

Coord meeting for 69th Martyrs' Day ceremony held

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JCMC TO FORM SUB-COMMITTEES

Ye Khaung Nyunt

UNION level Joint Ceasefire Monitoring Committee (JCMC) members spoke of forming region-state-level committees in Kayin and Mon States. Saw Isaac Po, JMC-U vice chairman 1, said that

works to form JMC-S in Kayin and Mon States are expected to begin on 29-30 June.

"Apart from the talks of state-level committees, funding and matters related to JCMC offices were also discussed at the meeting," said Saw Isaac Po, also

saying that funding is not available yet. According to sources, civil participation in the JCMC will be discussed today.

The two-day meeting is set to discuss formation of JCMCs in Kayin and Mon States and Bago Region, works to be done on JC-

MC-Technical Secretariat Center (TSC), a budget for the implementation of the JCMC process for three years and the formation of working committees to develop work programs and a JCMC database, public participation in the monitoring process and demining.

U Ko Ko Gyi, JCMCs vice chairman 2, said that he would make a presentation of civil participation in the ceasefire monitoring process on the second day of the meeting. The second day of the sixth meeting of the JCMC continues at the NRPC today.

Myanmar Gems emporium fetches 3.15m euros in sales

SIXTY lots of gems were sold for more than Ks4bn (3.15m Euro) at the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw, according to a press release from the emporium yesterday. Of 353 lots of gems displayed in the emporium, 34 lots were sold through the tender system while 26 of 110 gems lots found buyers by auction until the press release was issued.

Local and foreign buyers have to complete the payments within 90 days. Deposits will be confiscated if they fail. Foreigners must deposit Ks64m (50,000 Euro) for purchases of jade, pearl and gems at the emporium while local traders must deposit Ks13m (10,000 Euro) for lots of pearl, gems and jade.

"Despite the number of lots sold during the emporium had a lower turn out compared to last year, the emporium fetched a good price as there was no significant difference in the earnings," said Deputy Director U Than Zaw Oo of the emporium organizing committee.

The event attracted 1,733 locals and 2,064 foreigners.

Recently, the value of cut and uncut jade products within



Merchants appraise a jade stone at the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium at the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

Myanmar's gems and jewellery industry has depreciated in value by approximately 40%, according to domestic jade markets.

U Maw Gyi, a cut jade tradesman said, "Chinese [jade traders] know we rely on them for

trade and drive a hard bargain as a result. We really have to knock-off the price a lot. What once went for Ks100,000 (US\$84) can now only be sold for Ks60,000 (US\$50). An absence of trade has also reduced sales."

The special commodity tax law, which includes gemstones, stipulates a fine of Ks5m (US\$4,219) must be paid for working without a business license.

If found guilty of tax eva-

sion over one's sold gemstones, a fine of the value of the untaxed gemstones must be levied, before the gemstone articles in question are confiscated and legal charges pressed.—*Thein Ko Lwin with Myitmakha News Agency*

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UN special rapporteur holds talks with officials in Yangon

Ms. Yanghee Lee, United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, visited Correctional Department (Insein) and Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) and Myanmar Media Council and National Reconciliation and Peace Center offices in Yangon yesterday.

On her tour of the Correctional Department, Yanghee Lee held talks with Deputy Director U Myo Oo of the department.

On her arrival at the MNHRC, Chairman U Win Mra and officials explained the func-

tions of the commission and human rights promotion and protection activities to the UN's special rapporteur.

Yanghee Lee met with Myanmar Media Council Chairman U Khin Maung Lay (a) Po Thauk Kyar and party at the council's office and visited the National Reconciliation and Peace Center where she held talks with Dr Tin Myo Win, chairman of preparatory committee for Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong, and U Hla Maung Shwe and Dr Min Zaw Oo of the center. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Ms Yanghee Lee holds talks with officials of Insein Correctional Department in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

Public opinion to decide fate of Manaw Thuka housing project



Manaw Thuka housing project is seen in Pathein. PHOTO: MYITMAKA NEWS AGENCY

MANAW Thuka housing project is left to the mercy of the Pathein public after a decision from the Ayeyarwaddy Regional government. The current Pathein Pyitawthar Housing Estate was to be destroyed and work begun on implementation of the five-hundred roomed Manawthuka housing project by the Department of Housing Development.

It was suspended, however, after many local residents objected to the project. The regional government has since reportedly planned to make a decision on

the future of the project during the incumbent government's tenure based on the desires of the public.

"The desire of the people is our primary importance. Only after carefully studying and listening to the desires of the households living in the area, we will come to a decision as whether or not to continue construction or abandon the project all-together." said U Win Htay, Minister of Electricity, Industry and Communications for Ayeyarwady Region.

The Minister added the Nine Engineering Group Co.Ltd, comprised of nine businesspersons from Pathein who would conduct the construction, while talks will soon be held with residents of the estate, the contract expires during this month of June.

There are currently 350 households residing within the housing estate that would be displaced to make way for the Manaw Thuka housing project. The government has rejected accepting housing fees from 171 households after claiming they broke contract regulations, while the Department of Housing has made submissions to the government.

"[The government] has severed the acceptance of our housing fees for two years now. They sent us back every payment we sent to them. They accuse us of breaking the rules when we haven't violated any regulations of the housing [department]." said U Pya Gyi, a retired soldier from one of the 171 households.

The Pyitawthar Housing Estate was built in 1951, one of 46 built in large urban centres across Myanmar.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Thandwe residents jumping with jay

THANDWE residents in Rakhine State are said to be "jumping with joy" after they have received 24-hour electricity. The town has been experiencing 24 hour power after it was connected to the national grid on 12 June.

In the past, electricity was provided by the Ministry of Electric Power between the hours of 6:30pm-1:30am via a diesel run electricity generator.

"It's wasn't easy to get continuous access to electricity in the past, so I'm very happy that we now have electricity all the time; it's going to really booster

small and medium-sized local enterprises," said U Ko Lay, a resident of Maei Sub-Township.

More people have been applying for electricity according to U Kyaw Thein Oo, the electricity officer for Maei Sub-Township. Adding, "The fee per unit of electricity is [still] K35 for Maei, as it is for the townships of Sittwe, Thandwe and Kyaukphyu."

There are reportedly 11 towns within Rakhine State that enjoy the benefits of round-the-clock electricity from being connected to the national grid.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

U Myo Aye appointed as Myanmar Ambassador to Serbia

THE PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myo Aye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Serbia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Slovak Republic.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated. 28 June 2016

More than 1,700 KBZ workers donate blood in June

TO mark the World Blood Donor Day which falls on 14th June, more than 1,700 employees of KBZ bank nationwide donated blood in June.

The second annual blood donation started on 7 June with the blood donation of KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation's chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham and its members at the National Blood Centre in Yangon.

Donations are followed by a second day on 17 June with the participation of more than 300 employees of the bank's branches.

On the third day of the donation for 2016 on 24 June, more than 300 employees took part in the drive nationwide.

In the first collective blood donation held in November and December last year in Yangon and Mandalay, more than 900

employees donated their blood.

"We would like to thank and honor all participants around the world who have taken their time and effort to give their much needed blood in order to help save lives!" said the foundation in its facebook page.

The theme of this year's World Blood Donor Day, 14 June 2016, is "Blood connects us all". It focuses on thanking blood donors.—*GNLM*



Employees of KBZ donate blood at a hospital.

Coord meeting for 69th Martyrs' Day ceremony held

U Myint Swe spoke of holding a ceremony to commemorate the 69th anniversary Martyrs' Day with hopes to instill a nationalistic pride in order to maintain the value of Myanmar's independence.

The event is also aimed at promoting 'national spirit' in younger generations.

During the meeting at the President's Office, U Myint Swe spoke to the ministries concerned on respective tasks for successful convening of 69th Martyrs' Day.

Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U

Aung Ko who is also the chairman of the organising central committee, Yangon Mayor U Maung Maung Soe, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin also attended.

Officials from the Ministries of Religious Affairs and Culture, Education and Information elaborated on arrangements being made for holding the ceremony.

After hearing reports on general matters, U Myint Swe concluded the event.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Myint Swe addressing a meeting to hold a ceremony to commemorate the 69th anniversary Martyrs' Day. PHOTO: MNA

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs meets with BIMSTEC Secretary General

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin met with Mr Sumith Narkandala, Secretary General of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) Permanent Secretariat, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed matters related to the es-

tablishment of BIMSTEC Free Trade Area, promotion of person-to-person contact and holding a Summit between BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and BIMSTEC in India this October.

BIMSTEC Permanent Secretariat is based in Dhaka, Bangladesh.—*Myanmar News Agency*

MWEA delegate attends ASEAN-China youth forum in Cambodia

REPRESENTATIVE of the Myanmar Women's Entrepreneurial Association Ma Naing Ei Wai will be attending the second ASEAN-China Youth Exchange Visit: Education and Leadership. The event will be held in Siem Reap, Cambodia from 27-30 June.

MiTV online reported that at yesterday's opening ceremony Vice President of the Union of Youth Federations of Cambodia (UYFC) Sar Sokha and President of the UYFC Prey Veng opened the event with speeches.

Each ASEAN and China representative spoke of Supporting Youth Leadership in Development Roles of the Private Sector and Business Community, also focusing on Youth Leadership in Development and Future Prospective of Youth, reported MiTV online.

The group will visit the hugely popular Angkor Watt and Angkor Thom temple on 29 June and attend a cultural performance by each attending country today.—*MWEA + MiTV Online*

Drug abuse on the rise

UNITED Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes has found that drug use and drug related deaths are on the rise. 250m people between 15-64 years old have used some form of drug in 2014, according to the 2016 UNODC World Drug Report.

12m people are said to inject drugs each year and that 14% of those who inject are infected with HIV. On top of that, UNODC has recorded an increase of drug use related disorders has increased for the first time in six years, 29m are now in this category compared to 27m from previous records.

Myanmar, China, Thailand and Laos share what is known as the 'golden triangle' an area that grows large amounts of opium and produces heroin, but over the years methamphetamine manufacturing has increased.

"In East and Southeast Asia, opiates and synthetic drugs, in particular methamphetamine, continue to dominate illicit drug markets," reads the release.

Adding, "Areas under opium poppy cultivation in the Golden Triangle were estimated at nearly 62,000 ha, accounting for 22 per cent of the global total. Substantial quantities of heroin produced in the Golden Triangle feed the heroin markets within the region as well as increasingly Oceania."

The report noted that drug treatment systems in South East Asia still lack the capacity to deal with the growing number of methamphetamine users, and that the number of people undergoing rehabilitation programs for synthetic drugs has increased in Asia.

Half of those receiving treatment in South-East Asia are suffering from opium addictions.

26 June marked the UN's "World Drug Day" marking the first International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking since April's UN General Assembly special session on the world drug problem (UNGASS).

Myanmar celebrated by burning Ks66bn (US\$56.31m) worth of seized drugs, the bonfires were held in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Taung-

gyi. In the fires were 590kg of opium, 83.5kg of heroin, 41.8kg of low-grade opium, 123kg of marijuana and 10,355,844 stimulant tablets.

First Vice President U Myint Swe marked the ceremony as Myanmar's dedication to ending the drug trade by saying that bringing peace to the countries' borderlands will help curb drug production within its borders.

Myanmar's previous governments have held drug fueled bonfires as a sign to the international community of its dedication to preventing the growth, production and distribution of illicit substances in its borders, after it was suspected by foreign governments that the country supported the production under previous governments.—*GNLM*



A ceremony to launch World Drug Report 2016 is held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Civil Servants strive for peaceful, prosperous nation; UCSB chairman



Photo shows a ceremony to open Management Course No.3 for heads of service organisations at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in Pyin-Oo-Lwin. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board Dr Win Thein, spoke of upholding the wishes of the people and serving Myanmar with the intention to ensure that Myanmar becomes a peaceful and prosperous country.

The speech was made at the opening of Management Course No.3 for heads of service organisations at Central Institute of Civil Service (Upper Myanmar) in Pyin-Oo-Lwin, Mandalay Region yesterday.

In his address, Dr Win Thein stressed the need for Myanmar citizens to bring about change in the country, as development cannot be

effectuated just by the words "Correct perception is key to changing mindsets," he said.

Dr Win Thein quoted State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi as saying, "civil servants must strive to win the trust of the public by being reliant and carrying out their jobs in the interest of the people."

Altogether 30 senior officers with the rank of deputy director-general are taking the course set to last eight weeks. Afterwards, Dr Win Thein visited staff quarters and observed preparations for the opening of a Civil Service Academy.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Faculty members and students carry out communal sanitation work



Teachers and students belonging to UTC crops seen carrying out sanitation work.

PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Faculty members and students from the respective universities in Mandalay who are members of the University training Corps carried out collaborative sanitation work at the Mahathetkyamarazein Kyauktawgyi

Pagoda in Aung Myae Thazan Township on Sunday 26 June. The group cleaned the platform of the pagoda, clearing rubbish, cutting weeds and bushes around the stairways and precincts of the pagoda. The faculty

members and students cleaned the flower vases. The Central Command Commander and party encouraged them in their volunteer works.—*Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

MMF pushes for establishment of Township Football Federations

A meeting of executive committee members of the Myanmar Football Federation (MFF) has concluded with an agreement to form football federations at township levels across the country.

“The forming of football federations in every township is in a bid to improve the level of

football in the country and to boost physical and intellectual development of Myanmar youth. We’ll implement the federations in the same manner as the International Federation of Association Football (FIFA). These kinds of initiatives are also being carried out in other countries around

the world,” said U Zaw Zaw, president of the MFF.

The elected executive committee members meeting was held on 18 June, according to talks during the meeting, footballs tactics, coaches and training equipment will be supported to every state and region across Myanmar once the federations have been formed.

“We must establish these football federations,” added U Zaw Zaw.

“We’ll personally provide support for the requirements of the townships, but the public must take on the responsibility to actually organise themselves to form the federations.”

The MFF will reportedly acquire permission to form the township level football federations from concerned government departments. The federations can be established as soon as permission has been granted.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Football federations formation meeting in progress.

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Sports Colleges to open in Monywa and Loikaw

The Ministry of Health and Sports has revealed plans to open Sports Colleges in both Monywa, Sagaing Region, and Loikaw, Kayah State.

“Sport Colleges in Yangon, Mandalay, Mawlamyine and Taunggyi have been opened to nurture a new generation of ath-

letes for Myanmar’s Sports Federation. Plans are also in place for the opening of two more colleges, in Monywa and Loikaw,” said Dr Myint Htway, Union Minister of Health and Sports.

He added that the expansion was primarily in the name of raising the standards of sport

in Myanmar. A total of 302 students from Mandalay’s Yadanarbon and Yangon’s Dagon Universities are studying sports this academic year. Both these universities offer B.Sc in Sports that was first offered at the Ministry of Health during 2013-14.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Crime NEWS

Man killed by former son-in-law

A 35-year-old man has stabbed to death his former father-in law and wounded his former mother-in law during an attack in their home on Saturday evening. Prior to the stabbings, Eike Laik held a knife to his former wife, Aye Kit.

According to the police investigation, a 29-year-old Ma Aye Kit had divorced her husband Eike Laik four months earlier. Eike

Laik, 36, attacked her on 25 June at around 2 am after she refused to remarry him.

Witnesses say that Eike Laik fled the scene after he stabbed to death U Ye Pan Tha in the chest. Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest Eike Laik, who will face charges under Section 302/326 of the Criminal Law.—*Saya Maung (Muse)*

Novices killed in traffic accident

Two novices were killed and one injured on the Yangon-Mandalay highway near Phyu Township on Sunday morning after a truck lost control and hit them. They were returning to their monastery after collecting their morning alms.

The truck driven by a 42-year-old man called U Khun Kyaw Soe Lwin heading from Mandalay to Yangon collided with three persons

as he lost control of the vehicle.

The collision killed the two young novices and injured the elder monk, who is now receiving medical treatment at a nearby hospital. Police have charged U Khun Kyaw Soe Lwin for the accident under reckless driver, who resides in Kalaw Township in southern Shan State, under the Criminal Law.—*Khin Ko (Kyauktaga)*

70,000 yaba pills seized in one day

POLICE have seized 70,000 yaba pills from alleged dealers in Mandalay Region, Shan and Mon States on 24-25 June.

After an anonymous tip-off an anti-drug team searched an express bus near Shwesayan Village in Patheingyi Township, Mandalay Region where they discovered 58,500 yaba pills from Win Htike Win on 25 June.

Another case occurred near mile post No. 80/4 in Nawnghkio, Shan State where local police arrested Saw Oo who was found to be carrying 11,505 pills also on 25 June.

On the same day police arrested Soe Naing and another after finding them to be in possession of at least 1,000 pills.

Police discovered 650 yaba pills from a house owned by Ohn

Maung in Hopone of Shan State on 24 June.

All people involved in the case were placed under arrest. Those listed in this article will be charged under Article 16 (c) of the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law of 1993 that states; “possession, transportation, transmission and transfer of a narcotic drug or psychotropic substance,” that will see a prison sentence of 5-10 years.

Anti-drug rhetoric has been high recently as it times with the current government’s ‘100-day plan’ to bring about a rule of law. 26 June also marked the UN Day Against Drug Abuse, where drugs in Myanmar were set alight to display the countries dedication to curb drug use, a symbol from days when Myanmar was closed off to the world.—*Ko Ye*



Illegal hardwood seized in Bago

NYAUNGLAYBIN Township police confiscated illegally cut Padauk wood weighing upwards of 9 tonne on Saturday. The wood was found being transported along the Yangon-Mandalay highway in Bago Region.

U Thein Htut (aka Thar Gyi)

and another were stopped by police who discovered 28 Padauk logs weighting 8.1982 tonnes.

People in connection with the case have been charged by police under the 1992 Forest Law, which incurs a fine.—*Nay Lin (Nyaunglaybin)*

LOCAL Business

Thai Lion Air extends wings to Yangon



PHOTO: TLA

THAI Lion Air (TLA) would extend its wings from Thailand's Don Mueang Airport to Yangon as from 22 July.

The Thai-registered low-cost carrier, a subsidiary of Indonesia's Lion Air Group, will operate twice daily from Bangkok

to Yangon, offering free 30 Kg checked-in baggage and free 15 Kg for sport equipment to every passenger, said Captain Darsito Hendrosetputro, Managing Director of TLA, at the press conference in Yangon yesterday.—GNLM

Complaints to file against foreign realtors without license

FOREIGN real estate agents operating without licenses are being targeted by local agents who are campaigning to shut them down and recording the illegal operators, said U Sai Khun Naung, the chairman of Real Estate Entrepreneurs' Association.

"Unlicensed foreigners are working in the real estate business, and so, we are conducting a survey to find out if there are any cases of foreigners being en-

gaged in real estate market without holding a license," he added.

Foreigners are inquiring about market conditions from local realtors disguising themselves as customers. They earn money, directly contacting expatriate buyers. Therefore, we find it hard to conduct an exact survey of them.

The survey will be conducted until 17 June, the number will be released soon.—200

600,000 tn of watermelon, muskmelon to be exported to China: exporters

MYANMAR melon exporters plan to send 600,000 tonnes of watermelon and muskmelon to China this FY, the same amount of melon was exported last year earning Ks30bn (US\$25.5m), according to the Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

Myanmar earned K30.5 million (\$25,000) from the export of around 40,000 tonnes of mangoes last FY.

"We expanded the acres of watermelon and muskmelon plantations this season as the country has received a high demand for both crops from China this FY," said U Kyaw Thu, secretary of Myanmar Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association, adding, "We plan to export between 500,000 and 600,000 tonnes of watermelon and muskmelon and 40,000 tonnes of mangoes this FY."

The agricultural cost per acre of watermelon is around Ks2m (\$17,023) and Ks4m (\$34,046) per acre of muskmelon plantation, growers say.

China is the largest buyer of Myanmar mangoes, followed by Singapore and Hong Kong. They mainly import Seintalone mango (aka diamond solitaire mango),

the most popular variety of Myanmar.

"Local farmers are expecting a bumper production of high quality mangoes this season," said U Kyaw Thu.

"Myanmar Watermelon and Cucumber Cultivation and Export Development (MWCED) Public Company will be established in early 2017 to boost the export volume of local watermelon and cucumber", said U Thitsa, the vice chairman of Sagaing Regional Myanmar Watermelon and Cucumber

Growers and Exporters Association.

Adding, we have already drawn up a Memorandum of Association and Article of Association, we will register our public company before the end of this year.

Initially, a total of 5,000 shares will be sold only to the members of Watermelon and Cucumber Growers, Exporters Association with an initial price of Ks10,000 per unit. Shares will be sold to the public later.—Chan Chan with Myawaday.



Watermelons in Natogyi. PHOTO: KHIN ZAR MON MYINT (LAW)

Nissan Sunny Almera to be manufactured in Myanmar

NISSAN will manufacture new model Nissan Sunny Almera at some time in September in Myanmar, said an official from this company.

Currently, testing is being

conducted to manufacture Nissan Sunny Almera in Myanmar. These models will be manufactured for the Myanmar market.

This vehicle will be manufactured as the type of high-modeled

saloon with the use of SKD system. The required raw auto parts in the manufacturing process will be imported from Japan. The price of that model Nissan Sunny Almera is not known yet.—200



A woman makes conical bamboo hats in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

PUM Netherlands to assist SME development in Myanmar

Aung Thant Khaing

PUM Netherlands Senior Experts will visit Mandalay for 14 days to develop and advise small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) in order to deal with the difficulties in the manufacturing process, said U Kyaw Soe Naing from Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRC-CI).

To assist development of SMEs, PUM Netherlands Senior Experts have already signed an MoU with MRCCI, appointing a representative in Mandalay.

The organisation was founded with a total of 3,000 members of across the globe, who provide development assistance to under-

developed countries.

"They do not lend money. Instead, they will just provide the local SME businessmen with technical assistance. If they find a business promising, this organization will provide a link with foreign companies," said U Kyaw Soe Naing.

The organisation will assist businessmen who have owned businesses for least three years.

PUM is offering assistance to SMEs focusing on agriculture, foodstuff, jewelry, purified drinking water and the hotel industry in Mandalay. They will provide technical assistance.

The assistance will start in 2017 professional charges will be offered later.

Malaysia's Najib appoints new ministers to strengthen coalition

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak reshuffled his cabinet on Monday, placing party loyalists in top posts in a bid to strengthen the ruling coalition amid speculation that he could call an early election next year.

Landslide victories in recent electoral outings have put the scandal-hit Najib and his ruling alliance, Barisan Nasional, in a position of strength, and the new cabinet appointments are seen as a move to build on that.

"This will strengthen the current administration further to ensure the government's development agenda for the people — economic, welfare and security development — will continue smoothly as promised," Najib told a news conference.

A source within the ruling administration told Reuters that the strong results in Sarawak state polls in May and two by-elections earlier this month were what Najib was wait-

ing for to decide when he will call national polls, which will likely be by the second half of 2017.

The last cabinet reshuffle was in July 2015, when Najib dropped leaders critical of his handling of troubled state fund IMDB.

Najib, who chaired the advisory board of IMDB, has faced intense pressure following revelations that \$681 million was transferred into his personal account. Najib has denied any wrongdoing.

Najib has faced calls to resign over the past year over IMDB, which is being investigated for money-laundering in at least six countries including the United States, Switzerland and Singapore.

Of the new ministers, Mah Siew Keong, a senior ethnic Chinese politician and leader of the Malaysian People's Movement Party, was appointed as the new plantation industry and commodities minister. —Reuters

Thai PM says won't resign whatever August referendum outcome



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha speaks before a weekly cabinet meeting at Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on 21 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha said on Monday he would not resign if Thais reject a military-backed draft constitution when they vote in a referendum in August.

Prayuth heads the ruling junta, or National Council for Peace and Order, that

took power after a bloodless coup toppled Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra's elected government in May 2014 coup.

The military had justified the coup, saying it had acted to restore stability after months of street demonstrations in Bangkok had paralysed Yingluck's gov-

ernment. "I won't resign. I am the one who lays out the rules for this country," Prayuth told reporters at Bangkok's Government House, insisting Thais should not compare him to British Prime Minister David Cameron who announced his resignation last week after Britain voted in

a referendum to quit the European Union.

The junta has said it would carry out political and economic reforms before a general election in 2017 that will start a transition back to democracy.

The 7 August referendum will be the first national vote in Thailand since the coup and should provide a test of the junta's popularity, experts said.

Groups of all political stripes have denounced the draft constitution as undemocratic, with one major political party urging supporters to vote "no".

The junta has banned criticism of the charter in the run-up to the vote and in May the Election Commission issued rules barring anyone from campaigning for either side ahead of the referendum. In the latest crackdown on dissidents, a Thai court jailed seven activists on Friday for campaigning against the draft charter, which critics say will enshrine military power and emasculate civilian politics. —Reuters

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi
ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Chief Proof Reader & Translator - Ye Myint
Expatriate Consultant Editors

Alec Wilmot
counsellanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Jaidan Coonan

Chief Translator & Editor

Kyaw Thura,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor

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

International Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon, Tin Nwe Lynn

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw, reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Reporters

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

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

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Ads and subscription enquiries:

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Singapore Airlines flight returns to Changi, catches fire, no casualties

SINGAPORE — A Singapore Airlines Ltd (SIA) (SIAL.SI) flight to Milan caught fire early on Monday after returning to Singapore's Changi airport following an engine oil warning message, but all passengers were safe, the airline and airport officials said.

The aircraft's right engine caught fire after the aircraft, a Boeing (BA.N) 777-300ER, touched down at Changi airport at around 6:50 am (23.50 BST). Emergency services put out the fire and there were no injuries to the 222 passengers and 19 crew on board, a SIA statement said.

"Passengers disembarked through stairs and were transported to the terminal building by bus. Passengers will be transferred to another aircraft which is expected to depart for Milan later today," the statement said. The SIA flight, SQ368, departed at 2:05 am, but about two hours into the flight the pilot announced there was an engine problem and the flight would return to Singapore, Channel News Asia reported.

Social media images and videos showed the 10-year-old aircraft's right wing on fire as it stood on the runway after landing, and fire engines racing to it.

There appeared to be damage to the right wing and GE90 engine, which was manufactured by General Electric (GE.N).

The aircraft's pilots "followed the right procedures" by turning back once the problem was detected, dumping fuel on the way, and landing safely, said one analyst. "When the plane slows down as you land, fuel can cling to the wing and surfaces. Sparks from the hot brakes after they landed could have triggered the fire and it does appear quite dramatic. But they appear to have gotten that under control very quickly," said Greg Waldron, Asia Managing

Editor at Flightglobal, an industry publication.

"There don't appear to be any procedural issues here." SIA, which is widely recognised as one of world's leading airlines and is a benchmark for much of the industry, has not had any major incidents in recent years. Its only accident resulting in casualties was a flight from Singapore to Los Angeles via Taipei, where it crashed on 31 October, 2000 into construction equipment on the Taiwan Taoyuan International Airport after attempting to take off from the wrong runway. The crash killed 83 of the 179 people on board. —Reuters

India joins missile technology control group

NEW DELHI — India on Monday officially joined the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), more than a year after it had applied for a full membership to the group.

Indian Foreign Secretary S. Jaishankar completed the formalities by signing the instrument of accession to

the MTCR in the presence of the envoys of France, the Netherlands and Luxembourg in the national capital. "India has joined the MTCR this morning... India's entry into the regime as its 35th member would be mutually beneficial in the furtherance of international non-proliferation objectives," the Exter-

nal Affairs Ministry said in a statement. It added: "India would like to thank each of the 34 MTCR Partners for their support for India's membership. We would also like to thank Ambassador Pieter de Klerk of The Netherlands and Mr Robert Steinmetz of Luxembourg, co-Chairs of the MTCR."

India's becoming a member of the group will enable it to deal in high-end missile technology. Last year, its entry was blocked by Italy over detention of two Italian marines by New Delhi on charges of killing two Indian fishermen off the coast of the southern state of Kerala. —Xinhua

Japan PM campaigns on 'stability' ticket as Brexit rocks markets

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, stumping for a July upper house election, is warning voters against casting their ballots for the opposition at a time when world financial markets are in turmoil after Britain's shock vote to leave the European Union.

Abe's ruling bloc already looked set for a hefty win in the 10 July election but experts said the uncertainty spawned by Brexit was likely to persuade Japan's cautious voters to give his coalition even greater backing.

The shift could give Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and like-minded political parties a better shot of obtaining a two-thirds majority in the upper chamber needed to begin the process of revising Japan's pacifist constitution for the first time since it was forged after WWII.

"What is needed now is political stability," Abe said during a weekend campaign speech, according to Japanese media.

"We cannot lose now. We cannot entrust Japan to the Democratic Party and the Japanese Communist Party (JCP)," he added.

The main opposition Democrats have joined hands with the JCP and two other small parties to try to block Abe and his allies from gaining the two-thirds super majority.

On Monday, Abe instructed his finance minister to take steps if needed to counter the yen's steep rise, which threatens exports and by extension could tip Japan back into recession.

"We need to continue to work toward market stability," he said at an emergency meeting of his government and the Bank of Japan.

Abe's campaign pitch echoed that by Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, who on Sunday used Brexit shockwaves to urge voters to return his government with a majority at a 2 July election, arguing only stable government can deliver jobs,



A staff member of Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) posts a poster for the July 10 upper house election with the image of Shinzo Abe, Japan's Prime Minister and leader of the LDP, at the LDP headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, on 22 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

growth and tough border controls.

Japan's Democratic Party is countering that the rise in the yen and steep fall in Tokyo share prices signal the end of "Abenomics", which after three years has failed to halt Japan's decades of deflation or generate sustainable growth in an economy

plagued by a shrinking, fast-ageing population. "It must be said that the 'Abenomics' party is over," Democratic Party leader Katsuya Okada said in a statement after the historic Brexit vote. Analysts said, though, that the opposition argument was unlikely to gain much traction as long as market volatility per-

sisted. Many voters still remember the Democrats' 2009-2012 rule as marred by infighting and policy missteps.

"If anything, Brexit is good for Abe," said Gerry Curtis, professor emeritus at New York's Columbia University. "In times of turmoil, the Japanese voter opts for stability."—Reuters

India's relaxation of foreign investment rules credit positive — Moody's



A money lender counts Indian rupee currency notes at his shop in Ahmedabad, India, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

MUMBAI — India's decision to relax foreign direct investment in sectors including defence, aviation, and retail is a positive development for the country's sovereign ratings, said Moody's Investors Service on Monday.

"The announcement is credit positive because it demonstrates a continuation of reform momentum and paves the way for private investment and a boost in productivity," said Moody's.

India announced last week sweeping reforms to rules on for-

eign direct investment and easier terms for investors in sectors ranging from civil aviation to pharmaceuticals.

But Moody's warned reforms have stalled in passing a revamped goods and services tax and land acquisition rules.

"We expect that political division will keep the reform process uneven and slow-moving," Moody's said.

Moody's currently rates India at "Baa3", the lowest investment-grade rating, with a "positive" outlook.—Reuters

Taiwan to seek help from Japan for satellite imagery

TAIPEI — Taiwan will ask Japan to provide satellite imagery after one of the island's satellites malfunctioned and stopped producing Earth observation data, the National Space Organisation said on Monday.

NSPO Director Chang Gueyshin told Kyodo News that until Formosa Satellite No. 2 (FORMOSAT-2) resumes operation and FORMOSAT-5 is launched into orbit, it will ask the Japan-led Sentinel Asia to provide Taiwan with satellite image data if the island encounters a major natural disaster. Sentinel Asia is a voluntary initiative promoted by the Asia-Pacific Regional Space Agency Forum to support disaster management activity in the region.

Besides Japan, Chang said the

NSPO could also request assistance from the United Nations' Operational Satellite Applications Programme and Centre for Space and Remote Sensing Research of National Central University.

Chang said it already contacted the French designer of FORMOSAT-2, hoping to determine whether it is possible to fix the reaction wheel that began to malfunction Tuesday last week.

It is the second reaction wheel of FORMOSAT-2 that has malfunctioned since the satellite was launched in May 2004, which Chang said has "created problems."

Chang estimated that it might take at least two to three weeks to know whether the problem is fixable or it is time to retire the 12-year-

old satellite.

If it cannot be fixed, Taiwan will solely rely on FORMOSAT-3 until FORMOSAT-5 is launched into orbit in the third quarter this year. FORMOSAT-5, Taiwan's first indigenously developed remote sensing satellite, is a follow-on Earth observation mission of FORMOSAT-2, which is the island's first remote sensing satellite. Taiwan is planning to launch FORMOSAT-7 into orbit in the first quarter of next year.

FORMOSAT-7 is Taiwan's second international space collaboration project with the United States. It is a follow-on space weather monitoring mission of FORMOSAT-3, which has been in operation since 2006.—Kyodo News

South Korea, Japan, China begin 2-day chief delegates' talks for FTA

SEOUL — South Korea, Japan and China on Monday kicked off their 10th round of negotiations for the trilateral free trade agreement, according to South Korea's trade ministry.

At the two-day meeting of chief delegates, intensive discussions are being held on how to liberalise markets in major areas such as goods and services, the ministry said in a statement.

The talks among South Korea's Deputy Trade Minister Kim Hak Do, China's Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen and Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister Keiichi Katakami will also cover country-of-origin rules, customs matters, sanitary and phytosanitary inspections, technical barriers to trade, and intellectual property.

"At the talks, our delegation agreed with the Chinese and Japa-

nese sides to closely cooperate and do the utmost in advancing negotiations," the ministry said.

The talks are a follow-up to working-level negotiations held in April in Seoul.

During a trilateral summit held last November in Seoul, leaders of the three Asian countries agreed to speed up the FTA negotiations, which began in March 2013.—Kyodo News

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Time to change perceptions of addiction

Jaiden Coonan

THE incumbent government is pushing an agenda to prevent betel nut stands from being located near public buildings, such as: hospitals, schools, public offices and also the push to end spitting of the refuse, mostly containing saliva.

This was met with concern and anger from the public, as some groups believed it was an attack on the way of life for betel sellers and chewers alike, with a few comments saying it was attacking Myanmar/Buddhist culture – forcing the government to come out and say they are not completely banning it — even though they never intended to in the first place. Unlike alcohol and smoking, betel is seen as a harmless social drug – it's not the case.

Allowing a cultural stigma to be reinforced over some drugs is counterproductive. When taking

something away from a society that does not understand the benefits for it's removal, will always make you unpopular in the eyes of users, but it has to happen.

Drug use and abuse, in all forms is a biological, psychological disease and a social construct. Users lose free will and are unable to critically assess as to why they use a substance in the first place. As much as betel is akin to Myanmar culture, it's still a drug.

Approaching the drug debate needs to be executed constructively in order to bring about an equal and educated rhetoric to abuse, rather than a fractured hate filled biased approach. This includes looking at the contextual laws regarding drug use and distribution.

The continued demonisation of addicts in Myanmar isn't going to

solve any problems in the long run. The continued imprisonment, physical abuse and forced imprisonment by vigilante groups in Kachin and the humiliation of public notices of people's arrests will only further push vulnerable people to the fringes of society, this will spread communicable diseases, unwanted pregnancies, poverty, violence and death.

On 27 June Myanmar Times quoted Police Colonel Zaw Win Tun as saying that the previous government's Ministry of Home Affairs submitted a law to amend the 1993 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, but it is still awaiting debate.

The article in focus was:

"15. A drug user who fails to register at the place prescribed by the Ministry of Health or at a medi-

cal centre recognised by the Government for purpose or who fails to abide by the directives issued by the Ministry of Health for medical treatment shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend from a minimum of 3 years to a maximum of 5 years."

It would be a great start to abolish that particular article, also amending other articles in the law to redefine current limits that amount to trafficking — a small possession amounts to a heavy and unfair sentence. Publically burning seized drugs as a sign of combatting a serious social issue isn't an answer; the answer is to help those affected and to have honest and truthful drug education in schools, also involve civil society groups to help addicts receive un-biased, free and open assistance.

Prevention of Abuse to the Elders

Khin Maung Myint

A few days ago, while browsing the Facebook pages, I saw some video clips posted by a friend of mine. The video clips showed a young lady giving speech to a group of elderly persons. I recognized the speaker; she is the Deputy Director Dr. Kay Thi Kyaw, the Administrative Officer at the Day Care Center for the Aged, an institution run by the Department of Social Welfare under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. I had met her once, a few months ago, when I went to that day care center to get some informations for my article: "A Visit to the Day Care Center for the Aged" that was mentioned in the Global New Light of Myanmar. As I couldn't open the audio on my computer tablet, I did not know what she was speaking about. However, from the caption written by the person who posted the video clips, I understood it was an occasion to mark the World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) that is observed every 15 June, internationally.

I must admit my ignorance about the existence of such a day. Though I'm in my eighties now, I have never experienced or thought there are such abuses committed against elderly persons. Most of us have heard of the child abuses and exploitations quite often, as such activities or crimes are being made aware extensively on the media—on the broadcast as well as in the print media. After watching those video clips, my curiosity to learn more



World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in progress.

about the abuses against the elderly heightened. As usual, I approached the Internet.

I was amazed and overwhelmed by the informations related to abuses committed to the elders listed there. Some of the nature of the abuses I found on the Internet webpage are cruel and unimaginable. Such inhumane things may be going on in our country too, but I'm not aware of them. It may be due to lack of awareness campaigns or because there are only a very few such cases. Hope, it is the latter reason.

Places where elders could be abused

According to HelpGuide.org., the webpage I found on the Internet, many elders are being abused in their own homes, relatives' homes and even in facilities that are responsible for their care. As the elders become more physically frail, they are less likely to put up against bullying or fight back when they are attacked. They may not see or hear as well or think clearly as they used to be, which made them vulnerable to unscrupulous persons who want to take advantage of them. When they

become mentally or physically ill, they become trying companions for those who live with them. In other words, they become burdensome to their spouses or partners, children and relatives to the point that those people couldn't tolerate them anymore. When the situations reached that point, abuses set in.

Who are the potential abusers?

Many elders around the world are being abused: harmed in some substantial way often by those who are directly responsible to take care of them. Most are by their own spouses, partners, grownup children and grand children and in some cases by the caregivers at institutions and care centers, where they are being admitted. In the US alone, half a million reports of elderly abuse reached the authorities every year, while millions went unreported. If many such abuses went unreported even in a country like the US, it's no wonder I haven't heard of such inhumane activities in our country. There may be some, if not many, in our country too, but most people, including me, are not aware that such things are going on.

It's a civic duty to report such abuses

From what I learned on the Internet, such reports were mostly made by others, mostly neighbours, who noticed elders being abused. Reports by the victims themselves are very rare. I assume that is due the fact that the victims are afraid to point the finger at the abusers as they had to depend on them, or their mental conditions are affecting their thinkings and decision makings. Thus it is a civic duty of those who witnessed or suspected such abuses being committed on an elderly neighbour to report the matter to the authorities.

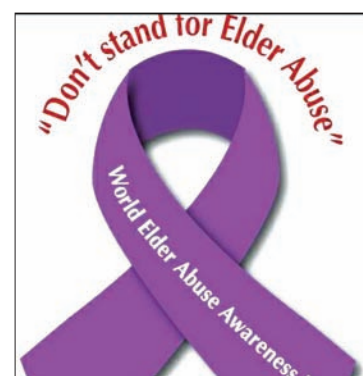
Different types of abuses

My article wouldn't be complete without mentioning the different commonly committed abuses against the elders. However, in this introductory article, I don't intend to go into detail, so I will just list the types of abuses without deliberating them at length.

- Physical abuses
- Emotional and psychological abuses
- Sexual abuses
- Neglect or abandonment by caregivers
- Financial or material exploitations
- Healthcare fraud and abuses
- Self-neglect.

Conclusion

Although there may be some cases of abuse to the elders in our country, they may not be as cruel and are not as common as in other countries. I must attribute this to our customs, traditions and cultures, which taught us since our childhood, to be respectful to the elders and look after them in their waning years. It



is quite common in other developed countries that the elders are being dumped in nursing homes by their own offsprings or relatives because they don't want to take care of them. In almost all other countries the nursing homes charge money for the lodging, meals and care giving, so they would accept anyone who could afford to pay for the expenses. Thus it is easy for the families who can afford, to dump the elders there.

Our country also have homes and day care centers for aged and poor and those who don't have anyone to care for them at home. Some are state run and there are also many run by charities, missionaries or individual philanthropists. All these homes and centers do not charge any money, a fact that is unique that all foreign visitors to such places are astonished to learn about that. I had been to quite a number of such places in Yangon and have never heard of elders being dumped at those places by their families or relatives. Only the really needy are accepted after thorough screenings. Finally, I would like to say that we are both lucky and blessed to be born and living in Myanmar!

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Israeli SIBAT Director



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receiving Israeli SIBAT Director. PHOTO: MYAWADY

SENIOR General Min Aung Hlaing, Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services, received Brigadier General (Retd) Mishel Ben Baruch, Director of SIBAT (Israel MOD International Defense Cooperation) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the talks, they discussed furthering bilateral rela-

tions and cooperation in defense between the two countries, Myanmar's ongoing and drawn out peace process and the country's 'democratization', as well as agricultural works being implemented by the Resettlement Directorate in cooperation with the Israeli government and works to be done in Myanmar's health

sector.

Also present were Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win, senior military officers from the Office of Commander-in-Chief (Army), the Israeli Ambassador to Myanmar and officials.— *Myawady*

Mass cycling around Mandalay Nan Myoe moat

MYANMAR'S Cycling Federation and the Sport and Physical Education Department of Mandalay Region organised a cycling group that started at the junction of 73rd and 26th in Chanayethazan township, Mandalay on 26 June.

The riding group was organised as an effort to report national health and fitness, and efforts to promote the reduction of traffic on the city's roads.

Dr. Zaw Myint Maung, the Chief Minister of Mandalay Region rode with 200 Mandalay amateur cyclists.

The event will be held in the last week of every month as a mass activity around the Mandalay's Nan Myoe Moat.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*



Mandalay Region Chief Minister being seen together with amateur cyclists. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Vocational training course opened in Oaktha Myoe Thit



A vocational training session in progress. PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

A VOCATIONAL training course has been opened by Bago Region's Small Industries Department under the Ministry of Agricultural, Livestock and Irrigation in order to promote the production of consumer goods in the region, on 27 June. At the opening ceremony, Daw Nwe Nwe Wha, deputy director of Small Industries Department of Bago Region, explained the aims of opening the course.

Daw Myat Thanda Aung, a trainer, elaborated the lectures that will be given at the course.

A total of 16 trainees are attending the 7-day course that will run from 27 June to 2 July.— *Shwe Win (Pyay)*

POEM:

Nature Has a Hand for Art

Nature has a hand for art.
She is a superb pointillist
Studding the crystal window pane
With a cluster of tiny infinitesimal raindrops;
She plays the sweet, soothing tinnabulation
In the balmy morning air
Over the spacious pagoda platform;
She does a marvellous brushwork,
A dappled streak of afternoon clouds
On the broad, blue canvas of the sky;
Even the uneven face
Of the little pebbled path,
Mother Nature's small wonder,
Gives you the feel_
Beneath your worn-out rubber slippers_
The texture of a piece of sculpture;
See the panorama
Of golden impressionism
Over the Ayeyawady's dancing, riding ripples
Under the setting sun turning to gold
Nature has all the beauties for art
If you have an eye for Beauty.
Zaw Tun

Promoting Trade Growth in Myanmar: Key to Poverty Reduction and Shared Prosperity

NAY PYI TAW — Rapid trade growth can help Myanmar reduce poverty and boost shared prosperity, according to a new report, Myanmar Diagnostic Trade Integration Study.

Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce led the study and requested support from the World Bank Group, culminating in a joint presentation last week in Nay Pyi Taw. The report provides a roadmap for mainstreaming trade and competitiveness in Myanmar. It says the key to success will be further reforms to encourage trade openness, a shift away from an over-dependence on natural resources, and the development of so-called soft infrastructure.

"We expect to use the DTIS Action Matrix as a reference for the development of our trade program and invite development partners for cooperation in technical and financial assistance to support actions mentioned in the study," said H.E. Dr. Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce.

Myanmar's trade started from a relatively low base. Now a boom in trade and investment has boosted average economic growth by more than 7 percent per year. Garment exports grew threefold between 2005 and 2014, and the tourism industry grew about 35 percent between 2009 and 2015. Myanmar's goal is for sustained gross domestic product growth of 7.7 percent per year, which, if achieved, would double the country's GDP in about nine to 10 years. However, the country is still constrained by underdeveloped and fragmented institutions, bureaucratic delays that increase the costs of trade, and underdeveloped quality and

standard infrastructure among others.

"Myanmar's trade is growing fast and still has enormous potential for further growth. The country has a comparative advantage in its significant natural and agricultural resources, untapped labor and a location that shares borders with markets accounting for 40 percent of the world's population," said World Bank Country Manager for Myanmar-Abdoulaye Seck. "Myanmar's reintegration into the global economy presents the country with a unique opportunity to translate this growth in trade into less poverty and more job opportunities, income gains, and shared prosperity for all."

According to the report, three main drivers can ensure inclusive growth: continuing reforms to reduce costs for the private sector to conduct trade; diversifying into sectors with high potential such as light manufacturing, services and sustainable agribusiness to rebalance the economy away from its overdependence on natural resources; developing soft infrastructure reforms to help reap the benefits of hard infrastructure investments by reforming procedures and regulations along with strengthening institutional capacity.

The report emphasizes that trade-related reforms and programs can help reduce poverty and support the peace process. To ensure that everyone benefits from trade, the report recommends that Myanmar address skills shortages, improve access to finance, develop the tourism sector, and connect lagging regions to markets through better infrastructure.—*GNLM*

Clinton campaign hits Trump for seeing Brexit as boon to his business

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton's presidential campaign accused Donald Trump on Sunday of caring more about how Britain's historic vote to leave the European Union would benefit his financial bottom line than how it would impact the US economy.

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook acknowledged parallels between the populist anger and anti-establishment fervour that fuelled the Brexit vote and Trump's rise to the nomination, but said the Republican candidate's reaction showed he was not fit to occupy the White House.

"Hillary Clinton looks at this through the lens of how it's going to affect middle-class families, Donald Trump through the lens of how it will help his bottom line," Mook said on "Fox News Sunday."

Without mentioning Trump by name, Clinton also warned that "bombastic comments in turbulent times can actually cause more turbulence" in a speech to a conference of city mayors in Indianapolis on Sunday afternoon.

Her campaign released a national television advertisement earlier in the day, which featured the wealthy real estate developer's comments on Friday that the fall of the British currency after the Brexit vote could mean more business for his golf course in Turnberry, Scotland, where he was speaking.

"Every president is tested by world events, but Donald Trump



Democratic US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks during a campaign event at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, North Carolina, 22 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

thinks about how his golf resort can profit from them," said the 30-second video.

Besides his currency comments, Trump had praised the Brexit result as an example of people "taking their country back." He responded to the advertisement on Sunday by saying Clinton, whose staff had said she supported the United Kingdom remaining in the union, had poor judgment.

"Clinton is trying to wash away her bad judgment call on BREXIT with big dollar ads," ran a message on his Twitter account. "Disgraceful!"

Paul Manafort, campaign manager for Trump, rejected what he called a "phony" charge by Clinton and said Trump was more

in sync with the global economic frustration exemplified by the Brexit vote. In contrast, the Clinton ad showed her campaign's "tone deafness" by focusing on things the American people did not care about, he said in an NBC interview.

In her speech on Sunday, Clinton said the United States and the United Kingdom were different "economically, politically, demographically," but still drew some parallels between the mood of American and British voters.

"Just as we have seen, there are many frustrated people in Britain, we know there are frustrated people here at home, too," she said. "I have seen it, I've heard it, I know it."—Reuters

EU commissioner urges quick UK action to implement Brexit

BERLIN — Britain should act quickly to leave the European Union, to limit uncertainty that is rattling investors, the European Union's digital economy commissioner said on Monday.

A two-year process to quit the EU will begin when Britain's prime minister invokes Article

50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty. British Prime Minister David Cameron could do that when he meets the EU's other 27 national leaders in Brussels on Tuesday, EU officials have said.

But in the aftermath of Britain's vote to leave the EU, Cameron said on Friday he would

resign in October and that he would leave it to his successor to start the process — a decision criticised by Guenther Oettinger, the EU commissioner for digital economy and society.

"Every day of uncertainty prevents investors from putting their funds into Britain, and also other European markets," Oettinger told the Deutschlandfunk German radio station. "Cameron and his party will cause damage if they wait until October."

Global stock markets lost about \$2 trillion in value on Friday, the day after Britain voted to leave. The pound plunged to a 31-year low.

Oettinger said he doubted that Britain's decision to leave the EU would be reversed. He also urged the remaining EU countries to focus on strengthening the EU and working on real problems, such as the migration crisis, instead of debating contractual changes. Germany should "lead as part of a European team", Oettinger said.—Reuters



Guenther Oettinger, European Commissioner for Digital Economy and Society, speaks during the welcome night at the world's biggest computer and software fair CeBIT in Hanover, Germany, on 14 March, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Italy rescues over 3,300 migrants over weekend

ROME — Italian coastguard and navy ships rescued over 3,300 migrants in 26 separate operations in the Mediterranean over the weekend, a spokesperson for the Italian navy told Reuters on Sunday.

The people were picked up from 25 dinghies and one boat, all north of the Libyan coast, the Coast Guard said in a separate statement.

The navy spokesperson said one adult was found dead and another four injured migrants were transported by helicopter to the nearest hospital, on the island of Lampedusa.

Italy is on the front line of Europe's worst immigration crisis since World War Two, with little sign of any slowdown in the flow of people coming from North Africa.—Reuters

Britain should not be forced out of EU quickly, Polish minister says

WARSAW — Britain should not be forced out of the European Union as quickly as possible, the Polish foreign minister said, adding that the EU should have done more to keep the British in the bloc, after more than four decades of membership.

Witold Waszczykowski's comment came after EU leaders said on Friday they expect Britain to leave soon as possible, "however painful that may be".

"We need a longer reflection," Waszczykowski told Polish state television TVP Info before leaving for Prague to meet his counterparts from central Europe and Germany. "This cannot be hasty action, this cannot consist of forcing Britain out and as fast as possible."

The Polish minister also said EU officials were partly responsible for Britain's vote to quit the EU.—Reuters

A man who carries 22 live star tortoises caught in Singapore: ICA

SINGAPORE — A 49-year-old Singaporean who carried 22 live star tortoises, under the care of the Wildlife Reserves Singapore, were caught by officials from Immigration and Checkpoint Authority (ICA) on 23 June, said ICA and Agri-Food and Veterinary Authority (AVA) in a joint release on Monday.

ICA said a Singapore-registered car driven by the male was referred for further checks upon arrival at the Woodlands Checkpoint at about 1:00 pm on 23 June. ICA officers uncovered 22 live star tortoises kept in a bag, placed amongst other bags of groceries in the car boot during the inspection.

AVA was immediately alerted, and the Singaporean and the tortoises were handed over to the authority, according to the joint release. The Singaporean was assisting AVA with investigations.—Xinhua

Viet Nam to welcome over 4.7 million foreign visitors in H1

HANOI — Viet Nam is expected to welcome some 4.706 million person-times of foreign visitors in the first half (H1) of 2016, up 21.3 per cent year-on-year, according to Viet Nam National Administration of Tourism under the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism on Monday. In June alone, the country is likely to receive 700,446 person-times of international tourists, down 7.5 per cent over May and up 29.8 per cent year-on-year. During six-month period, Vietnamese tourism sector has also welcomed some 32.4 million person-times of domestic visitors.

The country's total tourism revenue in January-June period is estimated to hit around 200.339 trillion Vietnamese dong (over 8.98 billion US dollars), up 22.1 per cent year-on-year, said the administration on its website.—Xinhua

Tabakovic: Financial stability stems from political stability

BELGRADE — Financial stability stems from political stability, National Bank of Serbia (NBS) Governor Jorgovanka Tabakovic said on Monday, adding that the NBS would always react in a way that would deliver results to the citizens.

As a result of the political instability in the UK, the British pound has declined, the shares of Britain's top companies have fallen and orders have been cancelled, she told the RTS.

"If you have political stability in the country, you will also have financial stability, and good assessments will stem from that stability. Those who write reports will take note of macroeconomic stability and highlight the political stability," Tabakovic said.

On the day when the UK voted to leave the EU, the NBS did not react any more than it usually does, or than it did in January, when a major number of foreign investors left Serbia, she said.—Tanjung

Iraqi army closes in on Islamic State militants holed up west of Falluja

FALLUJA, (Iraq) — Iraq's army sought on Monday to eliminate Islamic State militants holed up in farmland west of Falluja to keep them from launching a counterattack on the city a day after Baghdad declared victory over IS there.

Backed by air strikes from a US-led coalition, Iraqi artillery bombarded targets as troops closed in on up to 150 insurgents in areas along the southern bank of the Euphrates river, an army officer participating in the operation said.

The government's recapture of Falluja, an hour's drive west of the capital, was part of a broader offensive against IS, which seized large swathes of Iraq's north and west in 2014 but is now being driven back by an array of forces.

Falluja's recovery lent fresh momentum to the campaign to retake Mosul, Iraq's second largest city and the biggest anywhere in the jihadists' self-proclaimed caliphate and which Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has pledged to retake this year.

Colonel Ahmed al-Saidi, who participated in Monday's advance, said ground forces were moving cautiously to avoid triggering roadside bombs planted by Islamic State.

"They (holed-up militants) have two options: either they surrender or they get killed. We want to prevent them catching their breath and attacking our forces with car bombs."

Saidi said radio intercepts suggested the militants were run-



Iraqi counterterrorism forces gesture in Falluja, Iraq, on 26 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ning out of ammunition and he expected them to fold shortly.

The insurgents mounted limited resistance to Iraqi forces earlier this month inside Falluja before scattering after some commanders abandoned the fight, according to Iraqi officials.

The military's swift advance surprised many who anticipated a protracted battle for Falluja, a bastion of Sunni Muslim insurgency where some of the fiercest fighting of the US occupation of Iraq took place in 2004 against Islamic State's forerunner, al Qaeda.

Control of Falluja is now shared between the army, elite counter-terrorism forces and federal police. Some fighters from Shi'ite Muslim militias, which have held several outlying areas

for months, are also present inside Falluja proper.

The army along with local police are expected to take full control in the coming days, a military source said.

Central districts of Falluja, which in January 2014 became the first Iraqi city to fall to Islamic State, were mostly quiet on Monday as bomb-removal operations along roadways and in buildings began in earnest.

Military sources said the city had been heavily mined by IS but the extent of damage to infrastructure and property could not be assessed easily.

Dozens of buildings across the city have been torched, something blamed by government forces on fleeing militants, though

Reuters could not verify their accounts.

Some officials estimate that as little as 10 per cent of Falluja had been destroyed, comparing that favourably with Ramadi and Sinjar, cities recaptured from Islamic State last year but widely devastated in the process.

A spokesman for the governor of Anbar Province, where Falluja is located, said the worst damage had occurred in the southern industrial district where Islamic State had assembled car bombs used in attacks in Baghdad.

More than 85,000 civilians displaced by the fighting in the past month are waiting in government-run camps to return home; at least twice as many people fled Falluja during IS rule.—Reuters

UNICEF says 25 children reported killed in Syria

BEIRUT — Twenty-five children were reportedly killed in air strikes that hit heavily crowded areas in a town in eastern Syria, the United Nations children's agency (UNICEF) has said.

Quoting reports from its local partners in Syria, UNICEF said health workers were reported to have pulled bodies of children from under rubble in the town of al-Quria in Deir al-Zor province, which is mostly under Islamic State control.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitoring group reported on Saturday that air strikes carried out by Syrian or Russian warplanes killed dozens of people in al-Quria.

Deir al-Zor province links Islamic State's de facto capital in the Syrian city of Raqqa with territory it controls in Iraq.

"Three attacks reportedly hit heavily crowded areas including a mosque during prayer time," UNICEF said in a statement. "UNICEF deplores these attacks and calls on all parties to the conflict to keep children out of harm's way."—Reuters

CIA weapons for Syrian rebels sold to arms black market: NYT

NEW YORK — Weapons shipped into Jordan for Syrian rebels by the Central Intelligence Agency and Saudi Arabia were stolen by Jordanian intelligence operatives and sold to arms merchants on the black market, the *New York Times* reported, citing American and Jordanian officials.

Some of the stolen weapons were used in a shooting in November that killed two Americans and three others at a police training facility in Amman, according to a joint investigation by the *New York Times* and Al Jazeera.

A Jordanian officer shot dead two US government security contractors, a South African trainer and two Jordanians at a US-funded police training facility near Amman before being killed in a shootout, Jordanian authorities had said in November.

The training facility was set

up on the outskirts of the capital, Amman, after the 2003 US invasion of Iraq to help rebuild the shattered country's postwar security forces and to train Palestinian Authority police officers.

The weapons used in the shooting had originally arrived in Jordan for the Syrian rebel training programme, the paper reported, citing American and Jordanian officials.

Theft of the weapons, which ended months ago after complaints by the American and Saudi governments, has led to a flood of new weapons available on the arms black market, the *New York Times* said.

Jordanian officers who were part of the plan "reaped a windfall" from sale of weapons, using the money to buy iPhones, SUVs and other luxury items, according to the paper, which cited Jordanian officials. The CIA could not be immediately reached for comment.—Reuters

Turkish police fire tear gas in Istanbul to disperse Gay Pride activists

ISTANBUL — Turkish police detained 19 people and fired tear gas in central Istanbul on Sunday to disperse dozens of activists attempting to gather to mark the annual Gay Pride week after authorities banned their march.

A German lawmaker and a member of the European Parliament were also briefly detained while police chased activists into side streets and blocked them from gathering and reading out a statement, saying it was banned.

Organisers called off the annual Gay Pride march, carried out largely peacefully since 2003, after authorities did not allow the event to go ahead but deployed hundreds of riot police near the main Taksim square.

Volker Beck, a member of the German Bundestag and a veteran gay rights activist, was among those briefly detained. Two other German citizens were also detained. "They did nothing wrong. They were put into a police car," he told Reuters as police officers once again tried to force him into a taxi telling him he should hold his news conference in his own country.



Riot police, with a rainbow flag in the background, chase LGBT rights activists as they try to gather for a pride parade, which was banned by the governorship, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 26 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

Beck said Turks in Germany freely demonstrated in the streets of Berlin, Hamburg and other German cities for or against the German and Turkish governments. "It is a fair and democratic right in Turkey as well as Germany and I cannot understand that such threatening of an MP can happen in front of the police," he said. The Istanbul governor's office last week said the march had been banned out of concern for public order. Security in the city is already tight after a series of bombings in recent months

blamed on Islamic State and Kurdish militants.

But an ultra-nationalist youth group had also threatened violence if the march went ahead, calling it immoral. While homosexuality is not a crime in Turkey unlike many other Muslim countries, homophobia remains widespread. Critics say President Tayyip Erdogan and the Islamist-rooted AK Party he founded have shown little interest in expanding rights for minorities, gays and women, and are intolerant of dissent.—Reuters

Clash at California capitol leaves at least 10 injured

SACRAMENTO — At least 10 people were injured at a rally outside the California state capitol in Sacramento on Sunday as members of a white supremacist group clashed with counter-protesters, authorities said.

The melee erupted during a rally staged by the Traditionalist Worker Party, described by the Southern Poverty Law Center as a white nationalist extremist group.

One of its leaders, Matt Parrott, said the party had called the demonstration in part to protest against violence that has broken out outside recent rallies by Donald Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee.

The incident may fuel concerns about the potential for violent protests outside the major party conventions in Cleveland and Philadelphia this summer and in the run-up to the 8 November presidential election.

“With the eyes of the world’s media on both Philadelphia and Cleveland, no doubt there will be significant protests,” said



Anti-fascist counter-protestors parade through Sacramento after multiple people were stabbed during a clash between neo-Nazis holding a permitted rally and counter-protestors on Sunday at the state capitol in Sacramento, California, United States, on 26 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Democratic strategist Steve Schale. “The extreme rhetoric, combined with the nonstop media attention, does encourage these kinds

of events.” In Sacramento, when the white supremacists arrived at the capitol building at about noon on Sunday, “counter-protesters im-

mediately ran in - hundreds of people - and they engaged in a fight,” said George Granada, a spokesman for the Capitol Protection Service

division of the California Highway Patrol.

In announcing the counter-protest, a group called Anti-Fascist Action Sacra-

mento said on its website that it had a “moral duty” to deny a platform for “Nazis from all over the West Coast” to voice their views.

“We have a right to self defense. That is why we have to shut them down,” Yvette Felarca, a counter-protester wearing a white bandage on her head, told reporters after the clash. The Sacramento Fire Department said 10 patients were treated at area hospitals for multiple stabbing and laceration wounds.

None of the injuries were life-threatening and there were no immediate reports of arrests, Granada said. The building was placed on lockdown.

Matthew Heimbach, chairman of Traditionalist Worker Party, said his group had expected violence even though it planned a peaceful rally and had a permit.

“We were there to support nationalism. We are white nationalists,” Heimbach told Reuters. “We were there to take a stand.”

Representatives of the Sacramento police could not be reached immediately for further comment.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAREN S VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAREN S VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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Spanish vote delivers more uncertainty for Europe after Brexit

MADRID — Spanish elections delivered a hung parliament for the second time in six months on Sunday, adding to political uncertainty in Europe after last week’s shock Brexit vote and piling intense pressure on Spain’s warring politicians to form a government.

Acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy’s center-right People’s Party (PP) again emerged with the single biggest bloc of seats but fell short of a majority, leaving the euro zone’s fourth-largest economy at risk of another lengthy political stalemate or even of a third general election.

The PP was the only major party to increase its share of seats from December’s inconclusive poll, sapping the power of a wave of new parties which had fed on years of deep recession and public anger over corruption scandals within the major parties.

“We have won the elections,” Rajoy told hundreds of cheering supporters outside PP headquarters in Madrid late on Sunday.

“We claim our right to govern.”

The PP won 137 seats, up from 123 in December but short of the 176 needed for an outright majority.

Spain now enters another round of backroom talks to see which parties can form a governing coalition, a task that eluded them despite months of negotiations following the December vote.

It was unclear whether Britain’s vote to leave the EU, which hit financial markets in indebted Spain particularly hard, led more people to vote for the conservative PP. However, the uncertainty and confusion sweeping Europe in the wake of Brexit will pressure politicians to reach a deal quickly. Among the hundreds of people cheering Rajoy and other party leaders on Sunday, waving blue party flags and red and yellow Spanish flags, there were some more cautious PP supporters. “Whether we have a government or not will depend on what the left wants. Without a majority it’s hard to do anything,” said Raul Quintana, a 42-year-old concierge from Toledo.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO ()

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

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Air pollution to kill millions more without change of energy policy

LONDON — Premature deaths from air pollution will continue to rise to 2040 unless changes are made to the way the world uses and produces energy, the International Energy Agency said on Monday.

Around 6.5 million deaths globally are attributed each year to poor air quality inside and outside, making it the world's fourth-largest threat to human health, behind high blood pressure, dietary risks and smoking.

Harmful pollutants such as particulate matter - which can contain acids, metals, soil and dust particles - sulfur oxides and nitrogen oxides, are responsible for the most widespread effects of air pollution.

Tiny particulate matter can cause lung cancer, strokes and heart disease over the long term, as well as trigger symptoms such as heart attacks that kill more rapidly.

The release of these

pollutants is mainly due to the unregulated or inefficient production and use of energy, the IEA said in a special report on energy and air pollution.

Without action, premature deaths attributable to outdoor air pollution will increase to 4.5 million in 2040 from around 3 million currently. Premature deaths due to household air pollution however, should fall to 2.9 million from 3.5 million.

Asia will account for almost 90 per cent of the rise in deaths.

Even though global emissions are forecast to decline overall to 2040, existing and planned energy policies will not be enough to improve air quality, the report said.

"Without changes to the way that the world produces and uses energy, the ruinous toll from air pollution on human life is set to rise," the IEA said.

Harmful greenhouse



A woman wearing a mask stands by the side of a street amid heavy smog in Tianjin, China, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

gas emissions should continue to fall in industrialised countries and recent signs of decline in China should continue, but emissions are set to rise in India, southeast Asia and Africa as energy demand growth dwarfs efforts to improve air quality.

New energy and air quality policies can deliver cleaner air, however, such as access to clean cook stoves and fuels to replace inefficient biomass stoves; strictly enforced emissions standards for road trans-

port; controlling emissions and switching fuels in the power sector and more energy efficiency in industry.

These measures could ensure global emissions of particulate matter fall by 7 per cent, sulfur dioxide by 20 per cent and nitrogen oxides by 10 per cent to 2040.

As a result, premature deaths from outdoor pollution would fall to 2.8 million in 2040 and from household air pollution to 1.3 million, the report said.—Reuters

Firefighters make some headway in deadly California blaze

SOUTH LAKE, (Calif.) — Firefighters have begun to contain a wildfire in central California that has killed at least two people and destroyed 200 structures, fire officials said on Sunday, as six other blazes burned in the state in an already intense wildfire season.

The fire known as Erskine, about 110 miles (180 km) north of Los Angeles, smoldered over a wide area on Sunday after melting steel and reducing homes to ash in an intense conflagration on Thursday and Friday.

The Erskine fire was 10 percent contained after charring 36,810 acres, or nearly 60 square miles, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) said, adding it was expected to be contained by Thursday.

California Governor Jerry Brown declared a state of emergency for Kern County. In addition to the 200 destroyed structures, 75 homes have been damaged. c"Two fatalities have been confirmed. Additional fatalities are possible due to the extreme fire behavior during the initial hours of the incident," the

Kern County Fire Department said in a statement on Sunday. Investigators were studying a third set of charred remains to determine whether they were human.

More than 1,700 firefighters were working on the fire at the southern end of the Sierra Nevada range. Hundreds of people from more than 10 communities were evacuated as Erskine spread rapidly on Thursday and Friday as winds drove it south and east from the Lake Isabella reservoir.

"I got out just as the flames were at my back fence," said Terralyn Lehman, who is staying at a campground with her mother and her dog after their home in South Lake was destroyed.

She and her mother were awoken by the sound of a propane tank exploding. Lehman said her mother told her "'grab your dog and go.' So I did." Crews worked in steep, rugged terrain, fighting flames fueled by hot weather and brush, grass and chaparral left bone dry by a five-year drought. Helicopters and air tankers were also in action.—Reuters



Burned residences line a neighborhood following the Erskine Fire in South Lake, California, US, on 26 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY NO ()

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

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TRANG AN 07 VOY NO (01-2016)

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MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (117N)

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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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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DEL SOL VOY NO (035)

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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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Roster of top stars honour Prince at annual BET awards



Musician Sheila E. holds a Prince-styled guitar after she performed a medley of songs during her tribute to the artist at the 2016 BET Awards in Los Angeles, California, US, June 26, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Stars paid tribute to the late singer Prince at Sunday's Black Entertainment Television awards in a series of performances honouring the late singer, while veteran actor Samuel L. Jackson was honoured for lifetime achievement.

The tributes came from entertainers ranging from Erykah Badu and the Roots to Stevie Wonder, Dave Chapelle and Jennifer Hudson, who sang one of Prince's most iconic hits, "Purple Rain." Prince, 57, died in April at his

home in Minnesota.

The string of performances spanned the more-than three and one-half hour BET broadcast, which was hosted by Tracee Ellis Ross and Anthony Anderson from Los Angeles' Microsoft Theater.

Boxer Muhammad Ali, who died earlier this month aged 74, was also honored in a special tribute which included his daughter, Laila and Oscar-winning actor Jamie Foxx.

Jackson, accepting BET's Lifetime Achievement Award

which usually honors musicians, paid tribute to fellow honoree Jesse Williams, who received the Humanitarian Award, calling the "Grey's Anatomy" star "the closest thing I've heard to a 1960s activist." Top awards handed out at the ceremony included best actor and actress to Michael Jordan and Taraji Henson respectively, while Bryson Tiller was named best new artist as well as best male R&B pop artist. Rihanna took best female R&B pop artist.

Drake & Future won best

group, Beyonce's "Formation" took the award for video of the year, and Drake, who led the nominations with nine, also took home the prize for best male hip-hop artist. Nicki Minaj won best female hip-hop artist.

Sportswoman and sportsman of the year went to Serena Williams and Stephen Curry.

Beyonce also opened the marathon show with a surprise performance of "Freedom," appearing alongside Kendrick Lamar.—Reuters

Samuel L Jackson receives Lifetime Achievement Award at BET

LOS ANGELES — Veteran actor Samuel L Jackson was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award at BET 2016.

The legendary actor was presented with the award by director Spike Lee, who called him "one of the greatest actors on this god's planet" and "the hardest-working man in show business," reported E! online.

The 67-year-old actor thanked god, his family and close friends for their support throughout his career.

"A young man who grew up in segregated Tennessee that nobody ever told I could be this. So, here I am and who you are, and thank God for that...The other two people that challenged me on a regular basis are my foundation and support, my daughter Zoe and my wife LaTanya.

"The two women that actually found me passed out on the floor after I left somebody's bachelor party and put me in rehab the next day. And supported me and pushed me and give me a reason to get up and go and chase it day after day after day," Jackson said.

The Academy award nominee, most famous for his roles in "Pulp Fiction," "Django Unchained" and "Jurassic Park," has joined the lifetime honoree hall of fame which include Whitney Houston, Prince and Lionel Richie.—PTI

'Finding Dory' drowns out disappointing 'Independence Day: Resurgence'

LOS ANGELES — "Finding Dory" showed plenty of box office staying power with \$73.2 million in an otherwise modest weekend at the North America box office as "Independence Day: Resurgence" invaded with a disappointing \$41.6 million.

A week after energizing the summer season, Disney/Pixar's "Finding Dory" declined only 46% and generated the eighth-highest second weekend of all time, edging "Captain America: Civil War." It's also the best second weekend for an animated title.

"Finding Dory," the sequel to 2003's "Finding Nemo," is already the sixth-highest domestic grosser of 2016 after ten days with \$285.6 million — less than \$100 million short of the final total for "Nemo."

Fox's "Independence Day: Resurgence" finished about 20% below recent forecasts, which had pegged the sequel to match the \$50 million opening

weekend from the 1996 original. It edged "Kung Fu Panda 2" as the eighth-largest opening of 2016.

"Resurgence" brought back the same fearsome aliens from the original, again bent on destroying the Earth. Will Smith, who broke out in the original, did not return to battle the invaders although Bill Pullman, Vivica Fox and Jeff Goldblum reprised their characters with newcomers Liam Hemsworth and Jessie Usher coming on board.

Attendees were 58% male with 64% over 25. "Resurgence" generated a B Cinemascore. Roland Emmerich returned to the director's chair to helm the \$165 million tentpole, which will require strong performances from international markets to become profitable. "Resurgence" took in \$102 million from 57 markets in a day-and-date rollout for much of the world.—Reuters

Muddy Glastonbury mourns Brexit but awaits British pride, Adele

GLASTONBURY, (England) — Mud-covered revelers at Britain's Glastonbury festival were in high spirits as the second day of music got under way on Saturday, with British star Adele's performance keenly awaited though many were still mourning Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

The music and performing arts festival, held at the Worthy dairy farm in Somerset, southwestern England, is known for its wet weather and "wellie"-wearing fans, who trudge through the farm's muddy fields in rubber boots and hope desperately to return to find tents still dry, and where they left them.

This year's event has proved to be no exception. Though sunshine did sometimes pierce the clouds, rain poured down for long periods on Friday and Saturday, and more showers were expected on Sunday.

International super-



Singer Adele performs on The Pyramid stage at Worthy Farm in Somerset during the Glastonbury Festival, Britain, on 25 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

star Adele, 28, known for her chart-topping hits on heartbreak such as "Someone like you" and "Rolling in the Deep", forms part of an all-British line-up of headliners at this year's festival.

Rock band Muse took the

final slot on the main Pyramid stage on Friday night, putting on a visual spectacle for a crowd of almost 75,000. Fellow British rockers Coldplay top the bill on Sunday.

Adele, who collected four Brit awards earlier this year, and last month was named songwriter of the year at Britain's Ivor Novello awards, last performed at Glastonbury in 2007, but not on the main stage.

"I am so excited. I think there's set to be some teary moments because she's just special, isn't she?" said 24-year-old fan Helena. "I feel like it's going to be a powerful performance."

Many of the young revelers said they were still upset over Britain's referendum decision to leave the EU, revealed in the early hours of Friday morning when most at the festival were still asleep. Surveys indicated that the vast majority of young voters had been in favor of staying in the EU.—Reuters

Chinese Embassy in Argentina holds 1st Chinese singing contest

BUENOS AIRES — The Chinese Embassy in Argentina on Saturday hosted its first Chinese singing competition here, in a bid to stimulate local interest in Chinese culture.

Eighty people have competed in previous rounds of the match that have been supported by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Thirteen of them have made it to the final, which will be held on 10 September in a famous theater known for its tango shows in Buenos Aires. Yang Chuanying, the



Contestant Federico Chieu sings a Chinese song during the contest "Sing in Chinese" at the Chinese Embassy to Argentina in Buenos Aires, capital of Argentina, on June 25, 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

embassy's cultural attache, said the event was held to deepen understanding of Chinese music and language among the Argentine people and develop mutual understanding

and friendship between the two nations. "We are very happy and satisfied with the wide participation of contestants coming from various provinces," said Yang.—Xinhua

China city shuts down waste burning plant over protests

BEIJING — A city in central China is shutting down a waste incineration project, it said, after thousands of people protested against the plant over fears it will damage the environment and residents' health.

Photos posted on social media, which could not be verified by Reuters, showed dozens of riot police marching in the city of Xiantao, located in Hubei province in central China.

About 10,000 people protested in Xiantao on Sunday, the state-backed Global Times reported, citing a local resident, even after the local government said it planned to suspend the project on Sunday morning. Another resident told Reuters by phone on

Monday that the protests continued, and several protesters were injured in clashes with riot police.

"There are hundreds of police here because of the demonstrations," said the resident, who declined to give his name because of the sensitivity of the matter.

The city government called on residents to refrain from taking "extreme actions" and spreading rumours in a statement on its official microblog. Tens of thousands of "mass incidents" — the usual euphemism for protests — happen in China each year, spurred by grievances over issues such as corruption, pollution and illegal land grabs, unnerving the stability-obsessed ruling Communist Party.—Reuters

Seven including ex-cop, dentist nabbed over dental fee fraud

OSAKA — The Osaka prefectural police on Monday arrested a former police officer, a dentist and five others on suspicion of dental fee fraud.

The Osaka prefectural police also obtained arrest warrants for five more suspects in the case in

which Sakuji Konno, a 56-year-old former Osaka prefectural police officer and president of a security service company, are suspected of having led the others in fraudulently obtaining a total of around 3.6 million yen (\$35,300).

Konno, Koichiro Kagawa, 45, a dentist and director of a medical corporation in the city of Tokushima, western Japan, that operates dental clinics, and five others were arrested on suspicion of conspiring to fabricate the treatment of four patients at

a dental clinic in Osaka between July and August last year, and receiving a total of around 140,000 yen.

Konno, who was mainly involved with investigating crime syndicate at the prefectural police, left his position after being

reprimanded over receiving improper wining and dining in 2002, the police said. He became acquainted with Kagawa last year in connection with insurance claim problems and is believed to have been involved in the management of the clinics.—Kyodo News

Safety test carried on world's longest and highest glass bridge

CHANGSHA — A 2-tonne truck was driven onto the world's longest and highest glass bridge in Zhangjiajie, Hunan Province in central China, on Sunday in a safety test ahead of its slated opening in July.

The 430-metre bridge tucked between two steep cliffs is 300 meters above the ground.

To further convince the public of the bridge's sturdiness, 20 volunteers to used hammers to try to smash the glass, before an all-terrain vehicle carried 11 volunteers across the cracking glass. Another team of 10 volunteers then tried again to

smash the glass. Despite some fractures on the surface, the glass did not break.

The bridge is made of three layers of the tempered glass, all together 99 pieces, each of 3 by 4.5 metres and 15 mm thick. Damaged pieces can be removed and changed.

The unique pillar-like mountain formation in Zhangjiajie appeared in the Hollywood blockbuster movie "Avatar."

The Grand Canyon Scenic Area in Zhangjiajie received more than 1.2 million visitors from home and abroad in 2015.—Xinhua



An aerial photo taken on 17 May, 2016 shows the construction site of a glass bridge at the Grand Canyon of Zhangjiajie National Forest Park, central China's Hunan Province. The 430-metre-long, 6-metre-wide bridge is expected to be put into a trial operation in May. The structure has undergone nearly 100 safety tests to ensure that it can support the weight of 800 people. PHOTO: XINHUA



Entertainment Channel

(28-6-2016, Tuesday)

06 : 00 pm	• MRTV Entertainment Music
• Weather Report	
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	09 : 00 pm
06 : 20 pm	• Life In NightArt In Life (Part-2)
• Cartoon Programme	09 : 50 pm
“ Bee Movie ” (Part-1)	• International Movie Songs
07 : 10 pm	10 : 00 pm
• International Drama Series	• Myanmar Video
07 : 40 pm	Midnight
• International Drama Series	• Close Down.
08 : 50 pm	

From 28-6-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm
To 29-6-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(28-6-2016 07:00am ~ 29-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Rakhine Tourist Area
07:56	Am	Goldsmith
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	School For the Blind (Kye Myin Dine)
08:51	Am	Inspiration
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Choral Dance (Duel)
09:34	Am	Choral Dance By Female Dancers
09:42	Am	Prawn Breeding Industry
09:49	Am	Today Myanmar: Squatter Issue in Yangon
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Gardener: King Orange Plantation
10:39	Am	Paper Products... Plain but Pretty

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
07:51	Pm	Writer
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes Pre Kayaw: Their Life and Customs (Part- II)
08:52	Pm	Great Minds Of Myanmar - U Kyaw Win (Anthropologist)

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

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Chile coach rejoices after beating 'the best'

EAST RUTHERFORD, (New Jersey) — Chile coach Juan Antonio Pizzi took great pride in steering his country to victory in Sunday's Copa America final against a team he believes to be the best side in the world with the best player in history.

The 4-2 penalty shootout victory was the second in a row for Chile, who also triumphed over world number one Argentina and their lynchpin Lionel Messi after a 0-0 stalemate in last year's final at home in Santiago.

"It's always very hard to predict when a match is going to be decided by penalty kicks," Pizzi, who took over the fifth-ranked Chileans in January, told reporters.

"Both last year and this year we ended up winning, but I think it speaks to the parity between both lineups, both teams and the mutual respect we have for each and surely it will go on that way."

"Now we're going to enjoy ourselves."

Pizzi said he was proud of the way his team rose to the occasion to overcome the star-studded Argentine side and Messi, who missed a penalty in the shootout and then announced he was retiring from international football.

"Before them today was the number one team in the world,



Chile celebrates after winning the championship match of the 2016 Copa America Centenario soccer tournament against Argentina at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, NJ, USA, on 26 June. Chile defeated Argentina 0-0 (4-2). PHOTO: REUTERS

with the best players in the world and the best player in history," he said.

Argentina coach Gerardo Martino, whose side failed to end their 23-year title drought in major international competitions, was understandably downbeat but

said his team must have the resilience to come back from disappointment.

"We really had high hopes but are leaving empty handed," he said.

"Regarding today's match, Argentina should

have won in 90 minutes. And should have won in extra time and we were not able to win.

"Really, it is not easy to explain, because there are situations we can explain football-wise and other situations that can be explained, if you will,

talking about our luck.

"Next time ... we have to come and do it. They represent the national team and feel pride in wearing the national jersey and it's there that they find the will to really foster hope again." — Reuters

Hazard inspires Belgium to 4-0 defeat of Hungary

TOULOUSE, (France) -- Belgium captain Eden Hazard produced an inspired performance, including a fine solo goal, to lead his side to a resounding 4-0 victory over Hungary at Euro 2016 on Sunday and set up a quarter-final clash with Wales.

Hazard, who has finally burst into life at the tournament after a disappointing club season with Chelsea, set up one goal and scored another as Toby Alderweireld, Michy Batshuayi and Yannick Carrasco completed a comfortable victory.

"If he's feeling good, he's the best in the world," Belgium goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois said of Hazard. "The only thing we might have done better was kill the match off earlier."

Belgium dominated the opening stages and took the lead after 10 minutes when Kevin De Bruyne swung an inviting cross into the box where centre back Alderweireld rose at the far post to power a header past

keeper Gabor Kiraly.

Substitute Batshuayi tapped home Hazard's low cross with 12 minutes remaining shortly after coming on before the Belgium skipper cut inside Hungary's box and rifled home a superb low strike for the third, with Carrasco grabbing a late fourth.

"It was an almost perfect match," said Hazard. "We scored early and pressed very high up the field. It was what the fans want and what we call a real football match."

"As a team I feel we were really solid today. We made a lot of chances and didn't

give them too many," he added.

Hungary coach Bernd Storck praised Belgium's performance. "We've never played against such a good team," he said.

The Hungarians, who lost key midfielder Lazlo Kleinheisler to injury in the warm-up, ceded the initiative early as Belgium found space and set the tone for a one-sided half. De Bruyne has improved significantly after being criticised by coach Marc Wilmots and was again at the heart of much that was good about Belgium's play. — Reuters



Eden Hazard. PHOTO: REUTERS

Messi retires from internationals after Chile retain Copa

EAST RUTHERFORD, (New Jersey) — Lionel Messi blasted a penalty over the bar in what looks like his last act in international football as Chile beat Argentina in a shootout to win the Copa America for the second year in a row on Sunday.

Messi cut a dejected figure after losing his fourth Copa America final, and fifth major final after Argentina's loss to Germany at the 2014 World Cup, and said after the match he was retiring from the international game.

"In the dressing room I thought that this is the end for me with the national team, it's not for me," the 29-year-old forward said.

"I tried so hard to be champion with Argentina. Now I am leaving without having managed it."

The two sides were deadlocked 0-0 after 90 minutes and also after another half an hour of extra time in a match where both teams were reduced to 10 men in the first half.

For the second year in a row, therefore, the two teams faced off in shootout to decide who would take the biggest prize in South American soccer.

It started well for Argentina when their goalkeeper Sergio Romero got down to block Arturo Vidal's opening penalty but Messi blasted over and Lucas Biglia's spot kick was saved by Chilean goalkeeper Bravo Claudio.

Substitute Francisco Silva took Chile's fifth penalty and struck it low and to the right of Romero to give his country their second successive title after winning their first on home soil last year. — Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS