

German Minister holds talks with President U Htin Kyaw, Union Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

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INCREASED CAPACITY FOR DEVELOPMENT

France to provide 200m Euros as development aid to Myanmar

FRANCE will provide a 200 million Euro grant to Myanmar as part of the plan to increase its development aid to the country, according to French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault.

The French foreign minister spoke of the plan at a press conference following his meeting with Union Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The French minister explained how the French Development Agency (AFD) was engaged in the country's development projects in areas of urbanisation, energy, health and social welfare. He stressed that his country had doubled its development aid to Myanmar.

Mr Ayrault expressed his willingness to create new levels of economic and cultural cooperation between the two countries, saying that his country had plans to expand the Joseph Kessel School, the Institut Français in Yangon.

More and more French companies are flocking to Myanmar to make investments, the French foreign minister said, showing support for the country's commitment to promotion of democracy and human rights under the supervision of Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes French Minister Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE Oo

reiterated improved relations between Myanmar and France and showed interest in French culture. She also thanked France for its assistance to the cultural,

political and economic development of the country.

In response to queries raised at the press conference, French Foreign Minister Mr Ayrault said

France respects Myanmar's institution and recognises the army's role in political reform and election processes.

Mr Ayrault also pledged

France's help with Myanmar's peace and reconciliation processes during the meeting with Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Shweli-3 Hydropower Project. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY ELECTRIC POWER DEPARTMENT

France to finance Myanmar electricity needs

FRANCE will finance US\$ 1 million for the conducting of a feasibility study on a hydropower project in the town of Laymyo, Rakhine State, according to the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Pe Zin Tun met French Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault yesterday to discuss ways to meet the country's power demand, including the construction of the 690-megawatt hydropower project. According to the ministry's Permanent Secretary

U Htein Lwin, 34 per cent of the country's population consumes electricity. "We are working hard to ensure that the whole country has access to electricity in 2030," he said, adding that the Shweli-3 hydropower project in northern Shan State with the capacity to generate 1,050 megawatts of electricity is 10 per cent complete. "The project is being undertaken on our own budget but we have financial constraints. If we can get financial assistance from France, the project can easily be accomplished," he said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Mon State lawmakers



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint talking to Mon MPs. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint called on lawmakers to follow and respect Hluttaw laws and rules and regulations and existing laws in a meeting with parliamentarians at the Mon State Hluttaw yesterday.

In his address, the Speaker stressed the need to ensure no legislative interference in the executive and judiciary branches and called for honesty in the exercise of their duties and powers.

Next, the Speaker heard reports on parliamentary functions by Mon State Speaker Daw Tin Tin Ei and made concluding remarks. — *Myanmar News Agency*

KOICA donates school ferry buses to Education Ministry

THE Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) donated 40 school buses to the Ministry of Education with a view to ferry students to and from schools in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

A handover ceremony took place No (6) Basic Education School in Zabuthiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw, and was attended by Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr. Yoo Jae Kyung and officials.

It was the first phase of the KOICA's school ferry bus donation programme in which more donations are planned to provide school ferry buses to regions and states following the success of the first phase, according to an official from KOICA Myanmar.

According to the KOICA, training will be given to drivers of the school ferry buses and repairs will be provided under the three-year programme.

Repairs needed at the end of the project will be provided in

cooperation with a Yangon-based Korean Company, said the official. The school ferry buses with a seating capacity of 29 will be put into service for three schools in Nay Pyi Taw's Zabuthiri Township commencing 23 June.

School Head U Myint Thein said that a ferry service for the students of No (6) B.E.H.S will be operated on three routes with three school buses, adding that more buses will run depending on the numbers of students. — *Min Min Zaw (MNA)*



School buses donated by KOICA being seen. PHOTO: MIN MIN ZAW (MNA)

Only 5 per cent of farmers interested in snake insurance

ONLY five per cent of farmers are interested in snake insurance across the whole country, according to U Soe Thein, General Manager of AYA Myanmar insurance bank.

They are not interested in snake insurance because they are not aware of the benefits of the

insurance. Currently, AYA bank is conducting awareness training regarding insurance in the villages and as a result, farmers have come in groups to buy snake insurance premium packages, he added.

When we are promoting awareness of snake insurance,

we also talk about how to seek bank loans. The snake insurance policy costs the farmers K500 per year. The compensation for a snake bite is K15,000 per day for 30 days in hospital at the most. Most of the farmers from Ayawady region buy premium snake insurance. — *Chan Chan*

Vice Senior General Soe Win holds talks with French Army Chief at Eurosatory 2016



Vice-Senior General Soe Win seen together with General Jean-Pierre Bosser French General. PHOTO: MNA

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win held talks with General Jean-Pierre Bosser, Chief of Staff of the French Army, at 'Eurosatory 2016', international land and air-land defense and security exhibition, in France on Wednesday. The two representatives discussed matters relating to strengthening bilateral ties between the two armed forces and the potential for cooperation.

Following visits to the booths of the French Ministry of Defence, the Vice-Senior General attended a luncheon

hosted by the Chief of Staff of the French Army together with military chiefs of NATO.

In the afternoon, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief observed booths of companies and visited the Eiffel Tower. The Vice Senior General and party left France on Thursday. They were seen off at Charles de Gaulle Airport by Myanmar Ambassador to France U Han Tun and officials.

The Myanmar military delegation was welcomed back at Yangon International Airport by the commander of Yangon Command and senior military officers. — *Myanmar News Agency*

New recreational fields earmarked for Yangon

A TOTAL of nine recreational fields will be constructed during this 2016-17 fiscal year within townships that fall under the jurisdiction of the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), said Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe.

The statement was made in response to a query raised by U Yan Aung, Yangon Region Hluttaw MP for Mingalataungnyunt Constituency 2, over the implementation of parks and recreational fields within Yangon during a session of Yangon Region Hluttaw on Tuesday.

"The YCDC is carrying out a project to build public parks and recreational fields every fiscal year. A plan is also in place to create at least one park within each of the 33 townships, to-

gether with a recreational field for each ward, which fall within the municipal boundaries," said U Maung Maung Soe.

The nine recreational fields to be constructed during the current fiscal year have been earmarked for the following townships: North Okkalapa (2), Thigangyun (1), Dagon Myothit (South) (1), Dagon Seikkan (1), Thakayta (1), Hlaingthaya (1), Shwepyitha (2).

"There is a problem in Yangon of private buildings being constructed on public parks," said U Yan Aung.

By 2016, the YCDC had reportedly implemented a total of 63 parks and 112 recreational fields within 33 townships which fall under its jurisdiction. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

French Minister pays courtesy calls on President U Htin Kyaw and top officials

MR. Jean-Marc Ayrault, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development of France, held separate talks with President U Htin Kyaw, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Union Ministers U Pe Zin Tun in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call with Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi the two representatives discussed matters related to human rights protection and promotion, ongoing capacity building programmes funded by France, development plans including urban planning, further cooperation between the two countries and development assistance to Myanmar.

Next, the two ministers held a press conference and answered media questions.

Then, the French minister paid a courtesy call on President U Htin Kyaw at the Presidential Palace where they held talks on enhanced connectivity for the peoples of the two nations, France's further assistance aimed at helping Myanmar realise its socio-economic development, cooperation in education and culture sectors, progress in the country's democratic transition and human rights promotion, preparatory works on Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong and

implementation of measures to ensure peace and stability and development in Rakhine State.

In the afternoon, the visiting French minister and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than held talks on further bilateral relations in a hall of Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw.

Next, he met with Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Pe Zin Tun and promised US\$ 1 million for a hydropower feasibility study for generation of 690 megawatts of electricity in Laymyoth, Rakhine State.

During his visit to Myanmar, the French minister also held talks with Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing.

During the call the pair held discussions on the provision of EUR 200 million for Myanmar's development, France's continued support for the peace process in Myanmar, further relations and cooperation between the two armed forces, exchange of goodwill visits and study tours, military training and technology and measures being taken in Rakhine State for peace and stability.

In the evening, the French minister left for Yangon where he will meet with the Yangon Region Chief Minister and representatives from civil society organisations and visit U Thant's House, the Secretariat and Shwedagon Pagoda.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault, Former PM and Longest serving MP and FM currently as of France



Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault.

Born on 25 January, 1950, Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault obtained a secondary school teaching diploma and a bachelor's degree, majoring in German. Formerly, he was a teacher of German. He has been a member of Polit Buro of the Socialist Party since 1979. He became the chairman of Socialist Group in the National Assembly between 1997 and 2012.

Concerning his elective positions, he was a member of the Loire-Atlantique County Assembly from 1976 to 1987. He served

as Mayor of Saint-Herblain (Loire-Atlantique County) from 1977 to 2012, as Chairman of the Nantes Urban Area District from 1992 to 2012, and was an MP from 1986 to 2012 and from 2014 to 2016. He also served as the Prime Minister from May 2012 to March 2014. Since 11 February, 2016, Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault has been serving as the Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Development. He is married, with two children.

He is noted for his support for presidential contender Mr Francois Hollande in the latter's election. While he was serving as the premier, Mr Jean-Marc Ayrault directed his effort to national development. During his time in office, he led his cabinet to reduce the retirement age from 62 to 60, to handle properly the labour issues, to revise the minimum wage for workers, to cut the ministers' salaries by 30 per cent, to increase education stipend for low-income families and to promote free health care etc.—*GNLM*

German Minister holds talks with President U Htin Kyaw, Union Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



President U Htin Kyaw welcomes German Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Dr Gerd Müller. PHOTO: MNA

GERMAN Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development Dr Gerd Müller held separate talks with President U Htin Kyaw and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In the meeting with the Union Foreign Affairs Minister the two representatives held discussions regarding bilateral cooperation in development matters, the establishment of vocational training

centres and organic agriculture development in Myanmar as well as the promotion of bilateral trade and continued support for the ongoing peace process by Germany and the European Union.

Next, the visiting German minister paid a courtesy call on President U Htin Kyaw, holding talks on economic cooperation and private sector development, financial and technical assistance to development of Myanmar's small

and medium enterprises, the sharing of modern farming practices and the establishment of agricultural processing plants as well as the successful realisation of the 21st Century Panglong Conference and measures to be taken for peace and stability in Rakhine State. During his calls with the President and the Union Foreign Affairs Minister the minister invited both of them to pay goodwill visit to Germany.—*Myanmar News Agency*

German Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Dr Gerd Muller



Dr Gerd Muller.

Born on 25 August, 1955, in Krumbach, Schwaben, Dr Gerd Muller obtained a diploma in Economics Pedagogy. He also holds a master's degree in busi-

ness education. His political career started as a member of Parliament from 1989 to 1994 when he was directly elected as a delegate of the Kempten, oberallgau and Lindau constituency, and became a member of the committee for foreign and defense policy as well as the spokesperson on Europe, foreign, and development policy for the CSU group.

