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DAW SUU KYI SPEAKS ON UNITY

Virtuous leaders serve public interests with genuine affection: Chairman Bhamo Sayadaw

VIRTUOUS leaders always act in the best interest of all citizens in their delivery of public service with genuine affection, State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee Chairman Bhamo Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa said giving his words of advice to State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Yangon yesterday.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi sought advice and guidance from prominent monks at Kaba Aye Pagoda in the former capital.

The chairman Sayadaw expressed his delight at the state counsellor's New Year speech, in which she vowed to lead the country with affection and accountability, echoing her father General Aung San's words in an address.

The state counsellor's visit to members of the Sangha for advice comes just over one month after the government took office. The chairman Sayadaw expressed his belief that her actions would enable the government to earn the trust and affection of the Buddhist population. Over 88% of the country's population profess Buddhism.

He encouraged the state counsellor to shield and promote the Sasana, the Buddhist religious faith.

In her articulation of the government's policy to prominent monks, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that her government holds the responsibility to commit itself to fulfill the rational wishes and ambitions of the people of all different races and faiths.

The state counsellor vowed that her government would spare



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi presents offertories to Bhamo Sayadaw as she seeks advice from Members of Sangha Maha Nayaka. PHOTO: MNA

no effort to accord great esteem to the religious instruction that reads 'Never go against monks and people'.

The execution of that responsibility can be interpreted as the protection and promotion of the race and the Sasana, she said.

The state counsellor also described pure love, pure compassion, pure delight and pure

disregard as the four virtues of Buddhism, stressing that the exercise of these virtues would keep at bay the act of discrimination on the grounds of race, gender and/or religion.

She also guaranteed the rule of law, equality and human rights based on these virtues as a safeguard against moral corruption. She highlighted the need to estab-

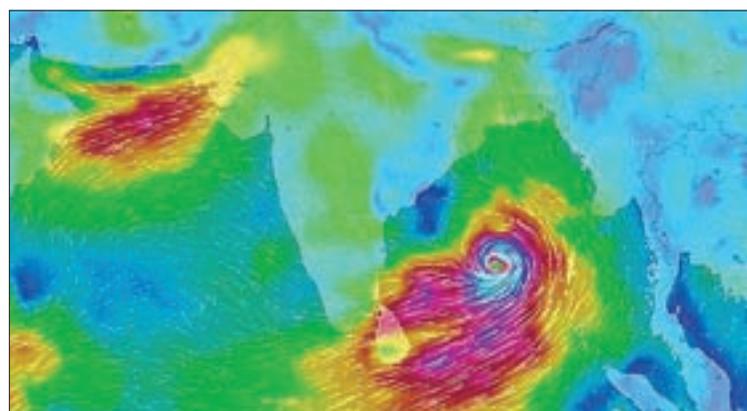
lish trust and understanding to ensure peaceful coexistence among different ethnic groups and faith groups residing in the country.

"This is the only way we can build a peaceful, prosperous nation," she said.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that she was happy to see the Order of Sangha flourish under the leadership of the Sangha Nayaka

Committee at all levels, describing the achievements as a significant milestone in the history of preserving Sasana.

The ceremony came to an end with a sermon delivered by SSMNC's Secretary Sayadaw Bhaddanta Chandimabhivamsa, followed by the sharing of merits by the congregation.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Pictorial description of possible cyclonic storm.

PHOTO: SKYMET WEATHER

First cyclonic storm likely to develop in Bay of Bengal

THE Meteorology Hydrology Department has forecast that a low pressure area may form in the Bay of Bengal in the next 18 hours as from yesterday evening as international weather agencies predicts a small storm possibly forming on 17 May.

The weather bureau said in its 7 pm announcement yesterday that rain with thunder is expected within 24 hours as from yesterday at 6.30 pm over Sagaing Region, Kachin State, Shan State (north),

Chin State, Nay Pyi Taw, Magway, Kayah, Kayin and Mon State with an 80 per cent degree of certainty.

Meanwhile, international weather agencies said that current weather conditions are favourable for the formation of cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal.

According to Skymet Weather, a cyclonic circulation was expected to develop in extreme Southeast Bay of Bengal and adjoining Andaman Sea by Friday.

Thereafter, the system was

likely to intensify into a low-pressure area by today or yesterday and then into a depression by tomorrow. Further retaining strength for few days, the system may intensify into the first cyclone of the season by 19 May. If this cyclone comes into existence it will be named 'Roanu'. Though the upcoming weather system poses a definite threat to Indian coastline weather models are indicating that it may finally head toward the Bangladeshi or Myanmar coastline.—*GNLM*

Myanmar moves to extend forest coverage to 9.6m acres over 15 years



Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary in Myanmar. PHOTO: YALA.EDU.COM

PLANS are under way to extend the forest reserve area up to 9.6 million acres over 15 years as of this year, Deputy Director General U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin of the Forest Department told media in a workshop in Yangon yesterday.

Forests account for 23.83 acres of the whole area of the country, with the deputy director general saying that the country's

30-year plan aims to increase the forestry acreage to 30%. The plan was first put into action in 2001.

According to U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, 80% of the country's population depend on forests for fuel. The latest national census shows that the country has a population of over 51 million people.

The Food and Agriculture

Organisation (FAO) ranked the country as the third worst for deforestation following last year's survey which revealed that the country was left with 42.92% forest coverage.

Activists described excessive timber extraction for commercial purpose as the main cause of widespread deforestation. —*Ko Moe*

MPs team up with police to tackle narcotics trade in Myeik fishing industry

THE National League for Democracy (NLD) parliamentarians will team up with Myanmar's police force to tackle the narcotics trade within fishing industries of the southern Myeik Archipelago.

The collaborative initiative comes after calls from locals of over fifty villages scattered among the archipelago for something to be done to resolve the deteriorating situation.

"Approximately ninety per cent of those in the archipelago make a livelihood from fishing. Calls for the stopping of the spreading of narcotics come from the majority of residents. We'll strive to stamp out narcotics in the region with assistance of the anti-narcotics task force," said Dr Htoo Nay Aung, Hlittuaw representative of Myeik archipelago's Kyunsu township.

Cooperation from the public will also be required in order to effectively quell the trafficking of narcotics through the region's fishing industries, it is known.

"The trading of narcotics is conducted through the fishing industry. Catching fishing is a very labour intensive activity. Employers offer their fishermen stimulants which will allow them to work for longer. We rent out boats to catch such people involved in this activity," said Police Officer Tin Htun Aung, of the Kyunsu township police department.

The initiatives of both par-

ties will include educational awareness campaigns informing local people of the collecting of names of users and dealers of narcotics within archipelago villages and having them sign a pledge at the local administrator's office vowing not to continue using or selling narcotics, with legal action to be taken against those who do not make such a promise.

"The initiative won't be successful just by simply making arrests, as families [for whom the arrested is the main breadwinner] will suffer as a result. We are making a list of users and dealers. The township level administration will be the primary department [with whom this list is shared], in a bid for them to know of those users within neighbourhoods," added Police Officer Tin Htun Aung.

The collecting of names of users and dealers will only be successful with cooperation between the public and the local authorities, it is known.

Legal action taken against narcotics within the Myeik district township of Kyunsu in the last few years has appreciated slightly with twenty-five cases opened during 2013 while last year saw thirty-one cases of litigation opened in the courts; this year so far the number of such cases is twelve. The narcotics usually arrive in Myeik by road vehicle, trafficked down from the capital of Shan State, Taunggyi. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

US to renew most Myanmar sanctions with changes to aid business

WASHINGTON The United States plans to renew the bulk of its sanctions against Myanmar when they expire next week, but will make some changes aimed at boosting investment and trade, according to several senior U.S. officials and congressional aides.

An announcement on extending much of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, or IEEPA, could come as soon as Tuesday ahead of a visit to the Southeast Asian nation by Secretary of State John Kerry on May 22, officials said.

The U.S. Treasury Department has significantly eased sanctions against Myanmar by issuing general licenses that give companies and investors exemptions to sanctions targeting more than 100 individuals and businesses, including some of Myanmar's biggest business players.

U.S. officials began lifting trade and financial sanctions against the country after military

leaders launched reforms that led to a civilian government being formed in 2011, beginning its transformation from a half-century as an international pariah.

In December, Treasury temporarily relaxed trade restrictions on the country also known as Myanmar by allowing all shipments to go through its ports and airports for six months.

This time, Washington will likely offer more general licenses to specific companies, and take some people off Treasury's list of "Specially Designated Individuals" targeted for sanctions, congressional aides and U.S. officials said.

Kerry's visit to Myanmar is his first since the party of Aung San Suu Kyi, the country's Nobel laureate, swept to power following a landslide election win in November. A constitution drafted by the country's former military rulers bars her from becoming president.



Sun sets in Bagan. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

President Barack Obama's opening to Myanmar followed by its peaceful transition to an elected government is seen as one of his foreign policy achievements. He has visited there twice. But the administration also wants to

maintain leverage on the country to guard against backsliding on reforms and to press for improvement on human rights.

By renewing the legal framework for sanctions even as it eases some measures, Obama

will offer the private sector more breathing room while maintaining pressure on its military, which still holds significant political power. The sanctions had been due to expire on May 20. — *Reuters*

State Counsellor visits Myanmar Peace Centre



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks to U Hla Maung Shwe of Myanmar Peace Centre during her visit to the MPC.

PHOTO: NAY AUNG KHAING

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited Myanmar Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

The visit comes five days after she held a coordination meeting on the formation of the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre (NRPC) in Nay Pyi Taw.

“Her visit to the MPC might connect with the formation of NRPC that she spoke about on Monday. What I understand is that such kinds of offices can be established in Nay Pyi Taw or in Yangon under the State Counsellor,” said U Hla Maung Shwe of Myanmar Peace Centre.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited MPC, which stopped its functions on 31 March, together with Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and re-

gional ministers and Dr Tin Myo Win, the peace negotiator of the government.

During the Monday coordination meeting, the State Counsellor stressed the need to focus on the participation of all stakeholders who should be involved in every step of the country’s national reconciliation and peace process.

The meeting was attended by Chief Negotiator Dr Tin Myo Win, government representatives Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung and Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo, Tatmadaw representatives Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, Lt-Gen Tun Tun Naung and Lt-Gen Min Naung, Myanmar Peace Centre representatives U Myint Soe, U Khin Zaw Oo and Dr Min Zaw Oo and

other officials.

