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PROTECTION FROM RUMOURS

No budget cuts to construction of Myanmar-Bangladesh border fence

Nyi Nyi

NO budget cuts were made to the construction of the fence along the border between Myanmar and Bangladesh, and the construction will continue, said U Zaw Htay, the deputy director-general of the President's Office.

The 2016-2017 state budget allocated K5.5 billion to the construction of the border fence.

This budget allocation was approved by the first Phythu Hluttaw under the previous government, and when the new government came to power, the budget was re-evaluated.

Nevertheless, the approved allocation of the budget for building the border fence was neither cut nor reduced, said U Zaw Htay.

"Although the claims cannot be confirmed, concerns have been raised over border security following recent remarks made by Facebook users. This being so, clarifications must be made, and all successive governments must lay emphasis on border security," wrote U Zaw Htay on his Facebook page.

The building of the Myanmar-Bangladesh began in 2009. The task was assigned to the Office of the Quartermaster-General by Myanmar Police Force. The Myanmar Police Force, under the Ministry of Home Affairs,

Two men walk along the fence separating Myanmar and Bangladesh in Maungdaw, northern Rakhine State. PHOTO: REUTERS



requested the budget for the project, and construction was assigned to the Garrison Engineering Units under the Office of the Quartermaster General.

Four phases of construction have been finished as of the 2014-2015 financial year. However, the original budget allocation from 2015-2016 did not include

the current project, so additional funds were requested from the supplementary budget. However, the demands for more funds were rejected, so the funds will

be sought in the next budget allocation.

The budget was not cut this year, and building of the fence has resumed, said U Zaw Htay.

Sagaing floods kill two, damage thousands of homes



Flash floods damaged several bridges in Wuntho. PHOTO: IPRD

TWO people are reported dead following flooding in Sagaing Region yesterday as incessant rain battered Katha, Wuntho and Kawlin townships.

In Katha, creeks swelled and flooded nearby villages, causing landslides that killed two people, according to the township's Information and Public Relations Department.

In Wuntho, floods destroyed crops and killed farm animals across the township, damaging bridges and disrupting the area's transportation system. Local officials coordinated rescue operations in concert with civil society organisations.

Kawlin Township also experienced severe flooding, which affected 4,000 homes.

"The water levels reached four feet in a matter of 30 minutes, but the floods subsided quickly," said Ko Maung Maung, a resident of Kawlin.

Local officials said the rainfall reached six inches in Kawlin and 10.37 inches in Wuntho. The extent of the damage remains unknown. Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Hlaing visited the area to help with rescue operations, a resident said, blaming the disaster on the reckless disposal of soil from gold mining.

The chief minister pledged

full cooperation by members of parliament and departmental officials with rescue workers in addressing the effects of environmental degradation in the region.

The regional government contributed K20 million and emergency relief to victims of the disaster and urged officials to help with recovery and resettlement.

The region was worst-hit by severe flooding in August 2015, suffering numerous losses of lives and damages to property. The unprecedented flooding left behind a trail of devastation and across the region. — Aung Thant Khaing with local IPRDs

Phayar Thone Su border trade centre opening set after completion of Thailand-Myanmar boundary demarcation

THE Phayar Thone Su border trade centre in Kyar-in Seikgyi Township will be opened after the completion of coordination on matters relating to the Myanmar-Thailand boundary, the Pyithu Hluttaw was told yesterday.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint stressed the need for solving the controversial Myanmar-Thailand border dispute before the opening of the trade center in order to avoid the possible losses of border areas.

According to the Union minister, Thailand constructed buildings and built a highway road on the country's territory in the border area and Myanmar refused Thailand's proposal to open a border trade centre.

Border trade and crossing matters are set to be discussed af-

ter the completion of a boundary demarcation between Myanmar and Thailand including the settling of the Phayar Thone Su border issue, said the Union minister.

He added that border trade camps are operating in Myawady, Kawthaung, Tachilek, Myeik, Htee Khee and Maw Taung on the Myanmar-Thailand border and that arrangements are being made to formally open the Maese border trade camp between Myanmar and Thailand.

During the 42nd session of the Pyithu Hluttaw the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye responded to a question regarding the rehabilitation programme for the erosion-stricken Kathit Khon village in Thanatpin Township.

The Union minister said that

cash and gifts were presented to victims from 148 households who were effected by mandatory evacuation and works are currently underway to relocate them on a 31.24-acre plot of farmland in Kyephychaung village-tract.

Regarding a question about the future of the Yangon Mingalar Market that was destroyed by fire, the Union minister replied that a new building will be constructed as 56.5 per cent of shop owners voted for the complete reconstruction of the fire-ravaged market.

Construction of new building for the market will be implemented as soon as possible following the approval of the Yangon Region Parliament through the regional government, he said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets with Singapore-based US business delegation

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than held talks with delegates from Singapore-based US businesses led by US Ambassador to Singapore Mr. Kirk Wagar at

his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The representatives held discussions on the development of the economic sector and investment matters.

Also present were the Dep-

uty speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, committee chairs and secretaries of the Amyotha Hluttaw and officials from the Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Mahn Win Khaing Than receives US Ambassador to Singapore Mr. Kirk Wagar. PHOTO: MNA

New Mandalay- Myitkyina express way to be constructed

A NEW Mandalay-Myitkyina express way will be constructed based on the Yangon-Mandalay express way built by the former government, it has been announced by the Ministry of Construction.

"The new government will construct a Mandalay-Myitkyina highway with the assistance of South Korea. The Yu Shin com-

pany (SK) has begun observing land," said permanent secretary U Kyaw Lin from the Ministry of Construction at a press briefing.

"They will construct the new Mandalay-Myitkyina express way parallel to the Ayeyawadi River rather than upgrading the old Mandalay-Myitkyina express way," added by U Kyaw Lin.

"The new express will get through the town of Hsin Bo," U Kyaw Lin added.

Measures are being taken to secure international loans to construct the new express way. The road's construction will be started as soon as international loans are received, it has been learned from the Ministry of Construction.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Logging elephants to prevent from extinction

"Elephants used for logging will be saved from extinction by replacing them with the machines," said an official from the Myanma Timber Enterprise.

"If machines are used to substitute the work of logging elephants, it may become very costly due to fuel costs. Logging elephants need to be well tak-

en care of so that they can live longer and be used for a longer term," said the official.

We still use logging elephants because the forest would be damaged by the use of machines. Therefore, instead of using machines, we will take better care of the elephants for their longevity.

Deterrent punishment will be meted out if people are found selling ivory. The health of the logging elephants will be closely monitored on a monthly basis to keep them fit and healthy.

There are altogether 2,729 state-owned elephants and 5,580 private-owned elephants, it is reported.—200

Swam Pyae Sone Co may be taken to court for failure to respond to gov directive : Deputy Home Affairs Minister



Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe. PHOTO: MNA

THE Swam Pyae Sone Company of Daw Aye Hsaing can be sued under Section 26 of the 2012 Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands Management Law if it fails to remove construction materials for the establishment of a soft-shell crab breeding facility and dried shrimp paste factory in Pyapon Township,

Ayeyawady Region the company has until 20 June of this year, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe told Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday. According to the deputy minister, the company's operation was suspended in May following a prohibition order issued by the Pyapon Township farmland management committee.

On Monday the Pyapon Township General Administration Department issued instructions to the company, ordering them to clear the land plot. Responding to the question of action to be taken against two illegal expat workers who were detained, the deputy minister said that they will be charged in accordance with the laws of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and the Ministry of Home Affairs that will join hands with the regional government to take action against them.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Singapore-based US business delegation

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received a Singapore-based US business delegation led by US Ambassador to Singapore Mr. Kirk Wagar in a hall of Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present were Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Ti Khun Myat, chairpersons and secretaries of Pyithu Hluttaw committees and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Kindergarden classrooms to be separate by 2020

SCHOOLS in the townships of Moehtnyin are reorganising classroom plans and arranging for new teaching and learning aids in preparation for the 2016-2017 curriculum. The curriculum will reintroduce kindergarden classes.

"Rooms with timber flooring are more suitable for KG than concrete flooring. So, we're now using wood for those dedicated rooms," said Dr Wathan Myat Thin, head mistress of Moehtnyin Basic Education High School No.1.

All schools have sent two teachers each to attend a refresher course for the new KG curric-

ulum. According to the rules of the Education department, there shall be at least two teachers per KG class. However, there are more than 100 KG students in some schools. As many schools are understaffed, they have not been able to send KG teachers to the refresher courses, it has been learned.

"We are planning to construct separate buildings for KG classes and there will be separate rooms for KG classes at all schools by the 2020 academic year," said an assistant township education officer.—*Mang Ngai*



A KG classroom being repaired. PHOTO: MANG NGAI



Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong and wife visit the old Secretariat in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Singaporean PM unveils commemorative plaque of Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute

SINGAPOREAN Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong together with Singaporean Education Minister Mr. Ong Ye Kung and Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi unveiled a commemorative plaque at the Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute in Yangon yesterday.

Next, the group took a tour of the building and the two Education ministers planted a mahogany tree to mark the opening of the Institute.

The Singapore-Myanmar Vocational Training Institute was opened on 16 October, 2015, offering vocational education and training courses aimed at providing teachers and Myanmar youth vocational skills and knowledge to better meet the country's requirements.

The Singaporean PM, his wife and party visited the old Secretariat on Yangon's Theinbyu Road where Dr Thant Myint-U, chairman of Yangon Heritage Trust, conducted them on a tour

which included inspections of the stone inscription commemorating fallen martyrs, the old Parliament Chamber and the room where General Aung San and his colleagues were assassinated.

In the evening, the Singaporean PM and party were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and his wife, regional ministers, the Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Robert Chua and other officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Heads of service organizations transferred, appointed and appointments confirmed

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has transferred Director-General U Hla Maw Oo of the Department of Trade Promotion and Consumer Affairs under the Ministry of Commerce to Department of Consumer Affairs under the same ministry as Director-General from the date he assumes charge of his duties.

