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COOPERATION ON BORDER SECURITY

President U Htin Kyaw meets Indian National Security Adviser



President U Htin Kyaw receives Indian National Security Adviser Mr. Ajit Doval. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received an Indian delegation led by the Indian National Security Adviser Special Envoy of the Indian Prime Minister Mr. Ajit Doval who is also the Minister of the Prime Minister's Office at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the president and the Indian representative held discussions on collaborative efforts to maintain peace and stability in border areas, bilateral technology, transport, economic and trade cooperation, progress in the renovation and restoration of pagodas in the cultural zone of Bagan and the expansion of flight services between the two countries.

Also present were Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe and Dr Pe Myint, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe and other officials. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Plans resume for offshore oil exploration base camp in Mon State

THE Myanmar Offshore Supply Base Limited, a partnership between Singaporean and Myanmar companies, is planning the implementation of an offshore exploration base camp close by Mon State's Kyaikkhami Township, according to the Mon State government.

Efforts are currently being made to secure a permit from the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). Should a permit be issued, work would reportedly be carried out in Mon State for the next seventy years under a BOT system.

"A large number of government ministers approve of this project; it requires little input but yields a great profit in return. There should be lots of these kinds of projects in Mon State. The Mon State government needs to support the implementation of this project." said U Saw Aung Myint Khaing, Kayin Ethnic Affairs Minister of the Mon State government.

The project will require

roughly eight-hundred acres of land. It is known that forty-six acres will be rented from the government for US\$6,000 a month, while should anymore land be

needed, areas of the coastline of Kyaikkhami will be reclaimed, with suitable compensation to be issued to residents whose land would be confiscated for

the project.

In the capacity of developing regional industry, water purification plants will be built to mitigate pollutants being emitted



Photo of a gas field located in Andaman Sea, approximately 60 kilometers offshore the nearest landfall in Myanmar. With a huge estimated reserve and international giants awarded onshore and offshore blocks, Myanmar has a huge potential in the oil and gas sector beyond 2015. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

into the ocean, whilst local adolescents will be given educational on-the-job vocational training in technological communications. Additionally, high-standard medical departments and housing projects, together with the distribution of engine oil, will also be implemented.

"As well as spreading technological education to develop basic capacity and offering employment opportunities, I also really approve of this project as it features so many opportunities for regional development." said Daw San Win Khaing, Pa-O Ethnic Affairs Minister of the Mon State government.

U Sein Myint, erstwhile Mon State Hluttaw MP, explained talks over the project was held at the first session of Mon State Hluttaw during the tenure of the former government, with comments of agreement being given, but the project was suspended when the term of the previous government came to a close.

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Chief Minister promises to make Yangon attractive and sustainable

YANGON Region Chief Minister U Pyo Min Thein promised to turn Yangon into a clean, green and livable city through the formulation and implementation of a new urban development plan at a parliamentary session yesterday.

A new plan for urban development will be drawn up to make Yangon clean, green and livable, said the chief minister, adding that there will be implementations of the Union government's education, health and economic policies in the region.

While addressing the Yangon Region Hluttaw, the chief

minister explained plans to reform Yangon's public transport and begin restoration works on rivers and creeks in the region.

A waterway transport service will be realised through restoration works on the Yangon River, Bago River and Ngamo-eyeik creek, he said.

The government will push reforms to relieve traffic congestions with the establishment of a regional transport authority to manage bus lines and taxis and maintain traffic lights, he added.

According to the chief minister, bus lines and city taxi associations will be formed in the

region's public transportation reform.

A long-term plan will be drawn up for ensuring drainage system improvements in Yangon and high-rise building projects will be subject to scrutiny for permission, said the chief minister.

Measures will be taken to attract more foreign investments and develop the industrial sector including SMEs for ensuring job creation in the region and new projects will be implemented to ensure an adequate supply of electricity in the region following reviews on electricity supply works, he added.— *Ko Moe*

Bago farmers accumulate K8 billion in debt since 2012

THE Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank (MADB) for Bago Region has announced that farmers have accumulated over K8 billion in outstanding debts from credit loans issued by the bank since 2012.

It is reported that outstanding repayments totalled just K3.6 million during the 2012-13 fiscal year. The debt rose to K288 million in 2013-14; K941.7 million in 2014-15; and K7.6 billion this year, with an accumulated total of K8.8 billion. Over 400 farmers have been prosecuted for failing to repay their loans.

"The credit loans issued to cover agricultural expenses are prioritised for small-hold farmers. Farmers who are unable to

repay their loans faced legal action for violating the terms of their contracts: expanding their farming plots or using loans for purposes other than farming. We're currently pressing charges against those farmers unable to repay their loans between 2012 and 2015. Farmers who are unable to make repayments because of experiencing natural disasters, such as flooding, will not be exempted from legal action," explained U Aung Tha Myat, regional manager for the Bago Region MADB.

Between 2012 and 2014, a single farmer was entitled to K50,000 per acre on up to 10 acres of farmland. Starting in 2015, K100,000 was issued per

acre for the cultivation of monsoon paddy, before being increased to K150,000 this year.

"Our fields are susceptible to flooding. Torrential rains can destroy our paddy, causing us heavy losses. The weather can make it difficult for us to repay our loans," said Ko Zaw Min, a farmer from Nyaungkaing Village in Waw Township.

The total amount of credit issued to farmers by the Bago Region MADB during the 2015-16 fiscal year for agricultural expenses of monsoon paddy on over 200,000 acres was K213.5 billion, while estimates for the current fiscal year are expected to reach K331.6 billion.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Fuel tanker turns over in Nay Pyi Taw attempting to overtake motorcycle

A PETROL tanker carrying an estimated 8,700 gallons of octane overturned on a road near Aharathukha Market and Bawga Thiri Terminal in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The fuel tanker was reported-

ly trying to overtake a motorcycle at high speed at a bend when it toppled sideways and dragged about 100 feet down the road, said a local witness, adding that car accidents often take place at that turn. According to the Pinyinmana

Township Fire Service Department, no serious damage occurred after the truck overturned but the driver suffered minor injuries.

Traffic police said that the driver was taken to the hospital.— *Thein Ko Lwin*



The fuel tanker being seen after turning over in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: THEIN KO LWIN

Correction

PLEASE read "President U Htin Kyaw hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation led by the Mongolian President" instead of "President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin" in the 7th paragraph on the story (Myanmar, Mongolia hope for better relations through cultural exchange) of Thursday the 16th of June Issue.—*Ed*

Haemodialysis Center to be opened at Jivitadana Sangha Hospital

THE Jivitadana Sangha Hospital (Yangon) is planning to open a haemodialysis (HD) center for monks and nuns who require haemodialysis treatment at the hospital.

Works are underway to open the HD centre at the hospital, offering treatment to haemodialysis patients six

days a week with the use of five HD machines, said the hospital.

The hospital has invited wellwishers to make donations toward the treatment of haemodialysis. For further information contact Ph: 01 558434, 01 541795 and 01 558437.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Importation of fish spawn from Thailand hits road block with MoC



Fishermen being seen at a fish firm. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

THE Yangon Region Department of Fisheries has announced they are currently planning the import of the snakehead and climbing perch species of fish spawn from neighbouring Thailand in the name of developing Myanmar's freshwater fishing farming sector.

U Htun Win Myint, head of the department, says despite a license being issued to the Okkarpayan Company to facilitate the importation of 350,000 snakehead fish spawn and over 100,000 climbing perch fish spawn from Thailand, the Ministry of Commerce has yet to grant the company with a trade license.

"The company made their license submission to the Ministry of Commerce in March, but the ministry is yet to grant them a license, stating these fish species are predators [to local fish species], but the Department of Fisheries has, in actual fact, stipulated which fish species are predators and which

aren't. The only restricted fish is the African Catfish. Neither snakehead nor climbing perch species of fish are among those fish restricted from entry into Myanmar," explained U Htun Win Myint.

Upon the granting of a license, the fish spawn will be directly imported into the country via the Myanmar - Thai border trading town of Myawady, with responsibility for logistics to reportedly fall to the Shouti Star Company. As the aforementioned species of fish feed off paddy, they could then also be redistributed domestically, it is known.

"We're still personally importing and breeding fish spawn ourselves. But high farming expenses don't make it a cost-effective enterprise any longer. The breeding of fish spawn domestically would certainly alleviate the expenses of fish farmers," said Dr Myint Swe, secretary of the Myanmar Fish Farmers Association.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

Union Foreign Affairs Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets Indian National Security Adviser Mr Ajit Doval

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with Indian National Security Adviser Mr. Ajit Doval who is also the Minister of Prime Minister's Office at her office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the talks the State Counsellor and Mr Doval discussed matters on cooperation in the agriculture and construction sectors, border affairs and strengthening bilateral ties.

Also present at the call were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks Mr. Ajit Doval. PHOTO: MNA

Plans resume for offshore oil exploration...

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“The project will have little negative impact on the environment; it will be carried out in accordance with the stipulated criteria. The regional development aspects of the project need to be signed as opposed to giving one's word and the public need to be shown such a contract.” said U Sein Myint.

Upon completion of the aforementioned offshore oil exploration base camp, foreign shipping vessels will be able to use the base to refuel, stock up on supplies and utilise any other services of requirement, it is reported.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Return of public places motion receives support

THE Yangon Region Hluttaw was unanimous yesterday in passing a motion calling for the return of public places to the people.

U Nay Phone Latt of the Thingangyan constituency pro-

posed the motion, with 14 representatives discussing in favour.

MPs expressed disapproval of the construction and renting of departmental buildings and other property in public places such as playgrounds and librar-

ies. Regarding the construction of a market incharge office and a municipal office in Thingangyun township, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe told the parliament that they would abide by the court's ruling. —*Ko Moe*

Unwise to consider democracy as panacea: Mongolian President

MONGOLIAN President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj stressed the need not to take democracy as a master key to everything while holding a briefing on the realisation of democracy, the rule of law and transparency in Mongolia in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The onus is upon all Myanmar

citizens to serve the nation, said the President, adding that Myanmar people have to do their bit for democracy to strengthen the rights and opportunities of the people.

He highlighted the importance of the people's voice and its need to be heard, emphasising the need to create situations that pave

the way for public involvement in each and every matter of the country.