The participants agreed to form an NRPC parallel with preparations for the “21st Century Panglong Conference”, to focus on the involvement of all stakeholders in every step of preparing for the conference and to hold the second coordination meeting next week.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called for national peace conference within the next two months at the second meeting of the Union Ceasefire Joint Monitoring Committee (UJMC) on 27 April in her effort to bring eternal peace to the country, stressing the need to hold the national peace conference like historic Panglong Conference concurrently with the nationwide ceasefire. —Myat Thandar Maung

President U Htin Kyaw to attend the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit in Sochi

U Htin Kyaw, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, will attend the ASEAN-Russia Commemorative Summit to mark the 20th Anniversary ASEAN-Russia Dialogue Relations which will be held in Sochi, the Russian Federation from 19th to 20 May 2016.—Myanmar News Agency

Information Union Minister inspects IPRD’s library in Yangon

INFORMATION Union Minister Dr Pe Myint went on an inspection tour of the library of the Information and Public Relations Department in Kyauktada township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

The union minister inspected the kid’s reading room, the reference room, the public reading room, the internet room and the training hall at the library, as well as the office of the Yangon Heritage Trust. He proceeded to the Sarpay Beikman’s book shop at the corner of Merchant Street and 37 Street where he gave instructions on the extension and

renovation of the shop and the systematic arrangement of books in order on the shelves, urging officials to have an extensive collection of books on a variety of subjects. After a briefing, Dr Pe Myint suggested the establishment of a website for publishers to monitor the sales of their books and stressed the importance of printing quality.

Regarding the selection of winners for literary awards, he said that the board should pick only the books published from 1 January to 31 December. —Myanmar News Agency

MAPCO to grow quality rice on 5000 acres in coming rainy season

THE Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO) is planning to plant 5000 acres under rain-fed fields this rainy season under the contract system in Twante, Dala, Kungyangone and Kawmhu townships in Yangon Region to produce pedigree paddy of quality export.

Farmers interested in the project can contact the MAPCO office in Phaya Ngoto village, Twante Township. MAPCO said they will provide pedigree paddy seeds, chemical fertilizers and farming implements. Moreover, MAPCO will buy

paddy at a fair price as stipulated in the contract. Farmers can gain profits and assistance under the system. The company will receive and sell good quality paddy in advance,” said U Ye Min Aung, the Managing Director of MAPCO.

The above townships such as Twante, Dala, Kungyangon and Kawmhu grow monsoon paddy late, usually at the end of June.

Under this contract, they will cultivate Pawsan and Sinthwe Lat, it has been learned from MAPCO.—200

Security ramped up within Naypyidaw Union Territory in bid to reduce crime

A TOTAL of 24 police outposts will be opened and 51 CCTV cameras erected within Naypyidaw Union Territory (NUT) in a bid to reduce crime as part of the new government’s hundred day project initiatives. “The primary objective is to successfully carry out security measures, to ensure the rule of law and to reduce crime within the NUT,” said Police Chief Ko Ko Aung of the Naypyidaw Police Department.

The Naypyidaw Police Department gave an explanation on the forthcoming activities during a ceremony on rule of law and crime reduction initiatives as part of the hundred day project that was held on May 12 within the NUT.

“We have changed to a twenty-first century police force, from existing and conducting affairs

as a separate entity to cooperation and team work with a multitude of different actors in order to protect and guard the public. We need to build the trust of the nation’s citizens. We also need conduct relations in a fair and impartial manner within society,” said Myanmar Police Brigadier General Win Htun.

Nearly all of the 51 CCTV cameras have been installed and will operate round-the-clock 24 hours a day service within the NUT in a bid to reduce crime rates.

Over 100,000 people live within the territory, it is known, with a police presence amounting to over a 1,000 officers - a ratio of one officer providing security to every 700+ residents.

“Relevant departments will inclusively carry out security,

rule of law and crime reduction initiative as their roles dictate. We’ll cooperate together with the police force to be effective in promoting of public awareness campaign side of the initiative. There will be collective participation to ensure practical and effective system of service driven policing,” said Dr Myo Aung, chair of the Naypyidaw Council, the executive body that administers the NUT.

It is known alliance organizations the Police Department will work together with as part of the crime reduction initiative include the General Administration Department (GAD); Department of Law; Law Courts; Department of Information; Department of Health; Special Branch (SB); Department of Immigration and National Registration;



Security police are seen in Nay Pyi Taw . PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Department of Road Transports; Department of Information and Public Relations; Department of Forestry; Municipal Development Committee; Supervisory

Committee for Motor Vehicles; Auxiliary Brigade; Non-governmental organizations; town and village elders; and the media.—Myitmakha New Agency

Water donated to village in Natmauk



Villagers collecting water distributed by the DRD and RTD. PHOTO: HLA WIN (NATMAUK)

TO aid local people suffering from water scarcity issues caused by the rising heat that accompanies El Niño, the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of Natmauk Township together with the Road Transportation

Department (RTD) donated yesterday 2,000 gallons of water for drinking, bathing and washing to the local villagers of Oakshitkon village, which has been facing a severe shortage of clean water.

There is currently a 2" tube

well and handmade wells installed next to the local stream of the village as well as a nearby lake. These groundwater sources are currently drying up due to the extreme climate.—*Hla Win (Natmauk)*

ASEAN skills certificate a must for Myanmar workers, says DOL

WHEN the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) comes into existence in Myanmar, many Myanmar workers will be faced with difficulties in getting a well-paid job if they are not holding an international and ASEAN skills recognition certificate, said an official from the vocational training centre (Yankin), the department of labour.

Most local workers who are working for foreign construction companies cannot enjoy the same salaries, wages and fringe benefits as expatriate workers because they are not holding skill certificates from our country.

Currently, our workers cannot be competitive in the labour market because they were not given skills grades or levels,

said U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, Director from the skills development branch of the Ministry of Immigration and Labour.

There are altogether 200 workers or so who have been issued with the skills level certificates for 11 job categories by Myanmar Workers' skills Standardisation Committee, it has been learned.—*Chan Chan*

Ice, marijuana and Yaba seized

A LOCAL police squad in Lashio seized 80,000 yaba pills from a motorcycle driver identified as one Hsan Aung with Ma Yay Nwe on board at milepost 6/2, Myo Shaung road on Thursday.

Similarly, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Taunggyi police station discovered 8,000 yaba pills from a vehicle driven by one Ba Soe with Kan Hla and Arnt Zaw Chit on board at the Saw Si wheel tax collection gate in Taunggyi town on Wednesday.

According to a connected investigation the police searched the home of Khan Maung Myint and seized 8,000 yaba pills and a Honda car on Khaymayama road, Kan Gyi ward, Taunggyi. The Oo was found together with the

On that same day police seized 136 yaba pills and marijuana weighing 0.01 kilograms from one Win Mauk who was found at the corner of U Wisara



Hsan Aung with Ma Yay Nwe. PHOTO: MPF

road and Damazedi road, Dagon Township.

A local police contingent searched the home of Thiha Thu on Gangaw Myine road, ward 49, Dagon Myothit (North) township and discovered 620 yaba pills,

marijuana weighing 0.02 kilograms and raw opium weighing 0.006 kilograms. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Crime NEWS

Passenger vehicle overturns, seriously injuring seven



Passenger vehicle plunged down into the creek.

PHOTO: TOWNSHIP (IPRD)

A PASSENGER vehicle en route to Kawthaung from Myeik overturned between mileposts 95/ 5 and 95/6 on the Myeik-Kawthaung highway, Pyigyimandai town on Wednesday, leaving seven passengers seriously injured.

The accident occurred when the vehicle, being driven by one Maung Nge, 32 and carrying 43 passengers on

board plunged into a creek as an old and weakened bridge collapsed.

Seven passengers out of 43 were seriously injured in the accident. They are undergoing medical treatment at Pyigyimandai general hospital.

Police are searching for the driver who fled the scene and have filed charges against him.—*Township (IPRD)*

Overheated air conditioner causes fire

A FIRE broke out due to an overheated air-conditioner at a CB bank branch located at the corner of Shwezedi and Konthe road, Ward 4, Patheingyi town, on Friday.

The accident happened in the afternoon at the bank due to

electric short-circuiting from an overheated air-conditioner unit.

The fire was put out by firemen with six fire engines. No one was injured in the accident. Police have taken action against the bank manager.—*Maung Maung Myint (IPRD)*

LOCAL Business

European nations team up with cold-storage factories

EUROPEAN nations have hired cold-storage factories using a piecework payment system to manufacture finished fishery products, according to the Myanmar Fishery Products Processor and Exporters' Association.

"Previously, the cold-storage factories were thriving because of the abundant fishery products. Some factories were subjected to shut-downs due to a lack of raw materials. At that time, the piecework system was introduced and many labourers are working with this system, earning high wages.

Actually, this system allows the owners to earn a low profit from which the cost of wages is deducted. The factories will gain more profit if they manufacture the finished products themselves, said Dr.

Toe Nanda Tin from the association.

"The frozen fishery processing factories were forced to halt their businesses due to the shortage of raw products in previous years.

When the piecework system emerged in Asia in 2014, the businesses were continued to run.

With the European countries entering, over 60 per cent of the factories will keep operating." He added.

Previously, countries from the ASEAN region such as Thailand, Viet Nam, China, South Korea and Japan made contracts with factories with this system and then more countries such as the USA, Brazil, Norway and France also joined hands with cold-storage factories.—*Chan Chan*



Workers sort out prawns at a factory. Photo: Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development

ILO to support SMEs in Myanmar



A woman seen working at a small enterprise.

THE International Labour Organisation (ILO) is planning to assist in training instructors for management teaching courses for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), it has been learned.

Nine trainers were selected from 60 qualified trainer-applicants who have received the Master Trainer Certificate given by ILO. They will conduct business management teaching courses for SME entrepreneurs to effectuate the development of their businesses.

The long-term objective of ILO is to produce local skilled trainers who can help entrepreneurs

to develop their businesses. It is the main purpose of the SIYB programme. "We are so delighted to have found the awe-inspiring master trainers to take these responsibilities", said Michael Jamar, the technical senior counselor of ILO's SME.

The courses will provide management training described in the context of SYIB, and ILO has provided the management course to over 17,000 trainers. The international context and teaching assistances are changed to be in accord with the current economic climate, aiding the transition into Myanmar. The training methods employed will

have a direct interaction with the trainees, including the practical applied courses. This course will help the trainees develop their market strategies and help them to create new opportunities.

The programme will start in the middle of 2017 with the assistance of Norwegian Agency For Development Co-operation (NORAD) and the Swiss State Secretariat For Economic Affairs (SECO).

Entrepreneurs from SME can contact the trainers via this website www.siyb.com.mm and this Facebook page "Start and Improve Your Business".—*KMK/Union Daily*

Sumitomo eyes Myanmar edible oil market

RISING in demand for edible oil in China has prompted the Japanese Sumitomo Corporation to visit Myanmar and hold talks with the Yangon Region Oil Mill Entrepreneurs Association on exporting locally produced peanut oil to its northern province.

