July 2015 left fields buried under up to eight feet of silt, ruining their land, say local farmers.

"Our crops were flourishing before the onset of the flooding. Now, though, all the dense silt left behind from the floods has completely destroyed our land; fields have become uncultivable. As such, we want to re-plough our land, but that would only be possible with the aid of machinery. We wish for the government to effectively carry out activities that would allow us to be ready for the coming rainy season," said Ko Aung Thu Win, a farmer from

Htoma Village in Kalay Township.

Clearing silt from the farms will cost between K200,000 and K800,000 per acre, which is far beyond the financial reach of local farmers.

"The Department of Irrigation has already examined matters related to field irrigation and made submissions [to the government]. The re-digging of irrigation channels has been included in the budget for the 2016-17 fiscal year, but the exact details are still under examination," said U Wai Lwin Phy, the administrator of Kalay Township.

Efforts to plant winter crops such as peanuts and sunflowers on land that had been covered in flood-induced silt deposits were reported to be unsuccessful. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

## Reminder for mariners

THE Department of Fisheries released a reminder for mariners yesterday, offering shelters for watercrafts to stay safe during rough monsoon weather.

Shelters have been set up in Sittwe, Pauktaw, Kyaukphyu, Thandwe, Taungup and Gwa

townships in Rakhine State; in Ngapudaw and Bogale townships in Ayeyawady Region; Ye Township in Mon State; and Longlon, Myeik and Kyunsu townships in Taninthayi Region. — *Ministry of Fisheries Department*

## MWEA delegation to attend BIG+BIH Fair 2016 in Thailand



Members of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association are seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for Bangkok.

PHOTO: MWEA

A four-member delegation from Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association left for Thailand to take part in the Bangkok International Gift and Bangkok International Houseware Fair 2016 on 17 April.

The MWEA delegation comprises Daw Myint Myint

Aye, Daw May Win Kyu, Daw Kyi Kyi Htay and Daw Ohnmar Kyaw.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by responsible persons of the association. The fair is scheduled to be held in Bangkok for five days from 19 to 23 April. — *MWEA*



# Norway to name new public park after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

A NEW park set to be established in Froland, a municipality in Norway, on 19 June will be named after Nobel Laureate Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor of Myanmar, according to sources in Norway.

The new park will be named after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in honour of her strenuous efforts and commitment to leading democracy building in Myanmar, said Torgeir Overland, the in-charge of International Caffé-Froland, the organising committee working to establish the park.

The naming of the park is also aimed at keeping the name of a person whom Norwegian people value sustainable, added the in-charge of the team.

According to sources, a par-

cel of land in Froland was chosen as the site of the new park following a meeting by the administrative council of Froland on 16 April, and a statue of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is set to be unveiled in conjunction with the planting of an oak tree, which can live for more than 1,000 years. Other trees, including cherry trees, will be planted on Suu Kyi's birthday, which falls on 19 June.

Arnfinn Landsverk, a Norwegian activist of Myanmar's democratisation, said an oak will be planted every year on her birthday, adding that growing of an oak tree represents durability, strength and endurance and is seen as a symbol of Suu Kyi's strong determination, strength and bravery.

A bus-stop near the new park in the centre of Froland will also be named after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, sources said.

Chin, Kayin, Kachin and Bamar people living in Froland and the surrounding municipalities are also set to take part in the establishment of the park by forming a committee, said Salai Jon Mann, an activist working on the establishment of the park.

The park's opening is scheduled to be held on Suu Kyi's 71st birthday with performances of ethnic traditional songs and dances, he added.

Myanmar activists in Froland organised a tree-planting ceremony in 2003 while calling for the release of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi from house arrest.—*Ko Nyo (Oslo)*



A man prepares to grow trees at the site where a new park to be named after Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will be constructed.  
PHOTO: KO NYO (OSLO)

## Tatmadaw combing operations continue in Kyauktaw Township

TATMADAW columns clashed twice with two Arakan Army (AA) insurgent groups on 16 April while launching combing operations after receiving a tip-off that a 100-member AA contingent entered an area near Lawyamataung in Kyauktaw Township during the first week of April.

Leaving the insurgents dispersed following the clashes, the Tatmadaw columns occupied their

temporary bases and seized handmade mines, equipment, personal items and food. During an ambush by the AA insurgents, who disguised themselves as villagers, some Tatmadawmen, including an officiating battalion commander, were killed, and others were injured.

Tatmadaw columns have continued combing the area in order to eliminate the AA insurgents in Kyauktaw Township.—*Myawady*



## Additional companies to be selected for listing on YSX

MORE companies that fit the criteria of the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) will be selected for the selling of stocks on the exchange, according to the Myanmar Securities Exchange Supervisory Commission (MSESC).

There are currently six companies permitted to trade stocks on the YSX, while plans are in place for additional companies to be selected to trade stocks once the stocks of the aforementioned companies have all been sold.

"Additional companies allowed to trade stocks [on the YSX] will be chosen before the permitted time period of those currently trading has come to an end. This year will see roughly 10 companies able to trade stocks on the exchange," said Dr Maung Maung Thein, chair of the MSESC.

The YSX opened in the premises of the former Myawady

Bank headquarters on 9 December 2015, with First Myanmar Investment (FMI) becoming the first company allowed to trade stocks when it received permission on 25 March this year.

FMI began selling stocks on the exchange at an initial value of K26,000 per share. However, greater buyer demand for shares than those available for purchase shortly after shares went on sale brought the price of a share to K31,000. The market price for a share on 31 March then rose in value to K39,000 before reverting back to K31,000 per share the following day, highlighting the fluctuating nature of the stock exchange.

FMI will shortly be joined by the Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Company, which has been granted permission to trade stocks on the exchange beginning in the

last week of April.

The six companies that have been permitted to sell stocks on the YSX are FMI, Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Co, Myanmar Citizens Bank, First Private Bank Ltd, Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation and the Great Hor Kham Public Co.

Shares of the six listed companies will be sold through third-party securities companies, including KBZ Stirling Coleman Securities, the Myanmar Securities Exchange Centre, AYA Trust Securities, CB Securities and KTZRH Securities.

The YSX is jointly owned by the Myanmar Economic Bank, which has a 51 per cent stake in the exchange, and the Japanese Stock Exchange Committee and the Japan Daiwa Company, which share ownership of the remaining 49 per cent.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

## Dee Dote layered waterfall thronged with visitors during Thingyan

THE Dee Dote layered waterfall, with its crystal-clear, blue water in Pyin Oo Lwin, Mandalay Region, was thronged with visitors during the Thingyan holiday.

"The layered waterfall attracted many visitors with its natural, cool water, where people sought refuge from the scorching sun. Some visitors came take a rest, enjoying the scenic beauty in the hottest part of this summer," said Daw Sein Myint, a vendor who works near the waterfall.

"Many visitors came to the layered waterfall even before Thingyan, so we thought the number of visitors might decline during Thingyan. But it was crowded with many visitors during Thingyan. Both local visitors and the [foreign] tourists visited Dee Dote Waterfall," she said.

"Some visitors choose the waterfall to avoid the intense heat, though they would prefer to visit around the moat around Mandalay. To reach the waterfall, visitors must trek. We enjoy it a lot because we can interact with many visitors," said Ko Zaw

Lin, a visitor from Patheingyi Township.

"We came here with family and relatives, and the waterfall was more crowded than we expected," said U Min Han from Aungmyethazan Township.—*Aung Ye Thwin*



Visitors splash at Dee Dote layered waterfall. PHOTO: AUNG YE THWIN



## Crime NEWS

# Truck accident near Nay Pyi Taw kills six

A LIGHT TRUCK overturned on the Yangon-Mandalay highway in Dekhinathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday, leaving six dead and five injured.

The deadly accident occurred when the driver lost control of the truck. The truck crashed into the barrier in the middle of the road.

One man and four women died on the spot, and another woman died on the way to hospital. The injured were taken to the Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed hospital.

A total of 13 people were on board when the accident occurred.



The Light Truck which overturned on the Yangon - Mandalay Highway near Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYANMAR POLICE FORCE

The driver and another woman were not injured.

The car was en route from Yangon to Nay Pyi Taw.—MNA

## A light truck overturns in Magwe



A light truck seen overturning on Pathein - Monywa road. PHOTO: SEIN MYAING

A light truck carrying the pilgrims heading from Bagan-Pakokku to Myaing Township, Magwe Region had overturned near milepost 397/2 and Pathein

- Monywa road, on April 17, with 14 passengers on board, leaving 8 injured.

According to the investigation, the light truck driven by U Kyaw Kyaw, 44, The 8 injured are undergoing medical treatment at Myaing general hospital.—Sein Myaing

## Two pilgrims killed in car crash in Kyaukphyu

A car carrying the pilgrims en route from Simaw village to Rambre Township for paying homage to Naahmewtaw Pagoda in Kyaukphyu Township has overturned near Min Pyin village on 15 April, leaving two dead and 53 injured.

According to the investigation, the pilgrimage vehicle driven by Maung Kyi Aung, 31, with 55 passengers on board, overturned due to loss of control while the children pour the water on it.

Out of the passengers, U Maung Chan Aye, 63, the resident of Chiwete village and Daw Pauk Yaing Ma, 54, the resident of Simaw village are killed at the scene and 35 injured deadly.



Two pilgrims killed in car crash in Kyaukphyu. PHOTO: THE MIRROR

Police have filed charges against the driver, Maung Kyi Aung for the lack control of car.—The Mirror

# Man falls to death from toddy palm

A MAN fell from a 25-foot high scaffold that was built on a toddy palm tree and died on the spot in Parpyin Village, Htee-chai Township, Magwe Division, on 16 April.

Action on a tip-off from the administrator of Parpyin Village, members of Htee-chai Township Myoma Police Station, together with witnesses,

investigated the scene of the event. After the investigation, police discovered that the victim was U Kyaw Win (aka Nga Win), 47, from Parpyin Village.

According to the investigation, U Kyaw Win had been drinking palm juice while sitting on the scaffold.

Police are still investigating the case.—Ye Zarni

## Young man commits suicide in Dala Tsp

A YOUNG man from Seikgyi Khanaungto Township, situated on the southwestern bank of Yangon River, committed suicide on Wednesday.

The body of Wathan (aka A Nge Kaung, aka Kalar), 23, was found in the room of a guest house located in Dala Township in the Southern District of Yangon.

Police found him after he

tied a 3-foot-long curtain to a wooden beam in the ceiling of the room and wrapped the other end around his neck. According to the police investigation, the man was a heavy drinker and had rented the room at around 8am. Apart from injuries to his neck, no other physical injuries were found on his body.

