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FAR SIDE OF THE WORLD

Myanmar Migrants Discovered In Mediterranean Sea

Jaiden Coonan

MYANMAR migrants were amongst 350 others discovered 6.5 kilometers off the coast of Dikili in Turkey's Izmir province on Sunday afternoon before being housed in the same province on 28 Monday, according to Anadolu News Agency.

A local governor of Izmir, said he could not disclose how many Myanmar migrants were aboard the vessel or their gender or age. This comes amongst the European Union's new strict border controls after inundation of Syrian and North African refugees.

"They are not allowed to see any aid agencies or other institutions because the Turkish government is handling the situation right now," he added. "It is a normal legal procedure. We do it all the time." The government official told Anadolu Agency (AA) on 28 Monday.

The Turkish Ambassador to Myanmar, Murat Yavuz Ates told the *Global New Light of Myanmar*, that he knows nothing of the situation as he has been travelling.

A representative from Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said that they were not aware of this situation. After being called again, calls went unanswered from the official. Calls to the Myanmar Consulate in Ankara also went unanswered.



An overloaded boat in the Mediterranean Sea during a rescue operation in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Turkish Governor told AA that those aboard the vessel said they were on route to the Greek island of Lesbos and that there were less on board from Syria, but more from Myanmar, Pakistan and Afghanistan. This is unusual due to the conflict in the region.

Refugees landing in European Countries are being moved to Turkey where they will remain

in camps awaiting resettlement after they undergo processing, in line with UNHCR assistance and then only to be expatriated once accepted by other nations.

Local Turkish media is reporting that the Myanmar citizens on board are of Bengali descent.

In May 2015 a surge of boats left Bangladesh and Myanmar heading for Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia. Myanmar navy

rescued 208 asylum seekers in the Bay of Bengal, the boat was then towed to Myanmar's northern Rakhine State where those on board were processed and the majority repatriated to Bangladesh.

From January to April IN-GOs refer to this season as the "sailing season" in the Bay of Bengal, where people smugglers prey on displaced individuals to

illegally move them by sea where they are promised better lives, yet meet their demise at sea or in poor quality camps in foreign countries.

In 2015 it is said that the death toll due to the illegal migration was upwards of 350 with more than 25,000 taking to sea from January to March 2015.— *Additional Reporting Anadolu News Agency.*

President-elect to be sworn in on livestream

PRESIDENT-elect U Htin Kyaw and the two vice presidents will be sworn in on 30 March at the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw.

The swearing-in of the president-elect and the two vice presidents will broadcast live so the public can watch the event on the MRTV News Channel, the Hluttaw Channel and Myanmar Radio starting at 10am on 30 March.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Government loses billions in power sector annually, Union Minister says



Electric Power Ministry has completed the installation of cables across the Thanlwin River on 16 January. Photo: Electric Power Ministry

THE Ministry of Electric Power has lost billions of kyats annually as the country's power sector is still operated through state-owned enterprises, said Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe yesterday.

His remark came at a coordination meeting of the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday while holding discussions with officials from the Department of Hydropower Planning, the Department of Hydropower Implementation, the Myanmar Electric Power Enterprise, the Electricity Supply

Enterprise, the Hydropower Generation Enterprise, the Yangon City Electricity Supply Board and the Mandalay City Electricity Supply Board.

The implementation of expected undertakings in the electric sector has not made expected progress over the previous five years, said the Union minister, pointing out that power sectors are open up to privatisation in many foreign countries.

With power sector privatisation, companies will be

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Government loses billions in power sector...

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incentivised to increase efficiency, invest in power equipment and distribution and can profit in the sector whilst helping the government reach policy targets, he added.

In his concluding remarks on the meeting that lasted for two days the Union minister called for the keeping of the ministry's 24-hour electricity supply in the country and maintaining its dignity.

Myanmar is expected to have an entity titled the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy if the Ministry of Electric Power and the Ministry of Energy are combined into one ministry during the time of the next government.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Firemen extinguish the fire at the warehouse in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Mandalay sees third recent outbreak of fire

A FIRE destroyed a warehouse in Chanmya Thayar ward of Pyigyidagun Township in Mandalay yesterday.

This marks the third destructive fire outbreak in the region in recent weeks, occurring just a few days after the huge Mingalar market fire on 22 March and a house fire that gutted eight family homes on 26 March.

Although the warehouse fire did not spread to other nearby properties the fire engulfed and destroyed all the goods being held in the warehouse, said a witness. — *Aung Thant Khaing*

Govt dishes K78m on water distribution

THE Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development has announced that the government has covered the fuel costs of distributing of water to 918 villages nationwide amounting to K78.5 million (US\$64,556).

Local rural development departments across the country have been instructed to prepare for water shortages since January in a bid to mitigate the

negatives effects of the El Niño weather front.

"We distributed reminders and informed people in advanced about the possibility of El Niño-induced water shortages," said Dr Khin Zaw, a member of national rural development department.

Myanmar meteorological experts have also warned that the onset of the El Niño weather front this summer could cause

extremely high temperatures across the country, causing water shortages.

The Department of Rural Development provided K15.55 million (\$12,788) to connect five villages in one Shan State township to water from a local spring and another K17.95 million to allow three villages in Ayeyawady Region to dig two wells and draw water from a local brook.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

MNHRC delegation attends 29th session of ICC general meeting

A TWO-member delegation led by Chairman U Win Mra of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission attended the 29th session of the General Meeting of the International Coordination Committee of the National Human Rights Institutions in Geneva, Switzerland, from 21 to 23 March.

During its visit to Geneva the Myanmar delegation held talks with officials from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the Asia-Pacific Forum of National

Human Rights Institutions. The delegation further attended the launch of the publication of legal guidelines against the use of torture.

During the 29th session, the ICC was renamed the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions-GANHRI.

The Myanmar National Human Rights Commission has been graded under 'B' status by the ICC, formed with 72 A-status institutions, 29 B-status institutions and 10 C-status institutions.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Mandalay monasteries rely on fire department for water

A TOTAL of 69 monasteries located on Yankin Mountain in Mandalay's Patheingyi Township are being provided with water by local fire brigades amid the ongoing water shortage, according to the pagoda board of trustees for Yankin Mountain.

"A local village tract fire brigade provides 3,600 gallons of water to four monasteries every three days. A plan is in place to provide water through a 10-foot water drain once the water completely runs out. The village also has a plan to dig an artesian well," said U Yan Shin, the head of the board of trustees.

The Yankin Mountain monasteries usually source their water from the Yankin and Zaytan wells, as well as the Sagaing Monastery well. A reservoir on Yankin Mountain has the capacity to hold 30,000 gallons of water, while water reservoirs above the Sagaing Monastery can hold 10,000 gallons of water. However, these sources are not meeting



The fire engine is supplying water to a monastery in Mandalay. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

the local monasteries' demands.

"Water wasn't scarce this time last year. We usually only face water shortages in April, but we're feeling them earlier this year," said abbot U Pyinyar Thiri of the Thandaw Mingalar Monastery.

Yankin Mountain is located 884 feet above the sea level and has a height of 706 feet. A unique feature of the mountain is that it stands alone, isolated from the surrounding mountain ranges. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

YCDC announces water supply schedules for townships during Thingyan

THE Yangon City Development Committee said that arrangements have been made to ensure a consistent water supply during the Thingyan festival days.

According to its water supply schedule, water will be supplied to Kyauktada, Pabedan, Latha, Lanmadaw, Bahan and Dagon Townships twice a day from 8 am to 11 am and from 3 pm to 6 pm on 13, 14, 15 and 16 April.

Likewise, Ahlon, Kyimyindine and Sangyaung Township will have water supplied from 8 am to 10 am.

There will be no changes to the water supply schedule for Tamway, Minglataung-yunt, Pazundaung, Botahtaung, Mingaladon, Insein, Mayangon, Yankin, Kamayut, Hline, Hline-thaya, Shwepyitha, North Okkalapa, Thingangyun, Thakayta, Dawbon, Dagon Myothit (North), Dagon Myothit (South), Dagon Myothit (East) and Dagon Myothit (Seikkan) Townships, according to the YCDC.

As of 17 April, water will be supplied to all townships in accord with the regular water supply schedule, it added. —*Ko Chit*

The list of Chief Ministers of Regions/States proposed by President-elect U Htin Kyaw

No	Region/Sate	Name	Constituency	Duty	Remark
1.	Kachin State	Dr Khet Aung	Myitkyina (1)	Chief Minister	Proposed
2.	Kayah State	U El Phaung Shi	Maese(2)	Chief Minister	Approved
3.	Kayin State	Nan Khin Htwe Myint	Pha-an(1)	Chief Minister	Approved
4.	Chin State	Salai Lyan Lwe	Falam(2)	Chief Minister	Approved
5.	Sagaing Region	Dr Myint Naing	Shwebo(2)	Chief Minister	Approved
6.	Taninthayi Region	Dr Le Le Maw`	Thayetchaung(1)	Chief Minister	Approved
7.	Bago Region	U Win Thein	Yedashe(2)	Chief Minister	Approved
8.	Magwe Region	Dr Aung Moe Nyo	Pwintbyu(1)	Chief Minister	Approved
9.	Mandalay Region	Dr Zaw Myint Maung	Amarapura(1)	Chief Minister	Approved
10.	Mon State	U Min Min Oo	Bilin(2)	Chief Minister	Approved
11.	Rakhine State	U Nyi Pu	Gwa(2)	Chief Minister	Proposed
12.	Yangon Region	U Phyo Min Thein	Hlegu(2)	Chief Minister	Approved
13.	Shan State	Dr Lin Htut	Lashio(1)	Chief Minister	Approved
14.	Ayeyawady Region	Mahn Jonny	Kyonpyaw(2)	Chief Minister	Approved

March sees surge in migrant workers returning to Mon State to extend passports

THE start of March has seen an increase in the number Mon State migrant workers in Thailand returning to Myanmar to extend the validity period of their passports, according to the passport issuing office in Mawlamyine.

“There are many workers from Mon State going to work in Thailand. They habitually return every year for the Thingyan period. Their residency permits ran out at the start of 2016 and so coming home for the holidays means they can kill two birds with one stone by renewing their residency permits. That is what accounts for the current surge in citizens returning home.” said U Maung Maung Lin, superin-

tendent officer of the Mawlamyine passport issuing office. This en-masse returning home from Thailand of migrant workers also coincides with the summer school holidays and season of pilgrimage, while it is known that employment agencies, which have legal connections with companies in foreign countries, are providing passport application and validity extension services. Ma Win Win Aye, an applicant of a passport with the Mawlamyine passport office, says the passport application process used to far more complicated in the past, with an array of reasons needed to be given for as to why the applicant wished to apply for a passport.

On top of that, all applications being processed through the central passport office in Yangon meant great expense for those having to travel from other regions, not to mention lengthy application processing times. The opening of the Mawlamyine passport issuing office branch has greatly alleviated those previous woes, she explains.

“We had to bear the costs for everything when passports were processed in Yangon. It’s much more convenient now that an office has been opened in Mawlamyine. They can process everything within the office. We don’t have to run around different departments. Everything from the taking of passport photos is han-

dled within that one office.” Ma Win Win Aye said.

The passport office in Mawlamyine was opened on January 2, 2014. Approximately 50,000 passports were issued through the One Stop Service in the two year period between 2014-2015 during which time passport validation extensions were also handled by the office.

Myanmar citizens wishing to apply for a passport can do so in person at one of the passport issuing offices around the country by providing an original photo and household register, together with a processing fee of K30,000. Passports take a total of ten working days to process, it is known.

—Myitmakha News Agency

Interim market to be built to accommodate Mingalar market stall sellers

MARKET stall owners whose shop units and stock were destroyed by the blaze which razed the Mingalar market in Mandalay on the evening of 22 March, are to be allocated space in an interim market via a lucky-draw system in a bid to alleviate financial losses incurred from the fire.

“We are currently taking measures on the area which will be established as an interim market and collecting names of those stall owners to be relocated there in order to enable those market sellers to continue trading once more. On top of that, we will allocate these stall owners with space in the interim market, once built, by drawing names out of a hat to avoid any potential arguments or dissatisfaction.” said U Nyunt Maung of the Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC).

A space for the construction of the interim market has been designated on the eastern side of the original Mingalar market, on 72nd street and between 30th and 31st streets, while stalls will be erected dependent upon the amount needed. It is known that should more stalls be needed than the allocated site can accommodate, they will be set-up in the parameters of the Myanmar Doctors Association located on 31st street between 70th and 71st streets. “When replacement interim market stalls are built, I really hope they will end up in the hands of those who have actually suffered losses. I also want the allocating of these stalls to be conducted with a system agreed by the majority.” said Daw Tin Tin Win, a miscellaneous goods stall owner.—Myitmakha News Agency



U Zaw Phyo Win, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Strategic Studies and Training of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs signs the book of condolence at the EU embassy in Yangon on 29 March, 2016 for victims of the Brussel attacks. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

South Korean group studies Myanmar mushroom industry

REPRESENTATIVES of the South Korean Fruits and Vegetables Producers Association are currently in Myanmar studying the country’s mushroom cultivation industry, according to the Myanmar Mushroom Cultivators and Distributors Association. The South Korean team will study mushrooms produced in Myanmar. The information they collect will be shared with South Korean entrepreneurs, who want to invest in the construction of a factory that would produce export-quality mushrooms in Myanmar.

The South Koreans held talks with the MMCDA before conducting field studies on mushroom enterprises on March 25. “They will construct a factory. Within this factory they will dry mushrooms for export. It’s been discussed that we will participate, should there be desire,” said U Nay Win, chairperson of the

MMCDA. A previous study visit was made by the Korean International Cooperation last year to offer financial assistance for the development of new varieties of mushrooms in Myanmar; to allow for the export of Myanmar mushrooms to foreign markets; and to test high-level mushroom drying technologies on Myanmar mushroom.

Myanmar mushrooms are currently only traded domestically; they are considered unfit for export. Most mushrooms in Myanmar are grown in Yangon, Bago and Mandalay regions. A viss (1.63 kilos) of the Hnin Hmo (snow fungus) variety fetches between K5,000 and K6,000, while the same volume of Kyaukyoe (paddy straw) and Kywet Narywet (oyster) mushrooms costs K9,000 and K5,000-6,000, respectively, according to mushroom growers and traders.—Myitmakha News Agency

Crime NEWS

9750 yaba pills and illegal drugs seized in Nawnghkio

MEMBERS of police unit 24, Anti-Drug Squad situated in Lasio stopped and searched a Toyota Hilux Surf KZN 185 Station Wagon being driven by one Nay Win who was accompanied by Ma Phaw May. The vehicle was stopped around milepost No. 80/4 near Nawnghkio town on 26 March. The squad discovered and seized 9,750 yaba pills. Similarly, on 27 March, members of the Magwe Town local police force raided a pharmaceutical store owned by one San Myint in Magwe Township and seized 103 2ml Tramadol injection, 543 capsules of the same drug, 6 diazepam injections and 1,498 tablets of that drug, 433 tablets of Alprazolam and 320 tablets of Lorazepam.



Nay Win and Ma Phaw May seen together with seized packets of yaba. PHOTO:MPF

The aforementioned pharmaceutical drugs are considered narcotic and/or psychotropic substances according to a declaration from the Ministry of

Health. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.— Myanmar Police Force

Fire destroys a house in Thanatpin

A FIRE destroyed a house on Kannar road in Min Ywar village, Thanatpin township, Bago region on 27 March. The accident reportedly occurred around 3:00pm. The fire broke out inside a home owned by one Soe Thu and his wife while they were out. The reason for the fire has not yet been established. The blaze was brought under control by firemen with the help of neighbours. An investigation is underway to determine the cause of the blaze.— Ye Htut (Min Ywar)



Damaged house seen in Thanatpin. PHOTO: YE HTUT (MIN YWAR)

Forest fire destroys O-pouk railway station village in Taungdwingyi

A FOREST fire destroyed the O-pouk railway station village in Taungdwingyi town, Magwe region on 27 March. According to an investigation the fire started to spread around 11:30 am where it travelled to the village from the

local forest.

The fire was brought under control around 12:30 pm by firemen with the help of local residents. The fire has rendered 22 households destitute in the village.— 580

Man killed while intervening in quarrel

A MAN has reportedly died following a quarrel during which his son entered into a fight with another man near a jetty in Paygon village, Kyeun Hla Township, Sagaing on 27 March. According to an investigation, U Phyu Tote, father of Myo Min, attempted to intervene when one Khin Maung

Myint began beating his son with a stick. Khin Maung Myint turned and struck U Phyu Tote with the weapon. U Phyu Tote sustained serious injuries which he later succumbed to. Local police have filed charges against Khin Maung Myint. — Myo Win Nyo (Kyunhla)

Accident caused by burst tyre kills one, injures ten

A BURST tyre caused a vehicle accident between 411/6-7 near Ohon Pin Chan village, Sintgaing township, Mandalay region on 27 March leaving ten injured and one dead.

The vehicle, en route to Mandalay from Kyaukse, was being driven by one Soe Gyi alias Khin Maung Soe with eleven passengers on board. The vehicle turned over after the driver lost control reportedly after having a tyre burst during transit.

The resulting accident killed Ma Su Yamon Kyaw, 22, on the spot while ten passengers were seriously injured. Police are still investigating the car driver who fled the scene of the crash.— Tin Tin Htway (Sinkkain)

Man electrocuted, killed in Mandalay

A man was found to have been killed by way of electrocution in Maha Aungmye Township in Mandalay on 27 March.

Acting on a tip-off from Mandalay General Hospital the police force of No 7 police outpost together with witnesses investigated the scene of the incidence.

Following an investigation

the victim was identified as Myo Min alias Kala, a 23-year-old mason.

It was further discovered that he had died of electrocution while handling a water pump-motor that had leaked at his place of work. Police have not yet closed their investigation into the incident. —Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Passenger vehicle collides with motorbike in Zalun

A PASSENGER vehicle collided with a motorbike at Ann Taw Pat intersection in Nyaung Pin Zay ward, Zalun town, Ayeyawady region on 27 March, leaving two dead.

The passenger vehicle, headed for Hinthada from Yangon was being driven by one Zaw Zaw, 35, when he crashed

into a motorbike being driven by one Phyo Wai, 20 with Soe Naing alias Kayin, 47, on board when the former lost control.

The accident killed the two men riding the motorbike on the spot. The driver of the passenger vehicle has been charged by police.— 200

Man arrested for hijacking theft

POLICE have arrested a man for committing a daring daylight hijacking and robbery between 84 and 85 Street on 26 March, according to local police.

One Kyaw Min Tun alias Aung Tun Lin was stopped and searched by police who discovered a gold chain and a blade on his body when he was questioned between 54 and 55 Street. He admitted to police that he had robbed one Ko Mon

Thu Aung.

According to the subsequent investigation, Ko Mon Thu Aung was riding his motorbike when Kyaw Min Tun stopped him at a location between 84 and 85 Streets. Kyaw Min Tun forcibly took the victim's gold chain at knifepoint and drove his motorbike away. Local police have filed charges against him.— Maung Pyi Thu (Mandalay)

Fire devours a house in Dawei



A house burnt by fire in Dawei. PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

A FIRE devoured a house on Laytha road in Dawei town, Taninthayi region on 27 March. According to an investigation the fire broke out when U Hla Win left the home without extinguishing a purpose built fire

(for cooking, etc). The resulting blaze was brought under control by firemen with the help of local residents. Action is being taken against the home owner, who will be charged under the relevant law.— District IPRD

LOCAL Business

Over 2,250 foreign container ships expected to arrive at Yangon Ports

OVER 2,250 sea-going container ships are expected to arrive in Yangon, which is the commercial capital of the nation as well as the largest port city in Myanmar, according to an official from the Myanmar Port Authority under the Ministry of Transport.

Ship arrivals to Yangon Port have doubled over the previous fiscal year (2014-2015). The number of ships arriving at Yangon Port reached a total of 1868 this fiscal year and many more ships are expected to arrive by the end of 2016. Yangon International Port sees around 85 per cent of the total imports and exports in the country.

There are a total of 35 pontoon bridges including ten for general merchandise, 20 for general merchandise and containers, three for fuel and two bridges for palm oil. The Myanmar Industrial Port (MIP) receives the greatest number of ships, it is reported.

The volume of handled container goods passing through Yangon ports has reportedly quadrupled over the last decade reaching a total of 9,078,747 metric tonnes.

Dredging was conducted for two weeks at a cost of US\$ 1.6 million by the dredger ship MV. Cornelis Zanen owned by M/S Boskalis Int'l Pte Ltd.—200

Cheap labour attracting Asian manufacturers

THERE is a growing interest in Myanmar by manufacturers keen to invest in the country as Myanmar offers the lowest labour wages among the ASEAN partnership countries, according to a report issued by the Indonesia Investment Commission.

A labourer in Myanmar can be hired at an average monthly salary of just US\$81.00, the lowest salary found among the ASEAN nations. The next highest wages in the region are found in Laos at around US\$107.

Viet Nam comes in third with an average monthly salary of US\$ 115. Experts report that this is a major contributing reason to Viet Nam's extended economic development. Indo-

nesia offers a monthly salary of approximately US\$173 while Malaysia offers around US\$197

Thailand tops the wages list of ASEAN member nations at around US\$248 while the Philippines comes in second with an average monthly salary of US\$198. Singapore, Brunei and Cambodia are not included on the list as they do not attract great interest from manufacturers.

Japan, it is known, heavily invests in Myanmar because of the lower salary of unskilled workers. Japanese companies are reportedly planning to move more production bases to Myanmar for this reason.—PPN/Union Daily

Firm policy and laws required to control skyrocketing rent

THE cost of rent for apartments in the high-rise buildings of Yangon is rising consistently higher compared to rent for similar abodes in other ASEAN nations and is becoming a concern, said a representative of the Myanmar Relators' Association. Investors are waiting to see if the new government will formulate firm policy and enact laws to help make in-city rent more reasonable and comparable to that of neighbouring countries.

High-rise buildings have been emerging in Yangon since about 2014. Most of these build-

ings are found to be used as hotels and office apartments.

The cost of rent is being criticised as prices continue to rise seemingly out of step with related economic factors. Rent is at least between K9,000 and K2.5 million per month for office apartments while prices range from between K3 million to K12 million per month for condominium apartments either to be used as personal homes or as office space. Foreign entities mainly rent condominium office apartments while local businessmen use offices situated around the centre of town.—SM/Union Daily



Thai traders visited Myanmar to hold talks with business men in Mon and Kayin States. PHOTO: MNA

Thai, Myanmar traders sign MoUs

MYANMAR and Thai business groups signed MoUs on bilateral trade at the Myanmar-Thailand Trade Fair in Mawlamyine recently.

A 90-member business delegation from Tak province, Thailand, also held talks with the Mon and Kayin States Chambers of Commerce and Industry

The Thai business delegation visited Myanmar in motorcade under the arrangement of the Car-

avan AEC Biz Club Thailand& Myanmar program.

During their stay in Myanmar, which was for four days, members of the Thai business delegation visited Myawady, Mawlamyine, Kyaik-hti-yoe Pagoda and Hpa-an. The group left for Thailand via Myawady on Monday.

The motorcade tour of the 90-member Thai business delegation in 20 cars arrived in My-

anmar on 25 March.

On their arrival at Mon State Hall in Mawlamyine the group attended the opening ceremony of the Myanmar-Thailand Trade Fair.

The business delegation further visited Mawlamyine market and Kyaik-hti-yoe Pagoda on 26 March and Hpa-an on 27 March, leaving for Thailand via Myawady on 28 March.—Myanmar News Agency

Pigeon peas sell well in Sagaing Region

AN increase in Chinese demand for pigeon peas in the Sagaing Region township of Htigyaing has augmented sales, according to local sellers.

"Chinese buyers are coming to Myanmar to purchase [our pigeon peas]. Sales of the pea are good. Pigeon pea farmers are living comfortably this year," said U Min Thant, a pigeon pea trader from Mandalay.

Pigeon pea crops are mainly sold to Chinese traders, who are buying directly from Myanmar markets.

"We had good weather last year but unfavourable sales of pigeon peas. This year, though, has seen a reverse trend. We won't be having it so hard this year," said U Aung Pu, a pigeon pea farmer from Aung Tharyar Village.

Last year, the market price

of 1.16 bushels of pigeon peas sold for over K23,000 with little demand from China, resulting in poor sales, while, according to pigeon pea traders, the price of the same volume has reached as much as K50,000 this year.

Local farmers plant their pigeon pea crops in November and harvest them the following March.—Myitmakha News Agency

Green pea business thriving in Ayeyawady

GREEN peas in Yeynangyaung Township are in high demand at the moment following their harvest meaning green pea farmers in the area are currently earning the highest price possible for green peas this year.

The high watermark of green pea market value last year came in at around K29,000 per basket but

has reached up to K35,000 per basket this year according to a broker working on Gonmathein Street in Yeynangyaung.

"I didn't grow any green peas this year because of the low yield and the low price green peas saw last year. I grow only onion and chick peas. Onions usually sell from around K250 to K300 per

viss (a viss is approximately 1.6 kilograms) while getting K20,000 per basket of chick peas", said a pea grower. "It has turned out well for green pea growers. Green peas have yielded over 40 basket loads at my farm. However, the yield is 10 baskets lower than it was last harvest because my farm was flooded".—SN/Union Daily

Amid sea dispute, China calls for deeper defence ties with Viet Nam

BEIJING — The militaries of China and Viet Nam should deepen their exchanges, communication and friendship, China's defence minister said during a visit to Hanoi, amid a festering territorial dispute in the South China Sea.

The two communist-led states' claims in the South China Sea came to a head in 2014, when Beijing parked an oil rig in waters off the Vietnamese coast, leading to anti-China riots.

Since then they have exchanged high-level visits, including a trip by Chinese President Xi Jinping to Hanoi last year.

Meeting Viet Nam Communist Party chief Nguyen Phu Trong, Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan said the two sides should strive to maintain the close ties forged in the past by leaders Mao Zedong and Ho Chi Minh.

The two militaries should "increase high level exchanges and strategic communication, increase friendly feelings, deepen border defence exchanges and practical cooperation on UN peacekeeping, mili-



A Chinese navy frigate is seen on the horizon in waters close to the Haiyang Shiyou 981, known in Viet Nam as HD-981, oil rig in the South China Sea in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

tary academic research and the defence industry", Chang said, in a statement carried late on Monday by China's Defence Ministry.

While there was no direct mention of the South China Sea, the ministry said the commander of China's South China Sea fleet, Shen Jinlong, attended the meeting.

Last month, tensions heightened between the two nations over territorial sovereignty in the South China Sea after Taiwan and US officials said Beijing had placed surface-to-air missiles on Woody Island, part of the Paracel archipelago that China controls.

Viet Nam called China's actions a serious infringement

of its sovereignty over the Paracels.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which about \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. Its Southeast Asian neighbours Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, also claim parts of the sea, as does Taiwan.—Reuters

Obama, Park and Abe to discuss North Korea on Thursday

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama will meet with South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Thursday to discuss North Korea's nuclear programme, the White House said on Monday.

The meeting on the sidelines of the Nuclear Security Summit in Washington will take place the same day Obama talks with Chinese President Xi Jinping.

"This meeting will be an opportunity for the three leaders to discuss common responses to the threat posed by North Korea and to advance areas of trilateral security cooperation in the region and globally," the White House said in a statement.

Relations between Park and Abe have been frosty in the past, but the two have been brought together in recent months by shared concerns about North Korea, which conducted a fourth nuclear bomb test on 6 January and launched a long-range rocket into space last month.

The United States has been keen to encourage better relations between Seoul and Japan, its two biggest allies in Asia, given concerns not only about North Korea but also an increasingly assertive China.

Beijing has said Xi will push Obama to resume talks on the North Korean nuclear issue. Their meeting could also touch on US concerns about Chinese computer hacking and Beijing's assertive pursuit of territory in the South China Sea.

Obama, Park and Abe last met trilaterally on the sidelines of the previous Nuclear Security Summit in The Hague in 2014, but only at the cajoling of the US president.

Last November, Abe and Park held their first formal bilateral talks since taking office and the following month Japan and South Korea reached a landmark agreement to resolve their long-running dispute over women forced to work in Japan's wartime brothels.

Military officials and defence officials said after the North Korean nuclear test in January that shared concerns about North Korea could cement the reconciliation and open the way for increased military cooperation between Japan and South Korea.

Washington is relying increasingly on its Asian allies to work together and says trilateral defence cooperation is critical to maintaining regional security.

China has signed up for tough new UN sanctions against North Korea but it has said repeatedly sanctions are not the answer and that only a resumption of talks can resolve the dispute over North Korea's weapons programme. Numerous efforts to restart the talks have failed since they collapsed following the last round in 2008.—Reuters

All in good time: draft Thai charter handed over ahead of August vote



Meechai Ruchupan, head of Thailand's Constitution Drafting Committee, holds up a draft constitution during a news conference at the parliament in Bangkok, Thailand, on 29 March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Thailand's junta-appointed charter committee handed over a draft constitution to the military government at an auspicious time on Tuesday, the last step before it is put to a vote in August, something that could speed up Thailand's return to democracy.

If the constitution is adopt-

ed in the referendum, a general election is expected to take place in July 2017, more than three years after the army seized power after months of political turmoil.

The charter was handed over at 1.39pm on 29 March. Number nine in Thai is pronounced "gao" which sounds

like the word for "advance".

Critics, including the main political parties, say the charter is flawed and that it will enshrine the military's influence and is unlikely to resolve bitter political disputes.

The junta has said the draft is not designed to prolong its grip on power.

Controversial clauses include provisions for a 250-member unelected upper house Senate and the appointment of civil servants, including top military commanders, to the Senate.

"There will be a 250-member unelected Senate which meets the junta's suggestion," Meechai Ruchupan, 77, head of the Constitution Drafting Committee, told reporters at the formal handover.

The Election Commission said it expects 80 per cent of eligible voters to turn out for the 7 August referendum.

The military staged a bloodless coup in May 2014 following months of street demonstrations in Bangkok - the latest in a long cycle of military removals of elected governments in Thailand.—Reuters

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Japan public divided as laws easing limits on military take effect

TOKYO — Laws loosening the limits of Japan's pacifist constitution on its military took effect on Tuesday as surveys showed the public remained divided over a change that allows Japanese troops to fight overseas for the first time since World War II.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has said the security legislation, the biggest change in Japan's defence policy since the creation of its military in 1954, is vital to meet new challenges including a rising China.

Critics say the changes, which triggered mass demonstrations ahead of their enactment last September, violate the pacifist constitution and increase the risk of involvement in foreign wars. Opposition parties plan to campaign for the laws' repeal in an upper house election in July.

The legislation "is vital to prevent wars and protect the peo-

ple's lives and livelihoods amid an increasingly severe security environment surrounding our country," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference.

"The government will first preserve the peace through diplomacy and there is no change at all in our policy of proactive diplomacy for that purpose," he added.

Japan's ally the United States has welcomed the changes, which allow the military to fight in aid of friendly countries that come under attack if Japan's security is also threatened.

But China, where bitter memories of Tokyo's wartime aggression run deep, has repeatedly expressed concern about the legislation, based on a controversial re-interpretation of the pacifist constitution. The main opposition Democratic Party and other opposition groups are raising the issue ahead of the upper house election



A soldier from Japan's Ground Self Defence Force takes up a defensive position as he trains alongside US Marines during the bilateral annual Iron Fist military training exercise in Camp Pendleton, California on 26 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

amid speculation Abe may also call a snap poll for the powerful lower chamber. How much traction the issue is unclear.

A voter survey by the Yomiuri newspaper published on Tuesday

showed 47 per cent did not approve of the changes against 38 per cent who did. That compared to 58 per cent who opposed the legislation last September versus 31 per cent who approved.

However, in a separate survey by the Nikkei business daily, only 35 per cent said the legislation should be repealed, while 43 per cent said it should remain in place.—Reuters

North Korea fires short-range missile over sea



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un visits the 11 February plant at the Ryongsong Machine Complex in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 24 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — North Korea fired a short-range missile over the sea off its east coast on Tuesday, South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said, citing a military official.

The missile was fired from the North Korean resort town at Wonsan at 5.40pm (0840 GMT) and flew north east for about 200 km over the sea before it appeared to make contact with land, Yonhap said.

Leader Kim Jong Un has presided over a string of short-range missile launches in recent weeks in what state media has characterised as a response to UN sanctions imposed upon the isolated country for its fourth nuclear test in January.—Reuters

Bangladesh Islamist party chief appeals against death penalty for 1971 war crimes

DHAKA — Bangladesh's largest Islamist party chief Motiur Rahman Nizami filed an appeal with the Supreme Court Tuesday against his death sentence for war crimes in 1971.

Lawyers of Nizami, president of the Bangladesh Jamaat-e-Islami party, submitted the review petition on behalf of their client, who is now in a prison in Kashimpur on the outskirts of capital Dhaka.

If his review petition is rejected, the last option for him will be to seek presidential mercy. Bangladesh's Supreme Court on 6 January upheld a death penalty for the 73-year-old Motiur Rahman Nizami over war crimes during the country's war of independence 45 years ago.

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal-1 issued Nizami's death warrant on March 16 hours after the country's apex court released its full verdict.

Nizami served as agriculture and industries minister in ex-Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's 2001-2006 cabinet.

The apex court upheld capital penalty for the Islamist party chief on three charges and life imprisonment on two charges.

On 29 October, 2014, the ICT-1 handed down capital punishment to Nizami for war crimes which include mass killings of intellectuals.

Nizami was indicted in 2012

with 16 charges of crimes during the 1971 war.

Nizami's party had earlier claimed that the government filed ill-motivated, baseless cases against its top leaders in order to make the party leaderless.

Nizami is among the top Jamaat leaders who have been tried in two war crimes tribunals which Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's Bangladesh Awami League-led government formed in 2010 to bring the perpetrators of 1971 to book.

Three Jamaat leaders — Abdul Quader Molla, Muhammad Kamaruzzaman and Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid, have been executed.

Both Kamaruzzaman and Molla refused to seek presidential clemency.

Apart from them, Jamaat Secretary General Ali Ahsan Mohammad Mujahid and opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Salauddin Quader Chowdhury were executed on 22 November last year.

Both BNP and Jamaat have dismissed the court as a government "show trial," saying it is a domestic set-up without the oversight or involvement of the United Nations. Muslim-majority Bangladesh was called East Pakistan until 1971. The government of Hasina said about 3 million people were killed in the war.—Xinhua

Up to 140,000 responders to be sent to Tokyo in event of giant quake

TOKYO — The government announced an emergency response plan Tuesday that will see up to 140,000 Self-Defence Forces personnel, firefighters and police officers from around Japan dispatched to the Tokyo metropolitan area in the event of a magnitude 7-class earthquake directly hitting the capital.

The plan, revised from one drawn up in 2008, reflects estimates of potential damage from such a quake that were upgraded following the March 2011 earthquake and tsunami disaster in northeastern Japan.

It lays out disaster response activities in chronological order for

the first 72 hours after the quake, considered a crucial period for finding survivors.

Emergency responders on call nationwide will include up to 110,000 SDF members, 16,000 firefighters and 14,000 police officers. Key road and rail routes will be cleared for transporting personnel and supplies within 24 hours, and rivers may be used if land routes are unsuitable, according to the plan. Regional disaster medical assistance teams, currently numbering about 1,400, will be dispatched immediately without waiting for requests from local authorities. Local authorities and households will be expected to store enough food to

support themselves for three days. Drinking water will be provided as necessary from trucks for the first seven days, while food and sanitary supplies will be dispatched to evacuation centers from the fourth day following the quake. The plan calls for people who cannot safely return home to temporarily shelter at their workplaces and other designated places after the quake. According to current government estimates, a magnitude 7.3 quake centered beneath southern Tokyo could in the worst case scenario see 23,000 people killed and 610,000 buildings destroyed, due to either the shaking or subsequent fires.—Kyodo News

OPINION

Active Citizenship does not mean political participation

Khin Maung Aye

A LONGSIDE the recognition of cultural contexts for the formulation of citizen rights, the excellent ideas of civic virtue as well as good citizenship have also been revitalized in diversified ideological strands. The revival of civic culture has come about in the non-liberal as well as liberal articulations of citizenship, taking variegated forms, depending upon the specific ideological tradition in

which it is placed. By and large, the revitalization has been attributed either to the implications which the liberal style of citizenship has had for social ties or to the intrinsic values of civic republican itself.

It is appropriate here in this juncture to mention a different articulation of active citizenship. Michael Walzers would like to be quoted in this regard. Walzers, acknowledging the plurality of social life, proposes that citizenship provides a common binding principle. As a binding principle, citizenship is manifested in civil society-- the setting of settings. Matter-of-factly, the civil society provides a space where individuals as part of diversified social groups are trained in civility and self-restraint. It is in this articulation of public life in the shared forum of participation by different groups that individuals think of a common good beyond their own conceptions of the good life. There are in fact many citizens who are only passive clients of state, being radically disengaged. Nevertheless, political participation as the only form of active citizenship is not a very fair concept because it is the right of citizens not to be engaged in politics, be it national politics

or party politics.

It is worth noting that Walzers believes in the idea of critical associational life and the activities and understanding that go with it requires recapturing and relearning, and proposes that participation in voluntary organisations of the civil societies—churches, families, ethnic associations, voluntary groups, schools in mutual obligation.

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.

Public Participation

Dr. Khine Khine Win

ACCORDING to the International Association for Public Participation, Public Participation means involving those who are affected by a decision in the decision-making process. It promotes sustainable decisions by providing participants with the information they need to be involved in a meaningful way, and it communicates to participants how their input affects the decision.

Generally speaking, there is no single public. Rather, public consists of a range of stakeholders holding an array of views and concerns on an issue. From human rights perspective, everyone has the right to participate in public affairs and in shaping the decisions. However, participation should be meaningful, active, free and informed. In order to provide the necessary conditions to be able to participate in the public affairs in a meaningful way, other rights, for instance civil and political rights are essential. This include of freedom of expression, freedom of assembly and freedom of associations. When civil and political

rights are vital to public participation, it is crucial that extra efforts be made to ensure that the participation environment includes vulnerable and marginalized groups. In this regard, UDHR article 2 states that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Article 7 (a), (b) and (c) of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, CEDAW state that women should have equal access to the participation in the conduct of public affairs. And also article 12 (1) of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, CRC affirms the right of the child to be heard in matters affecting the life of the child. Moreover, article 4(3), article 29 (b) and (i) of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, CRPD affirms the right to be involved on equal terms in activities relating to the conduct of public affairs. Aforementioned conventions are the legally binding international human rights instru-

ments and applicable to Myanmar as Myanmar is a State Party.

In 1991, United Nations General Assembly adopted a United Nations Principles for Older Persons resolution number 46/91. This is not legally binding human rights instrument but there is article 7 and express another example of the right to be heard in matters affecting the person. Article 7 states that "Older persons should remain integrated in society, participate actively in the formulation and implementations of policies that directly affect their well-being and share their knowledge and skills with younger generations."

Legally binding International Human Rights Conventions related to woman, child, disabled person and non legal binding UN principles for Older Persons reaffirm the right to participate regardless of women, child, disabled person and older persons. It shows clearly that all human beings are entitled to participate in public affairs without distinction.

As democracy is the rule by the people, the people consent to the government running the country. In this regard, the understanding of public participation tradi-

tionally focuses on election. The right to be elected and the right to vote are modes of direct participation in practice. Participation is one of the corner stone for democracy and has equal benefits for politicians, government servants and civil society. In doing so, we can get many benefits from public participation. Regarding the country's development, public hearing will help government make more appropriate decisions based on the real need of people. The more informed people are, the better they will understand what the government is trying to do, what their limitations and allocation are etc.

Let me give tangible an example of the achievement of public participation. As you may know, a new global development agenda setting priorities for the next fifteen years has been launched. World leaders adopted Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in September 2015 at the United Nations. Sustainable development requires whole of government approaches to economic, social, and environmental policies. But, engagement is also required from all sectors of society. To facilitate a global consultation on the SDGs, the United Nations has created various websites where individuals can express their opinion. The World We Want is an example. On the website, it is explained that the aim is to "gather

the priorities of people from every corner of the world and help build a collective vision that will be used directly by the United Nations and World Leaders to plan a new development agenda launching in 2015. It showed the clear evidence of public participation to set the goals for our world. Setting the 17 goals and 169 targets are the achievement of public participation and global participation precisely. As 2030 Agenda is an agenda for the people around the world, all people have to participate in every affair to achieve all goals.

The main aim of public participation is to encourage the public to have meaningful input to the decision making process. While there are many benefits from public participation in planning and decision-making processes, there are also disadvantages considerably. Public participation can be time consuming and sometimes expensive. It can be either a top-down or bottom-up process, depending upon the particular circumstances of the public participation issue.

In order to educate public, to promote better understanding the problem, to gain better sense of public priorities, to build trust in the authorities, to get more ideas and various reasons, public participation is important. It should be kept at the forefront through the State encouragement.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

Thanks for the report, White tiger gives birth to three cubs at Nay Pyi Taw Zoo (GNLM, March 6); indeed it is a great news and a time for celebration as the birth of the rare white tiger in Myanmar. The image of eternal motherhood in the form of the tigress suckling her three new born cubs is indeed a heart warming picture and the photo is greatly appreciated. However, just one technical fact that needs to be corrected is that the white tigress has been mentioned to be Afri-

can. There is no wild tiger ever reported in Africa. Unless the report intend to suggest that the white tigress came from an African zoo like her male partner from China; it is important to mention that all white tigers have their origin from the erstwhile Central Indian princely state of Rewa in current day Indian state of Madhya Pradesh. The maharaja (king) of this princely state first noticed white tiger in the central Indian forest for the first time and captured one for captive breeding. This is the first report of captive breeding of wild spe-

cies in the entire south and SE Asia. The breeding of these white tiger as the primary genetic stock lead to the generation all the white tiger blood lines; that are currently observed in all zoological gardens across the planet. India has one of the world's largest captive breed white tiger populations in the whole world. None of these is available in the wild any more as the mutation of white fur does not help the animal to survive successfully to survive in the wild for being easily detected by the prey species as well due to the fact they are vulnerable to poaching.

On a second note, a recent alarming report featuring the

death of an endangered tigress in the Nagaland state in India adjoining Myanmar border has been extremely sad and morbid. The incident clearly highlights the sorry state of wildlife conservation and conservation awareness in India. However, what has been important to note that this is the first time a tigress or for that matter a tiger species was reported and poached in Nagaland adjoining Myanmar. There has been no report of existence of tiger in this state even from the British colonial period. The Indian government suggested that possibly the tiger migrated from the adjoining state of Assam that has substantial tiger population (Bengal ti-

ger). However, what everyone has been missing that this could be a Indo-Chinese tigress that may have moved across Myanmar into Nagaland state of India. It is extremely sad if a rare species Like Indochinese has been poached by the villagers in Nagaland. There needs to be collaboration and joint management of forests around the highly biodiverse Indo-Myanmar border region. Unless stringent measures are adopted nationwide more such sad incidents like the recent one in Nagaland are expected.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

SME seminar held in Mandalay



Mr Yonemura discusses Japan's experience in SME development. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO (MANDALAY)

THE Japan-Myanmar Economy and Investment Centre held a seminar on the development of small and medium enterprises at the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRFC-CI) in Mandalay on 25 March.

At the ceremony, U Than Aung, chairman of the MRFC-CI, made a greeting speech, and

Mr Yonemura, chairman of the Japan-Myanmar Economy and Investment Centre, elaborated on the aims of holding the seminar for development of SMEs.

Daw Yi Yi Khine, director of the Department of Small and Medium Enterprises Development under the Ministry of Industry, explained how to implement neces-

sary reforms for the development of small and medium enterprises, and Mr Yonemura explained economic practices and investment matters that should be exercised in Myanmar.

Also at the seminar, participants discussed banking and the development of human resources.—*Thiha Ko Ko (Mandalay)*

Myanmar delegation attends China-ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Forum



Myanmar delegation attends China-ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs Forum. PHOTO: GNLM

A DELEGATION from the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association left for China yesterday to attend the China-ASEAN Young Entrepreneurs "the Belt and Road" Forum that will take place in Jiangsu City, China from today until Thursday.

The Myanmar delegation comprise five members— U Tun Tun Naing, U Khaing Win, Dr Thi Thi Khine, Daw Win Ei Khine and Dr The Myat Soe. The team was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Daw Khin Thet Maw, secretary of the association.—*GNLM*

KBZ foundation provides drinking water to people in Nyaungshwe

A TUBE well being drilled at Nyaungshwe People's Hospital struck a water vein yesterday, providing water from a depth of 405 feet. The tube well is expected to have a production capacity of around 1,700 to 2,000 gallons of water per hour, according to KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation which has been drilling tube wells, maintaining lakes and reservoirs and constructing tanks in water scarcity affected areas nationwide.

The tube well in the hospital, which has brought the number of

tube wells successfully drilled the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation turned to 70, offers a new water source to people in the water scarce area of Nyaung Shwe.

The foundation received an excellence in social responsibility award from the president in 2015 as it has spent more than US\$4.5 million on the drilling of 66 tube wells nationwide in addition to the donation of storage tanks. The foundation also received the London-based Euromoney's Corporate Social Responsibility Award 2015 last year.—*GNLM*



Clean drinking water gushes out of the tube well at Nyaungshwe People's Hospital. PHOTO: GNLM

Economy or Education? The prior of life!

Salai Peter Lian Biak Cin Thang

TWO means for an end: Which of the means is a higher priority for the masses in achieving an end? An end that aims for a better standard of living among people. Life is short so we should make it worthwhile a living. Every person on the planet earth, I believe, desires a life that is fit to do with a living. The life of the people in Myanmar is substandard both in terms of economy and education. Which is more important? An appraisal to the means, we understand that economy and education is a necessity for Myanmar to promote the standard of living among the people. But can we achieve this?

A good economy, no doubt, brings development to the people and the state as a whole. De-

velopment is one of the important things for making a better life on Earth and with this new age, development has been a very popular word among the people. Many a time, people spoke of it and guaranteed it as a means of change in the country. In other words, development as a means for a better standard of living. The guarantors make people concerned about development and what it will bring or what it looks like in reality. In fact, the process of development has filled the people's mind with the desire of possession and wealth. Moreover by imitating others' lifestyles, cultures and even ideas it has caused us to question whether development is really a priority in life. No doubt, having possessions and wealth

enhance peoples' life, but what is wealth and possession without education? Can we really take care of our possessions and wealth without education? In this world where manipulation and all sorts of individualistic ideas pop up, how can we defend and produce goods for oneself, others and collectively as a state. I believe the best way is education followed closely by economy.

In my opinion, economic development can be achieved only if there is a development in education. It is through education that we will be able to think and act accordingly with the available resources which indeed will bring a standard of living for the people to an acceptable level. Furthermore, education is what gives us dignity, value and sets our goals. So, wealth and possession are not really the priorities

of life but in fact education is priority in life. Amartya Sen who is an Indian economist once claimed, "The purpose of development is to enrich human lives, not richness of economy which is only a part of it." But the question is how can we enrich human lives a high standard of living? To enrich human lives, there is only one way. That is education. By embracing education first, it gives the knowledge 'to know how' to achieve the appropriate standard of living in which development also plays its part. In fact, it is a tool that allows everyone to have an equal share and equal participation among people.

However, education has been ineffective as it needs to be for the past few years. It is surprising sometimes that how we the youth of today consider education. Are we trying in the pro-

cess of education 'understand how it is, or to simply accept how it is?' We sometimes are not so serious when we are in the process of education or even if we are we don't realize how powerful it is. Sadly, there are even times where we are reluctant to share education with others. Therefore, this is a call for Myanmar to take a serious, bold and thoughtful step on 'understand how it is' to achieve the development in the standard of living. The only means 'understand how it is' is only education, where all sorts of matter in life can be comprehended.

Therefore, don't forget that education is a critical choice: make the right choice. For me I choose education as a priority in life for an increase in the standard of living. What's your choice?

EgyptAir hijack ends with passengers freed unharmed, suspect arrested

LARNACA, Cyprus/CAIRO — An EgyptAir plane flying from Alexandria to Cairo was hijacked and forced to land in Cyprus on Tuesday but the passengers and crew were freed unharmed and the hijacker, whose motives remained a mystery, was arrested after giving himself up.

Eighty-one people, including 21 foreigners and 15 crew, had been onboard the Airbus 320 flight when it took off, Egypt's Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement.

Conflicting theories emerged about the hijacker's motives, with Cypriot officials saying early on the incident did not appear related to terrorism but the Cypriot state broadcaster saying he had demanded the release of women prisoners in Egypt.

After the aircraft landed at Larnaca airport, negotiations began and everyone onboard was freed except three passengers and four crew, Egypt's Civil Aviation Minister Sherif Fethy said.

Soon after his comments, Cypriot television footage showed several people leaving the plane via the stairs and another man climbing out of the cockpit window and running off.

The hijacker then surrendered to authorities.

"It's over," the Cypriot foreign ministry said in a tweet.

Speaking to reporters after the crisis ended, Egyptian Prime Minister Sherif Ismail said the hijacker was an Egyptian national but that his motives remained unclear.

"At some moments he asked to meet with a representative of the European Union and at other



A man climbs out of the cockpit window of the hijacked Egyptair Airbus A320 at Larnaca Airport in Larnaca, Cyprus, on 29 March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

points he asked to go to another airport but there was nothing specific," he said, adding that the man would now be questioned to ascertain his motives.

Cypriot foreign ministry official Alexandros Zenon told reporters during the crisis that the hijacker appeared to be "unstable".

Egypt's Civil Aviation Ministry said the plane's pilot, Omar al-Gammal, had informed authorities that he was threatened by a passenger who claimed to be wearing a suicide explosives belt and forced him to divert the plane to Larnaca.

Photographs shown on Egyptian state television showed a middle-aged man on a plane wearing glasses and displaying a white belt with bulging pockets and protruding wires.

Fethy, the Egyptian minister, said authorities suspected the suicide belt was not genuine but treated the incident as seri-

ous to ensure the safety of all those on board.

"Our passengers are all well and the crew is all well... We cannot say this was a terrorist act... he was not a professional," Fethy told reporters after the incident.

In the midst of the crisis, witnesses said the hijacker had thrown a letter on the apron in Larnaca, written in Arabic, asking that it be delivered to his ex-wife, who is Cypriot.

But the Cyprus Broadcasting Corporation (CyBC) said the hijacker had asked for the release of women prisoners in Egypt, suggesting a political motive.

EgyptAir also delayed a New York-bound flight from Cairo onto which some passengers of the hijacked plane had been due to connect. Fethy said it was delayed partly due to a technical issue but partly as a precaution.—Reuters

Obama says journalists partly to blame for tone of presidential race

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama on Monday laid some of the blame for the tone of the presidential campaign on political journalism that has been pinched by shrinking newsroom budgets and cheapened by a focus on retweets and likes on social media.

In a speech to a journalism awards dinner, Obama urged journalists to ask tougher questions of the candidates vying to be president. He voiced dismay over the vulgar rhetoric, violence at rallies and unrealistic campaign pledges that have continually grabbed headlines, in a thinly veiled reference to Republican front-runner Donald Trump.

"The number one question I'm getting as I travel around the world or talk to world leaders right now is, 'What is happening in America?' about our politics," Obama said, describing interna-

tional alarm over whether the United States will continue to function effectively.

"It's not because around the world people have not seen crazy politics. It is that they understand America is the place where you can't afford completely crazy politics," he said.

"When our elected officials and our political campaigns become entirely untethered to reason and facts and analysis, when it doesn't matter what's true and what's not, that makes it all but impossible for us to make good decisions on behalf of future generations," Obama said.

He said the media landscape has changed since his first presidential campaign in 2008, when "there was a price if you said one thing and then did something completely different.

"The question is, in the cur-

rent media environment, is that still true? Does that still hold?" he said. He said news organisations have a responsibility to dig deeper despite the faster pace of "this smartphone age" and steep financial pressures in the news business.

Voters "would be better served if billions of dollars in free media came with serious accountability, especially when politicians issue unworkable plans or make promises they can't keep," Obama said.

The New York Times earlier this month reported that Trump has so far earned almost \$1.9 billion worth of media coverage, compared with \$313 million for the next closest Republican challenger, US Senator Ted Cruz of Texas, and \$746 million for Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Tymoshenko's Fatherland Party won't join Ukraine coalition unless conditions met

KIEV — The head of Ukraine's Fatherland Party, Yulia Tymoshenko, said on Tuesday that her party had up to 15 conditions that needed to be met before a coalition could be formed.

"If we want to save this parliament ... then we have to outline together 10-15 categorical conditions that must be met before the formation of any coalition," she said in parliament.

Late on Monday Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk's party said it had agreed to form a new alliance with Fatherland and Ukraine's biggest faction, belonging to President Petro Poroshenko.—Reuters

Brussels airport aims for limited reopening this week

BRUSSELS — Brussels airport on Tuesday began trying out a make-shift check-in area that could allow a limited restart of passenger flights in the coming days after the attacks last week.

A temporary structure has been put up to bypass the departure area that was heavily damaged when two bombs exploded there last Tuesday.

Shortly afterwards, a bomb exploded in a crowded Brussels Metro train, with both attacks killing at least 35 people.

"What we have today is a test to see whether all our procedures are in order," a spokeswoman for Brussels Airport said.

If all requirements were met, the airport could reopen on Wednesday at the earliest, but only at a maximum capacity of 20 percent.

The tests include checking security and fire procedures as well as operational items such as the handling of baggage and the signs in the terminal.

The coordinator for Brussels Airport, BSC, said initially only a few flights for Belgian flag carrier Brussels Airlines, partly owned by Germany's Lufthansa, would be allowed to depart.

Once capacity was increased other airlines would be invited to forward their flight plans, a spokesman for BCS, which allocates the landing and departure slots available, added.—Reuters

G-7 summit to boost demand in Japan economy by 107 billion yen

TSU (Japan) — Hosting this year's Group of Seven summit will boost demand in the Japanese economy by around 107.1 billion yen (\$942 million), a local government estimate showed on Tuesday.

The G-7 leaders from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States will gather for the Ise-Shima summit on May 26 to 27 in the central Japanese prefecture of Mie.

The rise in demand, calculated in 36 industries, includes 26.3 billion yen for construction of venues and other infrastructure as well as 12.4 billion yen for planning and running related events, according to the prefectural government. Of the total, 48 billion yen will be generated in Mie.

The local government estimated the overall cost of hosting the summit at 49.5 billion yen, including 39 billion yen to be shouldered by the prefecture.

Japan's annual economic output is valued at roughly 500 trillion yen.—Kyodo News

Germany wants refugees to integrate or lose residency rights

BERLIN — German Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said he is planning a new law that will require refugees to learn German and integrate into society, or else lose their permanent right of residence.

The initiative comes after voters punished Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives in regional elections earlier this month, giving a thumbs-down to her open-door refugee policy and turning in droves to the anti-immigrant party Alternative for Germany (AfD).

Around 1 million migrants arrived in Germany last year - many fleeing conflict and economic hardship in the Middle East and Africa — and de Maiziere said around 100,000 more had arrived so far this year.

Germany expected that in return for language lessons, social benefits and housing, the new arrivals made an effort to integrate, he told ARD television.

"For those who refuse to learn German, for those who refuse to allow their relatives to integrate — for instance women or girls - for those who reject job offers: for them, there cannot be an unlimited settlement permit after three years," he said.—Reuters

Children in Yemen bear brunt of brutal war : UNICEF

GENEVA — Hundreds of thousands of children in Yemen face life-threatening malnutrition and millions lack access to health care or clean water due to the year-old war there, the UN Children's Fund said on Tuesday.

A UNICEF report also said all sides in the war had "exponentially increased" the dragooning of child soldiers, with 848 documented cases — including boys as young as 10 — forced to fight.

Tensions appear to be easing between the Iran-allied Houthis, who control most of northern Yemen, and Saudi-led forces after a year of war, over 6,200 deaths and a humanitarian crisis in the Arab world's poorest country.

"On average, at least six children have been killed or injured every day," said the report "Childhood on the Brink". UNICEF has confirmed 934

children directly killed and 1,356 injured, but says they are "only a tip of the iceberg".

"Basic services and infrastructure in Yemen are on the verge of total collapse," it said, noting attacks on schools, hospitals and the water and sanitation system.

The United Nations said last week the warring parties had agreed to a cessation of hostilities from 10 April and peace talks from 18 April.

"We're hoping that the truce kicks in on the 10th and will allow parents and families to come and access health services and other services," Julien Harneis, UNICEF's Representative in Yemen, told Reuters by telephone from Sana'a.

"In Sa'ada in the last week, there has definitely been a reduction of fighting in the border area. In Sana'a, we have seen fewer



Children wait in a van outside a food distribution centre for poor families in Yemen capital Sanaa on 17 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

(Saudi-led) air strikes," he said.

Nearly half of Yemen's 22 provinces on the verge of famine and over 13 million people need food aid, the UN's World Food Programme said last week.

UNICEF delivers nutritional supplies and vaccines against measles, polio and other childhood diseases in the country of 24 million, but it is not enough,

Harneis said. "We've got an increase in both severe acute malnutrition and chronic malnutrition," he said.

The report said an estimated 320,000 children risk severe acute malnutrition, which can leave a child vulnerable to deadly respiratory infections, pneumonia and water-borne diseases.

Nearly 10 million children

require humanitarian aid to prevent a further deterioration. Chronic malnutrition can stunt growth and development.

"UNICEF estimates that nearly 10,000 children under 5 years may have died in the past year from preventable diseases," it said, citing lower vaccination rates and declines in treatment.—

Reuters

Suicide bomber kills three, wounds 27 in central Baghdad

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber blew himself up on Tuesday morning in central Baghdad, killing three people and wounding 27, a police spokesman said.

The blast happened near a gathering of workers in Tayaran Square, about a kilometre (mile) from a sit-in held by supporters of influential Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr to demand political reforms.

No organisation claimed the attack but all suicide bombings carried out so far this year in the country have been claimed by Islamic State, the Sunni militant group that controls parts of northern and western Iraq.—Reuters



Iraqi security forces gather at the site of a bomb attack in Baghdad's Bab Sharji district, on 29 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iraq's parliament gives PM until Thursday on new cabinet amid unrest

BAGHDAD — Iraq's parliament on Monday gave Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi three days to present a new non-party cabinet to fight corruption or potentially face a no-confidence vote amid street protests piling on the pressure for action.

A flash on state television called Thursday the "final deadline" for Abadi, who said more than six weeks ago that he would replace ministers with technocrats unaffiliated with political parties.

Yet other politicians, including some within his own party, have pushed back against a reshuffle, fearing it could weaken the political patronage networks that have sustained their wealth and influence for more than a decade.

Powerful Shi'ite Muslim cleric Moqtada al-Sadr on Sunday launched a personal sit-in inside Baghdad's heavily fortified Green Zone, which houses embassies and government offices.

His supporters extended a week-old sit-in just outside the district's gates, huddling in tents and under umbrellas in heavy rain. They also demonstrated in the southern city of Basra.

Sadr, who commands the loyalty of tens of thousands of supporters, including Shi'ite fighters who helped defend Baghdad against Sunni Islamic State militants in 2014, has re-emerged as a leader in matters of state in recent months.—Reuters

Libya unity government blames rival faction for Tripoli airspace closure

TRIPOLI — Libya's UN-backed unity government has accused authorities in Tripoli of closing down the capital's airspace to prevent it from travelling from Tunisia to start work.

The unity government's Presidential Council released a statement on Monday after two days of swirling rumours that it was on its way to Libya and several flight stoppages at Tripoli's Mitiga airport.

The Presidential Council said a minority led by the Tripoli-based prime minister was "terrorising the safe population of Tripoli and obstructing the unity government by closing the airspace". Flights were suspended at Mitiga Airport for periods on both Sunday and Monday. A civil aviation official said this was for "safety and security reasons", though a security source at Mitiga said on Sunday that an armed group had closed the airspace to block a flight intended to bring in the unity government's Prime Minister Fayeze Seraj.

The unity government was designed to bridge divisions and end political and security chaos in the North African country, which has had rival pairs of parliaments and governments since 2014.

But it has faced resistance both in the east, where it has so

far failed to secure a vote of approval from the internationally recognised parliament, and in Tripoli, where the prime minister of the self-declared government has warned the unity government against moving. There have also been fresh clashes between armed groups in and around the capital in recent days, though it is not clear whether these have been linked directly to the political process.

Despite the continuing unrest in Tripoli, Seraj said earlier this month that a security plan had been sealed and the government would move imminently.

The Presidential Council's statement on Monday said: "Security arrangements have been completed and the council has begun to move to Tripoli to start its mission." No one from the council was immediately available to confirm whether its members had yet attempted to fly to Tripoli. Last week, the UN envoy said he had been prevented from flying to Tripoli for a visit to "pave the way" for the unity government.

Western powers recently recognised the unity government as the sole legitimate government in Libya. They argue it offers the best hope of countering Islamic State militants in the country, and stemming migrant boat crossings towards Europe.—Reuters

Central Africa regional police chiefs discuss strategies to fight new forms of criminality

KINSHASA — The fourth special summit of police chiefs to discuss the emerging forms of criminality in the Central Africa region opened on Monday in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) capital. During the three-day summit, regional police chiefs will discuss strategies to fight against terrorism and cybercrime to enable police officers to be more effective.

“DR Congo is today honoured to host a meeting aimed at harmonizing efforts with other Central African states to come up with methods to effectively fight against terrorism and other emerging crimes that are being witnessed in Africa,” said Charles Bisengimana, DR Congo’s police chief.

Bisengimana noted that besides terrorism, the region has also witnessed a sharp increase in incidents of cybercrime, human trafficking and destruction of the ecosystem.

He noted that Ugandan rebel groups, Allied Democratic Forces as well as the Lord’s Resistance Army, which operated mostly in eastern Congo, constituted the new form of terrorism and were operating like the Al-Shabaab terror group in Somalia.

“We are confronted with a new phenomenon of terrorism that requires police officers to be conversant with the contemporary situation,” added Evariste Boshab, DR Congo’s Interior Minister.—Xinhua

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 1st April (Friday) 2016 “Bank Holiday”, under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

EU takes aim where it hurts Burundi— peacekeeper funding

NAIROBI — The European Union plans to cut back its funding for Burundi’s lucrative peacekeeping contingent in Somalia to try to force President Pierre Nkurunziza into talks with opponents and away from the brink of ethnic conflict, diplomatic sources said.

Nkurunziza’s government has brushed off other cuts in aid from Western donors seeking a way to pressure the government to stop a year-long political crisis exploding into a new war in Africa’s volatile Great Lakes region.

Burundi’s 5,400-strong contingent in Somalia’s AMISOM force — which earns the state roughly \$13 mil-



Burundi’s President Pierre Nkurunziza. PHOTO: REUTERS

lion a year and its soldiers a combined \$52 million — may be the Achilles heel of a government that wants to keep its fractious army happy with the extra pay its troops earn from peacekeeping.

Top Burundi officers attempted, and failed, to stage a coup in May, but the rank-and-file army has broadly stayed above the political fray.

“Support for Burundi’s contingent of AM-

ISOM cannot continue as it is,” a European diplomat said.

For each African soldier sent to Somalia, the contributing government receives \$1,000 a month for wages and logistics, paid for from a pot funded by the EU. In Burundi’s case, the government keeps \$200 a month and soldiers receive \$800 each, a handsome bonus on top of their much lower regular pay.

Pulling the plug on funding altogether was one option, albeit the most extreme and unlikely given Burundi’s determination to stay in the force, he said.

Cutting all funding would leave the African Union (AU), which oversees AMISOM’s 22,000-strong force, having to find another

donor to pay Burundi’s troops. It is already under pressure as the EU had cut back its overall funding for AMISOM saying it wants other international donors to offer more help.

A second European diplomat said cutting all funding to Burundi’s contingent was “far from being a reality right now”, but he said cash would no longer be channelled via the government and the 20 percent kept by the state, worth about \$13 million a year, would be scrapped.

“There is no way we will pay that anymore,” he told Reuters, adding that the EU was conducting negotiations with the AU aimed at finding a mechanism that by-passed Bujumbura altogether.—Reuters

Man shot by police at Capitol complex

WASHINGTON — A man walked into the underground US Capitol Visitor Center on Monday and was shot and wounded by police after he pointed what appeared to be a weapon at officers, police said.

The suspect, Larry Dawson, 66, of Tennessee, was in stable but critical condition at a hospital, Capitol Police said in a statement.

A female bystander who suffered wounds was also taken to the hospital, Capitol Police Chief Matthew Verderosa said at a news conference. Her condition has not been disclosed.

Police believe the weapon may have been a pellet gun as opposed to an actual firearm, the *Wall Street Journal* reported, citing a law enforcement official.

Dawson has been

charged with assault with a deadly weapon and assault on a police officer while armed, Capitol Police said.

No police officers were injured, Verderosa said. He said it was unclear how many officers fired shots. A weapon was recovered on the scene and the suspect’s vehicle was found on Capitol grounds, he said.

“During routine administrative screening, the individual drew what appeared to be a weapon and pointed it at officers,” the police chief said.

Verderosa said the man was known to Capitol Police.

“Based on initial investigation, we believe this is an act of a single person who has frequented the Capitol grounds before. There is no reason to believe this is anything more than a criminal act,”



Tourists run for safety past the entrance to the US Capitol Visitors Centre (R) in this video frame grab from WRC-TV footage after a shooting in Washington on 28 March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Verderosa said. Police arrested Dawson in October after they said he interrupted a House of Representatives session, shouting he was a “Prophet of God,” the *Washington Post* reported. A judge ordered him to stay away from the Capitol grounds, the newspaper said.

A US government official said no evidence had materialized of a connection to terrorism.

On a day when the

Senate and House of Representatives were not working and few lawmakers were in Washington, the Capitol building was briefly locked down, but then reopened for official business. The Capitol Visitor Centre is used chiefly by tourists.

The US Secret Service temporarily cleared tourists from an area around the White House.

At about the same time as the Capitol shooting, a

woman was arrested at the White House Easter egg roll because she tried to move a temporary security barrier, the Secret Service said. There was no relation between the Capitol incident and the White House arrest, a Secret Service official said.

More than 2 million people a year go through the Capitol Visitor Centre, Verderosa said. He said it would be open for business as usual on Tuesday.—Reuters

OFFICE SPACE REQUIRED.

State Bank of India requires a 150 to 300 square meters(Net) space for use as its Branch Office in A class building in the commercial area around Downtown on 5 years lease with option to vacate in 3 months prior notice.

The Building/Office space should contain :-

- ✓ Space for signage which should be easily visible from the street level.
 - ✓ Access to the branch office should be easily accessible.
 - ✓ Should contain adequate ingress and egress to facilities.
 - ✓ Provision of security arrangements like. Physical guards for both day and night and space for installation of motion detectors and electronic access pad.
- Interested parties may send their offers in English through email at sbi.yan-gon@statebank.com (a Copy to be marked to bankeyanil@sbi.co.in)

Upto 08.04.2016

Large cache of weapons impounded along Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire border

CONAKRY — A large cache of weapons was impounded on Monday along the Guinea, Cote d'Ivoire border, an official source in Conakry said.

According to the source, the weapons which

were being transported on a motorcycle included rockets, rocket launchers, rifles, knives, a machete and a hatchet

Pursued by locals and police officers in Macenta region which is situated

about 900 km south of Conakry, the transporter of the weapons abandoned his cargo and fled. So far, security services have not identified the origin of the weapons or where they were destined to.—Xinhua

Alaska volcano erupts with massive ash cloud, diverting flights

ALASKA — A volcano on the Alaska Peninsula erupted with little advanced warning over the weekend, spewing an ash cloud up to 20,000 feet (6,096 meters) high that prompted aviation warnings across the region, scientists said on Monday.

Mount Pavlof, one of the most active volcanoes on the peninsula, began erupting shortly after 4:00 pm Alaska Daylight Time on Sunday, said Jessica Larsen, coordinating scientist with the University of Alaska Geophysical Institute. "Pavlof is known to us for having a pretty quick onset to eruptions, it doesn't always give us long precursory signals," Larsen said.

"If you look at some of the seismic data that we have, the intensity really ramped up pretty fast. It was quite abrupt," she said.

Photos on the Alaska Volcano Observatory website showed the plume towering over the icy slopes of Mount Pavlof and drifting to the northwest.

The Federal Aviation Administration issued a "red" aviation alert in response to the 20,000-foot-high ash cloud, which required that flights to be re-routed. The alert could affect local and regional air traffic, as well polar routes and cargo flights from Anchorage.

Larsen said the eruption did not pose any immediate danger to nearby communities on the peninsula, which were monitoring the ash fall. The closest residential area is Cold Bay, located 37 miles (60 km) southwest of Pavlof.

There have been more than 40 eruptions from Pavlof, including between May and November of 2014, when ash plumes also triggered aviation warnings. Such events can last weeks or months.

"This 20,000-foot ash cloud is not unusual for Pavlof at all," Larsen said, adding that the highest recorded plume from the volcano was 49,000 feet.—Reuters



The Pavlof Volcano spews ash in the Aleutian Islands of Alaska in this handout photo released to Reuters on 28 March, 2016 by Alaska Volcano Observatory. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2016 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 REGIONAL CONTAINER
LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (031N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PANJA BHUM VOY NO (031N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2016 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 INTERASIA LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SHENG XING HAI VOY NO (1602)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHENG XING HAI VOY NO (1602) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING
CO LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KORALIA VOY NO (747)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KORALIA VOY NO (747) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MERIDIAN SHIPPING
AGENCIES PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV JAI KRISHNA VOY NO (02-2016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV JAI KRISHNA VOY NO (02-2016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T-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 RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928

Wedding Reception



Parents of both families request the honour of your presence at the Wedding Reception of

Dr. Aye Su Mon

Daughter of
Mr. Hock Sein & Mrs. Baby Khin
and

Dr. Kyaw Phone Myint

Son of
Mr. Soe Myint & Mrs. Khin Mar Aye

on Sunday,

27 of March 2016, 6:00 pm

**Chatrium Hotel Yangon
(Grand Ballroom)**

No.(40) Natmauk Road, Tamwe Township, Yangon.

Kremlin says Putin, Elton John might meet in Russia in May

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin could meet British singer Elton John when he visits Russia in May if room can be found in the two men's schedules, the Kremlin said on Monday.

Putin telephoned Elton John in September to say he would be ready to meet for a chat after the entertainer requested a meeting to discuss his concerns about gay rights in Russia.

"When they spoke by telephone several months ago, they agreed ... they will meet during Elton John's stay in Moscow," Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a teleconference with journalists.

"Such a meeting cannot be excluded, if there are precise dates of his (John's) stay here and if the president's working schedule allows it," he said without elaborating.

John, 69, is set to give a concert in a high-end Moscow shopping and entertainment centre on 30 May as part of his world tour. Before going to Moscow, he is expected to give a concert at an ice palace in St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city and Putin's birthplace.—*Reuters*

Jennifer Lopez' twins changed her life

LOS ANGELES — Singer Jennifer Lopez says the birth of her twins gave her life a completely new direction.

The 46-year-old songstress said it's all thanks to her eight-year-old twins, Max and Emme, that she has realised the difference between real and unreal, reported *People* magazine.

"I had given birth and the kids honestly just gave me a new direction. They just made me realize what was real and what wasn't real. They just changed everything," Lopez said. The "On the Floor" hitmaker felt invigorated after becoming a mother and "started thinking about life in a different way." "I started asking more questions of myself of love, of what was right, of what was wrong. I knew for their life to be great, I had to be great and I needed to fix some things and that is where the music came from," she added.—*PTI*



PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan's 'Masked Girls' seek fame under cover

TOKYO — Standing out from Japan's myriad of girl bands can be a daunting task, but one group, the "Kamen Joshi", or "Masked Girls" in Japanese, has found the answer by hiding behind masks.

As many as 15,000 people flocked to a concert by the band late last year, showing how its fan

base has grown in the three years since it first started, when it struggled to fill a 400-seat theater.

One of its first breakthrough songs, "Genkidane", hit the top of the charts in January 2015, with more than 200,000 records sold in the first week of release, said music company Oricon Style, setting

a record for a female indie band in Japan.

The band, made up of 18 members in three separate groups, is based in Tokyo and performs across Japan and in some Asian cities.

The masks enhance the band's appeal, said fans who at-

tended a recent concert in the Japanese capital. "It is unique that even though they are idols, they perform while hiding their faces with masks," said one spectator, Akihiro Kuji. Not all of the band's songs are performed in masks, but band members say they prefer to keep their faces hidden.—*Reuters*

I sobbed for 20 minutes after watching 'Parenthood': Helen Mirren



Helen Mirren says she does not regret her decision of missing being a mother but she cried after watching "Parenthood". PHOTO: PTI

LONDON — Veteran actress Helen Mirren says she does not regret her decision of missing being a mother but she cried after watching "Parenthood".

The "Queen" actress, 70, has been with director Taylor

Hackford since 1986 but married in 1997. She has two stepchildren from husband Hackford's previous relationship, reported *Daily Mirror*.

"I love children, they are so funny and so sweet, but I never wanted my own. I have never had a moment of regret about not having children. Well, I lie. When I watched the movie, *Parenthood*, I sobbed for about 20 minutes.

"It was about the whole story of being a parent and how it never stops, even when you're a grandparent. I realised I would never experience that, and for about 20 minutes, I sobbed for the loss of that and the fact that I never experienced it," she said.

She added, "Then I got over it and I was happy again."—*PTI*

Big B thanks fans for wishes on National Award win

MUMBAI — Megastar Amitabh Bachchan thanked all those who congratulated him for his best actor National Award win, saying he is "most grateful".

Bachchan, 73, was named best actor for his role in Shoojit Sircar's "Piku" at the 63rd National Film Awards announced in the capital yesterday.

"To them that congratulate me for the National Award — most grateful... thank you is never enough expression," Bachchan wrote on Twitter.

He previously won the honour for "Agnepath", "Black" and "Paa".

Bachchan celebrated the win with wife Jaya Bachchan and the crew members of an

advertisement he was shooting with the latter.

"Working with the wife today for an ad, promotion and some moments from there, they celebrate my National Award on set and then as I leave the studio they burst a few crackers .. sweet," he wrote on his blog alongside some pictures from the set.

Bachchan also congratulated other winners including Gujarat, which was named the most film friendly state at the National Film Awards for its effort to ease shooting films.

"Congratulations National Award winners and to the State of Gujarat that wins 'Most Film Friendly State'." —*PTI*

Harrison Ford auctioning Han solo jacket for daughter

LOS ANGELES — Harrison Ford is to auction off his iconic Han Solo costume to help an American medical centre treating his daughter find a cure for epilepsy.

The "Star Wars" hero has become synonymous with the brown jacket he has donned for the movie franchise, including a leather version he wore for the latest installment — "Star Wars: The Force Awakens", reported *Vanity Fair*.

Now Harrison, 73, said the jacket is up for grabs at an upcoming auction, with proceeds going to the New York Universi-

ty's Langone centre.

"I was wearing it throughout the film," he said, confirming about the auction.

However, he admitted that he would have a difficult task getting it back off one of the doctors at the research facility.

Ford's daughter Georgia Ford, 25, has not had an epileptic seizure for the past eight years after being treated at the NYU Langone. Prior to that however, she was repeatedly misdiagnosed and was even prescribed migraine medicine for many years before getting a proper diagnosis as a teenager.—*PTI*



Harrison Ford. PHOTO: PTI

Young Chinese question marriage pressure as divorce rate climbs

BEIJING — At a registry office in Beijing, Sun Xiangshu and Shi Ci pose for photographs, their wedding certificates in hand, having just officially become man and wife.

But like many unions in China this is a marriage that won't last long. In fact, their wedding is a piece of performance art staged by an artist known as Nut Brother.

The two strangers have been brought together to tie the knot then divorce within 48 hours in an attempt to stir debate about the meaning of the institution of marriage in modern China, which has a soaring divorce rate.

"I have a lot of friends who have been forced to get married. Marriage has taken on a lot of things it shouldn't, it has become mixed up with things like sex, property, care for the elderly and social stability," said Nut Brother.

The decision to get married in China has long been a family affair, with parents traditionally

having the last word on their children's spouses.

With a patchy social welfare system and Confucian expectations that the younger generation will take care of the old, questions of material wealth are often more important than compatibility when young people come under pressure to get married and produce the next generation of the family line.

Young people who decide they do not want to tread the traditional marriage path find themselves fighting against established values championed by those at the very top.

"No matter how much times change, no matter how much social structures change, we must all emphasize building a family," President Xi Jinping declared in a Spring Festival address last year.

Traditional Chinese family values were key for social harmony, he added.

But as traditional notions of family obligations increasingly



A view of a matchmaking event where people gather hoping to find prospective mates for their children at a park in Beijing, on 27 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

come into conflict with more individualistic aspirations, the divorce rate has soared.

From 2011 to 2014, the most recent years for which data is available, the number of divorces increased by 27 percent, fueled in part by those who find it impossible to maintain a marriage that

might appear rosy but lacks real love.

This is what happened to Shi Ci, who divorced his wife of eight years after it became clear to him he had been chosen because he could provide for her, not because she loved him.

"It was bad for both of us, you

need mutual appreciation and love to feel like you have any quality of life," he said. Shi Ci said that for the time being he was not considering marriage again. But he would never say never.

"Now I think love is most important. Only if I have love will I consider marriage."—Reuters

Universal LA theme park hopes fans buy into new 'Harry Potter' world

LOS ANGELES — From the cobblestone alleyways to the snow-capped roofs, fans of "Harry Potter" will be able to immerse themselves into a new "Wizarding World" attraction at Universal Studios Hollywood, and the theme park is betting on their purchasing power.

"The Wizarding World of Harry Potter," opening 7 April, brings to life the quaint town of Hogsmeade from author J.K. Rowling's seven-part "Harry Potter" books and subsequent films, and it caps off a five-year revamp across the park. Comcast Corp.-owned Universal Studios Hollywood has introduced new rides capitalizing on the box office success of franchises "Transformers," "Despicable Me" and "Fast & Furious," as well as expanding "The Simpsons" attraction.

But the "Wizarding World"

is what the theme park is banking on. Comcast reported a revenue increase of 27 per cent to \$3.3 billion from its Orlando, Florida, and Hollywood, California locations in its 2015 year-end report.

The company said revenues were bolstered by Orlando's new "Harry Potter" world, which features two lands, Hogsmeade and Diagon Alley, connected by the Hogwarts Express train. An additional ticket is required to visit both lands in one day.

Hollywood's "Wizarding World" features two rides, one within the castle-like structure of the Hogwarts school and the other an outdoors rollercoaster, alongside intricately detailed shops and restaurants such as Honeydukes sweets, Ollivanders wands and The Three Broomsticks.

Visitors can purchase a vast assortment of "Harry Potter" mer-



Key rings are on display for purchase outside Hogwarts School during a soft opening and media tour of 'The Wizarding World of Harry Potter' theme park at the Universal Studios Hollywood in Los Angeles, California in this picture taken 22 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

chandise, from quills for under \$10 to interactive wands for around \$50 and full Hogwarts school robes from around \$100. "We've always aimed to be as authentic as we can be, even down to the name

of the shops. They're called shops, not stores," supervising art director Alan Gilmore told Reuters. "It has to be an experience of stepping into Scotland and England."

"Harry Potter," about an or-

phaned boy wizard in a magical world hidden within present day England, has sold more than 450 million books globally. Warner Bros' eight-part film franchise has grossed more than \$7 billion worldwide. Tickets for Universal Hollywood, which cover all the park's attractions, range from \$90 to \$239 for front-of-line passes, varying according to seasonal demand.

Overall attendance at Universal Hollywood, visited by 6.8 million in 2014 according to figures from the Themed Entertainment Association, trails far behind Walt Disney Co's Disneyland in Anaheim, Southern California, which drew nearly 17 million that year. Disneyland is building a new "Star Wars" land after the success of December's "The Force Awakens," the third highest-grossing film worldwide in history.—Reuters

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(30-3-2016 07:00am ~ 31-3-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Wet Markets of Yangon: Thirimingalar Market
07:33	Am	Reflected Glory
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Novicehood in Myanmar
08:53	Am	Porcelain and Glass
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Life In The Ring
09:42	Am	YUFL
10:03	Am	News

10:26 Am Myanmar Scout

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) -Tuesday 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	Am	An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa
07:54	Am	The Pride of Myanmar "Traditional Handicraft"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 2) Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion)
08:40	Am	Sightseeing in Yangon: Inya Lake
08:54	Am	Snake Dancer

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

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(30-3-2016, Wednesday)

6:00 pm	8:30 pm
• Weather Report	• Cartoon Programme
• Music Programme	• "BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE" (Part-22)
6:30 pm	8:50 pm
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	• Music Programme
6:40 pm	9:00 pm
• Music Programme	• The Stories of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (Ep-2)
7:00 pm	9:50 pm
• International Drama Series	• International Movie Songs
7:40 pm	10:00 pm
• International Drama Series	• Myanmar Video

From 30-3-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm
To 31-3-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

Williams' bid for ninth Miami title ends



Serena Williams hits a forehand against Svetlana Kuznetsova (not pictured) on day seven of the Miami Open at Crandon Park Tennis Centre on 28 March. Kuznetsova won 6-7(3), 6-1, 6-2. PHOTO: REUTERS

MIAMI — Serena Williams' bid for a ninth Miami Open title came to shock end when the world number one was beaten 6-7(3), 6-1, 6-2 in the fourth round by 15th-seeded Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova on Monday.

The loss on the Miami hardcourts was the first since 2012 for William, who had swept the last three titles in her unofficial home tournament.

"I'm really thrilled," said

Kuznetsova after registering her first win over Williams since 2009. "I'm sorry fans, who are disappointed that Serena's not going to keep playing, but for sure she'll be at more events than here.

"I'm really happy with my performance. I tried to stay at a good level the whole game. I think I did that pretty well and I'm happy with the way I served today." It was a day of dramatic upsets at Crandon Park, as Wil-

liams stepped onto the Stadium court for her Round of 16 match immediately after third-seeded world number two Agnieszka Radwanska of Poland was tripped up by 19th-seeded Swiss Timea Bacsinszky 2-6, 6-4, 6-2.

Radwanska was the winner on the Miami hardcourts in 2012 before Serena Williams embarked on her three title run.

The upsets continued into the afternoon with fourth-seeded Spaniard Garbine Muguruza fall-

ing 7-6(6), 7-6(4) to 13th-seeded Belarusian Victoria Azarenka, still in top form following her victory this month at Indian Wells.

A tight first set saw both Williams and Kuznetsova register a break but neither player could gain the upper hand, sending the opener to a tie-break which the top-seeded American dominated 7-3 with the help of a pair of thundering aces. A battling Kuznetsova controlled the second set from the start, breaking the 21-times grand slam winner to go up 3-1 then sweeping the next three games to level the contest at a set apiece. The Russian upped the pressure with a pair of breaks to start the third as she stormed through the opening three games before Williams finally stopped the bleeding with a break of her own at 3-1.

The relief was brief, however, as former US and French Open champion Kuznetsova immediately hit back with yet another break and went on to finish off the upset in just over two hours. In other action, fifth-seeded Romanian Simona Halep eased into the quarters with a tidy 6-3, 6-4 decision over British wildcard Heather Watson. Britain, however, will be represented in the last eight as Johanna Konta tamed another Romanian, Monica Niculescu, 6-2, 6-2.—Reuters

Casillas close to bowing out despite record and clean sheet

MADRID — Spain goalkeeper Iker Casillas said he was keen to carry on racking up the international accolades after equalling the record for most caps by a European player but acknowledged he was closing in on retirement.

The 34-year-old Porto keeper showed his class with a couple of fine saves in his 166th Spain appearance, a goalless draw away to Romania on Sunday.

"The time of my retirement is getting closer and closer," Casillas told reporters.

"It's clear that time passes everyone and I am no exception of that.

"But I have hope and I would like to be with this team full of youngsters. I don't know if it's my last year with Spain, I only think about enjoying each day."

Casillas went level with Latvia's Vitalijs Astafjevs in the continent's record books after his 166th appearance in his 16th in-

ternational season.

The former Real Madrid keeper, who has not conceded a goal in 710 minutes for Spain, made his senior international debut on June 3, 2000 against Sweden when he was 19 years and 14 days old.

He has gone on to win Euro 2008 and 2012, the 2010 World Cup as well as five Spanish league titles with Real and three Champions Leagues.

He left Real last year to join Porto but has been first choice for Spain coach Vicente Del Bosque during the Euro 2016 qualifying campaign, playing in seven of 10 matches despite Manchester United's David De Gea pushing for a starting spot.

"I am happy to reach 166 games and be the player with the most games for the national team," Casillas said. "In these years I have lived good times and bad times, but I will stick with the good ones."—Reuters



Spain's goalkeeper Iker Casillas makes a save as David De Gea and Sergio Rico watch during a training for international friendly against Italy at Friuli Stadium, Udine, Italy on 23 March.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Homegrown talents key to Manchester United future - Giggs

LONDON — Big-spending Manchester United must always continue their tradition of bringing through players from the youth academy, assistant manager Ryan Giggs has said.

The 20-times English champions have endured a stuttering campaign by their high standards and sit sixth in the league, are already out of Europe but retain hope in the FA Cup ahead of a sixth round replay with West Ham United next month.

United manager Louis Van Gaal has brought through a number of academy players this term, such as striker Marcus Rashford, but the Dutch coach has been tipped by British media to make way for former Chelsea boss Jose Mourinho next season.

Giggs said future United managers should respect the club's history for promoting from within.

"I think it will always be part of the club's philosophy. It's part of the history, it's what sets us apart from other teams," Giggs told the club's website (www.manutd.com).—Reuters

Wenger certain of Arsenal future despite growing criticism

LONDON — Arsene Wenger has "no doubt" he will still be the manager of Arsenal next season despite pressure from the club's supporters to end his 20-year stay with the north London side.

A run of just two wins from their last nine games in all competitions has seen the Gunners knocked out of the Champions League last-16 for a sixth successive season and exit the FA Cup in the quarter-final, losing to Watford at the Emirates Stadium. Arsenal's dismal form has severely dented their hopes of ending their 12-year wait for the Premier League title, as they trail leaders Leicester City by 11 points with a game in hand.

"I have no doubt because I am committed. When I do something, I do it 100 per cent. I'm always committed to give my best as long as I am at the club... That's all I focus on," Wenger told British media when asked if he would be Arsenal manager next season.—Reuters