The Japanese company held discussions with the association with the objective of purchasing ground oil products from Myanmar for the purpose of exporting it to China.

"There's been a high increase in demand for edible oil in China. The [Sumitomo Corporation] wants to buy Myanmar-produced oil be-

cause of the need for purified cooking oil in China, but they wish to purchase ground oil products in lieu of raw oil producing crops.

The Japanese inquired with us as to whether we could follow the Codex Standard of Edible Oil, a letter of support allowing for distribution in China," said U Khin Soe, chair of the Yangon Region Oil Mill Entrepreneurs Association and owner of the Ayeyawady Oil Mill.

The Japanese corporation proposed to purchase Myanmar ground edible oils if the association were able to obtain a Codex Standard of Edible Oil

certificate, which would serve as recognition of the standard of quality used by 160 countries worldwide.

The proposal was made during the discussion on 11 May, during which the Japanese also expressed interest in Myanmar's sesame oil.

"They want to distribute Myanmar oil in China if we can acquire a certificate of quality authentication.

They discussed how many tonnes could be produced per day and said they would purchase it all if quality was guaranteed.

They would fill containers will 20 tonnes of edible oil in

large clear plastic bags, which would then be bottled and labeled with their company's logo on arrival in China before being sold on the Chinese market," explained U Khin Soe. Sellers of genuine peanut oil on the domestic Myanmar market have been hit hard by the influx in cheaper, substandard oil products. Oil millers have said being able to tap into the foreign market would allow them to be able to survive for the long term.

"Only if oil millers provide quality products will good relations with foreign markets be forged, which will also allow for a new avenue of busi-

ness. It would be better if we had milling machines that could produce good-quality ground oil," said U Win Htun from the Kaung Thant Miller Enterprise.

U Khin Soe added that plans will be drawn up to send samples of Myanmar peanut oil to food and beverage quality inspection organisations, including that of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) in order to acquire quality authentication certificates, which will then be forwarded to the Japanese Sumitomo Corporation.—*Myit-makha News Agency*

India announces new trademark, patent policy amid global pressure

NEW DELHI — India announced a new intellectual property policy on Friday, speeding up the online registration of patents and trademarks, but resisted pressure from the United States and other Western countries to amend its patent laws.

The policy will make the Department of Industrial Promotion and Policy the agency in charge of regulating intellectual property rights in the country.

Since Prime Minister Narendra Modi took office in 2014, global drug brands led by US companies have been pushing for changes to India's intellectual property rules.

India's strained patent and intellectual property administration has failed to keep pace with growing technological advances. Global pharmaceuticals players have often complained about India's price controls and marketing restrictions.

"We hope it will lead to an interpretation of the Indian Patent Act that respects



Prime Minister Narendra Modi listens to Finance Minister Arun Jaitley during the Global Business Summit in New Delhi on 16 January, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

innovation, encourages research and facilitates effective enforcement mechanisms," said Ranjana Smetacek, Director General, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India, a

body of multinational drug-makers in India.

Nirmala Sitharaman, commerce and industry minister, told lawmakers last month that over 237,000 applications were pending

in India's four patent offices. The policy aims to spread awareness among public about trademarks, copyrights and patents to promote innovation within the country, Finance Minister

Arun Jaitley told reporters. The new policy will try to safeguard the interests of rights owners with the wider public interest, while combating infringements of intellectual property rights.

Jaitley said India would retain the right to issue so-called compulsory licenses to its drug firms, under "emergency" conditions, and would not immediately need to change patent laws that were already fully World Trade Organisation-compliant.

"Compulsory licences are already provided in our patent law. That existing provision will continue," Jaitley said after the cabinet approved national IPR policy on Thursday evening.

Last month, the US Trade Representative kept India, China and Russia on its "Priority Watch List" for inadequate improvement in IPR protection.

India, however, says, it is party to the Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS), a WTO agreement that sets minimum standards for intellectual property regulation. "It (IPR policy) reiterates India's commitment to the Doha Development Agenda and the TRIPS agreement," a government statement said.—Reuters

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi

ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye

ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Reporter - Ye Myint

chiefreporter@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg

counsellanteditor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Alec Wilmot

counsellanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editors

Ye Htut Tin

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Kyaw Thura,

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International news

Tun Tun Naing

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Reporters

Khaing Thanda Lwin

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Tun Aung Kyaw

reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Translators

Hay Mar Tin Win

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Proof reader

Nwe Nwe Tun

Computer Team

Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe, Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe,

Nyi Zaw Moe, Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin,

Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Australia reaffirms hard-line immigration policy

SYDNEY — Australia on Saturday defended its hard-line immigration policy after two asylum-seeker deaths, weeks of protests and several medical evacuations from a camp in the tiny Pacific Island nation of Nauru.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said Australia's policy of refusing to accept asylum seekers who arrived by boat was necessary to deter people smugglers from organising dangerous sea voyages.

"We do not theorise about border protection," he told reporters as he campaigned ahead of an election on 2 July.

"We know what happens when those policies

were abandoned: 1,200 people died at sea ... it was a catastrophe."

Asylum seekers intercepted attempting to reach Australia by boat are sent for processing to camps on Manus Island in Papua New Guinea or on the Pacific island state of Nauru. They are not eligible to be resettled in Australia.

Papua New Guinea has said it plans to close the Manus Island detention centre after its Supreme Court ruled it unlawful.

Controversies arising from Australia's immigration policy have become a major headache for Turnbull in the buildup to the election.

In the past month two

asylum seekers detained on Nauru have set themselves on fire and one of them, an Iranian, died. Another asylum seeker died of a heart attack last week.

On Friday a woman was flown from the island to the Australian city of Brisbane in a critical condition after a cesarean operation.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton on Saturday defended her treatment, saying medical assistance provided on Nauru was "significant" and she was "receiving the medical attention that's required," according to Australian Associated Press.

State-owned broadcaster SBS reported that

the woman was a 22-year-old Somali named Naima Ahmed, and that her condition was no longer life-threatening.

Refugee advocate Ian Rintoul, a spokesman for the Refugee Action Coalition advocacy group, told Reuters by phone that the government was "defending the indefensible".

"The deterrence policy is what's wrong, there are plenty of ways for people to get safely from Indonesia to Australia if the government is of that mind," he said.

He said that refugees on Nauru were "getting increasingly angry and holding demonstrations every day".—Reuters

Moscow demands North Korea's explanation on detention of Russian yacht

MOSCOW — A North Korean coast guard ship has detained a Russian yacht with a crew of five people on board, Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday, adding it had sent a note to

Pyongyang demanding explanation for the cause of the detention.

The yacht was on its way from South Korea's port city of Pusan to Vladivostok in Russia's Far East

when it was detained 80 miles (129 km) off the coast in North Korea's exclusive economic zone on Friday, the ministry said, giving no further detail. The yacht is now in the North Korean

port of Kimchaek, and Russia's consul general is awaiting permission from the authorities to meet the crew, the ministry said, adding that their lives or health were not in danger.—Reuters

Over 10,000 people still in shelters one month after Kumamoto quakes

KUMAMOTO, (Japan) — Despite some signs of recovery including resumption of railway and expressway operations, more than 10,000 people were still taking refuge at shelters, as Saturday marked one month after a strong earthquake rocked the southwestern Japan main island of Kyushu.

Magnitude 6.5 and 7.3 quakes hit Kumamoto Prefecture on 14 and 16 April, respectively, leaving 49 people dead and one person unaccounted for. The number of evacuees peaked at about 200,000 in Kumamoto and nearby Oita Prefecture.

Since 14 April, more than 1,400 temblors that could be felt by humans occurred, damaging more than 82,000 buildings in the region. In Kumamoto, 19 people were believed to have died from illness due to stress, fatigue and other quake-related causes after being displaced by quakes.

The Kumamoto prefectural government said Tuesday that 50 people needed to be hospitalised after developing deep vein thrombosis, known as economy class syndrome, in which blood clots develop due to prolonged inactivity including staying in cars.

The number of evacuation centres in Kumamoto fell from 855 as of April 17 to 244. But many residents were still spending nights in cars and tents, fearing aftershocks.

Nearly 80 per cent of 100 evacuees in Kumamoto said they cannot return home as their houses were destroyed, according to a Kyodo News survey conducted



People are seen inside an evacuation center in Nishihara, Kumamoto Prefecture, southwestern Japan on 13 May 2016. Despite some signs of recovery including resumption of railway and expressway operations, more than 10,000 people are still taking refuge at such shelters, as May 14 marks one month after the first of a number of strong earthquakes rocked the area. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

between Tuesday and Thursday.

Major transportation services have almost returned to normal in the region, with the restart of bullet train operations on the entire Kyushu Shinkansen Line on 27 April. But a section of one of the local lines operated by Kyushu Railway Co. remains out of service.

The entire expressway network in the Kyushu region was restored Monday, after the last remaining section that had been closed in Oita Prefecture reopened.

In the agriculture sector, the total damage caused by a series of quakes in seven prefectures of Kyushu was estimated at 135.8 billion yen (\$1.25 billion),

according to the farm ministry and local authorities. Kyushu is known for its wide variety of farm products such as rice.

In a positive sign, the central government will carry out reconstruction work on behalf of affected local municipalities under an ordinance implemented Friday. In order to speed up rebuilding efforts, the government will undertake large-scale restoration work such as road repairs when requested by local governments.

The government also plans to have a 778 billion yen fiscal 2016 supplementary budget enacted next Tuesday to help quake victims and promote the disposal of rubble in the affected areas.—Kyodo News

Singapore reports 1st case of Zika virus

SINGAPORE — Singapore on Friday reported its first case of the Zika virus, a 48-year-old male Singapore permanent resident who recently returned from Brazil.

“The patient was tested positive for Zika virus infection on 13 May,” the Ministry of Health and the National Environment Agency said in a joint statement, published in whole on *The Straits Times* website.

It is “the first imported case of Zika virus infection in Singapore,” the statement said.

The patient traveled to Sao Paulo from 27 March to Saturday last week.

He developed a fever and rash from Tuesday and was admitted to a private hospital.

He will be transferred to the

Communicable Diseases Centre at Tan Tock Seng Hospital for treatment.

He has been isolated and is currently well and recovering.

The Zika virus is spread by the Aedes mosquito, which also transmits dengue.

There is already a high incidence of dengue fever in Singapore, which has a warm and humid tropical climate with rainfalls all year round.

While the Zika virus usually causes mild symptoms, such as skin rashes and headaches, it is suspected to cause abnormally small head sizes in newborn children, a condition called microcephaly, when mothers contract the virus during pregnancy. Brazil has seen a rapid increase in such cases.—Kyodo News

Thailand, China to conduct joint military exercise in May-June

BANGKOK — The Thai and Chinese navies will conduct a joint military exercise in Thailand and nearby waters starting 21 May to further their defense cooperation, a Thai naval source said on Saturday.

The Blue Strike 2016 exercise, the third event of its kind, will involve the participation of about 1,000 personnel from both sides and is scheduled to run through 9 June, the source said.

They will engage in training for combat and rescue operations on land and sea in and around Chonburi and Chanthaburi provinces, according to the source.

Thailand has been reinforcing its military cooperation with China since a junta took power in the Southeast Asian country after a coup in 2014, prompting concerns among nations such as Japan and the United States.—Kyodo News

North Korea calls Obama's Hiroshima visit plan 'height of hypocrisy'

BEIJING — North Korea on Saturday criticised US President Barack Obama's plan to visit Hiroshima, the site of the world's first atomic bombing in 1945, calling it the “height of hypocrisy.”

Rodong Sinmun, the official newspaper of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, said the visit slated for later this month is aimed at masking the United States' “real nature as a nuclear criminal” by highlighting Obama's push for a world without nuclear weapons.

It is the first reaction out of North Korea about Obama's scheduled trip to Hiroshima, which was devastated by a US atomic bomb on 6 August, 1945 in the final days of World War II.

An article from North Korea's most influential news-

paper referring to the plan of Obama, who will be the first sitting US president to visit the city, said it is “the height of hypocrisy and shame” for the United States, which threatens the Korean Peninsula with nuclear force, to call for nuclear disarmament.

The barb was also made after North Korean leader Kim Jong Un declared that he has no plans to curb Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions at a congress of the ruling party, which was held for the first time in 36 years and ended Monday.

With Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Obama is scheduled to visit Hiroshima on 27 May after attending a two-day summit of the Group of Seven major industrialised countries in the Ise-Shima area of central Japan.—Kyodo News

PICTURE OF THE DAY



Photo taken on 13 May, 2016 shows the portrait of Cambodian King Norodom Sihamoni at the Royal Palace in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Cambodia began the three-day celebrations of the 63rd birthday of King Norodom Sihamoni on Friday. PHOTO: XINHUA

Opinion

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title. Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Police need public participation

Khin Maung Aye

HERE is only one policeman for 1,200 people. Exactly speaking, one policeman is taking the security duty of 1274 persons. This ratio of one is to 1200 is far low when compared to countries having only 400 persons for a policeman to take care of. This is an internationally accepted standard ratio which developed countries keep for maintenance of law and order. Obviously, Myanmar policemen are overburdened with security duty.

Again, Yangon Region Police Commander, in his first 100-day plan under the incumbent government, has incorporated four tasks which comprise crime suppression, fight against drug trafficking, discharging, acquitting and closing of politics related cases concerning the political prisoners, political activists and prisoners of conscience and offering quality service to the public.

Yangon region has an area of 4000 square miles inhabited by 7.4 million people but has a strength of 5700 or so policemen to enforce law and order. No doubt, the overburdened police will be badly in need of cooperation on the part of departmental personnel concerned and the public. Despite this situation of being understaffed, Yangon Region Chief Minister called on Yangon police to exert strenuous effort to prevent criminal gangs from dominating Yangon territory at a meeting held on 10 May, adding that security challenges are needed to overcome.

In the post nargis era, Yangon was forced to receive migrants. With increased migration into Yangon region, there has arisen the number of outbreak of crimes, ranging from misdemeanours to felonies, rendering the public vulnerable to attacks by individual thugs and rogues as well as gangsters, who commit the organized crimes.

In this regard, it is worth recalling that crime suppression can be successful only with the active participation of the people. As long as people are harbouring the criminals or at least giving them a protection just out of pity for them, the police will find it difficult to protect the life and property of the people.

Romance of the Past: Inlay Taik-tays or Duets

Tun Myint Aung

INLAY, one of the most enchanting beauty spots of Myanmar, is the heart of Southern Shan Region. In fact, the term "Inlay" is the combination of two mono-syllabic words in Myanmar - "In" and "Lay". The former represents "Lake" and the latter "Small", thus meaning "Small Lake". However, it covers about 45 square miles (116 square kilometers). It is actually the country's biggest inland lake second to Indawgyi Lake situated in Monyin Township in Kachin State. Geographically, Inlay Lake is situated amidst high mountains on the Shan Plateau about 3000 feet above the sea level. It is said that one will not see the heart of Shan Sate, if one does not visit Inlay Lake with its great significance of its famous leg-rowers or *Inthas*. There is an excellent opportunity to breathe in the romance of the past of the typical *Inthas*. Enjoying the breathtaking view of nature at its best and lovely weather, one may feel it will be worth putting one's heart into their ancient traditional songs - *Taik-tays* or *Duets*.

In the past, there was the custom of reciting songs in pair in the region of Inlay. The *Taik-tays* or duets in the form of singing matches are, in fact, beautiful country songs springing out from the tender heart of the farm-breds or the *Inthas* (farmers, fishermen, workers and the poor). The singers, lads or lasses, directly or indirectly revealed their personal feelings and sentiments - love, likes, marriage, social and romantic life, etc - in the form of duets.

In a duet, the boys or *Inthas* (lads) and the girls or *Inthas* (lasses) usually started to sing a song face to face. One of the youths had to lead the match and the helpers or prompters accompanying him were to always prompt or chorus the song while a lot of youths were listening to the songs in a crowd of firm onlookers around the singers. For instance, a duet was opened by the *Intha* (lad) as:

"တိုက်မယ်တဲ့ တိုက်မယ်
ရွာလယ်မှာ ချစ်မြူးခင်းလို့

လင်းအောင်တိုက်မယ်၊
တိုက်မယ်၊ မိငယ်မို့ကောင်လုံး
ရွာလယ်မှာ ချစ်မြူးခင်းလို့
(မကြီးရယ်)လင်းအောင်တိုက်အုံး။
"....Let's start our duets,
Rolling out fine mats
In the middle of the village
Come on (My Girl), with
courage!
Yes, come down in person on
the lawn
For our match to continue up
at dawn...."

This seems to signal the green light of the lad's challenge against the maids. Sometimes, the irritation of the opening song sung by the lads could be as follows:

"တိုက်မယ်တဲ့တိုက်မယ်"
ယောက္ခမ လှေဦးဆိုး
ကျိုးအောင်တိုက်မယ်။
တိုက်မယ် မိငယ်မို့ကောင်လုံး
ယောက္ခမ လှေဦးဆိုးကိုလ
(မကြီးရယ်)ကျိုးအောင်တိုက်အုံး။
"Let's start our duet

At the prow of the boats being bad
Owned by Father-in-law to go mad
Up to be broken in order that
Yes (My Girl), we all can be glad!"

This is one of the styles of opening duets ironically sung by a lad in a jeering tone for a derisive manner.

Then, the maids, in a witty response, used to reply that his voice seemed muffled as a discordant note produced by a little chicken.

"အသံက မကျယ်တကျယ်
ကြက်သုငယ်ပါမမြား။
တေးမယ်ကို မရှက်လိုက်
တေးတိုက်မယ်လား။"

"What a low faint voice!
Little Chick just like!
Shamefully dare match me, afraid!

Like a great singer of maids!"
Vividly, such duets reflect the rural life, thought, idea, volition, tradition, custom, rite, etc. of the local youths of Inlay Lake. These duets were made during vacation of the local people, especially at night when the full moon was shining brightly such as on the full-moon days of *Thidingyut* and *Tanzaumon*, and often on occasions of religious affairs, especially on the days of alms-offering ceremonies at the altar to the Buddhist monks or

on the days of offering provisions and various articles to monks collectively by the local community, and the two groups used to have engagements with songs, side by side on the banks of a creek or one in the boat on water and the other in their houses on the beach, by turns, in a dialectical manner.

In making decision as to the winning group of a duet, the leading fact or main theme raised by the proposers' group had to be refuted by the rivals in a short time and the defenders must be defeated when they couldn't deliver any rebuttal of the point to the proposer's satisfaction. In the case, the failure group tended to be mocked by the onlookers including the prompters and the choral singers of the winning group. However, in studying the heart of such duets and the intention of the match, it can be found that the singing of rhyming words in Myanmar traditional lyrical composition or the strophe and the antistrophe, rather than the decision of the winners or the losers in the dual singing, is to be emphasized. This dominant trend of the duets can be examined in the lead and chorus in antiphorical singing of the lad and the lass in turns as:

မောင် : မယ်တို့မျိုး လှည့်ဆိုးမယ့်သာ။
ပန်းရွှေလိင်ပြာ၊
ဖန်ကြွေမိ ရွာသူရိရင်သာ။
တစ်ခေါက်ရယ်လာတစ်ခါကွယ်ယုံရ။
မိခင်ကို လိင်ပြာသွားတယ်
(မကြီးရယ်)တားလို့မရ။ ။

Lad : How naughty! Women!
No trust on them.
Trying seven buds of golden flowers

To be plucked with strong desire.
Just it's a butterfly
That wanna start to try
To get to the lass once
(O' My Girl) To have a glance,
I couldn't help but fly
Yes, you may make me shy.

မယ် : ချစ်မယ်တဲ့ ကြင်မယ်။
တခြားမှာ သစ္စာကင်းအောင်
ရှင်းရွာခဲ့ကွယ်။
ချစ်မယ် တကယ်မို့ ။
မယ်က (လည်း) တခြားမှာ
သစ္စာကင်းအောင်
ရှင်းရွာခဲ့လို့။ ။

Lad : To make it for sure
Kindness and love affair;
No girls on your side,

True love on my side
Yes, did I so
Other oaths saying 'No'
မရွာပဲ မမည်းလာနဲ့ ရွှေမိုးညို။
ဥဒေါင်းတောင် တပိုက်ဆီက
မှောင်မိုက်လို့ ညို။
တို့ဆီမှာ ရွာမလို့နဲ့
သူ့ဆီကို ရွာလို့သွား။
(မကြီးရယ်)မိုးများကွက်ကြား။ ။

Lad : 'Dark clouds no rain', true it's still
They darken in the sky above U-daung Hill
They pretend to rain here
But the rain falls there
Like the faint of a girl;
မရွှေအင်းတံခါသာတဲ့ ရှောင်မှားလ
ရေများတောင် မကုန်ခင်။
မိုးရိပ်ကဆင်း၊
ဆင်သာဆင် ရွာမယ်လို့ထင်ဘူး။
အချစ်ရယ် ဆံချည်လုံး။
(မောင်ကြီးရယ်)ပုန်းမိတ်ပါဘူး။ ။
Lass : The Shwe-in-tain Creek flows pleasantly,
Whose water may not dry



The group of fishermen from the Inle lake of Myanmar.—PHOTO: KYAW KYAW WINN (UNWTO- UN WORLD TOURISM ORGANIZATION)

up quickly;
The rain clouds are coming there
I don't think it may rain here

Love is like a spindle of hair
(O' my Boy) no hatred in making a good pair

: အင်းလယ်မှာ ရွှေကြာပန်း
ကြာပန်းလေး နှစ်ဖွင့်ဆိုင်၊
ရွာမယ်ကိုပိုင် မပိုင်တဲ့မောင်ပ။
အင်းလယ်မှာရွှေကြာပန်း
(မကြီးရယ်)လှမ်းလို့မရ။ ။

Lad : In the middle of the lake are golden lotus twins
Yet, there're still for none just to win;
I wanna send my hand to pluck them
But (O' My Girl), I can't manage to touch them.

မယ် : ပန်းရိပ်တို့ပေါ့။
အေ ရှု ဇေ လာ ငါေ မံ ထိ င်

These pastoral duets are embedded with their lofty sentiments, ever-fresh aesthetic feelings, traditional notion, cultural symbol, etc. We the Myanmar tend to feel enchanted, rejoiced and satisfied with these duets having certain aesthetic significance and

enjoyment. It is taken for granted that the indigenous ethnic people of Inlay region as part of blood and flesh of Myanmar love these *Inlay Taik-tays* and set the aesthetic values in their deepest heart for long up to the end of the world.

At the time of transition to the full-fledged democracy like today, it is natural if every walk of life tends to pay attention to what the real changes are, what progress can be seen, what effectiveness can be achieved, for what purposes the new policies should be laid down, etc. According to the new-year resolution of the new government, one of the most important things to be carried out is the national reconciliation. Whatever effort should be put to realize this extent; for instance, to place a higher priority to this, it is of great importance for the government to put emphasis on language, literature and culture

of our ethnic races. In fact, it is a fundamental right for them to develop their language, literature, culture they cherish, religion they profess and customs without prejudice to the relation between one national race and another or among national races and to other faiths. This step can be taken as a strategic focus on establishing mutual understanding and trust among the people regardless of races, who play complementary role and help the principle objectives to the maximum extent.

Tun Myint Aung
Associate Lecturer
Department of English
Relating to Tipitakas
State Pariyatti Sasana
University (Yangon)



Syrian refugees arrive at the camp for refugees and migrants in Friedland, Germany, on 4 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

German government plans to spend 93.6 billion euros on refugees by end 2020: Spiegel

BERLIN — Germany's government expects to spend around 93.6 billion euros by the end of 2020 on costs related to the refugee crisis, a magazine said on Saturday, citing a draft from the federal finance ministry for negotiations with the country's 16 states.

The figure is likely to stoke concerns, particularly among growing anti-immigration movements, on the impact of new arrivals on Europe's largest economy which took in more than a million people last year, many from Syria and other war zones.

The numbers arriving have fallen this year, helped by a deal between the European Union and Turkey that was designed to give

Turks visa-free travel to Europe in return for stemming the flow of migrants.

German weekly news magazine *Der Spiegel* said the finance ministry's calculations included the costs for accommodating and integrating refugees as well as tackling the root causes for people fleeing from crisis-stricken regions. Officials based their estimates on 600,000 migrants arriving this year, 400,000 next year and 300,000 in each of the following years, the report said, adding that they expected 55 per cent of recognised refugees to have a job after five years.

A spokesman for the finance ministry declined to comment on the figures but pointed to ongoing

talks between the government and states, saying they would meet again on 31 May to discuss how to divide up the costs between them.

The report said that 25.7 billion euros (\$29.07 billion) would be needed for jobless payments, rent subsidies and other benefits for recognised asylum applicants by the end of 2020.

Another 5.7 billion euros would be needed for language courses and 4.6 billion euros would be required for measures to help migrants get jobs, it added.

The annual cost of dealing with the refugee crisis would hit 20.4 billion euros in 2020, up from around 16.1 billion euros this year, the report said.—Reuters

UN Secretary-General's Message on the International Day of Families

15 May 2016

This year's International Day of Families falls at a time of upheaval and tragedy for families around the world. The rise of violent extremism, the effects of forced displacement, extreme weather events and other challenges are taking a heavy toll on the health and integrity of families in crisis situations. Even in relatively stable societies, families still struggle with violence, discrimination and poverty.

Families are on the frontlines of our global efforts to realize the bold and inclusive 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They are particularly essential to achieving SDG3, in which all United Nations Member States committed to promoting healthy lives and wellbeing for all at all ages.

Children thrive when they receive love as well as healthcare, education and other basics. During the sensitive time of adolescence, young people need emotional support along with reproductive health information and services. Young lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender people suffer much higher suicide rates than the general population, making their safety and acceptance a matter of public health.

In many societies, women and girls experience discrimination and violence within the family, which can have serious and lifelong effects on their health and wellbeing. Family life is also crucial to the health of older people, who stay active and healthy when their contributions are appreciated in the family and community.

Governments must support the crucial role of families in all their diverse forms. They should provide access to reproductive health services so that parents can decide on the timing and size of their families. Maternal healthcare and paternal leave are also vital to enable parents to give their newborns the best possible start in life.

I call on governments, businesses, institutions and other partners to recognize that caregiving is an essential part of family life. Everyone needs care from family members at some point in their lives – and all should be able to provide that care when the need arises.

Promoting supportive family environments and positive parenting through policies and laws can help families raise healthy, happy children who can grow into valued, productive adults.

Leaving no one behind means leaving no family behind.

On this International Day of Families, let us resolve to advance sustainable development by creating a supportive environment where all family members of all ages can realize their potential to contribute to our world.—UNIC/Yangon

Trump taps climate change sceptic as energy adviser, pushes back on taxes

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK — Donald Trump on Friday picked a prominent climate change sceptic to help him craft his energy policy and pushed back against renewed calls that he release his income tax returns - saying his tax rate is "none of your business."

The presumptive Republican presidential nominee is seeking to build out his policy proposals as he pivots from campaigning for his party's nomination to a likely general election matchup with Democratic rival Hillary Clinton.

Among those he has asked for help is US Republican Representative Kevin Cramer of North Dakota, one of the country's most ardent oil and gas drilling advocates and climate change sceptics. North Dakota has been at the forefront of the US shale oil and gas boom.

Trump's team asked Cramer,

who has endorsed Trump, to write a white paper, or detailed report, on his energy policy ideas, according to Cramer and sources familiar with the matter.

Cramer said in an interview that his white paper would emphasise the dangers of foreign ownership of US energy assets, as well as what he characterised as burdensome taxes and over-regulation. Trump will have an opportunity to float some of the ideas at an energy summit in Bismarck, North Dakota on 26 May, Cramer said.

The senator was also among a group of Trump advisers who recently met with lawmakers from Western energy states, who hope Trump will open more federal land for drilling, a lawmaker who took part in the meeting said.

A spokeswoman for Trump's campaign did not comment.

Environmental groups, and Clinton's campaign, quickly attacked Trump for tapping Cramer.

"Kevin Cramer has consistently backed reckless and dangerous schemes to put the profits of fossil fuel executives before the health of the public, so he and Trump are a match made in polluter heaven," Sierra Club Legislative Director Melinda Pierce said in an emailed statement.

The Clinton campaign also criticised the move.

"Donald Trump's choice of outspoken climate (change) denier Kevin Cramer to advise him on energy policy is just the latest piece of evidence that letting him get near the White House would put our children's health and futures at risk," said campaign spokesman Jesse Ferguson.

Trump has been light on the

details of his energy policy, though he recently told supporters in West Virginia that the coal industry would thrive if he were president. He has also claimed global warming is a concept "created by and for the Chinese" to hurt US business.

Clinton, meanwhile, has advocated shifting the country to 50 per cent clean energy by 2030, promised heavy regulation of fracking, and said her prospective administration would put coal companies "out of business."

Trump also took heat on Friday for not releasing his tax returns, something that American presidential candidates have done for decades. Clinton and her rival, Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, have both released their returns.

Trump has said the Internal Revenue Service was auditing his



Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a campaign rally in Eugene, Oregon, US on 6 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

returns and he wanted to wait until the review was over before making them public. "It should be, and I hope it's before the election," Trump told ABC's "Good Morning America."

Pressed on what tax rate he pays, Trump refused to say. "It's none of your business," he said. The candidate has said there is nothing voters can learn from his tax filings.—Reuters

Islamic State attacks north of Baghdad kill 16 —sources



People gather at a cafe after an attack in the predominately Shi'ite Muslim town of Balad, Iraq, on 13 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

TIKRIT (Iraq) — Shooting and bomb attacks claimed by Islamic State killed at least 16 people north of Baghdad on Friday, days after Islamic State's deadliest blasts so far this year in the capital stirred public criticism of government security measures.

Three gunmen opened fire with machine guns around midnight at a cafe in the predominately Shi'ite Muslim town of Balad where young men, includ-

ing fans of Spain's Real Madrid soccer club, had gathered to start the weekend, police and hospital sources. At least 12 were killed and 25 wounded.

The assailants fled and hours later one of them set off his explosive vest at a nearby vegetable market after police and Shi'ite militia members cornered him in a disused building and exchanged gunfire, security sources said. Four were killed and two critically

wounded, medical sources added.

Islamic State said in a statement distributed online by supporters that three suicide attackers targeting Shi'ite militiamen had detonated their explosives, though security sources said they had only identified one bomber.

A Reuters witness saw the scorched body of a suspected assailant hanging upside down from a post outside the cafe on Friday morning.

Residents said they had seized the man from a nearby house where he had fled following the attack. They said they had burned him alive after he confessed. An intelligence official confirmed this account.

Islamic State nearly overran Balad, 80 km (50 miles) north of Baghdad, in 2014 and maintains a frontline around 40 km away.

Friday's attackers had passed three police checkpoints before reaching their target, said police sources. Security forces deployed throughout the town, fearing more attacks.

The intelligence official said fighters from the powerful Iranian-backed Badr Organisation raided a nearby house and detained 13 members of a Sunni family. There were reports of gunfire in an adjacent orchard.

Iraqi authorities are facing scrutiny over security breaches that allowed suicide attackers to set off three bombs on Wednesday in Baghdad, killing at least 80 people.

The country is also struggling through a political crisis over a cabinet overhaul that has crippled government for weeks and threatens to undermine the US-backed war against Islamic State, which still controls swathes of territo-

ry in the north and west it seized in 2014. The fight against the ultra-hardline Sunni militants has exacerbated Iraq's sectarian conflict, mostly between the Sunni minority and the Shi'ite majority, that emerged after the US-led invasion in 2003.

A 22-year-old victim named Tahseen told a doctor he had been smoking a water pipe when a man wearing civilian clothes and a bandolier filled with ammunition crossed the street toward al-Furat Cafe. He recounted hearing several blasts, likely from stun bombs, amid gunfire that lasted about ten minutes.

Inside the cafe hung pictures of famous footballers and a sign for a local group of Real Madrid fans. Witnesses said there was no match on Thursday night but spectators often congregated there.

Real Madrid said its players would wear black arm bands on Saturday to honor the victims.

"Football and sport shall always be spaces in which to come together and in which harmony and peace reign and with which no form of barbaric terrorism will be able to compete," it said in an online statement. A suicide bombing in March at a youth soccer match south of Baghdad killed 26 people and wounded 71 others.—Reuters

Hezbollah blames insurgent shelling for death of top commander in Syria

BEIRUT — Lebanese Shi'ite Muslim militant group Hezbollah said on Saturday its top military commander Mustafa Badreddine was killed by artillery shells fired by insurgents near Syria's Damascus airport.

Hezbollah announced Badreddine's death on Friday and held a military funeral for him on the same day in its stronghold in southern Beirut.

"Investigations have showed

that the explosion, which targeted one of our bases near Damascus International Airport, and which led to the martyrdom of commander Mustafa Badreddine, was the result of artillery bombardment carried out by takfiri groups in the area," Hezbollah's statement said.

"Takfiri" is a word used by the group to refer to hard-line, armed, Sunni Muslim Islamist groups.

Hezbollah is fighting in Syria,

backing the government of President Bashar al-Assad against a range of Sunni Muslim groups including Islamic State and the al Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front. Around 1,200 Hezbollah fighters are estimated to have been killed in the Syrian conflict.

"The outcome of the investigation (into Badreddine's death) will increase our determination ... to continue the fight against these criminal gangs and defeat them,"

Hezbollah said. The statement did not say when the attack took place or when Badreddine died.

Announcing his death on Friday, Hezbollah quoted Badreddine as having said he would return from Syria victorious or as a martyr.

Badreddine was sentenced to death in Kuwait for his role in bomb attacks there in 1983. He escaped from prison in Kuwait after Iraq, under the leadership of Sadd-

am Hussein, invaded the country in 1990. His release from jail in Kuwait was one of the demands made by the hijackers of a TWA flight in 1985, and of the hijackers of a Kuwait Airways flight in 1988.

For years, Badreddine masterminded military operations against Israel from Lebanon and overseas and managed to escape capture by Arab and Western governments.—Reuters

Congo opposition leader in hospital after police fire tear gas

LUBUMBASHI (Democratic Republic of Congo) — Congolese opposition figure Moise Katumbi was treated in hospital on Friday after police fired tear gas at him and his supporters outside the prosecutor's office in the southern mining hub of Lubumbashi, his lawyer said.

The former governor of Democratic Republic of Congo's main copper-mining region had been summoned for questioning over allegations he had hired mercenaries, including former US soldiers, as part of a plot against the republic.

Katumbi denies the accusations, which he says are aimed at derailing his campaign to succeed President Joseph Kabila, who has ruled since 2001 but is barred from standing for a third term in an election set for November. Shortly after Katumbi's arrival, police fired tear gas at thousands of his back-

ers, who had gathered outside the prosecutor's office to show their support, and the two sides pelted each other with stones.

"He is sick. He was attacked. So it's normal that the doctor would want to keep him under observation," said Georges Kapiamba, who told Reuters Katumbi had inhaled tear gas and was manhandled by police upon his arrival. The hearing was almost immediately suspended after Katumbi said he felt unwell, Kapiamba added. Friday's violence was the third time in five days that police have dispersed Katumbi's supporters amid questioning by the prosecutor that began on Monday.

"It's sad that there is not a state of law — police officers who throw stones and wound my older brother," Katumbi said before finally entering the building.—Reuters



Supporters of Democratic Republic of Congo's opposition Presidential candidate Moise Katumbi escort him as he leaves the prosecutor's office in Lubumbashi, the capital of Katanga province of the Democratic Republic of Congo, on 11 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Venezuela president declares emergency, cites US, domestic 'threats'

CARACAS — Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro declared a 60-day state of emergency on Friday due to what he called plots from within the OPEC country and the United States to topple his leftist government.

Maduro did not provide details of the measure. A previous state of emergency, implemented in states near the Colombian border last year, suspended constitutional guarantees in those areas, except for guarantees relating to human rights.

Earlier on Friday, US intelligence officials told reporters they were increasingly worried about the potential for an economic and political meltdown in Venezuela and predicted Maduro was not likely to complete his term.

Venezuela's opposition is seeking to recall the unpopular

leader, 53, amid a worsening crisis that includes food and medicine shortages, frequent power cuts, sporadic looting and galloping inflation.

But the former union leader and bus driver has vowed to stick out his term, and accuses the United States of fomenting an undercover coup against him. He pointed to this week's impeachment of fellow leftist Dilma Rousseff in Brazil as a sign that he is next.

"Washington is activating measures at the request of Venezuela's fascist right, who are emboldened by the coup in Brazil," Maduro said during a Friday night broadcast on state television.

Washington has had an acrimonious relationship with Caracas for years, especially follow-



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro attends a Council of Ministers meeting at Miraflores Palace in Caracas, Venezuela, on 13 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing US support for a short-lived 2002 coup against late leader Hugo Chavez.

Venezuela's ruling Socialist Party has long been a strong ally of Rousseff's Workers Party, however, and her departure adds to Maduro's isolation in Latin America.

Flanked by his ministers and a statue of Chavez, Maduro signed a state of emergency and extend a state of economic emer-

gency to protect the country from foreign and domestic "threats," without providing details.

Venezuela's opposition, which scoffs at Maduro's accusations of coups-mongering, quickly condemned the measure.

"Today Maduro has again violated the constitution," said opposition lawmaker Tomas Guanipa. "Why? Because he is scared of being recalled." —Reuters

Russia will act to neutralise US missile shield threat — Putin

SOCHI — A ballistic missile defence shield which the United States has activated in Europe is a step to a new arms race, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Friday, vowing to adjust budget spending to neutralise "emerging threats" to Russia.

The United States switched on the \$800 million missile shield at a Soviet-era base in Romania on Thursday saying it was a defence against missiles from Iran and so-called rogue states.

But, speaking to top defence and military industry officials, Putin said the system was aimed at blunting Russia's nuclear arsenal.

"This is not a defence system. This is part of US nuclear strategic potential brought onto a periphery. In this case, Eastern Europe is such periphery," Putin said.

"Until now, those taking such decisions have lived in calm, fairly well-off and in safety. Now, as these elements of ballistic missile defence are deployed, we are forced to think how to neutralise emerging threats to the Russian Federation," he said.

Coupled with deployment in the Mediterranean of US ships carrying Aegis missiles and other missile shield elements in Poland, the site in Romania was "yet another step to rock international security and start a new arms race", he said.

Russia would not be drawn into this race. But it would continue re-arming its army and navy and spend the approved funds in a way that would "uphold the current strategic balance of forces", he said.

US Deputy Defence Secretary Robert Work said on Thursday that the shield would not be used against any future Russian missile threat.

Frank Rose, deputy US assistant secretary of state for arms control, warned at the time that Iran's ballistic missiles could hit parts of Europe, including Romania.

Putin said the prospect of a nuclear threat from Iran should no longer be taken seriously and was being used by Washington as an excuse to develop its missile shield in Europe.

The full defensive umbrella, when complete in 2018 after further development in Poland, will stretch from Greenland to the Azores.

It relies on radars to detect a ballistic missile launch into space. Sensors then measure the rocket's trajectory and destroy it in space before it re-enters the earth's atmosphere. The interceptors can be fired from ships or ground sites.—Reuters

Canada PM tours Alberta oil town ravaged by fire, vows major aid

BONNYVILLE, (Alberta) — Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau praised firefighters on Friday for defending the energy hub of Fort McMurray and promised the federal government would pour money in to its recovery.

Trudeau toured the town in a military helicopter and saw a patchwork of neighbourhoods destroyed by an inferno that forced the evacuation of all 88,000 inhabitants. Some homes still stood, while others had burned to

their foundations.

The inferno closed the extensive oil sands operations near the town and the effort to restart them is progressing slowly. The wildfire knocked out nearly half, or 1.07 million barrels per day (bpd), of Alberta's oil sands capacity.

The blaze could cost insurers as much as C\$6 billion (\$4.7 billion), making it by far the most expensive Canadian natural disaster, according to ratings agency DBRS.

"To the people of Fort McMurray: Know that even though things may look difficult and uncertain and at times perhaps almost hopeless, know that you are not alone. Canadians are standing with you," said Trudeau.

"There will be significant federal monies invested in that community as we rebuild," he told a news conference in the provincial capital Edmonton.

Ottawa runs a fund to help provinces recover from disasters and could end up paying 90 per

cent of all eligible costs. Trudeau said the government would try to ensure the money was paid out more quickly than usual but gave no details.

After the aerial tour, he was briefed on progress fighting the fire, which has moved east of Fort McMurray into less inhabited areas, and praised emergency officials for their "valor and courage" in preserving much of the town.

"The work you did to save so much of this community, to save so much of this city and its downtown core ... was unbelievable," he said.

Trudeau has faced criticism in Alberta, a province that does not usually vote for his party, for waiting more than a week to survey the damage. He initially stressed he did not want his visit to interfere with firefighting efforts.

"I think it's a good thing he's coming," said Fort McMurray housekeeper Maureen Pearce at a supply centre for evacuees in Lac La Biche, Alberta. "I hope he provides more aid."

Many of the evacuees are living in temporary accommodation across the province, while authorities work to restore power, gas, water and communications.

Local officials say it will be 10 days before they can even produce a plan for resettlement, much less allow people to return to a place where small fires are still erupting.—Reuters



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Alberta Premier Rachel Notley (R) and Fort McMurray Fire Chief Darby Allen (L) look over a burnt out car while visiting neighbourhoods devastated by the wildfire that forced the evacuation of the city in Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, on 13 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

G-7 ministers meet in Japan to discuss education cooperation

OKAYAMA (Japan) — Education ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized countries began meeting in Okayama Prefecture in western Japan on Saturday to discuss ways to advance international cooperation in education in a bid to address such global issues as refugees and the widening divide between rich and poor.

Hiroshi Hase, the Japanese education minister, said in his remarks at the start of the meeting in Kurashiki, Okayama, that it is important for G-7 countries to take steps in the area in a coordinated manner.