Moreover, the President has confirmed the appointments of Director-General U Win Tint of the Department of Building

and Director-General U Win Pe of the Department of Road under the Ministry of Construction on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Besides, the President has appointed Deputy Director-General U Aung Naing of Legislative Vetting and Advising Department under the Union Attorney-General's Office as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—*Myanmar News Agency*

New building to be constructed on site of fire-gutted Yangon Mingalar Market

COMPLETE reconstruction of the fire-ravaged Mingalar Market in Yangon will be implemented as soon as possible as 56.5 per cent of shop owners have voted in favour of a new building, according to the Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye yesterday.

Parliamentary approval will be sought through the Yangon Region government, he added.

Construction of a new building on the site of the fire-ravaged market will be carried out shortly after the approval of the regional government, he said, adding that works are underway to reconstruct the new building in cooperation with the Myanmar Engineering Society.

According to the Union minister, 1,750 shop owners voted for the complete reconstruction

of the fire-gutted market while 1,330 voted against the new building, calling for repairs.

Of 4,062 shop owners, 3,093 were present to vote and 13 votes were found to be invalid.

"I put forward the question to the parliament as my constituencies wanted to know the future of the market," said Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw Phyu Phyu Thin of Mingalar Taungnyunt Township, expressing her view that it will be better to build a new market than repair the fire-ravaged shell of the old one.

"I am very pleased to hear that the market will get a new building as I don't want to worry about the durability of the market that caught fire two times already", a shop owner on the second floor of the market told *the Global New Light of Myanmar*.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Results of 2016 matriculation (Grade 11) examination to be broadcast on air via Radio Myanmar

THE results of the university entrance examinations (matriculation) that were held in March 2016 will be announced at 6 am on Saturday via Myanma Radio and Television-MRTV's ethnic language programmes for the benefit of students who live in remote areas.

MRTV will broadcast the results of the university entrance examination for upper Myanmar students through shortwave 50.71 metre (5915 kHz) and shortwave 30.86 metre (9730 kHz) while the results for students from examination centers in lower Myanmar will be on air through medium wave 411.52 metre (729 kHz) of MTV and FM radios.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar prepares to report to CEDAW Committee on its implementation of gender equality

THE Department of Social Welfare, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Government of Myanmar and UN Women in partnership with other arms of the UN organised a CEDAW Mock Review Session yesterday to prepare the Myanmar government delegation that will report to the CEDAW Committee on gender equality and women's rights in Myanmar.

70 participants including the official delegation, senior officials from government ministries, parliamentarians, representatives from civil society organisations and UN agencies were in attendance. Opening the event, Union Minister for Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement H.E Dr. Win Myat Aye, said, "Myanmar ratified CEDAW in 1997 and has been working hard for the development of women and to see an end to discrimination and violence against them. Myanmar is implementing the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (2013-



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye speaks at CEDAW Mock Review Session. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

22) in 12 critical areas of women's lives and will be moving to implement the globally agreed SDGs including gender goals. We need to use this opportunity to gather as much data as possible to showcase our good work, but also to work together to address whatever constraints we have in achieving gender equality".

Susannah Hla Hla Soe, Secretary of the Parliamentary Committee on Women and Children said, "We learned that if we have not made progress in certain areas,

we need to state that clearly to the CEDAW Committee. We need to think about what has stopped us from making such progress and to introduce measures to respond to the gender gaps, even if it is step by step". UN Women Myanmar said of the meeting, "the CEDAW Mock session simulated the actual review. It aimed to prepare national partners to optimise the opportunity to revisit gains and gaps in CEDAW implementation and analyse the basis for success and constraints through mul-

ti-sector consultation. It sought to support government and other national partners in creating dialogue constructively with the CEDAW Committee on closing gender gaps in Myanmar - and to implement the CEDAW Committee's Concluding Comments in line with CEDAW standards, the SDGs localised and the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women".

The presenting of the official report to the CEDAW Committee is slated for 6 July.—*GNLM*

Members of Thanlyin Command carry out communal sanitation work in Thanlyin township



Tatmadawmen clearing weeds and bushes. PHOTO: C-IN-C's OFFICE

TATMADAW members (Army and Navy in Thanlyin) carried out sanitation work at a school in Thanlyin township on Tuesday.

Tatmadaw members cleared weeds and bushes around the school buildings in addition to removing rubbish from the compound. Some classrooms were also painted. — *Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

Regional and beneficial crops to be planted rather than paddy

“THE cultivation of regional and beneficial crops will be allowed now rather than paddy for places which are not suitable for growing paddy,” said the Deputy Minister for Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win.

“Beneficial crops for farmers will be a priority. We will cultivate various kinds of beans and sesame instead of planting paddy which are not suited to local regions in terms of weather conditions and the availability of water supply,” added by Dr Tun Win from the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation.

“Paddy is the main crop of Myanmar. However, the planting of other kinds of crops will be gradually implemented soon. The main aim is for farmers to be growing crops beneficially,” said Dr Tun Win, Deputy Minister for

Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation. “In fact, growing beans, pulses and sesame can save more irrigated water than growing paddy,” said Dr Tun Win.

Paddy cultivating needs six times the volume of water needed to cultivate other crops, it is reported. Bean cultivation can yield double the profit of paddy cultivation. Paddy should be cultivated to meet export quality. It is also important to achieve some self-sufficiency, said U Kyaw Swar Soe, the chairman of Myanmar Farmer Development Party. “We welcome the government giving priority to farmers profit but it is essential for the government to intervene to fix a ceiling price so that people are not forced to buy produce at exorbitant price,” added the chairman. — *Thein Ko Lwin*

Crime NEWS

Yaba seized in Myawady, Tamwe

AN anti-narcotic squad in Myawady confiscated 1,600 yaba pills from one Kyaw Kyaw on Hsin Shwe Li 3 road, ward 5, Myawady town on Monday. Police also searched the house of one Htay Htay Kyi and discovered 33,000 yaba pills. Ma Ei, Tin Aung and Aye Aye Hla were found together with the host.

According to a connected investigation, the police searched the home of one Aung Ye Lin in Kyauk Myaung ward, Tamwe township and seized 501 yaba pills. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *MNA*



Marijuana, ice and Yaba seized seen with the criminal suspects. PHOTO: MNA

Car accident kills four monks

A VEHICLE with five monks on board slipped into a valley near Mile Post 22/23 on Namhsam-Thibaw road in Thibaw township, northern Shan State on Wednesday, killing four monks and injuring one.

The township's administra-

tive officials, together with fire brigade members and residents, came to their rescue. The injured monk was taken to hospital in an ambulance owned by a free funeral service, which also donated K60,000 toward the monk's medical treatment. — *U Myint Aung*

Motorcycle passenger run over by six-wheel bus

A MOTORCYCLE passenger was run over by a six-wheel passenger vehicle between mileposts 49/2 and 49/3, on the Yangon-Pyay road, railway station ward, Taikkyi township on Tuesday.

According to an investigation a passenger vehicle belonging to the Aung Thisar bus line en route to Pyay from Yangon being driven by one Thein Naing, 52, hooked with a motorcycle driven by one U Maung Htay, 40, with two passengers on board and a trishaw being driven by one Thit Soe, 30, when the passenger bus driver attempted to overtake them.

Ma San San Oo, on board the motorbike was killed while his two passengers sustained minor injuries. The injured were taken for medical treatment at Taikkyi general hospital.— *Tun Hlaing(Myein)*

Yaba seized in Mabein

A LOCAL police squad in Shan state seized over 9,000 yaba pills worth a total of K19,600,000 from two houses in Yang Bo village, Mabein township, Shan state on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched the home of one Kyar Aung and discovered 2,000 yaba pills and the home of one Aung Swe and found 7,800 yaba pills. Police have filed charges against Kyar Aung, Aik Kain, Aung Swe, Has Kyin and Nyi Man Eain under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Township IPRD*



Kyar Aung and Aung Swe. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP IPRD

Fire sparked by lightning

A FIRE broke out in the Hluttaw compound at the corner of Shin Saw Pu and Baho road in Dagon Township on Wednesday.

A 500 KV transformer was hit by lightning during heavy rainfall around 3:15PM resulting in an outbreak fire that burned a 40x40 foot building. The fire was brought under control within 35 minutes by firemen with thirteen fire engines from seven townships. The accident injured one fireman, who was receiving medical treatment at Yangon General Hospital. — *Ko Gyi Tin*



LOCAL Business

Government Revenue rises by over K48 billion

THE revenue of the government this fiscal year (2016-2017) have risen by over K48 billion when compared to the same period last fiscal year in Yangon, according to the Internal Revenue Department.

Revenue from April to the third week of May this fiscal year has reached over K73.2 billion up from K25.8 billion last year, according to the statistics of the department.

Total revenue for this fiscal year is expected to reach over K156 billion from commercial tax, K311 billion from income tax, over K25 billion from stamp tax and over K60 billion for special goods tax. Currently, over K73 billion of tax has already been collected.

Over K1 trillion was received through tax last fiscal year although the expected revenue was over K994 billion.—200

Mitsubishi UFJ to establish branch office in July

THE Mitsubishi UFJ (MUFJ) Financial Group, based in Japan, will establish a branch office in July to offer financial assistance, it has been learned.

The MUFJ has plans to offer loans for purchases on an instalment plan so that Myanmar citizens can purchase Japanese products.

MUFJ has plans to become

operational as soon as the Central Bank of Myanmar grants them permission. If MUFJ receives approval, it will become the first foreign financial group in Myanmar. The company will start to introduce instalment purchase systems for cars, construction tools and IT products manufactured by Japanese factories in Thailand.—PPN/Union Daily

MAPCO to join YSX in August

Ko Moe

MYANMAR Agribusiness Public Corporation (MAPCO) is planning to join the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) in August, U Soe Tun, the executive director of MAPCO, told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

"When MAPCO joins the Yangon Stock Exchange, people will have more choices in the market," he said.

MAPCO was formed in

2012 to boost investment in agriculture and agro-industries in the country.

The company was permitted to list its shares on the YSX along with First Private Bank Ltd, First Myanmar Investment, Great Hor Khan Public Co, Myanmar Citizens Bank and Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Ltd.

"We'd like to wait until foreign companies can buy shares on the YSX, when [the

trading environment] will hopefully be better than it has been recently. That's why we're expecting to join the YSX in August or, at the latest, in September," said Ye Min Aung, vice chairman of MAPCO, in an interview with The Irrawaddy.

MAPCO will sell shares at a floor price of K10,000 (US\$8.44) to 1,440 existing shareholders between 10 June and early July, he added during the interview.

Artificial insemination lab to be operational in July

A NEW artificial insemination laboratory will be operational in the second week of July at the Mandalay Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD) under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, it has been learned.

Semen tubes tested by the new laboratory will be freely distributed to farms across Myanmar, said Dr Yan Naing Soe, the director of the Mandalay

Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LVD).

We will make available pedigree semen from bulls. We are going to distribute the pedigree semen for use using artificial insemination. This method should be used to reproduce pedigree animals. Previously, semen tubes were distributed by the artificial insemination laboratory of Mingladon. The establishing of the artificial insemination lab-

oratory as a Mandalay LBVD branch office is aimed at improving pedigree animal production in upper Myanmar, he added.

There are three types of oxen in Myanmar including draught cattle, beef cattle and milk cows. The new laboratory is currently under construction at the Mandalay LBVD centre.

The new laboratory will act the second artificial insemination laboratory in Myanmar.—200

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DPRK to convene 4th session of 13th national legislature: state media

PYONGYANG — The fourth session of the 13th Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will be convened here on 29 June, the official news agency KCNA reported on Thursday.

The decision was made Tuesday by the Presidium of the SPA, the highest legislative body of the DPRK, the KCNA said in a brief dispatch without further

elaboration.

The SPA is convened once or twice a year. The first session of the 13th SPA re-elected top leader Kim Jong Un as the first chairman of the National Defence Commission (NDC) and Pak Pong Ju as the premier of the DPRK cabinet in April 2014.

Kim was absent from the third meeting of 13th SPA convened in April last year. Pak made a report instead, addressing the issue of feeding the population. Personnel adjustment for the NDC was also made at the meeting.

The 13th SPA elected 687 deputies from across the country for a five-year term in March 2014.

The SPA has the power to adopt, amend or supplement enactments to the constitution, determine state policies and budgets, and adjust the country's leadership.—*Xinhua*



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends an event held by a youth organisation in Pyongyang, on 7 June 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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 Proof Reader & Translator - Ye Myint
Expatriate Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg
consultanteditor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Alec Wilmot
consultanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Jaidan Coonan

Chief Translator & Editor

Kyaw Thura,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor

Ye Htut Tin (Local News)
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon, Tin Nwe Lynn

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw, reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Reporters
Soe Soe Yu, Thein Ko Lwin (Nay Pyi Taw Bureau),
Khin Mg Win (Mandalay Bureau)

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), 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

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subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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India's Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles, mounted on a truck, pass by during a full dress rehearsal for the Republic Day parade in New Delhi, India, in January 2006. PHOTO: REUTERS

India plans expanded missile export drive, with China on its mind

NEW DELHI — India has stepped up efforts to sell an advanced cruise missile system to Viet Nam and has at least 15 more markets in its sights, a push experts say reflects concerns in New Delhi about China's growing military assertiveness.

Selling the supersonic BrahMos missile, made by an Indo-Russian joint venture, would mark a shift for the world's biggest arms importer, as India seeks to

send weapons the other way in order to shore up partners' defences and boost revenues.

The government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has ordered BrahMos Aerospace, which produces the missiles, to accelerate sales to a list of five countries topped by Viet Nam, according to a government note viewed by Reuters and previously unreported. The others are Indonesia, South

Africa, Chile and Brazil.

The Philippines is at the top of a second list of 11 nations including Malaysia, Thailand and United Arab Emirates, countries which had "expressed interest but need further discussions and analysis", the undated note added. A source familiar with the matter would only say the note was issued earlier this year.

New Delhi had been sitting on a 2011 request

from Hanoi for the BrahMos for fear of angering China, which sees the weapon, reputed to be the world's fastest cruise missile with a top speed of up to three times the speed of sound, as destabilising. Indonesia and the Philippines had also asked for the BrahMos, which has a range of 290 km and can be fired from land, sea and submarine. An air-launched version is under testing.—*Reuters*

Thais celebrate 70 year of king's reign, but anxious about his health

BANGKOK — The bespectacled image of King Bhumibol Adulyadej dominates public space in Thailand, from billboards on high-rises to portraits that flank leafy boulevards.

After seven decades on the throne, King Bhumibol is seen by many Thais as a pillar of stability, and accorded semi-divine status. But the kingdom marks his platinum jubilee on Thursday amid anxiety over his health and at a critical political juncture.

Celebrations will include a morning religious ceremony presided over by 770 Buddhist monks, a figure seen as auspicious.

The festivities will serve as a reminder to Thais of their relationship to a king who is regarded as integral to Thailand's identity and a father-figure to the nation.

It may also jangle



A banner depicting Thailand's King Bhumibol Adulyadej and Queen Sirikit hang on a government building in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

nerves about the succession, as most Thais have known no other monarch. The king received heart treatment on Tuesday and has been in hospital for more than a year. Crown Prince Vajiralongkorn, the king's 63-year-old son, is the heir apparent. He has not achieved the same level of devotion that his father enjoys.

"The relationship between Thais and the king is deep, more than one can actually begin to explain," Colonel Winthai Suvaree, a spokesman for the royalist junta, told Reuters.

"He is a father to the land."

The monarchy has not always been held so highly in Thailand. In

1946, at the age of 18, King Bhumibol inherited a throne that had barely survived the upheaval of the end of absolute monarchy in 1932.

That marked what an official biography of the king described as a nadir for the monarchy.

Over the following decades, the king earned the adoration of millions through work in public health and rural development, and with the help of a formidable public relations machine that returned the monarchy to prominence in a country where politics, was, and still is, largely dominated by the military.

The military has staged 19 coups or attempted coups since the end of absolute monarchy, often evoking its loyalty to the crown and defence of the monarchy in explaining its actions.—*Reuters*

Mexico backs Indian bid to join nuclear suppliers' non-proliferation body

MEXICO CITY — Mexico supports India's efforts to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), President Enrique Peña Nieto said on Wednesday, in a boost for Prime Minister Narendra Modi's diplomatic push to end his country's isolation over its nuclear arms programme.

India's bid to join the NSG is due to be discussed at a plenary session of the 48-member group in Vienna on Thursday.

"Mexico recognises India's interest in joining the Nuclear Suppliers Group," Peña Nieto said, with Modi at his side at the Mexican president's Los Pinos residence. "As a country we have a positive and constructive backing for this."

India is also poised to join the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) after talks this week between Modi and US President Barack Obama in Washington.

Both groups would give India greater access to research and technology, but China has so far blocked India's accession to the NSG.

Mexico supported India's membership because of Modi's "commitment to the agenda of nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation," Peña Nieto said.

New Delhi's bid for full membership, if granted, would tip the balance of power in South



India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi speaks with Mexican President Enrique Peña Nieto after they gave a speech, at Los Pinos presidential residence in Mexico City, Mexico, on 8 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

Asia against its arch-rival Pakistan, whose own application has been backed by China, despite questions over its proliferation record.

Peña Nieto's support is a boost for Modi, but he must still win China's support to seal India's membership of the non-proliferation body. The NSG holds its annual meeting in South Korea later this month.

"I thank President Peña Nieto for his positive and constructive support for India's membership of the Nuclear Suppliers Group," Modi said at the end of a whirlwind week of global diplomacy in which he also won support from Switzerland.

Mexico's backing represents a historic policy shift for the country, which has held a firm position on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation for decades.

One of Mexico's crowning diplomatic achievements was the 1967 Treaty of Tlatelolco, which declared Latin America and the Caribbean a zone free of nuclear weapons.

India made its formal bid for membership last month after winning a waiver in 2008 allowing it to trade in commercial nuclear technology. Modi tacked on Switzerland and Mexico as extra stops on a five-country tour to seek their support.—Reuters

Police charge suspected ringleader in kidney trafficking racket

KOLKATA — Police have charged the suspected ringleader of an organ trafficking network accused of luring poor people to one of Delhi's top hospitals to have their kidneys removed and sold, a police official said on Wednesday.

T. Rajkumar Rao was arrested late on Tuesday after police traced him to a house on the outskirts of Kolkata where he was living with his wife and infant son.

"He was arrested last evening and (will be) taken to Delhi for further interrogation and prosecution by the police," a police official told Thomson Reuters Foundation on condition of anonymity.

The official said Rao was charged under various offences including removal of human organs without authority, commercial sale of organs, cheating and dishonesty, forgery and criminal conspiracy.

Police busted the illegal organ harvesting racket operating out of Delhi's Indraprastha Apollo Hospital on Thursday, arresting five people, including two assistants to a doctor.

During investigations over the last six days, Rao and other accomplices were identified as suspected members of a criminal gang operating in India and neighbouring nations, police said.

The total number of arrests in

the case now stands at 9.

The traffickers are accused of convincing poor people to sell their kidneys for an average of 300,000 rupees (\$4,480) and then re-selling the organs on the black market at huge profit, police said.

Fake identification documents were used to fool hospital officials into believing the victims were relatives of recipients.

Indraprastha Apollo Hospital admitted it had unwittingly removed organs from victims and said it was co-operating with police in their investigation.

A chronic shortage of organs available for transplant fuels a booming black-market trade in body parts in India. Commercial trade in organs is illegal in India and transplant donations must be approved by a special transplant committee at each hospital.

The failure of Apollo hospital to identify the forged documentation and the possible involvement of staff has been questioned by police, but the hospital said it had followed all legal requirements.

It said on Tuesday that it had set up an independent committee to investigate gaps in its existing screening procedure. Members include a former chief justice, a high court judge and a forensic expert.—Reuters

Japan protests after Chinese warship sails near disputed East China Sea islands

TOKYO — Japan summoned the Chinese ambassador early on Thursday to express concern after a Chinese navy ship sailed close to what Japan considers its territorial waters in the East China Sea for the first time, increasing tensions over the disputed area.

Japan said a Chinese frigate sailed within 24 miles (38 kms) of the contested territory, the islands known as the Senkaku in Japan and the Diaoyu in China, shortly after midnight.

Japan's Vice Foreign Minister Akitaka Saiki summoned the Chinese ambassador in Tokyo at around 2 am (01:00 pm EDT on Wednesday) to "express a serious concern," the government said in a statement.

Japanese and Chinese coast-guard vessels frequently face off around the islands as both sides press their claims. Until now neither has dispatched warships to nearby waters, because doing so would inflame tensions and remove a buffer against potential armed conflict.

"We are worried that this action raises tensions to a higher level," Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a regular press briefing in Tokyo.

"Related ministries are working together to deal with this and we will work closely with the US," Suga said.

China's Defence Ministry said on Thursday it was looking into the reports that one of its navy ships sailed close to the disputed islands, adding its navy had every right to operate in Chinese waters.

"Chinese naval ships sailing through waters our country has jurisdiction over is reasonable and legal. No other country has the right to make thoughtless remarks about this," it said in a statement sent to Reuters.

While the US has not endorsed Tokyo's territorial claim to the islands, which lie about 220 kms (135 miles) northeast of Taiwan, it has said the Japanese-controlled territory falls under its security treaty with Tokyo that obligates Washington to defend Japan against attack.

"We are aware of the reports and have been in touch with the Japanese government," US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Colin Willett told reporters by telephone from Washington.

"Until I have a little more detail, I can't really comment on

exactly what (Washington's) reaction is," she added.

The Chinese frigate stayed in the waters around the Senkaku/Diaoyu waters for about an hour before sailing toward the Chinese coast.

Countries can police their contiguous zone, adjacent to the disputed territory, for customs and immigration violations, but can't prevent passage by other nations' vessels.

Complicating the situation

for Tokyo, three Russian naval vessels also sailed close to the islands at around the same time as the Chinese warship, raising concern in Japan of a coordinated show of force by Beijing and Moscow.—Reuters



A group of disputed islands, Uotsuri island (top), Minamikojima (bottom) and Kitakojima, known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China is seen in the East China Sea, in this photo taken by Kyodo, September 2012.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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Citizenship is not a one-way street

Khin Maung Aye

A STATE is sustained by the obedience of its citizens. Various considerations prompt them to obey the state. It may be 'quality of law', or it may be 'justice' that the state stands for, or it may just be 'habit' that makes them obey the state.

These considerations allow us to understand citizenship in three ways. First, citizens are obedient to their state because they believe it is in their best interest. Second, they obey the state out of fear of punishment. Third, they obey the state because they believe it is legitimate, meaning they see the

state as belonging to them and serving them. When this third group ceases to see the state as legitimate, they will no longer obey.

It is worth recalling that citizenship should not follow the same pattern as a one-way street. Besides rights, citizenship entails a number of obligations and duties. Every society is obliged to be in constant perpetuation of itself, protecting against enemies. In addition, a society must make sure its deceased members are replaced. Citizenship has been developed to fulfill this task. Theorists of citizenship, which has evolved

since the time of the Greek city-states, have grappled with this problem. A perennial feature of modern, democratic citizenship is the effort to identify the proper relationship between the individual citizen and her compatriots on one hand and the institutions of the state on the other hand.

In a sense, rights and obligations are opposite sides of the same coin. To possess rights usually places someone else under an obligation to uphold or respect those rights. If the right to life is meaningful, for instance, then the government is subject to an obligation to

maintain public order and ensure personal security. Should citizens be bearers of rights alone, and should all obligations fall upon the state, orderly and civilized life would be impossible. Individuals who possess rights but do not acknowledge their obligations would be lawless and unrestrained.

These questions all boil down to the idea that citizenship, therefore, must entail a mixture of rights and obligations, including the very fundamental obligation of citizens to acknowledge the authority of the state and obey its laws.

Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institution Forum (SEANF)

Dr. Khine Khine Win

HUMAN RIGHTS is part of the ASEAN community 2015 referred to in both the ASEAN Charter and the Political-Security Blueprint. In this regard, ASEAN intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) was inaugurated at the 15th ASEAN Summit in Cha-am Hua Hin, Thailand in 2009 by the ASEAN Leaders. Here it is noteworthy that AICHR is an inter-governmental organization which means it is an organization established by the agreement among the nation-states. Members of the organization are composed of all sovereign states (referred to as member states). As of 2016, there are 10 member states in ASEAN, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore and Vietnam. Timor-Leste is an observer country. The establishment of AICHR is ASEAN's commitment to pursue forward-looking strategies to strengthen regional cooperation on Human rights. In terms of human rights, there is another organization namely SEANF, Southeast Asia National Human Rights Institutions Forum in Southeast Asia Region.

What is SEANF? SEANF is a membership organization consisting of National Human Rights Institutions, NHRIs in the Southeast Asia region. The general objective of the Forum is to organize itself as a regional mechanism for the effective promotion, protection and fulfillment of the human rights of the peoples of Southeast Asia Region. It is comprised of six independent NHRIs, (1) The Indo-

nesian National Commission on Human Rights (KOMNAS HAM), The Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (SUHAKAM), The Philippines Commission on Human Rights (CHRP), The National Human Rights Commission of Thailand (NHRCT), The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) and The Provedor for Human Rights and Justice of Timor-Leste (PDHJ). At present only six countries including Timor-Leste has National Human Rights Institution.

In early 2004, the four Human Rights Commissions in South East Asia namely KOMNAS HAM, SUHAKAM, CHRP, and NHRCT decided to come together as a united force to help fast track the establishment of an ASEAN human rights mechanism. The first formal meeting was held in Bangkok in 2004 October. During the 4th Annual Meeting in Manila, Philippines on 29-30 January 2008, the body agreed to adopt ASEAN NHRI FORUM (ANF) as the official name and at the 6th Annual Meeting of the NHRIs, the body agreed to change its name to SOUTH EAST ASIA NHRI FORUM (SEANF) to give emphasis to the geographical sub-region. The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) became the sixth member of SEANF during the 9th Annual Meeting hosted by NHRCT on 12-14 September 2012.

SEANF have been carrying out activities and programs in five human rights issues of common concern. These inter-border issues and common concerns provided the framework of their coopera-

tion, namely: (a) suppression of terrorism while respecting human rights; (b) human rights aspects of trafficking of persons; (c) protection of the human rights of migrants and migrant workers; (d) promotion of economic, social and cultural rights and right to development; and, (e) enhancement of human rights education under the Declaration of Cooperation for the protection and promotion of human rights in South East Asia. On the principle of rotation, the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) assumes Chairmanship of SEANF for 2016. In this regard, MNHRC already hosted a technical working group meeting for two times, 27-28 January and 2-3 June respectively in Yangon. Establishing SEANF permanent secretariat and the SEANF's strategic plan for 2017-2022 were part of the discussions of those two meetings. As the chair of SEANF, MNHRC will host 13th Annual Meeting of SEANF in Nay Pyi Taw in September. This 13th annual meeting will be held with two components, seminar relating to NHRIs relations with Legislative, Executive and Judiciary and annual meeting.

Southeast Asia's economic growth showed commendable progress, however the region's human rights and democracy situation remain uneven and fragile. Human rights remain a sensitive issue in Southeast Asia. As the network of NHRIs in the sub-region, the SEANF plays a crucial role in the protection and promotion of human rights in South East Asia. Working under a cooperative framework, SEANF members undertake joint projects or activi-



ties to address issues of common concern like human trafficking, migrant workers, statelessness, business and human rights, corruption, among others. Recognizing the need to strengthen and expand the network, they continue to encourage governments of countries in South East Asia to establish an independent National Human Rights Institution. The SEANF engages with the Asia Pacific Forum (APF), Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institution (GANHRIC) formerly known as ICC, Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR), and other human rights organizations to further promote and protect human rights at the national, regional, and international level. It is seeking a regular mode of engagement with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR), ASEAN Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of

Women and Children (ACWC), and related human rights bodies in Asia.

To conclude, I do hope SEANF will fulfill their objectives to the best of their abilities and I wish SEANF, the network of NHRIs in the Southeast Asia region, success in its role in advancing human rights of their people in the spirit of Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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National Verification Cards (NVC) were issued to 109 men and 143 women in Kyaukphyu township and 29 men and 55 women in Myaybon township, Rakhine State, on 9 June. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

National electrification project comes to Yangon villages

Ko Moe

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation said its national electrification project will bring access to electricity to nearly 400 villages in Yangon Region.

The programme will be carried out in two separate phases. The first phase will select 205 villages, while the second phase will cover 193 villages. The project areas include Thanlyin, Kyauktan, Khayan, Thonegwa, Dala and Kawhmu in Yangon's South District, as well as Hlegu, Taikkyi, Hmawbi, Indaing and Dapein townships in the North District.

"With the assistance of the World Bank, we are putting more effort into increasing power distribution to villages without access to electricity this year," said

U Maung Maung Latt, chair of the cooperation.

Yangon Region has 2,129 villages, of which only 685 have access to electricity.

With a budget of K14 billion (US\$11,764,706), the electrification project will be implemented this financial year by the regional government, the Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation and partner electricity companies.

The Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation will buy new transformers and renovate old ones using around K5 billion in international loans.

Regional authorities will use K4 billion to purchase over 100 transformers this fiscal year.

Yangon Region is home to 29 industrial zones and 6,200

small-and-middle-sized enterprises, all of which account for the higher electricity demand in the region compared to other regions.

Yangon's East District consumes 370 MW per year, the North District consumes 380 MW, the West District consumes 360 MW, and the South District consumes 44 MW, according to the YESC.

Yangon Region, as a commercial city, consumes nearly 1,200 MW distributed by ten 230 KV power sub-stations, which is half of the country's total electricity generation. The city's electricity demand increases by around 15 per cent yearly.

There are 113.64 miles of old underground electric transmission cables in Yangon.

Lives of birds to be showcased at photo exhibition

A COLLECTIVE photo exhibition to be staged in Yangon next month will showcase the lives of birds in Myanmar. The exhibition is being organised by a group of wildlife and environmental conservationists.

The event is scheduled to be held on 23 and 24 July at the Royal Rose (Taw Win Hnin Zi) Hall and will feature the natural characters and lives of native birds, their ecosystems and their challenges.

The major purpose of the exhibition is to raise awareness about the conservation of birds and the natural environment among audiences, one of event organisers said.

Several educational talks about the lives and challenges of rare birds, which are in danger of extinction, will be held during the two-day event.

Birds play a crucial role in balancing the ecosystem. Some

species are facing extinction, said an executive member of the team.

The organiser has invited enthusiast photographers to showcase their own works. All works will be displayed for sale during the two-day event. According to a survey, Myanmar has more than 1,000 recorded bird prices, five of which are endemic birds, 114 of which are globally threatened and near-threatened species and 186 of which are water birds.—200

Computers, related accessories approved for import without licence

COMPUTERS and related accessories can be imported into Myanmar without licences this month, said U Myo Myint Tun, the secretary of the Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association.

Local authorities have changed their import policy to exempt local importers from

applying for licences from government departments to import computers and related accessories this month.

However, importers wishing to import mobile handsets and network-related equipment must still apply for licences from the Directorate of Telecommunication.

Under the previous policy developed in 2013, licences were required to import these electronic products.

The agreement was approved during the last week's meeting between the Myanmar Computer Entrepreneurs Association and the Ministry of Commerce.—200

Aid, food reaches flood victims in Kawlin, Wuntho

FOLLOWING flash flooding which hit Kawlin and Wuntho yesterday, killing two people, emergency food and aid has been sent to the area.

Local authorities, battalions, non-governmental organisations and employees of Kanbawza Bank are working together, distributing food and dry rations to people displaced by the flood, said a man from a local NGO.

"When the flood hit, we cooked lunch and dinner and distributed the food to the people, following the instructions of the chairperson of the Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation," said U Tin

Lin, manager of the Kawlin KBZ Bank branch.

"The foundation is ready to continue to aid people if the flood does not recede," he added.

Buildings including 400 houses, a health centre and a school were damaged in the flood, according to a report from local authorities. Deforestation along hilly areas is blamed by locals for the flash flooding caused by overflowing water from nearby rivers.

Torrents of water swept into Kawlin and Wuntho in the early morning and inundated the towns. The rain yesterday reached 10.35 inches.—*Thiha Tun*



Members of BFM present aids to victims in flood-hit areas. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Signature campaign aims to conserve ancient Bagan sites

A PETITION to conserve the ancient Bagan cultural zone and the Ayeyawady River was recently launched by residents of the area and is being spearheaded by Safety Bagan.

After getting the green light from the local authorities, 200 people involved in the campaign rode around Bagan and Nyaung U by bicycle, motorbike and car to distribute pamphlets about the petition.

Myo Thit San, a leader of the campaign, said the petition contains five demands, including the socio-economic development for locals; legal actions against the construction of mod-

ern buildings within the cultural zone; the involvement of experts, NGOs and residents in the conservation of ancient pagodas and action against unlawful buildings along the Ayeyawady River.

The activists also called for amendments to the 1998 law regulating ancient cultural sites as residents and tourists face difficulties while visiting pagodas behind hotel buildings.

The major aim of the campaign is to urge the government to conserve Bagan's cultural heritage. The campaign will continue for 45 days, beginning from 7 June.—*Aung Thant Khaing*



Activists seen demanding for conservation of Bagan.

PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Clinton, Trump draw battle lines for ill-tempered campaign fight

WASHINGTON — US presidential candidates Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump kicked off a fierce general election battle, with Democrats accusing Trump of erratic behaviour and the Republican threatening to bring up old Clinton scandals.

Clinton, the former secretary of state, made history when she became the first woman to lead a major political party in its quest to capture the US presidency. Big primary election wins on Tuesday in California and elsewhere catapulted her to victory over Democratic opponent Bernie Sanders.

If elected on 8 November, the 68-year-old former US senator from New York would return the Clinton family to the White House 16 years after her husband, Bill Clinton, completed two terms as president.

All signs point toward a negative campaign as Clinton accused Trump of being temperamentally unfit to serve and the

New York businessman charged that Clinton had a dark past and a weak record as President Barack Obama's first-term secretary of state.

Clinton told NBC on Wednesday she would not run a "campaign of insults," but she sought to portray the 69-year-old Trump as not fit for the Oval Office after the real estate developer repeatedly accused a Mexican-American judge of showing bias against him because of his ethnic heritage.

The Clinton campaign has pointed to criticism from leaders in Trump's Republican Party to make this case.

"I'm going to talk about why he's unqualified to be president based on his own words and his deeds. And I'm going to continue to make the case he is temperamentally unfit to be commander in chief," she said in the interview.

Trump gave a carefully craft-

ed primary race victory speech on Tuesday laying out his own plan of attack. To keep from straying off message, he used a Teleprompter and avoided his typical stream-of-consciousness delivery. Trump said money given to the Clinton Foundation charity from foreign donors had earned the Clintons millions of dollars and had a corrupting influence when Clinton was secretary of state.

"Hillary Clinton turned the State Department into her private hedge fund — the Russians, the Saudis, the Chinese — all gave money to Bill and Hillary and got favourable treatment in return. It's a sad day in America when foreign governments with deep pockets have more influence in our own country than our great citizens," Trump said.

He said he would give a speech next week "discussing all of the things that have taken place with the Clintons."—Reuters



Former British prime minister Tony Blair (C) and his wife Cherie speak with former British prime minister John Major (R) as they arrive for the funeral service of former prime minister Margaret Thatcher at St Paul's Cathedral in London on 17 April 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

Blair and Major to warn Brexit threatens unity of United Kingdom: BBC

LONDON — Tony Blair and John Major will say on Thursday that a vote to leave the European Union on 23 June would jeopardize the unity of the United Kingdom by undermining the peace in Northern Ireland and stoking calls for Scottish independence.

Speaking together in Northern Ireland, the two former British prime ministers will warn that the "unity of the UK itself is on the ballot paper", the BBC reported.

Major and Blair, who both played important roles in the Northern Ireland peace process in the 1990s, will say there is a serious risk of a second independence referendum in Scotland and that an out vote could undermine sta-

bility in Northern Ireland.

"We understand that, although today Northern Ireland is more stable and more prosperous than ever, that stability is poised on carefully constructed foundations," Blair will say, according to the BBC.

"And so we are naturally concerned at the prospect of anything that could put those foundations at risk," Blair will say.

The 1998 Northern Ireland peace deal ended three decades of tit-for-tat killings between Catholic Irish nationalists who want the province to unite with Ireland and their Protestant rivals who want to keep Northern Ireland British. Over 3,600 died in the conflict.

Scots rejected independence by 55-45 per cent in a vote in 2014 but since then the Scottish National Party has gained further strength, taking 56 of the 59 seats representing Scotland in the national parliament in London in last May's national election.

Theresa Villiers, an opponent of EU membership who serves as Britain's minister for Northern Ireland, said the comments by Blair and Major were irresponsible.

"Whatever the result of the referendum, Northern Ireland is not going back to the troubles of its past and to suggest otherwise would be highly irresponsible," Villiers said.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Second specialist vessel to join EgyptAir search on Friday

PARIS — A second ship with specialist search equipment will join the hunt for the 'black box' flight recorders and wreckage of a crashed EgyptAir jet on Friday, the head of France's air accident investigation safety agency said on Thursday.

A French naval supply vessel picked up a signal from one of the two recorders on 1 June, and Egypt has chartered a second vessel operated by Mauritius-based Deep Ocean Search, equipped with a suitable sonar and an underwater vehicle.

Remi Jouty, director of the BEA air accident agency which is advising Egypt on the underwater search, said the first ship continued to pick up locator signals from the first recorder, whose location had been narrowed to a radius of 1-2 kilometres.

Pending the search for the two flight recorders, one for cockpit voice recorders and one for data, the Egyptian-led probe is still "very far" from understanding why Flight 804 crashed into the Mediterranean on 19 May, killing all 66 people on board, Jouty told a group of aviation journalists in Paris.—Reuters

Berlusconi's party denies press reports he may need heart surgery

ROME — Former Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi is continuing to undergo tests in hospital but is not expected to have heart surgery, a spokeswoman for his Forza Italia party said on Thursday, denying press reports he would need an operation.

The 79-year-old centre-right leader and media mogul was admitted to hospital on Monday suffering from what his doctors called a "cardiac deficiency".

In unsourced reports, Italian newspapers said on Thursday that Berlusconi might need an operation in the coming hours after tests had revealed a potentially serious problem. However, Forza Italia spokeswoman Deborah Bergamini dismissed this.

"No operation is expected. What the newspapers have written is not right. It is nonsense," she told Reuters.

"As we already said yesterday, (Berlusconi) is undergoing certain tests. They will be completed today. Presumably he will go home tonight," she added.—Reuters

Trump 'disappointed' by Republican criticism of judge comments

WASHINGTON — US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said on Wednesday he was "disappointed and surprised" by the criticism and charges of racism he had received from Republican leaders for comments he made about the Mexican heritage of a federal judge. "I had just won more votes than anyone in the history of the party, so I was a little bit surprised when they said that," Trump told *Time*. "I didn't think it was necessary. But you know, they have to say what they have to say. I'm a big boy. They have to say what they have to say."—Reuters

Four people hospitalised as Australian police open fire on escaped psychiatric patient

SYDNEY — Four people have been taken to hospital with gunshot wounds after Australian police opened fire on an escaped psychiatric patient armed with a knife near in crowded mall in Sydney's north on Thursday.

A confrontation erupted when police approached a 23-year-old man who was allegedly carrying a carving knife. Police subsequently opened fire when the man, who was known to police, allegedly lunged at one of the officers in the crowded market in Hornsby, northern Sydney, the New South Wales (NSW) state police Assistant Commissioner Denis Clifford told reporters at the scene on Thursday.

"He was wounded several times," Clifford said.

"Unfortunately some bystanders were also injured, with either bullet or fragment wounds."

It's believed the bystanders were three women, aged between 60 and 80 years old. All four have been transported to hospital and are in a stable condition, with the man under police guard.

Police had been searching for the man since Wednesday after he was reported missing from a nearby psychiatric facility.

Though its alarming bystanders were wounded when police fired at the man in a crowded location, the two officers made a decision in a "life-and-death situation," Clifford said. "I wonder what may have happened had the police not intervened and stopped this person with a knife," he said. A "critical incident investigation" has been launched, which will look into why potentially non-lethal methods, such as a Taser, were not used to subdue the man.—Xinhua

Palestinian gunmen kill four in Tel Aviv, assailants held: police

TEL AVIV — Two Palestinian gunmen killed four people at a popular shopping and restaurant area in Tel Aviv on Wednesday in an attack that sent diners, some clutching small children, running for their lives just outside Israel's Defence Ministry.

Both gunmen, identified by police as Palestinians from a village near the city of Hebron in the Israeli-occupied West Bank, were apprehended, and one was wounded. Security footage showed the two, dressed in suits and ties and posing as customers at a restaurant, suddenly pull out automatic weapons and open fire, shooting one man point blank, as other diners fled.

Police said the assailants killed four people in the 9:30 pm (1830 GMT) assault and that six were wounded.

The attack, as families were enjoying a balmy evening out at the trendy Sarona complex, was one of the most serious in the country's business and entertainment capital since a wave of Palestinian violence erupted eight months ago.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, returning from a visit to Moscow, rushed directly to the Defence Ministry to assess the situation with senior ministers and security chiefs. He toured the scene later and described the attack as "cold-blooded murder."

"We held a consultation about the series of offensive and defensive measures that we will implement to act against the grave phenomenon of shootings. They certainly challenge us, but we will provide an answer," Netanyahu



An injured man is taken into the emergency room following a shooting attack that took place in the centre of Tel Aviv, on 8 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

told reporters.

The US State Department condemned the attack in "the strongest possible terms," saying in a statement: These cowardly attacks against innocent civilians can never be justified."

A lull over the past several months in what had been near-daily stabbings and shootings made the attack just metres (yards) from the sprawling defense compound surprising and was likely to bring back a sense of insecurity to Israeli streets.

"I was with the family, eating pizza. We heard the shots, we didn't know what was happening, and everybody got down on the floor. We managed to escape to

a cellar," a woman, who gave her name only as Annette, told Israel's Channel 10 television.

Security personnel who guard the Sarona complex fired back.

In the past half year, Palestinian attacks have killed 32 Israelis and two visiting US citizens. Israeli forces have shot dead at least 196 Palestinians, 134 of whom Israel has said were assailants. Others were killed in clashes and protests.

Tensions over Jewish access to a volatile and contested Jerusalem holy site, revered by Muslims as Haram al-Sharif (Noble Sanctuary) and Jews as Temple Mount, have fueled the violence.

Israel says incitement in the Palestinian media and personal problems at home have been important factors spurring assailants, often teenagers, to carry out attacks.

But Israeli officials also have pointed to efforts in recent months by the Palestinian Authority, which exercises limited self-rule in the West Bank, to curb the assaults.

In a similar attack in Tel Aviv five months ago, an Israeli Arab killed two people on a main shopping street and the driver of a taxi he used to flee the scene. The assailant was killed a week later in a shootout with police at a hideout in his home village in northern Israel.—Reuters

Militants kill 43 in attack on Ethiopian base in Somalia

MOGADISHU — Somalia's al Shabaab militant group said it rammed a suicide car bomb into an African Union military base, stormed inside and killed 43 Ethiopian soldiers on Thursday.

Residents near the base in the central town of Halgan said they heard a huge explosion and then heavy exchanges of gunfire shortly before dawn. Shots ran out at least an hour after the initial blast, they added.

There was no immediate comment from the African Union's AMISOM force, which is made up of troops from African nations supporting Somalia's Western-backed government and army in the fight against the al Qaeda-linked militants.

"We understand there are casualties on both sides. AU forces fought back fiercely and repulsed al Shabaab," Somali military officer Major Abdifatah Elmi told Reuters from Bulaburde town in the region. But he said he did not have figures.

"Several residents were injured by stray bullets," he said.

AMISOM usually says it is up to troop-contributing countries to announce casualties. In the past, casualty figures cited by al Shabaab have been much higher than official numbers.

"Our fighters stormed the Halgan base of AMISOM," al Shabaab's military operations spokesman Abdiasis Abu Musab told Reuters. He said the group used a suicide car bomb and then militants had exchanged fire with Ethiopian troops there.—Reuters

More than 22 killed, 70 wounded, in two bombings in Baghdad

BAGHDAD — More than 22 people were killed and 70 wounded in two separate bombings on Thursday in Baghdad, one targeting a commercial street and the other an army checkpoint, Iraqi police said.

The attacks come as Iraqi forces are trying to dislodge Islamic State militants from Falluja, their stronghold just west of Baghdad.

A car packed with explosive

blew up in a commercial street of Baghdad al-Jadeeda (New Baghdad), an eastern district of the capital, killing at least 15 people and wounding over 50, a police officer said.

A suicide car bomb also targeted a main army checkpoint in Taji, just north of Baghdad, killing seven soldiers and wounding more than 20 others, he said.—Reuters



People gather at the site of car bomb attack in Baghdad al-Jadeeda, an eastern district of the Iraqi capital, on 9 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turkey blames Kurdish militants for Istanbul car bombing

ANKARA — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's office blamed Kurdish militants for a car bombing that killed 11 people in central Istanbul, while a second bomb on Wednesday killed five people in the largely Kurdish southeast.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, meanwhile, said that the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), blamed for Tuesday's attack in Istanbul, had recently sought to revive peace talks and offered to lay down their arms.

A ceasefire with the PKK collapsed almost a year ago, setting off the worst violence the country has seen in two decades. Yildirim, in comments broadcast live by TRT television, said Turkey would not negotiate to end the violence. The car bomb on Tuesday ripped through a police bus during the morning rush hour in Istanbul, killing six police officers and five civilians near the main

tourist district, a major university and the mayor's office.

On Wednesday the bomb targeted a police station in the southeastern town of Midyat, killing three civilians and two police officers and wounding more than 30 others. The province borders Syria in a region where Kurdish militants have waged a three-decade insurgency.

"All indicators and signs regarding the attack in Istanbul yesterday point to the separatist terror organisation," Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin told a news conference, referring to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK).

"The Midyat attack is very fresh and we can only make an assessment once we have all the information," Kalin said.

There has been no claim of responsibility from Kurdish militants. They have carried out similar attacks in Turkey's major

cities in the recent past as violence has spiralled since the ceasefire with the PKK collapsed almost a year ago. The unrest has been fuelled by the war in Syria. Turkey says the PKK — considered a terrorist organisation by Ankara, the European Union and the United States — has deep ties to the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia fighting just across the border.

The groups do not deny links. The PKK founded the YPG as a Syrian organisation a decade ago and both are inspired by Abdullah Ocalan, who led the PKK from its inception and lived in Syria shortly before his capture in 1999.

He remains in jail. Clashes broke out between security forces and PKK militants in Midyat during the attack when the explosion destroyed the facade of a five-storey block, security sources said.—Reuters

Papua New Guinea court bars university protests after violence

SYDNEY — A Papua New Guinea court has granted an injunction barring university students from protesting on campus after dozens of people were wounded during clashes between student protesters and police in the capital, Port Moresby.

A groundswell of political unrest in recent weeks has surged in the country, just to Australia's north, amid calls for Prime Minister Peter O'Neill to resign over corruption allegations.

Papua New Guinea is developing lucrative resource projects with energy majors ExxonMobil and Total that have made it a major gas producer. But corruption and violence are endemic in the island nation of seven million, raising concerns about its long-term stability.

The government said initial reports that up to four people had been killed in the clashes on Wednesday were incorrect. An official at the Port Moresby General Hospital said 38 casualties had been treated there, including four



Papua New Guinea police (L) prevent students from marching from University of Papua New Guinea in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, on 8 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

with bullet wounds, but no deaths.

Students and officials said police fired on the public and used tear gas to disperse crowds during a protest at the University of PNG's Waigani campus in Port Moresby. Protests were later reported in the PNG highland cities of Goroka and Mt. Hagen, and in Lae on the north coast.

Papua New Guinea

Higher Education Minister Malakai Tabar welcomed the court order blocking students from resuming their rolling protests.

"The overwhelming majority of students simply want to go to class, sit their exams and proceed to the next semester," Tabar said, the Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported.

Thousands of students across PNG have been

protesting and boycotting classes for weeks. They want O'Neill, who came to power in 2011 promising to reign in corruption, to face allegations he authorised millions of dollars in fraudulent payments to a leading law firm.

Student protest leader Noel Anjo told Reuters on Thursday the protesters had no intention of giving up.—Reuters

We weren't given enough info on British paedophile: Malaysia Police

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's police chief said on Thursday that British officials did not hand over enough information to investigate convicted British paedophile Richard Huckle, as questions arose over the Southeast Asian country's handling of the case.

Huckle, 30, was given 22 life sentences in a London court on Monday after admitting 71 charges of sex abuse against children in Malaysia and Cambodia from the ages of six months to 12.

Malaysia faces increasing pressure to explain the lack of action after British officials said they told their counterparts in Kuala Lumpur about his suspected behaviour more than 18 months ago. Malaysians have expressed outrage on social media over the apathy shown by law enforcement and government officials.

Malaysian Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar confirmed that authorities were informed of Huckle and his suspected behav-

iour before his arrest in 2014, despite earlier comments from other police officials that they had only been told in April this year.

But British officials were unable to provide them with more details regarding Huckle's victims and activities, Khalid said, adding that Malaysia's death penalty made it difficult for British police to cooperate fully.

"That was our main obstacle when dealing with European countries, because by law, they are unable to cooperate with us because we carry out capital punishment," he said.

"When his case went to trial, it was only then that we knew that it was 23 victims, and that it involved our citizens and only then we could start tracing them," Khalid said.

Huckle is believed to have targeted nearly 200 children in Malaysia and Cambodia over a span of nine years, posing as a photographer, English teacher and philanthropist to gain access to impoverished families.—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (8 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-010(16-17)	Spare for Deepending Accessories (Drill Collar & Substitute) (11) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-011(16-17)	Spares for A-1700 PT Triplex Pump Ex USS Oil Well Drilling Rig (27) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-012(16-17)	Spares for FA-1600 Triplex Pump Ex EMSCO Drilling Rig (19) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-013(16-17)	Spares for National Power Slash Pump K 700 A Ex National 55 Drilling Rig (27) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-014(16-17)	Spares for National Drive Group (13) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-015(16-17)	Spares for Mack Truck (11) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-016(16-17)	4" ERW API 5L Grade X-46 MS 3 Layer PE Coated Steel Line Pipe (PSL-2) (8050) MTR	US\$
(8)	IFB-017(16-17)	Electrical Spares for USS Oil Well Rig (9) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-018(16-17)	5 1/2" Bridge Plug and Adapter Kit (2) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-019(16-17)	Liquid Sperse (200) Can	US\$
(11)	IFB-020(16-17)	Spares for CAT HEAD Ex EMSCO Drilling Rig (8) Items	US\$
(12)	DMP/L-008(16-17)	14.00 x 25, 24 PLY Tyre with Tube & Flap (30) Nos	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-009(16-17)	1 1/4" Manila Rope (100) Coils & 1 1/2" Manila Rope (20) Coils	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 30-6-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 6TH June, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Sinkhole closes part of Canadian capital's downtown

OTTAWA — A large sinkhole closed down part of the Canadian capital on Wednesday and forced the evacuation of businesses a few blocks from the national parliament, three weeks before Ottawa is due to host a summit of the leaders of Canada, Mexico and the United States.

The sinkhole formed on a normally busy downtown street in an area that has been under construction for Ottawa's new light-rail transit (LRT) system. City officials said the cause of the sinkhole was not yet known but earlier gas and water leaks have been contained.

"It's premature at this point to make the connection to LRT, although that could very well be the possibility," Mayor Jim Watson told a news conference.

Officials said there were no reports of injuries or missing people. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation showed footage of a van parked on the



Emergency workers look at a large sinkhole in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, on 8 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

side of the road falling into the sinkhole.

Nearby buildings that were evacuated remained closed, including the Rideau Centre shopping mall, which is owned by Cadillac Fairview, a unit of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan. Buses in the area were being rerouted, and officials told Ottawans to expect travel delays on Wednesday and Thursday morning. It was the second sinkhole in downtown Ottawa in as many years.

"If you look back in the last year, there was probably a major sinkhole in every city, at least once a week somewhere in North America or around the world that's on the nightly news, and we're one more," Watson said.

The sinkhole comes ahead of the 29 June "Three Amigos" summit with Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto, US President Barack Obama and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.—Reuters

Unlikely casualty in California's renewable energy boom: natural gas

SACRAMENTO (California) — In February of 2001, then California Governor Gray Davis stood at the site of Calpine Corp's new Sutter natural gas power plant and unveiled his plan to fast-track construction of similar stations to add 20,000 megawatts of modern, efficient generation to the state in three years.

Natural gas, Davis said, was "the most environmentally friendly, clean, appropriate fuel" to help the state move beyond the energy crisis it had just endured and enable its 34 million residents "to enjoy the good life that California represents."

Today, the plants inaugurated that day are among the casualties of a monumental shift in the US energy landscape.

An unexpected combination of oversupply of natural gas and a boom in solar and other renewable energy has depressed power prices and threatened the viability of natural gas plants that sell power into the Golden State's electricity market. These develop-



The La Paloma natural gas-fired generating plant is shown in McKittrick, California, US, in April 2009. PHOTO: REUTERS

ments are good for consumers and the environment, but tough on power producers who placed huge bets on natural gas.

"The world is really changing for these independent power producers," said Michael Picker, president of the California Public Utilities Commission, in an interview. "We don't

need a lot of gas."

Calpine, in fact, shut down its Sutter plant earlier this year because of "poor economics." And rival Dynegy has said it plans to leave the California market, citing the state's focus on renewables.

To offset losses, Rockland Capital, Calpine and other plant owners, including General Electric and the

Carlyle Group's Cogentrix, are asking the state for help. They argue that it is in the state's interest to support the natural gas plants because they provide stability and reliability — attributes that are important to the state's power grid and something weather-dependent wind and solar can't offer. If the plants don't get needed support, their owners have warned, a criti-

cal safety net for the grid could disappear.

GE, which owns the Inland Empire Energy Centre in Southern California, said in a statement that state policies "rank reliability and cost as low priorities," adding that generators may be forced to shut down prematurely. And in a letter to California officials in April, Rockland Capital called its

13-year-old La Paloma plant in Kern County "one of the victims" of the rise of large amounts of renewable power, and warned the plant could shut down later this year. Power producers want more long-term contracts that will compensate them for being there when wind and solar power are unavailable or when demand is particularly high.

"You do need natural gas generation as a backup for solar," said Andrew Bischof, an analyst who tracks the power industry for Morningstar.

Nuclear power plant owners have made similar arguments in Illinois and New York, where they are competing with renewables and cheaper gas-fired power. But last week, nuclear power plant operator Exelon said it would close two Illinois plants due to a lack of progress on state legislation to support them. Texas faces similar challenges due to an abundance of wind energy, but the Lone Star state has far more nuclear and coal-fired power than California, which would see shakeouts first. —Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THAI BINH 039 VOY NO (04-2016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 039 VOY NO (04-2016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MOROTAI VOY NO (288)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MOROTAI VOY NO (288) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINE
Phone No: 2301185

Kuczynski keeps narrow lead as Peru tallies presidential votes

LIMA — Former investment banker Pedro Pablo Kuczynski inched closer to winning Peru's presidency three days after Sunday's election, holding on to his slim but steady lead over Keiko Fujimori with just 1 per cent of the votes left to tally.

Fujimori, daughter of Peru's imprisoned ex-president Alberto Fujimori, was trailing Kuczynski by 0.23 of a percentage point Wednesday, a difference of some 40,000 votes.

While those numbers have fluctuated somewhat in the past two days, Fujimori has not tied or surpassed Kuczynski since counting began.

Peru's electoral office, ONPE, under pressure to wrap up its tally, said it would announce results with 100 per cent of all countable votes early on Thursday. However, ONPE will not include unclear ballots that electoral panels must still settle.

Statisticians said that even if most remaining unclear ballots came out

in Fujimori's favour, they would probably not be enough.

"The volume is no longer so big that it would allow her to, first of all, close the gap, and on top of that, win enough to claim victory," said Manuel Saavedra, director of the only polling firm of three that had put Fujimori ahead in its exit poll.

A group of Fujimori's supporters gathered outside ONPE's headquarters late on Wednesday, chanting "ONPE, listen, we're watching you!" and waving flags in her party's trademark orange.

Fujimori has largely remained out of the public eye since late on Sunday, when she urged her supporters to wait for complete results. Her critics on Twitter and Facebook have pressured her to concede.

But Fujimori's allies said it was too soon.

"I still hold onto that dream" of Fujimori winning, congresswoman Luisa Maria Cuculiza said in a televised interview. —Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 10.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (031W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (031W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Singer Carrie Underwood accepts the award for Female Video of the Year for "Smoke Break" and Musician Tim McGraw accepts the Video of the Year award for "Humble and Kind" from presenter Vince Vaughn. PHOTO: REUTERS



Underwood, McGraw win big at CMT Music Awards 2016

LOS ANGELES — Carrie Underwood was a double winner at the 2016 CMT Music Awards, but country music veteran Tim McGraw stole the show.

Carrie took home two of the three awards she was nominated for, but missed out on the fan-voted Video of the Year trophy, which went to McGraw for his promo "Humble & Kind".

The former "American Idol" champ did pick up Female Video of the Year and CMT Performance of the Year for her hit "Smoke Break".

Other winners at the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee included Blake Shelton and Chris Stapleton.

The night was hosted by Fox Sports personality Erin Andrews and Houston Texans' defensive standout J J Watt, who kept the tone light and funny, particularly with an opening sequence that included Florida Georgia Line, Billy Ray Cyrus, and Kellie Pickler.—PTI



Lady Gaga and Actor Robert De Niro. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gaga, De Niro appointed New York Entertainment ambassadors

LOS ANGELES — Lady Gaga, Alicia Keys and Robert De Niro will be wearing their New York pride on their sleeves to help celebrate the city's booming media and entertainment industries.

Big Apple Mayor Bill de Blasio has appointed the trio, alongside actor John Leguizamo and De Niro's producing partner Jane Rosenthal, as ambassadors for the Mayor's Office of Media and Entertainment (MOME), which is marking its 50th anni-

versary this year, said the Hollywood Reporter. The announcement was made by de Blasio at a ceremony at the Museum of the Moving Image in Queens, when all of the celebrity representatives, except Gaga, were on hand for the event.

As part of their new roles, the five stars will promote "individual contributions to the city's cultural identity and economy".

"New York City becomes a character all its own in the films

and television shows that are made here," said De Blasio.

"This landmark anniversary is an opportunity to look back and delight in all of the incredible cultural moments that the entertainment industry here in New York has made possible. I thank our MOME ambassadors for helping us ring in this spectacular year of events, and look forward to sharing in these celebrations with New Yorkers in all five boroughs.—PTI

Ed Sheeran faces \$20m copyright lawsuit over 'Photograph'

LOS ANGELES — Two California-based musicians are suing British singer-songwriter Ed Sheeran for \$20 million over his hit song "Photograph," which they claim bears a similar structure to one of their songs, according to court documents filed on Wednesday.

The copyright infringement lawsuit was filed by Martin Harrington, a songwriter and producer, and Thomas Leonard, a songwriter signed to Harrington's company HaloSongs, in federal court in the Central District of California.

The two musicians allege Sheeran's ballad "Photograph," released as a single in 2015, has the same musical composition to their song "Amazing," which they said they wrote in 2009.

Other named defendants include Snow Patrol's Johnny McDaid, credited as a co-writer of "Photograph," as well as units of Sony/ATV Music Publishing, Warner Music Group and its sub-

siary, Atlantic Recording Corporation.

Representatives for Sheeran, McDaid, Sony Music, Warner Music and Atlantic did not immediately respond to Reuters' requests for comment on Wednesday.

Harrington and Leonard are seeking a jury trial and damages in excess of \$20 million, as well as royalties from the song.

In documents that include musical note comparison and chord breakdowns of the two songs, Harrington and Leonard claim the chorus of Sheeran's "Photograph" shares 39 identical notes with "Amazing," saying the similarities are "instantly recognisable to the ordinary observer." The documents say that "Photograph" has sold more than 3.5 million copies worldwide, and most recently was featured prominently in romantic drama movie "Me Before You," released last week, as well as trailers for the film. —Reuters



Ed Sheeran. PHOTO: REUTERS

New Harry Potter play enchants fans in first preview



Guests wait by a reproduction of Hogwarts Castle during a special preview opening of "The Wizarding World of Harry Potter" attraction at Universal Studios Hollywood in Universal City, California on 5 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Dressed in Hogwarts robes and waving wands, eager fans got a first glimpse of the next instalment in the Harry Potter saga, giving a new London stage production glowing reviews.

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" brings back to life author J.K. Rowling's magical world of wizards and witches, set 19

years after her last book about the much-loved character and his friends Ron and Hermione.

The play, the eighth story in the series, opened for previews on Tuesday night at London's Palace Theatre, outside which queues snaked for metres as those who secured the first tickets waited anxiously to get in.

The play, split into two

parts, follows the three friends into adulthood, with Potter now described as an overworked Ministry of Magic employee, coping with his youngest son Albus' struggles with his famous family's legacy.

Little else has been revealed and Rowling, whose books were turned into box office hit movies, has asked that audiences do not

spoil the story for others.

"I really liked the films but after seeing this, I would say, forget the films," fan Callum Fawcett said. "This is fantastic ... It's got everything."

"It was utterly remarkable, just incredible," fellow fan Ollie Southgate added. "It's a whole different version of everything that everyone loves about the books ... The visual effects they've got is like nothing I've ever seen."

The play is based on a story written by Rowling, screenwriter and playwright Jack Thorne and director John Tiffany. Journalists said audiences were enchanted.

"The audience ... cannot be more thrilled or more appreciative or more ready to be caught up in the spirit of the undertaking," wrote the *New York Times* adding: "The three main characters remained true to their younger selves".

Britain's *Daily Telegraph* wrote: "The audience came wanting magic and they got it in spades ... Has Rowling done it again? The audience was in no doubt." On Twitter, Rowling said the reaction to the first preview was "wonderful". "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" opens on 30 July.—Reuters

Chinese tourist arrival to Sri Lanka up 31.5% in May

COLOMBO — Tourist arrival from China to Sri Lanka increased 31.5 per cent in May, as China remained as second largest source of tourists to Sri Lanka, latest data released here on Wednesday showed.

The number of Chinese tourists to Sri Lanka increased 31.5 per cent to 16,004 in May, which contributes to the rise of total tourist arrival to 125,044, up 10.1 per cent compared to the same period last year, data released by the Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) showed.

In the first five months of this year, 846,229 tourists visited the island, compared to the 714,584 people visited in the corresponding period of 2015, recording an increase of 18.4 per cent.

India kept the position of largest market with 34,259 visitors, a 7.9 per cent growth from the previous year. 26,826 people visited from Western Europe, registering a 9.5 per cent increase in arrivals during the month.—Xinhua

Ali's legend floats like a butterfly through a hometown festival

LOUISVILLE, (Ky.) — A celebration of Muhammad Ali's life continued on Wednesday in the late boxing champion's hometown of Louisville, where a day-long "I Am Ali" Festival passed his legend on to a new generation through stories and arts and crafts.

Craig Davidson, 45, of Louisville, brought his 15- and 11-year-old sons to the festival to pay their last respects.

"I grew up as a kid at their age watching his fights," Davidson said. "I knew about his stance during the Vietnam War. ... I just wanted them to know more about him."

Ali, whose boxing prowess, showmanship and public opposition to the Viet Nam War made him one of the world's most famous people in the turbulent

1960s and '70s, died last Friday of septic shock in an Arizona hospital. He was 74.

Plans were being finalised for the final days of mourning, including Friday's public service at the KFC Yum! Centre.

Before the festival started on Wednesday, fans gathered at the arena to claim tickets for the service. At least 14,000 tickets were distributed after officials released them early due to the long line of people.

The final service will include such luminaries as former US President Bill Clinton and comedian Billy Crystal. Actor Will Smith, who portrayed Ali in a 2001 movie, and former heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis will be among the pallbearers.—Reuters



Fans of the late Muhammad Ali, the former world heavyweight boxing champion come to pay their respects at the Ali Centre in Louisville, Kentucky, US, on 5 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Entertainment Channel

(10-6-2016, Thursday)

06 : 00 pm

- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

06 : 20 pm

- MRTV Entertainment Music
- Cartoon Programme "Barbie in the Pink Shoes"(Part-2)

07 : 10 pm

- International Drama Series

07 : 40 pm

- International Drama Series

08 : 20 pm

- MRTV Entertainment Music

08 : 40 pm

- "Myanmar Music Icon" Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-1)

09 : 10 pm

- International Movie Songs

09 : 20 pm

- The Festival of Poking Cheek with Thanakha

9 : 40 pm

- Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode -4)

10 : 10 pm

- Myanmar Video

* (01 : 30) Am Live: Euro 2016 "France Vs Romania"

From 10-6-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm
To 11-6-2016 Saturday 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(10-6-2016 07:00am ~ 11-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Sons of the lake
07:49	Am	A Star for Great Achievement
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Geographic Center of Myanmar
08:46	Am	The Iron Rider
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Scout
09:56	Am	Myanmar Street Foods
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	On the River

10:48 Am Mobile House

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Ngwe Saung
07:46	Pm	A Way of Life: Karate-do
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	An Aficionado of Alluring Antiques

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

Sharapova banned for two years by ITF

LONDON — The career of Russian former world number one Maria Sharapova was in tatters on Wednesday after she was given a two-year ban by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) following her positive test for the banned drug meldonium.

In a statement the ITF said the five-times grand slam champion's ban would be backdated to 26 January this year, meaning her results and prize money from the Australian Open, where she reached the quarter-finals, would be canceled out.

Sharapova, 29, said she would appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS), describing the punishment as "unfairly harsh".

She said an independent tribunal in London on 18-19 May had found that she had not intentionally violated anti-doping rules.

A 33-page report of the tribunal's find-

ings said: "The ITF accepts that the player did not engage in conduct that she knew constituted an antidoping rule violation," but it rejected her assertion that there was no "significant" fault on her part.

"She was the sole author of her own misfortune," it said.

On its website, the ITF said the ban, which could have been as

long as four years, had been backdated due to Sharapova's "prompt admission" of taking the substance, and would end on midnight of 25 January, 2018.

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) later issued a short statement saying it would review the decision before deciding

whether to use its independent right of appeal to CAS.

Sharapova has regularly battled back from serious injuries during her glittering career but the two-year ban means she will not be eligible to play until after the 2018 Australian Open when she will be 30, and raises the question of whether she will ever play again.

"If it stands, then I think it will be difficult for her to come back at the same level," the president of the Russian Tennis Federation, Shamil Tarpishchev, told TASS news agency, calling for the penalty to be reduced.

Meldonium was added to WADA's list of banned substances at the start of the year after mounting evidence that it boosted blood flow and enhanced athletic performance.

Around 180 athletes have tested positive for the drug,

manufactured in Latvia and common throughout eastern Europe, since January.

Sharapova, the world's highest-paid female athlete, stunned the sporting world in March when she announced that she had tested positive for meldonium, a component of a product named Mildronate which she has taken since 2006 for health issues.

At the time Sharapova, the highest-profile tennis player to fail an anti-doping test, said she had made "a huge mistake" in failing to realize that continuing to take Mildronate would be a violation of the anti-doping code.

"The ITF spent tremendous amounts of time and resources trying to prove I intentionally violated the anti-doping rules and the tribunal concluded I did not," she said on Facebook.

The ITF had sought a four-year suspension but the tribunal rejected that, she said. "While the tribunal concluded correctly that I did not intentionally violate the anti-doping rules, I cannot accept an unfairly harsh two-year suspension." —Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Rooney rules out future move to new Premier League club

LONDON — England striker Wayne Rooney says it is highly unlikely that a scenario would arise causing him to switch allegiances to any Premier League side other than Manchester United or boyhood club Everton in the future.

The 30-year-old, who will captain his country at the European Championship in France, joined United as an 18-year-old from Everton in August 2004, in a move that drew criticism from sections of the Goodison Park fan base.

However, Rooney, who has won five league titles with United, thanked both the clubs for

their support throughout his career.

"Manchester United and Everton are the only clubs I have played for as a professional footballer," he told United's club website (www.manutd.com).

"I am happy to say now that, whatever may happen in the future, I will never play for another Premier League club.

"Everton and United, along with my family, gave me the support and opportunity to help me achieve my goals and dreams.

Rooney's only two league clubs will face off in his testimonial at Old Trafford on 3 August. —Reuters



England's Wayne Rooney. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brazil hammer hapless Haiti 7-1 in Copa America massacre

ORLANDO — Philippe Coutinho grabbed a hat-trick as Brazil ramped up their Copa America campaign with a resounding 7-1 win over a hapless Haiti on Wednesday.

Renato Augusto scored a brace and substitutes Lucas Lima and Gabriel also goaled for Brazil, while James Marcelin put in Haiti's consolation goal.

The scoreline — identical to Brazil's nightmare 7-1 defeat by Germany in the World Cup semi-final two years ago — takes Brazil to the top of Group B with four points, ahead of the evening's second game between Peru and Ecuador.

Coutinho got Brazil off to a positive start in the Camping World stadium with a goal after 14 minutes when he skipped past a defender and hammered home from 20 metres out.

He doubled Brazil's lead 15 minutes later thanks to Jonas, who was on hand to poke a loose ball across goal and leave the Liverpool player with the simplest of tap-ins.

Renato Augusto made it three in 35 minutes when he rose unmarked to head home a cross from the right.

Although the eight-times Copa America champions appeared to take their foot off the pedal in the second half, they still created chances at will



Brazil forward Jonas and Haiti defender Romain Genevois fight to control the ball during the first half of the group play stage of the 2016 Copa America Centenario at Camping World Stadium, Orlando, FL, USA, on 8 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

against 74th-ranked Haiti.

Gabriel scored the fourth just 13 minutes after replacing Jonas at half-time and his Santos team mate Lucas Lima nodded home a Dani Alves cross eight minutes later.

Haitian striker Marcelin delighted the Caribbean contingent in the Orlando crowd by hammering in a rebound but Renato Augusto restored Brazil's five-goal advantage when

he seized on a loose pass and side-footed home from 20 metres.

Coutinho completed his hat trick in the final minute of injury time with a trademark 25-metre strike.

Brazil, who were held 0-0 by Ecuador in their opener, next face Peru on Sunday. Haiti, who also lost their opener to Peru 1-0, will take on Ecuador. —Reuters