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# INCHING TOWARD PEACE

## State Counsellor calls for peace conference within two months



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi addresses the Union Ceasefire Joint Monitoring Committee.  
PHOTO: AUNG SHINE OO

**S**TATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has called for a national peace conference within the next two months in her effort to bring eternal peace to the country.

Speaking at the second meeting of the Union Ceasefire Joint Monitoring Committee (UJMC) yesterday, the State Counsellor also stressed the need to hold the national peace conference like the historic Panglong Conference concurrently with the nationwide ceasefire.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said she will make efforts to bring non-signatory groups into the nationwide cease fire deal as a priority, adding that she will observe the tasks of the joint monitoring committee.

"The word 'stakeholder' is quite famous these days. But all citizens, totalling more than 50 million people, are, in fact, the stakeholders because the peace process affects all citizens. It is not practical to include the entire mass of people in the peace process, so the UJMC was formed to include all sides—the government, the ethnic [minorities] and the civil society organisations, who represent enough of the more than 50 million people," Suu Kyi said.

The State Counsellor also instructed participants to come to the table with the right mind-set.

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## Myanmar needs to prioritize resources in Union Budget: World Bank

MYANMAR needs to enhance the quality and efficiency of public spending for education and healthcare, prioritizing resources in Union Budget that are critical to improve living standards and incomes of the people, said the World Bank's report Wednesday.

The World Bank Group presented a report of public expenditure review on Myanmar, which was a comprehensive analysis of country's spending policies between 2009 and 2013.

Abdoulaye Seck, World Bank Country Manager for Myanmar, said that the review is a contribution to enhanced budget transparency in Myanmar and to a vigorous local policy dialogue on Union Budget issues and highlights the challenges in building the foundation for shared prosperity. An action plan based on the report's findings and recommendations could have a pivotal impact on the public sector's ability to promote inclusive growth, he added.

Policy reforms under previous government have increased spending for education and health care, resulting as more children are attending school and 79,000 more teachers have been hired and essential medicines and selected healthcare services available for free to children, pregnant mothers and emergency patients, according to report.

Economic recovery and long-term reforms on tax policy and administration have improved general government

revenue from 6 to 11 percent of GDP between 2009 and 2014. Moreover, reforms have improved and expanded access and affordability of health care financed through a nine-fold increase in Ministry of Health spending between 2009-2010 and 2013-2014.

World Bank prepared a Country Partnership Framework (CPF) for Myanmar for 2015 to 2017 to support ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity in 2015.—Xinhua



## Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets regional representatives in Mandalay

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint met with representatives in Mandalay at the Mandalay Region Hluttaw Building yesterday.

In his address, the Speaker called for honesty while working for the people and stressed the need of raising questions and submitting proposals and bills to parliament while focusing on the desires and needs of the people.



Speaker U Win Myint talks to regional representatives in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA

He highlighted the importance of cooperation with authorities concerned while implementing developmental undertakings in order to achieve better success.

Majority rules with minority rights is an important principle in

democratic governance, said the Speaker.

He called on regional representatives to stay away from corruption as the government is striving to transform society into an uncorrupt one and to work

together with any parties and individuals to better ensure democracy.

During the meeting the Speaker explained parliamentary procedures regarding the submission of bills and proposals for

regional development tasks.

Next, Speaker U Win Myint inspected the progress of the construction of the new Mandalay Region Hluttaw Building in Aungmyay Thasan Township.— *Myanmar News Agency*



## JPN, UN sign agreement to help Myanmar

AN agreement on a ¥3.7 billion donation from Japan to fund four United Nations agencies which are working together with Myanmar's Ministry of Border Affairs was signed in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the signing ceremony the Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and resident representatives of the WFP, UN-HABITAT, FAO and UNHCR inked the agreement concerning the implementation of four projects in border regions and rural areas.

Next, Union Minister for

Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung spoke words of thanks, expressing his belief that the projects, aimed at meeting the basic needs and infrastructure goals of locals as well as enhancing support for sustainable livelihoods will be of great benefit to people in rural and border areas.

The Japanese government will provide ¥2.2 billion through the WFP, ¥607 million through UN-HABITAT, ¥531 million through the FAO and ¥365 million through the UNHCR to implement development and emergency food assistance projects

in Kachin State, Chin State, Rakhine State, Shan State (North) and Yangon Region.

After the ceremony, the Union minister received UNHCR Resident Representative Mr. Giuseppe de Vincentiis and WFP Country Director and Representative Mr. Domenico Scapelli at his office separately.

During the calls, they held discussions on projects being implemented by the ministry in cooperation with UN agencies and projects planned for the future.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## Union Minister for Information holds talk with UN Humanitarian Coordinator

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received the UN Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

discussed matters concerning future cooperation with UN agencies to develop the media sector in Myanmar.

Also present at the call were the permanent secretary of the ministry and officials.— *Myanmar News Agency*

## Union Civil Service Board formed

A UNION Civil Service Board, chaired by Dr Win Thein, has been formed with four members, according to an announcement from the President's Office yesterday.

The order, signed President U Htin Kyaw, was announced yesterday, appointing four members namely U Win Maw,

U Than Tun, Dr U Pwar and U Saw Valentine.

They have been appointed under article 246 (b) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, article 16 (b) (12) of the Union Government Law and section 5 of the Union Civil Service Board, according to the order.— *GNLM*

## Rental apartments, low-cost housing must be built to reduce land prices in Mandalay

IT is required that low cost rental buildings be constructed including rental apartments and low-cost houses in order to control overheating land prices in Mandalay, said a realtor regarding the mayor's recent vow to reduce land price rises in the city of upper Myanmar.

His plan to control rising property prices will prove a big challenge as currently in the market it appears no-one wants to sell lands that have been bought as an investment at below market prices, said U Win Naing, a realtor in Mandalay.

The realtor called for the building of affordable housing complexes and apartment buildings and for those houses to be sold at a reasonable price in order to see land values drop in Mandalay, saying that land prices must fall to make homes affordable.

Some have suggested that the problem of squatters be addressed first as the number of squatters in the city has increased.



Newly constructed housing being seen in Mandalay.

PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

The country's rising inflation rate pushes land prices out of reach for ordinary people, they added.

Investing in land becomes a certain kind of business in Mandalay, said a gem broker, adding that foreigners manipulate the property market as the Myanmar

currency is weak.

As Myanmar Kyat is worth 1000 times less than the dollar and 200 times less than the Chinese Yuan, foreigners are interested in investing in land as they only need a small amount of money to buy property in Mandalay.— *Aung Thant Khaing*

## JMC-U organises workshop in Nay Pyi Taw

A JOINT Monitoring Committee-Union will organise a workshop today at the Horizon Lake View Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

The workshop's stated aim is to continue the country's peace process, to oversee and promote the truce during political dialogue, to implement political guarantees and to reaffirm agreements and pledges.— *Ko Nyi*

### Corrections

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR would like to apologise to Mr Felix Zimmerman and Ms Wiebke Rosler for publishing their passport and visa information in our 27 Wednesday issue. We also acknowledge that the two victims of the landmine explosion are German, not Dutch.

We have removed the private information from The Global New Light of Myanmar's website.

We wish Mr Zimmerman and Ms Rosler speedy recoveries.— *Editorial Staff*





Mr. Stanislav Opiela, Ambassador of Slovak, presents his credentials to President U Htin Kyaw. PHOTO: MNA

## President U Htin Kyaw meets foreign newly-accredited ambassadors

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received credentials from three newly-accredited ambassadors to Myanmar who presented their official papers to him at the Presidential House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Newly-accredited Iranian Ambassador Mr. Mohsen Mohammadi, US Ambassador Mr. Scot Alan Marciel and Slovak Ambassador Mr. Stanislav Opiela presented their credentials to the President.

Also present at the credentials presentation were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Director-General of Protocol Department U Ko Ko Naing.

The appointment of six ambassadors to Myanmar had been agreed on at the time of President U Htin Kyaw's administration taking office.

Two more ambassadors will present their credentials to the President today.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## State Counsellor reexamined following eye surgeries

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and NLD CEC member U Win Htein were examined at the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital in Ottathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw yesterday after both underwent eye surgeries at the hospital this month.

The medical superintendent of the hospital commented that their eyes are in good condition and further treatment will not be required. The State Counsellor was admitted to the hospital for an operation on her right eye on 9 April and had a cataract removed on her left eye on 16

April when Thura U Aung Ko, U Win Htein and Daw Shwe Hmon also underwent eye surgeries at the hospital.

After the reexamination, the State Counsellor comforted patients who are currently receiving treatment.

According to the medical superintendent, the Nay Pyi Taw Ottathiri Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist Hospital, inaugurated on 9 March, is receiving 50 patients a day and providing treatment with specialist and modern pharmaceuticals and equipment.—*Myanmar News Agency*

## State Counsellor calls for peace . . .

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"I see no reason not to succeed in the peace process if we all really desire peace and if we have genuine goodwill. In this regard, what counts is the approach to the give-and-take policy. If we come to the roundtable discussion with our minds bent on taking rather than giving, we won't succeed. That's why I'd like you to think of what you can give as the first priority, showing the correct attitude toward the country," she said.

"As long as you're only thinking of what you'd like to take, it will not be an easy task to seek peace and unity in a Union that was composed of a plethora of indigenous races," she added.

She also announced the appointment of Dr Tin Myo Win as the peace negotiator for the nationwide ceasefire agreement.

Participants of JMC yesterday proposed to rename the Myanmar Peace Center, which has been working for the country's peace process, to National Reconciliation and Peace Center (NRPC).

The UJMC was first formed on 18 November 2015 with 10 representatives from the government side, another 10 representatives from the eight signatory ethnic armed organisations and six civilian representatives nominated by both sides. In January, Myanmar's previous government held the first Union Peace Conference in Nay Pyi Taw, the biggest gathering of political forces in the country in over six decades, involving hundreds of representatives from stakeholder groups, including the government, parliament, the military and eight ethnic armed groups.—*Thein Ko Lwin with Myanmar News Agency*

## Law to Safeguard the State Against the Dangers revoked

PYIDAUNG SU Hluttaw enacted the Law Revoking the Law to Safeguard the State Against the Dangers of Those Desiring To Cause Subversive Acts.

President U Htin Kyaw

signed yesterday the Law Revoking the Law to Safeguard the State Against the Dangers of Those Desiring To Cause Subversive Acts which was enacted in 1975.—*GNLM*

## Thura U Shwe Mann vows to cooperate with all parties 'for the good of the people'

FORMER USDP chairman and speaker of the Union parliament Thura U Shwe Mann told reporters at a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday that despite his expulsion from the party, he will continue to work for the safety and prosperity of the people.

The Union Solidarity and Development Party dismissed 17 members, including Thura U Shwe Mann and several other members of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Commission for the Assessment of Legal Affairs and Special Issues, of which Thura U Shwe Mann is now the chairman. The decision came after the party's Central Executive Committee met on 22 April.

"Despite our dismissal, we will maintain our political standpoint on the protection of public security and wellbeing," Thura U Shwe Mann said, stressing his commission's commitment to act in the best interests of the people and the country.