During the two-day meeting, representatives from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and the European Union are ex-



Education ministers from the Group of Seven industrialised nations pose for photos in Kurashiki, Japan, on 14 May 2016, as they begin talks on such global issues as refugees and the widening divide between rich and poor. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

pected to discuss ways to provide quality education to the children of refugees and immigrants.

They are also set to discuss how equal opportunities can be ensured for

young people in poverty and women, and promoting science and math education, according to Japanese officials.

The ministers will issue a joint declaration on

Sunday, the contents of which are expected to be reflected in a two-day G-7 summit meeting to be held in Mie Prefecture in central Japan from 26 May.—*Kyodo News*

Dutch police spot tigers on the loose from animal shelter

AMSTERDAM — Two tigers escaped from a big cat shelter near a small Dutch village on Saturday and were being tracked by police.

Residents in the village of Oldeberkoop, population 1,500, have been warned to

stay indoors. “Tigers in sight,” police tweeted after launching a search with a helicopter and a veterinarian with a tranquilizer gun. “We are now going to try to bring them back to the shelter.”

Oldeberkoop is home to

the Felida centre, which receives big cats from circuses and zoos, treats them, and works to replace some in a larger shelter in South Africa.

According to the centre’s website, its residents

include two lions, eight tigers, a black jaguar, and a leopard. Newspaper *De Telegraaf* reported that the two tigers appeared to have escaped through a gate that had accidentally been left open.—*Reuters*

Chile to examine possible link between salmon industry, red tide

SANTIAGO — A team of scientists will determine if salmon producers dumping tons of dead fish into the Pacific contributed to a massive “red tide” that is wreaking havoc among fishermen in southern Chile, the government said on Friday.

The red tide — an algal bloom that turns the sea water red and makes seafood

toxic — is a common, naturally recurring phenomenon in southern Chile, though the extent of the current outbreak is unprecedented.

After starting in the Los Lagos region, the bloom has steadily spread outward, depriving many coastal communities of their livelihood. That in turn has led to massive protests and a network

of roadblocks set up by fishermen who consider the government’s efforts to mitigate the economic fallout from the bloom to be inadequate.

Scientists say this year’s El Niño weather pattern is likely a key factor in the red tide, as it warms the ocean and creates bloom-friendly conditions. Along with Chile’s SERNAPESCA

fisheries body, they have widely rejected a link between salmon dumping and the recent outbreak.

Many fishermen and communities in southern Chile, however, are blaming the country’s salmon industry, the world’s second largest, for exacerbating the problem by dumping tons of dead salmon into the ocean after a separate algal bloom killed off an estimated 100,000 tonnes of fish.

“A team of five excellent professionals has been formed that will be working on the task of examining the link between the dumping of salmon and the red tide phenomenon,” Economy Minister Luis Felipe Céspedes said in a statement. Fishermen have blockaded the principal access point to the island of Chiloe for the past three weeks, largely isolating its population of around 140,000 and stranding some tourists.—*Reuters*

Forests re-grown on cleared lands in LatAm key for climate, land rights

RIO DE JANEIRO — Forests re-grown on lands that had been cleared for agriculture in Latin America could play a key role in trapping carbon from the atmosphere and mitigating climate change if they are managed properly, researchers said in a study published on Friday.

Over the next 40 years, such second-growth forests have the potential to sequester greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to all fossil fuel and industrial emissions from Latin America in the past two decades, said the study by scientists at the University of Connecticut.

While preventing deforestation is the best protection against releasing climate-changing gases, the study published in the journal *Science Advances* shows that re-grown forests have a bigger impact in combating global warming than previously thought.

“Avoiding deforestation and supporting forest regeneration are complementary and mutually reinforcing activities,” said Robin Chazdon, a professor of evolutionary biology at the University of Connecticut and lead author of the study.

For re-growing forests to live up to their potential in sucking carbon out of the atmosphere in the tropics, governments across Latin America

need to work with local communities to ensure the land is protected, Chazdon said.

“There is a huge link between land rights and (forest regeneration),” she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

“If people don’t own the land, they don’t have incentives in its future... There is also a huge potential for community management of some of these restored forests.”

It takes between 40 and 60 years for forests to re-grow much of their carbon storage potential following deforestation, the study said.

This process works efficiently if local people are involved in managing the transition and protecting the re-growth, Chazdon said.

In many cases, especially when small plots of land are cleared for agriculture or livestock, tropical forests can regenerate themselves, without the need to physically replant trees, she said.

Brazil’s re-growing forests hold the bulk of Latin America’s carbon storage potential — 71 percent — followed by Colombia, Venezuela and Mexico. The potential of second-growth forests to sequester carbon could provide a solution for countries in Latin America to meet both their climate change and forest management goals, the study said.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

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Fishworkers’ boats are seen moored at a fishing bay in the aftermath of a harmful algal bloom at Chiloe island in Chile, on 12 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia and Ukraine set to battle it out on stage at Eurovision

STOCKHOLM — Politics could take centre stage at the usually kitsch Eurovision Song Contest on Saturday, with bookmakers making Russia favourite to win and the Ukrainian entry featuring lyrics about deportations by the Soviet Union.

In “1944”, Ukraine’s 32-year-old Jamala sings about strangers coming to “kill you all”, saying “we’re not guilty” — remembering a time when Josef Stalin deported Tatars from Crimea.

Jamala, herself a Tatar, stands alone on the Stockholm stage and sings “you think you are gods” against a blood-red backdrop — leading reporters and online commentators who have seen Ukraine’s rehearsals and semi-final performance to draw parallels with Russia’s annexation of Crimea in 2014.

Tatars, a Muslim people indigenous to the Black Sea peninsula and numbering about 300,000 in a population of 2 million, opposed the annexation, which followed the overthrow of a Moscow-backed president in Kiev.

Meanwhile, Russia, is tipped to win with a breezy europop number “You are the Only One”, by Sergey Lazarev. A victory for Russia, which started competing



Australia's Dami Im and her team cheer in the Green Room during the Eurovision Song Contest 2016 semi-final 2 at the Ericsson Globe Arena in Stockholm, Sweden, on 12 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

in the contest in 1994, would be its second since 2008.

In a glittery show best known for camp song and dance routines, Russia has been booed at the past two editions — over Crimea and a 2013 law against so-called gay propaganda.

Sweden’s SVT broadcast-

er has said it will not adjust the live sound to filter out any booing during the show.

While the public voting has long been tainted by political affiliations among competitor countries, songs are not allowed to be political. Event organiser, the European Broadcasting Un-

ion, said Ukraine’s offering did not contain political speech.

Nonetheless, among many commentators making a similar point, Swedish daily *Dagens Nyheter* said in a column: “You must close your eyes really hard not to see the parallels between this year’s contribution from

Ukraine, which is about Stalin’s deportations from the Crimea in the 1940s, and contemporary events.”

Security for the event will be tight in the wake of militant attacks in Europe and safety issues were further highlighted after Bosnian officials said police had arrested several people suspected of trafficking arms to Islamists in Sweden.

Eurovision, which was started in the 1950s with the aim of uniting Europe after World War II, has expanded ever further outside the continent in recent years due to its popularity.

Organisers expect more than 200 million viewers to tune in from Australia and New Zealand to China and the United States, where Saturday night’s final is being broadcast live for the first time in both countries.

The internationalisation of the contest is underlined by the performance of US singer Justin Timberlake who is set to premiere a new song during the final.

Australia, competing for the first time last year and taking part after accepting an invitation from organisers, could yet steal the show with bookies making Dami Im’s power ballad “Sound of Silence” second favourite.—*Reuters*

Stone Roses return with ‘All For One’, first single in 21 years



Stone Roses lead singer Ian Brown performs at Finsbury Park in London, in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — The Stone Roses, the English band that influenced a generation of others including Oasis, has released its first original single in 21 years to mixed reviews.

The band, formed in Manchester in 1983, was one of the pioneering groups of the so-called “Madchester” scene, producing songs such as “I Am The Resurrection”, “Fools Gold” and “Waterfall”.

“And what a mighty anthem it is,” NME music

newspaper wrote of the new single. “‘All For One’ captures that classic Roses sound but drags it right into the 21st century.”

The Guardian newspaper was less congratulatory about the new song.

“It will please the Manchester faithful, who don’t require a fresh take on what these musicians are about,” the newspaper said. “But for those who crave the magic of the band at their peak, the wait goes on.”—*Reuters*

Meghan Trainor to perform at 2016 Billboard Music Awards

LOS ANGELES — Singer Meghan Trainor will perform at the 2016 Billboard Music Awards.

The 22-year-old singer Grammy-winning pop star will take the stage to perform her hit single “NO” at the 22 May gala,

reported E! online.

The first single lifted from her sophomore album Thank You, “NO” reached No 3 on the Billboard Hot 100 last month.

She will join alongside major names like Rihanna, Ariana

Grande, Justin Bieber, Gwen Stefani and Blake Shelton, Celine Dion, DNCE, Britney Spears, Pink, Demi Lovato and Shawn Mendes among others.

Ludacris and Ciara will host the evening.—*PTI*

Justin Bieber takes selfie with restaurant manager

LOS ANGELES — Justin Bieber’s self-imposed ‘fan selfie ban’ didn’t last long as the pop star posed for a photo with a steakhouse manager.

The “Sorry” superstar was in Boston, Massachusetts on 10 May during a two-night concert stint when he agreed to mug for a snap with a STRIP by Strega restaurant boss.

The photo left many fans puzzled as just a day earlier, after being hounded by the public while out and about, the singer took to Instagram and urged fans to quit pestering him for snaps and selfies during his down time, because



Justin Bieber. PHOTO: REUTERS

it made him feel like a “zoo animal”.

Justin defended his no-selfie stance in an exchange with an Instagram follower, insisting he needed to set “boundaries” to prevent the onset of insanity as he struggles to deal with the pressures of fame.

However, the 22-year-old appeared to be in a happier mood after his gig that night, when he

headed to the STRIP by Strega restaurant in the Boston Park Plaza Hotel and sat drinking alone at the bar chatting with a bartender.

“He was super nice and chatty with guests,” a representative for the restaurant.

“He hung around outside for a little bit, chatting with the managers, then went back in and waved goodbye to everyone, and everyone went crazy.”—*PTI*

Women boxers punch through social taboos in Sudan

KHARTOUM — Sweat drips from Arafat Abkar's brow as she dodges blows in an open-air arena in Khartoum's searing summer heat. Wearing only shorts and a t-shirt, the 22-year-old draws crowds in a country where Muslim mores mean women's boxing is a rare spectacle.

"When I train, more spectators watch because women's boxing is new and unfamiliar in Sudan," Abkar said proudly at the private Nile Club in the south of the city.

Sudan is ruled by Islamic law, which requires women to dress modestly. So, when she's in the street, Abkar follows the fashion by wearing loose, flowing garments and covering her hair.

In the ring, however, her bare head and defined muscles mark her out for criticism and ridicule. That is a price Abkar is willing to pay.

"People mock women who box. They think it's not feminine but they're

wrong ... I don't think this sport will stop me getting married. So far, we've faced no objections from anyone, governmental or otherwise," she said.

Most families are not so supportive and another girl at the club said she boxed in secret as her family would object to her taking part in what they see as a man's sport. Women's boxing was unheard of in Sudan until four years ago, when Sahar Mohamed took up the sport and represented her country at the All Africa Games last year. She was defeated on points in the Middleweight category by Yannick Azangue of Cameroon.

Since then, the Sudan Amateur Boxing Federation has sought to encourage women to join the sport despite social challenges.

"Four years ago, I was the first Sudanese girl to box and I faced big pressures from my family and people but I'll continue as this is my life's dream," said Mohamed at a state-run youth centre in Khartoum,



Sahar Mohamed Al Dooma, 26, practises boxing at Al Rabie club in Omdurman, on 10 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

where she trains. Nearby, two women were training alongside men, shouting as they jumped from foot to foot and punched each other with worn gloves. The equipment is worn and basic, but the centre is busy, the atmosphere buzzing with young people practicing everything from martial

arts to soccer.

"People watch satellite channels and look on the internet and that has changed the culture and given new courage to women in the past few years to pick up boxing gloves," Mohamed Yousef, head of the Sudanese national boxing team, said. "The Sudan Boxing

Federation asked us put more emphasis on girls to encourage them to continue in the sport."

Ali al-Aqraa, 78, a retired Sudanese boxing champion and the first to begin training women said a lack of funds, not enthusiasm, was the biggest hurdle.—Reuters

Polish group seeks to help the blind with free smart glasses

WARSAW — A Polish non-profit organisation is hoping to help the blind and visually impaired with plans to make and give away what it says will be the world's first free smart glasses. Parsee has developed a prototype of the battery-powered glasses which have a 3D printed frame, internet protocol camera and earphone.

Pushing a button on the frame, users take pictures of an object in front of them, which the camera sends to a mobile phone app. The app identifies shapes, colours, text as well as faces and sends details about the image via audio to the earphone.

"It helps (the blind and visually impaired) in their everyday living like reading newspapers, drinking juice," Parsee project manager Bartosz Trzcinski said.

Parsee, which began as a family project to help a relative, has begun fundraising and has a \$25,000 goal to complete research and development of a sleeker model of the glasses.

The project is still in the early stages of its longer-term goals of mass production and free distribution.

The current cost of producing one pair of glasses is \$300 — a figure Parsee aims to reduce once it has funds, demand and production in place. Similar high-tech projects are in the works elsewhere. Britain's Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) has been working with researchers on making smart glasses, to retail at less than 300 pounds (\$433), that help wearers identify shapes and determine distance, its website says.—Reuters

Portugal haunted house show seeks shivers and shrieks in freaky tour



The Quinta Nova da Assuncao mansion, where Reflexo theatre company performs the show "Casa Assombrada" (haunted house), is seen in Belas, near Sintra, Portugal on 9 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LISBON — At the Quinta Nova da Assuncao mansion near Lisbon, all is not quite right.

During a tour of the empty house, there are apparitions, shadows and the sound of doors randomly shutting. All accompanied by the terrified shrieks from the group of visitors.

Portuguese theatre company Reflexo is terrifying audiences with its "Casa Assombrada" (haunted house) project, an immersive show where small groups of visitors walk through the 25-room house with just an audio guide — and each other — for company.

Facing some scary scenes as well as riddles to get from one room to

the other, there are plenty of screams as well as tears. Some do not even make it to the end of the show, fleeing through the front door.

The project has been running since last June at the house, which has stood empty for several years, drawing visitors from all over the country for the freaky experience in the village of Belas, near the town of Sintra.

"Normally what you see is the scary actor running through corridors ... It's not like this. You don't see the things, you are not sure if you are seeing things," director Michel Simeao told Reuters. "It's a very intense experience."—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(15- 5-2016, Sunday)

<p>6:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather Report Travelogue "To the coastal region (Myeik — Kawthoung)" Part-1 <p>6:30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music Programme <p>6:50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Myanmar Video <p>* 03 : 30 Pm Live: Semi - Final * 05 : 30 Pm Live: Live: Final * 08 : 30 Pm Live: Arsenal Vs Aston Villa</p> <p>From 15-5-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm To 16-5-2016 (Monday) 6:00 Pm</p>	<p>8:50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Movie Songs <p>9:00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> U Kyaw Thu: From Artist to Philanthropist (Part-II) <p>9:20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music Programme <p>9:40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Myanmar Movie
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Myanmar International

(15-5-2016 07:00am ~ 16-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh		
07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Sayit-Wyne Girls
07:48	Am	Myanmar Charitable Labour Association
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Geographic Center of Myanmar
08:45	Am	Toddy Palm Product Shop
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Wonderful Indonesia (Electronic Media Trip)
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	A Chance to Change Their Future

10:43	Am	A Happy Visit to Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)
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(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Saturday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time		
07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence... To KachinState
07:49	Pm	Today Myanmar "Earthquake Awareness"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus(Ep-2)

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

Terry mulling over 'different role' at Chelsea



PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Chelsea captain John Terry says he will ponder his future carefully before deciding whether to accept the club's offer of a new one-year deal and what he describes as "a different role".

The Londoners announced earlier on Friday that the former England skipper, who is out of contract at the end of the season and feared he had played his last game for the club, had been offered a 12-month extension.

However, it is uncertain whether Chelsea's 35-year-old idol will agree to the deal.

"The contract extension the club have offered me is a different role and I hope everyone will understand I want to take the time to consider it carefully before making a decision," Terry said on Instagram without elaborating.

The offer of a new deal suggests Antonio Conte, who will take over as manager from Guus Hiddink after leading Italy at next month's European Championship, wants to keep the centre half.

Some fans staged a protest in the 26th minute, the number of Terry's shirt, of Wednesday's 1-1 draw at Liverpool urging the club to keep him.

"(Director) Marina Granovskaia and (chairman) Bruce Buck met with John and his agent this week and offered him a one-year

contract extension," a Chelsea spokesman said on Friday.

Terry is banned for Chelsea's final game of the season, Hiddink's farewell match against champions Leicester City at Stamford Bridge on Sunday, after he was sent off at Sunderland last weekend.

If Terry decides to stay it will lift the supporters at the end of a poor defence of the club's Premier League title.

Chelsea were one point above the relegation zone following defeat at Leicester in December, after which manager Jose Mourinho was sacked, and cannot now finish higher than ninth.

"I still want to play a couple more years and hopefully that's at Chelsea," Terry told Sky Sports earlier this week.

"I'm a Chelsea player, Chelsea's been my club from the age of 14." He made his first-team debut in 1998 and is one of only three players to have appeared in more than 700 games for the club, the others being Peter Bonetti and Ron Harris.

Terry is the most successful skipper in Chelsea's history and has won 14 major trophies with the club. "It would be very difficult (to replace him)," said team mate Gary Cahill. "Not only as a player but as a character in the dressing-room."—Reuters

Mourinho has no agreement with United – Sky report



Former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho walks during a friendly soccer match between FIFA Football Legends against Mexican all-stars as part of the 66th FIFA Congress and 50th anniversary of the Azteca stadium, at Azteca stadium in Mexico City, Mexico, on 11 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho has no agreement in place to take over at Manchester United, Sky Sports television said on Friday quoting unnamed sources.

The 53-year-old Portuguese has been the long-time favourite with British bookmakers to succeed Louis van Gaal in the Old Trafford hot seat.

Mourinho, who has also coached Real Madrid, Inter Milan and Porto, has been out of work since being sacked by Chelsea, for the second time in his career, when the 2014-15 Premier League champions were one point above the relegation zone in December.

The Londoners have since climbed to ninth in the table under interim manager Guus Hiddink and play their final game of the season at home to newly-crowned champions Leicester City on Sunday. Van Gaal said on Friday that he expected to serve the final season of his United contract he signed in 2014. "I have said I shall be here, that is my opinion, so the board has to decide if it is like that," the Dutchman told reporters. United, who are fifth in the league, end their season with a home game against Bournemouth on Sunday.—Reuters

Resilient Djokovic fends off Nadal, Murray wins

ROME — World number one Novak Djokovic fended off a resurgent Rafael Nadal 7-5, 7-6 (4) in a pulsating battle on Friday to reach the semi-finals of the Italian Open.

Nadal led 4-2 in the first set and had five set points on serve at 5-4 in the second but Djokovic held firm for a bruising clay-court victory which took two hours 24 minutes.

It was his seventh straight win over the Spaniard and 11th in 12 meetings. However, it took all of the Serb's incredible defensive skills to withstand a much-improved performance from the nine-times French Open champion.

Coping better with a blustery wind that swirled around the Foro Italico, Nadal broke to lead 3-2 but Djokovic recovered to level at 4-4 and then won the first set on his fourth set point.

In the second set Nadal broke in the opening game and despite calling the physio because of pain in his left foot, he held his advantage to 5-4.

Serving for the set he held five set points but Djokovic saved the lot and broke back, eventually sealing the match on a tiebreak.

Djokovic next meets Kei

Nishikori of Japan or Dominic Thiem of Austria. Earlier, Andy Murray held off a strong fight-back from David Goffin to beat the Belgian 6-1, 7-5.

In a repeat of their clash in last year's Davis Cup final, world number three Murray raced through the first set for the loss of just 10 points.

After recovering from 3-1 down in the second, the Scot served for the match at 5-4 only to be broken thanks to a stunning pass by Goffin.

Murray broke again in the next game and served out second time round to set up a meeting with France's Lucas Pouille.

Having reached the semi-finals in Monte Carlo last month and the final in Madrid last week, Murray said he was enjoying himself on clay.

"I always said it was the surface I enjoyed playing on the most because it is very challenging," he added.

In the women's event, last year's Wimbledon runner-up Garbine Muguruza of Spain beat Swiss Timea Bacsinszky 7-5, 6-2 to reach the last four.

She plays American Madison Keys who overcame Czech Barbora Strycova 6-4, 4-6, 6-3. Romania's Irina-Camelia Begu saw off Misaki Doi of Japan 6-2, 7-6 (3) and next faces world number one Serena Williams or Russia's Svetlana Kuznetsova.—Reuters



Djokovic returns the ball during Italy Open Men's Singles Quarterfinal match at Rome, Italy on 13 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS