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HISTORIC MOMENT

MPs to elect president, vice presidents today

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will vote to select the next president from among three final candidates today.

The vote comes after yesterday's announcement by the parliament that the candidacy of all three nominees has been approved by a final scrutiny committee.

U Htin Kyaw won six of the seven votes cast by the seven-member committee. When U Htin Kyaw's candidacy was put to the vote, Maj-Gen Than Soe, a military-appointed MP and committee member suggested that the candidate's qualifications be scrutinised in accordance with Article 3(g) concerning the Election of the President and Vice Presidents clause of the constitution since the candidate is not an MP.

Concerning candidate U Henry Van Thio, the Maj-Gen also suggested to define "the State's permission" at the Constitutional Tribunal of the Union of Myanmar regarding the candidate's six-year stay abroad with his family.

U Henry Van Thio won six votes with one objection and was approved by the committee for the presidential election.

U Myint Swe, the presidential candidate nominated by the Tatmadaw-appointed MPs, was also approved by the scrutiny committee. The winner of today's voting will become president, and the two runners-up will become vice presidents.
—Myanmar News Agency



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



U Htin Kyaw.



U Henry Van Thio.



U Myint Swe.



Residents in Thaton collect drinking water from donors.

PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

El Niño threatens 28 Mon State villages with water shortages

UP TO twenty-eight villages in Thaton District, Mon State, could suffer from El Niño-induced water shortages, according to the Department for Rural Development of Thaton District.

Of the villages that could experience water scarcities, most are located in Bilin and Paung townships, which account for ten villages each, while four villages are situated in each of the townships of Kyaikto and Thaton.

"Some villages this year are experiencing water shortages because of the heat. That is why, as a government department, we are carrying out an initiative in order to mitigate such shortages. We are distributing water to those villages currently suffering from a lack of water. We have auxiliary water vehicles on stand-by should an emergency situation arise," said U Hla Myo Win, assistant director of the Department

of Rural Development for Thaton District.

Local residents have demanded solutions to the impending water shortages from various government bodies.

"Water reserves dried up earlier this year. The annual shortages have never been quite this bad. We're in a real fix to access drinking water since our reservoirs have dried up.

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Tenth State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee meeting concludes

THE tenth meeting of the seventh 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (SSMNC) continued into its second day at the Wizaya Mingala Dhamma-beikman Hall on Kaba Aye Hill in Yangon yesterday.

The meeting was attended by members of Sangha led by SSMNC chairman and Mandalay Bhamo Monastery Sayadaw Abhidhaja Maha Rattha Guru Abhidhaja Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Dhammapalabhivamsa. It was also attended by Union Minister for Religious

Affairs U Soe Win and other officials. The chairman presided over the meeting, which included discussions on religious and education affairs, while the Joint Secretary Sayadaw Agga Maha Pandita Agga Maha Saddhammajotikadhaja Bhaddanta Dhammapalabhivamsa served as the master of ceremonies.

Kyaikkasan Wailuwun Monastery Sayadaw Bhaddanta Manita and laypersons made offerings to members of the Sangha after the meeting. —Myanmar News Agency



Seventh 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee holds 10th meeting. PHOTO: MNA



Tourists are seen in Bagan. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Influx of tourists to Bagan forces some to sleep in restaurants

A LARGE influx of travellers to the ancient cultural heritage region of Bagan has caused a shortage of accommodation options, forcing some to seek shelter in restaurants.

"There are so many tourists this year. Numbers are increasing year upon year. Tourists have had to sleep in restaurants because hotels were fully booked," said

U Win Maung, secretary of the Bagan Region Development Association.

Bagan is home to over 3,000 ancient pagodas, which feature thousand-year-old architecture and wall paintings. "The monasteries this year are full with visitors. The tourist industry is really thriving at the moment. It's not as difficult as before to visit Bagan

these days since infrastructure has been built. The restaurants are full of tourists," said Daw WahWah, a local handicraft seller. Last year saw over 2.4 million tourists visit the Bagan historical zone, with 2016 expected to see these figures surpassed, according to the Bagan Region Development Association. —Myitmakha News Agency

Myanmar attends 11th Lancang-Mekong Youth Friendship Program

Daw Myat Su Thanlwin Aung and Daw May Zaw Oo, members of Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs' Association, left for the 11th Lancang-Mekong Youth Friendship Program on Sunday. The youth friendship

program is scheduled to be held in China and Thailand on 13-21 March.

They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by responsible persons of the association. —Myanmar News Agency



Women entrepreneurs are seen at Yangon International Airport before departure for China and Thailand. PHOTO: MNA

Education Ministry hosts luncheon to mark education sector development



Union Minister for Education Daw Khin San Yi delivers address. PHOTO: MNA

THE Ministry of Education honoured those who have contributed their efforts to the development of the country's education sector in Yangon yesterday.

Union Minister for Education and for Science and Tech-

nology Daw Khin San Yi, who is also chair of National Education Committee, hosted the guests at a luncheon in the Diamond Jubilee Hall.

The Union minister spoke words of thanks during the event and cordially greeted the

honourees.

Also present at the luncheon were deputy ministers, regional ministers for Yangon Region, rectors, pro-rectors, professors and faculty members from universities in Yangon. —Education

Nearly 600,000 students take chemistry exam

A TOTAL of 578,145 students sat for the chemistry section of the national matriculation examinations at 1,442 exam cen-

tres across the country yesterday, according to the Ministry of Education. According to the ministry, 578,145, of 611,141

registered students took the exam, while 32,996 students failed to sit for the examinations to date. —Myanmar News Agency

VP U Nyan Tun attends 2016 World Water Day celebration

VICE PRESIDENT U Nyan Tun addressed a ceremony to celebrate World Water Day 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, the vice president stressed the need to turn Myanmar into a water-efficient country by fully implementing the country's integrated water resources management plan by 2020.

He also highlighted the importance of investing in the water sector, including water supply and sanitation, personal hygiene, environmental cleanliness, irrigation and hydropower, in order to maintain parallel infrastructure development and capacity building in human resources.

Calling for cooperation between the government and the people to promote the water sector, the vice president emphasised the need for public awareness, participation, consultation and education on sustainable water management.

According to the vice president, plans are underway to promulgate the Water Law following the formation of the National Water Resources Management Committee in 2013 and the adoption of a



Vice President U Nyan Tun poses for photo together with dignitaries at World Water Day 2016 celebration. PHOTO: MNA

Water Policy in 2014.

The country is implementing the process of ensuring integrated water resources management in cooperation with the Netherlands and international organisations

on water sector development as well, he added.

Next, the task force leader of the World Bank's Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Management project gave a presentation

on the activities of the National Water Resources Management Committee, followed by addresses from officials from the Embassy of the Netherlands in Myanmar and the Australia Agency for

International Development.

Following the speeches, the vice president and party perused booths displayed at the World Water Day ceremony.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets ASEAN counterparts in Laos

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held separate talks with his counterparts from ASEAN countries while attending the 13th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces Informal Meeting at the Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel in Vientiane, Laos yesterday.

During the talks on bilateral friendship, security and defence cooperation, the senior general met the Chief of the Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces General Sommai Kaotira; Chief of General Staff of the Lao People's Armed Forces Maj-Gen

Souvone Leuangbounmy; Deputy Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Philippines Lt-Gen Romeo T Tanalgo; Chief of the General Staff of the Vietnam People's Army General Do Ba Ty; Deputy Chief of Defence of the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces Gen Eth Sarath; and Commander of the Royal Brunei Armed Forces Maj-Gen Pehin Mohd Ta Wih Bin Abdullah.

Also present at the calls were other members of the Myanmar military delegation to the 13th ASEAN Chief of Defence Forces Informal Meeting in Vientiane, Laos.—*Myawady*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talk with Chief of the Defence Forces of the Royal Thai Armed Forces General Sommai Kaotira. PHOTO: MYAWADY

El Niño threatens 28 Mon State villages with . . .

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I don't know what's going to happen next in terms of our non-drinking water reserves," said a resident of Budinkaung Village.

Local governments are currently carrying out timely distribution of water to six villages suffering shortages, while a plan is in place to provide water-scarce villages with fibre tanks, which each have the capacity to hold more than 1,000 litres.

Lists of villages vulnerable to water shortages are being compiled with emergency contact numbers for villagers, should they experience problems accessing water.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Thirsty? Build your own wells, says Sittwe municipal

THE Sittwe Township Development Committee has issued a reminder to the public to dig artesian wells at their own initiative should water become scarce.

The Sittwe Township Development Committee (STDC) started to issue public reminders in the first week of March, explaining that the onset of the El Niño weather front could result in the rapid drying up of the Kandawgyi and Hsatyoe gyi reservoirs, putting a strain on water distribution in the township.

"We could see water scares. [The government has] reminded the public to dig artesian wells should water become hard to source. But we aren't in a position to dig such well in our

neighbourhood. We source all our water from the Kandawgyi Reservoir three days a week," said U Hla Aye, a resident of the Shwe Pya neighbourhood of Sittwe.

The 34 neighbourhoods of Sittwe get their water supply from the Kandawgyi, Kandawng, Kandawlay, Toekyaykan and Trigankan reservoirs. Some neighbourhoods, such as Shwe Pya and Sinkulan, completely rely on the Kandawgyi Reservoir for their drinking water, as the water in their neighbourhoods' artesian wells is salty.

The formal reminder issued by the STDC requested the people's understanding for the difficulties faced by the committee

to provide water distribution services this year, calling for residents to systematically control their water usage in addition to digging their own wells.

The Kandawgyi Reservoir, built in 1911, spans 136 acres and holds 410 million gallons of water. It provides drinking water to 32 neighbourhoods within Sittwe, but local residents have reported that an increasingly dense population has meant that more water is required.

The Rakhine State townships of Minbya, Pauktaw and Ponnagyun are currently experiencing water shortages caused by El Niño, which marks the second year in a row of such scarcity for Ponnagyun.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Blood poisoning symptoms found in infants

THE Ministry of Health announced yesterday that symptoms of blood poisoning were found in infants who received hepatitis B vaccines at Bago General hospital following laboratory tests.

Special care is being given to babies who are linked to the incident, in which several infants died after receiving the vaccinations, at Bago General Hospital and Yankin Children's Hospital, said the ministry. The ministry added that a detailed investigation is underway to determine whether the hepatitis vaccines given to the infants, Engerix B and Hepavax B, are authentic or not.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Orphans attending monastery school in Bago need assistance

"We are facing difficulties to care needy ethnic orphans from different backgrounds," said U Kawwida, the abbot of a monastic school in a village in Bago Region, inviting well-wishers to support them.

Located in Ohnchan Village one mile far from northwest of Swa Township in Bago Region, the monastic school has received orphans for last three months in order to educate them and fulfil their needs.

"Normally, we feed 85 school children at a cost of over K100,000 (US\$82) per day," the Sayadaw said.

Although local philanthropic organisations have provided



Orphans pose for a group photo section. PHOTO: KO LWIN (SWA)

support to the children, they need safe buildings. Currently, all students reside in temporary shelters.

There are only over 20

households in Ohnchan Village and villagers also help those children as much as they can, the Sayadaw added.—Ko Lwin (Swa)

Public safety activities to be promoted during New Year Water Festival

MANDALAY Region Police will accelerate their public safety works during the country's New Year Water Festival by arresting people who threaten public safety, said District Police Major Sein Tun.

To protect public safety, actions will be taken against people who carry any knife and stick in public, heavy drinkers and drug users, he added.

Although the authorities prohibited liquor sellers not to sell the liquor outside the restricted area in the region, several criminal cases were annually reported during the festival as majority of drinkers carried the alcohol bottle on their cars.

"The consumption of alcohol, especially at high levels,

leads to cause violence and several crimes," said Police Major Sein Tun.

"We annually carry out special checks mainly at the points of entry of the city, U Pein Bridge, Kandawgyi Lake and around Mandalay moat both before and after the festival period."

The authorities have also installed over 40 CCTV cameras on the main streets in downtown Mandalay to help deter crimes.

Installation of loud exhaust pipes on cars and motorbikes, removing number plates, using vehicle without licenses holding the international flags are prohibited during the festival.—Aung Thant Khaing

Crime NEWS

Police shoot drunken swordsman in Tamwe



The sword used in attack. PHOTO: SOE WIN

POLICE seized a man who reportedly destroyed property belonging to his father and threatened other members of his family in Tamwe Township, Yangon, on Sunday evening.

According to the suspect's, police officers from the Tamwe Myoma Police Station raided the house on Thaminbayan Street in Mahlwagon Htaykwai Kagyi Ward to arrest Zin Ko Ko Lwin,

who displayed signs of high levels of alcohol consumption.

A police officer shot Zin Ko Ko Lwin, causing injuries to his right arm, after the latter attacked police with an 11-inch long sword.

Zin Ko Ko Lwin is receiving medical treatment at the Yangon General Hospital. He is expected to be charged under the law.—Soe Win

Illegal cattle seized in Sagaing

LOCAL police seized illegal bulls in the southern part of Tatkon Village in Kyunhla Township, Sagaing Region, arresting four people for illegally trading restricted farm animals.

Acting on a tip-off, police officers from the Kyunhla Myoma Police Station ambushed the suspects in possession of six bulls on Thursday.

Kyaw Myo Lin, 38, Aung

Myo Oo, 35, U Chit Myint, 57, and Daw Nwe Moe, 40, were taken into custody by the police after they failed to produce documents proving their ownership of the farm animals.—Kyemon

Yaba pills confiscated in Lashio and Loilem

AFTER searching a motorbike driven by Thein Win near the Oriental Toll Gate in Nawngkhio on 11 March, a combined team including the Lashio Anti-Drug Squad confiscated 2,000 yaba pills from the motorist.

On the same day, local police stopped and searched a white Toyota Alphard driven by Thein Ngwe with passenger Thein Han on board on the Loilem-Namhsan road and discovered 115 yaba pills in the car.

Police have filed charges against all three men under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force



Thein Win. PHOTO: MPF

Rusted bullets found in Mayangon Tsp

UNUSED rusted bullets were found at the compound of Thamaing Myoma Monastery in No. 2 Ward, Mayangon Township, Yangon, on Saturday, 12 March.

Local police investigated the site where the bullets were found and interrogated witnesses.

After interrogating the witnesses, forensic investigators

discovered that local labourers found the 46 unused rusted.303 rifle bullets buried about two feet underground while they were digging a hole to lay the foundation for a new annex building in the compound of the monastery. The bullets have been placed in storage by local police.—Soe Win



The 46 unused rusted.303 rifle bullets seen. PHOTO: SOE WIN

Motorcyclist killed in head-on-collision

A MAN was killed in a head-on collision on the Thitsa Road in Magwe Region on Saturday, according to police.

Two motorbikes collided head-on near a basic education high school on the Thitsa Road at around 4pm that day.

Both motorcyclists sus-

tained serious injuries, and Han Tha Phyo, 29, died on the spot.

The other driver, Naung Naung Zaw, 27, is currently receiving treatment at a local hospital.

The two motorcyclists were found guilty of careless driving by the police.—Kyaw Zeya

LOCAL Business



Yedagun offshore natural gas rig. PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ENERGY

300 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas to be tendered out

THE Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise under the Ministry of Energy announced yesterday that it will tender out 300 tonnes of liquefied petroleum gas to qualified companies.

The announcement offers sales of 150 tonnes from the No 2 Petroleum Gas Plant in Nyaung-

don, 100 tonnes from the No 1 Thanlyin Refinery and 50 tonnes from Coker liquefied petroleum gas through a tender system.

Companies with licences to store and distribute liquefied petroleum gas are eligible to compete in the sale, which is slated to be held at the ministry in Nay Pyi

Taw at 12pm on 17 March 2016.

Tender forms are available at the ministry and at MOGE at No 7 Thanlyatsun Road in Botahtaung Township from 14 to 17 March.

Applicants must submit their tender forms to the ministry by 12pm on 17 March.—*Ministry of Energy*

VietJet to recruit flight attendants

VIETJET, a private Vietnamese airline company, has invited new flight attendants from Myanmar and other ASEAN countries to join its cabin crew.

Candidates can apply online by sending their application forms and CVs to crewrecruit-

ment@viethetair.com no later than 26 March.

Among the qualifications required are a TOFEL certificate with a score of more than 400 or other relevant certificates, height between five feet-six inches and five feet-11 inches for men and

5 feet-three inches and five feet-nine inches for women.

Candidates in the tentative selection list will have to go to Vietnam for interviews, and selected candidates will be given a chance to take an international-standard training course.—*Soe Win*



PHOTO: VIETJET

Dried fish prices rise as Thingyan draws near

LOW supplies of fish markets in Ye Township, Mon State, have driven the price of dried fish and dried prawns up as the Thingyan Festival approaches.

The demand is higher during this period as people usually make charitable and religious donations near Thingyan, the Myanmar New Year, according to a local fish trader.

The price of dried fish has ris-

en from K16,000 to K20,000 per viss (1.6 kilos). Only some consumers can afford to buy this, said Daw Tin Aye, a dried fish seller.

The supply of dried fish and dried prawns is high around opening season but decreases in the winter.

The prices depend on supply and demand, said U Kyaw Min Oo, who supplies dried fish to Yangon markets.—*Htut Htu (Ye)*

Low mango yields drive prices up

DESPITE low yields, mangoes are fetching up to K5,000 per viss this year, which is higher than usual, according to mango farmers.

The number of mango growers has increased in Mandalay Region. Growers change low-standards varieties into the sein-ta-lone variety through grafting. Aiming to enter the export market, the

growers have formed groups in order to share modern methods for mango farming and marketing strategies. They have begun withholding mangoes from the market in order to drive prices up.

Sein-ta-lone mangoes are in the highest demand, followed by the yin-kwe variety.—*Tain Taman*



Sustainable rice seminar coming to capital

A SEMINAR titled 'The Role of the Private Sector for a Sustainable Myanmar Rice Sector and Seed Industry Development' is set to run two days at the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation in Nay Pyi Taw beginning on 18 March, according to the ministry.

The seminar will include presentations by ministry officials, agricultural experts, the Myanmar Rice Federation and affiliated associations, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation, the

International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT), the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and economists.

Enthusiasts and media persons are also invited to the seminar. Further information can be found by calling 067410070 and 067410007.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Thai PM boosts security in Muslim south after attacks

NARATHIWAT, (Thailand) — Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha told the army yesterday to increase security in the country's Muslim-majority southern provinces following attacks at the weekend.

Seven soldiers were injured following multiple gun and bomb attacks in Narathiwat, one of three provinces near the Thailand-Malaysia border, including a gunfight in a hospital.

"The prime minister has ordered the military to increase security in populated areas," junta spokesman Major General Sansern Kaewkamnerd told reporters.

"The government can't accept actions that are above the law." The three southernmost provinces of Buddhist-majority Thailand have been gripped by a bloody insurgency that has killed more than 6,500 people since 2004. The region was once part of a Malay sultanate until it was annexed by Thailand a century ago.

Local history and a failure by successive governments to quell the violence have fanned distrust of the Thai state in the south.

The order by Prayuth, who came to power after a couple in May 2014, follows what govern-



Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha

ment and non-governmental agencies said was a sharp drop in the number of attacks in the south.

Deep South Watch, which monitors the violence, said there was a 16 per cent drop in violent incidents in 2015 compared to 2014. The latest attack began on Sunday, when gunmen opened fire on police at a train station in Cho-airong District in Narathiwat.

Shortly after, a group of around 30 insurgents fired grenades into a nearby military base before fleeing to a hospital, said Colonel Yutthanam Petchmuang, a

spokesman for the Internal Security Operations Command.

There they briefly took a 29-year-old pregnant nurse hostage and exchanged gunfire with security forces.

"Around 30 bad guys took over the hospital's second floor," Yutthanam told Reuters. "It was a very serious incident. There were three attacks altogether yesterday and seven people were injured." No group has claimed responsibility for the attacks which authorities have blamed broadly on insurgent groups.—Reuters

Indonesia sinks illegal fishing vessel wanted by Interpol

JAKARTA — Indonesia confirmed itself to be the last stop of the FV Viking, a fugitive fishing vessel under investigation by Interpol, after it sank the ship on Monday in waters off West Java.

The ship, which arrived in Indonesian waters on 25 February, was found to be stateless — after an investigation by Indonesia's illegal fishing eradication task and a team from Norway and Canada.

"This stateless vessel has done illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing in some parts of the world for a long time," Indonesia's Maritime Affairs and Fisheries Minister Susi Pudjias-tuti said in a statement.

She added that the vessel and its acts amounted to transnational organised crime, and that the ship contained no fishing reports of navigational computers.

She said the ship, while stateless, had undergone repairs in Singapore and had some correlation with a fishing company in Spain, adding that it had violated some conservation meas-

ures specified by international law.

Investigations are ongoing in a bid to trace the 1,322-ton vessel's owner, fishing targets and business networks.

The vessel was found to have also paid visits to Viet Nam, Malaysia, Angola and the United States, among other countries.

An Interpol purple notice, appealing for information on the activities of the ship, was issued in 2013, and updated in 2015. It stated that the Viking had changed its name and country of registration at least three times between May 2013 and March 2014 in a bid to avoid detection of illegal activities.

"They are suspected of violating national laws and regulations, as well as international conventions, and otherwise engage in fraud and fisheries-related crimes," the notice read.

Photographs on social media showed explosions on the ship as it was sunk by Indonesian authorities, with President Joko Widodo tweeting about the event.—Kyodo News

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Eight killed in chemical accident at Siam Commercial Bank HQ



Rescue workers aid a victim after an accident, possibly caused by a fire retardant chemical according to the bank, at the headquarters of Thailand's Siam Commercial Bank in Bangkok on 13 March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — An accident at the headquarters of Thailand's Siam Commercial Bank, possibly caused by a fire retardant chemical, has killed eight people, the bank said yesterday.

The accident took place late on Sunday as contractors were working on the building's fire fighting systems.

"Gas pyrogens intended to

extinguish fires opened and kept oxygen out resulting in injuries and death," the bank said.

"Eight people died as a result and seven injured people are in hospital," the bank said.

Those killed were contractors and a security guard, police said. "They were in the building for maintenance work," said Police Colonel Charoen Srisasalak.

In February 2015 a fire broke out at the sprawling SCB complex located in the north of the Thai capital Bangkok, killing one fireman.

All SCB bank branches will open as usual on Monday, the bank said. SCB is Thailand's oldest commercial bank and Thailand's third largest lender by assets.—Reuters

Australia 'concerned' over Malaysia's arrest of journalists

SYDNEY — Concerns were raised by the Australian government yesterday after two Australian journalists were arrested over the weekend for allegedly attempting to approach the Malaysian prime minister. Reporter Linton Besser, 39, and cameraman Louie Eroglu, 51, of the Australian Broadcasting Corp were in Malaysia to cover Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak's official visit to Sarawak. According to a statement released by Malaysian police, the two were arrested Saturday after attempting to approach the prime minister during his visit to Darul Ehsan Mosque.

"(Malaysian Police) lodged a police report against two Australian citizens who crossed the security line and aggressively tried to approach the Prime Minister...the incident occurred at about 8:35 pm. Both of them were subsequently arrested for failing to comply with police instructions not to cross the security line," head of Malaysia's Criminal Investigation Department, Dev Kumar said in a statement. The two were released on bail on Sunday after being held for six hours and questioned by police.—Kyodo News

Viet Nam protesters denounce China on anniversary of navy battle

HANOI — Demonstrators marched in Viet Nam's capital yesterday to mark the 28th anniversary of a bloody naval battle with China and to denounce Beijing's growing assertiveness in the hotly contested waters of the South China Sea.

About 150 people wearing headbands and carrying large banners circled the busy streets around Hanoi's Hoan Kiem lake chanting "down with invasive China". They laid wreaths for 64 Vietnamese sailors who died in a 1988 clash with Chinese forces in the Spratly islands.

The protest was small, but significant given Viet Nam's history of preventing or breaking up demonstrations. While anti-China sentiment is strong among the public, it is a sensitive issue for the ruling Communist Party.

Police made no attempt to stop the 90-minute protest, which was larger than those last year, including one on the eve of Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to Hanoi in November.

The rally comes amid tension, brinkmanship and a torrent of megaphone diplomacy in response to anything from Chinese flights and deployment of a missile system to US "freedom of



Anti-China protesters shout 'down with invasive China' during a gathering to mark the 28th anniversary of the Spratly Islands clashes between Viet Nam and China at a public park in Hanoi on 14 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

navigation" patrols and Japanese defence agreements with the Philippines.

Viet Nam's Foreign Ministry last month accused China of taking actions that threaten peace and "accelerate militarisation".

Monday's demonstration was over a battle in the Johnson Reef in the Spratly islands. Accounts of it differ greatly and

Viet Nam does not commemorate the incident officially.

"That was the first step in China's plan to militarise the South China Sea," said activist Nguyen Van Phuong, 29, referring to the 1988 hostilities.

Though Viet Nam opposes China's occupation of the Parcel Islands and parts of the Spratly archipelago, its responses to

Beijing's activities in disputed areas are usually measured and often come days after those of other countries.

China is Viet Nam's biggest trade partner and the communist parties that run both countries have historically been close, although some Vietnamese leaders have said trust has been impacted of late.—Reuters

UN rights envoy urges prosecution of North Korean leader

GENEVA — The United Nations human rights investigator called on Monday for North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and senior officials to be prosecuted for committing crimes against humanity.

Marzuki Darusman said North Korea is devoting huge resources to developing nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction while many of its citizens lack sufficient food. He was addressing the UN Human Rights Council at a session boycotted by the delegation of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The European Union and United States supported his call for accountability without naming the leader.

China, Pyongyang's ally, took a more conciliatory tone, saying human rights issues should not be politicised and calling for a comprehensive approach to dealing with North Korea.

North Korea Foreign Minister Ri Su Yong, in a speech to the Geneva forum on 1 March, said it would boycott any session that examined its record and would "never, ever" be bound by any such resolutions.

Darusman, referring to his report issued last month, said: "I would like to reiterate my appeal to the international community to move forward to ensure accountability of the senior leadership of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, including that of Mr Kim Jong Un." This could be via the International Criminal Court (ICC) but failing consensus among major powers, North Korea's leadership could be prosecuted in a third country, he said.—Reuters

Indian parliament asks Rahul Gandhi to explain British citizenship

NEW DELHI — The Indian Parliament's ethics committee has asked the country's main opposition Congress party's second-in-command Rahul Gandhi to explain his British citizenship, sources said yesterday.

In fact, the Nehru-Gandhi scion has been asked to explain whether he once declared himself a British citizen on the

legal papers of a company in Britain, following a complaint by a lawmaker of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party to the speaker of the Lower House of Parliament.

The Congress had got embroiled in the British citizenship row involving Gandhi in November when Subramanian Swamy, a senior BJP leader,

said that he had accessed documents to show that the Congress vice president claimed British nationality to set up a company in Britain.

The Congress has accused the parliament speaker of bypassing "the process of natural justice" by not asking Gandhi for his version first and also released another document of the

same company, in which he had declared himself Indian.

Gandhi, 45, has rejected the allegations of impropriety and dared Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to send him to jail if he was proven guilty. He could be expelled from the Parliament as the ethics panel had the power to do so in case if he is found guilty.—Xinhua

Army deployed to protect power stations in Sri Lanka following third nationwide power failure in 6 months

COLOMBO — Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on yesterday ordered the army to be deployed to protect all installations and electricity sub stations connected to the National Power Grid following a nation wide power failure on Sunday.

The power failure which lasted for over seven hours was the third nationwide power failure reported in the country within six months.

According to initial investigations, the Ceylon Electricity Board said that a massive damage caused to an electricity transformer on the outskirts of the capital followed by an explosion was the cause of electricity being cut off

nation wide on Sunday. However, investigations are continuing.

The government termed the power failure as "strange" and there has been speculation that an act of sabotage had caused the country wide blackout.

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe has called for an emergency meeting on Monday to discuss the matter. Local media said that the power failure was the longest in Sri Lanka in 20 years and several areas in the country faced power cuts even on Monday. The electricity failure also resulted in water cuts in several parts of Sri Lanka and traffic congestions due to traffic signals not being able to operate.—Xinhua

Cambodia's central bank hosts summit on microfinance sector development

PHNOM PENH — The National Bank of Cambodia yesterday hosted a national summit on the development of microfinance sector with an aim of underscoring the sector's vital role in economic development and in poverty alleviation.

Addressing the opening ceremony of the two-day event here, Prime Minister Hun Sen said the summit marked the 10-year anniversary since the government held the first one in 2006 and declared that year "The Year of Microfinance".

"The objective of the national summit today is to promote public awareness on the development of the microfinance sector in Cambodia over the last decade and its

important role in the development of the nation's economy and in poverty alleviation, which are key components in the government's national strategies," he said. He said the country's poverty rate has remarkably fallen to 14 per cent in 2014 from over 53 per cent in 2004. Meanwhile, the prime minister urged all microfinance institutions (MFIs) to assess the possibility of borrowers' repayment before providing loans to them so as to avoid the seizure of collateral when debtors are unable to repay their debts on schedule.

He also advised the central bank and local authorities to closely watch some organisations that have cheated people through promising high interest rates for depos-

iting money in their organisations.

According to the latest figures of the Cambodian Microfinance Association, the kingdom's 64 MFIs had lent 2.95 billion US dollars to customers last year, up 45 per cent year-on-year. Some 2 million people had borrowed money from the MFIs as of last year, up 14 per cent year-on-year.

Also, the MFIs received the deposits of 1.32 billion US dollars last year, up 46 per cent year-on-year. The number of depositors at the MFIs reached 1.42 million last year, up 27 per cent year-on-year.

According to Hun Sen, the average interest rate the MFIs charged had declined from 36 per cent per annum in 2006 to 23.7 per cent in 2015.—Xinhua

OPINION

The Role of Institutions in the Process of Governance

Khin Maung Aye

THE role of institutions in the process of governance is the central concern of institutional Theory approach. In determination of the capacity of the government to govern effectively, for example, the role of the presidential or parliamentary institution in making the governance process work within a state is the central focus of this approach. In this approach, major questions which are related to the role of the non-majoritarian institutions like

that of courts of law, bureaucratic machinery and central bank have also been raised.

In this regard, it is worth noting that scholars like March and Oslen (1989) conceptualized institutions as sets of norms and logics of appropriateness that give guidance to the policy makers. In fact, governance, according to the institutional theories, can be understood through logics being utilized to govern and, regimes and norms being followed in its attempt to govern. Historically, governance is viewed as path dependent i.e. the one which worked in the past world continue to work successfully in the future, too. Governance is largely inertial for them. As for the national choice institutionalists, governance involves the exploitation of incentives for the participants and if it is attuned correctly, governance becomes relatively a sample exercise.

Institutional question in regard to civil society organizations (CSOs) is also a major concern in this juncture in order to be able to find the best strategy for governing process. Concerns as to whether to build civil society organizations

(CSOs) or institutions to improve governance, the institution emphasized the construction of effective institutions to improve the methods of governing. Nevertheless, this does not necessarily deny the importance of CSOs in governance. It is believed that institutions are more believable than that of the society because they can be structurally changed quite easily by the political leaders. CSOs may in that case be more defending to change imposed from outside.

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 khinmaungaye@hotmail@gmail.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.

Nation Building, Anticorruption Drive and Rule of Law

Sayar Mya

(Continued from 14-3-2015)

They were demonstrating in response to the Diarios Secretos, or Secret Diaries, a ground-breaking investigative journalism project led by four Brazilian journalists – James Alberti, Katia Brembatti, Karlos Kohlbach and Gabriel Tabatcheik - - - that led to the biggest-ever scandal at Paraná's legislative assembly in Southern Brazilian state.

For two years the team of journalists had been investigating and compiling data on Paraná state assembly spending. Combing through more than 750 assembly memos, they analyzed and compiled all registries in the assembly's payroll, painstakingly recording more than 15,000 lines of data. Once complete, they published their reports on Brazilian News Networks.

What the journalists reported had drove thousands of people onto the streets to call for justice. From deceased employees on the active payroll, to "ghost employees" hired to receive a salary they later transferred the pay to their own bank accounts. The journalists claimed that millions of dollars were being systematically rerouted from public funds into private bank accounts.

The reports quickly sparked major action from the side in the state powers. Directors that were implicated in the scandal lost their jobs, and criminal investigations were opened. The assembly introduced greater oversight on hiring matters and made it

easier for citizens to access public information. According to the journalists, it was reported that the number of employees at the Parana assembly ultimately dropped by more than 1,000. They estimate that these changes could be saving the state as much as US\$5 million each month.

Transparency International and the Instituto Prensa y Sociedad (Press and Society Institute), awarded the four Brazilian journalists with the 2011 Latin American Investigative Journalism Award. Illustrating the power of transparency, their story shows what better thing can happen when an independent media helps citizens access the information they need to stand up and demand change. In the words of the student protester, history is set in motion.

Police whistleblowers

A Police whistleblower is a person who exposes any kind of information or activity that is deemed illegal, unethical, or not correct within the police organization.

Back in 2012, Maurice McCabe and John Wilson were respected police officers working in Ireland. When they found evidence that traffic offence cases were being wiped out and interfered with the reports, they did what their job demanded of them. They reported it to the higher authorities.

According to McCabe and Wilson, traffic penalty points were being waived for dubious and uncertain reasons. They believed this was happening in "almost every town and village of Ireland". Among those thought

to have benefited were a rugby star, a judge and a national journalist, as well as some police officers.

At a time of growing financial crisis, the reportedly cancelled payments were costing taxpayers an estimated Pound 1.5 million a year. Reckless drivers were also allegedly going unpunished. As many as seven road fatalities might have been avoided if rules against dangerous driving had been properly enforced and regulated.

First their complaint was ignored or dismissed - - - not only by their immediate superiors, but by the police commissioner, the minister for justice and the prime minister.

Then the two policemen were forced under watch list as their careers were nearly destroyed.

Both men were denied further access to the police database, thus making their job impossible. Watching Police officers visited their homes unannounced or called their mobile phones while they were on leave. Occasionally, they were stopped and searched without warrant.

"It destroyed me, my career and my family," Police Officer McCabe later said.

Ultimately Police officer Wilson resigned from his position. McCabe remained, but says he was threatened with disciplinary action if he testified about his complaint at the court.

As their isolation increased, they called the Irish Whistleblower Helpline (IWH). Taking over 200 calls a year; IWH of-

fers advice and help to the victims and witnesses of corruption.

"My phone call changed the whole case," says Police Officer McCabe. "My family and I couldn't have survived this ordeal without the support we received from IWH."

Offering guidance on coping with retaliation over whistleblower, IWH called publicly for an investigation into their claims and their treatment.

Ultimately, both Police men were vindicated, proving that they were not guilty. As the case hit and dominated headlines, official reports examined the claims. Analyzing data released in the reports, IWH calculated that 9,000 traffic cases had been cancelled in questionable circumstances between 2011 and 2012 alone.

An investigative commission was established to look into further allegations and the minister for justice and police commissioner resigned and took early retirement.

Since then, the Irish government has apologized for how the two men were treated, and the Irish public crowned them "People of the Year" for their courage and bravery.

The new ministerial and police leadership have pledged reforms to the police complaints system.

Balancing the budget in West Bank

A vast number of Palestinians in the West Bank live in abject poverty. Many lack access to health and education facilities. Moreover, countless buildings,

roads and sewage systems are in urgent need of repair. Instances of government officials misusing public funds have fuelled calls for the Palestinian Authority to introduce tighter controls on public sector spending.

Through its work with the public, Transparency International Palestine (AMAN) received a number of complaints about the use of government cars in the West Bank. In 2009, more than 6,000 civil servants owned one car each, and Pound 18 million was being spent on their fuel, maintenance and licensing. Many of the cars were frequently used for private journeys, or by friends and relatives. Some were reportedly even being sent abroad.

AMAN took its findings to the Ministry of Transport. The Ministry admitted that it was aware of the problem, but they lacked the resources to tackle it. So AMAN undertook to assist them. It launched a broad-based media campaign comprising radio, billboard and newspaper advertisements, encouraging citizens to phone and report on incidents of public vehicle misuse via AMAN's free hotline.

Sure enough, the initiative was a huge success. Within a short space of time AMAN logged more than 150 complaints. The cases were relayed back to the Ministry of Transport for further investigation. Knowing that this was unlikely to bring about lasting change, however, AMAN called on Prime Minister to address the issue more systematically.

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Antique silver coins found in Hteechaik



Antique silver coins. PHOTO: MAUNG CHIT LIN

COINS with images of a peacock and Queen Victoria estimated to be about 100 years old were found by chance on 13 March as a man was digging a ditch in the compound owned by U Aung Kyi and Daw Kyi Kyi Win in Ward 2 of Hteechaik Township, Katha

District, Sagaing Region.

Each silver coin has a one-inch diameter.

There are a total of 61 peacock-and-Victoria silver coins: five coins dated 1886; 21 coins dated 1862; two coins dated 1875; six coins dated 1882; four coins dated 1881; two coins dat-

ed 1880; two coins dated 1883; and one coin dated 1884.

The cache also includes other Queen Victoria coins, including seven coins dated 1885; 10 coins dated 1877; one coin dated 1879; one coin dated 1874; one coin dated 1876; and one coin dated 1878.—*Maung Chit Lin*

Special bus tickets available for government staff during Thingyan water festival

THE All Private Bus Lines Control Committee plans to issue special travel tickets for government staff to help them travel more easily around the country in order to provide better services during the long public holiday next month.

Myanmar's annual New Year Water Festival will take place from 11 to 20 April this year. Civil servants face difficulties getting tickets at reasonable prices during the festival every year as people throughout the country travel to spend the festival with their families.

"Effective action will be taken against owners of private bus lines who sell travel tickets at a higher price during the Maha Thinhyan Festival in line with the existing rules and regulations," said U Nyunt Wai, chairman of the committee.

According to the committee's announcement, all private highway buses have to sell at

least 10 tickets for government staff per bus between 1 and 20 April.

The special tickets are available at every ticket booth at highway bus centres. Civil servants wishing to buy bus tickets must present their original citizenship scrutiny cards and recommendation letters from the assistant head of the committee.

"Customers who are forced to buy tickets at higher prices may complain to the committee, which will reimburse them," said U Khet Hlaing, the assistant head of the committee.

In order to ensure efficient travel operations during the festival, all bus lines will send their schedules to the committee not later than 21 March.

Bus lines that sell tickets at inflated prices during the holiday will be fined up to K50,000 (US\$41.35) by the committee.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

NGO provides emergency services courses

THE non-governmental Social Welfare Organisation has offered free training on evacuations for disasters and accidents.

The organisation, which was formed in 2013 in Myawady, has already provided courses to over 5,000 people in over 40 townships across the country with the aim to improve emergency services, said chairman U Hla Tun of the Social Welfare Organisation, who studied emergency services in New Zealand.

"Sometimes, some people are killed by natural disasters or accidents because they do not get emergency services in time. This course mainly demonstrates practical approaches and changes the way people think," he added.

The organisation recently offered the course to 130 mem-

bers of charitable groups such as ChanMyaThuKha, Seittaya, Neikbanthukha, Amarashwepyi.

"Now that I have studied emergency services, I can now decide how to assist, depending upon the conditions. I can also handle broken limbs. That's why I wish to invite other groups to attend the next course," said Kyaw Kyaw Tun, an attendee of the course.

The organisation will open the course in Kyaukse on 15 March and in Mogok in April. The course is offered with the permission of the government. Charitable groups, fire-fighters and members of the Red Cross are invited to attend courses. The organisation provides the courses free of charge upon invitation.—*Aung Thant Khaing*



Providing of Emergency services being demonstrated. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Nation Building, Anticorruption Drive and Rule of Law

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Consequently, Palestine's Council of Ministers (PNA) declared a ban on the use of all government vehicles outside office hours, with the exception of the Prime Minister and his deputy. In 2010 around 6,200 vehicles were reclaimed from civil servants. Some of them were given to the government ministries for shared use, but the majority could be purchased by civil servants to use privately.

AMAN realizes that this is only one step towards reform, and a lot of work remains to be

done to bring integrity and transparency to government spending.

Birth rights in Nepal

Childbirth can be a dangerous prospect in much of Nepal's remote mountainous regions. Following the traditional custom, most women give birth at home, without medical equipment or supervision. When there are complications, treatment is administered by a local birth attendant with little experience without any formal training. As a result, as many as six Nepalese women die giving birth every

day. Many of them are teenagers.

Looking to improve the situation, the government started a new incentive programme that offers small cash allowances to women who gave birth in hospital. It is the kind of initiative that is desperately needed. Despite the good intention, one district local officials failed to promote it among their constituents. Instead, they created lists of fake mothers, and pocketed the money themselves for personal gains.

When a whistleblower rang the Nepal Help Center to report the situation, the NHC helped

him break the story to the media. Making national headlines, the case helped bring the plight of rural women into the public sphere. The fraud being exposed, the officials admitted their wrongdoing, and returned the money to the state budget to be redistributed where it is needed most namely among expectant mothers. The NHC keeping watch to make sure it stays that way.

It is my great pleasure in sharing country-wise cases on misappropriation through research work.

In conclusion, the writer would like to add that Wikipedia defines "Knowledge sharing" as an activity through which knowledge namely, information, skills, or expertise is exchanged among people, friends, families, communities or organizations.

The simple and sincere purpose of the writer of this article is to share knowledge through research work with the esteemed and valued readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar in connection with the "Nation Building" on "Anticorruption Drive and Rule of Law".

Trump says accepts no responsibility for campaign protesters



US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump reacts after being introduced at a campaign rally at the Sunset Cove Amphitheater in Boca Raton, Florida, March 13, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON/BLOOMINGTON — Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump refused to take responsibility on Sunday for clashes at his campaign events and criticized protesters who have dogged his rallies and forced him to cancel one in Chicago last week.

When a protester interrupted his speech on Sunday at an airport hangar in Bloomington, Illinois, minutes after it began, Trump derided him as a “disrupter” and told the cheering crowd: “Don’t worry about it - I don’t hear their voice.”

“Our rallies are so big and we have so many people, I never hear their voices. I only hear our people’s voices saying: ‘There they are, there they are,’” the billionaire businessman said as the audience roared approval and some 2,000 protesters waited outside.

Two later rallies on Sunday in Ohio and Florida passed without disruption.

Trump is trying to cement his lead over his remaining Republican rivals — US Senators Ted Cruz of Texas and Marco Rubio of Florida and Ohio Governor John Kasich — in five states that hold presidential nominating contests on Tuesday for Republicans and Democrats: Florida, Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina and Missouri.

The four Republicans and Democrats Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders are vying to run in the 8 November election to succeed Democratic President Barack Obama.

Trump used a round of Sunday morning television appearances to rebut strong criticism from Republican rivals and Democrats that he was encouraging discord with divisive language disparaging Muslims and illegal immigrants.

“I don’t accept responsibility. I do not condone violence in any shape,” Trump said on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

The 69-year-old New York real estate mogul defended his supporters and said he was considering helping pay the legal fees of a 78-year-old white man who punched a young black man at a Trump rally in North Carolina last week. The man, Trump said, “got carried away.”

“I’ve actually instructed my people to look into it,” he said. The man, John McGraw, was charged with assault and later with communicating a threat after he was seen on video saying he enjoyed hitting “that loudmouth” and threatening next time “to kill him.”

Trump had earlier promised to help cover the legal fees of supporters involved in clashes at his rallies.

On Friday night, thousands of protesters, many of them telling journalists they were Sanders or Clinton supporters, showed up at the Chicago rally, forcing Trump to cancel the event and casting a shadow over his weekend rallies.

Trump drew condemnation from his rivals.

“We are now seeing images on television that we haven’t seen in this country since the 1960s, images that make us look like a Third World country,” Rubio, 44, said at a campaign event in The Villages, a retirement community in Florida. “Do we really want to live in a country where Americans hate each other?”

Clinton, the Democratic front-runner and former US secretary of state, said Trump was “incredibly bigoted” and pitting Americans against each other.

“He is trafficking in hate and fear,” she told CNN. “He is

playing to our worst instincts.”

Trump said tension at his rallies came from people being “sick and tired” of American leadership that has cost them jobs through trade deals, failed to defeat Islamic State militants in Iraq and Syria, and treated military veterans poorly.

“The people are angry at that - they’re not angry about something I’m saying,” he said. “I’m just the messenger.”

Trump has harnessed the discontent of white, working-class voters who blame trade deals for costing them jobs. He has proposed building a wall along the US-Mexico border, disparaged some Mexican immigrants as criminals and advocated a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States.

A few dozen protesters, mostly young, stood in the rain outside a later Trump rally on Sunday in West Chester, Ohio, near Cincinnati.

Alexander Shelton, a 26-year-old student and activist, wore a white Muslim prayer robe with a picture of the civil rights leader Malcolm X painted on front.

“We have to stand up against white supremacy,” he said. “Trump stands for that.”

Michael McKinney, 47, a self-employed credit-card processor from Ohio, came to the rally with his wife and young daughter, and blamed the protesters for the violence.

“If the protesters don’t act civilly, people on the edge are going to snap,” he said.

“We are not a Third World nation. We don’t stand for killing each other because we disagree or even harm each other,” he said.

“This isn’t the United States I grew up in.”—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Small plane crashes into rural Bolivian market, kills seven

LA PAZ — A small plane crashed into a market in rural Santa Ana del Yacuma in northeast Bolivia’s Beni region on Sunday, killing seven people and injuring another 15, local police said.

The black and orange Cessna 206 crashed into the market shortly past noon killing four people aboard the aircraft, including the pilot, and three people that were on the ground, Bolivia’s aviation authority said. All the victims were inhabitants of the region.

Still images showed black smoke billowing from the rural market, which was partially engulfed in flames.—Reuters

Senior Saudi prince condemns Obama comments on Middle East

RIYADH — A senior Saudi Arabian prince on Monday condemned comments attributed to US President Barack Obama, saying the American leader had “thrown us a curve ball” in criticising Riyadh’s regional role.

Obama, in comments to The Atlantic last week, described Saudi Arabia as a “free rider” on American foreign policy, and criticised what he saw as Riyadh’s funding of religious intolerance and refusal to come to an accommodation with Iran. “No, Mr Obama. We are not ‘free riders,’” Prince Turki al-Faisal, a former Saudi intelligence chief and ex-ambassador to Washington and London, wrote in an open letter carried by the local Arab News English-language daily. Prince Turki listed Riyadh’s support for Syrian rebels fighting the Islamic State group, its humanitarian aid for refugees in the region and its creation of an Islamic anti-terrorism coalition.—Reuters

Sollorano pledges UN flood aid to Kraljevo, Cacak

BELGRADE — UN Resident Coordinator in Serbia Irena Vojackova Sollorano has said the UN will offer financial assistance to Kraljevo, and Cacak which was worst hit by the severe flooding, as well as support these central Serbian towns through projects.

She told the national broadcaster RTS on Sunday she had come to the area of Kraljevo to learn first-hand about the steps taken in the last two years to protect at-risk settlements.

Since 2014, the UN has been backing the recovery of flood-affected areas, she noted. Sollorano underlined USD 7 million had been invested in Serbia’s protection from further flooding through the UN Development Programme. The estimate is that there is now less damage than in 2014.—Tanjug

Airlines plan for takeoff of trans-Tasman biofuel industry

WELLINGTON — Airlines in New Zealand and Australia yesterday launched bid to start a regional market in aviation biofuel.

Air New Zealand and Virgin Australia have formed a partnership that issued a request for information (RFI) to the market to explore options for locally-produced aviation biofuel.

Air New Zealand recognised the impact aviation has on the environment and the RFI was a key initiative under its carbon management programme, chief flight operations and safety officer Captain David Morgan said in a statement.

“By working in partnership with our alliance partner Virgin Australia we hope we can stimulate the local market, drive innovation and investment and potentially uncover a sustainable biofuel supply suitable for our respective operations,” said Morgan.—Xinhua

UN aims for Syria talks to produce roadmap, no ‘Plan B’ but war

GENEVA — Syria faces a moment of truth, UN mediator Staffan de Mistura said yesterday as he opened the first of three rounds of peace talks envisaged to negotiate a political transition and end in a “clear roadmap” for a future Syria.

Saying there was no “plan B” but a return to war, De Mistura asked to hear from all sides but said he would have no hesitation in calling in the big powers, led by the United States and Russia, if the talks get bogged down.

“If during these talks and in the next rounds we will see no notice of any willingness to negotiate... we will bring the issue back to those who have influence, and that is the Russian Federation, the USA... and to the Security Council,” he told a news conference.—Reuters

Al Qaeda gunmen kill 16 in Ivory Coast beach attack

GRAND BASSAM, (Ivory Coast) — Gunmen from al Qaeda's North African branch killed 16 people, including four Europeans, at a beach resort town in Ivory Coast on Sunday, the latest in a string of deadly attacks that have confirmed the Islamists' growing reach in West Africa.

Six shooters targeted hotels on a beach at Grand Bassam, a weekend retreat popular with westerners about 40 km (25 miles) east of the commercial capital Abidjan, before being killed in clashes with Ivorian security forces, the government said.

"Six attackers came onto the beach in Bassam this afternoon," Ivorian President Alassane Ouattara said during a visit to the site. "We have 14 civilians and two special forces soldiers who were unfortunately killed."

A French man was killed in the attack, according to a French foreign ministry spokesman. The nationalities of the other dead were not yet known, but four were European, one officer said during a briefing attended by a Reuters reporter.

Ivory Coast Interior Minister Hamed Bakayoko later said foreign citizens from France, Germany, Burkina Faso, Mali and Cameroon were among the victims.

The reporter saw the



Security forces evacuate an injured person in Bassam, Ivory Coast, on 13 March.
PHOTO: REUTERS

bodies of three white people at Grand Bassam's Chelsea Hotel and another in the Hotel Etoile du Sud next door.

A short drive from Abidjan — one of West Africa's largest cities with around 5 million inhabitants — Grand Bassam fills up on weekends with thousands of beachgoers.

Witnesses said the gunmen followed a pathway onto the beach where they then opened fire on swimmers and sunbathers before turning their attention to the packed seafront hotels where people were eating and drinking at lunchtime.

"They started shooting and everyone just started running. There were women and children running and hiding," said another witness, Marie Bassole. "It started on the beach. Whoever they saw, they shot at."

Security forces moved to evacuate the area surrounding the beach. Bullet holes riddled vehicles nearby and glass from shattered windows littered the ground.

The body of one of the attackers, dressed in dark trousers and a blood-covered striped shirt, lay beside the beachside entrance to one hotel, a bullet hole in his head.

Beside him on the sand sat a combat vest used to carry extra ammunition. Nearby, on the ground, lay

unexploded grenades.

Al Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM), which has carried out other recent attacks in the region, claimed responsibility for Sunday's shootings, according to the US-based SITE intelligence monitoring group, citing an AQIM statement.

It said the attack had been carried out by just three militants. Barely two months ago, Islamists killed dozens of people in a hotel and cafe frequented by foreigners in neighbouring Burkina Faso's capital, Ouagadougou. Gunmen also attacked a hotel in the Malian capital, Bamako, late last year.—Reuters

Syrian war creates child refugees and child soldiers

BEIRUT — Syria's five-year-old conflict has created 2.4 million child refugees, killed many and led to the recruitment of children as fighters, some as young as seven, UN children's fund UNICEF said yesterday.

Its report "No Place for Children" said more than 8 million children in Syria and neighbouring countries needed humanitarian assistance, with the international response plan for Syria chronically underfunded.

"Twice as many people now live under siege or in hard-to-reach areas compared with 2013. At least two million of those cut off from assistance are children, including more than 200,000 in areas under siege," it said.

The UN says more than 450,000 people are under siege. Cases of starvation have been reported this year in areas surrounded by government forces and their allies near Damascus, and by Islamic State in eastern Syria.

Violence continues despite a fragile cessation of hostilities reached last month.

UNICEF said 400 children were killed in 2015. A separate report on Friday by a number of aid groups, including Oxfam, said UN figures showed at least 50,000 people had

been killed since April 2014.

"A trend of particular concern is the increase in child recruitment," UNICEF said.

"Children report being actively encouraged to join the war by parties to the conflict offering gifts and 'salaries' of up to \$400 a month."

Since 2014, warring sides have recruited younger children, it said, some as young as seven. More than half of children recruited in cases UNICEF verified in 2015 were under 15.

Children have been filmed executing prisoners in grisly propaganda videos by the Islamic State group.

Outside Syria, more than 151,000 Syrian children have been born as refugees, it said. UN refugee agency UNHCR says nearly 70,000 Syrian refugee children have been born in Lebanon alone. Some 2.8 million Syrian children in Syria or neighbouring countries are not attending school. Dozens of schools and hospitals were attacked in 2015, according to aid groups.

"Half of all medical staff have fled Syria and only one third of hospitals are functional. Each doctor used to look after the needs of around 600 people — now it's up to 4,000," UNICEF said.—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 Electrification Project (NEP). The Department of Rural Development (DRD) of the Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development, in its role as implementing agency of the NEP, intends to apply a portion of the proceeds of this credit to eligible payments under the contract for which this Invitation for Quotation 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. 2	Air Conditioners(2HP)	4	Nos
G. 3	Drinking water coolers(cool+hot)	2	Nos
G. 4	Computers	24	Nos
G. 5	Office equipments	8	Nos
G.8	Telephone Handsets(cell phone) (GSM)	8	Nos

Expressions of Interest must be submitted in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail) by **March 28, 2016** and clearly indicate one or more of the Reference number(s) above. Eligible suppliers having expressed interest will receive a REQUEST FOR QUOTATION. 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 5 (five) separate contracts. 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 Myint Oo, Deputy Director General, Department of Rural Development, Office No.(14), Nay Pyi Taw

For detailed information please contact Mr. U Kyaw Swa Aung, Director, Procurement and Logistic Section, Mobile phone 0943434333 or office phone 067409413 or ksaung@gmail.com.

One of Ankara bombers was female PKK member — Turkish security sources

ANKARA — A female member of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) was one of two suspected perpetrators of a car bombing that killed 37 people in the Turkish capital Ankara, security officials said yesterday.

The attack, which tore through a crowded transport hub a few hundred metres (yards) from the Justice and Interior Ministries on Sunday evening, was the second such bombing in the administrative heart of the city in under a month.

Evidence has been obtained that one of the bombers was a female member of the PKK who joined the militant group in 2013, the security officials told Reuters. She was born in 1992 and from the eastern Turkish city of Kars, they said.

The government has said it expects to officially identify the organisation behind the attack later on Monday.

In its armed campaign in Turkey, the PKK has historically struck directly at the security forces and says it does not target civilians. A direct claim of responsibility for Sunday's bombing would indicate a major tactical shift.

The Kurdistan Free-

dom Hawks (TAK) claimed responsibility for the previous car bombing, just a few blocks away, on 17 February. TAK says it has split from the PKK, although experts who study Kurdish militants say the two organisations are affiliated. Following the attack, Turkish warplanes bombed camps belonging to the PKK in northern Iraq early on Monday, the army said.

At least 37 people died from Sunday's blast, the health minister said, adding 71 people were still being treated in hospital. Of those, 15 were in serious condition, he said.—Reuters

At least four die as floods hit US south, thousands of homes damaged

WASHINGTON — Several people were killed after drenching thunderstorms moved through Louisiana and Mississippi at the weekend, triggering flooding across the lower Mississippi valley, authorities said.

Rainfall, which meteorologists said reached two feet in some areas, killed three people in Louisiana and one in Oklahoma. Two fishermen were missing in Mississippi on Sunday, according to emergency management officials.

President Barack Obama declared flooding in Louisiana a major disaster on Sunday, providing aid for victims.

Louisiana's emergency

management office warned in a statement "the crisis is not over." It said some 5,000 homes had already been damaged.

The National Weather Service (NWS) warned on Sunday night of a tornado threat and potential for hail and damaging winds across eastern Arkansas and northern Louisiana.

Portions of the lower Mississippi Valley were at risk for severe thunderstorms through Monday morning, the NWS said, which could trigger flash flooding. River levels were expected to remain high in the region as excessive rain water drains, it said.

The Louisiana National

Guard, working around the clock for several days, said it had rescued more than 3,295 citizens and 316 pets. Some 1,300 guardsmen responded to flooding in more than 25 parishes, conducting evacuations, search and rescue by vehicle, boat and helicopter, and providing security and shelter. Authorities and meteorologists described the flooding as historic and the worst seen in the region apart from that spawned by hurricanes. Scores of roads and bridges were closed throughout the region at the weekend. In Mississippi, almost 400 homes suffered damage from the rainfall and flooding, the state emergency agency said.—Reuters



A car lies submerged in the Tall Timbers subdivision after flooding near Shreveport, Louisiana, on 9 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Experts call for using foot soles for identification

TOKYO — Efforts to identify bodies of victims of natural disasters or people with dementia who are under protective custody using the soles of the feet are underway in Japan as the system is expected to help expedite the

identification process once it comes into effect.

The move is led by former members of Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Department, who argue that skin ridge patterns of feet because they remain intact for

one's lifetime can serve like fingerprints since they are unique among individuals.

Akira Mitsuzane, 68, former head of the MPD's first investigation division that handles crimes including homicides and robberies, and Hideo Kaneko, 69, a former member of the MPD's crime scene investigation division, came upon the idea of using foot ridge patterns after the earthquake and tsunami disaster in March 2011.

They witnessed multiple cases in which family members of victims had the wrong bodies identified as police, who tried to return victims' bodies to their families as quickly as possible, misidentified the bodies as they relied on victims' clothing and other body traits for the identification.

"It takes time and money to conduct DNA analysis and you can't always obtain fingerprints. For the purpose

of identification (of bodies) alone, ridge patterns of feet have some more suitable characters," said Kaneko.

Ridge patterns are usually taken from an area right under toes and they are preserved in many cases since the skin is thicker and the area protected by shoes, even though other parts of the body might be damaged in disasters.

Mitsuzane believes people are more inclined to register their foot ridge patterns as opposed to fingerprints due to privacy concerns and the risk of the unintended use of information.

It is necessary to pre-register and store one's ridge pattern information to run the identification system, but collecting data only requires placing a foot on a scanner.

Asked by Mitsuzane and others, a major electric appliance maker has developed a portable scanner

prototype, which weighs around 20 kilograms, and is capable of instantly scanning and storing data. According to the 2014 statistics by the MPD, the number of reported missing seniors who are believed to suffer from dementia is 10,783 in Japan. Also, 75 bodies of victims of the March 2011 disaster still remain unidentified as of the end of February 2016.

"The use of foot ridge patterns can be an effective preparation for the future," said Mitsuzane, adding that some 20,000 and over 300,000 victims would be expected in the event of a possible Tokyo inland earthquake and the Nankai Trough earthquake, respectively.

"The fact that many demented elderly are under protective custody but unable to be identified is a serious issue as well," Mitsuzane said.—Kyodo News

Japan protests to US over alleged rape by US sailor

TOKYO — The Japanese government said yesterday it has lodged a protest with the United States over an alleged rape Sunday by a US sailor of a Japanese woman in Okinawa.

"It was extremely regrettable that this case happened," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said at a news conference. The government "demanded that the United States tighten discipline (among US military personnel stationed in Japan) and prevent a recurrence of such incidents." Suga quoted US officials as saying they took the case seriously and that it would be regrettable if a US serviceman was involved in the alleged rape.—Kyodo News

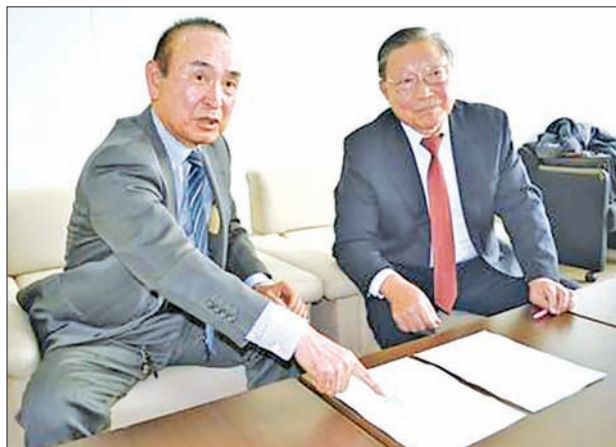


Photo taken in Tokyo on Feb. 25, 2016 shows Hideo Kaneko (L) and Akira Mitsuzane, former members of Tokyo's Metropolitan Police Department, who are leading a move to identify bodies of victims of natural disasters or people with dementia who are under protective custody using the soles of the feet.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (137)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGSRIMUANG VOY NO (137) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301186

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PERLA VOY NO (008W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PERLA VOY NO (008W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
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CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

Record Brazil protests put Rousseff's future in doubt

SAO PAULO/BRASILIA — Hundreds of thousands of Brazilians flooded the streets on Sunday in the biggest ever protests calling for President Dilma Rousseff's removal, reflecting rising popular anger that could encourage Congress to impeach the leftist leader.

The demonstrations were the latest in a wave of anti-government rallies that lost momentum late last year but have regained strength as a sweeping corruption investigation nears Rousseff's inner circle.

From the Amazon jungle city of Manaus to the business hub of Sao Paulo and the capital Brasilia, protesters marched in a nationwide call for Rousseff to step down, raising pressure on lawmakers to back ongoing impeachment proceedings against her that just a few weeks ago appeared to be doomed.

Police estimates from more than 150 cities compiled by news website G1 showed around 3 million Brazilians participated in the demonstrations. Some po-



Demonstrators attend a protest against Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff, part of nationwide protests calling for her impeachment, in front of the Brazilian national congress in Brasilia, Brazil, on 13 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

lice estimates of previous protests have proved to be exaggerated.

Polling firm Datafolha estimated 500,000 demonstrators in Sao Paulo, the biggest rally in the city's history and more than twice the size of a major protest a year ago. The military police put the figure at 1.4 million at

the height of the demonstration.

Government sources contacted by Reuters acknowledged the demonstrations were bigger than anti-government rallies in March 2015, which gathered as many as 1 million people.

In the skyscraper-lined Avenue Paulista in Sao Pau-

lo, a sea of protesters wearing Brazil's yellow-and-green national colors chanted "Dilma out" and waved banners that read "Stop the corruption" while music blared from nearby trucks.

"The country is at a standstill and we are fighting to keep our company afloat," said small business owner

Monica Giana Micheletti, 49, at the Sao Paulo demonstration. "We have reached rock bottom."

Many blame Rousseff for sinking the economy into its worst recession in at least 25 years. Opinion polls show that more than half of Brazilians favour the impeachment of the president, re-elected for a second four-year term in 2014.

Rousseff, who insists she will not quit, is the latest leftist leader in Latin America to face upheaval as a decade-long commodities boom that fueled breakneck growth and social spending comes to an abrupt end.

Ahead of the demonstrations, tensions were high after Sao Paulo state prosecutors requested on Thursday the arrest of Rousseff's predecessor and political mentor, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, on money-laundering charges. A judge still has to decide on the request, which can be rejected.

As in previous protests, Sunday's rallies were led by middle-class Brazilians angry over growing allegations

of corruption in Rousseff's administration. No violence was reported.

Poor Brazilians, who form the base of the ruling Workers' Party support, have not turned out in great numbers in recent protests. But their support for Rousseff has faded as unemployment rises and inflation climbs.

"This government helped many people buy homes, cars and electronics, but we still don't have health, education and basic sanitation," said Paulo Santos, a waiter who stopped at the demonstration which packed the beach-front avenue in Rio de Janeiro before heading to work.

Many protesters voiced support for Sergio Moro, the judge overseeing the two-year-old investigation into a network of political kickbacks and bribes centered on state oil company Petrobras (PETR4.SA). Some held banners that read "We are all Moro" after the judge's uncompromising tactics have been criticized by the government. —Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.3.2016 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER APEX VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER APEX VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2016 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 EVERGREEN SHIPPING
LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2016 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 GSS YANGON VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

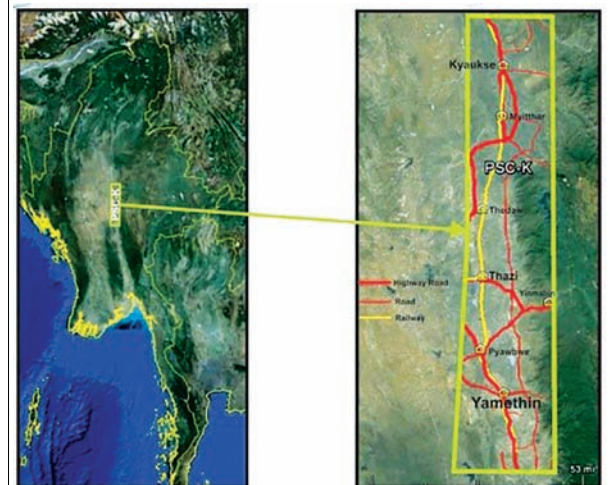
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

National Media Release – Block PSC-K



Magnetic (grav-mag) Acquisition for Block PSC-K

Sander Geophysics Limited, on behalf of eni Myanmar, will conduct an Airborne Gravimetric and Magnetic (grav-mag) Acquisition in Block PSC-K, Mandalay Region. The acquisition will be performed using a Cessna 208B Grand Caravan aircraft, which will fly at an average altitude between 400-4000 feet and a speed of 100 knots. Operations will take place during daylight hours only, commencing in late February 2016 and will take 5-6 weeks. For further information on the proposed activities, please contact eni Myanmar office in Yangon through (01) 255364 or info.enimyanmar@eni.com.

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'Zootopia' rules, Sacha Baron Cohen's 'Brothers Grimsby' bombs

LOS ANGELES — Disney's "Zootopia" cruised to another box office victory this weekend, picking up \$50 million and barreling across the \$100 million mark domestically.

After two weeks of release, "Zootopia," the critically acclaimed story of a plucky rabbit policewoman, has earned \$142.6 million stateside. In its second weekend, "Zootopia" only dropped 33% — an impressive show of endurance at a time when major releases routinely see their grosses cut in half after a big opening. The animated offering is benefiting from a lack of family fare. It's been more than six weeks since "Kung Fu Panda 3" landed in theaters and the next big film aimed at younger audiences doesn't hit until April 15 with "The Jungle Book."

"Family audiences have been underserved for months, so this movie is perfectly timed to get more bang for the buck," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at comScore.

Despite the continued strength of "Zootopia," Paramount and Bad Robot's "10 Cloverfield Lane" was able to connect with audiences, earning \$25.2 million from 3,391 locations. That's a strong return given that the film about a woman who finds herself trapped in a doomsday bunker,

waiting out the apocalypse with the neighborhood survivalists, cost \$13 million to produce. The studio also kept marketing costs in check, holding off its campaign until eight weeks before the film opening, with its biggest spending coming with a Super Bowl teaser.

Paramount vice chairman Rob Moore credited Bad Robot chief J.J. Abrams with coming up with the concept for the twisty thriller while he was in production on "Star Wars: The Force Awakens." He said the key was to make sure that none of the advertisements revealed any of the film's surprises.

"We wanted to give people just enough clues to keep them excited, interested, and wanting more," said Moore. "That's rare in this day and age, when so much [information] is given out so early."

All was not well with "The Brothers Grimsby." The Sony spy comedy from Sacha Baron Cohen opened to a terminal \$3.2 million from 2,235 locations, raising questions about the comic mind behind "Borat" and "Bruno's" continued bankability.

"We certainly wanted more," said Rory Bruer, Sony's distribution chief. "Sacha is amazing and we love him, and we tried to crack the code on it, but it just didn't happen for us."



Cast members Shakira (L), Ginnifer Goodwin and Jason Bateman, who give voices to the characters of Gazelle, Judy Hopps and Nick Wilde, pose at the premiere of "Zootopia" at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California 17 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Cohen's most recent starring effort, 2012's "The Dictator," disappointed with roughly \$180 million on a \$65 million budget, and he tends to have a long period of time between projects, which may have diminished his popularity. Whatever the case, "The Brothers Grimsby," with a \$35 million budget, ranks as the biggest flop of Cohen's career. He will try to rebound with a supporting turn in next summer's "Alice Through the Looking Glass," a sequel to "Alice in Wonderland."

Focus' faith-based play, "The Young Messiah," had a lackluster launch, debuting to \$3.4 million from 1,761 locations. Also open-

ing, Lionsgate's romance "The Perfect Match," which unfolded in 925 locations to \$4.2 million for the weekend.

In limited release, Bleecker Street's drone thriller "Eye in the Sky" generated \$117,050 from five locations for a \$23,410 per-theater average. Roadside Attractions and Sony's Stage 6 Films also opened "Hello, My Name is Doris," an off-beat comedy about an older woman (Sally Field) who becomes smitten with a young co-worker, in four screens in New York and Los Angeles, where it pulled in \$85,240 for a per-screen average of \$21,310.

The domestic box office year-

to-date was up more than 9% after last weekend. However, those gains have largely been on the backs of "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," which opened in 2015, but did more than \$400 million worth of business this year, as well as recent hits like "Zootopia," "Kung Fu Panda 3" and "Deadpool." That's led to a severe case of haves and have nots. There have been a litany of wide releases that have stumbled or fallen flat in recent months — a collection of also-runs and bombs that includes "Whiskey Tango Foxtrot," "Gods of Egypt," "The 5th Wave," "Pride & Prejudice & Zombies" and "Eddie the Eagle."—Reuters

Sam Smith linked to boyband singer TayTay Starhz



Sam Smith and TayTay Starhz. PHOTO: PTI

LONDON — Sam Smith is reportedly dating Franklin Lane singer TayTay Starhz.

The 23-year-old singer, who recently won an Oscar for his "Spectre" theme tune "Writing's on the Wall", was spotted getting cozy with Starhz, reported *Daily Mirror*.

"Sam is really into Tay and

they have spent a lot of time together.

They were in Freedom Bar in central London last weekend and couldn't hide their attraction to one another from fellow clubbers," a source said.

And they also reportedly enjoyed drinks together at a London hotel.—PTI

Music helped Rita Wilson through her cancer fight

LOS ANGELES — Actress-singer Rita Wilson says working on new music helped her during the darkest days of her cancer fight.

The 59-year-old "Sleepless in Seattle" said music has been the best outlet, reported ET online. "Music is a thing that actually can change your mood no matter what you're doing, whether it's listening to music or being able to write these songs. It's been an amazing outlet not only when you're feeling sad, but when you're feeling happy too," she said.

Wilson's new album features songs about her entire life,



Rita Wilson. PHOTO: PTI

including her 27-year marriage to Tom Hanks, who has also made a cameo in her music video for

"Girls Night In". He will be travelling with Wilson on her 21-city spring tour.—PTI

Taylor Swift shares birthday message for brother Austin

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Taylor Swift has shared a sweet birthday message for her brother Austin by posting a throwback photo of the pair during a family photoshoot. The 26-year-old "I Knew You Were Trouble" took to Instagram to post the picture of the siblings dressed in typical 90s fashion, throwing their heads

back with laughter, reported Entertainment Tonight.

"Happy Birthday!. Thanks for 24 years of LOLs (laugh out louds). @austinkingsleyswift."

The "Shake It Off hitmaker" has never been shy in showing support for her family, especially her little brother. When the 24-year-old made his acting de-

but in the thriller "I.T.", she took to Instagram again to tell her fans just how proud she was. The support is most definitely mutual too, with Austin stepping up to defend his famous sister earlier this year after Kanye West referenced Taylor in a track on his new album, The Life of Pablo.—PTI

World's top go player defeats AlphaGo for 1st time in 4th match



South Korea's Lee Sedol (L), the world's top go player, and Demis Hassabis (C), co-founder and chief executive of DeepMind, attend a news conference in Seoul on 13 March, 2016, after Lee defeated Google's artificial intelligence system AlphaGo, created by DeepMind, for the first time in the fourth match of a five-game series. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

SEOUL — South Korea's Lee Sedol, the world's top go player, defeated Google's artificial intelligence system AlphaGo on Sunday for the first time, in the fourth match of a five-game series.

The 33-year-old grandmaster, effectively representing humankind, defeated AlphaGo a day after the go-playing AI system, developed by London-based Google DeepMind, picked up its third straight win to claim overall match victory in the best-of-five series being held at a Seoul hotel.

The final match will be held on Tuesday to determine the final match score.

Lee, who debuted as a professional player at age 12, is regarded as the best

go player of the past decade, with 18 world titles under his belt.

AlphaGo last year won 5-0 in a formal match against the reigning European Champion Fan Hui to become the first program to ever beat a professional go player in an even game.

Go, which originated in China more than 2,500 years ago, is considered to be more complex than chess. According to Google, there are more possible positions than there are atoms in the universe.

Players take turns to place black or white stones on a board, trying to capture the opponent's stones or surround empty space to make points of territory.—Kyodo News

Fish 'fall from the sky' in outback Australia

SYDNEY — A family from the Australian state of Queensland were surprised when they saw fish flapping on the ground, AAP reported on Friday.

Tahnee Oakhill recorded footage of her family finding small fish at their remote cattle station in outback Queensland.

"My husband called us outside and I said, 'You've got to be joking'," she said.

"Then we spotted them just laying in the dirt and flip-flopping.

"We reckon they must have come from the sky. There are no creeks or no gullies around."

Oakhill believed the minute fish to be perch.

The area had received 120mm of rain on

Wednesday, the Queensland state town of Winton's wettest March day since 1994.

Ecologist Dr Peter Unmack from the University of Canberra told the ABC it was unlikely the fish had fallen from the sky.

"This is the most widespread fish across Australia, almost anywhere there's water in northern Australia you can find this fish," Unmack said.

"In central Australia it's ubiquitous, it's pretty much everywhere and they are amazing dispersers," he said.

"It is theoretically possible but it's difficult to see many situations where fish get picked up by strong winds and can survive."—Xinhua

Palestinian wins global teachers' award for valuing play

DUBAI — A Palestinian school teacher won a \$1 million education award on Sunday to applause from world leaders for helping children to learn through play.

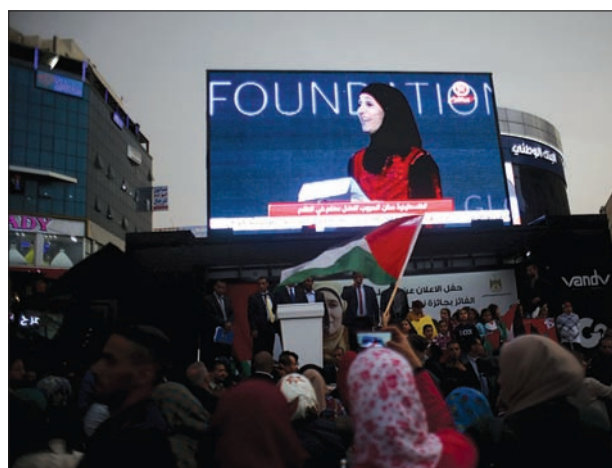
Hanan Al Hroub, who teaches at the Samiha Khalil High School in the West Bank Palestinian city of Al-Bireh, was presented with the award in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Leaders including Pope Francis, Britain's Prince William, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, US Vice President Joe Biden and former US President Bill Clinton recorded messages for the ceremony.

The Global Teacher Prize was set up by the not-for-profit Varkey Foundation after a 2013 survey found the profession's status had been declining.

Hroub, who grew up at a refugee camp near the West Bank city of Bethlehem, beat nominees from Japan, Canada, Kenya, the United States and the United Kingdom.

Hanan, who has detailed her approach in a book entitled 'We Play and Learn', said: "I am proud to be a Palestinian female teacher standing on this stage." Wearing a traditional Palestinian dress decorated with red embroidery, she accepted the prize



Palestinians watch on a screen in the West Bank city of Ramallah 13 March, 2016 as primary school teacher Hanan al-Hroub receives the Million Dollar Teacher award. PHOTO: REUTERS

"as a win for all teachers in general and Palestinian teachers in particular."

She said she would use some of the money to promote her education methods and support fellow teachers in the Palestinian territories.

Pope Francis announced the winner in a

video message to the ceremony, which was chaired by UAE Prime Minister and Dubai ruler Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid Al Maktoum.

"You learn how to be social through games as well as learn the joy of life," Francis said.—Reuters

MRTV News Channel in Brief

(15-3-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 am • Paritta by Venerable Mingun Sayadaw 7:35 am • Socio Economic Scenes 8:35 am • Documentary 9:35 am • MRTV's Youth Programme 10:35 am • Science and Technology Programme 11:35 am • Documentary (Weather Report) 12:50 pm • TV Drama series 2:15 pm • Sing & Enjoy 3:35 pm • Socio Economic Scenes	4:35 pm • Football Magazine (Ayeyawady United FC) 5:35 pm • Money Talk Myanmar 6:00 pm • Myanmar National Symphony Orchestra Concert 2016 (Live) 8:00 pm • News / International News/ Weather Report 8:35 pm • Documentary (Climate Change Asean Forum) 9:00 pm • News • Yes or No Talks Show (Season-1, Eposide-5, Final Part-1)
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Note/ Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)

mitv

Myanmar International

(15-3-2016 07:00am ~ 16-3-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh 07:03 Am News 07:26 Am Insight Myanmar "Role of MNHRC" (Episode-I) 07:46 Am Civic Duty 08:03 Am News 08:26 Am A Snake Catcher 08:37 Am Pet Fish Biz 08:50 Am Myanmar Harpist 09:03 Am News 09:26 Am Archery Session (from Ramayana Play) 09:47 Am Today Myanmar: EL NIÑO PHENOMENON & FIRE PREVENTION 10:03 Am News	10:26 Am Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-4) 10:52 Am Myanmar Chef (Japanese) (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-5) 07:52 Pm Independent Filmmaker 08:03 Pm News 08:26 Pm Discovering Tribes "Lisu: Their Life and Customs" (Part- I) 08:48 Pm Lady Pilot (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)
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MRTV Entertainment Channel

(15-3-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 pm • Weather Report • Music Programme 6:30 pm • Pyi Thu Ni Ti 7:00 pm • Music Programme 7:50 pm • Korea TV Drama Series 8:40 pm • Cartoon Programme "BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE (Part- XI)"	9:00 pm • Music Programme 9:10 pm • Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-4) Political Life & Remembrance 9:40 pm • Myanmar Video 12:00 pm • Close Down
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From 15-3-2016 (Tuesday)18:00 Pm
To 16-3-2016 (Wednesday)18:00 Pm
This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

PSG wrap up French title, Arsenal out of Cup

LONDON — Paris St Germain wrapped up a fourth straight French league crown, with Zlatan Ibrahimovic bagging four goals, while Juventus and Bayern Munich preserved their leads and FA Cup holders Arsenal were dumped out of the competition.

FRANCE

Paris St Germain clinched their fourth consecutive Ligue 1 title with eight games to play after Zlatan Ibrahimovic scored four goals in their 9-0 demolition of Troyes.

Ibrahimovic's haul included a remarkable nine-minute hat-trick as PSG completed the biggest away victory in the division's history to seal the fastest ever Ligue 1 title triumph, breaking the record set by Olympique Lyonnais in 2007.

Second-placed AS Monaco are now 25 points behind PSG after drawing 2-2 with Reims, while third-placed Nice won 2-0 at troubled Montpellier.

PSG have 77 points after 30 matches, with Monaco on 52.

ENGLAND

FA Cup holders Arsenal lost 2-1 to visiting Watford in the quarter-finals and missed the chance to become the first team since the 1880s to claim a third straight triumph in the competition.

Struggling Premier League champions Chelsea lost 2-0 in the Cup at Everton, while Manchester United and West Ham United must replay after a 1-1 draw at Old Trafford.

Crystal Palace are the other



Anthony Martial celebrates scoring the first goal for Manchester United against West Ham United during FA Cup Quarter Final at Old Trafford on 13 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

semi-finalists after beating second-tier Reading 2-0 away.

In the league, second-placed Tottenham Hotspur closed the gap on Leicester City to two points with a 2-0 win at bottom side Aston Villa before the leaders host Newcastle United on Monday.

SPAIN

Barcelona's Lionel Messi scored and provided three assists as they equalled a club record of 12 consecutive league wins by thrashing struggling Getafe 6-0 at the Nou Camp.

Messi also missed a penalty but Neymar netted twice in the rout as Barca remain eight points

clear of nearest challengers Atletico Madrid, who beat Deportivo La Coruna 3-0.

Real Madrid's Casemiro headed a last-gasp goal in a 2-1 victory at Las Palmas to keep them four points off Atletico and 10 points clear of fourth-placed Villarreal, who lost 4-2 at a Sevilla side now five points behind their opponents in fifth.

Athletic Bilbao joined the fight for a top-four finish by beating Real Betis 3-1 thanks to a double from Sabin Merino, and sit six points behind Villarreal, in sixth place.

GERMANY

Bayern Munich crushed

Werder Bremen 5-0 to bounce back after two matches without a win in the Bundesliga and protect their five-point lead at the top as they chase a record fourth straight league crown.

Thomas Mueller and Thiago Alcantara scored twice each and Mario Goetze made his long-awaited comeback since his muscle injury in October as Bayern prepare to face Juventus for a spot in the Champions League last eight next week.

Borussia Dortmund eased past Mainz 05 2-0 with goals from Marco Reus and Shinji Kagawa, in a game that was overshadowed by the death of fan in the stands

from an apparent heart attack.

Dortmund are second on 61, 16 points ahead of third-placed Hertha Berlin.

ITALY

Serie A leaders Juventus edged Sassuolo 1-0 and remain three points clear of second-placed Napoli, who beat struggling Palermo by the same scoreline.

Paulo Dybala scored the winner for Juve as they moved to 67 points after 29 matches, while league-leading scorer Gonzalo Higuain's first-half penalty was enough to keep Napoli in touching distance of the defending champions.

AS Roma extended their winning streak to eight games with a 2-1 victory at Udinese, while Fiorentina drew 1-1 at home to Verona and Inter Milan defeated visiting Bologna 2-1.

Juventus have 67 points, ahead of Napoli (64), Roma (59), Fiorentina and Inter (both 54).

NETHERLANDS

Ajax Amsterdam blew a chance to top the Dutch league after NEC Nijmegen's Venezuelan winger Christian Santos scored a late equaliser for a 2-2 draw.

A home win would have sent Ajax clear of champions PSV Eindhoven, who instead lead by one point after 27 games.

PSV themselves had a setback when they were held 1-1 at home by Heerenveen, opening the door for Ajax to reclaim the lead they had enjoyed for much of the first half of the campaign.—Reuters

Djokovic and Nadal tested in Indian Wells, Serena strolls

INDIAN WELLS — World number one Novak Djokovic survived a stern test from qualifier Bjorn Fratangelo to make the third round of the BNP Paribas Open on Sunday, with Spaniard Rafa Nadal also needing three sets to advance from a tricky opening clash.

American Fratangelo, the world number 149, showed no early fear against double defending champion Djokovic, racing out to a 4-0 lead as the rusty Serb struggled to halt the unforced errors.

However, Djokovic, who helped his country beat Kazakhstan in the Davis Cup last week, used his vast experience to overcome the early onslaught and secure a 2-6, 6-1, 6-2 victory at a breezy Indian Wells venue.

"The fifth game of the third (set) was the deciding one," the Djokovic told reporters.

"That break obviously meant

that I can start to feel a bit more comfortable, play a little bit more aggressive on the court.

"It was swirly conditions. Trying to win with experience and with toughness in the clutch moments. That's what helped me to prevail."

Djokovic, 11-times a grand slam singles champion who is bidding for a record fifth title in Indian Wells, will next face Germany's Philipp Kohlschreiber, who dropped only one game in beating American Denis Kudla.

Fourth seed Nadal also had a fight to make the third round in the day's late match, saving 11 of 14 break points to edge out Luxembourg's Gilles Muller 6-2, 2-6, 6-4.

"I'm very happy for the victory after the last three matches that I lost have been in three sets or five sets. So I needed a victory like this," said the three-times champion, who will now face his

doubles partner Fernando Verdasco.

Women's top seed Serena Williams looked like she was in for a battle but the early challenge of Yulia Putintseva wilted as the American eased to a 7-6(2), 6-0 third round win.

As boxing great Mike Tyson watched on, Williams punched below her weight in the first set, making 29 unforced errors and had to break the Kazak's service to force a tiebreak. The second set was not a fair fight as Williams overwhelmed her opponent.

"I started to get more confidence to continue to go for it," Williams told reporters.

The 34-year-old American ended with seven aces and moved closer to her first title at Indian Wells since her infamous win in 2001, after which she boycotted the event until returning last year.

Serena was booed throughout the 2001 final by a crowd that



Serena Williams (USA) return the ball during her 3rd round match against Yulia Putintseva (KAZ) at the BNP Paribas Open at the Indian Wells Tennis Garden on 13 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

assigned her the blame for the withdrawal of her sister Venus before their scheduled semi-final.

While Williams got a good workout on Sunday, world number three Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland barely raised a sweat as she continued her bid for a first Indian Wells crown by beating Monica Niculescu 6-2, 6-1.

Defending champion Simona Halep breezed past Ekaterina

Makarova, while eighth seed Petra Kvitova and last year's runner-up Jelena Jankovic were also winners In the men's draw, Kei Nishikori cruised past Mikhail Kukushkin 6-3, 6-3, while Jo-Wilfried Tsonga and John Isner also advanced but Bulgarian 23rd seed Grigor Dimitrov was dumped out by German teenager Alexander Zverev 6-4, 3-6, 7-5.—Reuters