Public participation is key to peaceful transition and further achievements, said the President. It is imperative to change mindsets in order to fight corruption which is a global problem because it is found not only in Myanmar and Mongolia but also in other world's nations, he added. During his talks, the President also shared the Mongolian government's experience of working in public service delivery. A Q & A session followed, with the President answering questions raised by those present.

Mongolia began its transformation from a communist country of more than 70 years into democracy in 1990. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Mongolian President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj gives talks in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Rainy season doesn't dampen tourism

THE rate of tourism around Mandalay Region, and to the ancient city of Bagan, has defied conventions by increase during the first leg of the rainy season, according to local tourism operators.

“Most travellers visit the dry region to avoid the rainy season downpours. They mostly travel to Bagan, Mandalay and Inle,” said U Zaw Wai, from

Jovago Myanmar, a hotel booking website. Chinese and Thai tourists are reportedly the highest numbers of foreign travellers to Myanmar during the rainy season, followed by nationals of other Asian countries such as Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan.

“Different visitors from around the world visit Bagan. Although it's the raining season now in Myanmar, rainfall

is light in Bagan and Mandalay. Most tourists are from neighbouring ASEAN countries such as Thailand, Laos and Cambodia; the countries share a similar climate. Numbers of Visitors to Myanmar in general though are higher during the winter season,” said U Khin Maung Nu, president of the Bagan Regional Development Association.— *Myitmakha News Agency*

State Counsellor hosts Mongolian President for luncheon



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosts Mongolian President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj for a luncheon. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi hosted Mongolian President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj for a luncheon at her residence in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the luncheon

were Vice-Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar SMEs to enjoy low-interest loans from Japan says MRCCI

A MODEL has been developed to help Myanmar's small and medium-sized enterprises get access to low-interest loans from Japan in order to better meet their financial needs, said U Moe Kyaw Kyaw of the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) yesterday.

The Japanese side will give loans to SMEs at an interest rate of 6 per cent and the SMEs are needed to meet the requirements of the SME Department, the Economic and Financial Management Committee, the MRCCI and the Mandalay City Development Committee that permitted the businesses in order to receive the loans, added the MRCCI official.

MCRRI Chairman U Aung Than blamed private banks for giving loans at 13 per cent interest as the interest rate on the loan should be determined by the market. According to the MRCCI, which is set to play as a facilitator for the lending process, it also held talks with India regarding a lending program.

Despite loans being disbursed to SMEs at 8.25 per cent interest in the time of the previous government, many SMEs were unable to gain access to the loans because of the regulations of the banks that called on the small businesses to offer collateral, said Ko Yan Aung, a local SME owner.— *Aung Thant Khaing*

Bus customer complaints number 946 as of May

BUS customer complaints totaled 946 cases regarding bus line problems from January to May, 2016. Among them, 317 cases have had action taken whereas the remaining 629 cases are still pending, according to the All-Private Bus Line Control Central Committee.

The joint secretary of the Department is replying to all complaints individually. Most of the complaints were associated with bus line workers asking for money in addition to the regular fare and using rude language, said U Hla Aung, Chairman of All-Private Bus Line Control Central Committee. Official statistics show that 74 cases out of 149 had action taken in January,

101 cases out of 156 had action taken in February, 71 cases out of 144 had action taken in March, 59 cases out of 241 had action taken in April and 12 cases out of 256 had action taken in May.

During these five months, the region witnessed 646 cases of bus conductors asking for additional money, 107 cases of the use of rude or offensive language, 39 cases of careless driving, 5 cases of assault and 62 cases of buses not reaching their designated terminal.

The All-Private Bus Line Control Central Committee said that there were 1,385 cases of bus conductors asking for more money out of 2,122 cases last year.—*ZM/Union Daily*

Lacquerware expo, contest this weekend



Lacquerware expo, contest to be held this month. PHOTO: YE THURA AUNG

MYANMAR'S traditional lacquerware will be on display in Bagan to showcase the country's famous handicraft. In conjunction with contest, the expo is to be held at the Lacquerware College (Bagan) on 18 and 19 June.

Lacquerware entrepreneurs' producers will open up 70 booths

to showcase the cream of the crop. The two-day event is organised by the regional department of agriculture, livestock and Irrigation.

The department is making an effort to promote the economic and cultural statuses of its regional products, apparently an effort under the government's '100-day

plan.' The aim of organising the event is to get the people to value the art of Myanmar lacquerware and to promote it as an export for foreign markets.

The contest will cover five categories, with event organisers planning to present awards for each category.—*Ye Thura Aung*

Crime NEWS

Pseudoephedrine confiscated in Sagaing, Mandalay and Kalay

A COMBINED team comprising officers and staff from Sagaing and Monywa region seized Pseudoephedrine powder weighing 61.5 kilograms from a vehicle en route to Mandalay from Tamu-kalay being driven by one Thu Soe Oo at Kantalu toll gate in Sagaing town on Monywa- Mandalay road on Tuesday.

Similarly, police in Mandalay region searched the home of one Htet Nay Zin in Mintae Eikin ward, Aungmyaythasan township and discovered ephedrine weighing 500 kilograms and 125,000 Pseudoephedrine pills. Ma Tin Moe Khine and Ma Tin Zar Win were found together with the host.

According to a connected investigation, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Kalay township arrested a drug smuggler named Rambo with a vehicle in Thidar ward, Kalay town. Police also arrested one Khin Khan Paung who was in-



Pseudoephedrine tablets confiscated in Sagaing, Mandalay and Kalay. PHOTO: KO YE

involved in the carrying of drugs in Pyigyitagon township. According to a connected investigation, the police discovered 1,050,000 Pseudoephedrine pills in a home belonging to one Bo Bo Lwin on

Thayawady Mingyi road, Pyigyidagun township.

Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Ko Ye*

Three men arrested for robbery in Hlaing thaya

LOCAL police arrested three men for robbery in 17 ward. The men were apprehended behind a local coconut oil factory on Monday during a routine police patrol.

The police searched the suspects identified as Kaung Htet Kyaw, 19, Sithu, 22, and San

Lwin, 21, which yielded a 9-inch knife. The police filed a case under Sub-section E of Section 19 of the Weapons Act.

When interrogated, the group reportedly admitted that they had robbed one Ko Hlan San of his mobile phone. The victim sus-

tained minor injuries on his neck and hands in the robbery. Ko Hlan San is currently undergoing medical treatment at Insein General Hospital. The police have filed charges against the suspects under section 394 of the Criminal Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Dyna truck overturns killing one and injuring four in Kawthaung

A DYNA truck carrying sawn timber being driven by one Than Win Aung, 52, with four men on board overturned near Shwe Pyi Thar ward, Kawthaung town on Tuesday, leaving one dead and four injured.

According to an investigation, the vehicle overturned when the driver lost control of the truck due to excessive

speed. A passenger named Kyaw Ye Aung, 24, was killed whereas four others including the driver were seriously injured in the accident.

The Forestry Department is still investigating whether the sawn timber was legal or not. The police have filed charges against the driver.—*Kyaw Soe (IPRD)*



Three Taiwanese deported for breaking visa rule

THREE Taiwanese who are staying at Hsan Sai ward, Tachilek were arrested and deported to the Mae Sai town, Thailand from Tachilek - Mae Sai road, on 14 June.

The local police have taken action against 11 Chinese and Taiwanese who are staying at

San Sai ward, Tachilek town on 30 April for breaking the visa rule. Currently, the local police deported Mr. Young Tien Ching, Mr. Lin Chun Chaung and Mrs. Yang Ting Huan to take the route they came to the Tachilek.—*Myintmoe (Tachilek)*

LOCAL Business



Despite price hike, cars are still being imported increasingly. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Government earns Ks80million from permit-free cars

GOVERNMENT revenue from taxing permit-free cars has climbed up to Ks80m (US\$67,480) starting from 1 June because the Union government has imposed an advanced income tax on permit-free cars.

There are now over 70 permit-free cars on that advanced income tax has been paid. Those paying taxes on their vehicle have gradually risen from 2 June. Cars that taxes were paid are mostly seen to of a lower

engine capacity, said an official from Internal Revenue Department.

Taxes also targeted cars that have number plates that are not from Yangon. After advanced income tax is levied on cars, the number of permit-free cars remarkably declines.

Trading of the cars with low engine power has dropped in the local car market because of the ban on Yangon's free permit and income tax payment.

After imposing the tax, the price of the cars with 1300CC and 1500CC has risen. As a result of this, the number of buyers has decreased. The car market will still be cool this month because of Yangon's free permit ban, said U Zaw Lay, a car dealer.

The price of cars with 1300CC has risen by Ks1m (US\$843) while cars with 1500CC by Ks2m (US\$1,687) in the car market. —MLT/Union Daily

Myanmar and Singapore to develop the re-export sector

MYANMAR will join Singaporean companies to gain access to the technology and business links required to bring development to the re-export sector said an official from the Ministry of Commerce (MoC). The cooperation is said to begin within the next three months.

Singapore benefits from re-exporting and plans to share its knowledge of the sector

with Myanmar. The practice of 're-exporting' is taking imported goods, enhancing them and then exporting them out of the country again – the practice of re-exporting is a lucrative industry.

"Cooperation with Singaporean companies in the re-export sector is expected to have substantial benefit," said the official.

Singapore has plenty of part-

ner companies that it trades in the re-export sector with Myanmar has a labor force and raw materials. As a result, the cooperation is expected to enhance the re-export sector.

There are eight companies that have offered to cooperate with Myanmar offering technology and to develop the countries new market.—200

MIC to encourage eco-friendly investment

THE Myanmar Investment Commission will enforce eco-friendly investments on local or foreign firms said U Aung Naing Oo from the MIC.

Currently, there are over 90 companies that have sought approval for investment. Out of the companies, these that plan to make eco-friendly investment

will be approved.

Selected companies entitled to make investment in Myanmar will be monitored to assure they do not harm the environment. Companies that exploit natural resources can manufacture a quota system that is to be prescribed by the MIC. Companies that break the quota will face

heavy fines.

Foreign companies seeking investment approval from the MIC are mostly from Singapore, China, Viet Nam and Bangladesh. Most businesses seeking approval are reported to be in the garment industry, automobile manufacturing industry and toilet industry. —200

Trade value with ITC reaches over Ks700million in border trade camps

TRADE value with Individual Trading Card (ITC) at border trade camps has reached over Ks727m (US\$610,000) from 1st April to 20th May of this fiscal year 2016-2017, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The export value with ITCs is Ks106m (US\$88,988) while the import value with ITCs is over Ks621m (US\$521,000) in nearly two months of this fiscal year.

Kan Pike Tee border trade zone is reported to have the biggest volume of trade with a value of Ks307m (US\$257,000). Trade values are over Ks144m (US\$120,000) at the Tamu border trade zone, over Ks120m (US\$100,000) at Reed border trade zone and over Ks73m (US\$61,000) at the Muse border.

Ks15m (US\$12,000) at the Myawady border trade zone, Ks41m (US\$34,000) at the Tachilek border trade zone, Ks23m (US\$19,000) at Maw-

taung border trade zone and over Ks1.9million (US\$1,500) at the Kengtung border trade zone.

The Ministry of Commerce issued an announcement in May that business peoples can trade up to Ks15m (US\$12,000) in five days at border trade zones and/or import and export offices, with a trade value of Ks3m (US\$2,500) per day on average.

There are a total of 14 border trade camps between Myanmar and neighbouring countries and Muse and Myawady border trade camps are seen to have the largest volume of trade among those camps.

A total of 1,017 ITCs have been issued by trade departments and trade camps, with a total 292 ITCs in 2012-2013, 261 in 2013-2014, 315 in 2014-2015, 146 in 2015-2016 and 3 cards from 1st April to 20th May of this fiscal year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. —ML/ Union daily

Germany to buy dried tea leaves from Myanmar



MYANMAR will begin exporting dried tea leaves to Germany from November this year. Germany requested to begin purchasing the product in February this year according to U Kyaw Thiha, Vice Chairman of the Myanmar Tea Association.

The set price of the trade is Ks15,000 (US\$12) per 1.5kg. Pintaya Township, a part of the Tea Association, will lead export to Germany.

The local wholesale price of dried tea leaves varies from Ks5,500 (US\$4) to Ks6,000 (US\$5) per 1.5kg. It is only when wholesale prices drop to Ks3,500 (US\$3) - Ks4,000 (US\$3.5) when wholesale ex-

port prices drop.

Myanmar is gearing up the market for export to Germany with manufacturing machines ready to go.

It is rare to find a country that wishes to import dry and un-dried tealeaves interested in tea leaves. The demand from Germany is promising for the tea market.

"We will try to extend markets in the coming years," said U Kyaw Thiha.

Currently, there are roughly seven tea leaf plantations in Myanmar. Myanmar Tea Association will assist in the manufacturing process, from farming to packaging. —200

Asiatic lion to spend life in zoo for killing three persons in West India

NEW DELHI — In a plot straight out of a Hollywood animated movie, India has finally identified the killer after putting 17 Asiatic lions on trial for the brutal murder of three persons in the famous Gir forest in the western state of Gujarat in a span of one month.

A.P. Singh, chief conservator of forest (Junagadh division), said that out of the 17 lions captured by the forest officials last month, “one was a male adult and it turned out to be the main culprit.”

“He has been identified and shifted to Sakkarbaug Zoo in Gujarat,” he told the media on Thursday.

Unravelling the plot, the forest official said that they found considerable amount of human remains in that lion’s faeces, while very small amount was found from the faeces of

two females. “It brought us to the conclusion that the male lion attacked, killed and ate humans, while two other sub-adults only ate some leftover body parts. These female sub-adults were not involved in attacking and killing humans, as they only ate the leftover parts,” Singh said.

He said that the male lion would be caged at the Junagadh zoo for its entire life, while all those rounded up for the probe will be released in deeper pockets of the sanctuary, far away from where they were captured.

The forest department had captured the 17 lions after three bodies with injury marks were found in Gir forest area. The victims were a 14-year-old boy, a 50-year-old woman and a 61-year-old man. There are a little over 500 Asiatic lions in Gir forest.—*Xinhua*

Rescuers struggle to save beached whales in Indonesia



Indonesian soldiers, policemen and residents work to remove a dead whale stranded on the coast of Pesisir beach in Probolinggo, Indonesia, on 16 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

JAKARTA — Indonesian rescuers worked on Thursday to save a pod of beached whales that got trapped in a mangrove swamp at low tide,

fisheries officials said.

Villagers in the area in the east of Java island were helping fisheries staff trying to lead the 30 or so whales, most of which

were believed to be young pilot whales, back to sea.

Several of the whales had died after being hurt in the shallows and many of the others were weak,

officials said.

“The residents are trying to push the active whales back toward deeper water ... but some are still stuck,” Deddy Isfandi, a fisheries official in the coastal town of Probolinggo, told media.

Another fisheries official, Wahid Noor Azis, told Reuters seven of the whales were calves while the biggest of the adults was up to four metres (13 feet) long.

The officials said they did not know why the animals ventured into the mangrove swamp. Residents said whales were rarely seen in the area.

Whale beachings, while unusual, have been seen in other parts of Indonesia.

This year, a four-tonne, 16-metre (52 foot) sperm whale was found dead on a beach on the resort island of Bali.—*Reuters*

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi
ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Proof Reader & Translator - Ye Myint
Expatriate Consultant Editors

Alec Wilmot
counsultanteditor2@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

Ads and subscription enquiries:
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Philippines’ incoming gov’t, Left agree to resume formal peace talks in July

MANILA — The incoming Philippine government of President-elect Rodrigo Duterte and the country’s leftist movement have agreed to hold formal peace talks in next month in Norway, a joint statement said on Thursday.

Negotiators for the Philippine government and leftist National Democratic Front (NDF) said in a joint statement issued at the end of 14-15 July exploratory talks in Oslo, Norway, that

they also agreed on the agenda of their formal talks in the third week of July in Oslo, Norway.

The agenda includes the release of political prisoners, the mode of interim ceasefire and the how to speed up the negotiation process, said the statement issued to the media.

The government panel will recommend to Duterte the immediate release of all leftist consultants and political prisoners “based on

humanitarian grounds,” the joint statement said.

The government’s chief negotiator, incoming labour secretary Sylvester Bello signed for the government while NDF panel chair Luis Jalandoni signed for the rebel side.

The Front groups the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People’s Army (NPA), with other leftist organisations.

The Philippine mili-

tary said the NPA has estimated 4,000 members. The rebels have been fighting the government since 1969 in one of Asia’s longest-running insurgencies.

The government has been trying to forge peace with the leftist rebels since 1986 but the on-off talks have faltered many times in the past.

Duterte, who won in the 9 May elections, will assume the presidency on 30 June.—*Xinhua*

Gov’t ministries told to ask for more funding to boost tourism

TOKYO — Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga instructed government ministries on Thursday to include “effective and bold” tourism-boosting measures in their budget requests for the 2017 fiscal year in an effort to push foreign tourist numbers toward an ambitious government target.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s administration has aimed to raise the annual number of overseas tourists visiting Japan to 40 million in 2020, when

Tokyo will host the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

The government’s top spokesman also asked officials to work harder to make Japan’s less-travelled regions more attractive to visitors, including by establishing a system to assist improvements to infrastructure and discussing potential tax reforms.

Suga made the call at a meeting Thursday morning of a taskforce composed of senior officials from the Cabinet Secretariat and a range of minis-



Japanese Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, alongside tourism minister Keiichi Ishii, speaks in a meeting with tourism officials in Tokyo on 16 June 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

tries tasked with executing the government’s tourism vision strategy drawn up in March. “Having heard explanations (from the officials) today, I felt that

from the visitors’ perspective, there are still many things we should do,” Suga told a press conference after the meeting.—*Kyodo News*

India overhauls aviation rules to boost air travel

NEW DELHI — India overhauled rules governing the world's fastest-growing aviation market on Wednesday to make it easier for new airlines to fly overseas, aiming to boost air travel and economic growth.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government presented the national civil aviation policy, which has been years in the making, in a bid to make flying more affordable for India's expanding middle class, bolster competition and get more of the country connected.

Implementing the policy is a sign that Modi's government is beginning to find traction with key reforms, which also included the recent introduction of new real estate and bankruptcy laws, after a series of setbacks in his first two years in office.

Under the policy, domestic carriers will no longer have to operate for five years before they can fly abroad, known as the 5/20 rule, although they must still deploy 20 aircraft or 20 per cent of total capacity in India, whichever is higher.

The change, effective immediately, is a boost for Tata Group's two recent ventures — Vistara, in partnership with Singapore Airlines, and AirAsia India, with Malaysia's AirAsia Bhd — and could encourage other foreign carriers to enter the country.

"We need more airlines, more aircrafts serving our Indian skies, so if more airlines want to come to India they are welcome," aviation minister Ashok Gajapati Raju told reporters.

Passenger numbers on domestic flights jumped 21 per cent in 2015 to more than 80 million. The government aims to increase that number to 300 million by 2022. International travel is grow-



An IndiGo Airlines aircraft prepares to land as a man paddles his cycle rickshaw in Ahmedabad, India, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing more slowly, at 9 per cent a year, but newer airlines are eager to start flying overseas where routes can be more lucrative than in the fiercely competitive domestic sector.

Easing the 5/20 rule, unique to India, marks a further step towards liberalising the country's aviation market.

While the change is a boost for the new carriers, incumbents like Etihad-backed Jet Airways, InterGlobe Aviation's Indigo Airlines and SpiceJet that already fly overseas had lobbied hard to keep the rule in place.

However, Vistara, with 10 jets, is at least a year away from having the 20 planes needed to fly abroad, meaning that there is no immediate threat to the estab-

lished players.

AirAsia India has only six A320 planes but its CEO said it would accelerate fleet expansion plans. "We will now take that (rule change) into account and invest in India to get to that 20 mark as soon as possible, as soon as viable," CEO Amar Abrol said.

Shares in Jet Airways, InterGlobe and SpiceJet rose on news the civil aviation policy had been approved.

The government also announced it would cap base fares on regional routes at 2,500 rupees (\$37) per hour of travel to get more people flying to and from under-served destinations, with the government providing part of the funding to make it viable.

The cap does not affect the

most popular routes, like New Delhi to financial capital Mumbai.

Funding for new "no-frills" airports would also be made available and excise duty on fuel would be cut, civil aviation secretary R. N. Choubey said.

India's air travel market has boomed in the last decade as it opened up to competition, ticket prices were slashed and the number of people wealthy enough to travel ballooned.

Still, India's annual trips per capita, at 0.04, compares to 0.3 in China. Amber Dubey, head of aerospace at KPMG in India, said he welcomed the focus on regional connectivity and replacing the 5/20 rule, predicting it would accelerate growth.—Reuters

Tourist killed in Indonesia's Bali as tidal waves hit resort

JAKARTA — Tidal waves striking Indonesia's Bali island have left one holiday maker dead and another injured, a senior official of disaster agency said here on Thursday.

Piter Tan and Wong Sum Sum, both 64 years old from China's Hong Kong, were dragged to sea by tidal waves in a popular surf spot in Sanur beach of Bali, Gde Jaye, senior official of the agency said.

"Peter Tan was dead, but Wong Sum Sum survived after being treated at Sanglah Hospital," he told Xinhua by phone from Bali.

Several cafes and restaurants have been damaged by the unusual and dangerous huge waves in Jembrana tourist resort, Jaye disclosed.

Tourists in Bali have been warned to stay alert as the meteorology and geophysics agency forecast the extreme weather will keep happening until the end of this month.

"Coast guards have boosted surveillance in beaches at several spots. Tourists are also warned and banned from beach activities," the official stressed.

Previously, hundreds of houses and building were damaged on Java Island and hundreds of people fled homes after tidal waves and sea water flooding hit coastal areas, according to the national disaster management agency.—Xinhua

Controversial Aussie MP faces calls to quit after publishing 'abhorrent' campaign ad

CANBERRA — A controversial Australian MP is facing calls to quit politics, after he sparked outcry by releasing a campaign ad which depicts him shooting his political opponents.

Just days after 49 people were killed by a gunman in the Orlando massacre, Queensland MP Bob Katter published a campaign ad which showed him holding a smoking gun near two seemingly lifeless bodies, something meant to represent his disapproval of foreign ownership in Australia. But on Thursday

the rogue MP faced criticism from political opponents as well as high-profile media personalities, with some even calling for the 71-year-old to quit politics altogether.

Queensland Senator Barry O'Sullivan labelled the ad as "abhorrent," and slammed the depiction of violence in a political ad.

"Bob's done some crazy things over the years, but all of that pales into insignificance when he starts to promote the use of violence to murder un-

armed political opponents and then declares his defence as he was 'having a bit of fun,'" O'Sullivan said on Thursday.

Katter's half-brother, and Labour party candidate in the Melbourne seat of Higgins, Carl Katter said the ad showed a "total disregard" for the victims of the mass shooting which happened less than a week ago in the United States.

"It's a total disregard for the loss of lives that we saw in Orlando recently, which is still having a huge impact on my

community which is the LBGTI, but also the greater community," Carl Katter said. Katter also faced criticism from the media on Thursday; high-profile broadcaster David Koch asked the independent MP whether or not he knew the Orlando massacre had occurred.

But Katter has defended the timing of the ad, saying he signed off on the video more than a week ago, and that he had "no idea when the thing went out".

"It most certainly wasn't

under my control," he said.

Katter then turned the heat onto "the politically correct brigade" who took offence to the "screamingly funny" advertisement.

"You don't realise how stupid your remark is, with all due respects," Katter told TV host Koch, "Comic and humor is not in your pantheon."

Katter is the sitting member for Kennedy in Queensland, representing his own "Katter's Australia Party" at the upcoming election.—Xinhua

Man missing and thought possibly abducted by North Korea found in Japan

FUKUI (Japan) — Police said on Thursday a Japanese man missing since 1997 and thought possibly abducted by North Korea has been found within Japan.

Kazuya Miyauchi, 51, who

went missing at the age of 32 in Fukui Prefecture, was found in early June, the Fukui police said, adding it has been confirmed the former local government employee was not abducted.

It was not immediately clear where Miyauchi has been for nearly 20 years nor what he has been doing.

Miyauchi was listed among over 800 people who went miss-

ing in Japan without an apparent reason and whom the police cannot rule out the possibility of being kidnapped by North Korea.

Pyongyang admitted in 2002 to abducting Japanese in the

1970s and 1980s and has since returned five of them. The Japanese government officially classifies another 12 people as having been abducted by North Korea.—Kyodo News

Opinion

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Encouragement works where punishment does not

Kyaw Thura

NATURALLY, teachers, like parents, are eager to take pride in the academic achievements of their children by boasting that they are at the top of the class. Bit by bit, their selfish fervour has become a constant burden on the children to be perfect in school.

The practice of reward and punishment with regard

to good and poor grades has now become rampant across the country. Many parents, as well as teachers, reward their children for good grades and punish them for bad grades. They have a thinking that children, when punished for bad grades, will work harder the next time. In addition, they often take punishment as a disciplinary measure. If punish-

ment pays, no student will ever fail tests and exams. There is absolute truth in the maxim, "If spanking effects learning, all cows would become educated."

It is vital for caretakers to understand that grades on report cards do not matter as long as children learn to accept success and failure as information rather than reward and

punishment. In doing so, adults should encourage students with bad grades to reevaluate their weak points and decide what they need to pay more attention to. The most important thing is that children should be motivated to learn to view grades, either good or bad, as an effective tool for self-discovery, self-development and self-discipline.

Is Vaping Safe?

Khin Maung Myint

NOT very long ago, I noticed a strange sight during a wedding reception dinner at a posh restaurant in Yangon. A sight, which I had never seen before, even in my frequent travels abroad. A group of elegantly dressed young ladies and gentlemen in their twenties and thirties, passing around a strange looking smoking device, each puffing away before passing on to the next person. At first, I thought it was a cigarette holder that was popular among the fashionable aristocrats, socialites and celebrities, during my younger days. Such cigarette holders were mostly seen in foreign films. However, on closer look, I was wrong. There was no cigarette and the instrument was a bit longer and thicker than the sleek cigarette holders of the old days.

My curiosity as to what those young people were smoking, bothered me throughout the whole reception. I dare not ask my friend, who is very knowledgeable, sitting beside me, as I was afraid other strangers at the table might notice my ignorance. Thus on the way back, I asked him and was told that was an e-cigarette. I had heard of the e-cigarettes, not very long ago, but never seen one before. Also, as I had foolishly thought that such things are not yet available in our country, I had not guessed that strange device to be an e-cigarette. My friend went on to explain that e-cigarette smoking, or rather vaping, had become very popular, especially at parties, among the young generations.

Before proceeding any further, I think, I should explain the

term vaping, for the benefit of those who are not familiar with or have never heard of it before. I, myself, came to learn about that new vocabulary only recently from a news item about the word vaping being officially accepted as a new English word by the Oxford English dictionary. That piece of information aroused my curiosity to learn more about what e-cigarettes are and how that new word vaping came into existence and its connection to the e-cigarette. Of course, I turned to the Internet, my treasure trove of information and knowledge. I managed to unearth quite a large amount of information relating to the e-cigarette.

As more and more people become addicted to tobacco smoking and the medical professionals are discovering the harmful or hazardous effects of smoking to health, smokers are advised to quit smoking. However, many had trouble doing that. Someone in China first started inventing a substance that is supposed to be safer than tobacco to replace the harmful tobacco cigarettes. It is in the form of liquified nicotine mixed with propylene glycerol, glycerine and a variety of flavouring to choose from. A device called the electronic cigarette or e-cigarette turns the liquid placed inside it into vapour. Inhaling and exhaling that vapour, abbreviation of which is vape, is called vaping. That term originated in the 1980s as a slang, while experimenting a non-combustible cigarette to substitute for the hazardous tobacco cigarettes. However, it was officially recognized as a new English word only a few years ago and some prominent

dictionaries, including the Oxford English dictionary, mentioned it in their latest editions, while some do not mention it as yet.

China was the first to introduce, commercially, this method of vaping as a substitute for tobacco cigarette smoking and is the largest exporter of e-cigarettes in the whole world today. This method is purported to be safe and is claimed that it can even help those who want to quit smoking. However, there is no concrete proof as to the accuracy of their claims.

Even from a layman's point of view, how can a substance that contain nicotine as the main ingredient be safe or assist in quitting smoking. As a heavy smoker myself at one time, I know full well that nicotine has addicting properties to its user, which become habitual that is very difficult to kick. So, it's no wonder non-smokers who tried e-cigarettes got addicted to it as it contains nicotine. Thus, in my opinion it's effectiveness as a substitute for quitting smoking is very doubtful.

Today, reports are emerging that e-cigarettes are not absolutely safe as claimed and for non-smokers who tried it can get addicted to it. It is learnt from some reports that a high percentage of the people who tried vaping to quit smoking are found to be still smoking tobacco cigarettes. Most of them end up vaping as well as smoking. That may be even more hazardous than smoking tobacco cigarettes only.

I first got into the habit of smoking at an early age of sixteen. It was in my first year at the university when I was introduced to this bad habit. When I saw the



Various types of e-cigarettes.

senior or older students smoking cigarettes, I thought it was very stylish or fashionable and foolishly thought it was the signature of a university student. Thus when a friend of mine offered me a cigarette, I accepted to try how it tastes. I had thought only one cigarette wouldn't make me addicted. However, I was wrong. Whenever, anyone offered me a cigarette, I accepted and started to enjoy smoking. At first I didn't know that enjoying smoking was due to addiction. By my Bachelor junior year (third year), I had become a heavy smoker, consuming a packet of twenties a day.

I am mentioning my experience to point out that the nicotine is the main culprit that drove me to addiction. In those days, I would reach for my cigarette pack, which I always kept beside my bed, the moment I woke up, anytime in the middle of the night. At first, I thought it was done absent-mindedly. However, later I realized that it was my brain, craving for nicotine, influenced my actions. To look at it from another perspective, addiction to smoking is in reality a craving for nicotine by the brain. Experts may not totally agree, but I am of the opinion that nictines, whether in smoke form or vapour form are addictive.

I continued smoking for many years during my career days until one day, I suffered severe coughing. That was a wake up call for me to quit. I found it very difficult to quit in the beginning, but eventually I was able to kick the bad habit, in my late forties. From then onwards, I had urged others to do the same whenever I had the opportunity to do so. I told them that if they really have the will and determination to quit, they could do it.

I had written four articles related to smoking and their adverse effects on health and how to kick the habit, which were published in the Global New Light of Myanmar over two years ago. I'm an ardent advocate for anti-smoking. Now, I am turning my attention to campaign against vaping. It should be prohibited in public places along with the cigarette smoking. It is common knowledge that secondhand smoke is more harmful than the firsthand smoke. Now, I firmly believe that secondhand vape has the same effect as the secondhand smoke. Worse still is the way many young people are sharing the same e-cigarette as mentioned above. It is a very unhealthy practice that could transmit germs from one vaper to another.

Commander-in-Chief receives courtesy call by Indian National Security Advisor

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received a courtesy call by Special Envoy of Indian Prime Minister and National Security Advisor India Mr Ajit Doval in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

They discussed peace processes and promotion of closer bilateral cooperation in defence, border security and stability.

Also present at the meeting were senior military officers of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s Office and diplomats and military attaché from the Indian embassy in Yangon. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receiving a courtesy call by Special Envoy of Indian Prime Minister and National Security Advisor Mr Ajit Doval in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Mongolian president meets NREC union minister, CBM governor

MONGOLIAN President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj met Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Minister U Ohn Win at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

At the meeting the two representatives

discussed ways to promote bilateral cooperation in mining, environmental conservation and socioeconomic development.

The Mongolian president also met Central Bank of

Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung at the same venue at 3:30pm to exchange views on the promotion of closer economic integration between the two countries. — *Myanmar News Agency*



President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj meeting Central Bank of Myanmar Governor U Kyaw Kyaw Maung at the Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Kandawgyi lake's wooden bridge to be repaired

THE Yangon Regional Government has set aside money in the 2016-'17 budget to repair the dilapidated bridge that stretches over 2km across Kandawgyi Lake.

"The total length of the bridge is 6,965ft (2,122km). Plans are underway to renovate

over 1,000ft (308m) section this financial year (FY)," according to Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

"The 1,025ft (312m) section was repaired last year with local authorities planning to repair the other 4,940ft (1,505km) section within next FY."

Located in the heart of

Yangon, Kandawgyi Park, is one of Yangon's most popular recreation ground. It is regarded as one of the biggest tourist attractions, hosting music events, restaurants and entertainment facilities. It is also an exercise ground for residents in the area.—200

French Foreign Minister arrives Nay Pyi Taw

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development Jean-Marc Ayrault arrived Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening, marking the first official visit by a French government representative since the new government took office in last April.

According to the French embassy in Yangon, the

visit will last from June 17 to June 19.

Mr Ayrault will meet in Nay Pyi Taw President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing during his visit to Nay Pyi Taw.— *Myanmar News Agency*



French Foreign Minister arrives Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Turtle conservation center to be established

TURTLE Survival Alliance (TSA) released a statement saying that the international group plans to organise a turtle conservation center in Myanmar. The group has been operating in the country since 2012 working alongside the Wildlife Conservation Society.

The main goal of the group is to keep the reptiles out of the hands of traffickers. TSA claims it has saved 500 turtles from traffickers over the past four years.

TSA opened a turtle survival center outside of Pyin U Lwin last month and plans to expand its conservation networks within the country.

TSA was established in 2001 to carry out sustainable captive management practices of freshwater turtles and tortoises. It is an action-oriented global partnership committed to zero turtle extinctions in the 21st century. The TSA arose in response to the rampant and unsustainable harvest of Asian turtle populations to supply Chinese markets, a situation known as the Asian Turtle Crisis.

Myanmar's north self-autonomous region, Wa's capital Mong La is the centre for trafficking of animals into China. Exotic animals pass through the area on their way to China or the rest of the world.—*GNLM*

Blood donation up 58 % over past decade

BLOOD donation in Myanmar has increased from 35% in 2003 to 93% in 2015, said Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htwe at a ceremony marking World Blood Donor Day.

During the event on 14 June in Yangon, Dr Myint Htwe vowed to continue to support the needs of blood banks nationwide to carry out their regular works.

A total of 62,923 blood units were collected last year, 50% of them from group donations and the rest are from individual donors.

Different kinds of organisations including religious bodies, government departments, universities, business groups, civil societies and political organisations took part in the last year's blood drive.

U Aung Min, a blood donor said, "I have donated blood about 150 times, I donate monthly to a patient with blood cancer."

The government opened a National Blood Bank in 2003 after it enacted the Blood and Blood Products Law to expand blood bank networks.—*Myint Maung Soe*

North of England has most to lose from Brexit, says 'In' campaign



A solitary Welsh national flag flies amongst England national flags on Wales Street in Oldham, northern England, on 13 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — The north of England would be hit hardest by a vote for Brexit, the campaign to keep Britain in the European Union will say on Thursday, as it steps up its push to win over opposition Labour supporters seen as key to securing an 'In' vote.

With opinion polls showing momentum swinging towards 'Out' ahead of next week's referendum, the In camp has embarked on an appeal to Labour voters it fears have been turned off by media coverage dominated by splits within Prime Minister David Cameron's Conservatives over the EU.

England's north, a traditional Labour stronghold where many working-class voters have been hit by the demise of much of the region's coal and steel industries, has seen a rise in sup-

port for the anti-EU UK Independence Party.

Presenting research by the In campaign that says 10 per cent of jobs, more than 700,000, in the north are linked to EU exports, former Labour prime minister Gordon Brown will say European Union funds have helped regenerate the region.

Many in the north blame former Conservative leader Margaret Thatcher, in office from 1979 to 1990, for the collapse of industry in the region.

"In the 1980s the Tories (Conservatives) turned our industrial heartlands into industrial wastelands ... What stood between our communities and further devastation was the European structural funds, regional funds and social funds," Brown will say at a speech in Manches-

ter. Jobs in key sectors, such as car manufacturing, will be at risk if Britain leaves the bloc and high tariffs are imposed on exports, he will say.

"I ask everyone who works in the car industry, the aviation industry, the pharmaceutical industry and the food and drink industry in the North, to tell their fellow citizens of the importance they attach to the jobs that come from their exports to Europe and the risks of losing these jobs to Brexit."

The north of England has also been allocated 2.1 billion pounds of EU funds to support infrastructure, higher education, agriculture and small business between 2014 and 2020 which would be lost if Britain votes to leave the bloc on 23 June, the In campaign will say.—Reuters

Stranded in France, migrant children forced into crime, prostitution every day: UNICEF

LONDON — Migrant children in northern France are forced into crime and prostitution on a daily basis to secure a place to stay in migrant camps or the promise of passage to Britain, the UN children's agency said on Thursday.

UNICEF said sexual exploitation, violence and forced labour were a constant threat for children travelling alone and urged the authorities to do more to protect them.

"We know this has been a long-running problem for over a decade but it's got much more extreme and severe in the last year with the increase in the global refugee crisis," said Melanie Teff, senior humanitarian advocacy and policy adviser at

UNICEF UK. "We heard sad stories of girls charging 5 euros (\$5.60) to be sexually exploited in order to get into the camp, or to start paying towards their passage to the UK," she told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Of the roughly 206,200 people who arrived in Europe by sea this year to 4 June, one in three was a child, UNICEF said on Tuesday, citing figures from the UN refugee agency.

Many eventually end up in camps such as the shanty town nicknamed the "Jungle" outside France's northern port of Calais.

UNICEF said there were an estimated 500 unaccompanied children living in seven camps on the northern coast of France, including Calais and Dunkirk.

Some 2,000 children have passed through the camps since June 2015, it said.

Several children told the aid agency that they were held by different criminal groups who demanded ransom from their families, while others were forced to work under almost slave-like conditions to pay for their journey. Children from Afghanistan told UNICEF that being raped was their biggest fear.

Faced with demands from traffickers to pay between 4,000 pounds (\$5,660) and 5,500 pounds (\$7,790) each to cross to Britain, children were looking for alternative ways to make the journey - with some hiding in refrigerated lorries, UNICEF said.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

More than 41 million people in Southern Africa face food insecurity: trade bloc

JOHANNESBURG — An estimated 41 million people are food insecure with 21 million people requiring immediate assistance in Southern Africa, a regional economic bloc said on Wednesday, after a drought ravaged the region.

The Southern African Development Community director for food, agriculture and natural resources, Margaret Nyirenda, said in a statement that a new report also showed that nearly 2.7 million children are suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

Southern Africa has been hard hit over the past year by an El Niño inspired drought that has wilted crops, slowed economic growth and driven food prices higher.

The weather woes have been largely attributed to the powerful El Niño system, a warming of ocean surface temperatures in the eastern and central Pacific that occurs every few years with global consequences.—Reuters

French CGT union extends strike at Fos-Lavera oil port terminal

PARIS — France's hardline CGT union workers have extended a strike at the Fos-Lavera oil terminal in the southern port of Marseille until Friday 17 June, a union official said.

The strike, now in its fourth week, part of a nationwide rolling protest against a planned labour reform has delayed the loading and unloading of about 70 oil, LNG and chemical tankers at the port, a CGT union official in Marseille said.

"Workers will meet again tomorrow to decide whether to continue the strike," Pascal Galeote said.

Marseille port authorities were not immediately available to comment.—Reuters

14 dead in floods, hailstorms across three Chinese provinces

BEIJING — Floods and landslides have caused 13 deaths in southwest China's Guizhou Province and central China's Hunan Province while a hailstorm had killed one in northern Shanxi Province as of Thursday morning, the Ministry of Civil Affairs said.

Guizhou has reported nine fatalities and nine missing with about 65,600 people evacuated, due to heavy rainfall and landslides this month, said the ministry in a statement.

Hunan has confirmed that four people have died, six remain missing and 157,000 people have been evacuated, while Shanxi reported one death and one missing, the statement said.

The central government has dispatched emergency response teams to supervise relief work in the three provinces.—Xinhua

Dacic, Sultanoglu satisfied with Serbia-UNDP cooperation

BELGRADE — Serbian First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic received UN Assistant Secretary-General Ayse Cihan Sultanoglu in Belgrade on Wednesday.

Dacic and Sultanoglu expressed satisfaction with the years of very successful cooperation between the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and Serbia, the Serbian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The cooperation is particularly reflected in UNDP assistance and support for implementing global sustainable development goals and the new development partnership framework between the UN and Serbia for 2016-2020, the statement said.

Dacic also noted the significance of the UNDP assistance provided to Serbia in the wake of the 2014 floods.—Tanjug

Wildfires hit Russia's Far East

VLADIVOSTOK — Wildfires have destroyed some 9,000 hectares of taiga in Magadan and Chukotka in the northeastern area of Russia's Far East since Wednesday, the local forestry department reported on Thursday.

The Magadan region was worst-hit, with some 5,200 hectares of woods caught in raging flames.

More than 400 firefighters and five aircraft are being involved, with nine out of the 25 wildfires put out, the forestry department said.

Russia's Far East region has suffered 965 wildfires so far this year, far more from the same period last year.—Xinhua

Post-Islamic State Iraq should be split in three: top Kurdish official

ERBIL, (Iraq) — Once Islamic State is defeated, Iraq should be divided into three separate entities to prevent further sectarian bloodshed, with a state each given to Shi'ite Muslims, Sunnis and Kurds, a top Kurdish official said on Thursday.

Iraqi troops have expelled Islamic State from some key cities the militants seized in 2014, and are advancing on Mosul, the largest city under IS control. Its fall would likely mean the end of the group's self-proclaimed caliphate.

But even if Islamic State was eliminated, Iraq would still be deeply divided. Sectarian violence has continued for years and a power-sharing agreement in Baghdad has only led to discontent, deadlock and corruption.

Masrour Barzani, head of the Kurdistan Regional Government's (KRG) Security Council and son of KRG President Massoud Barzani, said the level of mistrust was such that they should not remain "under one roof".

"Federation hasn't worked, so it has to be either confederation or full separation," Barzani told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday in the Kurdish



Iraqi soldiers gather to go battle against Islamic State militants south of Mosul, Iraq, on 15 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

capital Erbil. "If we have three confederated states, we will have equal three capitals, so one is not above the other."

The Kurds have already taken steps toward realizing their long-held dream of independence from Iraq, which has been led by the Shi'ite majority since the overthrow of Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, in 2003, following a US-led invasion.

They run their own affairs in the north and have their own armed forces, the Peshmerga, which have

been fighting Islamic State militants with help from a US-led coalition.

Sunnis should be given the option of doing the same in the provinces where they are in the majority in the north and the west of Iraq, said Barzani.

"What we are offering is a solution," he said. "This doesn't mean they live under one roof but they can be good neighbors. Once they feel comfortable that they have a bright and secure future, they can start cooperating with each other."

His father has called for a referendum on Kurdish independence this year as the region is locked in territorial and financial disputes with the central government.

Baghdad has cut off payments from the federal budget to the KRG to try to force the Kurds to sell crude produced on their territory through the state oil marketing company and not independently. The Kurds also claim the oil region of Kirkuk, in northern Iraq, as part of their territory.

Barzani said that the Sunnis' feeling of marginalization by the Shi'ite leadership had facilitated the takeover of their regions by Islamic State militants.

In addition, Iraq endured months of wrangling and chaos over a government reshuffle that was to curb corruption. In May, frustration over the delays culminated in the unprecedented breach by protesters of the Green Zone, which houses parliament, government offices and many foreign embassies.

Ahead of the battle for Mosul, Barzani said the city's different communities should agree in advance on how to handle the aftermath. Mosul's pre-war population of 2 million was mostly Sunni, but included religious and ethnic minorities including Christians, Shi'ites, Yazidis, Kurds and Turks.

Almost all non-Sunnis fled the Islamic State takeover, along with hundreds of thousands of Sunnis who could not live under the militants' harsh rule or could not endure Baghdad's financial blockade imposed on IS-held regions.—Reuters

Niger says 34 migrants, including 20 children, found dead

NIAMEY (Niger) — Thirty-four migrants, including 20 children, have been found dead in Niger's vast desert after being abandoned by their smuggler, the government of the West African nation said in a statement read on national television on Wednesday.

Agadez in the landlocked country's arid north is a popular waystation for migrants attempting to traverse the Sahara Desert and reach Libya and eventually Europe.

Of the adult migrants, nine were women and five were men. They died between 6-12 June, Interior Minister Bazoum Mohammed said, adding that President Mahamadou Issoufou expressed his condolences to their families.

Two victims had been identified as citizens of neighbouring Nigeria, Mohammed said. It was not immediately clear what the nationalities of the other victims were. The International Organization for Migration estimates that 120,000 people crossed through Agadez last year. IOM recorded 37 migrants died in the desert last year.—Reuters

NATO approves keeping expanded Afghan basing, in nod to long fight

BRUSSELS — The NATO alliance agreed on Wednesday to hold onto its broad geographic layout of bases in Afghanistan, a move that could make it easier for the United States to keep more troops there as Kabul struggles with a resurgent Taliban threat.

President Barack Obama has planned to slash the number of US forces in Afghanistan from about 9,800 to 5,500 before he leaves office in 2017, despite calls from former commanders and envoys to halt the drawdown.

NATO defence ministers gathered in Brussels signaled a willingness to stay, with Britain's Michael Fallon saying flatly at a news conference: "This is the wrong time to walk away from Afghanistan."

He warned that any

collapse of the country would send thousands more migrants heading to Europe at a time when the continent already faces uncontrolled migration flows.

Fallon said US Defence Secretary Ash Carter told the ministers during closed-door talks that US troop levels were again being reviewed. Carter declined to confirm that at a news conference, saying it was "not a topic of discussion." He said Obama would be willing to consider security conditions in Afghanistan and their impact on force levels later in the year. "I expect he will do that again as the year goes on," Carter said.

A US official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Carter did not tell NATO allies during the closed-door discussions that troop levels were be-

ing reexamined.

Obama has shown a willingness in the past to alter his plans in Afghanistan and last week approved giving the US military greater ability to accompany and enable Afghan forces in offensive operations, including carrying out air strikes.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said several nations on Wednesday committed to a troop presence next year in Afghanistan, underscoring a theme likely to figure prominently at next month's NATO summit in Warsaw.

"With a regional presence, we will continue to advise, train and assist the Afghan national forces because we are very committed to continuing to support Afghans," Stoltenberg said.—Reuters

M5.3 quake hits Hokkaido, other parts of northern Japan

TOKYO — A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.3 struck Hokkaido and other parts of northern Japan on Thursday, but no major damage or injuries were immediately reported and no tsunami warning was issued.

The 2:21pm quake originated off Uchiura Bay in the southwestern part of the northernmost main island at a depth of about 10 kilometers, the Japan Meteorological Agency said. It registered lower 6 on the Japanese seismic intensity scale of 0 to 7 in Hakodate, Hokkaido.

Tohoku Electric Power Co. and Hokkaido Electric Power Co. said no abnormalities were found with the Higashidori nuclear power plant in Aomori Prefecture, and Nos. 1 to 3 reactor units of the Tomari nuclear power plant in Hokkaido, respec-



Photo shows damage to the ceiling of a fishery cooperative office in Hakodate on Japan's northernmost main island of Hokkaido on 16 June, 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

tively. Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd. also said nothing unusual was seen at its fuel reprocessing facility.

Hokkaido Railway Co. said Shinkansen bullet trains and regular railway services are operating as normal.—Kyodo News

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Date : 17 June 2016

Ally of drug lord 'El Chapo' arrested in Mexico after US prison time

MEXICO CITY — A top drug-trafficking accomplice of Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman was arrested in Mexico on Wednesday for his alleged role in two murders, shortly after he was returned from the United States after completing a prison sentence for distributing cocaine. Hector 'El Guero' Palma was a former partner of Guzman, the head of the powerful Sinaloa cartel who is now fighting extradition to the United States from a Mexican prison.

Palma was rearrested by officials on his repatriation to Mexico for his "probable responsibility in two homicides" that occurred in the small Pacific state of Nayarit, according to a statement from the attorney general's office. Further details were not immediately available.

He was transferred

to the Altiplano maximum security prison, from which his fellow drug lord Guzman managed to escape last year before being recaptured.

In the absence of Guzman, Mexican officials appear to be increasingly wary of Palma, given his ties to the Sinaloa cartel.

Palma, who first served five years in Mexico's maximum-security Puente Grande prison, was extradited to the United States in 2007. He played a key role in the cartel, which became famous in the 1980s for trafficking cocaine from Colombia in association with the late Colombian drug lord Pablo Escobar.

Palma served most of a 16-year sentence, which was reduced because of good behaviour, said Kristi Rodriguez, from the US penitentiary in Atwater, California.—Reuters



Drug lord Hector 'El Guero' Palma is escorted by US authorities before being turned over to Mexican authorities at the Puente Nuevo international bridge in Brownsville, US, opposite the Mexican border city of Matamoros, Mexico, on 15 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hundreds arrested in Venezuela after latest unrest over food



A man shouts during a protest over food shortage and against Venezuela's government in Caracas, Venezuela, on 14 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

CARACAS — Venezuelan security forces have arrested at least 400 people after the latest bout of looting and food riots in the crisis-hit OPEC member country, local officials said on Wednesday.

Another death was also reported in the state of Merida from unrest which is breaking out sporadically across the South American OPEC nation.

On Tuesday, violence engulfed the eastern Caribbean coastal town of Cumana as looters swarmed through dozens of shops and security forces struggled to maintain control.

There were unconfirmed reports on social media of several deaths in Cumana, which is the

capital of Sucre state. But regional governor Luis Acuna from the ruling Socialist Party said those reported deaths were unrelated to the looting.

"There were only 400 people arrested and the deaths were not linked to the looting," he told a local TV station, calling the looters vandals encouraged by right-wing politicians.

"I have no doubt they paid them, this was planned."

Nelson Moreno, governor of Anzoategui state, which neighbours Sucre, said eight people were also arrested on Tuesday in "irregular" situations, a term that usually refers to looting.

With desperate crowds

of people chanting "We want food!," protests and melees at shops have spread across Venezuela in recent weeks, fueled by severe shortages.

Three people were shot dead in separate incidents last week, with a policeman and a soldier arrested in two cases.

The Merida state prosecutor's office said on Wednesday it was investigating the death of a 17-year-old youth, shot late on Tuesday during an "irregular" situation in the western Andean state. Local media reported food protests and an attack on a Socialist Party office there.

According to a local monitoring group, the Venezuelan Observatory

of Violence, more than 10 incidents of looting are occurring daily across the nation of 30 million people that is suffering a brutal recession and the world's highest rate of inflation.

Venezuela's political opposition says President Nicolas Maduro and his predecessor Hugo Chavez are to blame for failed socialist economic policies. The opposition is pursuing a recall referendum this year in an effort to remove him from office. But Maduro, 53, says his foes are waging an "economic war" against him and seeking to foment a coup. Government officials say there is not enough time this year to organise a referendum.—Reuters

Main locations of EgyptAir wreckage identified by deep ocean vessel

CAIRO — The main locations of wreckage from the EgyptAir jet that crashed in the eastern Mediterranean last month have been identified by a vessel owned by Deep Ocean Search, the Egyptian-led investigation committee said Wednesday.

The John Lethbridge, a search boat contracted by the Egyptian government, is working against the clock to locate the "black boxes" that investigators say will help explain why Flight MS804 crashed on

19 May, killing all 66 people on board.

Signals from the flight data recorders needed to track them down on the seabed are expected to expire on 24 June.

The John Lethbridge has provided the first images of wreckage to investigators. A search team on board along with investigators will now draw a map of the wreckage's distribution spots, the committee said in a statement.

It was not immediately known which parts of



A woman lights candles during a candlelight vigil for the victims of EgyptAir flight 804 inside Cairo Opera house, Egypt, on 26 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

the plane had been found, nor whether the two flight recorders were nearby. The recorders, one for voice and another for data, were contained in the tail of the Airbus A320.

Previously collected

debris will also be handed over to the investigation committee after "standard procedures" are completed by prosecutors who are currently holding it for forensic evidence, the statement added.—Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION

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For Orient Europharma Co., Ltd.

Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com

Date: 17.6.2016

Boy's body found after alligator attack at Florida Disney resort

ORLANDO, (Fla) — Police divers on Wednesday recovered the body of a 2-year-old boy who was grabbed by an alligator in front of his family during a vacation at Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida.

The child was snatched by the alligator as he played at the water's edge on Tuesday night and dragged into a lagoon despite his parents' effort to save him.

Orange County Sheriff Jerry Demings said he and a Catholic priest had informed the family that the boy's body had been recovered near where he vanished and was completely intact.

An autopsy would be carried out, Demings added, but the presumption was that the child was drowned by the alligator.

"It was a tough message to deliver," Demings told a news conference. "Of course the family was distraught, but also I believe somewhat relieved that we were able to find their son ... so that they can come to



Wildlife officials search the Seven Seas lagoon at Walt Disney World resort after an alligator dragged a two-year-old boy into the water in Orlando, Florida, on 15 June.

PHOTO: REUTERS

grips with what has happened." The alligator was believed to be between 4 and 7 feet (1.2 and 2 metres) long.

Wildlife officials earlier captured and killed five of the reptiles from Seven Seas Lagoon and opened them up to look for traces of the boy. Nick Wiley, head

of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, said it was too early to say whether one of those five might be the culprit. "There is a good chance we already have the alligator because we focused our efforts in that proximity, in that area where this incident oc-

curred," he said, adding that the probe would focus on results of forensic tests and bite marks on the child's body. The resort closed its beaches and recreational marinas on Wednesday while search teams scoured the lagoon, a man-made lake reaching 14 feet (4.2 metres) in depth.—Reuters

Moscow summons French ambassador over 'anti-Russian' Euro 2016

LILLE/MOSCOW — Soccer rivalry and fan violence spilled into global politics as Moscow summoned the French ambassador over detentions of Russians at Euro 2016 and warned an "anti-Russian" mood could even damage relations between Russia and France.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov accused other countries' soccer fans of "absolutely provocative actions" at the tournament, such as trampling on the Russian flag.

The epicenter of soccer violence at Euro 2016 meanwhile moved from the south of France to the far north. Police used pepper spray and tear gas to disperse English fans on Wednesday near the station in the northern city of Lille, a police source said.

They intervened after fans starting running in all directions following a detonation of unknown origin, the source told Reuters. Earlier, police pushed away a group of English fans when they became

"threatening".

Tense scenes continued throughout Wednesday evening. Police used tear gas again against a small crowd of rowdy England fans in central Lille.

Authorities had flooded the city with police ahead of the next matches for Russia and England in the soccer tournament.

Four Russian fans were arrested in Lille and were to be deported after being detained before Wednesday's game between Russia and Slovakia, which the Russians lost 2-1. "Two of the Russians were arrested yesterday evening during a fight in Lille and two after being found drunk in a car with weapons," a spokesperson at the Lille prefecture said. The weapons were wooden sticks, a police source said. "Today, the measure is very simple: flood the public space with police so that there is no room for any form of hooliganism," Sports Minister Patrick Kanner said.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR SOLO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR SOLO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2016 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PATHEIN STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ESM CREMONA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2016 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 X-PRESS FEEDERS PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (058 7JR)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (058 7JR) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CMA CGM LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO ()

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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 COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV POAVOSA BRAVE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV POAVOSA BRAVE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 17.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BAY LINE SHIPPING CO LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Actress Anne Hathaway named as goodwill ambassador to promote women's rights

NEW YORK — Oscar-winning actress Anne Hathaway has been appointed a Goodwill Ambassador for UN Women, a role which will focus on addressing the unequal burden shouldered by women caring for children in the home, the UN organisation said on Wednesday.

Women around the world face a so-called motherhood penalty, meaning when they have children, they lose pay and opportunity in the workplace, according to UN Women, which promotes gender equality and economic empowerment.

The UN body seeks to make raising children an equal

responsibility

ability for mothers and fathers, said Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, executive director of UN Women.

"Stereotypes that make it hard for fathers to take time away from work to care for a child are outdated leftovers from the 'male breadwinner' model and have no place in today's mixed workforce," she said in a statement.

Hathaway, who won an Academy Award in 2013 for her role in "Les Misérables," is a long-time supporter of women's rights who will promote policies such as affordable childcare and parental leave, said Mlambo-Ngcuka.

"To make the case for how this will increase opportunities for women, we needed an advocate who had the intellect and passion to tackle this complex issue.

Within moments of meeting Anne, I realised that we had found our woman," she said.—*Reuters*



Beyoncé. PHOTO: REUTERS

Beyoncé dedicates 'Halo' to victims of Orlando shooting

LOS ANGELES — Beyoncé Knowles honoured the victims of Orlando shooting at her latest "Formation" concert.

During a stop in Detroit, the singer dedicated her performance of "Halo" to families of those dead in the tragic incident happening last weekend, reported Ace Showbiz.

Beyoncé, 34, described it as "a song about love" when introducing the track in front of the crowd packing the Ford Field.

"I'd like to dedicate ('Halo') to all of the family members who lost family members in Florida," she said before starting the song.

At the same show in Detroit, DJ Khaled who's been opening for the Queen invited the Motor City's own Dej Loaf during his set.

The rapper performed her singles "Try Me" and "Back Up" before

Khaled brought out Young Jeezy for the renditions of "Who Dat" and "Out Here Grindin".—*PTI*



A general view at the premiere of "Finding Dory" at El Capitan theater. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pixar dives back in the ocean for 'Finding Dory'

LOS ANGELES — The forgetful blue fish who won hearts in Pixar's blockbuster animation "Finding Nemo" is going on another journey, this time to find her own origin story.

"Finding Dory," out in US theaters on Friday, picks up a year after the events of 2003's "Finding Nemo," and sees Dory, a chatty blue tang fish with short-term memory loss, living in the peaceful ocean habitat alongside Nemo the clownfish and his father Marlin.

Dory, voiced by Ellen DeGeneres, suddenly begins remembering glimpses of her past and the parents she left behind in California, setting her off on a quest to be reunited with them.

Andrew Stanton, who re-

turned to co-write and direct "Finding Dory," said he was inspired to explore Dory's story after re-watching "Finding Nemo" and realising that the character "had a hole inside her and didn't know where she was from."

"She was apologising still for her shortcoming that she thought she had for her short-term memory loss and she could easily forget Marlin and Nemo and not find them again. I felt that she was completely unresolved," Stanton said at a press briefing on the film.

"Finding Nemo" grossed more than \$900 million worldwide and won an Oscar for best animated feature.

Pixar's "Finding Dory" is expected to open with around \$115 million at the North American box office this weekend according to Variety, and is a strong awards contender for its owner, Walt Disney Co.

Unlike the rescue mission in "Finding Nemo," in which Nemo was captured and taken across the world as his father chased after him with the help of Dory, "Finding Dory" mostly takes place in the confines of a marine institute and introduces a host of new animal characters.

Dory finds friends in a grumpy but stealth Hank, an octopus missing a tentacle, the short-sighted whale Destiny and Fluke and Rudder, two goofy sea lions.—*Reuters*



Rihanna launches new perfume

LONDON — R&B star Rihanna has unveiled her fragrance Crush, which is an empowering scent.

The 28-year-old "Umbrella" singer's perfume is the second in her namesake RiRi Collection, reported MTV online.

The star's latest fragrance is "undeniably fun" with a "feminine twist" according to an official statement, and includes sensual woody notes which have been paired with red fruits and pink musks to create a perfume which "feels empowering, strong, confident, and unapologetic".

The hands-on star also designed the bottle in which her latest fragrance comes.

Rihanna released her last fragrance, Riri by Rihanna, a year ago, four years after her debut fragrance, Reb'l Fleur.

Crush by Rihanna will be available from August.—*PTI*

Singer Rihanna arrives at the 2016 Billboard Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 22 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Disney's China fairytale begins with \$5.5 billion park opening, eyes expansion

SHANGHAI — Walt Disney Co has opened the gates to its first theme park in China, prompting a rush from thousands of gathered Mickey Mouse enthusiasts to be the first to storm Treasure Cove, ride the Roaring Rapids or visit Disney's tallest castle.

Disney's largest overseas investment at \$5.5 billion, the park is a bet on China's middle class and booming domestic tourism. The US firm hopes it will offset an otherwise lackluster international theme park business, better known for cash-burning sites such as Euro Disney.

"China obviously represents incredible potential for the Walt Disney Company," chief executive Bob Iger told reporters at the park. Flanked by officials from local government partners on Thursday, Iger cut a ribbon to officially open the resort — nearly two decades after he first scoped out the site in 1999.

Not everything has gone quite to plan though.

The opening gala — meant to be a bonanza of fireworks, live music and dance — was rained off on Wednesday night, while at Disney's park in Or-



People walk at Shanghai Disney Resort during a three-day Grand Opening event in Shanghai, China, on 15 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

lando, Florida, a young boy was grabbed by an alligator and killed.

Disney, however, sees China as its greatest business opportunity since Walt Disney bought land in central Florida in the 1960s for what is now Walt

Disney World — the world's most-visited theme park. The firm estimates 330 million people within a three-hour radius of Shanghai, the country's financial center, will be able to afford to come to the park.

Main Street has been re-

placed by Mickey Avenue to reduce the feel of Americana while attractions include a Chinese-style Wandering Moon tea house, a Chinese Zodiac-themed garden and a Tarzan musical featuring Chinese acrobats.

—Reuters

Cambodia named World Best Tourism Destination for 2016 by European Council on tourism

PHNOM PENH — The European Council on Tourism and Trade (ECTT) has named Cambodia as the World Best Tourism Destination for 2016, said its press release issued late Wednesday.

Some 30 countries joined the competition for the illustrious award this year, the press release said, adding that Cambodia presented its report for the competition under the title "Cambodia: The Land of Magic-The Place Where Gods And Kings Build The World!".

Cambodia took the top spot in awards thanks to its rich cultural and historical legacy and outstanding natural beauty.

"Cambodia is a perfectly safe and outstanding destination that will forever mark your heart," said Professor Anton Caragea, president of the Bucharest-headquartered ECTT, which consists of 28 European countries as members.

Cambodia is renowned for two cultural sites in the UNESCO's World Heritage List. One is the 12th century Angkor Archaeological Park in northwestern Siem Reap province and the other is the 11th century Preah Vihear Temple in northwestern Preah Vihear province.

Besides, the Southeast Asian nation has many interesting eco-tourism sites, including a 450-km pristine coastline stretching across four provinces in the country's southwestern part.

The country attracted some 4.8 million foreign tourists in 2015, earning gross revenue of more than 3 billion US dollars, according to the Ministry of Tourism.

Pavel Avramoiu, director for Hotel Management and Evaluation at ECTT, said Cambodia has huge potential for tourism development.—Xinhua

India to vaccinate 300,000 children after polio strain found in sewage

NEW DELHI — India plans to urgently immunize around 300,000 children against the crippling polio virus after a strain of the highly contagious disease was detected in sewage in the southern city of Hyderabad, the ministry of health said on Wednesday.

India was declared polio free by the World Health Organisation in March 2014 after an almost two-decade long, multi-million dollar effort — lauded as one of the country's biggest public health achievements in recent times.

A health ministry statement confirmed media reports that a strain of the virus was discovered in a sewage sample taken near Hyderabad's Secunderabad railway station, but said that no children in

area were found to be affected.

"India continues to be polio free as the country has eradicated wild polio virus and the last case was seen on 13th January, 2011, and it is more than five years that no wild polio virus has been detected," the health ministry said.

The statement said a recent survey of the area found 94 per cent of children had received at least three doses of the oral polio vaccine and therefore transmission was unlikely. However "as a precautionary measure" a special immunization drive would be held from 20 June in the high-risk districts of Hyderabad and Rangareddy, targeting around 300,000 children between the ages of six weeks and three years, it said.—Reuters



A medical worker administers polio drops to an infant during the pulse polio immunization programme in Agartala, capital city of India's northeastern state of Tripura, in January 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS



Entertainment Channel

(17-6-2016, Friday)

<p>06 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather Report • Pyi Thu Ni Ti <p>06 : 30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartoon Programme " The Good Dinosaur " (Part-2) <p>07 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>07 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>08 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV Entertainment Music <p>* (01 : 30)Am Live: EURO 2016 " Spain Vs Turkey "</p> <p>From 17-6-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm To 18-6-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 Pm</p>	<p>09 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sai Htee Hseng or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Episode-4) <p>09 : 30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Movie Songs <p>09 : 40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Programme <p>9 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video <p>Midnight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Down.
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Myanmar International

(17-6-2016 07:00am ~ 18-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	A Glance at A Naga Family Life
07:44	Am	Kambawzathardi Golden Palace- A Treasured Legacy of Golden Days
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	News Extra "China-Myanmar Bilateral Ties"
08:35	Am	Myanma Pottery
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Tea
09:53	Am	Gardener: Rose Plantation
10:03	Am	News

10:27 Am Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-2)

(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
07:25	Pm	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-3)
07:36	Pm	Mogok: The Colourful Land of Rubies
07:51	Pm	Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Orchidologist Dr. Saw Lwin
08:48	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Win Pe Myint

(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)

Russia stunned as Hamsik inspires Slovakia to 2-1 win

LILLE, (France) — Slovakia deepened Russia's woes with classy first-half goals from Vladimir Weiss and the outstanding Marek Hamsik securing a tense 2-1 victory in their Euro 2016 Group B clash on Wednesday.

For the second game in a row, the Russians managed only two attempts on target and their wasteful finishing cost them dearly, with substitute Denis Glushakov's 80th minute goal proving too little too late for them.

Their profligacy leaves Russia needing to beat Wales in their final group game if they are to have any chance of progressing but there was only joy for Slovakia, as they marked their debut at a European Championship finals with a first win.

Just 24 hours after UEFA told Russia it would be expelled from the tournament if their fans caused more crowd trouble, the Slovaks outplayed them for large parts of a match contested under a closed roof because of forecasts of heavy rain.

Man of the match Hamsik gave an early taste of what was to come when he fired a thundering shot just over in the 10th minute but the Russians had plenty of chances of their own in the first half-hour which they failed to convert.

Winger Fedor Smolov was particularly wasteful, often deciding to shoot when passing would have been a better option,

and firing chance after chance wide

Slovakia, who made three changes from the side that lost their opening game 2-1 to Wales, took the lead in the 32nd minute when Hamsik hit a superb long ball to Weiss, who cut in from the left edge of the box past two defenders and curled his shot inside the far post.

Just before halftime Hamsik got on the scoresheet himself, picking up a short corner from Weiss on the left and striking his own superb curling shot across the goal and in off the right hand post.

"It was a collective effort, we fought for it," Hamsik said after the final whistle. "It is the first Euro win for Slovakia in history. We are happy we were able to get it."

With the Russian attack in disarray, the Slovaks appeared to be heading towards a comfortable victory for much of the second half, but the game changed direction dramatically in the last 10 minutes. Glushakov threw his side a lifeline in the last 10 minutes when he reduced the deficit, heading home Oleg Shatov's cross. Suddenly, Slovakia were on the back foot and the Russians looked capable of grabbing an equaliser.

Jan Durica in the centre of the Slovakian defence continued to throw himself about, chasing, harrying and covering shots in a desperate effort to protect his side's slender lead.—Reuters



Russia's Aleksandr Golovin in action with Slovakia's Juraj Kucka during, EURO 2016 at Stade Pierre-Mauroy, Lille, France, on 15 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

France strike late to beat Albania and go through

MARSEILLE, (France) — A 90th-minute header by substitute striker Antoine Griezmann and a stoppage-time special by Dimitri Payet secured France a heart-stopping 2-0 win over Albania on Wednesday that sent the hosts through as the first team into the last 16 of Euro 2016.

France had struggled to make any impression on a determined Albanian defence and as the clock ticked into the last minute neither team had managed a single shot on target -- though both had hit a post.

France had needed an 89th-minute Payet goal to beat Romania in their first game and it was even later this time when centre back Adil Rami swung in a hopeful cross that Griezmann

guided expertly home.

The 67,000 Stade Velodrome crowd — minus 20,000 stunned Albanians — erupted in a wave of noise, which was repeated five minutes later when Payet cut inside to smash in the second.

With six points France are guaranteed to finish in the top two of Group A, with Switzerland, on four points after drawing with Romania earlier, favourites to join them in the knockout phase.

Once the euphoria of the moment had elapsed, Payet was able to take a broad view. "It would be good if we could avoid that type of crazy scenario," he said after picking up his second successive man of the match

award.

"What we have to do is start matches the way we started the second half. With Paul (Pogba) and Griezou (Griezmann) coming on and a different system, it worked a lot better." It needed to.

France were hesitant and risk-averse in a forgettable first half as the ploy of using the speed of Kingsley Coman and Anthony Martial out wide failed to come off.

Albania, desperate to make their mark in their first major tournament after an early red card scuppered their chances in their opening game against Switzerland, defended with gusto and almost went ahead early in the second half when French full back Bacary Sagna bundled the

ball against his own post.

With the halftime introduction of Pogba and then Griezmann France eventually got moving as Olivier Giroud sent a header wide then thumped another against a post.

However, with Albania taking every opportunity to slow the game — half the team taking it in turns to go down with cramp — it was looking as if France were going to have to settle for a point. Griezmann, however, who had a fantastic season for Atletico Madrid, showed Giroud how to connect with a header, with Payet capping another enterprising display by adding the icing after a quickfire break.

Relieved France coach Didier Deschamps accepted his orig-

inal approach had not worked but was pleased that the tactical switches paid off.

"We didn't do enough in the first half but the second half was a lot better," he said.

"The players who came on made a difference. We are not stuck with one format we can switch things, we had a much better balance in the second half.

"The big teams here are having problems. There are no easy opponents, as you could see again tonight." That was certainly true of Albania, who grew in confidence as the night went on.

"We didn't just defend — we had clear-cut chances," said their coach Gianni De Biasi. "But if you don't score, you don't win."—Reuters