U Zaw Myint Pe, a member of the commission, said he did not think the internal party issue would have a direct impact on the relationship between the armed forces and the National League for Democracy (NLD), which controls Myanmar's new government.

"Judging from what the army said, I don't see any problem," he said. The Defence Services previously announced their support for and cooperation with the government.

When asked about the army's statement in connection with a status on his Facebook account, Thura U Shwe Mann refused to comment, instead expressing his strong attachment to the army.

"The interests of the party are secondary to those of the country," he said, adding that his commission is ready and willing to cooperate with any political parties and any organisations for the good of the country and its citizens.

The ex-USDP members have no plans to join the NLD, he said.

Thura U Shwe Mann entered military service 45 years ago and rose through the ranks to general.

"Once a soldier, always a soldier," he said.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Thura U Shwe Mann talks to media. PHOTO: MNA



# Lightning, wind storm ravage Kalay

A 32-YEAR-OLD farmer named U Myo Myint Oo died after being struck by lightning during a powerful wind storm in Kalay Township, Sagaing Region, on Monday.

The wind blew roofs off monasteries, schools, houses

and hospitals in seven villages—Yazagyo, West Khontha, Nankyinhsaung, Myasein, Myalin, Nyeinchantha and 56-Mile villages.

An umbrella from the top of the village pagoda was also destroyed during the storm.

Local authorities are now collecting lists of property destroyed by the strong winds in order to calculate the total loss, with plans to provide disaster relief to victims as quickly as possible.—*Chindwin Tha*



The aftermath of the windstorm in Kalay Township. PHOTO: CHINDWIN THA

## Police arrested two-digit lottery gamblers

POLICE have arrested a man who allegedly played two-digit lotteries in his house in Chanmyathasi ward, Monywa town, Sagaing region on Monday.

The police searched the

house of one Tun Tun Aung, 37, and found K30,000 and items relating to two-digit lottery.

On the same day police searched the house of one Daw Tin San alias Daw Nu Nu Kyi,

45, and found K92,500 and items relating to two-digit lottery.

Local police have filed charges against both suspects.—*Myanmar Police Force*

## Buildings damaged by strong gale winds in Mong Rai

STRONG gales accompanied by heavy rains and hailstones destroyed houses and levelled trees in Mong Rai Township, Lashio, Northern Shan State on Monday.

The strong wind blew the

roofs off the buildings and destroyed street lamposts. Firefighters from the Township Fire Services Department and officials were engaged in rescue operations.

The torrential rains and

hailstones damaged the roofs of local office building of the office of the Information & Public Relations Department in Mong Rai Township. Local officials are compiling a list of damaged property.—*Han Htay (Lashio)*



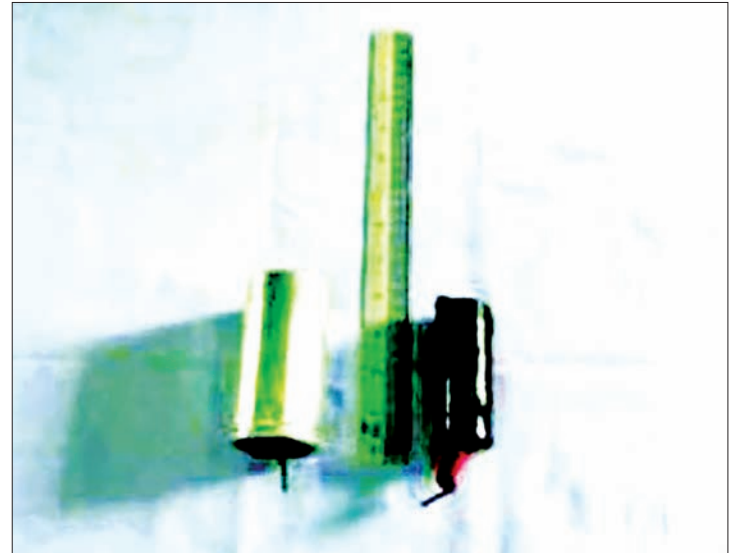
A building seen damaged by strong gale winds in Mong Rai. PHOTO: HAN HTAY (LASHIO)

## Crime NEWS

### Two mines discovered in Muse

TWO mines were found by police near Sin Phyu market, Muse on Monday. The mines were found while the police were patrolling the market. The

mines were discovered to be of Chinese manufacture and were subsequently destroyed by the Garrison Engineering Battalion.—*Sayar Maung (Muse)*



Two mines found in Muse. PHOTO: SAYAR MAUNG (MUSE)

## Train runs over man in Taungdwingyi

A MAN was killed in a train accident in Taungdwingyi township, Magwe region on the night of 24 April. The victim, Aung Ko Oo, 28, from Aung Myin Thar village was reportedly sleeping on the railway line when he was struck by a local

train between mileposts 239/5 and 239/6. The victim was seriously injured and succumbed to his injuries at the scene of the accident.

Police are still investigating the case.—*Bo Pyat (Taungdwingyi)*

## Yaba and hand grenade seized in Ye Township

LOCAL authorities seized Yaba and a hand grenade in Ah Sin Village, Ye township on Tuesday, it has been reported. Acting on a tip-off local police searched the home of one Soe Moe Oo, 27, and discovered 228 yaba pills weighing 22.8 grams with a street value of K570,000 and a MG1 hand grenade.

Likewise, police also searched the home of Arkar Oo, 25, in Ah Sin village, Ye township. The police discovered 30 yaba pills weighing 3 grams with a street value of K90,000 and petty cash earned through the sale of drugs. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Law.—*Nay Myo Htut (Ye)*



Soe Moe Oo.

PHOTO: NAY MYO HTUT (YE)

## HOUSE in Mrauk U destroyed by fire

A HOUSE was destroyed by fire in Dai Kyi village, Mrauk U town, Rakhine state on Monday night. According to an investigation, the fire broke out when U Sein Kyaw Win fell asleep

without extinguishing a candle in his home. The fire was put out by local firemen with the assistance of neighbors. Police have opened a case against U Sein Kyaw.—*District IPRD*



# LOCAL Business

## Teak production discontinued this year due to deforestation



Teak logs are loaded onto a lorry at a logging camp in Pinlebu Township, Sagaing Region. PHOTO: REUTERS

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has decided to discontinue the production of teak wood and to reduce logging of hardwood this year because of severe deforestation.

The number of teak trees in Myanmar has gradually declined due to illegal logging.

The ministry will make arrangements to protect natural resources and the environment. Planting quality teak in Bago

Mountain Ranges is the top priority for the ministry.

The rate of forest coverage in Myanmar decreased to 45 per cent in 2015, from over 57 per cent in 1990, according to official figures released by the ministry.

Myanmar, one of most resource-rich countries in South-east Asia, is 38 per cent covered by mixed deciduous forests and 25 per cent by hills and temperate evergreen forests. It has a population of more than 50 million

people, most of whom depend on forest products, particularly for fuel and construction.

The logging of teak and hardwood in the 2012-2013 fiscal year totalled 925,050 tonnes.—200

## Taninthayi hospitality industry attracts new FDI

DOMEL Island Development, a joint venture company, will invest US\$25 million in Myanmar's hotels and tourism industry to establish hotel facilities in several townships in Taninthayi Region.

The investment was approved by the Myanmar Investment Commission in March, according to the MIC's announcement.

The project covers the construction of resorts, villas and golf courses on undeveloped islands in the coastal region to provide better service to both locals and interna-

tional visitors.

Myanmar has seen a massive influx of tourists over the last few years thanks to the country's political stability and its sweeping reforms. According to myanmar-tourism.org, Myanmar welcomed nearly 3.1 million tourists in 2014 and over 4.6 million in 2015.

According to the Master Plan (2013-2020) drawn up by the Ministry for Hotels and Tourism, tourist arrivals are estimated to hit 7.49 million by 2020.

According to official figures,

there are over 1,000 hotels with nearly 50,000 rooms across the country.

Singapore tops the tourism investors list with US\$1.48 billion, followed by Viet Nam with \$440 million and Thailand with \$343 million, according to the last year's figures.

The number of tourism companies has also increased to 1,922 this year from 1,670 in 2014. As many as 1,822 of the companies are owned by Myanmar citizens.—200

## Price of betel reaches record high after unseasonal rain

THE price of Pantanaw betel leaf is at a record high, up to K15,000 per viss (approximately 1.6 kilograms) at Thirimin-galar market in Yangon because of widespread destruction of beetle crop due to unseasonal rains.

The daily supply of Pantanaw betel dropped down from 30 to six baskets at the market.

Betel from other towns is in high demand leading to a price rise from K4,000 to K8,000 per viss.

"The supply has declined in the market. Some betel leaf plants fell down and the betel leaves were destroyed. The price rises when the demand and the supply mismatch", said Daw Moe Moe from the Aung Thiri betel and areca nut shop.—200

## Sugar price rises in Muse border market

SUGAR prices at the Muse border trade centre have risen by 15 yuan per bag.

Around 70,000 bags of sugar (about 3,500 tonnes) are sold daily at the border gate. Sugar merchants are collectively making an extra profit of 1,050,000 yuans daily, said a merchant from Muse, which borders China. The market price for a 50-kilo bag of sugar was 194 yuan on 11 April. The price has



A farmer seen with sugar cane. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

risen up to 209 yuan since the end of Thingyan. The rise of prices in India and Thailand resulted in the rise of prices in the Muse market. Furthermore, demand from China is on the rise. The volume of sugar

trading and the price of sugar are both expected to continue to rise for some time. Myanmar re-exports sugar imported from India and Thailand to China via the border trade channel.—200

## Sesame and peanut oil said to be competitive with palm oil in price

SEMAME and peanut oil are to be sold against palm oil at competitive prices, it has been reported by market experts. The supply of sesame and peanut will need to be raised, said U Myint Kyu, the chairman of the Myanmar Oil Merchants and Entrepreneurs Association.

The price of sesame and peanut oil might decline by K1,000 if the yield has become high and the supply rises. Local manufacturers supply around 450,000 tonnes of oil while the volume of import of oil is about

550,000 tonnes.

Over 142 million tonnes of edible oil are required by the world's population while among those, consumers require 4.82 million tonnes of peanut oil (3.39 per cent).

Private entrepreneurs received permits to import palm oil in 2011. The volume of oil import has risen year by year: 120,000 tonnes in 2011; 330,000 tonnes in 2012; 390,000 in 2013; 440,000 tonnes in 2014 and 550,000 tonnes in 2015.—200



## Thai Facebook group charged over 'foul language' about draft constitution

BANGKOK — Thailand's election commission on Wednesday filed charges against a group for posting "foul and strong" comments online criticising a military-backed draft constitution, the first case filed under a law that prohibits campaigning on the charter.

Groups on both sides of Thailand's political divide have denounced the draft constitution as undemocratic.

The UN human rights chief last week urged the junta to curtail "dangerously sweeping" powers enshrined in the draft charter and urged the government to "actively encourage, rather than discourage" dialogue on the draft.

Election commissioner Somchai Srisuthiyakorn filed the charges against members of a Facebook group based in Thailand's northeastern province of Khon Kaen.

"They posted comments on Facebook using foul and strong language," Somchai told reporters after filing the charges. He did not disclose the group's identity.



**Somchai Srisuthiyakorn (C)** Election commissioner holds up a document during filing the charges against members of a Facebook group based in Thailand's northeastern province of Khon Kaen at a police station in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We want them to be an example," he said. "From now on, people should talk about the constitution using reason."

Thailand's king on Friday approved a law providing a 10-year jail term

for those who campaign ahead of an 7 August referendum on the military-backed constitution.

Endorsement of legislation by the king, who is a constitutional monarch, is a formality. The new law

criminalises "forcing or influencing" a voter to cast or not cast a vote.

The 7 August referendum will be the first time Thais have headed to the polls since the military took power in a May 2014

coup. In a separate case, ten people, eight from Bangkok and two from Khon Kaen, were detained by the military on Wednesday, junta spokesman Winthai Suvarere told Reuters.

They are suspected of

violating the computer crimes law, he said. Winthai said the ten had not been detained over comments about the draft charter.

"They are suspected of breaking the Computer Crimes Act," said Winthai. "We have no details on what they posted as yet."

Opponents of the military regime, including the Puea Thai Party, have told supporters to vote against the draft charter.

Junta chief Prayuth Chan-ocha has said that if the charter is voted down the junta will choose from one the country's previous charters, something that could further delay a general election planned for mid-2017.

Sunai Phasuk, senior researcher in Thailand for Human Rights Watch, told Reuters a "climate of fear" was growing in the country ahead of the referendum.

"The junta is mobilising state machinery and everything is being used to promote the draft constitution while people who oppose the draft are being targeted," said Sunai. —Reuters

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## Japan, Singapore agree to assert rule of law in South China Sea

TOKYO — Japan and Singapore agreed Tuesday on the importance of respecting the rule of law at sea and to enhance bilateral ties amid China's increasing assertiveness in the South China Sea, Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

In talks with Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan in Tokyo, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida expressed deep concern about escalating acts to change the status quo in the South China Sea, in an apparent reference to China's construction of artificial islands and outposts in the waters, the ministry said.

Balakrishnan said the freedom of navigation and overflight at sea are important and that disputes should be resolved peacefully in accordance with international law, it said.

Although Japan and Singapore are nonclaimant countries in the territorial disputes involving China in the South China Sea, the busy sea lane stretching northward from the Strait of Malacca is of vital interest to the two maritime nations. Balakrishnan visited Japan to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of establishment of diplomatic ties between the two countries this year. It was his first visit as foreign minister after assuming the post in October.

Kishida also pitched Japan's bullet train technology for a planned high-speed railway line to connect Singapore and Kuala Lumpur, the ministry said. Balakrishnan welcomed Japan's interest in the project, noting its high technology.

Balakrishnan also met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Monday. The minister told Abe he welcomes the implementation in March of Japan's new security laws, saying that it will strengthen the Japan-US alliance, which is the pillar of peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific region, the ministry said.

In a major shift in Japan's postwar security policy, the laws authorise an expanded overseas role for its Self-Defence Forces.—Kyodo News

## Philippines' Aquino denounces Abu Sayyaf's 'language of force' after execution

MANILA — Philippine President Benigno Aquino, reacting publicly for the first time to the beheading of a Canadian hostage by Islamic Abu Sayyaf militants, vowed on Wednesday to devote all his energy to eliminating the group before he steps down in two months.

John Ridsdel, 68, a former mining executive, was executed on Monday by Abu Sayyaf who captured him and three others in 2015 while they were on vacation on a Philippine island.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau condemned the execution as

"cold-blooded murder".

Security is precarious in the southern Philippines, despite a 2014 peace pact between the government and the largest Muslim rebel group that ended 45 years of conflict. "So, to the ASG (Abu Sayyaf Group), and whoever may aid or abet

them, you have chosen only the language of force, and we will speak to you only in that language," Aquino said in a statement. "Casualties are to be expected. But what has to be of utmost importance is neutralising the criminal activities of the ASG."—Reuters



## Cabinet to approve quake-linked extra budget 13 May: Abe



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (3<sup>rd</sup> from L) receives a request from Yutaka Aso (2<sup>nd</sup> from L), chairman of the Kyushu Economic Federation, and other business leaders from the quake-hit Kyushu region during a meeting at the prime minister's office in Tokyo on 27 April, 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Wednesday his Cabinet will approve a fiscal 2016 supplementary budget on 13 May to cope with deadly earthquakes that rocked southwestern Japan earlier this month.

“The Cabinet would like to approve (the budget) on 13 May and submit it to the Diet,” Abe said in a meeting with business leaders from the Kyushu region, part of which was open to the media.

Earlier Wednesday, secretaries general of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner, the Komeito party, agreed that the ruling coalition will aim

to get the budget, whose size has yet to be fixed, through parliament on 17 May in cooperation with opposition parties, according to ruling party lawmakers.

Similarly, Toshiyuki Kato, Diet affairs chief of the main opposition Democratic Party, told a party meeting that he expects the Diet to approve the extra budget on 17 May.

In the meeting with Abe, Yutaka Aso, chairman of the Kyushu Economic Federation, said reconstruction of quake-hit areas centering on Kumamoto and Oita prefectures “will not be possible without the support of the government.”

“We would like (the government) to take initiatives such as (compiling) a budget,” Aso said.

Abe pledged the government's commitment to assisting small and mid-sized companies, as well as the agriculture and tourism sectors.

Speaking at a meeting of LDP lawmakers, Secretary General Sadakazu Tanigaki said he will make his best efforts to revive affected areas through early implementation of the envisaged budget.

Tanigaki also said he plans to visit quake-hit areas in Kumamoto Prefecture on Saturday. —Kyodo News

## North Korea to hold 1<sup>st</sup> party congress in 36 years on 6 May

BEIJING — North Korea said Wednesday the ruling Workers' Party will convene its congress for the first time in 36 years on May 6, at a time of increased tensions over the country's aggressive pursuit of nuclear and missile technologies.

North Korea's official media reported the opening date, announced a day before by the party's Political Bureau of the Central Committee, but did not say until when the rare political event will take place in Pyongyang.

The congress, the seventh of its kind, is expected to offer North Korean leader Kim Jong Un an opportunity to play up his achievements since taking power in late 2011 and serve as a stage for him to further consolidate his power.

In the months and weeks leading to the convention, North Korea has raised international tensions by carrying out tests of missile and nuclear technologies

and put out a string of belligerent statements.

Countries including Japan, South Korea and the United States have been on the alert for a fifth nuclear test and more missile launches by North Korea before the key event, which was last held in October 1980, under the rule of Kim Il Sung, grandfather of the current leader.

In late October, North Korea unveiled its plan to hold the congress, the party's highest-level guidance body, in early May, but did not provide the starting date.

At the previous five-day party gathering, Kim Jong Il, the current leader's father, appeared in public for the first time and emerged as the successor to his own father, North Korea's first leader Kim Il Sung.

During the upcoming congress, outside observers think the youngest Kim, in his fifth year in power following the death of his father, will likely underscore,

among other points, that his so-called byungjin policy of simultaneously pursuing the development of nuclear arms and improving the nation's economy has been a great success.

This will likely be trumpeted, although North Korea has long faced global condemnation and sanctions for its nuclear and missile programmes.

At the start of this year, North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test followed by a rocket launch one month later. The two acts, both in violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions, led the world body to impose its toughest-ever sanctions on North Korea last month. While being under intense pressure from the international community, North Korea started waging a nationwide “70-day campaign of loyalty” in February to prepare for the congress, pressing its people to work harder and increase productivity. —Kyodo News

## Water trains bring scant relief to drought-ravaged Indian state

LATUR (India) — Haribhau Kamble, an unemployed labourer in India's richest state of Maharashtra, is forced to queue for hours in scorching heat to fetch water even as the government puts on trains to ship water to the region parched by back-to-back drought years.

Like Kamble, millions of Indians have been hung out to dry in the state with the worst drought in four decades ravaging crops, killing livestock, emptying reservoirs and slowing hydroelectric power output. Mismanagement of water resources, with powerful politicians pushing for bigger supplies to industries, have made the situation worse, experts say.

“The government says it is bringing water by train every day, but we are getting water once a week,” Kamble said, after standing in line for three hours to fill two pitchers at a tap in Latur district, 500 km (300 miles) southeast of Mumbai in drought-stricken Marathwada region.

Locals had been hoping a 50-wagon daily water train would ease shortages, but they were disappointed as the 2.5 million litres carried by the train and ferried by tankers to villages was not enough to meet the needs of Latur's half a million people and Marathwada's 19 million.

Marathwada, home to many sugar mills in Maharashtra — the nation's top producer, is one of the several regions in India that received below-average June-September rains in 2015. New Delhi estimates that overall 330 million people — a quarter of the country's population — are currently affected by drought.

Water is set to get scarcer over the next two months as temperatures soar above 40 degrees Celsius (104°F), drying up Marathwada reservoirs that are now just 3 per cent full.

“That Maharashtra would face a water crisis was clear when monsoons failed, yet the state took no action to curb supplies to water-guzzling industries like beer and sugar,” said Parineeta Dandekar, associate coordinator

at the South Asia Network on Dams, Rivers and People.

“There are limits on how much water the government can supply by train. Had it reserved water sources for drinking last year, the situation would have been much better now.”

A rapid expansion of sugar cultivation has made matters worse. Cane accounts for 4 per cent of Maharashtra's crop area but devours two-thirds of its irrigation water. Also, given politicians have stakes in sugar mills and other industries, there is a growing concern they may try to ensure water supply for their ventures.

Pankaja Munde, a state minister from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and whose husband is a director of a distillery in Aurangabad, Marathwada, has said the liquor industry should get all the water allocated to it.

Munde did not respond to text messages seeking comment.

The Aurangabad bench of Bombay High Court, however, on Tuesday asked Maharashtra to halve water supply to liquor firms immediately and cut supply by another 10 per cent from 10 May.

Eknath Khadse, Maharashtra's agriculture minister, said the state was also planning to restrict cane cultivation and propose a five-year ban on new mills in Marathwada to conserve water.

At the centre, Modi's government is focusing on managing watersheds and linking rivers to move water to dry regions to combat the crisis in India, which has 17 per cent of the world's population but only 4 per cent of fresh rain water resources. But the need of the hour is smaller, cost-effective steps such as enforcing restrictions on water use and ensuring canals do not leak.

“Canals are leaking everywhere in Maharashtra. Only a third of water released from dams reaches farms,” said Pradeep Pundarikar, a water and irrigation specialist from Aurangabad. “There is complete mismanagement of water resources.” —Reuters



Residents climb a government-run water tanker with plastic hoses in Masurdi village, in Latur, India, on 16 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



# Opinion

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## Extremes of love and hate harm peaceful coexistence

Kyaw Thura

**V**ICTORY has one of the sweetest tastes; nothing seems to satisfy our craving for it. That is why we are completely obsessed with ourselves, constantly seeking a larger slice of the good life than our rivals. We ignore the reality that moral victory is an acquired taste, and one much sweeter than victory in conflict.

It is commonplace to see people take delight in saying they

are not the type to react to wild accusations against them. However, a few moments of quiet contemplation often reveal that some accusations bear some truth, and as a result, the accused succumb to the urge to release a violent outburst, giving full vent to reactionary feelings.

It is natural that people seek consolation in religious instructions when faced with difficulty. This highlights that there is

no religion that preaches revenge or that encourages followers to seek retribution against the other. Instead, every faith maintains its focus on tolerance to sinners. Despite this, people seem to remain enslaved to extreme, emotional behaviour. Consequently, brutality and aggression by people of one faith against those of another result in religious conflict, thereby harming peaceful coexistence.

It should be noted that anger is a major cause of intolerance-related behavioural problems. Such a serious attitude problem springs from greed. From the point of view of Theravada Buddhism, there is a proven association between anger and greed, both of which originate from illusion. It is, therefore, imperative for religious leaders of different faiths to further cement inter-religious harmony.

# Duty Bearers and Right Holders

Dr. Khine Khine Win

**H**UMAN rights define people as rights holders and states as duty bearers. Understanding the actors and relation between duty bearers and right holders is one of the most important issues in human rights. According to UNICEF, duty bearers are those actors who have a particular obligation or responsibility to respect, promote and realize human rights and to abstain from human rights violations. The term is most commonly used to refer to State actors, but non-State actors can also be considered duty bearers. Although States play the role of the principal duty bearer, there are other non-state entities (Institutions, Individuals) that have obligations to respect, protect and fulfill the rights of people. It is noteworthy that non-state entities are the moral duty bearers.

Every human being is inherently a right holder who should enjoy universal human rights that must be guaranteed. In short, a rights-holder is entitled to the rights set out in the treaties, laws and conventions and is entitled to claim these rights, although the rights-holder also has a responsibility to respect the rights of others.

By ratifying the different United Nations human rights treaties, states automatically assume the principal roles of guaranteeing these rights. As parties to human rights treaties, states have assumed the obligation to respect, protect and fulfill the rights. For instance, Children

have a valid claim (as rights holders) against their parents to be cared for and be given adequate food. The parents are for that reason the first line duty-bearers. But if the parents cannot meet their duties because they do not have access to the means to care for or provide food for their children, the state would be liable to ensure that the children did not suffer ill-treatment or starve. This example shows how the 'state' is the ultimate duty-bearer: this is important because it is the state that has ratified the convention, in this case the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC),

and is legally bound to meet the obligations set out in the convention.

Let me give one more example. Girls and boys are right-holders. Education is a basic human right and therefore it is the obligation of states to provide a school environment which ensures equal access to girls and boys. States (duty bearers) must not only guarantee that girls and boys are safe in schools, but also establish facilities, curricula and strategies that adapt to their specific needs and rights, and will thus keep them in school.

It is important to recognize

that duty-bearers are often also right-holders, whose own rights may remain unfulfilled, which can prevent them from fulfilling their duties to the child. For example, the limited salary may be an impediment to perform their duties.

There is no doubt that State has the prime responsibility to protect, promote and implement all human rights and fundamental freedoms as duty bearer. At the same time all individual, right-holders have responsibilities to enjoy their rights and rights of other too. Here there is accountability. Accountability refers relationship between du-

ty-bearers and right-holders. And also it is a dialogue between duty-bearers and right holders. One way of explaining accountability is to simply say that it is the right to say and duty to respond. However, ensuring accountability can be difficult in practice, particularly where national capacities are weak or duty bearers are unwilling to act. That's why raise awareness of rights and responsibilities, develop the capacities of duty bearers at central and local levels to fulfill their obligations, build relationship between duty-bearers and right holders by working together, increases the incentives for better performance by duty bearers through educating people about their rights, supporting advocacy for information to monitor the realization of human rights, encouraging media freedoms, building capacities right holders to claim their rights are necessary to build. And also strengthen the capacities of National Human Rights Institution to monitor the effective realization of all rights is required. Indeed, we need to make sure that national laws are harmonized with international human rights treaties standards with duties spell out as clearly as possible at national, regional and local levels.

To conclude, it is needed to strengthen duty bearers to comply with their human rights obligations and empower right holders to realize their rights. And to claim their rights is essential in order to operationalise all rights at country level.

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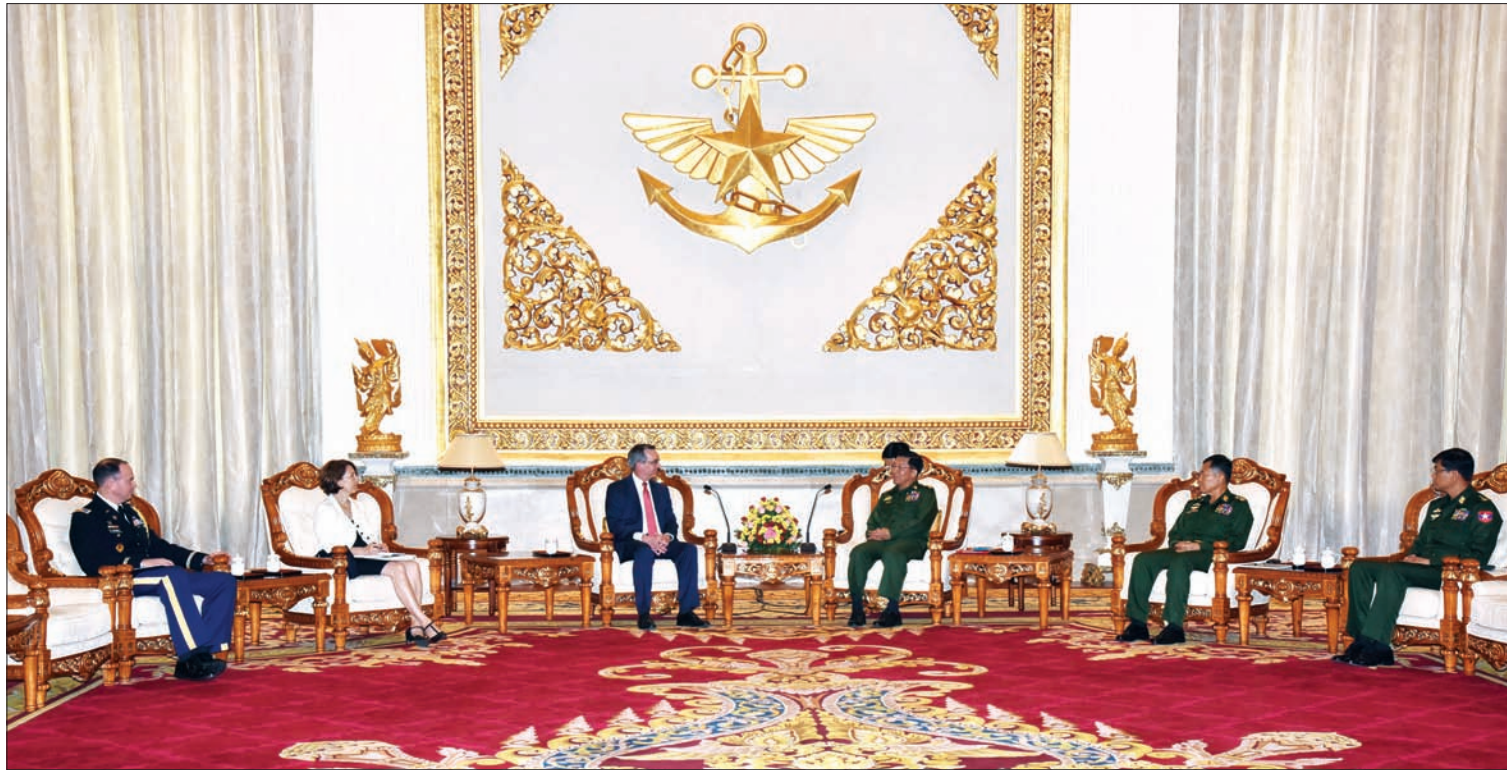


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## C-in-C of Defence Services receives US Ambassador



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives US Ambassador Mr Scot Alan Marciel. PHOTO: MYAWADY

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received the newly accredited Ambassador of the United States Mr Scot Alan Marciel in Nya Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the Senior General clarified the stance of the Tatmadaw on the process of the political transition in the time of incumbent government and the stance and cooperation of the Tatmadaw in ending armed con-

flicts in order to bring peace to the country.

He also discussed with the US ambassador matters regarding boosting the relations between the armed forces of the two countries based on mutual trust.

The US ambassador also exchanged views with Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on promoting bilateral relations and cooperation during his tour of duty in Myanmar. — *Myawady*

## Myanmar celebrates International Jazz Day

INTERNATIONAL Jazz Day, which falls on 30 April, was celebrated at American Centre on Tawwin Road in Yangon on Thursday with a wide range of entertainment programmes.

This is the fourth time Myanmar has celebrated the International Jazz Day since 2012.

Young guitarists from Sweden, the 88 Degree Band, Bamboo Trio and other local musicians took part in the performance programmes, led by Susanna Risberg.

The event was sponsored by the US Embassy and the Embassy of Switzerland.

UNESCO officially designated April 30 as International Jazz Day in November 2011 with the aim of highlighting jazz and its diplomatic role of uniting people in all corners of the globe. — *Myat Sandi Thin Zaw*

## Garbage collection activity aims to conserve Hopone Reservoir



Volunteers seen collecting garbage in Hopone Reservoir. PHOTO: NAN OO KHIN

“PUBLIC participation plays an essential role in conserving the Hopone Reservoir,” said Cherry Kyaw, a member of Living Earth Green Network.

Residents in Hopong, a town in Shan State, usually throw their waste into the reservoir, most of which consists of plastic bags.

Living Earth Green Network set up a garbage collection programme to maintain reservoir last Sunday. The programme was organised by U San Khun Lwin, chairman of the governing body of the Pa-O Self-Administered Zone. Several government officials and staff joined the environmental conservation activity.

Local authorities called on residents not to cut trees or throw garbage into the reservoir. — *Nan Oo Khin*

## Training centre aims to raise public interest in meteorology

METEROLOGIST Dr Tun Lwin said he has a plan to establish a training centre in Yangon that will offer weather-related education to the public free of charge.

The centre will be set up as a philanthropic school, he said.

The meteorologist has been in talks with two organisations that are likely to contribute funds to develop the training centre. Detailed plans for the centre will soon be announced to the public.

“The major objective is to share our knowledge, experiences and lessons learned in the past as the country has a few experts in the field of meteorology,” Dr Tun Lwin said. He also called for meteorology to be included in public school syllabi.

Myanmar is the second-worst country affected by extreme weather caused by climate change, according to a report published by the World Meteorological Organisation.

Huge numbers of fatalities in Myanmar were caused by Cyclone Nargis in 2008.

U Tun Lwin is one of Myanmar’s best-renowned meteorologists. He holds a PhD in physics and worked in the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology since he was 17 years old in 1965 until retiring from his post as director general in 2009.

He regularly shares weather information with the public through his Facebook page. — *Min Thit*

## North Monastery to become ancient building

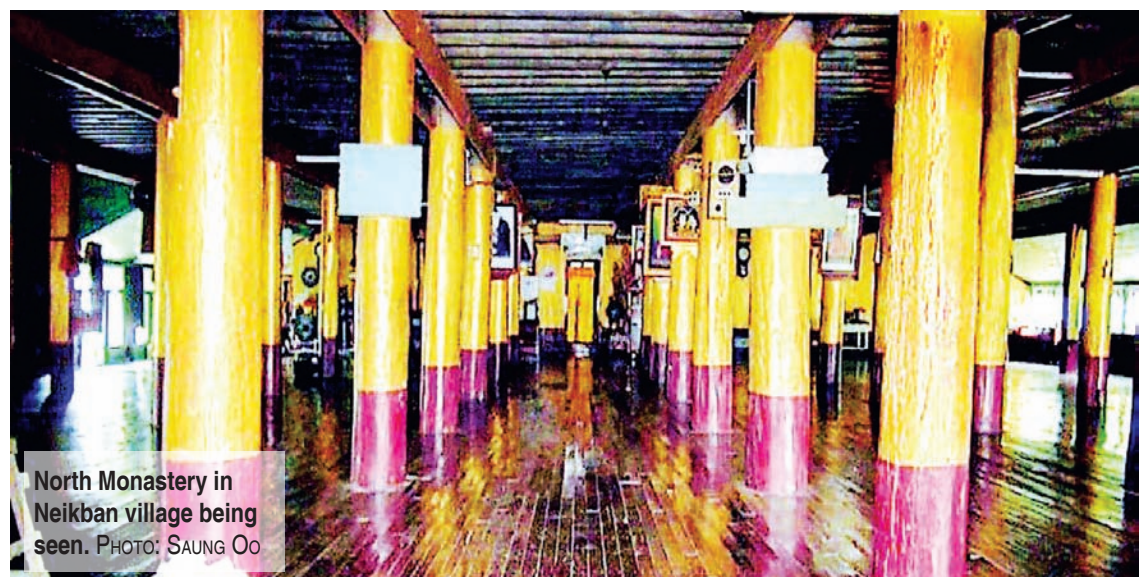
LOCAL authorities are discussing the designation of North Monastery in Kawa as an ancient cultural zone. The monastery was built over 200 years ago in Neikban village, Kawa township, Bago region.

The monastery was first built by the Reverend U Ottama and in 1920, Reverend U Zar Nay Ya renovated the building, adding a second floor. The

century old buildings are being protected by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture under the law protecting ancient and important buildings.

The two storey monastery was built using 120 teak columns.

There are sculptural patterns on the first floor to depict the life of Buddha (Jataka stories). — *Saung Oo*



North Monastery in Neikban village being seen. PHOTO: SAUNG OO



# Trump and Clinton trade barbs after big wins in Northeast



Democratic US presidential candidate and former US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton arrives at the podium to speak to supporters during her five state primary night rally held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US, on 26 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK/PHILADELPHIA — Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Hillary Clinton rolled up wins in Northeastern states on Tuesday in a major show of strength and immediately turned their fire on each other in a possible preview of a general election matchup.

Trump easily defeated rivals John Kasich and Ted Cruz in all five states that held contests, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Delaware, with a margin of victory rivalling that of his home state of New York a week ago. He was on a path to winning the vote in every single county in each state.

Clinton, already in control of the Democratic race, defeated challenger Bernie Sanders in Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Connecticut. Her only loss of the night was to Sanders in Rhode Island.

The two front-runners used victory rallies to snipe at each other in the kind of back and forth that will take place should they win their party's presidential nominations and face off in the 8 November election to succeed Democratic President Barack Obama.

"I think she's a flawed candidate and she's going to be easy to beat," Trump said at a news conference at New York's Trump Tower.

Trump, who is to deliver a foreign policy speech in Washington on Wednesday, criticised Clinton's record as secretary of state and her vote as a US senator from New York in support of the Iraq war. He said her only advantage was as a woman seeking to become the first female US president.

"Frankly if Hillary Clinton

were a man, I don't think she'd get 5 per cent of the vote," he said.

Clinton, in a victory speech in Philadelphia, took aim at Trump for accusing her of trying to "play the woman card."

"Well if fighting for women's healthcare and paid family leave and equal pay is playing the woman card, then deal me in," she said to cheers.

For the Republicans, the Northeastern battles set the stage for a big contest next week in Indiana. Trump has a small lead in polls in the state but Cruz appears stronger there. Trump needs a victory to get closer to the 1,237 delegates required to win the nomination.

Of 118 committed delegates available on Tuesday, the Associated Press said Trump took 105, raising his total delegates to 950. Kasich won five, all from Rhode Island, and Cruz one, with seven delegates still to be assigned. Pennsylvania's 54 unbound delegates will become clearer later.

Projecting confidence, Trump said it was time for Cruz and Kasich to get out of the race so the party can unify behind him. He also urged Sanders' voters to support him.

"I consider myself the presumptive nominee," he said, adding later: "As far as I'm concerned, this thing is over."

Although the race remains fluid, Trump's wins made it less likely that Republicans would choose their nominee at a contested convention in July in Cleveland, an outcome seen by Cruz and Kasich as their only chance at the nomination.

Cruz was already looking ahead to Indiana's Republican

primary on 3 May.

"I got good news for you: Tonight, this campaign moves back to more favourable terrain," the US senator from Texas said in Knightstown, Indiana, inside the high school gymnasium made famous by the movie "Hoosiers," which celebrated underdogs.

Clinton's strong showing in the Democratic race added to the pressure on Sanders to get out of the race or ease his criticism of her.

In her victory speech, Clinton gave a nod to Sanders and spoke of the need for party unity.

"Whether you support Senator Sanders or you support me, there is much more that unites us than divides us," she said.

Clinton's victories on Tuesday gave her 2,141 delegates, according to the AP, pushing her closer to the 2,383 needed for the nomination. Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid told reporters earlier on Tuesday he did not think Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, had a realistic path to winning the nomination.

Sanders, in a speech in Huntington, West Virginia, and a subsequent statement, showed no signs of getting out of the race.

"The people in every state in this country should have the right to determine who they want as president and what the agenda of the Democratic Party should be. That's why we are in this race until the last vote is cast," he said in his statement. Trump has consistently done well among lower-income voters and voters with only high school diplomas or less. But he performed well in the Northeastern region, which is the most highly educated in the country and also was strong across income levels.—Reuters

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Russia ready to join Afghan talks — Interfax cites Russian official

MOSCOW — Russia is ready to join stuttering peace talks on Afghanistan if interests of all parties taking part in them are respected, including Afghanistan itself, Interfax news agency cited Russian envoy on Afghanistan Zamir Kabulov as saying on Wednesday.

Russia considers inefficient the current format of the talks, sponsored by the four-power group of Pakistan, Afghanistan, the United States and China, and does not plan to join in, although Moscow is ready to create a new format, he said.—Reuters

### Syria opposition: Setting date for next round in peace talks is up to UN

BEIRUT — A Syrian opposition official said on Wednesday it was up to the United Nations to say when peace talks would resume, after a Russian official said they would restart on 10 May, adding that the opposition would not take part until its demands were met.

George Sabra of the High Negotiations Committee (HNC) was responding to comments earlier on Wednesday by Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov of Russia, a major ally of President Bashar al-Assad.

"All the while real steps aren't taken on the ground in Syria, the participation of the delegation of the HNC will remain suspended," Sabra told Reuters.

The HNC suspended its participation in the peace talks last week as violence escalated on the ground and the negotiations made no progress towards discussing a political transition.—Reuters

### Iran's Supreme Leader says US lifted sanctions only on paper

DUBAI — The United States has only lifted Iranian sanctions on paper and in practice is scaring businesses away from the country, its Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Wednesday.

"On paper the United States allows foreign banks to deal with Iran, but in practice they create Iranophobia so no one does business with Iran," Khamenei was quoted as saying by his official website, addressing hundreds of workers in Tehran.

"The US official says the sanctions regime is still in place to scare away the foreign investment from Iran."

The deal with world powers allowed for the easing of some sanctions in return for Tehran curbing its nuclear programme. Iran has previously called on the United States to do more to remove obstacles in the banking sector.—Reuters

### Paris attacks suspect to appear before French magistrates on Wednesday

PARIS — Salah Abdeslam, suspected of playing a major part in the Paris attacks which killed 130 people, will appear before French magistrates on Wednesday with a view to being placed under formal investigation, the French public prosecutor said.

The prosecutor will request that he be held in custody, according to a statement.

The move comes after Abdeslam was extradited to France from Belgium earlier on Wednesday. The suspect arrived in France at 0705 GMT according to the prosecutor.—Reuters

### Two killed in South China helicopter crash

NANNING — Two people were confirmed killed when the wreckage of a helicopter that went missing on Tuesday morning was found 24 hours later in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region.

The deceased, the only two people on board the aircraft, were both pilots for its owner, a local company organising helicopter tours.

Guilin General Aviation Company said the helicopter took off from Guilin at around 11:20am on Tuesday and was headed to Beihai in Guangxi. It lost contact with the ground about an hour later over Guilin's Yongfu County.

The wreckage, along with the pilots' bodies, was discovered in a mountainous area of Yongfu, according to the company. Further investigation into the exact cause is under way.—Xinhua



# More migrants ferried from Greece to Turkey under EU deal

ATHENS — Migrants in a Greek detention camp threw stones in clashes with police on Tuesday hours after two ferries shipped refugees back to Turkey under a disputed deal intended to stem the human influx into Europe.

Plumes of smoke billowed from the Moria compound on Lesbos island that Pope Francis visited on 16 April. Tensions simmering for days boiled over just after the Dutch and the Greek ministers responsible for migration toured the camp.

Garbage bins were set on fire, a police spokesman said, and migrants “were throwing stones and pieces of metal at police”. Earlier about 200 youths broke through a partition in the camp.

They were “reacting to their detention conditions and the returns to Turkey,” the spokesman said. Rights organisations have expressed misgivings about detention conditions on Moria, which holds about 3,000 people.

“Events at Moria highlight the level of frustration there,” said the International Rescue Committee’s director for Greece, Panos Navrozidis.

“Many of these refugees have been held at Moria for well over a month with inadequate services available to them and very few answers. They deserve much better.”

Police said eight minors were taken slightly hurt to a local hospital after scuffles between groups of



Refugees walk along a border fence next to a makeshift camp for migrants and refugees at the Greek-Macedonian border near the village of Idomeni, Greece, on 25 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pakistanis and Afghans.

Just over 340 people have so far been returned to Turkey since 4 April under the accord agreed with the European Union in March after more than 1 million people fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and beyond reached the continent last year.

On Tuesday, 13 people were deported from the island of Lesbos to the Turkish town of Dikili, five were ferried back from Chios

to Cesme, and 31 from Kos, police said. Most were Afghans and none had requested asylum in Greece, a government official said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and human rights groups have questioned whether the deal is legal or moral. They are also concerned about whether Turkey is a “safe” country for returnees. UNHCR does not currently have access to the Kırklareli camp re-

turnees are sent to.

The European Commission said on Tuesday it had been formally reassured by Turkey that it would grant access to asylum procedures to all asylum-seekers sent back from the bloc, a key outstanding element in the deal.

Turkey applies the Geneva Convention on refugees only to Europeans, offers limited protection to Syrians and no legal guarantees for other nationalities.

International law bans refoulement, or sending people back to a country where their lives or safety are at risk.

Under the deal, those arriving in Greece from Turkey after 20 March face being sent back if they do not apply for asylum in Greece or if their application is rejected. In return, the EU will take in thousands of Syrian refugees directly from Turkey and reward Ankara with more money, early visa-free travel for its citizens and progress in negotiations to join the bloc.

Turkey Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on last week that Turkey would no longer need to honour the accord if the EU failed to ease visa requirements by June.

Brussels has said that Turkey fully meets only 19 out of 72 criteria for visa liberalisation. On Tuesday, Turkey’s Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek said Ankara will meet criteria for visa liberalisation by the beginning of May.

In Greece, the government has said authorities would start ruling on asylum applications in late April, but requests have been piling up and it has been criticised for being too slow to process them.

Giorgos Kyritsis, government spokesman for the migration crisis, said Athens was “not cutting corners (and) ... not delaying.” About 8,000 refugees and migrants are currently on Greek islands, having arrived after the deal was implemented.—Reuters



Police stand guard on the road leading to the Spanish embassy in Praia, Cape Verde, on 26 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Eleven shot died in Cape Verde, including two Spanish citizens

PRAIA — Eleven men were shot dead in Cape Verde on Tuesday, including eight soldiers, a local civilian and two Spanish citizens, the minister of Internal Administration for the archipelago off the African coast said in a statement.

The men were killed at a telecommunications site at Monte Tchota, a forested area on Santiago island about 27 km (17 miles) north of the capital, Praia, Minister Paulo Rocha said.

“A soldier assigned to the military team itself is missing, and there are strong indications that he was responsible in the events,” said Rocha, adding that the victims were 20 to 51 years old. Rocha said it was assumed personal mo-

tivations were behind the killings, ruling out an attack against the government, and called for calm. The Spaniards were telecommunications technicians working at the site and the local civilian was a co-worker, the minister said. The minister said there were no indications of links to drug trafficking.

Cape Verde’s battle against gangs smuggling Latin American cocaine to Europe has led to a series of reprisal shootings. The former Portuguese colony is an Atlantic Ocean archipelago of 500,000 people off the northwestern coast of Africa. Nine rifles were taken but were later recovered in a vehicle in Praia’s Cittadella neighbourhood, Rocha said.—Reuters

## Taiwan’s Tsai says democratic principles will rule ties with China

TAIPEI — Taiwan President-elect Tsai Ing-wen said she will maintain the status quo in the island’s relationship with China, but that her policy will be based on democratic principles and transcend party politics, a nuance likely to be lost on Communist Party leaders in Beijing.

China regards self-ruled Taiwan as a wayward province to be taken back by force if necessary and wants the new government to stick to the “one China” policy agreed upon with the outgoing China-friendly Nationalist government. Beijing distrusts Tsai’s Democratic Progressive Party

(DPP), which it believes supports formal independence for Taiwan.

“Only in this way, can the cross-strait relationship last and give ‘maintaining the status quo’ real meaning,” Tsai, referring to the body of water separating the two sides, said in a speech.

“In these 10 years or so, the rise of China’s economy and its increasing overall influence has changed the structure of the cross-strait relationship,” Tsai said. “It has also resulted in far-reaching impact in all aspects of interaction.”

Her comments come less than a month before she takes power amid keen interest in what she will say during her inauguration speech on 20 May.

Tsai has always said she will maintain the status quo but has not elaborated on how she will engage Beijing beyond broad principles.

Tsai and her independence-leaning DPP were voted into power in January on growing concern, particularly among younger citizens, that the island was not benefiting from its economic ties with China.

China has been stepping up pressure on Taiwan. In the past few weeks, China has established ties with former Taiwan ally Gambia, sent a top general to inspect troops based in a frontline province and scooped up dozens of Taiwanese from Kenya wanted in China for fraud — a move denounced by Taipei as being more about politics than crime.

Only 22 countries recognise Taiwan as the “Republic of China”, with most having diplomatic relations with the “People’s Republic of China”, with its leaders in Beijing.—Reuters



Taiwan president-elect Tsai Ing-wen attends an event in New Taipei City, Taiwan, on 18 March. PHOTO: REUTERS



# German nuclear plant infected with computer viruses: operator

FRANKFURT — A nuclear power plant in Germany has been found to be infected with computer viruses, but they appear not to have posed a threat to the facility's operations because it is isolated from the Internet, the station's operator said on Tuesday.

The Gundremmingen plant, located about 120 km (75 miles) northwest of Munich, is run by the German utility RWE.

The viruses, which include "W32.Ramnit" and "Conficker", were discovered at Gundremmingen's B unit in a computer system retrofitted in 2008 with data visualisation software associated with equipment for moving nuclear fuel rods, RWE said.

Malware was also found on 18 removable data drives, mainly USB sticks, in office computers maintained separately from the plant's operating systems. RWE said it had increased cyber-security measures as a result.

W32.Ramnit is designed to steal files from infected computers and targets Microsoft Windows software, according to the se-



The nuclear power plant of Gundremmingen on 11 March 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

curity firm Symantec. First discovered in 2010, it is distributed through data sticks, among other methods, and is intended to give an attacker remote control over a system when it is connected to the Internet.

Conficker has infected

millions of Windows computers worldwide since it first came to light in 2008. It is able to spread through networks and by copying itself onto removable data drives, Symantec said.

RWE has informed Germany's Federal Office

for Information Security (BSI), which is working with IT specialists at the group to look into the incident. The BSI was not immediately available for comment.

Mikko Hypponen, chief research officer for

Finland-based F-Secure, said that infections of critical infrastructure were surprisingly common, but that they were generally not dangerous unless the plant had been targeted specifically.

The most common viruses spread without much

awareness of where they are, he said.

As an example, Hypponen said he had recently spoken to a European aircraft maker that said it cleans the cockpits of its planes every week of malware designed for Android phones. The malware spread to the planes only because factory employees were charging their phones with the USB port in the cockpit.

Because the plane runs a different operating system, nothing would befall it. But it would pass the virus on to other devices that plugged into the charger.

In 2013, a computer virus attacked a turbine control system at a US power company after a technician inserted an infected USB computer drive into the network, keeping a plant off line for three weeks.

After Japan's Fukushima nuclear disaster five years ago, concern in Germany over the safety of nuclear power triggered a decision by the government to speed up the shutdown of nuclear plants. Tuesday was the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster.—Reuters

## Traffic to Wikipedia terrorism entries plunged after Snowden revelations, study finds

SAN FRANCISCO — Internet traffic to Wikipedia pages summarizing knowledge about terror groups and their tools plunged nearly 30 per cent after revelations of widespread Web monitoring by the US National Security Agency, suggesting that concerns about government snooping are hurting the ordinary pursuit of information.

A forthcoming paper in the *Berkeley Technology Law Journal* analyses the fall in traffic, arguing that it provides the most direct ev-

idence to date of a so-called "chilling effect," or negative impact on legal conduct, from the intelligence practices disclosed by fugitive former NSA contractor Edward Snowden.

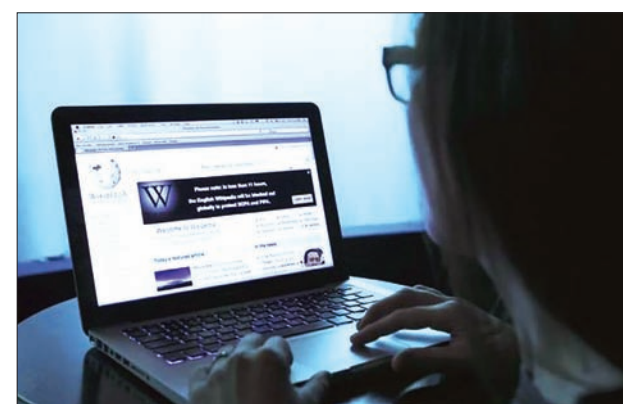
Author Jonathon Penney, a fellow at the University of Toronto's interdisciplinary Citizen Lab, examined monthly views of Wikipedia articles on 48 topics identified by the US Department of Homeland Security as subjects that they track on social media, including Al Qaeda, dirty bombs

and jihad.

In the 16 months prior to the first major Snowden stories in June 2013, the articles drew a variable but an increasing audience, with a low point of about 2.2 million per month rising to 3.0 million just before disclosures of the NSA's Internet spying programmes. Views of the sensitive pages rapidly fell back to 2.2 million a month in the next two months and later dipped under 2.0 million before stabilizing below 2.5 million 14 months later, Penney found.

The traffic dropped even more to topics that survey respondents deemed especially privacy-sensitive. Viewership of a presumably "safer" group of articles about US government security forces decreased much less in the same period.

Penney's results, subjected to peer-review, offer a deeper dive into an issue investigated by previous researchers, including some who found a 5.0 per cent drop in Google searches for sensitive terms immediately after June 2013. Other sur-



Wikipedia webpage in use on a laptop computer.

PHOTO: REUTERS

veys have found sharply increased use of privacy-protecting Web browsers and communications tools.

Penney's work may provide fodder for technology companies and others

arguing for greater restraint and disclosure about intelligence-gathering. Chilling effects are notoriously difficult to document and so have limited impact on laws and court rulings.—Reuters

**T**HE Bank for Investment and Development of Viet Nam JSC (BIDV) Rep office in Myanmar is planning to implement new Core Banking System (CBS) for Myanmar branch in 2016. We would like to call for a tender for the Hardware for our new CBS. ICT vendors who interested in this opportunity need to contact with us to receive the tender document as the following information:

Time to provide the document: from 9:00 AM to 11:00 AM, May 02<sup>nd</sup>, 2016 (Monday).

Latest date to receive proposal: 17:00 PM on May 06<sup>th</sup>, 2016 (Friday).

Location: #36 Garden Street, Bahan Ts, Yangon, Myanmar.

Contact person: Mr Le Duy Chinh - 095456689

## More urgent action needed on air pollution in Britain — MPs

LONDON — A government plan to tackle air pollution in five major cities in Britain by 2020 will not be enough and more urgent action needs to be taken, lawmakers said on Wednesday.

Britain has some of the highest levels in Europe of the pollutant nitrogen dioxide, which is produced by diesel vehicles, and has already breached EU limits.

Last year, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) said it would introduce so-called clean air zones in areas of Birmingham, Leeds, Nottingham, Derby and Southampton by 2020 in a bid to improve air quality.

Vehicles such as old buses, taxis, coaches and lorries will have to pay a charge to enter these zones but private passenger cars

will not be charged.

Plans have already been announced to improve air quality in London by 2025, such as introducing an ultra-low emissions zone and retro-fitting buses and new taxis.

However, the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs parliamentary committee said the schemes do not go far enough to tackle air pollution.—Reuters



# Trafficking risk rises as villagers flee India's worst drought in decades

MUMBAI — The worst drought in decades across several states in India is forcing tens of thousands of people to migrate from rural areas in search of water, food and jobs, increasing the risk that they may be trafficked or exploited, activists said.

About 330 million people, almost a quarter of the country's population, are now affected by drought, the government estimates. Destitute women, children and older family members left behind in the villages are most at risk of exploitation.

"People in the rural areas have always been vulnerable because they want better jobs, better lives," said Mangala Daithankar at non-profit Social Action for Association and Development in Pune, in western Maharashtra state.

"The drought has aggravated the situation because they are so desperate now. They have absolutely nothing," said Daithankar, who has worked in the state's drought-hit Marathwada region for about two decades. Maharashtra is one of the worst affected states, with successive years of

poor rainfall ravaging crops, killing livestock, drying up reservoirs and forcing farmers into indebtedness that has led to thousands of suicides.

In the state's Jalna district, scores of villages house only destitute women and children left in the care of older relatives who keep an eye on their homes and parched fields.

"There's no water, so there are no jobs to be had on the fields and no food to feed their families," said Vishwanath Todkar at non-profit Paryay in Osmanabad district, which is helping build water management systems in some villages. "The women and children are particularly vulnerable, as there is no one looking out for them," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

Men and their wives have moved to cities including Mumbai and Pune in search of jobs on construction sites and as day labourers, sleeping under flyovers and on pavements. Some have been reduced to begging on the streets, activists say. Others, with their families, have been lured to work



A girl carries a metal pitcher filled with water through a field in Latur, India, on 17 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

for little money in harsh conditions in one of the hundreds of brick kilns in the state. Many single women and widows have been trafficked into prostitution in the cities.

"Disasters are the

ground zero for trafficking," said Dhananjay Tingal, executive director at Bachpan Bachao Andolan (Save the Childhood Movement), which says it has rescued more than 85,000 children from modern slavery in In-

dia. "Everyone's so focused on just getting by, that they are easy prey," he said.

A police spokesman in Mumbai said police had not found cases of drought-related human trafficking but were aware of the rise in migration and remained vigilant.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pledged a nationwide drive to conserve water, but activists and economists have slammed the government's lack of "compassion" on the issue.

In an open letter to Modi, 170 activists, academics and economists said the drought had resulted in "massive distress movement of populations, causing broken childhoods, interrupted education, life in camps, city pavements or crowded shanties". In Maharashtra, among the wealthiest states in the country, the drought has not stemmed the flow of migrants from neighbouring Karnataka state and elsewhere, seeking work. The drought has hit an estimated 10 million people in Karnataka. In some places the drought is spurring the migration of entire families, in-

cluding the elderly and children who would traditionally have been left behind, activists say.

"The crisis is by far the worst the region has seen in many years. There is no fodder, no water and no agriculture in the region as of now," said Amlan Aditya Biswas, regional commissioner in Gulbarga in North Karnataka. "We are concerned about the spurt in migration," he said.

The state government is working on building farm ponds and de-silting tanks in the hope that the monsoon rains in June will fill them and provide some relief to small farmers, he said.

For now, those left behind in the villages are tending to their fields, digging wells and laying down drip irrigation systems as they await the monsoon rains — which are expected to be above average this year, easing some fears.

"It all depends now on the rains," said Daithankar. "People will come back to the villages if the rains are good. Otherwise there is nothing for them to come back to." —Reuters

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.4.2016 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 HANJIN SHIPPING LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA RESTU VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

## REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (CONSULTING SERVICES-Individual Consultants)

**The Republic of the Union of Myanmar  
Agricultural Development Support Project (ADSP)  
Credit No. : 5624 MM**

The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is in the process of receiving funds from the World Bank toward the cost of the ADSP Project and intends to apply part of the proceeds for consulting services.

The Project Management Unit now invites expressions of interest from qualified candidates for the below positions. Interested consultants must provide their updated curriculum vitae, indicating personal and technical skills, qualifications and experience in similar assignments. In submitting their expressions of interest, consultants are kindly requested to indicate the positions they apply and the reference numbers stated below.

1. National Finance Officer (Ref # SC-23)
2. National Procurement Officer (Ref # SC-25)
3. National Monitoring and Evaluation Specialist (Ref # SC-21)
4. National Environmental Safeguards Specialist (Ref # SC-19)
5. National Social Safeguards Specialist (Ref # SC-20)

The Services are expected to be carried out over a period of 12 months with the possibility of extension depending on the performance, starting in May 2016. The location of work will be the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

The attention of interested Consultants is drawn to paragraph 1.9 of the World Bank's Guidelines: Selection and Employment of Consultants under International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) Loans and International Development Association (IDA) Credits & Grants by World Bank Borrowers dated July 2014 ("Consultant Guidelines"), setting forth the World Bank's policy on conflict of interest. A Consultant will be selected in accordance with procedures set out in the Consultant Guidelines.

Further information and a copy of the detailed Terms of Reference (TORs) can be obtained at the address below during working days from 10:00 to 15:00 hours.

Expressions of interest must be delivered in a written form to the address below (in person, or by mail, or by e-mail, or by Fax) not later than May 16, 2016.

Attn: U Tint Lwin, Director of Procurement

Department: Department of Irrigation and Management of Water Utilization,

Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

Address: Building No. 15, MOALI, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Phone: +95-67-410019, Fax: +95-67-410102

Email: [tlwin4.irr@gmail.com](mailto:tlwin4.irr@gmail.com); [hatint2009@gmail.com](mailto:hatint2009@gmail.com)

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## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV THAI BINH-039 VOY NO (03/2016)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH-039 VOY NO (03/2016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.4.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-4 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 G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.**

Phone No: 2301928



# Prince died without a will, six siblings likely to share fortune

LOS ANGELES — Music superstar Prince left no known will when he died last week, his sister said in court documents on Tuesday listing his six siblings or half-siblings as heirs to a legacy estimated at hundreds of millions of dollars.

The sister, Tyka Nelson, asked that a special administrator be appointed to handle Prince's affairs and that she be appointed to probate his estate.

In documents filed in a state court in Carver County, Minnesota, Nelson listed herself and five other siblings or half-siblings as Prince's heirs but gave no value of his assets or debts.

Prince, born Prince Rogers Nelson, was married and divorced twice. Under Minnesota law, Prince's assets are likely to be split evenly between the siblings, according to attorney Stephen Hopkins.

The value of his music catalog alone has been estimated at over \$500 million, according to Prince's first manager, Owen Husney. That included potential licensing rights for film, TV, commercials and videogames that Prince rarely exploited, Husney said last week.

The influential singer, musi-



A man writes on a makeshift memorial as fans gather at Harlem's Apollo Theater to celebrate the life of Prince in Manhattan. PHOTO: REUTERS

cian and songwriter behind hits like "Purple Rain" was found dead at age 57 on Thursday in an elevator at his Paisley Park Studios compound in a Minneapolis suburb. The cause of death was not yet known.

Michael Kosnitzky, a New York- and Miami-based attorney who advises the extremely wealthy, said he was surprised Prince had died without a will, given the artist's tendency to control his image, likeness, name and

recordings.

"... That he would put himself in a position that he would lose control of those things at death I found very surprising," Kosnitzky said.

"What is to stop someone

who controls his estate from saying that they're going to promote purple Skittles?" he said, referring to Prince's signature colour and the popular candy, adding that he did not think Prince would approve.

In her court filings, Nelson said she did not know of the existence of a will and had "no reason to believe that the Decedent executed testamentary documents in any form."

She proposed the Bremer Bank in Minnesota as special administrator, saying it had done business for years with Prince.

Since his death, sales of his albums have soared; more than 2.3 million songs and some 580,000 albums have sold since Thursday, according to Nielsen Music.

Aside from royalties from his more than 30 albums, Prince regained ownership of his master recordings after a dispute with his Warner Bros. (TWX.N) music label. He was also said to have a cache of unheard recordings, including an album cut with late jazz trumpet great Miles Davis.

Hopkins, the Minnesota attorney, predicted a long, drawn-out case over Prince's assets, probably lasting years.—*Reuters*

## Bill Cosby takes legal hits in abuse cases on both US coasts

NEW YORK/LOS ANGELES — Courts on both US coasts dealt setbacks to Bill Cosby's legal team on Tuesday, as the comedian kept trying to fend off lawsuits over allegations that he has sexually abused women for decades.

A California judge, in a ruling made public on Tuesday, refused Cosby's second attempt to dismiss a lawsuit brought by a woman who accused the entertainer of sexually abusing her when she was 15 at the Playboy Mansion in Los Angeles.

In New York, a federal judge ruled against Cosby's effort to compel the publisher of *New York* magazine to provide access to unedited interviews of six women who are suing him over separate abuse allegations.

Representatives for Cosby declined to comment.

More than 50 women have publicly accused Cosby of sexually assaulting them, often after plying them with alcohol or drugs in instances dating back decades. Many of the accusations are too old to be litigated, but the mounting scandal has knocked Cosby, 78, off his pedestal as one of the most popular, family-friendly entertainers in America.

As star of the long-running

hit TV comedy "The Cosby Show" in the 1980s and early '90s, Cosby played a loving dad who was a model of responsible fatherhood. He has acknowledged marital infidelity but denied ever engaging in non-consensual sexual behaviour.

In the California case, Los Angeles County Superior Court Judge Craig Karlan sided with Cosby's accuser, Judy Huth, in allowing her case to proceed, rejecting defence assertions that the lawsuit was barred under the statute of limitations.

The judge ruled that Huth properly brought her case under a California law allowing childhood abuse victims to sue as adults within three years of claiming to have realised they suffered repressed psychological damage. Cosby lost a previous bid to fend off the same lawsuit on similar grounds last year.

Huth, now in her 50s, sued Cosby in December 2014, alleging that he plied her with alcohol and molested her during an encounter at the Playboy Mansion in 1974. Her lawyer, Gloria Allred, said Huth's next step would be to take Playboy founder Hugh Hefner's deposition in May.—*Reuters*

## Richard E Grant to play mad scientist in 'Wolverine 3'



Richard E Grant. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — "Jekyll & Hyde" star Richard E Grant has joined the cast of Hugh Jackman-starrer "Wolverine 3".

Patrick Stewart, who will

play X-Men leader Professor X and Boyd Holbrook as Jackman's nemesis are also a part of the project, according to the *Hollywood Reporter*.

Not much is available about the plot but Grant is said to play villainous mad scientist type of character. The movie is being directed by James Mangold.—*PTI*

## 'Harry Potter' actor Josh Herdman turns cage fighter

LONDON — Josh Herdman, the actor who played Draco Malfoy's righthand man in all eight "Harry Potter" movies, made his amateur debut as an MMA cage fighter.

Herdman defeated his Polish opponent Janusz Walachowski at the City Pavillion in London, reported *Daily Mirror*.

"I've been training traditional Japanese jujitsu for nearly five years and hold a shodan black belt," Herdman, 28, said.

"It's raw, exciting and un-

predictable. I find it more interesting than boxing although I appreciate the beauty and art in boxing. It also made sense to move onto MMA because of my jujitsu training."

Herdman hasn't lost any love for acting, but he compared it to "playing the lottery for a living."

He said he still has an agent and goes for auditions. Herdman doesn't see competing as an MMA fighter "so much as a career change" either, noting he's

"passionate about both acting and fighting."

Speaking of acting and fighting, did Herdman ever have any fight with the other Harry Potter kids? "No, we truly all got on pretty well."

"Jamie (Waylett, who played Vincent Crabbe) and I didn't get on in the early days but towards the end he was probably one of my closest friends on set. He's a really funny guy. He's a good rapper too."—*PTI*



## Taiwan finds 4,800-year-old fossil of mother cradling baby



A man cleans a fossil of a mother and baby in Taichung City, Taiwan, on 26 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

TAIWAN — Archaeologists in Taiwan have found a 4,800-year-old human fossil of a mother holding an infant child in her arms, museum officials said on Tuesday.

The 48 sets of remains unearthed in graves in the Taichung area are the earliest trace of human activity found in central Taiwan. The most striking discovery among them was the skeleton of a young mother looking down at a child cradled in her arms.

“When it was unearthed, all of

the archaeologists and staff members were shocked. Why? Because the mother was looking down at the baby in her hands,” said Chu Whei-lee, a curator in the Anthropology Department at Taiwan’s National Museum of Natural Science.

The excavation of the site began in May 2014 and took a year to complete. Carbon dating was used to determine the ages of the fossils, which included five children.

—Reuters

## Cool Asian fashion brands challenge Western labels

SEOUL — Fashion brands from South Korea, China and Japan are becoming serious rivals of their Western peers as Asian consumers become increasingly confident in their own style and take pride in buying home-grown labels.

Asian consumers are the world’s biggest spenders on high-end fashion, representing around half of total buyers.

Most of them are under 35, Internet-savvy and increasingly on the hunt for small, cool, original brands that will make them stand out and look different from their parents, fashion executives and retailers say.

High quality is no longer the preserve of Western luxury brands, fashion experts say, and Asian brands are attracting attention as they experiment with new textiles and materials, facilitated by their local manufacturing base.

This growing threat from

the east is likely to add misery to big luxury brands such as Prada (1913.HK), Kering’s Bottega Veneta (PRT.PA) and Tod’s (TOD.MI), already suffering from plunging sales, partly due to excessive price increases, over-exposure in certain markets such as China and mega-brand fatigue.

Chinese fashion brands, such as Ms Min and Comme moi, are the fastest-growing contemporary design labels sold at department store Lane Crawford, which has outlets throughout China and Hong Kong, its Chairman Andrew Keith told Reuters. Lane Crawford also sells Korean menswear brands such as Woo Young Mi and expects to start selling Korean womenswear soon.

“You sense there is a pride about seeing China develop its own creative community and seeing China emerge as a creative force,” Keith said in an

interview on the fringes of the Conde Nast luxury conference in Seoul.

Lane Crawford has seen its pool of Chinese labels grow over the past four years to more than 30, from just four. Twenty per cent of Chinese-designed clothes bought online are shipped outside of China “mainly to Chinese nationals living abroad who want access to these brands,” Keith said.

He estimates that his average customer in mainland China is 25 while in Hong Kong the average age is 35-40.

Also high on Asians’ shopping list are Japanese brands, such as Sacai and Tsumori Chisato, many of them older and better established than South Korean or Chinese labels.

Lady Gaga regularly wears Japan’s Roggykei, created in 2006 by two graduates from Osaka College of Design. —Reuters



Singer Rihanna, wearing a dress by the Beijing-based designer Guo Pei, arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala 2015 celebrating the opening of “China: Through the Looking Glass” in Manhattan, New York on 4 May 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS



### News Channel in Brief

(28- 4-2016, Thursday)

6:00 am

- Paritta By Venerable Mingun Sayadaw

7:35 am

- Weekly Entertainment News

8:35 am

- MRTV Education

9:35 am

- Beautiful ASEAN

10:35 am

- MRTV’s Job Opportunity Programme

11:35 am

- Science and Technology Programme

12:35 pm

- TV Drama Series

1:20 pm

- TV Drama Series

3:35 pm

- Documentary

4:35 pm

- Football Magazine (Shan United)

5:35 pm

- People’s Talks

6:35 pm

- Current Affairs

7:15 pm

- TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

- News / International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm

- News

10:20 pm

- TV Drama Series

- Talks on Old Film (Part-2)

Note / Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)



### Entertainment Channel

(28- 4-2016, Thursday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Music Programme

6:30 pm

- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:50 pm

- Music Programme

7:10 pm

- International Drama Series

7:50 pm

- International Drama Series

8:30 pm

- Cartoon Programme “Flushed Away” (Part-3)

9:00 pm

- Music Programme

9:10 pm

- English Premier League (Review-I)

9:30 pm

- International Movie Songs

9:40 pm

- The Great Po Sein

10:10 pm

- Let’s perform a buffalo dance

10:20 pm

- Myanmar Movie

From 28-4-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm  
To 29-4-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm



### Myanmar International

(28-4-2016 07:00am ~ 29-4-2016 7:00am) MST

#### Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	History of Wishfulfilling Mai-Lamu Pagoda
07:45	Am	Rakhine Traditional Wedding Ceremony
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Aesthetic Chinlone
08:52	Am	Interview with Rakhine State Chief Minister
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products of Myanmar - Shin Ma Taung Thanakhar
09:42	Am	The Hills of Phowintaung And Shwebataung
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Historic Temples Of Massiveness And Unique Structure

10:42 Am Ngapali, Unique Spot To Relax

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

#### Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A visit to Htam Hsan Cave A Miraculous Place
07:52	Pm	Interview with Rakhine State Chief Minister
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
08:39	Pm	Bollywood Actress “Laila Khan” (Born & Raised in Myanmar) (Part-II)

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)  
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday 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](http://www.myanmaritv.com/schedule))



# Let's get ready to rumble at Bernabeu, says City's Hart

MANCHESTER — Manchester City are set up to land Real Madrid a knockout blow at the Bernabeu next week and earn a place in the Champions League final, Joe Hart said after his saves helped earn a 0-0 draw in Tuesday's first leg.

The England goalkeeper produced two incredible late stops at the Etihad Stadium to leave the tie hanging in the balance for next week's second leg in the Spanish capital.

Ten-times winners Real have won six out of six at home in this year's competition, racking up 18 goals without conceding, but Hart said he was relishing the challenge.

"We've set it up for a good, old-fashioned rumble at the Bernabeu," said Hart, who made a superb point-blank save from Pepe late on shortly after sticking out a foot to block a goalbound Casemiro header. "Bring it on."

"We are not disappointed with the result. We are ready. We have a brilliant squad who are coming to fruition." "Big game next week, simple as."

City have already won at Sevilla in the group phase and in Kiev in the last 16 and also drew at Paris St Germain on their way past the French champions into

the semi-finals.

Real, who should have their injured top scorer Ronaldo back next week after he was forced to sit out Tuesday's opener with a thigh strain, will be a formidable hurdle, but City captain Vincent Kompany said the Spanish giants will be wary. "0-0 is a very dangerous scoreline. From the moment we manage to score in Madrid, it will be very different," he said.

Real manager Zinedine Zidane said he felt his side deserved to be heading home with their noses in front.

"It was difficult. We defended well, we had more of the ball in the second half and we had chances to score," he said. "I'm a bit disappointed because in the second half we deserved to win."

Explaining why Ronaldo was not even on the bench, the Frenchman said the Portuguese had aggravated a thigh strain during a training session.

With striker Karim Benzema failing to come out for the second half, Zidane has some striking worries.

"Benzema's situation was different, he got worse the more the game went on and we didn't want to risk him. I hope they both are in the next game," Zidane told reporters.—Reuters



Real Madrid's Sergio Ramos in action with Manchester City's Sergio Aguero during UEFA Champions League Semi Final First Leg at Etihad Stadium, Manchester, England on 26 April. PHOTO: REUTERS

## Infantino brings vision of new FIFA to Asia

SEOUL — FIFA President Gianni Infantino dangled the carrot of more World Cup spots for Asia during a visit to Seoul on Wednesday but while the Swiss was keen to press his case for an enlarged 40-team tournament, he will not try to twist anyone's arm.

Infantino, who arrived in South Korea earlier in the day to meet with sponsors Hyundai Motor Group, said his visit was aimed at rebuilding trust with corporate partners and presenting his vision of a 'new FIFA'.

World football's scandal-hit governing body is in the midst of the worst crisis in its 112-year history, with more than 40 individuals and entities, including many former FIFA officials, charged with corruption-related offences in the United States.

Infantino, elected in February to replace the disgraced Sepp Blatter, told reporters that adding eight more teams to the World Cup from 2026 was "perfectly justified".

"Football is not only Europe and South America. Football is the world," he said.

"I'm not a dictator so I can't impose anything but I'm trying to convince everyone. I believe we have to increase the number of teams... because we have to be more inclusive."—Reuters

# Wimbledon to beef up measures against doping, corruption

LONDON — The Wimbledon championships will protect its squeaky clean image with enhanced anti-doping and anti-corruption measures for this year's 130<sup>th</sup> tournament, organisers said on Tuesday.

Tennis was rocked by allegations of match-fixing on the eve of this year's Australian Open and suffered another blow to its integrity when former Wimbledon champion Maria Sharapova said in February she had failed a drugs test.

At a news conference announcing yet another substantial hike in prize money, the All England Club pledged to beef up its safeguards against sport's two biggest threats.

Measures will include data streams and videos of all matches, including in qualifying events, enhanced data monitoring and player education as well as additional anti-doping controls to complement those already run at the tournament by the International Tennis Federation (ITF).

"Whether it's integrity or

anti-doping we feel we should enhance what we are doing," Richard Lewis, chief executive of the All England Club, told reporters.

"There has been lots of media scrutiny since January and it's appropriate that we respond accordingly."

The Tennis Integrity Unit

(TIU) received no betting alerts during the 2015 championships, but All England Club chairman Philip Brook said the prestigious tournament needed to safeguard public trust, admitting that the sport's image was under threat.

"We don't think there is a big issue but we will do whatever it takes to keep the sport clean,"

he said. "It's an issue of perception rather than reality."

"I think it's hard to say (this year's events) haven't had an impact," he added.

It is still unclear whether provisionally suspended Sharapova, the 2004 champion, will play this year as she is awaiting the outcome of her anti-doping

hearing after testing positive for Meldonium at the Australian Open.

Brook said her absence would be a "great shame".

"She is a former champion here at Wimbledon and very popular with the crowds. But I think in terms of what has happened we need to let due process take its course," he said.

No figures were revealed regarding how much the All England Club is investing to safeguard the tournament's integrity.

They were more forthcoming about a five per cent rise in prize money, taking the total pool to 28.1 million pounds — second only to the US Open.

The winners of the men's and women's singles titles will pocket two million pounds, up 6.4 per cent on 2015.

First-round losers in the singles will take home 30,000 pounds (\$44,000) — a 161 per cent rise from 2011 when Wimbledon pledged to assist those players struggling lower down the rankings.—Reuters



General view in the grounds of Wimbledon during Wimbledon Spring Press Conference 2016 at All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Wimbledon, England on 26 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS