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RAID SAVED CITIZENS

Nineteen Myanmar nationals rescued from traffickers in Thailand

A total of 19 Myanmar nationals have been rescued from human traffickers off the coast of Thailand's southern Pattani district, which borders Malaysia to the south, on 10 July in a joint operation between Thai police and the Myanmar Association in Thailand (MAT).

The Myanmar nationals all originated from Mon State's Thanbyuzayat Township, being

human trafficked via Dawei and Kawthaung in Tanintharyi Region to fishing vessels that ply coastal waters of Pattani district, according to MAT.

A 30-year-old woman who is believed to be the broker for the trafficking in persons is also arrested in the raid.

Among the victims, one is a 13-year-old boy from Thanbyuzayat, Mon State.

"The cases of human trafficking involving Myanmar nationals are happening at jetties in Thailand. So, the government of Myanmar should start to draw a project to save victims of human trafficking," said U Kyaw Thaug, a member of the board of directors of MAT.

According to MAT, local anti-trafficking in persons unit in Thanbyuzayat Township informed

the MAT that local people in Thanbyuzayat were lured to Thailand by a suspect by prospect of jobs.

"The brokers lied to them, telling them they were to be taken Bangkok before taking them to the port, where they were locked up. They were forbidden from going outside. Some of the adolescents managed to make contact with their families and ask them for help. We then received a call

from Myanmar police requesting our assistance with the matter. We then joined forces with Thai police to free them from potential slavery," explained Ko Sai Aye from MAT.

The 19 victims of human trafficking ranged in age from 19 to 35 years and have reportedly been temporarily held in Pattani police station.

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U Henry Van Thio talks development tasks, disaster preparedness plans for Sagaing Region, Chin State

VICE President 2 U Henry Van Thio inspected Myittha river-crossing bridge and the progress of dredging operations at narrow sections of the river yesterday, as well as presenting relief to 48 households affected by flash flooding in Kalewa Township.

After hearing reports on the progress of the Chindwin Bridge (Kalewa) construction project and upgrading of road sections and bridges on Kalewa-Kyee-kon-Tamu road, U Henry Van Thio called for the bridge to meet international standards.

The Chindwin Bridge, in Kalewa is to be completed by March 2017 and is 70 per cent complete already.

U Henry Van Thio wants projects to benefit the country and local people, calling for further feasibility studies in coop-



Vice President 2 U Henry Van Thio inspects relief aid including tents and boats at the township stadium in Kalay. PHOTO: MNA

eration with foreign experts for constructing two more dams upstream of Manipura dam to generate up to 1,000 megawatts.

Upon completion of the ongoing project, local people will have access to irrigated water,

contributing towards their socio-economic development. The project aims to benefit 80,000 acres of farmland.

During his stay in Kalay, U Henry Van Thio inspected preventive measures against riv-

erbank erosion in Myauk-see village and held talks with local people on education and health matters, also visiting Kalay township stadium where relief aid including tents and boats are kept for natural disasters.

Next, he met with region/district/ township departmental staff in Kalay Station Hall and held discussions on regional development undertakings and disaster preparedness plans.—*Myanmar News Agency*

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Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets with lawmakers in Sagaing Region

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint met with lawmakers at the Sagaing Regional Hluttaw yesterday, calling for them to do their best for the country during their term in office.

In his address, U Win Myint stressed the need to act in accordance with parliamentary rules and regulations and restrictions when submitting proposals and raising questions.

It is required to comply with the Constitution, government policies and desires of the people when submitting bills, added the Speaker, calling for constructive suggestions with accurate facts and figures and discussions covering the main theme.

U Win Myint called on Hluttaw representatives to represent the people of their constituencies in a dutiful way and to respond



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint speaks at meeting with lawmakers in Sagaing Region. PHOTO: MNA

to the needs of voters to the best of their abilities, stressing the need to avoid abuse of power, threats and bribes. U Win Myint answered questions raised by parliamentarians on submission

of bill and regional development undertakings. The meeting was attended by Pyithu, Amyotha and Region Hluttaw representatives in Sagaing Region.—*Myanmar News Agency*

National Reconciliation and Peace Center formed

The President's Office formed the "National Reconciliation and Peace Center" with the release of Order 50/2016 yesterday. The following is the full translation of the Order.

Republic of the Union of Myanmar
President's Office
Order 50/2016
7th Waxing of Waso, 1378 ME
(11 July, 2016)

Formation of National Reconciliation and Peace Center

1. In order to set necessary policies and guidelines for ensuring the successful implementation of national reconciliation and peace process, the NRPC is formed with the following persons:

(a) State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi	Chairperson
(b) Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe	Vice Chairman 1
(c) Dr Tin Myo Win, Chairman of Preparatory Committee for Union Peace Conference-21 st Century Panglong	Vice Chairman 2
(d) Union Minister for Border Affairs, Lt-Gen Ye Aung	Member
(e) Union Minister for Ethnic Affairs, Nai Thet Lwin	Member
(f) Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo	Member
(g) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae	Member
(h) Lt-Gen Min Naung	Member
(i) U Khun Maung Thaug (Pinlaung Constituency)	Member
(j) Daw Shila Nan Taung (a) Daw M Nan Taung (Kachin State Constituency 2)	Member
(k) Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tin	Secretary
2. Functions and duties of the National Reconciliation and Peace Center are as follows:-
 - (a) to set policies and guidelines needed for national reconciliation process,
 - (b) to set policies and guidelines needed for internal peace process,
 - (c) to set policies for coordination with local and foreign donors, governments, international nongovernmental organizations and international institutions regarding assistance to national reconciliation and peace processes,
 - (d) to lead and lay down guidelines paving the way to participation of the government, Hluttaw, Tatmadaw, ethnic organizations and ethnic armed groups, civil society organizations, international community and donors and local and foreign experts from various sectors in national reconciliation and peace processes,
 - (e) to seek ways and means for turning the Republic of the Union of Myanmar into a Democratic Federal Union, and
 - (f) to release procedures and directives needed for implementation of functions of the National Reconciliation and Peace Center-NRPC.
3. The NRPC shall form and appoint technical board and support team in order to ensure successful implementation of national reconciliation and peace processes in accord with rules and regulations.

Sd/ Htin Kyaw
President
Republic of the Union of Myanmar

People are key to implementing development

PEOPLE are the key to development of the country, said Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, calling for cooperation and participation of the people in the government's efforts to develop the nation.

Mahn Win Khaing Than highlighted the importance of mass participation at a meeting involving parliamentarians, political parties, ward/village administrators, social organizations and local people in Kyonyaw, Ayeyawady Region.

In his address, Mahn Win Khaing Than said that the Parliament has carried out enactment of new laws while abolishing and fixing some laws upholding the interest of the people, stressing the need to be patient and persistent as there is no overnight success.

Only when peace is prevailing will the nation develop, added Mahn Win Khaing Than.

Mahn Win Khaing Than invited local people to submit their written complaints and grievances with correct information to Public Complaints Committee which was, formed in Parliament and to him as well.

Mahn Win Khaing Than called for cooperation and coordination between the people and parliamentarians who are responsible to fulfill the people's desires in accordance with the laws in implementation of regional undertakings.

Next, Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Mahn Johnnie and officials elaborated on progress in development matters followed by a question and answer session.

Mahn Win Khaing Than later went to Yaykyi where he held talks with responsible persons of political parties and social organizations, officials concerned and local people.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomed by lawmakers in Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: MNA

Sixty Cases of human trafficking exposed in the first half of 2016

NEARLY 60 human trafficking cases were exposed by Myanmar's Trafficking in Persons Division within the first half of this year and 98 traffickers were arrested but 67 others are on the lamb.

Authorities uncovered 60 cases between January and June this year and police rescued nearly 130 victims who were sold into forced labour and forced marriage in neighbouring countries.

Shan State is the highest

cases in the country, followed by Kachin State and Yangon.

Other Regions and States have fewer than six cases but there are no reports of human trafficking cases in the capital Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region this year.

Myanmar is regarded as a 'third tier' country set by the United State's State Department, meaning it is a country that does very little to prevent human trafficking and assist victims.—*GNLM*



Vice President 1 U Myint Swe visits 2016 World Population Day in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Young women to shape the future

VICE President 1 U Myint Swe marked 2016 World Population Day by saying that investing in girls and young women will help create a better future for the country. He focused on access to education, job creation, health care and social security.

Union Minister U Thein Swe stressed the need for heightening awareness of anti-human trafficking and reproductive health education among young women, pointing out that woman population accounts for 40 per cent of the population aged 15-39 that accounts for 83 per cent of the to-

tal population working in foreign countries.

Next, Ms. Janet E. Jackson, resident representative of the UNFPA Myanmar, spoke on the occasion with a video presentation of 'Investing in teenage girls'.

Then U Thein Swe presented awards to winners of an essay contest in commemoration of the 2016 World Population Day. After the ceremony, U Myint Swe and party observed documentary photos of the World Population Day.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Forming of Hluttaw Committee aims to resolve Tanintharyi Region's farmland disputes

DAW Yi Yi Cho, chair of the Tanintharyi Regional Hluttaw's Promises, Appeals and Complaints Receiving Committee, has stated a Farmland Grievances Resolution Committee is to be formed in order to handle the resolution of farmland related grievances within the region.

A number of the complaints received by the committee are currently in the process of being resolved, while speaker of the Hluttaw, together with concerned ministers, will reportedly hold talks for the formation of the aforementioned resolution committee.

"Land grievances aren't the

same as other issues. It's difficult to handle problems that concern government departments, private companies and entrepreneurs. That's why these matters will only be handled once a committee has been formed," said Daw Yi Yi Cho.

Hluttaw MPs from the Yangoon Regional Hluttaw Farmland Grievances Resolution Committee will reportedly assist the Tanintharyi Regional Hluttaw Committee by lecturing its members on their experiences in order to find resolutions.

"Concerned authorities play a role in negotiations for some

farmland grievances between private parties, those of companies and local residents. Farmland issues that are related to state projects and government departments, however, can't yet be resolved though," added Daw Yi Yi Cho.

The Complaints Receiving Committee currently has 140 complaints to process, the majority of which are relating farmland, while the committee is working to resolve only farmland disputes related to individual ownership and matters associated with municipal committees.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



A Himalayan bear is seen in a cage on the way to Mandalay Zoo.

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Mandalay-Myitkyina SE train fares reduced by 22 %

MANDALAY-Myitkyina train fares are to be reduced by 22 per cent on average starting from 11th July, it is learnt from Myanmar Railway Divisional 3 (Traffic). The reduction of train fares is due to the decline in passengers along the route.

"Express trains are more comfortable for passengers and the time table of express trains remains unchanged," said U Nyein Maung, the Mandalay railway station master.

The express train fares will be reduced by Ks5,000 on average: from Ks22,500 to Ks17,000 for upper class sleepers, Ks18,000 to Ks13,000 for upper class seaters and Ks9,200 to Ks6,200 for ordinary classes.

There are six Mandalay-Myitkyina trains running between the two cities.—*Aung Thant Khaing*



Mandalay-Myitkyina train is seen at Mandalay Station before departing for Myitkyina. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Passenger truck overturns, injuring all on board in Nay Pyi Taw

A Dyna truck ferrying staff from the Union Office of the Supreme Court overturned in Nay Pyi Taw Ottarathiri Township yesterday, injuring the driver and 27 staff on board.

According to police, all 27 passengers on board sustained no life-threatening injuries and were sent to Nay Pyi Taw Hospital after the incident. Sources said that the Dyna truck skidded off the

road while taking a turn in front of the Ministry of Construction. Ottarathiri Township police station has opened a case against the driver for dangerous driving.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Illegally bred Himalayan bears sent to Mandalay Zoo

FOUR Himalayan bears bred at a home in Lashio township have been sent to the Mandalay Zoological Gardens by the Department of Forestry, while charges have been pressed against the bears' captors.

The bears were confiscated and forwarded to the zoo in Myanmar's former Royal capital after they were discovered in the home of U Hla Thein.

"We saw news posted online over the last few days so we knew the owner would hand over the bears. Officials from our department visited the local village heads and inspected and discovered the bears. They were then sent to Mandalay's Yadanarpon

Zoological Gardens on 8 July," said U Kyaw Myo Min, an official from the Department of Forestry for Lashio Township.

In order to breed wild animals legally, one must follow procedural regulations of concerned departments by obtaining a permit. The bears in question must not be pet animals. The owner reportedly also purchased them on the black market.

An adult, one large cub and two newly born cubs - have been bred illegally. Legal charges will be pressed against the captors under Article 35(c) of the Protection of Wildlife and Protected Areas Law.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Nineteen Myanmar nationals rescued from traffickers in Thailand

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"The broker came to collect me from my house. When I asked what work I'd be doing, he replied that it would be in a factory. They said I'd receive THB8,500 as well as food and board. It was with these promises that we fol-

lowed the broker," said Ko Aye Chan, one of the human trafficking victims from Thanbyuzayay Township. The MAT has reportedly rescued 8,000 victims from human traffickers over their 12 years.—*Soe Win with Myitmakha News Agency*

Domestic real estate market likely to be active within second half of year

NEW CONSTRUCTION projects are expected to cool Myanmar's property market, according to an expert from iMyanmarHouse.com, also saying that current house prices could drop more, depending on government policies for development of low-and-middle-income families.

"Currently, both buyers and sellers are monitoring the cooling market," he added. "Land price is expected to drop off in the future as the government is now implementing urban development projects."

U Kyaw Lin, director of

Ever Lucky Construction Co, said that the property market is estimated to grow over the next four years as the government has increased local property tax rates in April this year.

Authorities have established housing projects in both Yangon and Mandalay as well as in capital Nay Pyi Taw. After completing the project, low-income civil servants will have a chance to buy an apartment through an installment system.

Room, house, land and apartment prices have skyrocketed as of late 2014.

—Zar Zar



A housing estate being seen in Mandalay. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

Religious population data to be released this month

THE OFFICIAL religious population data from the 2014 census will finally be released on 21 July with the ethnic population data to be released five months later, according to a spokesperson from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

The report said that the data will be used to assist universities, research centres, civil society

organisations, development partners and the government to develop policies and programmes for Myanmar society.

The nationwide population and housing census conducted by the MoIP with technical support from UNFPA between 30 March and 10 April 2014. Since then, the ministry has issued the results to the public after each stage of

analysis is complete.

The MoIP released the main results of the census last year.

According to the latest census, Myanmar has an estimated population of 51.4 million including over 25 million men and over 26 million women. The gender ratio shows 93 males for every 100 females. The census found that 70% of the population

lives in rural areas. It shows that 2 million people are living outside Myanmar in neighbouring countries, with half of those from the eastern states of Mon, Kayin and Shan. Up to 70% of those living abroad are in Thailand, followed by Malaysia, China, Singapore and the US. The country's first-ever nationwide census was taken in 1973 and the second

in 1983.

Myanmar is a multi-religious country. Among the different faiths including Christianity, Islam and Hinduism, Theravada Buddhism is practiced by the majority of citizens.

The previous government delayed releasing the results due to rising hate speech against Muslim communities.—YCDC

Crime NEWS

Illegal weapons seized in Bago Region

HIGHWAY police in Bago Region stopped a suspicious car and uncovered a cache of illegal weapons on Saturday. A pistol and live ammunition was amongst the weapons.

The man arrested was not only caught with the weapons but was unable to prove that he owned the vehicle. Action is being taken against the suspect by the police who are investigating the case.—District IPRD



The illegal weapons seized being seen.

20,000 yaba tablets seized in Mandalay Region, Shan State

YET AGAIN, Mandalay Region and Shan State anti-drug police had another two day yaba crackdown seizing 20,000 pills and arresting seven "drug dealers."

Police from Lashio seized over 1,000 stimulant tablets from a motorbike being driven by Sai Kyaw Htay with one other on board along Muse-Mandalay Road on Saturday.

On 8 July, police from northern Mandalay searched a highway bus en route from Muse border town to the capital Nay Pyi Taw. 20,000 yaba pills were found by

police from Than Win (aka Kyi Soe) and Zin Ko.

Similar cases occurred on the same day in Lashio of Shan State, with township police searching a house owned by Eike Tu in Ward-12 in area-20 in the town and they discovered 226 yaba tablets from Sho Hsay Kahing and Hsar Aung.

All drug dealers involved in the case have been charged under the existing Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, where the people listed in this article are expected to face between 5-10 years in prison.—Kyemon



Than Win (aka Kyi Soe) and Zin Ko seen with the confiscated drugs.

Over 150 unlicensed vehicles seized in six months

LOCAL authorities in Mon state's Thaton district seized 166 unlicensed vehicles in the first six months of 2016, according to figures released by police. The crackdown is to stem illegal imports into Myanmar.

"We collected a total of 166 vehicles without licences in four townships—Kyaikhto, Bilin, Thaton and Paung—in the dis-

trict," said Police Lt-Col Nanda Win from Thaton District Police Force. "Public participation plays a vital role in implementing rule of law in the state."

Action will be taken against those who have been found to possess an illegal vehicle under current laws.

A member of public said, "Although police say they are

putting more effort to seize unlicensed cars, we see some people use illegally imported cars from neighbouring countries via border entries." "The price of cars legally imported from foreign countries remains high in our country. So, the locals select unlicensed cars for personal use as well as for their businesses."—YCDC

LOCAL Business

Myanmar building materials trade open to local-foreign joint ventures

THE Ministry of Commerce has permitted local-foreign joint ventures to trade construction materials with the relaxation on trade restrictions for foreign companies announced recently.

"Imported construction materials should meet standards set by the relevant department," said the announcement.

Local-foreign joint ventures need to submit their bank statements

when applying for a license and they must follow the same rules as local traders, including limits on trade value, said the announcement.

However, the list of construction materials that are permitted to local-foreign joint ventures would be adjusted depending on local demand and the situation of market and local businesspeople, according to the announcement.—GNLM



Workers seen at a worksite in Yangon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

YCDC to build two-storey markets

YANGON City Development Committee (YCDC) will turn thirteen one-story markets in Yangon, into two-story markets at a cost of Ks3.5 bn beginning the second week of July according to the Markets Department of YCDC.

"Sixteen markets have already been turned into two-story ones as of last year. Upon completion of construction we will sell stalls of five square feet under the first come first served system to street vendors," said U San Shwe Tun, an officer for the Markets Department.

The new markets are:

No 2 ward market of North Oakalapa township, No2 market of Dagon township, the open air night market of Kyimyindine township, Ahlone market of Ahlone township, No 1 market of Thakayta township, Hlaing market of Hlaing township, Myagandamar market of Mayandamar township, Yadanathiri market of Mingaladon township, No 10 garden market of Thakayta township, KamaKasit market and Aungzeya market of Dala township, Thandin market of Shwepyitha township and Baoukhtaw market of Yankin township.—200

Jengkols selling well despite the low price

JENKOL alias "Dog-fruit" is selling well according to growers despite the price being low.

The yield of Jengkol is high compared to last year. Jengkols cannot receive high prices this time of year due to the excess stock. However, the Jengkols are daily being sold out," said a Jengkol grower.

The price of Jengkol from Papun is Ks8,000 per box down from Ks12,000 per box last year. The price

of Jengkol from Thandaung is only Ks7,000 per box declining from Ks12,000-15,000 per box.

The Jengkols from Papun are sent to Hpa-an, Mawlamyine and Yangon while the Jengkols from Thandaunggyi are sent to Thandaung, Leiktho and the Jengkol from Bawgali towns, to TaungOo. There are also buyers who come to purchase the Jengkols down at the farms.—Nay-MyoLwin (IPRD)

Consumer protection law to be rewritten

MYANMAR's consumer protection law is to be rewritten in order to serve its purpose according to U Hla Maw Oo, director general of the consumer affairs department, under the Ministry of Commerce. The new law, currently be-

ing discussed in the Attorney-General's office, will allow consumers to take action against dodgy manufacturers.

India and China are the countries from which food are mainly imported. There are still cases of illegal im-

port from China and India.

The consumer affairs department is making arrangements to carry out the following eight main tasks: public awareness; conducting inspection field trips; cornering of national-level workshops; discussion

with foodstuff manufacturers; holding meetings on protection of consumer; formation of committees to ensure safety of food; formation of complaint management committee; and conducting of trading courses.—Zar zar

Yangon Transport Authority will be formed in July

YANGON transport Authority (YTA) will be formed with road transport experts and water transport experts under the leadership of the Yangon Region government within second week of July, according to Dr Maung Aung, chairperson of the Yangon Bus line Public Company Ltd.

As soon as Yangon

Transport Authority is formed, the existing bus lines of 358 will be combined into 100 lines as an initial step.

"It is not possible to keep only 50 bus lines in the beginning. So, we will start with 100 bus lines with one or two weeks after forming Yangon Transport Authority," said Dr Maung Aung,

who is expected to become the secretary of YTA.

YTA will set specific rules and regulations for downtown transportation whereas All-Private Bus-Lines Control Committee will no longer supervise lines when Yangon Transport Authority Law has been enacted.

The All Private Bus-

Lines Control Committee will act under the direction of Yangon Transport Authority. Bus owners are favoring the YTA.

There are 358 bus lines at the moment with over 4,700 buses carrying more than 2.6 million commuters daily, it is learnt from the All Private Bus-Lines Control Committee.—YCDC



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North Korea threatens 'physical response' against US THAAD system deployment

SEOUL — North Korea's military said on Monday it will make a "physical response" to moves by the United States and South Korea to deploy the advanced THAAD missile defence system on the Korean peninsula.

The United States and South Korea said on Friday that the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system will be used to counter North Korea's growing nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities.

The announcement was the latest move by the allies against the North, which conducted its fourth nuclear test this year and launched a long-range rocket, resulting in tough new UN sanctions.

"There will be physical response measures from us as soon as the location and time that the invasionary tool for US world supremacy, THAAD, will be brought into South Korea are confirmed," the North's military said in a statement.

"It is the unwavering will of our army to deal a ruthless retaliatory strike and turn (the South) into a sea of fire and a pile of



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) interceptor is launched during a successful intercept test, in this undated handout photo provided by the US Department of Defence, Missile Defence Agency. PHOTO: REUTERS

ashes the moment we have an order to carry it out," the statement carried by the official KCNA news agency said.

The North frequently threatens to attack the South and US interests in Asia and the Pacific.

South Korea's Defence Ministry spokesman Moon Sang-gyun warned the North not to take "rash and

foolish action". Otherwise, he said, it would face "decisive and strong punishment from our military."

The move to deploy the THAAD system, which drew a swift and sharp protest from China, came a day after the US Treasury Department blacklisted leader North Korean leader Kim Jong Un for human rights abuses.

North Korea called the blacklisting "a declaration of war" and vowed a tough response.

South Korean President Park Geun-hye said on Monday the THAAD system was not intended to target any third country but was purely aimed at countering the threat from the North, in an apparent message to Beijing.

"I'm certain the international community knows full well that we have no intention whatsoever to target any other country or threaten them," Park said at a meeting with her senior advisers, according to the Blue House. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said on Saturday that THAAD exceeded the security needs of the Korean

peninsula, and suggested there was a "conspiracy behind this move."

South Korean Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho downplayed the possibility that China, Seoul's biggest trading partner, would retaliate economically over the THAAD decision.

"(China) is expected to separate politics and economics," he told lawmakers on Monday in response to a question during a parliamentary session.

A South Korean Defence Ministry official said selection of a site for THAAD could come "within weeks," and the allies were working to have it operational by the end of 2017.

It will be used by US Forces Korea "to protect alliance military forces," the South and the United States said on Friday. The United States maintains 28,500 troops in South Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean war.

The system will be focused solely on North Korean nuclear and missile threats and would not be directed towards any other nation, the two countries said last week.—Reuters

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Floods kill 22 people in Madhya Pradesh and Assam, 170,000 homeless

NEW DELHI — Flash floods triggered by torrential rain in Madhya Pradesh and Assam have killed at least 22 people and forced more than 170,000 from their homes, officials said on Monday, as forecasters predicted more downpours in coming days.

India's monsoon rains, though vital for agriculture, regularly bring death and destruction. The rain was 35 per cent above average in the week that ended on 6 July, the weather office said.

Twenty people were killed in Madhya Pradesh where 70,000 people were left homeless as water rose to dangerous levels along parts of the Narmada river.

Firemen waded through thigh-deep water to rescue women and children in flooded villages while rescue teams used inflatable boats to reach people stranded in urban areas.

"Thousands of people will be evacuated today. We are working on a war footing mode to set up relief camps," additional home secretary Basant Singh said



People travel on a horse drawn carriage through a flooded road on the banks of river Ganga in Allahabad, India, on 10 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

in Bhopal, the state capital.

"The health department is distributing medicines to prevent outbreak of water-borne diseases."

Stormy weather also ravaged parts of the remote northeast.

Heavy rain pounded

the tea-growing, oil-rich state of Assam killing at least two people. About 100,000 people were forced to take shelter on higher ground, officials there said.

The rain has also swelled the Brahmaputra river, which flows into

Bangladesh, to dangerous levels.

Assam Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal ordered officials to distribute food, clothing and medicines to people who could not return to their homes.—Reuters

Rare bank robbery highlights complacency in safe Singapore

SINGAPORE — A rare bank robbery in Singapore has sparked a social media debate on whether the country's low crime rates made authorities and the population too complacent, questioned bank security and criticised police for not providing details of the incident.

A man stole S\$30,000 (17,190 pounds) from a Standard Chartered branch last Thursday, having slipped the teller a note saying he was armed, according to a source with knowledge of the matter.

The teller pressed a silent alarm button and police arrived within minutes, but it was too late, said the source, who declined to be named as he was not authorised to speak to the media.

Standard Chartered said the bank has taken "immediate actions to further enhance" security. It declined to comment on the details of the robbery as investigations were ongoing.

"While there was no security guard present, our staff acted in accordance to protocols and in the best interests of our customers and our colleagues," a bank spokeswoman said.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore urged banks to "learn from the recent incident and assess whether their security measures need to be enhanced".

Local newspaper *Straits Times* said the last bank robbery



Police officers work at scene of a robbery at Standard Chartered Bank branch in Holland Village, Singapore, on 7 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

in Singapore — by a man with a fruit knife — occurred in 2004.

Singapore police often appeal to the public for information, but did not release any CCTV footage of the latest bank robbery and did not answer Reuters requests for details on the robbery.

The police "didn't even have the decency to issue a statement or conduct a briefing about the robbery ... stage fright???", said

Facebook user Erik Seeto.

Twitter user @Thefinnigans, summed up Thursday's robbery with a meme depicting a polite dialogue between a smiling teller and an elderly man. After the man says he wants to rob the bank, the teller asks whether he would like a transfer into his account, then they settle for notes.

The man says: "I will definitely rob here again." The teller

responds: "We welcome you to rob us anytime!"

Police have launched a major manhunt for the bank robber. The last high-profile manhunt in Singapore was in 2008, when Mas Selamat Kastari, the suspected leader of a radical Islamist group linked to the 2002 Bali bombings, shot to fame after escaping from the toilet of a detention centre.—Reuters

Australian PM Turnbull set to win narrow majority—ABC

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull's conservative coalition will win enough seats to govern in its own right after a cliffhanger 2 July election, according to Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) projections on Monday.

Turnbull's Liberal-Nationals are expected to win 76 seats, the minimum for a majority, while the opposition Labor party is predicted to win 69, the ABC said.

Independents and small parties have secured five seats in the parliament's lower house and have won key Senate seats.

Counting is continuing in some closely-fought contests and a final declaration may take several more days, leaving Turnbull the hard task of uniting a divided parliament in order to pass legislation.

Industry Minister Christopher Pyne said the coalition had a clear mandate to deliver on its election promises.

"Whether you win a grand final by one goal or six goals, a win is a win is a win," Pyne told ABC radio.

Moody's Investors Service on Monday joined Standard and Poor's in expressing concern that a splintered upper house Senate would stymie agreement on fiscal consolidation and macroeconomic policy.—Reuters

Revising pacifist charter not easy for Japan PM despite big poll win

TOKYO/SHANGHAI — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, seeking to allay concerns he would divert energy from fixing a fragile economy to revising Japan's pacifist constitution after a big election win, said on Monday changing the charter would not be easy.

Abe's coalition and allies won two-thirds of the seats in parliament's upper house in Sunday's election. That victory, with the ruling bloc's super majority in the lower house, opens the door to revising the constitution for the first time since its adoption after Japan's defeat in World War II.

China's official agency quickly warned that the victory posed a danger to regional stability. Commentaries by the Xinhua news agency are not formal government statements but often reflect official thinking in China, where memories of Japan's past militarism still spark outrage.

"With Japan's pacifist constitution at serious stake and Abe's power expanding, it is alarming both for Japan's Asian neighbours, as well as for Japan itself, as Japan's militarisation will serve to benefit neither side," the Xinhua



Japan's Prime Minister and leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) Shinzo Abe attends a news conference following a victory in the upper house elections by his ruling coalition, at the LDP headquarters in Tokyo, Japan, on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

commentary said.

Abe said revising the constitution was his Liberal Democratic Party's (LDP) cherished goal, but forging agreement on changes in the diverse pro-revision camp would not be easy.

Revisions require a two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament and a majority of votes in a public referendum.

"To realise revision of the

constitution is my duty as LDP president," Abe told a news conference. "But it is not that easy, so I hope debate will deepen steadily."

Experts agreed that building such agreement would be tough.

"It's the first time to have two-thirds in both houses of parliament, but you can't find any issue on which the two-thirds can agree," said Gerry Curtis, professor emeritus at New York's Columbia Uni-

versity. Some in financial markets worry a focus on the constitution would drain attention from the economy, but Abe promised on Monday to craft a large stimulus package.

"A public referendum is needed so he must boost support to advance revision. So for constitutional change as well, he will probably come up with a large-scale economic package," said Daiji Aoki, senior economist at UBS Securities Japan.

Doubts about Abe's policies persist even though his ruling bloc won big in terms of the number of seats. Many voters felt they had no other option, given memories of the main opposition Democratic Party's rocky 2009-2012 rule. Others stayed home.

Surveys show many Japanese voters are wary of changing the constitution's war-renouncing Article 9, which advocates see as the source of Japan's post-war peace and democracy. Conservatives see it as a symbol of humiliating defeat. If taken literally, Article 9 bans the maintenance of armed forces. Successive governments have interpreted it to allow a mili-

tary for self-defence, a concept Abe last year stretched to allow Japan's military to aid friendly nations under attack.

Formal revision of Article 9 would likely be largely symbolic - though nonetheless historic.

Convincing the Komeito party, the dovish junior partner in Abe's LDP-led coalition, to agree would be challenging. The pro-revision camp might therefore tackle another amendment first.

One possibility is a clause giving the government more power in a national emergency, a move critics say would curtail civil rights.

Another option, floated by the Komeito, would be to add an environmental protection clause. That less contentious step would nonetheless break the political taboo on revision.

It is unclear whether that would satisfy Abe's political base.

"Conservatives see the constitution as emasculating the nation," said Jeffrey Kingston, director of Asian studies at Temple University in Tokyo.

"If I'm in his camp, I'm thinking, this may be my best shot."—Reuters

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.

A glimmer of hope for Myanmar refugees

Tha Sein

Thais have greatly benefited from immigration and they would be catastrophic without it, leaving their industries severely understaffed and even insolvent. But their attitude towards foreigners in distress is far less welcoming on assumption that they constitute a danger to societies. Realizing the plight of those in trouble in the other country, the incumbent government which came to power on the platform of change has vowed to work towards bringing home hundreds of thousands of Myanmar refugees along the Myanmar-Thailand border, taking a strong stance on them. This has been

very good news for the down-trodden.

All refugees in Thailand are undocumented and Myanmar refugees are no exception, making them extremely vulnerable to human rights abuse and depriving them of access to education, medical care and employment. According to sources, there are roughly 105,000 Myanmar refugees in nine camps on the Myanmar-Thai border, most of whom being subject to a pattern of gross violations such as summary executions, arbitrary arrest and ill-treatment.

With democratic changes afoot in Myanmar, the possi-

bility of bringing home refugees is now on the horizon. On the face of it, the project sounds positive. The reality, however, is more complex. Much rests on the relationship between the two countries, both of which need to work out a mechanism that enables the deprived to lead a new life. It is, in any case, easier to bring refugees home than enhance their well-being without undermining natural environment or resource base.

To remain relevant and useful to its people, the Myanmar government has been implementing such projects since 2013 in Kayin, Mon, Kayah,

Shan and Chin States and Taninthayi and Bago Regions with the use of US\$ 9.05m in cooperation with the UNHCR. The daunting task has as much to do with the other country's willingness to co-operate. It has spawned a great number of initiatives that touched on a wide range of topics to bring a glimmer hope to the refugees.

As globalization continues, it is high time for Myanmar and Thailand to catalyze further actions to control their differences, and only through common understanding and joint actions can the mission be accomplished.

The Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to be held from 13th to 14th July 2016

Ba Sein (Religious Affairs)

THE State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, the highest level of all Sangha Organization, comprising 47 chief members of the Sangha (Mahatheras) represent over five-hundred thousand members of the Sangha residing in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. According to the fundamental principles which were passed and adopted by the very First Successful Congregation of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in 1980. The State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar shall hold its plenary meeting at least three times in a year.

We all Buddhists throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar know that altogether six Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were successfully held by arrangements and support of Buddhist people and the previous Governments of the Union of Myanmar. In accordance with the objectives and guidelines laid down by these successful congregations of the Sangha of All Orders, the very first unity of the members of Sangha could be formed in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar within one hundred years.

We all Buddhists all over the world know that altogether six great Buddhist Councils (Synods) leading and contributing to the purification, perpetuation,

propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana were convened after the noble demise of the Omniscient Gotama Buddha over 2558 years ago. The Fifth Great Buddhist Council was held in Myanmar in the year 2415 of the Buddhist Era (1871 CE) and attended by 2400 Mahatheras, and the Sixth Great Buddhist Council was also held in Myanmar in the year 2498 of the Buddhist Era (1954 CE) and attended by 2500 Mahatheras from the Five Theravada Buddhist nations, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. The Buddhist peoples from those Theravada Buddhist nations were greatly pleased and honoured for successfully holding the Sixth Great Buddhist Council in the Buddhist world.

It was felt that without the unity of the Sangha, it was impossible to execute purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. As different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders appeared separately, they were not able to unitedly implement the noble task of purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of the Buddha Sasana. In reality, all members of the Sangha and devotees want the everlasting unity of the Sangha of All Orders. They firmly believe that it only can be possible to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Sasana by the unity of the Sangha. The Buddha, Himself urged the members of the Sangha to unite in order to carry out His Teachings.

In fact, the main objectives of holding the First Great Bud-

dhist Council (Synod) through the Sixth Great Buddhist Council (Synod) were to purify, perpetuate, propagate, promote and preserve the Buddha Sasana. Although altogether Six Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held, it was found that different schools and sects still appeared. They were not united and they parted from each other.

Because of different schools and sects, there appeared many unlawful views (Adhammavadas) which were contrary to and

Because of different schools and sects, there appeared many unlawful views (Adhammavadas) which were contrary to and incompatible with the Pitakas of the Theravada Buddha Sasana. In reality, these unlawful views endangered true Buddhism.

Therefore, all the Buddhists felt worried about the situation of true Buddhism. They really want to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Theravada Buddha Sasana.

incompatible with the Pitakas of the Theravada Buddha Sasana. In reality, these unlawful views endangered true Buddhism.

Therefore, all the Buddhists felt worried about the situation of true Buddhism. They really want to purify, perpetuate, propagate and promote the Theravada Buddha Sasana. According to the history of Buddhism, it is learnt that schisms and split of schools and sects usually occurred among the Monastic Orders whenever some

members of the Sangha of Orders were in trouble through dispute and mutual misunderstanding.

To rebuild the unity and mutual understanding between different schools and sects of the Sangha of All Orders is deeply needed for the welfare and interest of the nation as well as for the Buddha Sasana. Altogether Six Greet Buddhist Councils (Synods) were held to establish the unity of the Sangha of All Order so long as the Buddha Sasana exists. All

the Buddhists firmly believe that without the unity of the Sangha, it is impossible to promote the Buddha Sasana. An old saying goes, "Whenever religion is pure, the society prospers". The situation of the nation was well-developed and prosperous in those golden times when the members of the Sangha of All Orders unanimously practiced the Vinaya Law and fulfilled their religious duties.

The First, the Second, the Third, the Fourth, the Fifth, the

Sixth and the Seventh Congregations of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar successfully have rebuilt the unity of the Sangha of All Orders with the support of Buddhists and Government since 1980. A single Sangha Organization could be formed in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar for the first time in one hundred years.

In accordance with the prescribed terms of the Sangha Organizations of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, **The eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Sangha of All Orders is fixed to be held at the Meeting Hall on Siri Mangala Kaba Aye Hillock, Yangon, from 13th to 14th July 2016. The meeting will be attended by 47 members of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Sangha of All Orders.**

The main objectives of the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Sangha of All Orders are to strengthen more efforts for purification, perpetuation, propagation and promotion of Theravada Buddha Sasana throughout the world. It is further learnt that all necessary arrangements and requirements for holding the Eleventh Plenary Meeting of the Seventh State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Sangha of All Orders of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have already been made by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and authorities concerned.

Aid sent flood victims in Rakhine

Recent torrential rains have caused flooding in several villages in Rakhine State.

The Rakhine State government donated relief aid including 100 packages of Family Kit, 100 packages of Hygiene Refill Kit, 120 packages of Instant noodle and vermicelli, 60 bottles purified drinking water, 50 boxes of water purifying tablets and 3,000 packs of oral rehydration salt to people in the flood hit villages.

Tatmadaw airlifted the aid materials, which were donated by

the Rakhine State government, to flood affected victims in Ann Township and Minbya Township, Rakhine State on Friday 8 July. The aid was delivered from Sittwe to the villages in Ann Township and Minbya Township by a Tatmadaw aircraft.

The Rakhine State Chief Minister and the Commander of Western Command and officials themselves handed over the aid to the people.—*Office of the Commander in Chief of Defence Services*



PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Telenor Myanmar provided MMK 86.4 million (MMK 864 Lakh) for flood response in Rakhine

TELENOR Myanmar Limited (“Telenor”) yesterday provided MMK 86.4 million (MMK 864 Lakh) worth of life-saving food items, drinking water, and family, shelter and sanitation kits to around 10,000 affected people in Rakhine through its local partner Network Activities Group (NAG). Telenor began its support to communities affected by severe flooding across Rakhine State since early this month, who have been displaced by flooding triggered by continuous torrential rains.

“Many people are still taking shelter in temporary places and we are providing support in order to meet their immediate needs. NAG will closely coordinate with authorities, humanitarian organizations and local community based organizations to make sure all affected people receive the assistance,” said

Khin Pyait Wonn Thaw Tar from Telenor Myanmar’s Corporate Responsibility team.

Additionally, Telenor will also provide family and shelter kits to up to 2000 affected households. The family kit contains essential items such as blankets, mosquito nets, clothes, kitchen utensils and the shelter kit contains tarpaulin sheets, nylon ropes, steel ropes, knives and hatchets.

As an initial response to floods in Rakhine Telenor Myanmar on 8th July provided MMK 500 free credit to its subscribers in flood-affected Minbya, Kyauktaw and Mrauk-U townships in order to help facilitate communication with their family, relatives and friends. Telenor Myanmar’s response to flood in Rakhine is initiated as a part of its Corporate Responsibility programme.—*GNLM*

Myanmar Connect returns with a global vision for Myanmar’s telecoms community

MYANMAR is booming. A new operator arrives this year alongside competing operators’ 4G services. Regional telecoms leaders and the Myanmar community will again be attending Myanmar Connect this September to debate and dissect the future of Myanmar’s telecommunications industry and the country’s role as a key player in ASEAN.

LONDON, England – Capacity Media, a division of Euromoney Institutional Investor, is excited to announce the fourth annual Myanmar Connect, to be hosted on September 13th and 14th in Nay Pyi Taw. Myanmar Connect is the most important annual conference for the country’s entire telecoms community.

At this conference, international success stories will be shared to the industry to inspire Myanmar’s telecom industry to reach the next level.

The development of Myanmar telecommunications over the last three years has been an inter-

nationally recognised feat, rolling out connectivity to its urban and rural population faster than any other region globally. Even though Myanmar has the key geographical advantage of being bordered by some of the world’s largest internet connected nations, such as India and China, the country is far from reaching its potential.

International interest in investment opportunities is at an all-time high. The United Nations ESCAP, Thailand’s True and the World Bank Group are already among the confirmed speakers at Myanmar Connect 2016 and plan to deliver leadership perspectives on how to take advantage of unique investment possibilities and outline steps for Myanmar to become an ICT hub within ASEAN. Myanmar Connect will focus on the country’s potential to leapfrog into the future and debate the adoption of best business practices from a global stage to accelerate local business and its reach to the international market. Over

400 senior-level executives will debate topics like new regulation, infrastructure development, digital services and enterprise connectivity.

Continuing as the country’s flagship telecoms event, at Myanmar Connect you can hear and meet key figures in the market, such as Takashi Nagashima (CEO, MPT/KSGM Joint Operations), Rene Meza (CEO Ooredoo Myanmar) and Petter Furberg (CEO, Telenor Myanmar).

Remarking on the success of last year’s event, Vicky Bowman, former UK ambassador to Myanmar and now Director, Myanmar Centre for Responsible Business, said, “The buzz at Myanmar Connect was testimony to the fact that this conference brings together companies, suppliers, investors, regulators and other stakeholders in the most active and fastest growing sector of the Myanmar economy. It was good to meet so many talented Myanmar people.”—*GNLM*

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

The articles named “Role of Civil Service” and “Civil Service Academy” written by U Khin Maung (A Retired diplomat) on 23.06.2016 / 09.07.2016 issues of The GNLM enlightens all the civil service personnel to adhere the code of conduct of civil servants in Myanmar. U Khin Maung (A Retired diplomat) has kindly shared his knowledge and private commentary in role of civil service. U Khin Maung is well versed in administration and diplomatic channel. On behalf of all the readers, I thank to his sincerity and guidelines on how to keep prestigious role of civil service in Myanmar. He has also described the prominent civil service personnel who became national hero and leaders in Myanmar in order that the younger

generation could learn the life of outstanding service personnel in the past. Indeed, their work is an inspiration to us all.

I totally agree to U Khin Maung’s concept that says; “Only when good public servants are there, will there be good government and good nation too.” Of course, these days, every one of us desire to have good governance and clean government in the democratization. However, we seem to pay little attention to those who are involved in the public services and their respective roles according to their duties and responsibilities assigned. We need to understand their part or role in which they are engaged to serve the public services properly. I firmly believe that the public service personnel are in close proximity to the public for

everyday life affairs. We should understand their nature of work and they do understand and know the needs and wants of the vast majority of people. The public dealing work is actually not an easy one as there may be various or unusual jobs to be done.

The behavior, conduct and capacity of the public service personnel represent the image of the certain government and nation. If their services are substandard, the government can be recognized as an inefficient body. The personnel in the management hierarchy ought to be ideal, honest and incorruptible so that the subordinates will comply and obey the higher rank position holders. Right men in the right places should be applied and the sufficient salary, benefits and allowances must be provided to the personnel concerned in accordance with their capacity and performances in the work place. As

we all know that Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the charismatic leader is guiding us to march together to the democratic society. We should ardently work for nation building task with the guidance of the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. I do unwaveringly trust her leadership and her virtuous behavior. All sensible people can participate in political process in collaboration with the public service personnel. Why not the best for Myanmar in the world?

It is time to energize the service personnel who have encountered the successive dictatorial administration for four decades. In addition, some personnel have to get rid of negative their mindset and malpractice which were nurtured in the eras of regimes. Then the new generation or the newcomers of the service personnel will acquire the right attitude and good practice and become the good and efficient service person-

nel. At the same time, they might win the trust of the public. Thus, the harmonious relationship can be founded between the government and the public.

Thanks to U Khin Maung (A Retired diplomat) for his advanced perspective on the role of civil servants. I do hope his articles will be of the useful and supportive to the younger generation who have been engaged in the civil service.

Here, I respectfully request U Khin Maung (A Retired diplomat) to contribute with your invaluable articles in the GNLM for the regular readers who need to learn useful knowledge from a learned and well-educated person like you.

Truly
Hein Htet
A freelance writer

More protesters arrested, police say Dallas sniper plotted bigger assault

DALLAS — The US military veteran who fatally shot five Dallas police officers last week was plotting a larger assault, authorities said, disclosing how he had taunted negotiators and written on a wall in his own blood before being killed.

Protests against US police tactics continued for a third straight day on Sunday, with scores arrested in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, after authorities warned that violence during street demonstrations over the fatal police shootings of two black men last week would not be tolerated.

Dallas Police Chief David Brown told CNN on Sunday Michah X. Johnson had improvised as he used “shoot-and-move” tactics to gun down officers during a demonstration on Thursday, the deadliest day for US law enforcement since 11 September, 2001.

Brown said a search of Johnson’s home showed the gunman had practised using explosives,

and that other evidence suggested he wanted to use them against law enforcement officers.

“We’re convinced that this suspect had other plans,” he said. The fatal police shootings of two black men in Minnesota and Louisiana last week led the 25-year-old Texas shooter to “fast-track” his attack, Brown said.

Johnson, a black veteran who served in Afghanistan, took advantage of a spontaneous march that began toward the end of the protest over those killings. Moving ahead of the rally in a black Tahoe SUV, he stopped when he saw a chance to use “high ground” to target police, Brown said.

Johnson was killed by a bomb-equipped robot but Brown said before then he sang, laughed at and taunted officers, and said he wanted to “kill white people” in retribution for police killings of black people. “He seemed very much in control and very determined to hurt other officers,” the

police chief said.

Brown said police were caught off guard when protesters broke away from Thursday’s demonstration, and were thus exposed as they raced to block off intersections ahead of the marchers. Johnson’s military training helped him to shoot and move rapidly, “triangulating” his fire with multiple rounds so that police at first feared there were several shooters.

Brown defended the decision to use a robot to kill him, saying that “about a pound of C4” explosive was attached to it.

He said Johnson had scrawled the letters “RB” in his own blood on a wall before dying. “We’re trying to figure out through looking at things in his home what those initials mean,” Brown said.

The US Department of Defence and a lawyer who represented Johnson did not return requests for information on his military history or the status of his discharge.—Reuters



A demonstrator is detained during protests in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, US, on 10 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

German ministry sees possible delay in signing missile defence contract

LONDON — Germany may not finish negotiations with Europe’s MBDA and Lockheed Martin Corp on the MEADS missile defence system by the end of the year as planned, according to a document sent to lawmakers by a senior German defence ministry official.

The document, dated 8 July and sent by State Secretary Ralf Braukhsiepe, said it was unclear if the project could be submitted to the parliamentary budget committee by the end of this year, or if it would slip into early next year. A copy of the document was seen by Reuters.

Company officials told Reuters last month they hoped to submit a final contract proposal for the Medium Extended Air Defence System (MEADS) by the

end of July and wrap up negotiations on the \$4.5 billion project by year’s end.

Lockheed officials were not immediately available to comment on the ministry document.

Experts say it may be difficult to win parliamentary approval if negotiations drag on too long too close to Germany’s national elections in September 2017.

Tobias Lindner, a member of the Green party, said the delay made him question if the ministry had fully understood the risks involved in the project.

Germany announced last year it had chosen the MEADS system over Raytheon Co’s Patriot system to replace the current Patriot system fielded in the 1980s, but said the companies had to meet demanding performance

milestones to retain the contract.

Germany funded a quarter of the \$4 billion invested by it, the United States and Italy to develop the new system as a successor for the Patriot system. The US military, citing financial pressures, decided several years ago not to buy the system, while Italy has not yet announced its plans.

European missile maker MBDA is jointly owned by Airbus Group, Britain’s BAE Systems Plc and Italy’s Leonardo Finmeccanica SpA. Raytheon, a candidate to build a separate radar system that would be integrated with the MEADS system, says it is staying in close touch with the German government in case the MEADS consortium fails to meet the milestones set by the government.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

US to help Iraq build base for push on Mosul — Carter

BAGHDAD — US forces will help Iraq set up a logistics hub in a recaptured airfield to use for a push on Mosul, Islamic State’s largest stronghold, US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said before making an unannounced visit to Baghdad on Monday.

Iraqi government forces said they took back control of Qayara airbase, 60 km (40 miles) south of Mosul, from the militant group on Saturday, backed by air cover from a US-led military coalition.

“The seizure of the Qayara West airfield ... will be followed. Its purpose is to create a logistics hub there, so there will be US logistics support,” Carter told reporters.

The airfield is “one of the hubs from which ... Iraqi security forces, accompanied and advised by us as needed, will complete the southern-most envelopment of Mosul,” he added.—Reuters

British PM candidate Leadsom apologies to rival over motherhood row

LONDON — Andrea Leadsom, the junior minister seeking to become Britain’s next prime minister, apologised to her childless rival over remarks which suggested she had a greater stake in the country’s future because she was a mother.

Leadsom’s comments, published in a newspaper interview on Saturday, caused an uproar and led to harsh criticism from supporters of Theresa May, the interior minister who is the favourite to replace David Cameron.

“I’ve already said to Theresa how very sorry I am for any hurt caused and how that article said completely the opposite of what I said and believe,” Leadsom told the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper.

Leadsom was little known nationally before becoming a prominent figure in the campaign for Britain to leave the European Union but remains an outsider to succeed Cameron who said he would step down after Britons voted to leave the bloc on 23 June.—Reuters

Japan to evacuate aid workers from South Sudan after violence erupts

TOKYO — Japan will evacuate government aid workers from South Sudan and a military transport plane would help other Japanese citizens leave the country after fighting erupted in the capital Juba, Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said on Monday.

The 47 Japan International Cooperation Agency personnel are preparing to fly out of South Sudan on a charter flight, the Japanese government spokesman said at a press briefing in Tokyo.

“There are around 70 Japanese in Juba and we have confirmed that all are safe,” Suga said.

A C-130 transport aircraft will be deployed on standby to Japan’s Self Defense Force base in Djibouti, about 3,000 kms (1,864 miles) east of Juba, he added.

Japan also has around 350 military engineers in Juba rebuilding roads and other infrastructure in the country.—Reuters

Kenya Airways halts flights to South Sudan capital Juba

NAIROBI — Kenya Airways (KQNA.NR) said on Sunday it was suspending flights to South Sudan’s capital Juba after a flare-up of fighting between rival factions in the unity government.

“We wish to advise our guests that we have suspended flights to Juba, South Sudan due to uncertain security situation,” the airline wrote on its Twitter account.

The clashes in Juba that first erupted late on Thursday have left scores dead.—Reuters

Indonesia to execute at least two convicts, including foreigners this year — Attorney General

JAKARTA — Indonesia will execute at least two convicts, including foreigners, this year, the attorney general said on Monday.

H.M. Prasetyo said the prisoners would be executed by firing squad soon, but did not elaborate upon the crimes of which they were convicted.

“The implementation of the executions will be carried out after the (Eid al-Fitr) holiday period that has just ended,” Prasetyo told reporters.

“There are more than two people, and there are foreigners. There are protests but we will still carry out the executions,” he added. Indonesia last year executed 14 people, mostly foreign drug traffickers, and has vowed to ramp up that number despite international condemnation. Prasetyo previously said at least 16 prisoners would be executed this year and more than double that number next year.—Reuters

Sirte battle risks widening Libya political splits

SIRTE, (Libya) — When Western officials cajoled Libya's warring factions to support a unity government this year, they said it was a chance for the rival armed brigades to unite against the common enemy, Islamic State.

Libyan forces may be close to winning the battle for the militant group's stronghold in Sirte, but divisions may deepen if one of the most powerful brigades, led by commanders from Misrata, takes control of the prize city.

For Western powers, keen to stabilise the North African country in chaos since its 2011 revolution, the fragile Tripoli government of Prime Minister Fayaz Seraj is the only way to bring together factions that were at war just two years ago.

How the battle for Sirte ends — Misrata commanders cannot say how long city will hold out — may determine the fate of Seraj, Libya's alliances and its future oil exports.

The Misrata's brigades, at the front of the



A sniper from forces aligned with Libya's new unity government shoots while his comrade uses binoculars to scan the area looking for an Islamic State position in the Zaafran area in Sirte, Libya, on 30 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

fight against Islamic State in Sirte, are backing Seraj but, after losses in battle there, are in no mood for compromise with rivals and are growing frustrated with Tripoli.

"We get nothing from the unity government. This is supposed to be a fight for Libya, but it's been 70

per cent led by Misrata," said Misrata fighter Mohamed Yousef, on the Zaafran frontline in Sirte. "If nothing changes, Seraj's time will come. Maybe he will do well, but if nothing changes?"

With no national army, brigades of former rebel fighters, who battled to oust

Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 before turning against one another, are powerbrokers who form a patchwork of quasi-fiefdoms across the OPEC country.

Brigade loyalties are often to city, region and tribe over nation. Smaller brigades may ally with Misrata because their in-

terests are threatened by Islamic State. But to the east, Gen Khalifa Haftar's rival forces, long antagonistic to Misrata, have little interest in cooperation.

Two months after they began a campaign to liberate Sirte, Misrata commanders say they are close to finishing a fight that may give them an advantage over Haftar, who along with other eastern hardliners has rejected Seraj's government.

"We are monitoring Sirte," said Col. Ahmad Messmari, spokesman for Haftar forces. "Regarding operations there, we don't have any connection with them."

Caught in between Misrata and Haftar's forces and with his own base close to Sirte is Ibrahim Jathran, the former rebel whose Petroleum Facilities Guards brigades control key oil ports Ras Lanuf and Es Sider, vital for restarting oil exports.

He has allied with Seraj's government for now, and clashed with Haftar. He says he is working to

reopen the ports. But his relations with Misrata are tense. His troops battled Misrata in 2014 over the oil ports.

Brigades from Misrata, the western town of Zintan and other regions already claim competing legitimacy because of their role ousting Gaddafi. They have in the past used military force against political rivals in the absence of strong government.

Mattia Toaldo, Libya expert at the European Council on Foreign Relations, said the fall of Sirte to Misrata may now embolden them: Haftar to push while Misrata is recovering from Sirte, and for Misrata to resist pressure to compromise.

"The victorious end of Misrata's offensive on Sirte could be the harbinger of more infighting between different factions," he said. "Ultimately, the current relative absence of violence in Libya is very fragile in many areas and could crumble under these multiple pressures." — Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AYSAN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AYSAN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CRUSADER VOY NO (007N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CRUSADER VOY NO (007N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

Fighting flares again in South Sudan capital after United Nations demand for restraint

JUBA — Heavy fighting erupted again in South Sudan's capital on Monday a day after the UN Security Council told rivals President Salva Kiir and Vice-President Riek Machar to rein in their forces and end days of violence that have left scores dead.

A Reuters witness saw two helicopters overhead firing apparently in the direction of Machar's political and military headquarters. Residents reported tanks on the street. A UN official said heavy gunfire had erupted around UN bases again.

The capital has been mired in fighting almost every day since Thursday when troops loyal to Kiir and soldiers backing former rebel leader Machar first clashed, raising fears of a slide back to a full-blown conflict after a two-year civil war.

It was not immediately clear who was leading the fighting or if either side was gaining the upper hand. The violence has raised concerns that Kiir and Machar, long-time political and military rivals, may not have full control of their forces.

There has been no official death toll but at least five



South Sudan President Salva Kiir (L) flanked by Second Vice President James Wani Igga address a news conference at the Presidential State House following renewed fighting in South Sudan's capital Juba, on 8 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

soldiers died on Thursday and a Health Ministry source said 272 people, including 33 civilians, were killed on Friday. After a brief lull on Saturday, Sunday's fighting appeared even more fierce.

"We urge an end to these hostilities and hope

they (political leaders) will return back to taking up all the action points of the peace agreement," Shantal Persaud, spokeswoman for the UN mission UNMISS, told Reuters by telephone.

She said gunfire had erupted on Monday around

the UN headquarters in the Jebel area of Juba and also around a base near the airport. UN bases were hit by small arms and heavy weapons on Sunday. One UN Chinese peacekeeper was killed. UNMISS said it was "outraged" by renewed vio-

lence in the world's newest nation, which marked five years of independence from Sudan last week. South Sudan's people remain mired in poverty. Oil production, the nation's mainstay, has plummeted. The UN Security Council, after an emer-

gency meeting, told the two leaders to "do their utmost to control their respective forces, urgently end the fighting and prevent the spread of violence" and commit themselves to their peace deal.

Attacks on civilians, UN personnel and UN premises might amount to war crimes that would need investigation, it said.

On Friday, Kiir and Machar had been in patch-up talks after Thursday's shootings when gunfire erupted. Both said then they could not explain what happened.

The two men have long been rivals for power both in politics and on the battlefield. The civil war erupted in December 2013 a few months after Kiir sacked Machar as his deputy.

They signed a peace deal in August 2015, but then spent months wrangling over details. Machar finally returned to Juba in April, at the time seen as step towards cementing peace.

But experts say the failure to implement swiftly key elements, such as the re-integration and demobilisation of combatants, has allowed tension to fester and risked igniting a new conflict.—*Reuters*

INVITATION FOR PRICE QUOTATIONS

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the International Development Association (IDA) toward the cost of the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDDP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture Livestock and Irrigation, in its role as implementing agency of the NCDDP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contract for which this bidding document is issued.

DRD now invites eligible suppliers to express their interest in supplying the following items:

Ref No	Description of Goods or Services	Quantity	Units
G.47	Office Furniture		
	Item1: Desk (two drawers)	420	Nos
	Item2: Desk (One drawers)	210	Nos
	Item 3: Desk—Chairs fitting desk with two and one drawer(s)	630	Nos
	Item 1: Folding chairs for meetings and events	1,050	Nos
	Item 1: Bookcase for filing of books, brochures and binders	175	Nos
G.48	Item 2: Filing Cabinet	140	Nos
	Item 3: Telephone and Fax Stand	35	Nos
	Printer, fax and scanner	35	Nos
G.36	Photo Copier	35	Nos
	Color Printer	35	Nos
	Projector with Screen	35	Nos
G.36	Motorcycle Crash Helmets	3425	Nos

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the email address below by **July 12, 2016** and clearly indicate one or more of the Reference number above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a INVITATION TO QUOTE (ITQ). Sealed Quotations will be submitted to the address below at the latest the dead line, after which no Quotations will be accepted.

The goods will be contracted in 3(Three) separate contract. Suppliers will be selected following the Shopping Method as per the "Guidelines for Procurement of Goods, Works and non-Consulting Services under IBRD Loans and IDA Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers" dated January 2011.

Please submit Expression of Interest and Sealed Quotations to: U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw.

For detailed information please contact U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409071/ Email: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com

For more information on the NCDD Project please also visit Website: www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org.

Innovative water storage helps Kenyans thrive in drought

MAKUENI (Kenya) — Even after the heavy rains that drenched East Africa in April, Makueni County in eastern Kenya remains dry — and it's not clear when increasingly elusive rainfall will come again.

But the women of Kikumbulyu village are not worried. Last November, they built a rock catchment system to harvest rainwater. Now, despite dry weather, the village still has plenty of water.

"Apart from the gift of life from God, this is the other biggest blessing that has come to us," said villager Mary Mwikali Kiminza, a mother of five and a member of the village's Ithine Self Help Group.

"My feet are now rested without endless trips to (fetch water), and my children can now concentrate in school because I no longer ask them to

follow me to the river," she said.

Kibwezi sub-county, where Kikumbulyu village is located, is hilly with huge rocks — not the kind of environment that supports traditional methods of water conservation such as water pans or "sand dams", which use wet sand to hold water.

But since 2010, the Africa Sand Dam Foundation (ASDF), a Kenyan non-governmental organisation, has worked with villagers in the Makueni area to build rock catchment systems, taking advantage of the local geography to make themselves more water secure.

Rock catchment systems use naturally occurring rock outcrops to divert rainwater to a central collection area. A concrete wall is built to direct the water that trickles down the rock surface

into a sand and gravel filter, then down pipes into covered storage tanks.

"The main idea is to build resilience to climate extremes among the worst-hit areas, using locally acceptable techniques and making them as sustainable as possible," Matheka Cornelius Kyalo, ASDF's executive director, told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

According to data from the Kenya Agricultural and Livestock Research Organisation, annual rainfall in Makueni County ranges between 150mm during a dry spell and 650mm in years of heavy rainfall.

But, even in a good year, Makueni is thirsty compared with regions in western Kenya such as Kitale, which receives an average of 1,260 mm of rainfall annually.—*Reuters*

1,000 MW nuclear-power plant in southern India starts fission

NEW DELHI — The second unit of the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Project in India's southern state of Tamil Nadu attained criticality over the weekend, its operator an-

nounced on Monday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called it "great news," tweeting, "I congratulate the atomic energy scientists, both from Indian and the Russian side for

this major technological success."

Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. said in a press statement that the second 1,000-megawatt unit attained a controlled

self-sustaining nuclear fission chain reaction in its reactor for the first time at 8:56 pm Sunday.

Kudankulam, located on the southern tip of India, now hosts the country's

two largest nuclear power reactors, both set up with cooperation from Russia. The first one started generating power in October 2013.

The new reactor will

add 1,000 MW of electricity to the southern grid and raise the contribution of nuclear power to a total of 6,780 MW, its operator said.—*Kyodo News*

US Air Force urges decision on delayed Mideast fighter jet sales



A RAF Lockheed Martin F-35B fighter jet taxis along a runway after landing at the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford, Britain, on 8 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

FARNBOROUGH, (England) — A top US Air Force official on Sunday urged the US government to speed up consideration of long-standing bids by Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain to buy US fighter jets, citing growing frustration among the key US allies in the Gulf about delays in the process.

Air Force Deputy Undersecretary Heidi Grant said she was trying to reassure those countries that Washington's failure to approve billions of dollars of US arms sales to them would not alter their strong bilateral air force-to-air force relationships with the United States.

"I would like to see a decision soon," Grant told Reuters in an interview on the eve of the Farnborough Airshow in southern England. Grant said she "absolutely" saw growing frustration among officials in the three countries, which have asked to buy a variety of US fighter planes.

"It's caused us to do more to reassure them that this one transaction should not impact the larger relationship ... that they are very valued partners," she said. "Hopefully the delay in this decision to move forward isn't going to have any impact."

Grant said the three requests were still being

worked on "at the highest levels of our government." She declined to comment on what was holding up the decisions.

All three arms sales have stalled amid concerns raised by Israel that equipment sent to Gulf states could fall into the wrong hands and be used against it, and by the Obama administration's desire to integrate arms sales decisions into its broader decision-making on military aid to the Gulf.

The Pentagon and State Department have both signed off on the sale of 36 F-15 fighter jets to Qatar for about \$4 billion, and 24 F/A-18E/F Super Hornets to Kuwait for about \$3 billion, both built by Boeing Co, according to sources familiar with the matter. A third deal would sell about 16 Lockheed Martin Corp F-16 fighter jets to Bahrain in a deal valued at just under \$1 billion.

The White House has not yet approved the sales, although the Kuwait sale at least is expected to see approval before the Obama administration leaves office, the sources said.

Leanne Caret, chief executive of Boeing Defense, Space & Security, told reporters the approval process was clearly taking longer than the company

would like, but Boeing's Middle East customers were "hanging in there with us" despite the delays.

"I believe we have a bright future on it, and we look forward to resolving it soon," she said.

Grant joins other military officials and lawmakers who have urged the Obama administration to move forward on the arms sales requests, some of which have been in work for years.

David Melcher, president of the US-based Aerospace Industries Association trade group, said the delays could be particularly hard on smaller firms in the weapons supply chain to manage, and gave U.S. competitors a big advantage.

"Whole markets have been created out of the lag, and that to me, is something that is not in the interest of the US or US industry," he told Reuters in an interview.

Melcher said Vice Admiral Joe Rixey, who heads the Pentagon's Defense Security Cooperation Agency, was working to help streamline the approval process for foreign arms sales. He said Rixey explored bottlenecks in the process with about two dozen industry executives during a tabletop exercise in May.—*Reuters*

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation IDA Grant H814-MM Assignment Title: Township Level Technical Assistance

Ref No.	Township Clusters (TC) by Region/State	Number of townships per cluster, beginning in November 2016	Potential expansion into additional townships in subsequent years
C4.18	Kachin	1 Township	to be defined
C4.19	Shan	1 Township	to be defined

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar has received financing from the World Bank to implement the National Community Driven Development Project (NCDD) under the Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. The Government intends to apply part of the Grant proceeds to hire consulting services for new townships to be covered starting in year 4 of project implementation, e.g. around November 2016.

The consulting services (the "Services") include:

- Assisting township DRD offices in planning, implementing and monitoring project activities in the respective townships in line with the procedures contained in the Project Operations Manual and directions received from the DRD union office.
- Assisting villages and village tracts in (i) the preparation and annual revision of development plans; (ii) sub-project technical design, cost estimation, review and approval; (iii) sub-project implementation, including adherence to environmental and social safeguards outlined in the Project Operations Manual, procurement of labor and materials and supervision during implementation; and (iv) organization of annual social audits.
- Assisting village tract project support committees to manage project funds in a transparent and accountable manner.
- Where applicable, providing technical support as needed to existing project townships within the State/Region.

The consulting services will be procured in two separate contracts, covering the geographic areas outlined above. Technical assistance will begin in one township per geographic area expected to start in November 2016, and depending on performance and project needs may be increased into additional townships of which the number remains to be determined. The consultant teams will be based in the township and include five full time experts: (i) team leader/training specialist, (ii) finance officer, (iii) procurement officer, (iv) monitoring and evaluation officer, (v) communication/social accountability/gender officer. Furthermore, there may be short-term inputs by a national CDD program advisor and by an international CDD expert to support the township team. In addition, the Consultant will also recruit locally community facilitators and technical facilitators to be based in the indicated township. This team shall be in place for a period of 24 months starting expectedly from 1 November 2016 to build the capacity of local DRD offices, with an annual review at the end of the first 24 month period to assess the needs in terms of remaining inputs. Given the phased nature of the intended township expansion, the contract will be for a period of 48 months.

The Department of Rural Development now invites eligible consulting firms or NGOs ("Consultants") to indicate their interest in providing these Services. Interested Consultants should provide information demonstrating that they have the required qualifications and relevant experience to perform the Services in one or both of the township clusters mentioned. Consultants may associate with other NGOs/firms in the form of a joint venture or a sub-consultancy to enhance their qualifications.

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **28 July 2016** and clearly indicate the township cluster(s) in which the Consultant is interested.

Following a review of Expressions of Interest, DRD will invite short-listed consultants to prepare full proposals. Consultants will be selected in accordance with the QBS method set out in the Consultant Guidelines. Contracts will be structured primarily as lump sum payments against agreed outputs. The short-listing criteria are:

- 5 years general experience
- Past experience with community based development activities in similar conditions as in Myanmar, with prior experience in South East Asia desirable;
- Management capability of the firm (general organization, numbers of staff employed, availability of qualified relevant staff, quality assurance system, global presence etc)
- Carried out as prime consultant or sub consultant similar contract of not less than US\$200,000

Further information and detailed sample terms of reference may be obtained from the NCDD Project webpage: <http://www.cdd.drdmyanmar.org> or the address below during office hours from 09h00 to 16h00, Monday through Friday, except public holidays.

Atten:

Mr. U Kyaw Soe, Deputy Director General
NCDD Project Secretariat, Department of Rural Development, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation,
Office N° 14, Nay Pyi Taw.
Telephone/ Fax Number: (+95-67) 409071, 409413
E-mail: unioncddprocurement@gmail.com, Copy to: ksaung@gmail.com



Singer Sir Cliff Richard.
PHOTO: REUTERS

British singer Cliff Richard pursues legal action over raid

LONDON — British singer Cliff Richard is pursuing legal action against the BBC and the police after the broadcaster televised a raid on his house, saying his reputation had been “unnecessarily damaged”.

One of Britain’s best known entertainers, Richard, 75, was investigated over allegations of sexual offences between 1958 and 1983, but the Crown Prosecution Service said last month it would not charge him, due to lack of evidence.

Having been cleared of charges, Richard, who maintained his innocence throughout the investigation, has started legal action over the BBC’s reporting of the case.

The broadcaster televised a

police raid on his house in August 2014. Richard said it had been wrong to make his name public before any charges had been brought.

“I confirm that I have instructed my lawyers to make formal legal complaints to South Yorkshire Police and the BBC so that in the absence of satisfactory answers a court will determine whether or not their behavior was justified and proportionate,” Richard said in a statement on his website.

“It is important not only for me personally but much more widely. My life was effectively turned upside down and my reputation, worldwide, was unnecessarily damaged.”

The Mail on Sunday newspaper reported that Richard was

seeking more than 1 million pounds (\$1.30 million) in damages, adding that he believed the police and the BBC “unlawfully colluded” to invade his privacy.

The BBC declined comment but referred Reuters to a statement last month in which the broadcaster said it was very sorry that Richard had suffered distress, but stood by its decision to report on the police investigation and the search of his house.

A review by lawmakers on the Home Affairs Select Committee in October 2014 criticized what it called the police’s “inept handling” of the situation, but said there had been nothing wrong in the BBC’s decision to run the story. South Yorkshire police declined comment.—*Reuters*

Sports helped me fighting years long depression: Deepika

NEW DELHI — Actor Deepika Padukone has revealed sports has changed her life and even taught her to fight with her two-year long depression.

The 30-year-old “Bajirao Mastani” actress took to Facebook to motivate youth in playing any sport. The “Bajirao Mastani” star, who is a badminton player, stated about how sport has kept her going and helped her to face difficult situations.

“Sport has taught me how to handle failure. It has also taught me how to handle success. It has kept me grounded. It has taught me humility.” Deepika mentioned that the never dying athlete inside the actress gave her the strength to fight.

“Two years ago I struggled with depression. I was sinking.

I almost gave up. But it was the athlete in me that gave me the strength to fight and never ever give up!”

Appealing to the young minds, the actress wrote “every



Deepika Padukone. PHOTO: PTI

girl and every boy and every woman and every man...play a sport... because it changed my life...and it will change yours too!” Calling sport one of the main reasons of her survival she went on writing, “Sport has taught me how to survive! It has taught me how to fight! It has made me unstoppable!”

The actress also mentioned about her father’s formula to be perfect, “When I was growing up my father said to me, “To be the best, always remember the three D’s - Discipline, Dedication and Determination. Follow your heart. Do what you are passionate about.—*PTI*

The Lego Movie sequel being rewritten

LONDON — Directors of the original “The Lego Movie”, Phil Lord and Christopher Miller had written a script for the film, but BoJack Horseman creator Raphael Bob Waksberg has been hired to rewrite it for his first movie project.

Lord and Miller will still squeeze in production for the film around their work on the “Star Wars” Han Solo spinoff movie, but Rob Schrab is direct-

ing this time around. Dan Lin and Roy Lee are also producing, reported Digital Spy.

Last month it was announced that the film would be delayed by a whopping nine months, moving from 8 May, 2018 to 8 February, 2019. Will Arnett will reprise his role as Batman from the original film in “The Lego Batman Movie”, which is due for release on February 10, 2017.—*PTI*

Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry stable in hospital after collapsing on stage

NEW YORK — Aerosmith guitarist Joe Perry collapsed on stage while performing in New York on Sunday and was hospitalized, according to reports.

Perry, 65, was playing in Coney Island in Brooklyn with his band the Hollywood Vampires, along with rocker Alice Cooper, when he staggered off-stage and collapsed, media reports said.

Cooper said on Twitter hours later that Perry “is stable right now, with family & is under the

best care.”

A Facebook account quoted Cooper as saying from stage “If you notice one of our brothers is not onstage with us, he was very sick before the show,” *Billboard* magazine reported.

Perry himself posted on Twitter just hours before being taken ill: “Warming up with Tommy. #HollywoodVampires @ Ford Amphitheater at Coney Island Boardwalk,” along with a link to photo of the pair playing.—*Reuters*



Vocalist Steven Tyler & guitarist Joe Perry.
PHOTO: REUTERS

‘Secret Life of Pets’ Debuts to Massive \$103.2 Million

LOS ANGELES — “The Secret Life of Pets” dominated the weekend box office, racking up a massive \$103.2 million and launching the first new franchise of the summer.

Its success is a feather in the cap for Illumination chief Chris Meledandri, confirming his status among the ranks of animation giants. The family film, which explores what dogs, cats and other animal companions do while their owners are busy at work, cost an economical \$75 million to produce, roughly half of what most studios spend making animated movies. Universal is backing the picture, which launched across 4,370 locations.

“Illumination just has a way of creating ‘want to see’ movies,” said Nick Carpou, Universal’s domestic distribution chief. “They make movies that resonate with audiences.”

And ones that spawn toylines. The cuddly creatures that populate “Pets” seem tailor made to sell stuffed animals and t-shirts, creating a financial windfall for the studio. The film deftly exploited dog and cat obsessed moviegoers to appeal to both parents and children. In the United States alone, Americans are expected to spend more than \$62 billion in 2016 on their pets.

“Somebody at Illumination is popping the champagne and pouring out the Kibble,” said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at comScore. “The love that people have for their fish, their bird, their dogs, or their hamsters is demonstrated by their insatiable appetite for a movie like this.”

“The Secret Life of Pets” easily supplanted Disney and Pixar’s “Finding Dory” from first place on the box office charts -- a ranking it has held for the three

previous weeks. The sequel to “Finding Nemo” slid to second place with \$20.4 million, having made \$422.6 million to lap “Captain America: Civil War” as the highest-grossing film of the year on a domestic basis. It also ranks as the highest-grossing animated film in North America, unseating “Toy Story 3.”

The weekend’s other new release, Fox’s “Mike and Dave Need Wedding Dates,” opened to \$16.6 million at 2,982 sites for a fourth place finish. The comedy about a pair of party animal brothers (Zac Efron and Adam DeVine) who enlist two women (Anna Kendrick and Aubrey Plaza) to accompany them to their sister’s wedding, cost \$33 million to make. Chernin Entertainment produced the film. Its audience was nearly evenly split between the genders, with women making up 52% of ticket buyers.—*Reuters*



Clay jars are seen in a container after they were unearthed during excavation works at the first-ever Philistine cemetery at Ashkelon National Park in southern Israel, on 28 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Philistines were more sophisticated than given credit for, say archaeologists

ASHKELON, (Israel) — Philistines were no “philistines”, say archaeologists who unearthed a 3,000-year-old cemetery in which members of the biblical nation were buried along with jewellery and perfumed oil.

Little was known about the Philistines prior to the recent excavation in the Israeli port city of Ashkelon. The famed arch enemies of the ancient Israelites — Goliath was a Philistine — flourished in this area of the Mediterranean, starting in the 12th century BC, but their way of life and origin have remained a mystery.

That stands to change after what researchers have called the first discovery of a Philistine cemetery. It contains the remains of about 150 people in numerous burial chambers, some containing surprisingly sophisticated items.

The team also found DNA on parts of the skeletons and hope that further testing will determine

the origins of the Philistine people. We may need to rethink today’s derogatory use of the word philistine, which refers to someone averse to culture and the arts, said archaeologist Lawrence Stager, who has led the Leon Levy Expedition to Ashkelon since 1985.

“The Philistines have had some bad press, and this will dispel a lot of myths,” Stager said.

Stager’s team dug down about 3 metres (10 feet) to uncover the cemetery, which they found to have been used centuries later as a Roman vineyard.

On hands and knees, workers brushed away layers of dusty earth to reveal the brittle white bones of entire Philistine skeletons reposed as they were three millennia ago.

Decorated juglets believed to have contained perfumed oil were found in graves. Some bodies were still wearing bracelets and earrings. Others had weap-

ons.

The archaeologists also discovered some cremations, which the team say were rare and expensive for the period, and some larger jugs contained the bones of infants.

“The cosmopolitan life here is so much more elegant and worldly and connected with other parts of the eastern Mediterranean,” Stager said, adding that this was in contrast to the more modest village lifestyle of the Israelites who lived in the hills to the east. Bones, ceramics and other remains were moved to a tented compound for further study and some artifacts were reconstructed piece by piece.

The team mapped the position of every bone removed to produce a digital 3D recreation of the burial site.

Final reports on the finds are being published by the Semitic Museum at Harvard University.—Reuters

65-year-old man running across the world

HANOI — “I love running. It keeps me healthy,” Amnaj Prompinun, a 65-year-old man from Thailand told Xinhua on Saturday in Viet Nam’s capital Hanoi after conquering 72 floors with 1,914 steps of the tallest building in the city.

Hanoi Vertical Run 2016 drew the participation of some 200 amateur and professional racers around the world.

“I have engaged in running for nearly 20 years. I participate in marathon and vertical run,” said Prompinun, adding that he loves vertical running as it is a kind of challenge. Stair climbing, first known as “vertical races” in the 1970s, is now a global sport with stair climbing clubs from around the world.

Working in a building of over 30 stories in Bangkok, Prompinun often practices by running up and down the building. “I often run ups and downs for four times without break a day. I take this practice two days a week,” he said. “I also run every morning and often participate in marathon events in Bangkok every Sunday. This is my hobby,” he told reporter. At his 60s, Prompinun still looks good physically with a well-built body and a positive mentality. He has competed in running in 13 countries around the world, from Asia, Europe to the America.

“I ran in Myanmar, Indonesia, Laos, Viet Nam, China’s Taiwan, China’s Hong Kong, Italy, Canada, the United States,

and so many other places,” he said.—aThe 65-year-old man now owns over 500 trophies and medals in all kinds of running.

“I used to smoke and drink alcohol. But after start engaging in running, I quit all. It was a right choice for me.”

“Running make my health condition better. I got no serious illness and did not have to go to hospital since I started running,” he said proudly. “I have donated blood for 80 times and I even have six-pack abs,” the man with mustache laughed and told reporter.

This is the fourth time Prompinun has competed in vertical run in Viet Nam. He was often listed as the eldest participant in the run events.

“My daughter said she is worry about me running at this age, but look at me, I am full of energy,” the 65-year-old shows his muscle and smiles.

“After Viet Nam, I will go to China’s Beijing in September for another vertical run event. I will keep running whenever and wherever I can.”

With the achievement of 15 minutes of running and not winning the challenge in Hanoi on Saturday, Prompinun said it did not make him sad as he had fun and met a lot of friends.

“Nothing can stop me from running. I will keep on running in different countries until when I cannot walk,” he said confidently, “I can travel across the world and make friends in different countries,” he said.—Xinhua

World’s oldest priest says strict routine basis of long life

NALINNES, (Belgium) — A strict daily routine is the recipe for a long life, according to the world’s oldest priest, Belgian Jacques Clemens, who will celebrate his 107th birthday on Monday.

Clemens, who has also celebrated his 80th anniversary as a Catholic priest, gets up every

morning at 5.30 am and goes to bed at 9.00 pm.

When Clemens was about to retire at 75, his bishop asked him to remain in service until they found a successor — he only stopped holding regular church services at his parish in the southern Belgian village of Nalinnes last year.—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(12-7-2016, Tuesday)

<p>06 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather Report • Pyi Thu Ni Ti <p>06 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartoon Programme “ Big Hero (6) ” (Part-1) <p>07 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>08 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV Entertainment Music • Myanmar Social & <p>09 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Social & 	<p>Charitable Association (EP-3) (Part-1)</p> <p>09 : 40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Movie Songs <p>09 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General Aung San Museum <p>10 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Programme <p>10 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma <p>10 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Movie
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From **12-7-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm**
To **13-7-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm**



mitv Myanmar International

(12-7-2016 07:00am ~ 13-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Insight Myanmar “ILO-SIYB Project (Episode-I)”
07:45	Am	Myanmar Traditional Toys
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Living in Off-Season
08:38	Am	Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre- Chaw Dwin Gone [Doctor] [Painter]
08:55	Am	News
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Archery Session (from Ramayana Play)
09:47	Am	Lively Group Folk Dance of Kayan Nationals
09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: First Hundred Days of the New Government (Part-2)

10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-1) Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop
10:51	Am	Paper Art Creator

(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
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-6)
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar’s Traditions and Culture “A stir about of Rainbows”
08:50	Pm	Now in Yangon

(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)



Portugal stun France with late Eder strike in Euro final

Portugal celebrate with the trophy after winning Euro 2016 at Stade de France, Saint-Denis near Paris, France on 10 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — Portugal found an unlikely hero as Eder's thunderous finish deep into extra time secured their first European Championship title after they overcame the early loss of Cristiano Ronaldo to snatch a 1-0 victory over hosts France on Sunday.

The substitute picked the perfect time to score his first competitive goal for his country, marauding forward before letting fly with

a bullet shot from 25 metres in the 109th minute.

It was a magic moment for the 28-year-old who plays for French club Lille and delivered a devastating knockout blow to decide a tight and cagey encounter.

"It was amazing," the striker told reporters. "We fought with immense strength, we were amazing. I think we deserve this title due to the work we put in, all the players

and the staff." It was a cruel outcome for Didier Deschamps' side, who had dominated the match and squandered a number of chances, in front of their devastated home support, who arrived at the Stade de France hoping to celebrate a third European crown.

The trophy was lifted triumphantly by Ronaldo, who broke down in tears at the final whistle after his own game had come to a

frustrating end with 24 minutes on the clock when he cried as he was carried off the pitch on a stretcher with a knee injury. So much of the build-up had focused on Ronaldo and his hopes of crowning a glittering career with the only achievement missing from his CV, a piece of international silverware.

The script had been written for him to produce a performance to match his status as one of the

game's truly great talents, but he had to settle for a back-stage role after Dimitri Payet's challenge left him in a heap on the floor.

It was not how he would have envisaged his evening panning out, but having been part of the Portugal side that were stunned in the final as hosts by Greece in 2004, he celebrated wildly with his team mates as ticker tape rained down from the rafters.—Reuters

Fatherhood breathes new life into Murray's career

LONDON — Rather than being distracted by the sleepless nights or the regular nappy changing duties that have fallen his way, the arrival of baby daughter Sophia in February has breathed new life into Andy Murray's career.

Whereas top players used to once put off having families till their careers were in decline or over so that they did not lose focus, on Sunday, Murray joined the likes of Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic by becoming the latest father to win a grand slam title when he beat Milos Raonic 6-4, 7-6(3), 7-6(2) to capture a second Wimbledon title.

"Having a child has given me a little bit of extra motivation to work hard, train hard, and do all of the right things to give

myself a chance to win these events," the 29-year-old Scot said after ending a three-year barren run at the slams.

"A lot of people have said, like, when Roger had kids, he started playing some of his best tennis. Novak, the same thing. But the reality is you still have to put the work in. You still have to have the drive and the dedication to train hard.

"I feel more motivated than ever just now."

Following the birth of his son Stefan in October 2014, Djokovic turned into an indestructible force, winning five of the next seven grand slam events.

That winning mentality also seems to have rubbed off on Murray as he has now contested the final of his last five tournaments,

winning in Rome and Queen's Club before landing the one that really counted at the All England Club.

"The last three months have been some of the best I've played in terms of consistency," said Murray, who celebrated Sunday's triumph by hugging the pineapple-topped Challenge Cup while taking a dip in an ice bath in the players' locker room.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Ronaldo told me I'd score the winner, says Portugal's Eder

PARIS — Cristiano Ronaldo predicted Portugal's Euro 2016 hero Eder would score the winning goal in their 1-0 extra-time triumph over France and gave him the encouragement to settle Sunday's final.

Eder came on in the 79th minute and, having played only 13 minutes at the tournament before his introduction, struck the winner with a venomous long-range strike in the 109th minute.

Portugal were outsiders to win the final and were dealt a significant blow early on when their talismanic captain Ronaldo had to be replaced through injury in the 25th minute.

Eder, who plays for French side Lille, said his captain's words had inspired him to

make the decisive contribution.

"(Ronaldo) told me I would score the winning goal for the team," the striker told O Jogo. "He gave me this strength, this energy and it was vital.

"It was a goal I've been working for from the first minute of the Euros. "For all the work we did, for all of the Portuguese, it's fantastic," he added. "It's well deserved and we should all be congratulated."

France had better chances in regular time but were unable to capitalise on their superiority despite Ronaldo's exit. Portugal coach Fernando Santos brought on Eder for Renato Sanches and he broke the deadlock in the extra period after muscling his way past defender Laurent Koscielny before firing a low right-foot shot into the corner of Hugo Lloris's goal.—Reuters