In 2005-2013, Dr Gerd Muller rose to Secretary of State at the Federal Ministry of Road, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, and since 17 December of 2013, he has become the

Federal Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development. As military engagement, he was assigned in Somalia from 2009 to 2015; in Darfur region in Sudan from 2010 to 2015; in South Sudan from 2012 to 2015; in Mali from 2013 to 2016; in Central Africa Republic in 2014; and in Liberia in 2015 to perform special duties of United Nations Peacekeeping. Dr Gerd Muller is known for his encouragement of increased agricultural loan and promotion of export of agricultural products. Dr Gerd Muller is married with two children.—*GNLM*

Tourists flock to Mandalay



Tourists are being seen to observe U Bein Bridge. PHOTO: 200

MANDALAY, one of largest cities in Myanmar, has seen an increased number of international visitors within the past five months, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism.

Between January and May this year, nearly 160,000 tourists entered the city, an increase of 22 per cent over the same period last year, said an official from the region's department of hotels and tourism.

The majority of travelers are from China, followed by

Thailand, the U.S and UK, tour operators say.

The country has provided aviation services to its clients through 11 domestic airlines plus 28 international airlines.

Located 35 km south of Mandalay in TadaU is one of only three international airports in the country. Visitors can directly enter the city through international airlines. That is why number of tourists have increased year on year, it is reported.

Mandalay was the last royal capital of Myanmar. It is located 716 km north of Yangon on the east bank of the Ayeyawady River. According to the latest census, the city has a population of just over 1.2 million.

The city hosted 242,566 globetrotters in 2014. They mostly visited significant places such as Myanansankyaw Golden Palace, Mandalay Hill, Maha Myatmuni Pagoda, U Bein Bridge, the Golden Temple and Ahtumashi Monastery. —200

MYF aims to win prizes at 29th SEA Games

THE Myanmar Yachting Federation aims to win the prizes in the coming 29th SEA Games to be held in Malaysia, said the vice chairman of Myanmar Yachting Federation (MYF) recently.

Myanmar athletes have won prizes in almost all regional games but did not win any medals in the SEA Games of Singapore. It was reported that they are determined to win prizes at the 29th SEA Games in 2017.

'Myanmar's current rating is declining. Traditionally, Myanmar athletes win prizes in al-

most all games. However, they didn't win any medals in the previous SEA Games. All the people who love yachting sport should support us so that we can get our place back again," said U Myo Tin.

"The 6th MYF President's Cup and Olympic Day movement Regatta 2016, organised by Myanmar Yachting Federation, is being held at the Yangon Sailing Club. The tournament will run four days till 19 of June, it began on 11 June with 5 teams from 70 yachters competing in this competition. —200

Taung Bwe Bridge sinks four feet

A BRIDGE in Padaung Township sank four feet on Wednesday due to erosion of river bed caused by strong currents. The bridge is made of concrete. The bridge is on Padaung Taug-Up motor road near mile post 15/2.

Crossing of the bridge will be temporarily suspended during the renovation period. The department of roads/bridges in Pan Taung Township, Bago Region has begun renovating the bridge, it has been learned. —200

Crime NEWS

Man arrested for attempted murder in Salingyi

A MAN has been charged with the attempted murder of his friend in Ngwe Thar village, Salingyi Township, on Tuesday, according to the police.

According to an investigation one Ko Win Tun from Chaung Oo township quarreled with Ko Myint Khine while they were working together as

daily-wage workers on an agricultural farm. Ko Win Tun became belligerent and stabbed the victim.

The victim was seriously injured and was taken for medical treatment to Monywa General Hospital. The police have filed charges against Ko Win Tun.—U Nge (Salingyi)

Fire breaks out in Yankin

A FIRE broke out on railway station road in ward 11, Yankin township, Yangon East District on Thursday.

According to an investigation the fire began when a worker at the house dropped a lit cigarette near paper.

arete near paper.

The blaze was put out by fireman with the help of local residents within 20 minutes of their arrival. The police station has taken action against the owner of the house. —598



Firemen are managing to put the blaze under control. PHOTO: 598

Petrol bowser overturned in Nay Pyi Taw



A petrol bowser seen being overturned in Nay Pyi Taw . PHOTO: MYO ZAYAR (PYINMANA)

A 22-wheel vehicle overturned near Nga Lait Chaung bridge, Bawga Thiri highway, Pyinmana township, Nay Pyi Taw on 16 June.

The vehicle carrying 6,400

gallons of petrol en route to Tatkon from Alar driven by Zaw Min Latt, 32, with Sit Thura Win Myint, 22, on board got off the road and overturned when the vehicle tried to avoid a motorbike. After the

accident, the police from Pyinmana township rushed to the scene and cleared the traffic and spilled petrol. The police opened a case and took action against the careless driver.—Myo Zayar (Pyinmana)

Heroin seized in Sagaing

A COMBINED team comprising officers and staff from Sagaing region seized heroin weighing 213 grams and 1,170 pills from a motorcycle driver identified as San Tun at the gate of Katha- Inndaw road on Thursday. Police have filed charges against San Tun under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— Myanmar Police Force



LOCAL Business

New Condominium Law encourages more foreign direct investment

IT has been reported there has been an increased number of foreign investment directly as the result of the newly revised condominium law. As the new condominium law allows foreigners to purchase condo units, it is made business in Myanmar more convenient for international investors as home and office rental rates rooms have increased.

“Foreigners, rather than renting detached properties in Yangon, are renting more apartments and condominiums which are offer less cheaper rental price,” said U Aung Soe, managing director of Htet Aung Shine real estate.

The property rental market in Yangon’s downtown township of Kyauktada, Latha, Pazunduang, Lanmadaw, Pabedan and Botahtaung has seen increased business, with rental prices dependant upon location.

“Most foreigners rent condos for around 2000 USD which includes school, hospital and security services. “The new condominium law can attract more foreign investment” said Ma Chan Mya Thu, managing director of real estate enterprise YPF Agent. According to those involved in Myanmar’s real estate market, businesses from other Asian countries such as Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Japan and China have invested in the countries real estate market.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Pearl Condominium in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Japanese auto parts scarce in local market

HIGH model Japanese auto parts have become scarce in local auto parts stores as of early June, rendering buyers and auto parts stores owners difficulties, it is reported.

The prices of these high model Japan auto part accessories have risen as a result of their scarcity.

Auto part accessories are being imported either through the Myawady-Maesot channel or directly from Japan. Thailand and Malaysia are also currently facing a scarcity of auto part accessories.

As a result of this, supply has decreased and the price has risen when there is a mismatch

between supply and demand, it has been reported by Tamwe auto parts dealers.

The decline in the availability of auto part accessories is attributed to fewer users of the cars in certain South East Asian countries and also in Japan resulting in less production of the needed parts.—200

Old currency can be changed until March 2017

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) will extend its money swap of dirty and torn notes up to the end of March 2017, according to an announcement from the Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM).

This year, exchanging of old, dirty and torn notes begun on 1 April and is to be extended up until 31 March 2017. The CBM has made a continuous effort

since 2009 to reduce the amount of old currency circulating. The exchange period has been extended with an aim to eliminate all decrepit monies.

The CBM has been exchanging those old, dirty and torn notes with the new ones from Myanmar Economic Banks in Yangon Region once a month. It has also been conducting with branches from townships other than Yan-

gon when transporting money to bank branches.

The CBM has already directed the private banks to open counters for exchanging outdated money from customers.

With a view to eliminating all old notes, the exchange project started on 3 August 2009. This program is available at the CBM and state-owned Myanmar Economic Banks.—200

American entrepreneurs to invest in automobile manufacturing sector

THE United States Chamber of Commerce said that American entrepreneurs will invest in Myanmar car manufacturing sector next year, with an aim of developing this sector in Myanmar.

Those American entrepreneurs will make long-term investments in Myanmar because Myanmar is said to have vehicle requirements. The unnamed entrepreneurs see the Myanmar

car market as quite lucrative.

About four car entrepreneurs will initially invest in Myanmar by setting up the car factories. The businesspeople will start to seek investment approval this year. A joint committee will be conducted with locals operating in the automotive sector after the approval is set.

They will start to sell cars in 2018.—200

MAI plans to increase flights

Myanma Airways International (MAI) is planning to increase Myanmar-Singapore-Myanmar destinations from 10 to 14 flights per week when the visa exemption begins, between Singapore and Myanmar, revealed MAI’s assistant general manager, Daw Aye Mra Tha.

Visa exemption between Singapore and Myanmar will come beginning from 1 December allowing citizens from both countries to stay 30 days. As a result, traveling to Singapore is expected to rise and so, MAI plans to increase the flights, as well as other airlines.

There are seven airlines running to Singapore from Myanmar, including two Sin-

gaporean airlines — Singapore Airlines and Silk Air. These two airlines are running 17 Yangon-Singapore flights per week and three Mandalay-Singapore flights per week, with a total of 20 flights within a week.

These two lines also extend their flights depending on the number of passengers, said Ma Kyi Phyu Thant, a passenger sales assistant from Singapore Airlines.

Other ASEAN countries have mutual visa exemptions with Myanmar; Singapore offers more days to stay compared to other ASEAN countries. Malaysia is the only country that has not signed a visa free arrangement.—200

Social Welfare ministry provides Ks100,000 to victims of natural disasters

THE Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR) has provided Ks100,000 (US\$840) to families of those killed in recent natural disasters.

Floods hit townships in Sagaing and Ayeyawady regions and Rakhine State due to the torrential rains that have been inundating the country since the end of May.

The MoSWRR has provided emergency assistance to those flood stricken areas.

11 June flood in Rakhine killed five; the total of those

killed is at 12 across the country within three days, according to the MoSWRR.

Myanmar is faced with heavy rains, hail and thunderstorms. Floods hit Kawlin, Pinlebu, Wuntho townships in Sagaing Region and Thandwe and Taungup in Rakhine State during early monsoon.

The MoSWRR is providing local people who are suffering from the floods, offering up rice, condensed milk, relief goods and construction materials to build shelters.—200

Japan court upholds injunction to halt reactors in blow to nuclear power industry

TOKYO — A Japanese court on Friday upheld an order to keep two reactors at the Takahama nuclear plant closed, operator Kansai Electric Power said, leaving efforts to get a struggling nuclear industry up and running in limbo.

The court decision, upholding a petition from residents living near the plant concerned about safety, keeps the legal battle centre stage in a struggle by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government to restore atomic power five years after the Fukushima disaster.

The Otsu District Court on 9 March ordered Kansai Electric, Japan's second-biggest utility, to shut down the reactors in Fukui prefecture west of

Tokyo, in the country's first injunction to halt an operating nuclear plant.

The nuclear industry has only recently started to get reactors in a nuclear sector, which used to supply about a third of the country's power, back online amid widespread public opposition after the melt downs at Fukushima in 2011.

Friday's decision denied the utility's attempt to temporarily halt the shutdown order. Kansai has separately requested that the court revoke the injunction, and a decision on that is expected to come sometime soon, possibly by July.

"It is very regrettable that the petition for stay of execution was not ap-

proved," Kansai Electric said in a statement, adding that it hoped that the court would cancel the injunction soon.

Should Kansai Electric lose this legal fight, it will be left with the option of appealing to a higher court. That could mean months, or possibly a year, of delays and extra purchases of oil, gas or coal to replace nuclear power generation.

Japanese lower courts sometimes hand down contentious verdicts that are then overturned by higher courts, where judges tend to be more attuned to political implications, judicial experts say.

Amid mounting public scepticism over nuclear safety, local residents have



An aerial view shows No. 4 (front L), No. 3 (front R), No. 2 (rear L) and No. 1 reactor buildings at Kansai Electric Power Co.'s Takahama nuclear power plant in Takahama town, Fukui prefecture, in this photo taken by Kyodo on 27 November 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

lodge injunctions against nuclear plants across Japan.

Japan has 42 operable reactors but Kyushu Electric Power is the only utility that has been generating nuclear power after it was cleared to restart two reac-

tors in southwestern Japan. In this case, legal action by residents failed to prevent the restarts of those reactors. A Kansai Electric spokesman said the losses from the shutdown of the two Takahama reactors amounted to 10 billion yen

(\$96 million) per month because of higher fossil fuel consumption and other factors. Shares in Kansai Electric were little changed after the news and were trading up 1.9 per cent at 968.5 yen by 0332 GMT. —Reuters

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Wreckage of missing CASA aircraft recovered in northern Viet Nam

HANOI — Wreckage of a CASA aircraft of Viet Nam with nine people aboard which lost contact on Thursday while carrying out rescue mission in waters off northern Viet Nam has been recovered on Friday.

The wreckage, includ-

ing debris of tire, seat, bag and personal belongings, among others, has been retrieved around Bach Long Vi water area in Viet Nam's northern Hai Phong city (some 90 km east of capital Hanoi), the country's Ministry of Defence said on its

website on Friday.

Competent authorities have confirmed that these items are from the missing CASA aircraft, which was carrying out searching mission for the SU-30 fighter jet which went missing Tuesday morning.

The CASA aircraft lost contact when it was flying over Bach Long Vi water area, according to Viet Nam's National Committee for Search and Rescue.

Earlier on Tuesday morning, a Russian-made SU-30 fighter jet of Viet Nam air forces with two pilots aboard disappeared from radar screen while carrying out a training mission offshore Viet Nam's central Nghe An province, some 260 km south of capital Hanoi.

One of the SU-30's two pilots was rescued by local fishermen on Wednesday while the other pilot remains missing.—Xinhua



Vietnamese coastguard CASA 212 aircraft No. 8983 is seen while landing at Noi Bai airport in Hanoi, Viet Nam in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

In Manila, police welcome arrival of president Duterte

MANILA — For Manila's struggling police, the 30 June inauguration of Philippines President-elect Rodrigo Duterte cannot come soon enough.

Duterte, known as "Duterte Harry" for his tough stand on crime, swept to election victory last month on a single policy campaign - wiping out crime in six months by killing criminals, improving policing and increasing pay in the

forces. That was welcome news to police in the Philippine capital who say they are so under-funded that they often have to buy their own bullets and get lifts to murder scenes in funeral service cars because they have no vehicles of their own.

Dhondie Bayaban, inspector of the Philippine National Police (PNP), said the police had recently received a base pay rise to 14,000 pesos (\$300) a month but wel-

comed Duterte's pledge of further salary increases.

"It's not that low, but not enough either to sustain a family," the 41-year-old told Reuters.

As the police struggle for funds, reported crimes in the Philippines have more than doubled over the last five years to 675,816 last year, according to national police data.

About half of those are deemed serious, but police

say the rise can be attributed to increased reporting of offences. Reported rape cases have jumped 120 per cent over the same five-year period, while drug-fuelled crime is also on the rise. In 2012, the United Nations said the Philippines had the highest rate of methamphetamine use in East Asia, with the US State Department adding that 2.1 per cent of Filipinos aged 16 to 64 were using the drug.—Reuters

Indian court sentences 11 to life in jail over 2002 communal riots of Gujarat

NEW DELHI — An Indian special court sentenced 11 people to life in jail on Friday for their role in a notorious massacre during the 2002 communal riots in the western state of Gujarat.

The court also handed down 10-year jail term to one person and seven years to 12 others who were convicted for lesser offences in the massacre at Gulbarg Society, a highrise apartment building.

During the sentencing, the special judge in the city of Ahmedabad also termed the Gulbarg Society massacre as the darkest day in the history of civic society.

Some 69 people, mostly Muslims, including former Congress lawmaker Ehsan Jafri, had died in the Gulbarg Society massacre after Hindu mobs attacked and set the building on fire in February 2002.

Last week, the special court had convicted 24 out of the 66 accused in the case. While 36 people were acquitted for lack of evidence against them, five had died during trial and one is missing.

The court had, during course of the trial, however, rejected the charge of criminal conspiracy against all the 66 accused, which would have entailed death penalty for the convicts.

The slain Congress lawmaker's wife Zakia said that she was not satisfied with the verdict that convicted only 11 people for murder.

"All of them should have been punished because I know what they did. They must get the punishment as they killed people and destroyed their families. I saw them doing it with my own eyes," she said.



The ancestral home of Zakia Jafri, whose late husband, a lawmaker for the Congress party, was hacked to death by a Hindu mob in riots, is seen at the Gulbarg Society, a Muslim owned residential area, in Ahmedabad, India, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

In fact, Gulbarg Society was one of several massacres during the communal riots in which over 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, were killed by Hindu mobs.

The riots were sparked by a

fire on a train — Sabarmati Express — in which 60 Hindu pilgrims were charred to death at Godhra station in Gujarat.

Critics of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was the

then chief minister of the state, accuse him of not acting during the riots.

However, Modi has denied any wrongdoing during the riots. —Xinhua

Japan, Russia to hold talks on peace treaty next week in Tokyo

TOKYO — Senior Japanese and Russian officials will hold talks next Wednesday in Tokyo on a postwar peace treaty, which the two countries have not signed due to a territorial row over Russian-held, Japanese-claimed islands, Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday.

The meeting will be the second of its kind, after one in Moscow last October, and follows an agreement between Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and

Russian President Vladimir Putin in May to adopt a "new approach" in resolving the peace treaty issue.

"I hope for forward-looking and fruitful discussions" at the upcoming talks between Chika-hito Harada, the Japanese government representative and ambassador in charge of Japan-Russia relations, and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov, Kishida said.

Japan seeks to resolve the is-

sue of the ownership of the isles, called the Northern Territories in Japan and the Southern Kurils in Russia, before concluding a peace treaty with Russia. But it is at odds with Moscow, which says it took the islets legitimately as the result of World War II.

The officials' meeting is also expected to lay the groundwork for a proposed Abe-Putin meeting in Vladivostok in September.

Sergey Naryshkin, Putin's

close aide who is currently visiting Tokyo, said the invitation to an economic forum in Vladivostok was again conveyed to Abe when they met Thursday.

Naryshkin, chairman of the State Duma — the lower house of Russia's parliament — also said at a meeting organised by a private group that Putin is expected to visit Japan by the end of this year.

Putin's visit, tentatively scheduled for 2014, was post-

poned after Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula region in March 2014, souring relations with Western countries and Japan. "The next leaders' meeting in Vladivostok and the president's official visit to Japan will be important events" to develop bilateral relations, Naryshkin said, adding that fostering mutual trust would be "an important factor for the stability and security of the Asia-Pacific region as a whole." —Kyodo News

Japan extends MSDF antipiracy mission off East Africa by one year

TOKYO — The Japanese government decided on Friday to extend the Maritime Self-Defence Force's antipiracy mission in waters off Somalia for another year, according to government officials.

The contingent protecting merchant ships in the Gulf of Aden off Somalia's eastern coast — consisting of two destroyers, two P-3C patrol planes and about 600 personnel — will remain unchanged.

At one stage, more than 200 incidents involving pirates were reported in the waterway annually. Despite the number falling to zero last year for the first time on record, the government judged the MSDF's presence is still warranted. The latest one-year extension is the seventh since the mission began in 2009.

The current term is due to end 23 July. —Kyodo News



Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani (C) enters the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 17 June 2016. The government decided the same day to extend the Maritime Self-Defence Force's antipiracy mission in waters off Somalia for another year. The current term is due to end 23 July. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

North Korea slams entry of US nuclear submarine to South Korea

BEIJING — North Korea on Thursday slammed the entry of a US Navy nuclear-powered attack submarine to South Korea as a "direct threat" to its security and vowed to bolster its "nuclear deterrence for self-defence."

The country's Foreign Ministry, in a statement carried by the official Korean Central News Agency, called the deployment of the Mississippi, which is one of the most advanced nuclear submarines in the US Pacific Fleet, "a direct threat to the security of the DPRK and peace of the region."

The DPRK is an acronym for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, North Korea's official name. "The US ceaseless introduction of strategic assets of various kinds to and around the Korean Peninsula is rendering the already unstable situation all the more uncontrollable," the ministry said.

It said North Korea needs to

bolster its "nuclear deterrence for self-defence" in every way it can in the face of the "US ceaseless provocations for a new war."

"The line of the Workers' Party of Korea on simultaneously pushing forward economic construction and the building of nuclear force is the most just line for fundamentally removing the danger of a nuclear war created by the US and ensuring peace and security in the region and the rest of the world by dint of the powerful nuclear deterrence," it said. The 7,800-ton, Virginia-class Mississippi, which is equipped with both torpedoes and Tomahawk cruise missiles, entered the South Korean port of Pusan on Monday. The Pearl Harbour-based fast-attack submarine, commissioned in 2012, was shifted from the Atlantic in November 2014 as part of the Obama administration's rebalance to the Pacific. —Kyodo News

Opinion

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The touchstone of our intellect

Kyaw Thura

IT is undeniable that only a few institutions are very successful in accomplishing their restructuring efforts when it comes to transformation. The failure is often due to lack of a constant, holistic and effective approach to transformation. At a time when rapid reform has become a phenomenon of the 21st century, institutions that swim against the tide will not last.

Great people of all time are found not only willing to transform themselves first but also capable of aligning themselves to the direction of restructuring. They are well aware of the simple fact that reform starts at the top. In addition, they understand that people matter most in making transformation happen. Accordingly, they deliver core messages through multiple channels regularly

and inspirationally in a bid to persuade the people into contributing to reform.

People are bound to hold different views and trade blame, especially in the dynamics of political reform. It is always easy to find fault with others. The hardest part is to discover mistakes in ourselves. We should all be convinced that what puts our country in poverty is none but our

own neglect of obligation to promote national integration.

Therefore, how united we can stand for reform can be regarded as the touchstone of our intellect. The time is ripe enough for us to make a difference this time. There is always a first time for everything. If we fail to come together to drive reform, we will have nobody but ourselves to blame.

Foreign Investment: How important is it for economic growth?

Tin Shein

FIRST and foremost, I want to make it clear that this is a very highly technical subject that only economists can deal with competently and knowledgeably. As a matter of fact, I am walking on the ground where angels are afraid to tread, so to say. Thus as I am not myself an economist, I am going to approach this important subject from the perspective of a lay man.

It is generally acknowledged in the circle of economists that foreign investment is a key factor in driving economic development, especially in developing countries. There is no need to overemphasize the importance of foreign investment for its contribution to the economic development of all countries, especially developing countries where financial resources for capital investment are in short supply. Most of their economies are based on agriculture, forest and mineral products that can't generate enough foreign exchange income that is badly needed to meet the costs of imports of consumer products for the people and machinery and equipment for manufacturing industries. The number of manufacturing companies, both local and foreign, now operating in Myanmar, is still few, as compared with other trading, construction, and services companies.

Of course, there is no denying that foreign investment in any form can bring much benefit to the country in terms of more job opportunities, employment for the people thereby cutting down on unemployment in the country. Also man-

ufacturing industries that produce consumer products which are not available locally can be of much benefit to us. Of course, they can generate much-needed economic development. That is why all developing countries are clamoring for foreign investment.

They are vying with one another to attract foreign investors to invest in their respective countries. In this context, even economically advanced countries are no exception. So it will not be very wrong to say that foreign investment is a "must have" for developing countries like ours, because there are certain industries, such as manufacturing, mining, oil and gas exploration, etc. which need an infusion of massive amounts of funds in foreign exchange beyond the financial capacity of local entrepreneurs. But it is important that foreign investments must be prioritized in terms of the types of industries, which have the potential to effectively contribute to the development of our economy. Manufacturing industry must be put on the top of the priority list for foreign investment. Why? Because it is the manufacturing industry that plays a key role in producing consumer goods and capital goods, both for domestic consumption and export to other countries. Manufacturing industry alone can help us create an export-driven economy, because it is by exports of manufactured goods that our country can earn enough foreign exchange with which to buy consumer goods for our people as well as capital equipment that we ourselves can't produce at home. So emphasis must be placed on the development of industry as a criti-

cal factor in lifting our country out of the vicious circle of poverty and economic stagnation, into which we have been dragged through mismanagement of the rich natural resources, underground and above ground, over decades. Now look at the present economically advanced countries, both in the East and in the West; we shall see that they all have well developed modern industrial bases.

It won't be very wrong to say that there are certain exceptions. They are small and resource-poor countries, but highly developed, their people enjoying the same high standards of living as those of the large developed countries. They are Switzerland, Denmark in EU and Singapore in South-east Asia. They lack the key building blocks of industry—iron and coal—without which heavy industry will be very difficult, if not impossible, to establish. Then the question is: why are they so developed industrially and technologically? The answer is not far to seek. They possess highly developed technical and financial skills. Swiss wrist watches are matchless in the world while Singapore is one of the largest financial centers in South-east Asia, pouring huge amounts of investment capital into ASEAN countries, including our country. It need hardly be said that we have to go a long way before we can catch up with those advanced countries. But despite depletion of our natural resources through economic exploitation over the years, we still have enough natural resources left over and with good leadership and economic policy and guidance, as well as efforts of all involved in nation-

al building, we shall be able to catch them up in the not distant future.

As we all know, ours is an agricultural country, and the majority of people live in rural areas, depending on agriculture for their livelihood. Rice is our staple food and much of what we have produced is used for domestic consumption; only what is left over from home consumption can be exported to earn much-needed foreign exchange. Our current exports of rice are still far from matching those of other countries like Thailand and Viet Nam. The reason why may be that with the increase in population, domestic consumption has risen, too. Thus, for rice production to keep up with the rise in population, we need to change the traditional methods of cultivation by using modern methods of agriculture in order to boost rice production not merely for domestic consumption but for exports too. Another reason is that quality may have quite a lot to do with demand for our rice in foreign markets. Our rice exports may be placed at a disadvantage when competing with those of other rice-exporting ASEAN countries in terms of quality. I think we are ranked below Viet Nam and Thailand in terms of economic development. Of course, this is my own view, not backed up by any statistical data. So I may be wrong.

Teak and hard wood are other items of raw materials we have available for exports to earn foreign exchange which is badly needed for our own investment in the industrial field. Here, too, it won't be wrong to say that not much stock of teak and hard wood

remains standing in our forests even in the remote areas of the country, perhaps due to their excessive extraction for exports and for use as fuel by local populace over the years. It is noted that it takes about 50 years for a teak tree to grow to maturity before it can be felled for commercial purposes. It is quite clear that we can't rely very much on exports of rice, teak and hard woods in order to raise enough capital in foreign exchange we need to undertake major industrial projects. So it will be a long time for us to wait until teak and hardwood trees that have been replanted by the Forest Department to grow to maturity and be ready for export or for use as fuel for cooking in rural areas. It won't do much good remaining an agricultural country forever relying mainly on exports of only raw materials. There is no denying that foreign investments that have been made in oil and gas exploration and production over the past years are paying big dividends in terms of foreign exchange flowing into our state coffers. On the other hand, foreign investments in garments industry are not generating as much foreign exchange as has been expected, if only because the sewing charges earned for finished garments per piece in terms of dollars are not enough to cover local production costs for most of the garment factories operating on a C M P (Cut Make, and Package) basis here. Under this system, the foreign buyers have to supply the garment factories with fabrics to be processed into finished clothes which have to be re-exported to the foreign buyers.

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Political, defense, economic and administrative perspectives imperative for the country: Senior General



Defense Services C-in-C Senior General Min Aung Hlaing speaks at meeting with senior military officers at National Defense University in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MYAWADYW

POLITICAL, defense, economic and administrative perspectives are absolutely necessary for the country, said Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with senior military officers at National Defense University in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, the Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services elaborated on modernization of Tatmadaw, training and political, economic, administrative and defense matters.

Also present at the meeting were Commander-in-Chief (Air) General Khin Aung Myint who

is also Acting Chief of General Staff (Army, Navy and Air), Commander-in-Chief (Navy) Admiral Tin Aung San, senior military officers from Commander-in-Chief's office (Army) and the commander of Nay Pyi Taw command.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Drilling strikes water in Yamsam Village, Ngathayauk Tsp

A DRILLING operation conducted by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation in Yamsam Village in Ngathayauk Township struck water on Thursday making it the 109 successful drill of the foundation's nationwide water supply project.

Water gushed out of well No. 115 at a depth of 540 feet at a rate of 3,500 gallons of water per hour, benefitting the people of the arid area who were facing water scarcity problems.

Since 2014 the foundation has drilled tubewells with the use of seven big machines and 15 small machines as part of its water supply project in areas facing a drinking water scarcity, namely



Water gushed out of the well in Yamsam Village. PHOTO: THIHA TUN

Bawsai, Heho, Aungpan, Pintaya, Kalaw, Taunggyi, Yaksauk, Hopon, Namsan, Kolam, Naungtaya townships in Shan State (South), Lokaw and Dimawso townships

in Kayah State, several villages in Yangon Region and Ayeyawady Region. So far, a total of 109 tubewell have been drilled.—*Thiha Tun*

POEM:

Let's All Join in the Fight

Aye Phyu

Drug addicts
Often thought as "the most selfish"
Do commit
A variety of crimes to their wit.

Let them be punished
Or leave them to slowly perish
Whatever be your wish
See them as humans with 'nothing-accomplished.'

Relatives and friends
For addicts, always ready to defend
Get hurt to no end
By their shameful deeds to a thousand.

Sympathize with those loved ones
Who are hurt and lost, with hopes of none
Please offer help of any kind
Some soothing words still be fine.

Drug traffickers
Profiting as buyers and sellers
Are the real destroyers
Of generations, present and future.

Stay put for the moment
Till the time comes for you to regret
For what you've done in the web
To have led many to ruins and deathbeds.

Drug abuse, a problem not to a family,
Nor to a country but one to all societies,
Must be fought with all our might
To foster a future shiny and bright.

Today's youth, tomorrow's leaders
Who are to make the world stronger and better
For consequences and the fatal threat
To drug, say "no" and shake your heads.

In an unprecedented global world
With tech-access in nations big and small
So many things possible in your call
To make drug lords and their empires fall
And crush drug traffickers once and for all.

Foreign Investment: How important is it for economic growth?

>> from page 8

No tax is imposed on imports of fabrics; only a 2% commercial tax is collected on re-exports of CMP products abroad. So, the financial statements of most of these factories show losses. The reason why is not very difficult to seek. The rate of sewing charge per finished garment is set rather low when compared with the price that each of the finished shirts, trousers, blouses, skirts, etc. is likely to fetch on the foreign markets. It is obvious that foreign investments in these garment factories only create job opportunities for our local people and help reduce unemployment among them to a certain extent.

Beyond that, the State can't hope to get much benefit in the

way of taxes from their business operations. There are also the foreign or local investments in setting up brewery and cigarette factories in the country. Most of their products are geared to domestic distribution with little potential for exports, which is the main source of foreign exchange we are badly in need of for the development of our national economy. As is the case with garments, their main contribution to our economy is the opening up of jobs opportunities and reduction in unemployment and poverty among our people to some extent. It is common knowledge that beer or liquor of any kind has a very devastating impact on the moral character and health of our people, both young and old alike.

From the point of view of health, liquor of all kinds plays a key role in causing liver damage that may finally lead to the dreadful liver cancer and other lethal diseases for which there is at present seen no effective remedy on the horizon. Moreover, young people, and for that matter, even men are more likely to commit crimes when drunk than they are sober. Cigarette is another crucial factor in contributing much to the wide spread of lung cancer and other heart problems among smokers. What is worse, we still don't have adequate medical facilities for effective and efficient treatment of such killer diseases, especially among the majority of our people living in the countryside. We are

still a long way from matching our countries like Thailand, Singapore, etc. for medical care of the public. In the face of such killer diseases, the well-to-do usually go to Thailand, Singapore or India for medical treatment. But the poor have to be content with whatever medical treatment is available to them at state hospitals here. Even the private medical centers are beyond their reach as the medical costs charged by those centers are too high for them to afford. It is high time that the Government made a realistic review of its policies on foreign investments, prioritizing them in terms of their contribution to our sustained economic growth.

Of course, another counter argument can be put forth that unless

liquors and cigarette are not allowed to be manufactured by foreign or local investors in our country, it is more than likely that they will have to be imported from abroad at a much higher price than our consumers have to pay here, because there is a tremendous demand for them by people, young or old alike, in the country. Another possibility is that they may be smuggled into the country through the back door. Of course, it is a really difficult problem to solve to the satisfaction of all. It is obvious that the diseases caused by cigarettes and liquor will no doubt add to the medical care burden we all have to bear out of the various taxes we have to pay to the Government.

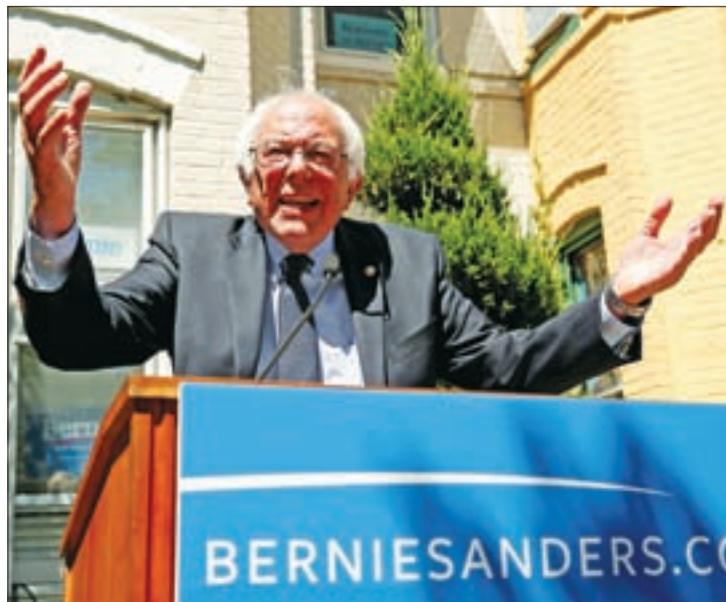
Sanders vows to help Clinton beat Trump, but keeps campaign alive

WASHINGTON — Bernie Sanders promised on Thursday to work with presumptive Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton to defeat Republican Donald Trump in the 8 November election, but did not formally pull out of the race for the White House.

Sanders did not endorse Clinton during an online speech to his supporters, but made it clear he was shifting his focus to building a grassroots movement to fight for his liberal policy agenda and transform the Democratic Party.

“The major political task that we face in the next five months is to make certain that Donald Trump is defeated and defeated badly, and I personally intend to begin my role in that process in a very short period of time,” the US senator from Vermont said.

“I also look forward to working with Secretary Clinton to transform the Democratic Party so that it becomes a party of working people and young people, and not just wealthy campaign contributors,” he said in a speech broadcast from his hometown of Burlington, Vermont. Sanders, who has resisted pressure from Democrats to exit the White House race and back Clinton since she clinched the party nomination last week, said he would keep fighting for his goals of reducing income inequality, removing big money from politics and reining in Wall Street.



US Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders speaks at his campaign headquarters in Washington on 14 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

“Defeating Donald Trump cannot be our only goal. We must continue our grassroots efforts to create the America that we know we can become,” he said. “And we must take that energy into the Democratic National Convention on 25 July in Philadelphia where we will have more than 1,900 delegates.”

Sanders has kept his campaign alive as leverage to force concessions from Clinton on his policy goals during deliberations on the party’s issues platform, and on the reforms he seeks in the Democratic Party’s nominating process.

But he has laid off some staff, stopped campaigning and dropped plans to court unbound

delegates in an unspoken acknowledgment the former secretary of state will be the nominee.

Sanders, who met with Clinton on Tuesday night after the nominating process ended, said he would continue his discussions with her campaign to make certain “the Democratic Party passes the most progressive platform in its history, and that Democrats actually fight for that agenda.”

“Our vision for the future of this country is not some kind of fringe idea. It is not a radical idea. It is mainstream. It is what millions of Americans believe in and want to see happen,” Sanders said.—*Reuters*

Britain mourns murdered lawmaker; EU referendum in limbo

LONDON — Britain mourned lawmaker Jo Cox on Friday after a man wielding a gun and knife killed the 41-year-old mother-of-two in a brazen street attack that has thrown the 23 June referendum on European Union membership into limbo.

Cox, a supporter of Britain staying in the EU, was shot and repeatedly stabbed in her own constituency near Leeds in northern England by a man who witnesses said had shouted “Britain first”.

She was pronounced dead just over 48 minutes later by a doctor working with a paramedic crew trying to save her life. A 52-year-old man was arrested by officers nearby and weapons including a firearm were recovered.

The killing prompted a halt to campaigning in the EU referendum. Though the motives of the killer were not immediately clear, some speculated that

sympathy for Cox could boost the Remain campaign which has fallen behind Leave in recent days.

Police said they were not in a position to discuss the motive of the attack.

“Jo believed in a better world and she fought for it every day of her life with an energy and a zest for life that would exhaust most people,” Cox’s husband, Brendan, said.

“She would have wanted two things above all else to happen now, one that our precious children are bathed in love and two, that we all unite to fight against the hatred that killed her.”

Britain’s Union Jack flag was flying at half-mast over the Houses of Parliament, Downing Street and Buckingham Palace, while in Birstall hundreds of people attended a vigil at a local church.

Some people, many weep-

ing, laid flowers outside the Houses of Parliament. Others threw flowers onto the houseboat on the Thames where Cox had lived with her husband and young children.

British politicians paid tribute to Cox and expressed shock at the killing, as did leaders across Europe and the world.

Prime Minister David Cameron said the killing of Cox, who had worked on US President Barack Obama’s 2008 election campaign, was a tragedy.

“We have lost a great star,” said Cameron, who called the referendum. “She was a great campaigning MP with huge compassion, with a big heart. It is dreadful, dreadful news.”

Hillary Clinton said she was horrified. German Chancellor Angela Merkel called the attack “terrible” but added that she didn’t want to link it to the EU referendum.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Brazil could quit 34 international bodies to save cash

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil is considering leaving 34 second-tier international organisations, including the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), to cut back on costs, according to a list seen by Reuters.

Brazil has run up \$866 million in arrears with international bodies such as the United Nations due to a fiscal crisis, and its diplomats abroad have even had trouble paying their rent, a source with knowledge of the matter said.

The list of possible withdrawals, prepared by the Budget and Planning ministry, includes the Ibero-American summit organisation and six institutions in the South American trade bloc, Mercosur.—*Reuters*

Four servicemen, six militants killed in clashes in southern Russia

MOSCOW — Four Russian special forces soldiers and six militants have been killed in a series of clashes in Dagestan in the North Caucasus area, the Interfax news agency reported on Friday, citing a police source. Dagestan, where Kremlin critics say poverty and corruption help feed Islamist extremism, is often rocked by shootouts and car bombings. A suicide bomber blew up a car there in February, killing two policemen, in an attack claimed by Islamic State.

Interfax said six servicemen had been wounded in the latest violence and were receiving treatment in hospital. It said two of the “spetsnaz”, or special forces soldiers, had been killed when a gunman opened fire on them in a forest.—*Reuters*

Australian political leaders gear up for 1st online election debate

SYDNEY — Australia’s political leaders are gearing up for the first online election debate hosted by Facebook and News Corp Australian.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition Leader Bill Shorten will battle it out live from 6 pm on Friday night in Sydney, which will be streamed live via Facebook live.

Questions submitted by the public will be put to both leaders.

News.com.au Managing Director Julian Delany said in a statement that this debate will be different to anything seen before.

“It is a chance for millions of Australians to not just watch the debate, but to actively participate by asking questions and giving their instant reactions,” Delany said.

Managing Director of Facebook in Australia and New Zealand Stephen Scheeler encouraged all Australians to get involved.

“We want to connect as many Australians as possible to one of the most important aspects of any election campaign — a leadership debate,” Scheeler said.—*Xinhua*

US Navy eases alcohol ban for its sailors in Japan

TOKYO — The US Navy on Friday eased a temporary drinking restriction on its personnel in Japan, except those in Okinawa, 11 days after the ban was imposed following the arrest of a US sailor on suspicion of drunk driving in the southern island prefecture.

Effective immediately, sailors are permitted to drink alcohol on bases and in their private off-base homes, but the ban on drinking in off-base restaurants or bars remains intact, according to a statement released by the navy.

Personnel in Okinawa “will continue to follow the provisions of the period of unity and mourning in effect there,” it said.

The US forces loosened the restrictions as the sailors have demonstrated that they understand the impact of alcohol-triggered behaviour, according to a base senior officer.—*Kyodo News*

Loaded police pistol found in New Zealand Parliament bathroom

WELLINGTON — The New Zealand Police are investigating how a loaded police pistol came to be left in a bathroom at the national Parliament in Wellington.

The Glock pistol was accidentally left in the bathroom briefly on Thursday, Superintendent Chris Scahill said in a statement Friday.

“As soon as police were made aware that the firearm had been left in the bathroom, staff attended and recovered it from the occupant, and we would like to thank them for their assistance,” said Scahill. “This was a regrettable incident that we are taking seriously, and we acknowledge the potential risk that this could have posed.”—*Xinhua*

Air strikes shatter Russian attempt at Syria Aleppo truce

BEIRUT — Air strikes hit rebel-held parts of Syria's Aleppo city on Thursday just hours into a 48-hour ceasefire announced by Russia to try to curb weeks of intense fighting, as government forces battle for control of the whole city.

Russia, an ally of President Bashar al-Assad, announced the brief truce in the northern Syrian city on Thursday but did not say which parties had agreed to it. In a statement on Thursday night it said the ceasefire was holding.

However the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said aerial strikes hit neighbourhoods in the opposition-held sector and that there were reports of one death and some injuries.

Rebels had also fired rockets into

government-held territory in Aleppo, the Observatory said, and fighting and air strikes continued in the surrounding countryside. Moscow said fighters from the Nusra Front, al Qaeda's Syrian branch, opened fire on several Aleppo districts in the last 24 hours.

Bebars Mishal, a civil defence chief working in rebel-held Aleppo told Reuters that strikes on residential areas had caused fires and damage. "The truce was supposed to have come into effect at 12 midnight, but now there is no truce," he said.

The international focus in Syria in recent weeks has partly shifted to the conflict with Islamic State, as government forces and their enemies have made gains at the expense of the ultra-hardline Islamist mil-



Smoke and flame rise after what fighters of the Syria Democratic Forces (SDF) said were US-led air strikes on the mills of Manbij where Islamic State militants are positioned, in Aleppo Governorate, Syria on 16 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

itants on several fronts.

But the separate hope of foreign powers — that the wider civil war could also be resolved — has broken down.

Hundreds of people have been killed in Aleppo since peace talks broke off, as Assad seeks to regain control of the city which was Syria's largest before the conflict erupted in 2011

and is now split between rebel and government sectors.

Russian-backed Syrian forces have sought for months to control all supply routes into the city. An escalation in air and artillery strikes in the past two weeks on the last supply route, the Castello road, has put hundreds of thousands of people under ef-

fective siege.

Mercy Corps, which runs the largest non-governmental aid operation inside Syria, said the increased bombardment had effectively cut aid to rebel-held areas of Aleppo for the longest period since the war began, driving up food prices and choking efforts to ease the plight of residents.—Reuters

Civilians stuck inside IS-held Falluja at risk of disease: WHO

AMIRIYAT FALLUJA, (Iraq) —Tens of thousands of civilians stranded inside Islamic State-controlled Falluja are at risk of disease outbreaks as Iraqi government

forces press their assault to retake the city, a World Health Organisation (WHO) official said on Thursday.

Islamic State has tightened control over civilian

movement in central Falluja, where an estimated 40,000 people are stuck with little water or food, as commandos from an elite counter-terrorism force inch closer to the city's main government building more than three weeks after the offensive began.

The ultra-hardline militants, who by US estimates have lost almost half of the northern and western territory they seized when Iraqi forces partially collapsed in 2014, have used residents as human shields to slow the military's advance and thwart an international air campaign backing them.

Falluja, an hour's drive west of Baghdad, is seen as a launchpad for Islamic State bombings in the capital,

making the offensive a crucial part of the government's campaign to improve security, although US allies would prefer to concentrate on IS-held Mosul, Iraq's second largest city in the far north. Children inside Falluja have not received immunizations since the militants took control in 2014, said Ala Alwan, WHO's regional director for the eastern Mediterranean, who visited displacement camps in Amiriyat Falluja, a town southeast of Falluja. "The low level of immunity coupled with poor hygiene conditions raises the risk of disease outbreaks, such as measles," he said in a statement, and hundreds of pregnant women were also in urgent need of reproductive health services.

Poor sanitation could also spread infectious diseases like cholera and skin diseases in addition to exacerbating chronic illnesses, Alwan said during a field visit where some displaced people complained about a shortage of electricity.

Iraq suffered a major cholera outbreak last year with more than 1,800 cases including six deaths.

Aid groups providing food, water and other supplies to escapees lack access to the city itself. Falluja was besieged by government forces for around six months before the current advance began, prompting the United Nations and rights groups to warn of an imminent humanitarian crisis.—Reuters



Displaced people, who fled from Falluja because of Islamic State violence, are seen during a dust storm at a refugee camp in Ameriyat Falluja, south of Falluja, Iraq, on 16 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Black box from crashed EgyptAir plane retrieved

CAIRO — Search teams retrieved the cockpit voice recorder from EgyptAir flight MS804 on Thursday in a breakthrough for investigators seeking to explain what caused the plane to plunge into the sea, killing all 66 people on board. The Airbus A320 crashed into the Mediterranean early on May 19 on its way from Paris to Cairo.

Since then, search teams have worked against the clock to locate the

wreckage and recover the two black box recorders crucial to explaining what went wrong, before they stop emitting signals in about a week.

Egypt's investigation committee said in a statement that a specialist vessel owned by Mauritius-based Deep Ocean Search was forced to salvage the device in stages because it was extensively damaged, but was able to retrieve the memory unit.

"The vessel's equipment was able to salvage the part that contains the memory unit, which is considered the most important part of the recording device," the statement said.

Egypt's public prosecutor ordered that the recovered device be handed over to Egyptian air accident investigators for analysis.

Two specialist vessels, John Lethbridge and Laplace, are continuing to

search for the second black box, which contains the flight data recorder. They have yet to detect signals from that device but have identified the location of the main parts of the wreckage.

The black boxes are usually located in the tail, so finding the wreckage and one of the devices narrows the search.

The investigation committee said on Monday the black boxes were ex-

pected to stop emitting signals around 24 June. That would make the second device harder to find because the plane crashed in some of the deepest waters of the Mediterranean, about 3,000 metres (10,000 feet) below the surface.

With only limited amounts of wreckage and human remains found before Thursday's breakthrough, Egypt's investigators have had little to go on.—Reuters

Dozens of US diplomats urge military strikes against Syria's Assad

WASHINGTON — More than 50 State Department diplomats have signed an internal memo sharply critical of US policy in Syria, calling for military strikes against President Bashar al-Assad's government to stop its persistent violations of a civil war ceasefire.

The "dissent channel cable" was signed by 51 mid- to high-level State Department officers involved with advising on Syria policy. The cable calls for "targeted military strikes" against the Syrian government in light of the near-collapse of the ceasefire brokered earlier this year, the Wall Street Journal reported, citing copies of the cable it had seen.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday that the memo was an "important statement" that he would discuss when he returned to Washington. "It's an important statement and I respect the process, very, very much. I will...have a chance to meet with people when I get back," Kerry told Reuters during a visit in Copenhagen. He said he had not seen the memo. Military strikes against the Assad government would represent a major change in the Obama administration's longstanding policy of not intervening directly in the Syrian civil war, even as it has called for a political transition that would see Assad leave power.—Reuters

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Orlando families to bury victims, ask Obama for change

ORLANDO, (Fla) — Families of some of the 49 people killed in a massacre at an Orlando gay nightclub will mourn and bury their dead on Friday, a day after President Barack Obama met survivors and said the United States must act to control gun violence.

Funerals are expected to be held over the next two weeks.

Anthony Luis Laureano Disla, 25, like many of the victims of the Pulse club mass shooting, was from Puerto Rico. He is to be buried on Friday, according to the Newcomer Funeral Home, a day after more than 150 friends and family mourned him at a wake.

Obama, who travelled to Orlando on Thursday and met survivors and families of those who died, told reporters: "I held and hugged grieving family members and parents, and they asked, 'Why does this keep happening?'"

He urged Congress to pass measures to make it harder to legally acquire high-powered weapons like the semi-automatic rifle used



US President Barack Obama (L) and Vice President Joe Biden place flowers at a makeshift memorial for shooting victims of the massacre at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, US, on 16 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

in the attack on Sunday.

Obama and Vice President Joe Biden were in Orlando after a US-born gunman claiming allegiance to various Islamist militant groups carried out the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

During the shooting rampage the gunman, Omar Mateen, exchanged text

messages with his wife, CNN reported on Thursday, as well as posting on Facebook and placing a phone call to a television station. Police killed Mateen, 29, a US citizen born in New York to Afghan immigrants.

Obama, who has visited mass shooting victims' families in towns from San Bernardino, California, to

Newtown, Connecticut, since becoming president, laid flowers at a memorial for the victims of the attack on the Pulse nightclub.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for the attack but US officials have said they do not believe Mateen was assisted from abroad. A married couple also claiming allegiance to Islamic

State shot dead 14 people in San Bernardino, California, in December.

On Thursday, more than 300 people, including Florida Governor Rick Scott, attended the viewing for Eric Ivan Ortiz-Rivera, who was born in Dorado, Puerto Rico. He was 36 when he was killed during a night of dancing to celebrate a friend's new house. His husband had stayed home that night in the couple's apartment.

"He was in a Snapchat video that's out there, dancing away, so we know he had some fun before the madness," said his cousin, Orlando Gonzalez.

Twenty-three of the 53 wounded remained hospitalized, six in critical condition, according to the Orlando Regional Medical Center.

CNN reported, citing a law enforcement official it did not identify, that Mateen exchanged text messages with his wife, Noor Salman, during the three hours he was holed up in a bathroom inside the nightclub. Salman is under investigation to

find out whether she knew about Mateen's plans ahead of time. The massacre put pressure on Congress to act.

Mateen carried out the slaughter with an assault weapon and handgun that had been legally purchased although he had twice been investigated by the FBI for possible connections with militant Islamist groups.

Senator John Cornyn of Texas, the No. 2 Republican in the Senate, said the chamber would most likely vote on four gun control measures on Monday.

However, no formal deal between the parties for votes was announced, and it was unclear when and how the Senate would proceed with the votes, which would be amendments to an appropriations bill funding the Commerce and Justice departments.

Republicans, who hold a 54-person majority in the 100-seat Senate, have blocked a number of Democratic-backed gun control measures over the years, saying they infringed on Americans' constitutional right to bear arms.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ARKAS VOY NO (0311)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ARKAS VOY NO (0311) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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.

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MV INNWA STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV INNWA STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.6.2016 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.

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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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD.**

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ALLY VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 18.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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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.

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AGENT FOR: M/S KULNATEE CO LTD.**

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Wildfires in California, New Mexico trigger hundreds of evacuations

LOS ANGELES — Hundreds of people have evacuated to escape a wildfire in coastal Southern California and a larger blaze in rural New Mexico as hot weather feeds the flames, raising health concerns in other regions, officials said on Thursday.

Santa Barbara Sheriff Bill Brown told a news conference his deputies had asked occupants of 400 homes and businesses to evacuate structures in areas threatened by flames from the California fire. Campers and horses on ranches have also been forced out, officials said.

The blaze, which ignited on Wednesday in a wilderness area northwest of Santa Barbara, has consumed chaparral and tall grass in the Los Padres National Forest, blackening some 1,200 acres (490 hectares), according to the InciWeb fire information center.

About 500 firefighters were trying to hold it from exploding out of control as airplane tankers and helicopters dropped water, officials said.



CalFire firefighters spray water on a controlled back fire while battling the the so-called 'Sherpa Fire', which has grown to over 1100 acres overnight, in the hills near Goleta, California, US on 16 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"There isn't a lot of marine layer (ocean humidity) so not great conditions for firefighting," Diane Black, a joint incident command manager, said in a phone interview.

Winds drove the so-called Sherpa Fire toward the Pacific coast, leading

authorities to evacuate two state beaches and some ranch land, according InciWeb and the Santa Barbara County website.

The blaze also approached the 101 Freeway overnight, forcing authorities to close it until Thursday morning.

In New Mexico, the so-called Dog Head Fire that broke out on Wednesday about 6 miles (10 km) northwest of the town of Tajique has forced evacuations and grown to more than 12,000 acres (4,900 hectares). Tajique is around 30 miles (50 km) southeast

of Albuquerque.

Governor Susana Martinez declared a state of emergency and activated the state's National Guard, ordering the unit to be prepared to assist if needed, according to a statement issued by her office.

The fire has burned

through timber in central New Mexico, pushing heavy smoke toward cities more than 100 miles (160 km) away as flames spread through a largely unpopulated area, fire information officer Peter D'Aquanni said in a phone interview.

Torrance County Sheriff Heath White said his office was evacuating about 200 people. D'Aquanni said winds could shift the flames to the east as more than 600 firefighters tackle the blaze.

"There's not many structures in front of that direction if it goes where we think it's going," he said.

The National Weather Service (NWS) issued excessive heat warnings for areas in the US southwest, including California, Nevada and Arizona. The NWS forecast office in Phoenix predicted temperatures as high as 119 degrees Fahrenheit (48.3 Celsius) in the coming days, which would exceed record highs.

The NWS also issued heat advisories for Missouri and southwest Iowa, with temperatures in the mid-90s Fahrenheit (35 Celsius). —Reuters

Auto Telephone numbers will be changed to update exchange at Yenanchaung Industrial Zone in Magwe Region

Yangon, Myanmar, 14 June, 2016 – Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT), announced today that the existing auto telephone numbers at Yenanchaung Industrial Zone in Magwe Region need to be changed to update exchanges in order to give better and upgraded services to customers as follows.

Area	Existing Auto Telephone Number	New Auto Telephone Number	Date
Yenanchaung Industrial Zone (Yenanchaung Tsp, Magwe Region)	060-30-xxx	060-880-0xxx	July 1, 2016

During the transitional period, MPT will provide a Call Forwarding Service free of charge for its customers' convenience for their incoming calls till the end of July 2017.

Myanma Post and Telecommunications

Hearing in Amber Heard restraining order against Johnny Depp called off

LONDON — A hearing on the restraining order obtained by Amber Heard against Johnny Depp, in a divorce between the celebrity couple in which Heard has accused Depp of abuse, was called off on Thursday, a day before it was set to occur, court officials said.

Heard was expected to testify at the hearing related to the restraining order in Los Angeles Superior Court on Friday, according to E! News and other media outlets.

Instead, the next hearing in the divorce filed by Heard against Depp last month will occur on 2 August, court officials said in a statement. The restraining order is part of the divorce case.

The delay allows Depp to gather more witnesses to defend himself against abuse allegations,

while for Heard it allows the restraining order to remain in effect at least until the next hearing, said attorney Christopher Melcher, who previously served as chair of the state bar of California family law section, in a phone interview.

It was not immediately clear which side moved to vacate the hearing set for Friday. Attorneys for Depp and Heard did not immediately return calls.

There have been conflicting reports in the media about whether the two sides are moving toward a settlement in the divorce case.

Depp's legal team had filed court papers seeking to prevent witnesses from testifying on behalf of Heard at the hearing on Friday, on grounds that the actress' legal team had not provided the names of those witnesses, according to

a report on the website of People magazine.

A judge on 27 May granted a temporary restraining order for Depp to stay at least 100 yards (91 metres) away from Heard and move out of the couple's shared condominium in downtown Los Angeles. The couple married in February 2015.

Heard, 30, said in court filings that Depp, 53, was abusive to her throughout their marriage and that it culminated in an argument last month in which he hurled a cell phone into her face and shattered various objects in her apartment. In a counter argument, Depp's lawyer said in court papers last month that Heard "is attempting to secure a premature financial resolution by alleging abuse." —Reuters



Cast member Johnny Depp and his actress wife Amber Heard arrive for the premiere of the British film "Black Mass" in London, Britain in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kim, Kanye West celebrate North's birthday in Disneyland

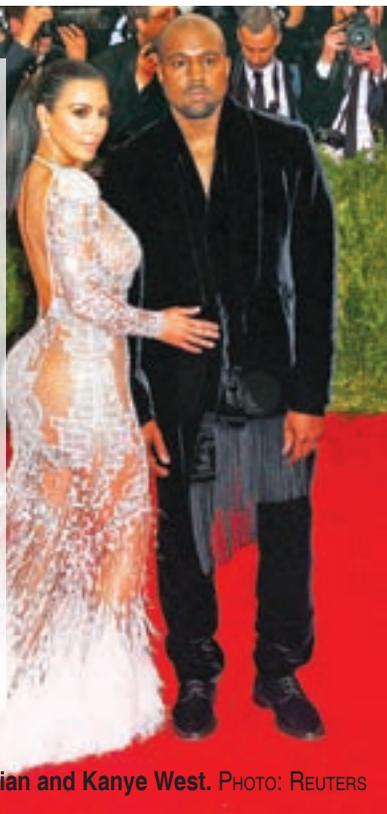
LONDON — Hollywood couple Kim Kardashian and Kanye West celebrated their daughter North's third birthday at Disneyland.

North was treated to a day out at the theme park by her parents, where she dressed up as a princess in a pretty pink dress, reported Female First.

Kardashian shared a picture of her on Instagram and wrote, "Thank you @disneyland for making all of my princess dreams come true today!"

The 35-year-old star also shared a video of her and North. She captioned the video, writing, "she promised me she wouldn't get any bigger. I can't believe my baby girl is 3 years old today!! Northie I love you so much I can't even explain it! Happy Birthday to my favourite mermaid!!!"

Kardashian's family took to social media to wish North a happy birthday.—PTI



Hollywood couple Kim Kardashian and Kanye West. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vimeo wins US appeal in music copyright case

NEW YORK — Video-sharing website Vimeo LLC cannot be held liable for copyright infringement for unknowingly hosting older music uploaded by its users, a US appeals court ruled on Thursday, dealing a blow to record labels seeking broader protections.

In a victory for internet service providers, the 2nd US Circuit Court of Appeals in New York also held that the mere fact that Vimeo employees had viewed videos with copyrighted sound recordings was not enough to prove the company ignored red flags of infringement.

The case, pursued by Capitol Records and Sony Corp units, was closely watched in Silicon Valley, with Vimeo's appeal drawing support from Facebook Inc, Twitter Inc, Alphabet Inc's Google, and other companies.

"Today's ruling by the Second Circuit is a significant win for not just Vimeo, but all online platforms that empower creators

to share content with the world," Michael Cheah, Vimeo's general counsel, said in a statement.

The Recording Industry Association of America, the labels' trade group, said in a statement it was disappointed with the ruling, which it said came despite evidence showing Vimeo's company policy was to look the other way.

"Now, more than ever, it is clear that Congress needs to act to fix a law enacted in the days of dial-up Internet connections," the group said.

A lawyer for Capitol Records, a unit of Vivendi SA, and the Sony units declined to provide immediate comment.

The case focused on the interpretation of the Digital Millennium Copyright Act, or DMCA.

The law protects internet service providers from liability when users upload copyrighted content while requiring them to remove the material if they receive notice or otherwise become

aware of the infringement.

The lawsuit, filed in 2009, alleged copyright infringement over music in 199 videos that Vimeo users had uploaded to the site. US District Judge Ronnie Abrams in 2013 ruled Vimeo was protected under the DMCA safe harbor provisions with regard to 153 videos.

But she held that the safe harbor was not applicable to recordings from before 1972, the year Congress first included them in the scope of federal copyright law. Pre-1972 recordings are protected by state law.

She also said Vimeo could face trial over whether it had known of "red flags" that made infringement apparent.

Thursday's ruling reversed those holdings. Writing for the three-judge panel, US Circuit Judge Pierre Leval said that interpreting the act as leaving providers exposed to liability under state copyright laws would defeat Congress' intent.—Reuters

Da Vinci Code's Dan Brown donates 300,000 euros to Dutch library

AMSTERDAM — American author Dan Brown has donated 300,000 euros (\$335,000) to Amsterdam's Ritman Library, where he researched some of his best-selling novels, to help preserve its ancient works.

The funding will be used to digitize part of the library's rare collection of books and manuscripts about the Hermetic religious tradition that Brown re-

ferenced when writing "The Lost Symbol" and "Inferno", it said in a statement.

About 4,600 works, many dating from before 1800, will be accessible online by the public from spring 2017, it said.

Also known as the Bibliotheca Philosophica Hermetica, the library was founded in 1984 by Dutch businessman Joost Ritman.—Reuters

American rocker Meat Loaf collapses on stage in Canada



US singer Meat Loaf performs during the German game show "Wetten Dass" (Bet it...?) in the southern German town of Friedrichshafen, in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

EDMONTON (Canada) — American rocker Meat Loaf collapsed on stage on Thursday during a performance in Edmonton, Canada, days after he postponed a show due to illness, media reported and social media posts showed.

The 68-year-old musician fell to the stage floor in the Jubilee Auditorium in Edmonton as he was singing his 1993 hit "I'd Do Anything for Love," video clips on Twitter and traffic on the social media platform showed. Emergency personnel responded at the scene, the Edmonton Journal reported. His condition was not known and authorities in Edmonton were not

available for comment. Meat Loaf postponed a show in the city of Calgary on Monday due to illness, he said on his Facebook page.

Meat Loaf, whose real name is Marvin Lee Aday, pulled out of a concert in Britain just hours before he was due on stage because of health problems in 2013.

He canceled a European Tour in 2007 after being diagnosed with a cyst on his vocal chords and sparked further fears for his health in 2011 when he collapsed on stage. He later blamed blackouts on past concussion injuries and his health issues on asthma.

In 2012, he underwent a knee replacement operation.—Reuters

African growers threaten Dutch flower power

AALSMEER (Netherlands) — The Netherlands is fighting to retain its crown as the world's top auction house for flowers as growers in Africa and elsewhere increasingly sell directly to buyers.

The country grew wealthy selling tulip bulbs in the 17th century during the so-called Dutch Golden Age and remains the second largest agricultural exporter behind the United States.

For decades the FloraHolland cooperative has acted as the hub from which planeloads of flowers from around the world are distributed from vast, air-conditioned warehouses in Aalsmeer, near Amsterdam airport.

The company says it distributes almost 50 per cent of all flowers sold worldwide and last year it reported sales of 4.6 billion euros (\$5.13 billion), mostly from matching growers and buyers at its famous early-morning daily auctions.

But worryingly for FloraHolland Chief Executive Lucas Vos, sales of flowers by growers directly to buyers have overtaken those sold through FloraHolland's auctions.

Direct sales from members

of the cooperative bypassing the auctions rose by 3.8 per cent to 2.3 billion euros last year.

Auction sales stood at 2.1 billion euros, down 1 per cent.

"We need to realise that if, for instance, we want to get flowers into China or India ...the logistical system we have built for ourselves probably does not fit," said Vos, who was brought in from shipping firm Maersk in 2014.

In response, FloraHolland is looking to make changes to an auction system that dates back more than 100 years.

It is investing up to 90 million euros over the next five year and plans to develop a 24-hour online dealing platform.

It will be like "a Tinder or Air-BNB" for flowers, Vos said.

That could eventually lead to the Dutch auction halls, where some 3,000 work, falling silent, but change is already apparent; some 70 per cent of sales come from remote bidders.

Vos remains confident, however. "Most producers grow one type of flower, and if you're a consumer, you want a bouquet," he said. "There will always be a need for a hub."

For European markets, it makes sense to gather flowers in Amsterdam before trucking them to Britain or Russia.

And for growers in Kenya or Ethiopia, for example, being among FloraHolland's 4,600 members helps maintain stable prices in the face of powerful buyers such as Europe's top supermarket chains.

Some 50 per cent of Kenya's flower exports are sold via FloraHolland, and 70-80 per cent of Ethiopia's.

But being members also means they must commit to sell all of their output via FloraHolland and that can be a handicap when trying to reach Chinese or Indian markets. Vos said FloraHolland plans to open logistics sites overseas, either near growers in Europe or Africa or near Asian buyers, to preserve the company's central role in a more devolved global flower trade. At stake is the Netherlands' dominance in the global flower trade, which is slipping.

The Netherlands exported 52 per cent of the world's cut flowers in 2013, down from 58 per cent in 2003, according to Rabobank.—*Reuters*

Jewelry, sneakers and lots of paper towels at 'Whitey' Bulger auction



A Stanley Cup Championship ring once belonging to James 'Whitey' Bulger and being offered for auction is seen in an undated picture released by the US Marshals Service. PHOTO: REUTERS

BOSTON — Some of former Boston mob boss James "Whitey" Bulger's preferences were made well known during the years he ruled the city's underworld: He didn't like snitches and expected absolute obedience from members of his gang.

He also expected consistency in his footwear, judging by a catalog for a US Marshals auction of his property set for next week in Boston.

The items up for auction include four unworn pairs of men's Asics sneakers, size 9.5, and five packs of cushioned in-soles, according to an auction catalog released on Thursday.

The auction is intended to raise money for the families of the 11 people he was convicted of murdering or ordering killed in the 1970s and '80s when he ran Boston's "Winter Hill" crime gang.

Bulger, now 86, fled Bos-

ton in 1994 on a tip from a corrupt FBI agent that arrest was imminent and spent 16 years on the lam with his girlfriend Catherine Greig, now 65, before the FBI caught up with them in a seaside apartment in Santa Monica, California, in 2011.

The auction includes a mix of valuable items including a replica Stanley Cup ring, a yellow gold Claddagh ring and appropriately, given the outcome of his trial, a sterling silver "Psycho Killer Ring."

It also includes more mundane items seized at the apartment, such as clothing, kitchen items and 30 rolls of paper towels. It seems the man found guilty of hiding bodies in the dirt-floored basement of a South Boston home appreciated the importance of cleaning up after himself.—*Reuters*



Flowers are seen at the Royal FloraHolland flower market in Aalsmeer, the Netherlands, on 16 March, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MRTV Entertainment Channel
(18-6-2016, Saturday)

06 : 00 pm • Weather Report • Cartoon Programme "Hotel Transylvania" (Part-1)	08 : 30 pm • Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part - 1)
06 : 50 pm • Myanmar Traditional Bullock - Cart & Equestrian Racing	09 : 00 pm • International Movie Songs
07 : 00 pm • Cassette Recordings	09 : 10 pm • Alaungdaw Kathapa
08 : 20 pm • MRTV Entertainment Music	09 : 30 pm • Music Programme
	9 : 40 pm • Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA OBOE)
	10 : 10 pm • Myanmar Movie

From 18-6-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 Pm
To 19-6-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm

mitv Myanmar International
(18-6-2016 07:00am ~ 19-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh		
07:03 Am	News	
07:26 Am	Great Shwedagon- The Repository of Buddhist Scriptures And Archives	
07:42 Am	Conflict & Solution Between Man & Elephant	
08:03 Am	News	
08:26 Am	Kyauk Se Elephant Dance	
08:49 Am	Beach Food Delivery	
09:03 Am	News	
09:26 Am	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part- I)	
09:41 Am	Young Artist: Maw Thu Da Nu	
09:46 Am	Betel Nut Farmer	
10:03 Am	News	
10:25 Am	Exclusive Interview with the Mongolian President	
10:51 Am	Mon Traditional Wedding	

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

Prime Time

07:03 Pm	News
07:26 Pm	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-4)
07:38 Pm	A Happy Visit to Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw)
07:49 Pm	Today Myanmar: Alleviation of Betel Quid
08:03 Pm	News
08:26 Pm	"Myanmar Music Icon" Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-1)
08:54 Pm	Now in Yangon

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



England's Daniel Sturridge celebrates scoring their second goal. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sturridge strikes late to seal 2-1 win for England

LENS — Substitute Daniel Sturridge stabbed home a dramatic winner in stoppage time to steer England towards a 2-1 win over Wales and top spot in their Euro 2016 group on Thursday.

A goal down to Wales at halftime after Gareth Bale struck a wonderful free kick from 30 metres, England manager Roy Hodgson brought on forwards Sturridge and Jamie Vardy, whom many fans had wanted to see start the game, to replace the ineffectual Raheem Sterling and Harry Kane.

It

turned out to be a pivotal change as Vardy, England's Footballer-of-the-Year in the Premier League this season for his goalscoring at champions Leicester City, grabbed an equaliser in the 56th minute.

Then, with England piling on the pressure in the dying seconds, Sturridge scrambled his way through the box to fire home the winner from close range.

The result left England at the top of Group B on four points, ahead of Wales and Slovakia on three and Russia bottom with just one point.

"It's a great feeling, unbelievable," Sturridge said. "I'm grateful for the opportunity. It's only one more game in the group so no-one should get too excited. But it was an amazing feeling. It's great to help the boys win the game."

Wales would have won the group with victory, but instead they will meet Russia in their final game with their destiny still very much in their own hands.

"Obviously, we're massively disappointed but I'm proud of everyone."

"Inside, we still feel strong, we still

feel happy," said Wales goalscorer Bale.

"We're enjoying it and the tournament's not over yet. We're still in the thick of it. We'll keep fighting all the way to qualify, and the fans have been amazing once again."

All talk of the recent fan violence in Marseille and Lille dissipated as the game kicked off amid a cacophony of noise and singing from both sets of fans.

England dominated most of the first half and Sterling could have put them ahead as early as the seventh minute, but he skied the ball over the bar from close range, and it did not get any better from there on for the Manchester City winger.

With Wayne Rooney dropping deep to pull the strings in midfield, England sought to make the most of the space behind the Welsh full backs, but their final ball into the box was often a poor one.

They went behind just before halftime when Rooney clattered into Hal Robson-Kanu, with Bale driving a dipping free kick over the England wall and past keeper Joe Hart, who perhaps should have done better having got a hand to the ball.—

Reuters

Federer races through to Halle quarters

HALLE — Roger Federer hurried into the quarter-finals of the Gerry Weber Open in Halle on Thursday, wrapping up a 6-3, 7-5 victory over Tunisia's Malek Jaziri in 69 minutes.

The top seed, who has won eight titles at the German grass-court tournament that has proved ideal preparation for Wimbledon during his long career, quickly overcame a second-set hiccup when he dropped his serve to go 3-0 down.

He rediscovered his rhythm, recovered the deficit and then broke the Tunisian in the 11th game before serving out the match.

Federer next meets Belgian David Goffin, who was leading Sergiy Stakhovsky 4-6, 7-5, 2-0 when the Ukrainian retired hurt after an awkward fall.

"That's life...some days are just not meant to be. I'll try to be back for Wimbledon," Stakhovsky tweeted.

Federer, 34, will be keen to enjoy as much match practice as possible before Wimbledon after pulling out of the French Open last month with a back injury.

He leads 25-year-old fifth seed Goffin 4-0 in their head-to-head tally.—Reuters

US reach Copa America semis with 2-1 win over Ecuador

SEATTLE — The United States survived a late onslaught to beat Ecuador 2-1 and advance to the semi-finals of the Copa America for the first time since 1995 after a pulsating and sometime fractious match in Seattle on Thursday.

Clint Dempsey and Gyasi Zardes scored for the US either side of half time and Michael Arroyo got one back for Ecuador in a game that saw one player from each side sent off and the Ecuador coach banished to the stands.

Ecuador came into the game more after Antonio Valencia and Jermaine Jones were shown red cards in the 51st minute but the hosts prevailed to set up a semi-final against either Argentina or Venezuela in Houston next Tuesday.

"We've come so far now and now we get even hungrier for the next step," said US coach Jurgen Klinsmann.

"The team performance was outstanding. They were helping each other all over the field."

Dempsey, a striker who plays for local club Seattle Sounders, got the opener for the US after 21 minutes when he rose to head home a deft cross from Jones.

He almost got a second four minutes later but his angled-drive was well saved and Alejandro Bedoya should have done better when Dempsey's pass left him



United States forward Bobby Wood (7) tackles the ball from Ecuador defender Juan Carlos Paredes (4) during the second half of quarter-final play in the 2016 Copa America Centenario soccer tournament at Century Link Field, in Seattle, WA, USA, on 16 June 2016. The United States defeated Ecuador, 2-1. PHOTO: REUTERS

with a shot on goal that Alexander Dominguez got down well to smother.

At the other end, Brad Guzan did well to turn an Enner Valencia shot round the post as he honed in on goal.

Then came the dismissals with Antonio Valencia sent off for a second yellow after hacking down Bedoya and his fellow

midfielder Jones harshly shown a straight red for raising his hand in the ensuing scuffle.

Zardes doubled the home side's lead when he poked home from inches out after Dempsey had beaten the goalie but the goal roused Ecuador and they took control of the game.

Enner Valencia should have scored at least twice from close

range headers but it was Arroyo who cut the lead after 73 minutes when he found the net with a low drive from the edge of the box after the defence had given him too much space.

The South Americans threw everything at the hosts in the final quarter but they could not find a second goal and the US advanced to the last four.—Reuters