Police are still investigating the case.—Than Htay

## Stimulant tablet and raw opium seized in Tachileik



Law Htun. PHOTO: MIRROR

A combined investigating team involving local authorities and members of anti-drug squad from Tachileik Township searched a house owned by Law Htun in Wan Kyaung ward, and seized 3160 stimulant tab-

lets and raw opium weighing of 126.33 grams in the metal box on 12 April.

Police have filed charges against Law Htun, 49, under the Anti-Narcotic Law.—The Mirror

## Three men arrested for motorbike theft in Magwe

THREE men, who are believed to have stolen a motorcycle, were arrested by local police on the last day of the Thingyan festival.

Police apprehended the men while they were removing a valuable part from the bike on a hill located east of the Yin Creek Bridge in Natmauk, Magwe Re-

gion, on 16 April.

Ngwe Tun, 27, Hla Oo, 32, and Nyi Pu, 29, were taken into custody after they were unable to procure documents proving their ownership of the vehicle. The suspects have been charged by the police under the Criminal Law.—Kyemon



## China launches pollution probe after hundreds of students fall sick

BEIJING — Authorities in China have launched an investigation after a report that hundreds of children attending a language school built near a polluted former industrial site developed health problems, including cancer, state news agency Xinhua reported on Monday.

The municipal government of Changzhou, about 100 km (60 miles) northwest of Shanghai, said that since December students and faculty at the Changzhou Foreign Languages School had been complaining about an “unusual smell” emitting from three former chemical plants nearby, Xinhua said.

But a report by state broadcaster China Central Television (CCTV) late on Sunday suggested that the problems were much more serious, and the case has raised an outcry online.

Of 641 students from the school who underwent health checks recently 493 were found to have conditions ranging from chronic coughs, headaches and

blood abnormalities, to lymphoma and leukaemia, CCTV reported.

Widespread environmental pollution is a dark legacy of the growth-at-all-costs development path that China took since the 1970s, and it is increasingly a source of social unrest.

The ruling Communist Party in recent years has dedicated more resources and attention to cleaning the country’s polluted air, water and soil, but the severity of the problem will be felt for decades to come.

Parents of the students in Changzhou had suspected for months that their children’s ailments were linked to the school, which had opened on the site in September, and called for it to be moved elsewhere, CCTV said in a report online. Photographs posted on microblogs show what appear to be dozens of people staging protests with banners calling for the school to relocate. It is unclear when the pictures were taken.—Reuters

## Thousands protest at HK airport over aviation security scandal

HONG KONG — Hong Kong’s air crew union on Sunday led a demonstration at the territory’s international airport over a reported incident in which the government leader was said to have pressured airport staff to neglect aviation rules for his daughter who did not check her own luggage in.

Around 2,500 union members and other people staged a sit-in protest at the arrivals hall of Chek Lap Kok International Airport, demanding answers to the latest scandal dogging the unpopular government, the 15,000-strong Hong Kong Cabin Crew Federation said.

“Safeguard the sky of Hong Kong. Plug the air safety loophole!” the crowd chanted. “No compromise to air safety!”

“We have requested the Civil Aviation Department to explain to us under what circumstances can a third party safety check luggage in on behalf of others,” federation general secretary Carol Ng said.

“It replied that ordinary passengers would need to go through safety checks (while) carrying the luggage. So, the chief executive is not an ordinary passenger now?” she asked.

Ng said that under international aviation safety protocols, it is “a must (for all passengers) to accompany your carry-on baggage by yourself at the security desk.”

In what has been



Up to 2,000 protesters are seen at Hong Kong’s Chek Lap Kok International Airport on 17 April. The protesters, including members of the territory’s Cabin Crew Federation, were calling for clarity on airport security measures, after Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying became embroiled in a scandal over claims he pressured airline staff to carry luggage through the airport to his daughter, who had already passed through security checks. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

dubbed “luggage-gate,” Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying was reported to have pressured a ground crew staff member to help transfer a piece of luggage his daughter left outside the restricted area after she checked herself in for a journey to the United States last month.

Airline staff succumbed to pressure and made an exception, sending someone to carry the unattended luggage into the restricted area to her, so that she did not need to pick it up herself and go through safety checks once again. The full details of the incident

have yet to be confirmed.

Leung has issued a statement denying putting pressure on airline staff, but admitted to talking to the staff over concerns for his daughter.

The girl’s mother, who was accompanying her at the airport that day and helping arrange her luggage delivery, also denied having abused the first family’s privilege, and said the air crew staff offered to help willingly.

Both the Civil Aviation Department and Security Bureau, which oversees the territory’s air safety, have said it was not a special

case, and that air safety was not compromised “as long as the luggage and the passenger both passed through inspection.”

Ng said they will wait a week for the department chief Norman Lo to meet with them and give a full explanation on the case.

“Hong Kong people will be outraged if the chief executive is really allowed such a privilege,” Monchi-chi Chan, 50, a teacher who used to work at the airport, said. “Hong Kong’s reputation is part of our dissipating core values. We can’t just let it rot.”—Kyodo News

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## Australia parliament debates make-or-break labour reform

SYDNEY — Australia’s parliament returned for a special sitting on Monday to debate crucial labour reform bills which are likely to be blocked in the upper house Senate, leading to the dissolution of both houses and an election on 2 July.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in March recalled parliament from a seven-week recess, only the fourth time in more than 50 years that a special session has been demanded.

The bills are likely to be blocked in the Senate by smaller parties such as the influential Greens and the main centre-left opposition Labour Party. A decision is expected this week.

The government has proposed a regulator for the construction industry, op-



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. PHOTO: REUTERS

posed by the main opposition Labour Party and trade unions, many of which believe the watchdog would place undue oversight over their operations.

Greens leader Senator Richard Di Natale reiterated his party’s rejection of the legislation.

“It tells us that the number one priority isn’t innovation, it’s not bringing us into a new economy, it is not tackling climate change and the loss of the Great Barrier Reef, the jobs that are going because we’ve got inaction in managing that transition to a new economy,” he said.

“Their number one priority is their own survival.”

Opinion polls showed support for Australia’s ruling Liberal Party-led coalition lingering at its lowest level since Turnbull assumed office last September.

Support for the coalition was 49 per cent, a Newspoll found on Monday, on a two-party preferred basis where votes for minor parties are redistributed to the two main blocs according to preferences. Turnbull retained his lead as preferred prime minister over Labour leader Bill Shorten. But his popularity has waned amid perceived dithering over tax reform, a rejection of calls for an investigation into major banks and planned cuts to spending on hospitals and schools.—Reuters



# Chinese military aircraft makes first public landing on disputed island

BEIJING — A Chinese military aircraft has for the first time publicly landed at a new airport on an island China has built in the disputed South China Sea, state media said on Monday, raising the prospect that China could base fighter jets there.

The United States has criticised China's construction of artificial islands in the South China Sea

and worries that it plans to use them for military purposes, even though China says it has no hostile intent. The runway on the Fiery Cross Reef is 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) long and is one of three China has been building for more than a year by dredging sand up onto reefs and atolls in the Spratly archipelago.

Civilian flights began test runs there in January. In a front-page

story, the official *People's Liberation Army Daily* said a military aircraft on patrol over the South China Sea on Sunday received an emergency call to land at Fiery Cross Reef to evacuate three seriously ill workers. They were then taken in the transport aircraft back to Hainan island for treatment, it said, showing a picture of the aircraft on the ground in Hainan. It

was the first time China's military had publicly admitted landing an aircraft on Fiery Cross Reef, the influential *Global Times* tabloid said.

It cited a military expert as saying the flight showed the airfield was up to military standards and could see fighter jets based there in the event of war. The runways would be long enough to handle long-range bombers and transport

aircraft as well as China's best jet fighters, giving it a presence deep in the maritime heart of Southeast Asia that it has lacked until now.

More than \$5 trillion of world trade is shipped through the South China Sea every year. Besides China's territorial claims in the area, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Brunei, the Philippines and Taiwan have rival claims.—*Reuters*

## 442 killed, 3,600 injured in Thailand's road accidents during festival

BANGKOK — A total of 442 people have been reportedly killed in road accidents throughout Thailand during the week-long Songkran holiday, which ended on Sunday, said a government agency on Monday.

According to the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation's Road Safety Centre, a total of 3,447 road accidents were reported during Songkran festival nationwide with 34 per cent of the total 442 deaths reportedly due to alcohol driving and 33 per cent due to speeding.

Meanwhile, a total of 3,656 people were reportedly injured in road mishaps during the nationwide water-splashing festival from 11 April until 17 April.

Thai capital Bangkok and Nakorn Ratchasima province had the highest toll of 19 deaths each while Chiang Mai province had the largest number of 175 injuries among all the provinces throughout the country.—*Xinhua*

## Singapore offers disaster relief assistance to Japan following earthquakes

SINGAPORE — Singapore's Minister for Defence Ng Eng Hen conveyed condolences and offered disaster relief assistance to Japan following earthquakes last week, said the Ministry of Defence (MINDEF) in a press release on Monday. In a letter to his Japanese counterpart General Nakatani on Monday, Ng noted that the Changi Regional Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Coordination Centre (RHCC) is ready to deploy a team to support the Japan Self-Defence Forces in co-ordinating military assistance from foreign militaries in the event that it is required. Through a comprehensive assessment of the situation in the affected areas, the RHCC seeks to enhance information-sharing and operational coordination among the militaries, said MINDEF.—*Xinhua*

A rocket is launched during a demonstration of a new large-caliber multiple rocket launching system attended by North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (not pictured) at an unknown location, in this undated file photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 22 March. PHOTO: REUTERS



## US pledges 'strong response' in event of another North Korean nuclear test

TOKYO — The United States will respond strongly in the case of a further North Korean nuclear test, US Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken said on Monday, days after the North's failure to launch what the United States believes was an intermediate-range ballistic missile.

North Korea conducted a fourth nuclear test in January

and a long-range rocket launch the next month, both in contravention of UN Security Council resolutions.

Expanded UN sanctions aimed at starving North Korea of funds for its nuclear weapons programme were approved in a unanimous Security Council vote in early March on a resolution drafted by the United States and China.

Blinken, who is meeting senior Japanese government officials in Tokyo, told reporters North Korea would be digging itself deeper into a hole if it pursued further provocations.

"There will be additional strong response in case of another (North Korean) nuclear test," Blinken said, adding that such actions by North Korea were "unacceptable".

Blinken said the United States would consider "a number of possibilities" while adding that it was "premature" to be specific. Some experts expect North Korea to conduct its fifth nuclear test in the near future, possibly before its party congress in early May, following the embarrassing missile failure on Friday.—*Reuters*

## Australia state bans underground coal gas drilling

BRISBANE (Queensland) — Australia's Queensland state on Monday banned underground coal gasification, a controversial process used to convert coal into gas.

Unlike fracking, which involves pumping fluid into coal seams to cause fractures, the method by which unearthed coal, known as underground coal gasification, or UCG, takes place entirely below the surface, raising concerns over water contamination and greenhouse gas emissions.

The ban on UCG was initiated by the state's mines minister,

Anthony Lynham, who said he will introduce legislation by the end of the year to make it law.

Carbon Energy Ltd, a company that said it had spent A\$150 million (\$115.23 million) over eight years developing UCG technology to use in the state, was considering a response to the ban.

Carbon Energy, whose stock dropped nearly 8 per cent to less than 2 Australian cents on Monday, said it had passed every environmental and scientific test put before it over the past eight years.

Last month, Singapore-listed Linc Energy was charged in Queensland with causing serious environmental harm following an investigation into a gas leak at one of its UCG pilot plants, after four employees fell ill with suspected gas poisoning.

Linc, whose shares have been suspended since late March, on 15 April sought voluntary administration, a form of bankruptcy.

Proponents of UCG say the process is safer as there is no surface disposal of coal ash into the atmosphere, while detractors have raised concerns over con-

tamination of groundwater and increased levels of greenhouse gases beyond those of natural gas.

"The potential risks to Queensland's environment and our valuable agricultural industries far outweigh any potential economic benefits," Lynham said.

Wales in the United Kingdom last month imposed a moratorium on UCG, part of a precautionary approach it said toward the development of unconventional oil and gas resources, which includes a temporary ban on fracking.—*Reuters*



# Israel finds new Hamas tunnel; Hamas says it is 'old, used'

JERUSALEM/GAZA — The Israeli military said on Monday it has uncovered a Hamas tunnel that crosses from Gaza to Israel, the first time such a tunnel was discovered since the 2014 Gaza War.

A military spokesperson said in a statement that the tunnel was built by Hamas, apparently after the 2014 war, to "infiltrate Israel" and carry out "terror attacks" against the country's southern community near the Gaza border.

The spokesperson said the tunnel, found about 10 days ago by electronic detections means, has been destroyed.

"The tunnel uncovered in Israel demonstrates once more Hamas' warped priorities and continued commitment and investment in tools of violence," said Lt Col Peter Lerner, a

spokesman for Israel Defence Forces.

"The tunnel exposes Hamas' abhorrent intentions to attack the men, women, and children of southern Israel," he said.

Israel's 51-day-long offensive in Gaza in 2014 claimed the lives of at least 2,251 Palestinians, 65 per cent of them civilians, according to the United Nations. It also saw the death of 72 Israelis, all but six were soldiers.

The violence ended with a fragile cease-fire on 26 August 2014.

However, a Hamas-related website, al-Majd, quoting an unidentified senior Hamas official, said on Monday the tunnel was not new and that it had been used during the 2014 Israeli offensive on the Gaza Strip.

"The aim of making the declaration in the Israeli media is to say that discovering the tunnel was a big achievement in order to keep the American financial support to the Israeli project of fighting tunnels," the official was quoted as saying.

Over the past few months, more than 20 Palestinian militants died in tunnels that collapsed across the Gaza Strip. Hamas leaders said digging tunnels was a preparation for any upcoming Israeli wars on Gaza.

However, Hamas leaders said they are not interested in any war with Israel, "but if Israel wages a war on Gaza, Hamas and the armed resistance will have the right to defend themselves and to defend the people in Gaza."—*Xinhua*



A protester holds a sign as immigrants and community leaders rally in front of the US Supreme Court to mark the one-year anniversary of President Barack Obama's executive orders on immigration in Washington, in November 2015. Many immigrants are hoping that the US Supreme Court revives President Barack Obama's 2014 executive action on immigration, which was thrown out by a lower court. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Fate of Obama's immigration plan in hands of Supreme Court

WASHINGTON — The US Supreme Court takes up a case on Monday probing the limits of presidential powers as the justices weigh whether President Barack Obama overstepped his authority with unilateral action to protect millions of people in the country illegally from deportation.

The case, pitting Obama against 26 states led by Texas that filed suit to block his 2014 immigration plan, is one of the biggest of the court's current term ending in June.

The court is evenly divided with four liberal justices and four conservatives following the February death of conservative Antonin Scalia. That raises the possibility of a 4-4 split that would leave in place a 2015 lower-court

ruling that threw out the president's executive action that bypassed the Republican-led Congress.

Obama took the action after House of Representatives Republicans killed bipartisan legislation, billed as the biggest overhaul of US immigration laws in decades and providing a path to citizenship for illegal immigrants, that was passed by the Senate in 2013.

Obama's plan was tailored to let roughly 4 million people — those who have lived illegally in the United States at least since 2010, have no criminal record and have children who are US citizens or lawful permanent residents — get into a program that shields them from deportation and supplies work permits.

Obama's programme is called Deferred Action for Parents of Americans and Lawful Permanent Residents (DAPA).

Shortly before the plan was to take effect last year, a federal judge in Texas blocked it after the Republican-governed states filed suit against the Democratic president's executive action. The New Orleans-based 5<sup>th</sup> US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld that decision in November.

The Supreme Court's ruling is due by the end of June.

Obama's action arose from frustration within the White House and the immigrant community about a lack of action in politically polarized Washington to address the status of people, mostly Hispanics, living in the United States illegally.—*Reuters*

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### 'In' camp lead maintain lead, but more undecided ahead of EU vote

LONDON — The "In" campaign has retained its seven percentage point lead ahead of Britain's 23 June referendum on whether Britain should stay in the European Union although more voters were undecided, according to a ComRes poll for the *Sun* newspaper on Monday.

The telephone survey of 1,002 people carried out last week found support for staying in the bloc was on 45 per cent with 38 per cent of voters backing a Brexit.

That meant the "In" camp's lead was unchanged from a similar ComRes poll last month although the number of undecided voters had risen significantly to 17 per cent. Last month, 11 per cent said they did not know how they would vote.

"It is clear there is still considerable confusion about the referendum, which suggests a lack of clarity from both campaigns," Tom Mludzinski from ComRes told the *Sun*.

Phone surveys have generally indicated support for remaining in the EU firmly ahead of the "Out" campaign, while online polls have the two sides running neck and neck.—*Reuters*

#### 159 passengers from Taiwan bypass Japan airport immigration by mistake

CHIBA — A total of 159 passengers who arrived at Narita airport on a flight from Taiwan on Sunday night entered Japan without going through immigration due to a mishandling by airport staff.

Japanese budget airline Vanilla Air said on Monday that around 110 of the passengers on its Flight 104 from Taipei to Tokyo have since been contacted and processed properly and it is trying to reach the remaining customers by phone or e-mail.

"We have not heard of an incident before in which this many people entered the country (through Narita) without going through immigration," an official of the airport operator said.

The mistake occurred as buses that transported the passengers from the plane dropped them at an arrival gate for domestic flights.

It is possible the flight was mistaken as domestic because before arriving in Narita, it was temporarily diverted to another domestic airport in Aichi Prefecture due to strong winds, according to the airline.

Most of the people Vanilla Air is still trying to reach are Japanese, the carrier said.—*Kyodo News*

#### Six corpses found in migrant boat, 108 rescued: Italy coast guard

ROME — Six bodies were recovered and 108 migrants were rescued from a semi-submerged rubber dinghy, Italy's coast guard said on Monday, as boat arrivals accelerate amid calm seas.

A private rescue ship called Aquarius run by humanitarian group SOS Mediterranee found the bodies on the rubber dingy on Sunday, a coast guard spokesman said. Five women were among those rescued. The coast guard had no details about the nationality of the migrants.

The migrants and the six corpses are being taken to the Italian island of Lampedusa, the coast guard said.

Separately, Italy's coast guard rescued 33 migrants from a small island off the eastern coast of Sicily on Sunday.

Almost 6,000 migrants and refugees sailed from Libya to Italy last week in what appears the start of a wave of at least 100,000 and "possibly many, many more" this year, the International Organisation for Migration said on Friday.—*Reuters*

#### Aussie police search for owner of lost 2.5 kg gold bar

MELBOURNE — A cleaner with a conscience has handed in a 2.5-kilogram gold bar to Australian police after finding it while at work in the West Australian (WA) capital city of Perth.

The "mixed gold" bar, measuring around 22 centimetres in length by five centimeters wide, was found in the Perth suburb of East Victoria Park last month.

On Monday, police detectives launched a campaign to reunite the misplaced gold bar with its owner.

Depending on its purity, the chunk of gold bullion could be worth in excess of 75,000 US dollars.

While police would usually expect to be flooded with ownership claims for such a valuable piece of lost property, this case may prove tougher to crack.

WA police suspect the crudely set bar, which has no defining marks or features, may be less than 50 per cent pure gold and made from stolen jewellery.—*Xinhua*



## OPINION

# Two development concepts from the State Counsellor's message

**Khin Maung Aye**

**S**TATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, in her New Year's message, has made it crystal clear that the policies and principles of the new regime are to ensure national reconciliation, to achieve internal peace, to enforce the rule of law, to amend the constitution and to keep the democratic system dynamic and well-ingrained.

What matters most, she said, is national reconciliation. This is absolutely correct because a nation cannot develop without unity. Unity is even more im-

portant for a nation like ours, which has lagged behind because of racial conflicts that have raged for more than six decades. This is the reason why she said her government will continue to strive to include in the ceasefire agreement the organisations they deem appropriate for inclusion. As internal peace and the establishment of a genuine federal, democratic Union are closely intertwined, the constitution must be amended, she said in her message.

In this function, the State Counsellor, well aware of deep concerns over constitutional amendment, guaranteed that her administration would choose only the ways and means of amendment that would not adversely effect the people. We hope her guarantee will soothe people's worries over the possibility of amendments to the constitution having a negative impact upon the peace and stability of the state. The rationale behind amending the constitution can now be seen as the new regime's effort to put the nation on the correct path toward the establishment of a genuine federal, democratic Union.

The State Counsellor's message contained two key concepts related to development. The first concept is

unity, without which national development cannot be achieved. The second concept is development of human resources. Without a healthy, educated workforce, a nation cannot progress and prosper. What is worth noting here is that the State Counsellor set a higher value upon the human assets than upon Myanmar's abundant supply of natural resources, which may one day be depleted.

The GNLM agrees that what really counts is the strength of the people, not inanimate resources.

## Write for us

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

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

# Who are the So-called Rohingyas?

**Khin Maung Myint**

**T**HE bloody clashes in Rakhine State between the ethnic Rakhines and the migrant Bengali nationals, a few years back, had made the term Rohingya become world-known. There was an up-roar throughout the world. Even the United Nations and some international communities were sympathetic to their plight. I dare say that the term Rohingya was unheard of to the majority of the populace of Myanmar, let aside the people from other countries, before that incident. The reason for its obscurity was due to the fact that, the name Rohingya does not represent any indigenous nor an ethnic nor a national race of Myanmar.

I called them migrants because they are either recent arrivals from the neighboring country or descendants of migrants who had been sneaking into our country for centuries due to poverty and starvation in their own country. There are many Bengalis who are legal Myanmar citizens, but there are plenty of illegal immigrants, too.

To my knowledge, the term Rohingya was publicized nearly five decades ago, while I was serving in the Akyab (Sittway) District, in the late nineteen sixties. It was almost unheard of before the authorities uncovered an underground organization called the Rohingya Muslim Independence Revolutionary Front (RMIRF) and apprehended their members, who were jailed. They set up their headquarters right in the heart of Akyab, clandestinely. Their objective was to take up arms and fight for the independence of the region that they claimed to be theirs' just because the majority of the populations there were Bengalis.

Most of those who are familiar with our country's past, knew about the Mujahideen rebellion,

citing the same cause, which broke out in Arakan right after we became independent. That rebellion was totally crushed a long time ago before this incident. There was no fuss at the time whatsoever, at home or abroad, as the rebels were recognized as intruders who had no right to claim for an independent state within our borders. In my opinion, the RMIRF movement was the reemergence of the lost cause of the Mujahideens. Their ultimate aim was to establish a Rohingya land on our soil. This fact was quite evident from the name they had chosen for their organization. Every unbiased person will agree with my analysis.

It is true that the majority of the population of the Akyab district, even in those days were Bengalis, especially in the border areas, but that did not justify them to claim for independence. Though some of them may have been descendants of the Bengalis who had dwelt for centuries on our soil and recognized as citizens and some of them may have acquired Myanmar ID cards, they are not entitled to be recognized as an indigenous or a national race of Myanmar as the international media and organizations are labeling them. Granting citizenship to the genuine descendants of those recognized as citizens is one thing and to be recognized as an indigenous or a national race of our country is another, which they are definitely not entitled to.

The authorities at the United Nations should be more cautious in handling that issue, this time around. It was the United Nations, which pressured the Burmese government (as it was used to be called in those days) to re-accept the illegal immigrants who were rounded up and expelled from our country in the early nineteen seventies. That move provided an opportunity for more illegal immigrants to sneak in, posing as those who had been expelled. It was a

grave blunder, as the returning numbers were more than double that of those expelled.

I think it would be necessary to explain the meaning of the term Rohingya. In the past, since the colonial days, people from the neighbouring country used to enter the Arakan area during the paddy growing seasons to work as farmhands for the Arakanese farmers. After the harvesting, they usually returned to their homeland, where people called them Rohyngyas, meaning "Returnees from Arakan". Arakan was known by people back in their country as Rohin. However, that term was not widely known, as it is today, outside of their native place in those days. It's quite clear that the term Rohingya is neither a race nor a religion, but just a term to identify a group of people who worked in Arakan and came back.

In my opinion, the term Rohingya does not represent a race nor a religious group. When that name first emerged, as I had mentioned above, even some Rakhine old-timers said they had never heard of that term before. Thus, those people who are calling themselves Rohingyas are in fact, Bengalis who definitely do not belong to any indigenous race of Myanmar. They adopted the name Rohingya to deceive the international community to make it easier for them to migrate to other countries.

I would like to mention briefly about the presence of the Bengalis in Myanmar. Centuries ago, there were no properly defined or permanent border demarcations between the neighboring countries and ours. So people were free to roam and settle down wherever they wished. Thus when the boundaries were properly defined and demarcated, some settlements of our nationals were placed in other countries and likewise some settlements of nationals from other countries were inside our boundaries. When the British annexed

Arakan in 1824, they passed a statute that recognized those Bengalis who were already there to be citizens and those who entered after their annexation as foreigners. The descendants of those who were legalized as citizens were entitled to become citizens if they were born and stayed on our soil.

I presumed that there must be quite a large number of Bengalis already on our soil, even during those days for the British to take such precautionary actions to control further influx of migrants from the neighboring country, namely India, which too was under their rule. It was a farsighted move by the British. They must be wary of the problems that could arise in the future. If that law had been strictly adhered to by the successive governments and their responsible officials, the problems we are now facing would never have arisen in the first place.

In 1969, the Akyab District Security and Administrative Committee was tasked to eradicate illegal immigrants. Over two hundred immigration officers extracted from all over the country were placed under its command to carry out that task. It was carried out in the three townships, namely--Mrauk Oo, Minbya and Pauk Taw. The code name for that operation was "Operation Crow". Over two thousand Bengalis who didn't have any documents identifying them as citizens, were rounded up in just over a month of operation and were sent back to their country, then known as East Pakistan. There was no complaint or outcry, whatsoever, at home and from the international communities or organizations, over the expelling of the illegal Bengalis. That operation was a success. However, the next operation a few years later backfired and our government had to re-accept the Bengalis, who numbered twice the actual number expelled.

Even in those days the Bengali problem was not confined to the Arakan Division only. It had spread all throughout the country. Many a times, the Akyab District

Security and Administrative Committee was approached by other States and Divisions to help them to expel illegal Bengali immigrants rounded up in their areas. Most of the illegal migrants caught were from places like Keng Tung and Tachileik in the Southern Shan State, close to the Thai border. However, today the Bengali migration has spread to many countries in the region, such as Southern Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia and even to the West.

Many years ago, the ultimate destination of the Bengali migrants might have been Myanmar, as our country was more prosperous and more attractive to them than their cyclone-infested, flood-prone and poverty-riddled country. However, as their population in our country had swelled so much, there was no more room to absorb the new comers. Thus they resort to migrate to other countries in the South East Asia region, especially to those where there are Muslim majority. Recently their destinations are as far away as the Mediterranean. So today the Bengali problem is not ours alone but has become a regional problem and if it cannot be checked, it can become an international one.

I would like to remind the international communities that there is no such national race called Rohingya in our country. They are in fact Bengalis from the neighboring country posing as Myanmar citizens and falsely claiming that they had fled the country due to persecutions, oppressions and discriminations against them. I would also like to warn the international communities not to be deceived by them. The reason they use the name Rohingya is to hide their Bengali identity to make it easier for them to obtain refugee status in other countries and pave a safe passage for their exodus. The so-called Rohingya problem has nothing to do with race nor religion, but just an illegal migration issue. Thus it shouldn't be instigated to become a racial or religious issue.

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# Mandalay authorities pay respect to senior citizens



Senior citizens accepting respect paid by authorities. PHOTO: MAUNG PYITHU

THE Mandalay Region government organised a respect-paying ceremony on the day of the Myanmar New Year, which fell on 17 April (Sunday) at City Hall.

Mandalay Region residents above 80 years old attended the

ceremony, where they received cash and gifts presented by the regional government.

Before the ceremony, regional authorities, led by Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, released various species of fish

into a designated part of the Mandalay Moat on 26th Street between 70th and 71st streets.

They also released birds, including pigeons and sparrows, in front of the city hall.—*Maung Pyithu*

## Literacy talks aim to develop reading habits in rural communities

WITH the aim of promoting reading habits among locals, literacy talks will be held in Nay Pyi Taw this month.

Jointly organised by book-lovers and members of the Aungpanmyaing Social Organisation,

the talks are scheduled to take place on 24 April (Sunday) at a monastery in Dana Theikdi Ward in Zabuthiri Township.

Well-known writers, including Saya Laetwintha Saw Chit, Manutha Kyaw Win, Maung

Nyein Thu (Gyobingouk) and Than Myint Aung will speak at the event. “We have already arranged transportation for villagers who wish to attend the educational talks,” a local poet said.—*Than Oo*

## Blood donations rise during Thingyan festival

TO MARK the Myanmar New Year, donors across Mandalay donated blood at the region's General Hospital on Sunday.

Dr Khin Myat Mon said: “We received over 200 bottles of blood donated by members of social organisations and local residents, with plans to keep them at the blood bank to distribute them to other government hospitals in the region.”

One 29-year-old donor said: “I love donating blood because I want to help people's lives with my type-O blood, which can be given to people with any blood type.”

According to the president of the Myanmar Medical Association Professor Rai Mra, there are no exact figures about the number



Blood donations in progress. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

of patients with blood disorders, but it is estimated that the country has millions of these patients.

“There are many types

of blood disorders, of which iron-deficiency anaemia and thalassaemia are the most common in the country.” —*Thiha Ko Ko*

## Inspection Agencies

POEM:

After independence and during the political government era Inspection Agencies such as Electrical, Mining, Oilfields etcetra were independent of the entities subject to their inspections, comprising of public and private industries and establishments regarding safety & environmental standards of their operations. However in the period of the Government of the Socialist Party most of the agencies were placed under the concerned Ministry and functioned as Departments headed by ‘Director Generals’ enforcing the relevant laws through designated ‘Staff Officers’. The Inspection Agencies are still under the concerned Ministries.

Inspection Agencies, as are in most countries, should indeed be independent, impartial (not come under pressure by anybody) and be in line with international standards as to inspection quality with ‘Chief Inspecting Officer’ & ‘Inspecting Officers’ empowered to perform inspection functions of relevant laws to be enforced. Additionally such bodies also need to be technically equipped, manned by Professionals and Lawyers, competent and qualified conferred with clear legal mandate to perform their functions and the ‘Chief Inspectors’ required to submit their annual reports to the Government, made public through the official gazettes.

Also, as Projects of Construction and Civil Engineering undertaken since the time of the democratic government of twenty eleven will surely increase during the term of the present government with apologies to the authorities, is offered this humble suggestion. A ‘Structures and Buildings Inspection Agency’ that's independent should perhaps be formed to inspect structures and buildings, existing and those in the process of being built, regarding safety of the workers, the general public and environmental protection, to ensure compliance with laws and rules relating to Construction.

*Lokethar*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

IT is welcome news to note that Canada has stood by Myanmar to help the newly emergent democracy to establish as nation of hope, promises, prosperity and opportunities for her resilient people in their journey towards self sufficiency (Canada commits CAD 44 million to support Myanmar; GNLM, April 8). Last year I have explicitly written for Canadian support to Myanmar and I am glad it has come true and that the Myanmar-Canada relationship is going to take a new and positive turn. Myanmar with her rich natural resources and strategic location between giant economies (China and India) is a gateway to South East Asia from the vast and thickly populated Indian subcontinent. With new economic corridors being developed connecting China and India through Myanmar to South East Asia and future joining hands of the SAARC and ASEAN economic platforms; Myanmar has a pivotal role to play. As a Canadian, I feel proud to be beside a new and rising Myanmar and would request the Canadian government to establish further economic, strategic, diplomatic as well as strong people to people contact. Once again a warm wish for the long term Myanmar-Canada relationship.

Thanking you  
Sincerely yours  
Saikat Kumar Basu

## Strong wind hits in Falan, no injuries reported

STRONG winds hit in Falan Township, Chin State, on Saturday, blowing the roofs off houses owned by the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.

“The roofs of building Nos 12 and 13 in Phahtouk Ward

were badly damaged during the disaster. However, there have been no reported injuries to people or animals,” said a member of the department.

The authorities are now working to replace the roofs on the damaged houses.—*District IPRD*



# Syrian rebels declare new battle against government

BEIRUT — Syrian rebel groups announced a new battle against government forces on Monday, a sign of escalating violence that has undermined a ceasefire deal and threatens to derail UN-led peace talks.

The groups, which included factions fighting under the banner of the Free Syrian Army and powerful Islamist Ahrar al-Sham, said in a statement they would respond “with force” against any government forces that fired on civilians.

The ceasefire deal has been strained to breaking point by escalating fighting, particularly around the divided city of Aleppo, with each side blaming the

other for the escalation that has underlined the huge challenge facing the peace talks. Heavy air strikes have also been reported north of Homs.

Senior opposition figures who have asked not to be quoted have said pressure is growing for a speedy decision to leave talks being convened by UN envoy Staffan de Mistura in Geneva, with no sign of progress towards discussion of a political transition sought by President Bashar al-Assad’s opponents.

The statement announced the “formation of a joint operations room to begin the battle... in response to violations by the army of Assad.” It gave no geographic



Smoke rises after an airstrike on the rebel-held Old Aleppo, Syria on 16 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

location for the new battle.

Senior Syrian opposition negotiators on Sunday urged rebels to strike back against the Syrian army, accusing it of using a cessation of hostilities to gain ground,

and cast doubt over whether they would continue Geneva peace talks indefinitely.

The cessation of hostilities agreement brokered by the United States and Russia came into

effect on 27 February with the aim of allowing peace talks to get underway. The agreement did not include Islamic State or the al Qaeda-linked Nusra Front.—*Reuters*

# Yemen peace talks delayed by ongoing combat

SANAA — Peace talks in Kuwait aimed at ending over a year of civil war and a Saudi-led intervention in Yemen will not begin on Monday as planned, officials from the warring sides said, amid objections over continued fighting despite an announced ceasefire.

Delegations representing Yemen’s Houthi group and the party of ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh - Saudi Arabia’s main antagonists - have yet to depart the capital Sanaa and have cited heavy combat and Saudi-led air operations.

“There’s no point in going to Kuwait if there’s no respect for the ceasefire,” a senior official in Saleh’s General People’s Congress party told Reuters on Monday.

Saudi Arabia and some Gulf

Arab allies joined the war on 26 March of last year to back Yemen’s government after it was pushed into exile by the Houthis and forces loyal to Saleh.

Previous UN talks in June and December failed to end the war that has killed about 6,200 people, about half of them civilians. The conflict war has allowed al Qaeda fighters to seize territory and opened a path for Islamic State militants to gain a foothold.

Fighting and air strikes persist on several battlefronts throughout the country, especially in the contested southwestern city of Taiz and the Nehm area east of the capital.

Two Yemeni officials from the country’s Saudi-backed government said the opposing delegations would likely arrive



Tribesmen loyal to the Houthi movement attend a gathering in Yemen’s capital Sanaa, on 17 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

on Tuesday.

“Representatives from Saleh’s party and the Houthis are looking for excuses to delay

their arrival at a precise time, but it’s expected that they will arrive later in Kuwait on Tuesday,” one of the officials said.—*Reuters*

# Turkish police detain nearly 100 people over links to cleric Gulen

ANKARA — Turkish police detained nearly 100 people in an investigation of their alleged financial links to US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, a foe of President Tayyip Erdogan, state-run Anadolu Agency said on Monday.

It said the police operation, focused on Istanbul, was launched across nine provinces and 88 people have so far been taken into custody, with prosecutors having issued arrest warrants for 140 people under the probe.

Among those detained were executives and employees of Islamic lender Bank Asya, which was founded by followers of Gulen and seized by the government last year, it said.

The probe is centred on financial support raised for Gulen’s group amounting to some 50 million lira (£12 million), Anadolu added.

Erdogan accuses Gulen of setting up a ‘parallel state’ and conspiring to unseat the government with a network of supporters in the judiciary, police and media. Gulen, whose adherents run schools and are active in the media sector, denies the charges.

A Turkish court in December 2014 issued an arrest warrant for Gulen, who has lived in self-imposed exile in the United States since 1999, accusing him of heading a criminal group.—*Reuters*

# Islamic State’s income drops 30 per cent on lower oil, tax revenue

BEIRUT — Islamic State’s income and the population under its control have both fallen by about a third, a US-based analysis firm said, describing the declining revenue as a threat to its long-term rule over its self-proclaimed caliphate.

Revenue for the ultra-hard-line Sunni Muslim group, also known as ISIS or ISIL, fell to \$56 million a month in March from around \$80 million a month in the middle of last year, the analysis company IHS said.

Daily oil output dropped to 21,000 barrels from 33,000 barrels over the same time frame, as production facilities suffered damage from air strikes carried out mainly by a US-led coalition.

“Islamic State is still a force in the region, but this drop in revenue is a significant figure and will increase the challenge for the group to run its territory in the long term,” said IHS senior analyst Ludovico Carlino in a report.

The territory under its control has declined by about 22 per cent since mid-2014, while the population of that territory has fallen to around 6 million from 9 million.

“There are fewer people and business activities to tax; the same applies to properties and land to confiscate,” said IHS senior analyst Columb Strack.

Around 50 per cent of the group’s revenue comes from taxation and confiscation, 43 per cent from oil and the rest from

drug smuggling, sale of electricity and donations, the report said.

The group began allowing people sentenced to corporal punishment to be spared in return for cash payments, an indication of financial difficulty, it said.

It also introduced new taxes on such activities as installing satellite dishes or exiting cities. Fines can be imposed for giving wrong answers about the Koran, it said.—*Reuters*



# Chinese scientists develop mammal embryos in space for first time

BEIJING — Chinese scientists on Sunday said they have successfully developed early-stage mouse embryos in space for the first time on a retrievable micro-gravity satellite set to return to Earth sometime next week.

The SJ-10 research probe, launched on 6 April, carried over 6,000 mouse embryos in a self-sufficient chamber the size of a microwave oven, according to Duan Enkui, a researcher with the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS).

Among them, 600 embryos were put under a high-resolution camera, which took pictures every four hours for four days and sent them back to Earth.

The pictures showed that the embryos developed from the 2-cell stage, an early-on embryonic cleavage stage, to blastocyst, the stage where noticeable cell differentiation occurs, around 72 hours after SJ-10's launch, Duan said. The timing was largely in line with embryonic development on Earth, he added.

The rest of the embryos loaded on the satellite were injected with fixatives at 72 hours after the launch for studies on the effects of space environment on embryonic development, according to Duan.

This is the first reported successful development in mammalian embryos in space in human history.

Scientists will compare the retrieved embryos with samples on Earth and perform further



Duan Enkui, researcher of the Institute of Zoology, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and also the leader of the project, introduces the development of the mammal embryos in space in Ulanqab City, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, on 17 April. PHOTO: XINHUA

analyses on the profiles of early embryo development in space, once SJ-10 returns home.

SJ-10 is expected to land in a designated spot in Siziwang Banner in Inner Mongolia sometime next week. Earlier reports said the probe as a whole had a designed life of just 15 days.

The bullet-shaped probe is said to be housing a total of 19 experiments involving micro-gravity fluid physics, microgravity combustion, space material, space radiation effects, microgravity biological effects and

space bio-technology.

These include one studying how space radiation affects the genetic stability of fruit flies and rat cells, and a combustion experiment which will test how materials used in spacecraft burn in space to find ways of making safer capsules for future manned missions. An experiment being run in partnership between the National Space Science Center under the CAS and the European Space Agency will investigate the behavior of crude oil under high pressure, and also on board

is equipment to test coal combustion and pollutant formation under microgravity.

The former experiment is aimed at improving scientists' understanding of oil reservoirs buried deep underground, while the latter is expected to help enhance energy efficiency and cut emissions on Earth. In a separate development, retrievers for the SJ-10 satellite on Sunday said they will deploy four helicopters to aid ground vehicles in the search for the satellite after its landing next week.—Xinhua

## Local Zika outbreaks in United States 'likely': US official

WASHINGTON — The United States is likely to see outbreaks of the Zika virus, with perhaps dozens or scores of people affected, said Dr Anthony Fauci, director of the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, on Sunday.

The United States has seen more than 350 cases of people who were infected abroad and then returned to the country but has yet to confirm a case where someone was infected within its borders. That is likely to change, said Fauci.

"It is likely we will have what is called a local outbreak," he said on Fox News Sunday with Chris Wallace.

The Zika outbreak was first detected in Brazil last year and is spreading through the Americas. It has been linked to thousands of cases of microcephaly, a typically rare birth defect marked by unusually small head size which often indicates poor brain development. The World Health Organisation declared a global health emergency in February.

Zika, which is spread by mosquitoes and through sexual contact, can give adults the paralyzing Guillain-Barre syndrome. The *Aedes aegypti* mosquito, which primarily transmits disease, is present in about 30 US states.

Fauci said he expected to see someone bitten by a mosquito here contract Zika but did not expect a large number of people to fall ill.—Reuters

# Despite spotlight, proving Flint lead damages no slam dunk

FLINT (Michigan) — Luke Waid drives 20 miles each day to shower at a relative's place, hauls bottled water back to his Flint, Michigan, home and worries about his 2-year-old daughter's irritability.

"I don't know if that is a product of her being exposed to high lead levels, or her just being a child," he said. "I'm not sure."

That uncertainty also presents a challenge to the lawyers who have enlisted as many as 1,800 residents, including Waid, as plaintiffs in lawsuits over contamination in the Flint's water supply.

The problem began in April 2014 when the city, then under the control of a state-appointed emergency manager, switched its water source to the Flint River from Lake Huron as a cost-saving measure, and corrosive river water caused lead to leach into the water supply. Flint switched back in October after tests showing elevated lead levels in the blood of some children became public.

In spite of the international outcry and the well-known toxic effects of lead, proving Flint's

contaminated water actually caused any particular injury will be far from straightforward, lawyers with expertise in lead litigation said.

The difficulty in showing a causal link adds to other legal hurdles. State and city officials are challenging the cases, arguing they are protected by sovereign immunity, a legal doctrine that shields most government officials and agencies from liability for their official actions. That powerful defence already has kept many major plaintiffs firms away from Flint, since the water supply is government-run.

In an effort to overcome these potential obstacles, plaintiffs' lawyers are pursuing several strategies to seek redress for victims: individual lawsuits, class actions and a victims' compensation fund.

Plaintiffs' lawyers claim that the alleged government misconduct rose to the level of gross negligence or violated residents' constitutional rights, two exceptions to immunity. Some lawsuits also target private companies that



Mari Copeny, 8, of Flint, Michigan, waits in line to enter a hearing room where Michigan Governor Rick Snyder (R) and EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy will testify before a House Oversight and government Reform hearing on "Examining Federal Administration of the Safe Drinking Water Act in Flint, Michigan, Part III" on Capitol Hill in Washington on 17 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

performed work or tests on Flint's water system. The companies have denied responsibility.

It should be relatively easy to show in court that residents were exposed to lead, in part because government officials have publicly acknowledged the water is tainted, said Delaware Law School Professor Jean Eggen.

But exposure is not enough to prove damages, Eggen said. Lead injuries may not be apparent for years. In addition, injuries associated with lead poisoning — such as impaired brain development, reduced attention span and lower IQ — all have many causes.

New York law firm Napoli & Shkolnik said it has hired a

Washington lobbyist to persuade Congress to create a compensation fund for Flint. Such funds may be set up to allow injured parties to receive compensation with a lower burden of proof than applicants would face in court. Napoli partner Hunter Shkolnik envisions such a fund paying for medical monitoring immediately, and possibly leaving the question of damages for later, putting money into people's pockets relatively quickly.

But Ken Feinberg, who oversaw victim compensation funds for victims of the 11 September 2001 attacks and the 2010 BP Deep Horizon oil spill, is skeptical such an approach would work with Flint residents.

"How long do you monitor them?" asked Feinberg. "If they are deemed injured, are they injured by the water or by other means, other sources?"

The Napoli firm also is pursuing a class action in Michigan federal court. It said it has signed up some 800 clients and represents Waid in an individual lawsuit.—Reuters



# Shaken Ecuador hunts for survivors amid 7.8 quake debris

**PEDERNALES (Ecuador)** — Traumatized Ecuadorians slept amid rubble while rescuers dug for survivors on Monday after an earthquake smashed the Andean nation's coastal region, killing at least 272 people and flattening resort towns. Saturday's 7.8 magnitude quake ripped apart buildings and roads, knocked out power, and injured at least 2,068 people in the largely poor Andean country.

In the devastated beach town of Pedernales, shaken survivors curled up for the night on mattresses or plastic chairs next to the rubble of their homes. Soldiers and police patrolled the hot, dark streets while pockets of rescue workers plowed on.

Late on Sunday, firefighters entered a partially destroyed house to search for three children and a man apparently trapped inside, as a crowd of 40 gathered in the darkness to watch.

"My little cousins are inside, before there were noises, screams. We must find them," pleaded Isaac, 18, as the firemen combed



**Police officers search through debris after an earthquake struck off Ecuador's Pacific coast, at Tarqui neighbourhood in Manta on 17 April. PHOTO: REUTERS**

the debris.

Tents sprung up in the town's still-intact stadium to store bodies, treat the injured, and distribute water, food, and blankets to survivors. People wandered around with bruised limbs and bandaged cuts,

while patients with more serious injuries were evacuated to hospitals.

Leftist President Rafael Correa, who cut short a visit to Italy, surveyed the damage in the coastal province of Manabi on Sunday night.

"Ecuador has been hit tremendously hard," Correa said in a televised address, his voice breaking as he said he feared the death toll would rise from what he called a tragedy.

While the full extent of the damage remains

unclear, the disaster will likely worsen the OPEC nation's economic performance this year.

The small, oil-dependent country has already been battered by the tumble in crude prices.

Its crucial energy

industry appears largely intact after the quake, though its main refinery of Esmeraldas was closed as a precaution. However, exports of bananas, flowers, cacao, and fish could be slowed by ruined roads and delays at ports.

The quake could also alter political dynamics ahead of next year's presidential election.

About 230 aftershocks have rattled survivors, who huddled in the streets, worried the flow of tremors could topple their already cracked homes.

"We're scared of being in the house," said Yamil Faran, 47, surrounded by some 30 people in the middle of a street in the city of Portoviejo. "When this improves and the aftershocks stop we're going to see if we can repair it."

Some 130 inmates in Portoviejo took advantage of the quake's destruction and chaos to climb over the collapsed walls of the low-security El Rodeo prison. More than 35 prisoners had been recaptured, authorities said on Sunday night.—*Reuters*

## Food in short supply, offices crippled in quake-hit southwestern Japan



**Evacuees from a series of earthquakes receive food in the southwestern Japan town of Mashiki, Kumamoto Prefecture, on 18 April. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS**

**KUMAMOTO** — Food shortages worsened at shelters in Kumamoto Prefecture on Monday as tens of thousands remained evacuated from their homes after powerful earthquakes jolted southwestern Japan last week, while local administrative offices struggled to function due to the damage caused to their buildings.

Rescue workers resumed searching for the missing in the hardest hit prefecture, while the US military was preparing to deliver emergency supplies to evacuees using its

controversial Marine Corps Osprey aircraft.

A total of 42 people have died and roughly 1,100 have been injured in Kumamoto and elsewhere on the island of Kyushu since a magnitude-6.5 quake on Thursday, which was followed by a more powerful M7.3 quake on Saturday.

In all, more than 500 temblors have occurred since Thursday, mainly in Kumamoto and neighbouring Oita Prefecture.

Police said a 77-year-old woman died of acute

heart failure while being sheltered in Aso, Kumamoto, on Sunday, with stress or fatigue from her evacuation strongly suspected as the cause of death.

As of Monday morning, 104,900 people remained at shelters in Kumamoto, down from about 110,000 on Sunday afternoon, according to the local government. But many were unlikely to leave anytime soon, with aftershocks still rocking the region.

As earthquakes and ensuing mudslides severed roads, many supplies have not made it to local shops and shelters. There were many reports of shelters being unable to serve breakfast to some evacuees Monday, according to the city of Kumamoto.

With Monday being the first business day since the M7.3 quake, the cities of Uto and Yatsushiro and the town of Mashiki in Kumamoto, whose administrative buildings were damaged by the quakes, were only partially operating.—*Kyodo News*

## Flood kills 30 people in North Afghanistan

**KABUL**—Up to 30 people including women and children lost their lives in downpour and flash floods that showered the northern Baghlan, Samangan and Takhar provinces on Sunday night, officials said on Monday.

"Rainstorms and flash flood killed 12 people and washed away several houses in Burka District of Baghlan Province Sunday night," di-

rector of Natural Disaster Management Authority in Baghlan Province, Nasir Kohzad, told Xinhua.

Rainfall and flood also claimed the lives of six more people in neighboring Samangan Province on Sunday night, spokesman for Samangan provincial government Sediq Azizi said.

Twelve more people

had also lost their lives in Bangi and villages around Taluqan districts of northern Takhar province due to downpour and flooding on Sunday night, official Abdul Razaq Zinda confirmed in talks with Xinhua.

Rainfall and flood killed 23 more people in the western Badghis province on Saturday night.—*Xinhua*

## Chilean president confirms two dead, eight missing due to floods

**SANTIAGO** — Chilean President Michelle Bachelet said Sunday that flooding in the central part of the country has left at least two people dead and eight others missing.

Bachelet confirmed the toll in a speech from the presidential palace in Santiago. He said that at least 324 people have been displaced and over 300 homes damaged.

Persistent rainfalls, which are unusual in Chile

at this time of the year, also caused landslides in the capital and some other cities.

In the capital's financial district of Providencia, the Mapocho river overflowed and flooded shops, offices and houses. A building under construction fell into the river.

"The matter of responsibility will be addressed once the analysis is completed," said Bachelet.

And water supply to a

large part of Santiago was cut off Saturday and would probably remain so until late Sunday, said the president. The Ministry of Labour will inform people before midnight whether they can go to work (on Monday), the president said, who also urged employers to show flexibility for workers who cannot reach offices or will arrive late. Schools in the capital will be closed for Monday, she added.—*Xinhua*



## Afghan schools, hospitals under threat, UN says in grim report

KABUL — Schools and health facilities have come under increasing threat as violence spreads in Afghanistan, making it harder for children especially to get access to education and medical care, the United Nations reported on Monday.

Western-backed Afghan government forces are locked in a protracted battle with Taliban insurgents who are at their strongest since they were ousted by US-backed Afghan forces in late 2001.

International donors have poured billions of dollars into reconstruction in Afghanistan, including education and health programs, but the conflict threatens to undermine services provided to millions of Afghans, the new UN report said.

Although direct attacks on schools and health facilities dropped slightly from previous years, UN monitors recorded 257 conflict-related incidents in 2015, up from 130 in 2014.

“It is simply unaccept-

able for teachers, doctors and nurses to be subjected to violence or threats, and for schools and medical facilities to be misused or attacked,” Nicholas Haysom, the UN Secretary-General’s Special Representative for Afghanistan, said in a statement.

“All parties must take measures to protect education and health services in Afghanistan,” he said.

Sixty-three medical personnel were killed or wounded in 2015, most of them in a single, mistaken attack by a US warplane on a Medecins Sans Frontieres hospital in the northern city of Kunduz in October. In 2014, 25 health workers were killed or wounded. A further 66 medical personnel were abducted in 2015, compared with 31 the year before. Deaths and injuries among teachers and other education workers were down, to 26 in 2015 from 37 the year before, but abductions spiked to 49 from 14 in the same period.—

*Reuters*



Children drink water from a public water pump on the outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan on 4 March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## In crushing defeat, Brazil's Rousseff moves close to impeachment

BRASILIA — Brazil’s leftist President Dilma Rousseff suffered a humiliating loss in a crucial impeachment vote in the lower house of Congress on Sunday and is almost certain to be forced from office months before the nation hosts the Olympics.

Fireworks lit up the night sky in Brazil’s megacities of Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro after the opposition comfortably surpassed the two-thirds majority needed to send Rousseff for trial in the Senate on charges of manipulating budget accounts.

The floor of the lower house was a sea of Brazilian flags and pumping fists as dozens of lawmakers carried in their arms the deputy who cast the decisive 342nd vote, after three days of a marathon debate.

The final tally was 367 votes cast in favor of impeachment, versus 137 against, and seven abstentions. Two lawmakers did not show up to vote.

Brazilian financial markets were expected to open higher on Monday after the vote - a major step toward ending 13 years of the left-leaning Workers’ Party rule in the world’s ninth largest economy.

If the Senate now votes by a simple majority in early May to proceed with the impeachment, as expected, Rousseff would be suspended from her post and be replaced by Vice President Michel Temer as acting president, pending her trial. Temer would serve out Rousseff’s term until 2018 if she



Demonstrators look on at a big screen showing a session to review the request for Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff’s impeachment in Brasilia, during a protest against her at Paulista Avenue in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on 17 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

is found guilty.

The impeachment battle, waged during Brazil’s worst recession since the 1930s, has divided the country of 200 million people more deeply than at any time since the end of its military dictatorship in 1985.

It has also sparked a bitter battle between the 68-year-old Rousseff and Temer, 75, that could destabilise any future government and plunge Brazil into months of uncertainty.

Despite anger at rising unemployment, Rousseff’s Workers Party can still rely on support among millions of working-class Brazilians, who credit its welfare programs with pulling their families out of poverty during the past decade.

“The fight is going to continue now in the streets and in the federal Senate,” said Jose Guimaraes, the leader of the Workers’ Party in the lower house. “We

lost because the coup-mongers were stronger.”

Opinion polls suggest more than 60 per cent of Brazilians support impeaching Rousseff, Brazil’s first female president, less than two years after she won reelection in 2014.

While she has not been accused of corruption, Rousseff’s government has been tainted by a vast graft scandal at state oil company Petrobras (PETR4.SA) and by the economic recession.

Hundreds of thousands of demonstrators from both sides took to the streets of towns and cities across the vast nation, in peaceful protests. Millions watched the congressional vote live on television in bars and restaurants, in their homes or on giant screens in the street, as the soccer-mad nation does for major football matches.

On the grassy esplanade outside Congress, a

6-foot-high (2-metre) security barrier ran for more than 1 km to separate rival demonstrations, a symbol of the political rift that has emerged in one of the world’s most unequal societies.

As the vote came to an end, hundreds of Rousseff supporters sat downcast on red flags and banners on the grass. A young couple, on the verge of tears, hugged each other.

On the pro-impeachment side of the wall, protesters sang and danced, drinking beer and munching popcorn. Some took selfies and performed handstands, celebrating a decision that many said was a victory against corruption.

“Impeachment sends a clear message that the politics of this country needs to be cleaned up,” said Alessandra Dantas, a 28-year-old social worker.—*Reuters*

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (546N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (546N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.4.2016 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 WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD  
Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HYUNDAI ADVANCE VOY NO (005)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HYUNDAI ADVANCE VOY NO (005) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.4.2016 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 FAR SHIPPING LINES  
Phone No: 2301185

### CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV METHI BHUM VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV METHI BHUM VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185



# Box Office: 'Jungle Book' opens to smashing \$103.6 million

LOS ANGELES — "The Jungle Book" dominated the weekend box office, grossing a massive \$103.6 million, and extending the Walt Disney Company's success in making live action versions of its classic animated features.

That ranks as the second biggest April opening in history, behind only "Furious 7's" \$147.2 million launch. With "Cinderella," "Alice in Wonderland," "Maleficent," and now "The Jungle Book," this strategy of revitalizing fairy tales has become a virtual brand onto itself. One that nearly rivals Disney's Marvel, Pixar, and LucasFilm projects. The studio will continue to mine its library; "Beauty and the Beast" with Emma Watson hits theaters on 17 March 2017, and new versions of "Cruella De Ville" and "Peter Pan" are in the works.

Critics loved "The Jungle Book" handing it a 95% "fresh" rating on Rot-

ten Tomatoes. Word-of-mouth for the film also looks strong. The picture received an A CinemaScore, which could set it up for a healthy run in the days and weeks ahead. Families made up 49% of the opening weekend audience. The film performed well in Imax, earning \$10.4 million, and 43% of its domestic opening weekend gross came on 3D screens.

Jon Favreau ("Iron Man") directed the \$175 million, which used digital wizardry to conjure up Rudyard Kipling's jungle setting. Bill Murray, Ben Kingsley, Idris Elba, and Scarlett Johansson head up the vocal cast with Neel Sethi making his feature film debut as Mowgli, the feral child at the heart of the story.

Despite the shadow cast by "The Jungle Book,"  
New

Line and MGM scored with "Barbershop: The Next Cut." The third film in the "Barbershop" series racked up a sterling \$20.2 million from 2,661 locations. Women comprised 54% of ticket buyers, and 66% of consumers were over the age of 25.

The weekend's other new entry, Lionsgate's action thriller "Criminal," debuted to \$5.8 million from 2,683 locations for a sixth place finish. The story of a convict who is implanted with the memories of a dead CIA agent in order to finish a mission stars Kevin Costner, Tommy Lee Jones, and Gary Oldman. It cost just north of \$30 million to produce.

Last week-

end's champion, the Melissa McCarthy comedy "The Boss," dropped 57%, taking third place with \$10.2 million. The story of a business icon whose career is derailed by insider trading has earned \$10.2 million in two weeks of release.

"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" captured fourth place, adding \$9 million to its \$311.3 million domestic haul.

In limited release, the Weinstein Company opened the musical-dramedy "Sing Street" in five locations, where it grossed \$68,979 for a per-theater average of \$13,796. A24 debuted the horror-thriller "Green Room" in three locations, earning \$91,000, for a leading per-theater average of over \$30,000. It will expand nationally on 29 April.—

Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

## Clinton backer George Clooney condemns 'obscene' sums in White House race

WASHINGTON — Actor and director George Clooney, a supporter of Hillary Clinton's presidential bid, broke ranks over campaign financing on Saturday to condemn the "obscene" sums of money in US politics and praised Clinton's chief political rival in the process.

Clooney made the remarks in an interview with NBC News' "Meet The Press" the day after he and his wife, Amal, hosted a fundraiser on Democratic Party hopeful Clinton's behalf Friday night with a price tag of up to \$353,400 per couple. "We had some protesters last night when we pulled up in San Francisco and they're right to protest. They're absolutely right. It is an obscene amount of money," Clooney said in excerpts released on Saturday. The interview will air on Sunday.

Bernie Sanders, a US Senator from Vermont and Clinton's rival in the race for the Democratic nomination to run for the White House in the Nov. 8 election, has pounced on former secretary of state Clinton over the big-ticket event and for accepting large sums of money for her campaign.—Reuters

## Pulitzer Prizes mark 100<sup>th</sup> year with Monday's awards

NEW YORK — The Pulitzer Prizes, established in 1917 with a bequest from trail-blazing publisher Joseph Pulitzer, are marking their 100th year on Monday with the announcement of the winners of what are regarded as the most prestigious awards in American journalism.

The Pulitzers recognise excellence in categories that range from breaking news reporting to public service articles to feature photography. In addition to the journalism awards, there are prizes in fiction, history, drama, music and other literary forms.

All told, there are 21 prizes in play every year. Winners are selected by an independent board after judges make nominations from a total of 2,400 entries across the range of categories. The board has the option of naming no winner in any category.—Reuters



Director of the movie Jon Favreau (R) poses with cast members (L-R) Ritesh Rajan, Giancarlo Esposito, Lupita Nyong'o, Neel Sethi and Ben Kingsley at the premiere of "The Jungle Book" at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California on 4 April. PHOTO: REUTERS



Comedian Tracy Morgan.  
PHOTO: REUTERS

## Tracy Morgan performs for medical staff who treated him: People

LOS ANGELES — Actor-comedian Tracy Morgan performed a show near the site of a New Jersey car crash two years ago in which he was nearly killed for an audience that included medical staff who treated him, *People* magazine said on Sunday.

The Saturday performance at the State Theater in New Brunswick was attended by doctors, first responders and nurses who took care of Morgan at the Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital after his accident in June 2014.

"These people are heroes and I love them all from the bottom of my heart," he told *People*. "To be standing on stage with the people that saved my life in the audience

was an overwhelming experience."

"I will never fully be able to thank the doctors, nurses, first responders and everyone else that got me back on that stage enough," added Morgan, 47, who donated proceeds from the sold-out show to the hospital.

After the show, Morgan invited the hospital employees in attendance to come to his dressing room for pictures and hugs, *People* reported.

The former "Saturday Night Live" and "30 Rock" cast member suffered a serious brain injury and broken bones in the 2014 collision that killed a fellow comedian. Their minibus limousine was in a crash with a truck.—Reuters



## Afghan teenager braves threats, family pressure to lead women's orchestra

KABUL — Like many teenagers, 19-year-old Negin Khpalwak from Kunar in eastern Afghanistan loves music, but few people of her age have battled as fiercely to pursue their passion in the face of family hostility and threats.

Playing instruments was banned outright during the period of Taliban rule in Afghanistan, and even today, many conservative Muslims frown on most forms of music.

Negin took her first steps learning music in secret, before eventually revealing her activity to her father. He encouraged her, but the reaction from the rest of her conservative Pashtun family was hostile.

"Apart from my father, everybody in the family is against it," she said. "They say, 'How can a Pashtun girl play music?' Especially in our tribe, where even a man doesn't have the right to do it."

Now living in an orphanage in the Afghan capital of Kabul, Negin leads the Zohra orchestra,

an ensemble of 35 women at the Afghanistan National Institute for Music that plays both Western and Afghan musical instruments.

When she went home on a recent visit, her uncles and brothers threatened to beat her for a performing appearance on television, and she had to return to Kabul the next day.

"Compared to women outside Afghanistan, we feel we are in a cage," she said.

In a country notorious internationally for harsh restrictions on women in most areas of life, Negin's story highlights a double challenge.

"The formation of the orchestra is an achievement in itself," said Ahmad Naser Sarmast, a musicologist who returned home from Australia after the fall of the Taliban to help found the National Institute for Music in 2010.

While children at the school have the support of their parents, they often face pressure from



Negin Ekhpulwak, leader of the Zohra orchestra, an ensemble of 35 women, conducts during a rehearsal at Afghanistan's National Institute of Music, in Kabul, Afghanistan on 9 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

their wider family as well as from religious authorities, he said.

"The bravery of the girls sitting in the orchestra and the leadership of a young female conductor is an achievement for Afghanistan," he said.

Some of the women say their relatives are proud of their achievements, but they face sus-

picion from others, as well as intimidation.

"When I have my musical instruments with me, people talk a lot behind my back," said Mina, a trumpeter in the orchestra, whose mother is a policewoman in the eastern city of Jalalabad.

"There are a lot of security problems, and if we go from one

place to another with our instruments, then we have to go by car," she added.

The dangers awaiting performers in Afghanistan were brutally highlighted in 2014, when Sarmast was nearly killed by a suicide bomber who blew himself up during a show at a French-run school in Kabul.—Reuters

## Actress Heard given good behavior bond for smuggling dogs to Australia

SYDNEY — An Australian court on Monday sentenced American actress Amber Heard to a one-month good behavior bond with no recorded conviction involving allegations that she smuggled two dogs to Australia last year.

The wife of actor Johnny Depp pleaded guilty to falsifying immigration documents in a hearing at Southport Magistrates Court on the Gold Coast. Local prosecutors dropped charges over breaching quarantine laws.

The offense of providing false immigration documents carries a maximum penalty of 12 months in jail and a fine of A\$10,200 (US\$7,800).

In April last year, Heard brought the couple's Yorkshire terriers to Australia without declaring them when she visited her husband who was filming the latest installment of the Pirates of the Caribbean series on the Gold Coast.

Deputy Prime Minister Barnaby Joyce, who was agriculture minister at the time, had threatened to have the dogs euthanized if they were not taken out of Australia within a set timeframe, and the couple obliged.

Australia's biosecurity laws are among the toughest in the world due to the large number of species endemic to its environment.—Kyodo News

## People cornered by wild boars on tiny Japanese island

KARATSU (Japan)— An increase in wild boars is threatening residents on a small island in southwestern Japan, with the population of the animals now triple that of the islanders. Over 300 boars inhabit 2.8-square-kilometre Kakara Island in the Genkai Sea between Fukuoka and Saga prefectures. While there have been no injuries so far, "People will be forced off the island if the current situation continues," said a resident, which has a population of 100. The boars are believed to have swum the around three kilometers from the main island of Kyushu about 15 years ago.

Even today, boars are occasionally seen swimming off the is-

land. Teruki Kawasaki, 27, a local Japan Coast Guard official, saw a pair of boars swimming while he was aboard a patrol boat. They were "good swimmers," he said.

Boars have thrived on Kakara due to the absence of natural predators and an abundance of agricultural crops such as pumpkins and sweet potatoes, said a Karatsu city official. The island is part of the Saga Prefecture city.

Islanders plan to produce cosmetics from camellias growing in clusters on the island to generate revenue and promote tourism, but the boars have inflicted widespread damage. The island has steep cliffs, making it difficult to hunt the boars with

dogs. So islanders set up traps in bushes and capture around 50 boars a year, but they are unable to keep up with the growing population. A sow can give birth to five or six piglets each year. At night, islanders are forced to use cars when they go out because the boars roam close to their homes. The two children on the island are driven to and from the local elementary school by their parents.

An increasing number of villages in Japan sell boar meat as a specialty, but most households on Kakara rely on fishing. "We cannot become hunters... We have our hands tied," said Toshiyuki Tokumura, a 66-year-old squid fisherman.—Kyodo News



**Entertainment Channel**

(19-4-2016, Tuesday)

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| <b>6:00 pm</b>               | "Old Master Q and Little Ocean Tiger" (Part-2)     |
| • Weather Report             |  |
| • Music Programme            |  |
| <b>6:30 pm</b>               | • Music Programme                                  |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti              | <b>9:20 pm</b>                                     |
| <b>6:50 pm</b>               | • Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-4) |
| • Myanmar Classical Songs    | <b>9:50 pm</b>                                     |
| <b>7:00 pm</b>               | • International Movie Songs                        |
| • International Drama Series | <b>10:00 pm</b>                                    |
| <b>7:50 pm</b>               | • Archery Session(from Ramayana Play)              |
| • International Drama Series | <b>10:10 pm</b>                                    |
| <b>8:30 pm</b>               | • Myanmar Video                                    |
| • Cartoon Programme          |  |

From 19-4-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm  
To 20-4-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm



**Myanmar International**

(19-4-2016 07:00am ~ 20-4-2016 7:00am) MST

### Today Fresh

- |       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Am | News  |
| 07:26 | Am | Insight Myanmar "Role of MNHCR" (Episode-I) |
| 07:46 | Am | Civic Duty                                  |
| 08:03 | Am | News  |
| 08:27 | Am | A Snake Catcher                             |
| 08:39 | Am | Pet Fish Biz                                |
| 08:52 | Am | Myanmar Harpist                             |
| 09:03 | Am | News  |
| 09:27 | Am | Archery Session(from Ramayana Play)         |
| 09:48 | Am | Today Myanmar                               |
| 10:03 | Am | News  |

- |       |    |  |
|-------|----|--|
| 10:27 | Am | Creative Costume of Kayah Nationals                              |
| 10:40 | Am | Kambawzathardi Golden Palace - A Treasured Legacy Of Golden Days |
| 10:56 | Am | Hip-Hop and Design   |

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

### Prime Time

- |       |    |   |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Pm | News  |
| 07:26 | Pm | A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)                                 |
| 08:03 | Pm | News  |
| 08:26 | Pm | Discovering Tribes "Lisu: Their Life and Customs (Part- I)" |
| 08:48 | Pm | Lady Pilot  |

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

(For Detailed Schedule - [www.myanmaritv.com/schedule](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))



# Barca lose again, Leicester grab late equaliser

LONDON — Barcelona completed a disastrous week by losing 2-1 at home to Valencia, their third consecutive league defeat. In England, Leicester City came from behind to earn a late draw, while Bayern Munich look unstoppable at the top of the Bundesliga.

## SPAIN

Barcelona's title bid suffered another setback when they lost 2-1 at home to Valencia — their third straight La Liga defeat — while Atletico Madrid moved level on points with the league leaders after a 3-0 home win over Granada.

Barca have 76 points along with Atletico, who knocked the holders out of the Champions League in midweek, and remain top only due to a superior head-to-head record.

Real Madrid, whose coach Zinedine Zidane said in February that the title race was over, thrashed Getafe 5-1 away and stand just one point behind the leading pair. An own goal by Barca midfielder Ivan Rakitic put Valencia ahead at the Nou Camp and Santi Mina added a second before Lionel Messi pulled one back with his 500th career goal.

## ENGLAND

Leicester City scored a penalty with the last kick of the game to draw 2-2 with West Ham United and open an eight-point lead at the top of the Premier League.

Tottenham Hotspur will reduce Leicester's lead to five



Valencia's players celebrate their victory against Barcelona during Spanish Liga BBVA at Camp Nou stadium, Barcelona on 17 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

points if they win their match in hand at Stoke City on Monday.

Leicester are top with 73 points, followed by Spurs on 65 and Manchester City on 60. City leapfrogged Arsenal into third place after their 3-0 win at Chelsea and Arsenal's 1-1 home draw with Crystal Palace.

Manchester United, fifth on 56 points, condemned Aston Villa to relegation when they beat them 1-0 at Old Trafford.

## GERMANY

Bayern Munich edged closer to a record fourth consecu-

tive Bundesliga title with a 3-0 victory over Schalke 04 as the league's leading scorer, Robert Lewandowski, scoring twice.

Bayern, chasing a treble of titles in what they hope will be a repeat of the 2013 season, are seven points clear of Borussia Dortmund with four matches left.

Dortmund comfortably beat nine-man Hamburg SV with 17-year-old American Christian Pulisic becoming the fourth-youngest Bundesliga scorer and Colombian Adrian Ramos netting twice.

## ITALY

Juventus tightened their grip on top spot in Serie A with a comfortable 4-0 home win over Palermo to go nine points clear of second-placed Napoli, who lost 2-0 at Inter Milan.

Juve took a giant step towards a record fifth consecutive Scudetto but lost midfielder Claudio Marchisio to a ruptured cruciate ligament injury which has ruled him out of Euro 2016.

Francesco Totti scored a late equaliser to rescue a point for Roma in a

thrilling 3-3 draw with Atalanta, but the game was overshadowed by media reports of a spat between the 39-year-old forward and Luciano Spalletti, which the coach denied. Juve have 79 points after 33 matches, with Napoli on 70 and Roma on 65.

## FRANCE

Paris St Germain rebounded from their Champions League elimination at the hands of Manchester City with a resounding 6-0 victory over mid-table Caen.

Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored twice for PSG, who were crowned Ligue 1 champions in March and need one win to equal the club's all-time record points total for a season in the top flight.

Second-placed Monaco beat troubled Olympique Marseille 2-1 to move two points clear of Olympique Lyonnais, who drew 1-1 at home to fourth-placed Nice.

## NETHERLANDS

Ajax Amsterdam scored twice in the final five minutes, including a controversial last-gasp penalty, to secure a 2-2 home draw with Utrecht and reclaim top spot. The result threw the Dutch title wide open with Ajax in first place on goal difference from champions PSV Eindhoven, who beat Roda JC Kerkrade 3-0, with three games to play. The Amsterdam side's Polish international Arek Milik won a last-minute penalty which he scored to rescue a point for Ajax, who were 2-0 down with four minutes left.

Reuters

## De Gea tips Rashford to make history at Manchester United

LONDON — Marcus Rashford's emergence at Manchester United has convinced goalkeeper David de Gea that the 18-year-old can go on to etch his name into the club history.

The teenager has impressed since being promoted from the club's academy this season, scoring seven goals in 12 appearances, including the winner in Saturday's Premier League win over relegated Aston Villa.

"It's unbelievable, no?. This player is really young and he's scored many goals. Hopefully, for many years, he'll be in this club and can make history for the club as well," De Gea told MUTV.

"He's a shy guy, he is a really good lad and a good teammate. He's a really good guy."

Louis van Gaal's men have

conceded 30 goals in their 33 games so far, only Tottenham Hotspur have shipped in less, and De Gea believes their defence has played a key role in keeping United in the hunt for a place in the Champions League next season.

"I think we've defended really well this season and we need to continue until the last game and hopefully we will be in the top four. We need to win our games and wait for the rest of the teams. We will see in the end," De Gea said.

Fifth-placed United are four points behind Arsenal, who hold the final Champions League qualifying spot, with five games left. The 13-time league champions host 16th placed Crystal Palace at Old Trafford on Wednesday.—Reuters

## Gymnast Dipa Karmakar ends India's long wait for Olympic spot

NEW DELHI — Dipa Karmakar will become the first Indian woman to compete in an Olympic gymnastics competition after she secured her place for this summer's Rio Games in a test event at the weekend.

Despite the sport receiving little funding in India, Commonwealth and Asian Games medallist Karmakar gathered a total score of 52.698 points in the final artistic gymnastics qualifying event in Rio to claim her place at the Games.

The international gymnastics federation confirmed her spot in an official release where she was listed among the individual qualifiers.

India have been absent from Olympic gymnastics events since 1964 when six male athletes competed. There was no qualification system in place at that time.



Dipa Karmakar of India performs during the women's gymnastics vault apparatus final at the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

At the world championships in Glasgow last November, Karmakar became the first Indian to qualify for an apparatus final, where she finished fifth on the vault.

The 22-year-old raised eyebrows by attempting a vault with the highest difficulty

(7.000) among all the finalists in Glasgow. However, her attempt at the Produnova vault — a front handspring into double front somersault — failed to come off cleanly as her bottom touched the mat before she bounced back onto her feet.—Reuters