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FLOOD SAFETY WARNING

DMH issues alert to people in low-lying areas along Chindwin, Ngawun rivers

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology (DMH) has issued an alert to people living in low-lying areas along the Chindwin and Ngawun Rivers to be prepared to relocate as the water levels of both rivers have exceeded danger levels.

The rivers, which have already exceeded what is considered to be dangerous levels in Kani and Monywa, are expected to rise about by another half foot in Kani over the next 24 hours and in Monywa over the next two days. Water levels may remain there for an extended period of time, according to the DMH's 12.30 pm observation yesterday.

The Ngawun River in Ayeyawady Region has also reached dangerous levels in Ngathaung Chaung according to the 12.30 pm observation yesterday.

The water level there is also expected to rise by about 1 foot over the next three days and remain at dangerous levels.

The Sagaing Region government has temporarily suspended high-speed ferries operating along the Chindwin River according to the Monywa Independent High-speed Ferry Committee. Meanwhile, local fire service departments across the nation are on full alert.—*Aye Min Soe*



Local fire service departments in flood-prone areas are on alert and have urged people in high risk areas to cooperate with the authorities by following instructions calmly and carefully. PHOTO: MYANMAR FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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Only one Sangha organisation exists: SSMNC

THE State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee released an announcement yesterday to object against the announcement dated 7th July by the Central Committee to protect race and religion (CPRR).

The State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee (SSMNC)

justified its announcement by saying that some points in the announcement of CPRR are misleading, possibly creating doubts among the people which can result in outbreak of unwanted disturbances.

SSMNC has made it clear by its announcement that no congre-

gation of Sangha of all orders has even given birth to CPRR, that altogether five congregations of Sangha of all orders have been held between 1980 and 2014, and that none of these congregations has ever given rise to CPRR.

Besides, SSMNC has refuted the fact that CPRR is a monks'

organisation formed according to the Sangha Nayaka Manual and Sangha Organisation Charter. The State Sangha Maha Nayaka committee insists that there shall be only one Sangha organisation within the Union of Myanmar according to Sangha Organisation Charter.—*MNA*



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Workshop on technological support for agriculture development held

ENSURING the implementation of food safety and nutrition is the first priority for all countries in the world, said Union Minister Dr Aung Thu at a workshop in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, adding that climate change has cut crop yields in tropical regions.

In his address at the workshop on technological support for agricultural value chain development the Union minister said that a project aimed at adapting agricultural production methods to climate change in the country's tropical zone is set to be implemented in cooperation with the Asian Development Bank.

The project is aimed at ensuring quality production, developing the market economic system and improving the socio-economic status of rural people, according to the Union



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu delivers an address at workshop on technological support for agriculture development. PHOTO: MNA

minister.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the project is set to take place in Myanmar, Cambodia and

Laos to ensure agricultural value chain development in rural areas with the goal of reducing poverty and unemployment in those areas.—*Myanmar News Agency*

More Rakhine homes swept away as riverbank erosion intensifies

Residents from the Rakhine State town of Minbya voiced that recent flooding to the Laymyo River is seeing daily erosion of the river that runs through the town.

A total of six households from Pyitawhla and Usawtint Wards within Minbya were swept away on 7-8 July, while more than 50 other dwellings are reportedly at risk from falling into the river.

"All the houses along the stretch of the river bank will fall victim to the erosion. The water

is crashing against the side of the river with great force. Just yesterday, our motorboat, which we had tied to the riverbank in front of our house, was also swept away with the collapsing of the bank. Now we don't have anywhere to live.

Any assistance has not yet reached out us," said Ma Soe Soe San, a victim of erosion along the Laymyo River.

"I'm 50 years old, and this river had been eroding the land around it ever since I was a boy.

Villagers have had to keep moving back their houses from the path of the collapsing riverbanks. Some people have moved well away from the river," said U Thein Htun, administrator of Pyitawhla Ward.

Residents have voiced that between 20-50 feet of the banks of the Laymyo River collapse annually during the rainy season, while heavy deluges and flooding reportedly only succeeded in exacerbating the erosion.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



The banks of the Laymyo River collapses every year during the rainy season. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Fifty thousand young fish for Inle Lake

Fifty thousand young fish will be added to Inle Lake, according to those engaged in Inle Lake Conservation and Maintenance businesses. 8,000 barbus, 2,000 rohu and 5,000 grass carps and more 50,000 young fish will be released.

"Fish species were already added into Inle Lake for the long-term Restoration and Conservation Plan. We need to prevent locals from lectric fishing in Inle Lake to prevent

fish extinction. Sometimes, the death of a fish is attributed to the chemical fertilizer used in tomato cultivation," said a local.

Those who have licenses conduct daily fishing. Locals are allowed to fish without a permit.

Inle, the second largest Lake in Myanmar, is situated in Nyaungshwe, Taunggyi, Shan State. Inle Lake is situated at 2,900 ft above sea level, with an estimated width of 44.9 square miles.—*Zar Zar*

Tatmadaw men donate food to flood victims

A TATMADAW aircraft carrying relief supplies donated by families of Tatmadaw members for flood victims in Rakhine State arrived at Sittwe Airport

yesterday. Sent were donations of household goods, tea, biscuits, noodles, tinned food and kitchen utensils.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Tatmadaw members loading a truck with rice bags to send them to flood victims in Rakhine State. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

High-speed ferries along the Chindwin suspended amid rising water levels

High-speed ferries operating along the Chindwin River within Monywa, will be temporarily suspended for approximately three days, according to the Monywa Independent High-speed Ferry Committee.

"We've canceled boat services for three days because of rising levels of the Chindwin. As of 9am today, water levels had risen beyond safe levels. We had to cancel services about twice last year because of such," said Ko Soe Min Htut of the Monywa Independent High-speed Ferry Committee.

The Chindwin River reportedly rose to 1m while the level measured on the morning of 11 July read 1.3m. As a result, high-speed ferry services to the upper reaches of the region have been suspended out of concerns for safety.

"Day by day, the water level of the Chindwin has crept up to a

level of concern. Flooding of the river last year saw ferry services stop for a week," said Ko Myo, a spokesperson Shwenadi High-speed Ferry Association.

Depending on water levels in the Chindwin River, temporarily suspended high-speed ferry services to Khamti, Mawlaik, Homalin, Mingin and Kalay would operate normally as of 14 July.

"Of course passengers wishing to travel to the upper reaches of the region are experiencing difficulty with transportation because of the river's rising water levels. Whatever the scenario, it's good that the high-speed ferries have been temporarily suspended," said Ko Shan Lay, a passenger from Monywa wishing to travel to Mingin. 27 high-speed ferry operators in Monywa were forced to stop operations last year due to flooding.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Central Committee, working committees meet to discuss Hluttaw sessions

THE central committee and working committees for the successful holding of the second regular sessions of the second Hluttaws held a work coordination meeting inside Zabuthiri Hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than and Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint spoke on the occasion.

Next, the secretary of the central committee for convening the 2016 Hluttaw sessions elaborated on the formation of the central committee and working committees. Union ministers and officials then explained the preparations being undertaken by the respective working committees. Reports were presented on general matters; this was followed by concluding remarks by the Speakers.

Also present at the meeting were deputy speakers, departmental heads and officials of Hluttaw Offices.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Speakers Mahn Win Khaing Than and U Win Myint co-chair the meeting of central committee and work committees for holding second Hluttaws. PHOTO: MNA

Calls made for continuation of survey to evaluate impact of Emerald Green Project

DR Aung Naing, director of the Social Policy and Poverty Research Group (SPPRG), has expressed the importance of continuing to study the Mya Sein Yaung (Emerald Green) Project for the next three to five years in order to be in a position to understand the benefits and impacts of the project itself.

"We selected control villages in order to make a comparison as to how much of a positive impact the project has made. The primary objective of this project's research

is to collect a set of baseline data. That's why it's important for us to continue to collect data so that comparisons can be made during the conduction of this project over the next three, four to five years," said the director.

Approximately 4,400 households from 908 villages and 95 control villages were selected for the Emerald Green Village Project during the 2015-16 fiscal year. Control villages were selected from all 17 States and Regions

around the country, including that of the Naypyidaw Council, which would allow for comparisons to be made as to the actual impact of the project.

"In order to mitigate losses during the implementation of the projects, programs of risk management, problem solving and gender equality are carried out. All-inclusive discussion forums are then held annually during which feedback is given in order to understand what weaknesses of the pro-

ject need tweaking," said U Khant Zaw, director-general of the Department of Rural Development.

The Emerald Green Village Project will have reportedly been implemented across a total 7,733 villages from within 288 townships - over 12 percent of the country - between the fiscal years of 2014-15 to 2016-17.

The project is a multi-agenda driven rural development initiative that seeks to increase employment opportunities and household in-

comes; reduce rural poverty; facilitate the conduction of self-sustaining livestock breeding activities; ensure replete food stocks and nutrition for those in rural areas; improve basic village infrastructure; develop rural commodity manufacturing enterprises; and improve the capacity of villagers themselves.

Over 70 per cent of Myanmar's population lives in a rural environment, nearly 30 per cent of which live in poverty.—*GNLM*

Electoral tribunal degazettes Shan State Hluttaw representative

THE electoral tribunal under the Union Election Commission has handed down their verdict to degazette U Aung Kyaw Nyunt as a Shan State Hluttaw representative of Yatsawk Township Constituency 1.

The Union Election Commission announced his dismissal under section 75 (b) of

Region/State Hluttaw Law yesterday.

The Commission said that U Khaing Nyi Nyi Kyaw, a candidate who stood for election in Yatsawk Township Constituency 1 had filed an election complaint to the UEC will act as his replacement.—*Myanmar News Agency*

New arrivals to NLD HIV clinic puts stress on resources

AN increase in arrivals at the National League for Democracy (NLD) HIV clinic of children born with HIV, situated in Yangon's Dagon Myothit (South) Township, has reportedly put a strain on finances which serve to cover food and school expenses, said the clinic.

Last year, there were a total of 30 children using the services of the clinic. This has grown to 40 children as of July.

"The rise in the number of children has made it difficult to

look after them all as they are still only children, the mental toll of living on the street compounded with the realisation of their illness is more significant," said Ma Tin Nandar Lin, a member of staff of the NLD HIV clinic.

Young children at the clinic are reportedly taken care of, enrolled in school and given vocational trainings until they become of age.

"We take care of children whose parents have died from AIDS. Since these little ones have

been mentally devastated, we give them an education and teach them about social issues. We have to give them strength as others tease them in class. An increase in children at the clinic this year means we require financial assistance for food and schooling costs" said Daw Phyu Phyu Thin, Pyithu Hluttaw MP for Mingalar Taungnyunt Township. Two full-time doctors and 34 volunteers reportedly give children at the NLD HIV clinic round-the-clock care.—*Myit-makha News Agency*

Yangon circle line upgrade to be implemented next fiscal year



Yangon circular rail line is set to be upgraded. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

A PROJECT aimed at upgrading the Yangon circular rail line is set to be undertaken next fiscal year (2017-2018), said General Manager U Tun Aung Thin of Myanmar Railways (MR) yesterday.

The project includes a wide range of upgrades including the substitution of carriages and refurbishment of stations, added the general manager.

Yangon's circle line is 46km long and has 38 stations. More than 73,000 passengers depend

on rail transport every day in Yangon.

Train service has seen a drop in numbers as there are now 73,000 passengers using the trains compared to more than 90,000 previously, said the general manager, adding that Yangon people prefer bus services to rail transport, accounting for delays and poor service.

According to MR, 263,000 train travelers are expected and trains will run up to a maximum

of 60 km per hour by 2022.

The train transport authority has also been planning the upgrade of decades-old rail tracks, the construction of pedestrian bridges and fencing along the railroad with the use of state funds.

Additionally, the installation of automated railroad crossing gates at 25 spots and the purchase of new carriages will be carried out with the use of a Japanese ODA loan.—*Ko Moe*

Taninthayi Coastal Region Military Command makes donation in Kawthoung Township



Taninthayi Coastal Region Military Command makes donation in Kawthoung Township. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

THE Commander of Taninthayi Coastal Region Command and party made a donation in Maliwon village of Khamauk-kyi, Kawthoung Township,

Taninthayi Region on Saturday by offering foodstuffs to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Indacara, the Abbot of Shwe Taung Oo Monastery and supervisor

of No. 5 Monastic Education School and Shwe Taung Oo voluntary orphanage.—Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Twelve vaccines to be provided publicly free of charge

DIFFERENT variations of 12 vaccines, including vaccines against Japanese encephalitis and diarrhoea disease, will be provided by the Ministry of Health and Sports Department, it has been reported.

UNICEF and the WHO are currently providing assistance to the vaccination projects. Parents and caregivers need to bring the children to clinics while the health department launches the vaccination campaign, said Dr. Wai Hla, township health officer from the Public Health Department.

The national vaccination programme body is planning to add two new vaccines to battle Japanese encephalitis and diarrhoea which affects mostly children under 5, said an official from the Public Health Department.

The Ministry of Health and Sports Department is pro-

viding a vaccine against pneumonia as part of its routine vaccination program starting from July. Currently, 10 vaccines are provided free to prevent the following diseases: tuberculosis, poliomyelitis, diphtheria, tetanus, measles, German measles, pneumonia, hepatitis B, Pertussis (Whooping cough) and meningitis.

The ultimate goal of the programme is to reach the target goal of making the world free from Polio between 2019-2020.

The Southeast Asia region has been designated as a tetanus free region. The region also aims, with the aid of international organisations, to eliminate measles by 2020, to be able to control birth defects caused by German measles and to reduce the number of hepatitis B positive people to under one per cent.—Zar Zar

Crime NEWS

Abandoned illegal logs and sawn timber seized in Aunglan



Ownerless illegal logs and sawn timber seized in Aunglan. PHOTO: THEIN LWIN (IPRD)

ILLEGAL logs and sawn timber were seized near Thanbula outpost in Nga Lauk village on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off a combined team comprising police and officials from the Aunglan township forest department inspected a forest area near Thanbula outpost, one and half miles away from Nga Lauk village. The team found two teak logs weighing 1.45 tonnes, one Pyinkado sawn timber weighing 1 tonne, one Na Be sawn timber weighing 0.16 tonnes, two Kyun Darshwe planks weighing 0.3

tonnes and seven Padauk sawn timbers weighing 0.64 tonnes. The wood is worth K719,400 in total, police report.

On the same day, a combined team comprising police and officials of the township forest department inspected a location two furlongs northeast from Thanpayakhon village in Thanbula outpost area and discovered four teak logs weighing 1 tonne and six Pyinkado logs weighing 0.8 tonnes. Local police are still investigating.—Thein Lwin (IPRD)

A CRIME suppression squad comprising officers from Gangaw Township Police Force arrested five suspected drug dealers on Gangaw-Kalay Road near Htei Hlaw village, 7 miles away from Kan Police Station between Kan village and Gangaw Town on Saturday.

Acting on a tip-off police arrested a suspected drug dealer named Tin Zaw Htwe and four others while one Thar Soe escaped police. Police have filed charges against the suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—101

Five suspected drug dealers arrested in Gangaw



Five suspected drug dealers arrested in Gangaw being seen. PHOTO: 101

Yaba and marijuana confiscated in Mong Phyat

A LOCAL police squad in Mong Phyat seized yaba from a house in Ho Nar (Lahu) village, Mong Phyat township on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off police searched the home of one Yaw Hla and discovered 3,037 yaba pills. Ma Lar Kayya alias Yar Kay Hla was found together with the host. Police also arrested Aung Theikdi who arrived at the house during the raid.

Similarly, a combined investigation team comprising policemen from the Thaton District police commander's office searched the home of one Ko Myo in Thayetkone village, Kyaikhto Township and confis-



Ma Lar Kayya (a) Yar Kay Hla. PHOTO: MPF

icated marijuana weighing 2.6 kilograms. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

Illegal logs seized in Kyaukme

LOCAL police seized illegal logs from a 22-wheel vehicle at Oriental toll gate near Namhu Taung village, Kyaukme township on Monday.

A combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from the Forestry Department stopped the 22-wheel vehicle which was heading for Lashio from Nawnghkio. The vehicle was being driven by one Nay Win Aung, 31, with Tun Sein, 20, on board. Upon conducting a search, police discovered illegal logs. The police filed charges against both suspects.—Kyaukme District IPRD

LOCAL Business

Large Mixed-Use Redevelopment Project in Yangon led by Mitsubishi groups

A large mixed used redevelopment project in Yangon is to be led by Mitsubishi Corporation and Mitsubishi Estate. The project will take place around the Yangon Railway Station to develop a commercial, real estate and hotel hub, according to the press release.

Local groups Yoma Strategic Holdings Ltd. (Yoma) and First Myanmar Investment Co., Ltd. (FMI) will also be involved in the project. Two office buildings, one condominium, one building combining a hotel and serviced apartments, with commercial facilities being installed on the lower floors of each building, across a total floor

area of over 200,000 m².

Japan Overseas Infrastructure Investment Corporation is for Transport & Urban Development (JOIN). The Project will be JOIN's first equity participation project in the field of overseas urban development. The Japanese Partners will work with Yoma and FMI to establish a local project company. The Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) will also make equity contributions, and the Local Project Company will borrow project funds from these two financial institutions to finance the Project.—GNLM



Image of completed redevelopment project in Yangon. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY MITSUBISHI CORPORATION

No more grant for changed vehicles locally manufactured

ROAD Transport Administration Department (RTAD) will no longer grant permit for vehicle alterations, giving two months to change back to original installations, said chief engineer of Mandalay RTAD.

"Cars manufactured by the local industrial zones do not meet the standard quality and so, people need to change the body of their vehicles. The frames and engines of imported cars are allowed to be

changed. However, locally manufactured vehicles that have the front part and the body changed cannot extend their permits starting from September of last year," said the chief engineer.

Local cars are being manufactured with the permission by the Ministry of Industry (MoI) have specific rules and regulations in manufacturing local cars. Some manufacturers install auto parts that are not produced in lo-

cal factories.

The MoI is conducting the inspection of industrially manufactured cars with RTAD to check whether the parts of the body are changed. Light trucks change more than larger trucks and 'Super Customs', said an official from RTAD.

Mandalay RTAD has checked 600 cars with the use of Mobile Test Lane starting from 14 June 2015.—Aung Thant Khine

Myanmar gold appreciates to record breaking value

THE value of a tical (0.576 ounces) of Myanmar gold appreciated to Ks850,000 during the second week of July as a result of rises in the value of gold on the world market and the US dollar, according to those involved in the domestic gold industry.

An ounce of a gold on the

world market increased in value from US\$1,353 on 8 July to US\$1,366 just three days later on 11 July, causing the price of Myanmar gold to increase.

"The price of Myanmar gold has appreciated in response to the increase in value of the US dollar and world market gold. It's tricky

to estimate market value these days. Trading has slowed down as a result," said U Zaw Aung, owner of Taite Gold Store.

A tical of Myanmar gold has seen a rise in value from Ks839,000 on 8 July to approximately Ks849,000 on 11 July.

"It's a lot of coincidences; while the value of the US dollar and world market gold are competing with each other, domestic gold production has slowed down because of the rainy season. That's why the value of Myanmar gold has increased," said U Maw Maw, general manager of Aunthamardi Gold Store.

The value of gold on the world market began to increase in value from 24 June, peaking in value at US\$1,370 per ounce, while the current value of Myanmar gold is reportedly the highest in recent history.—Myitmakha News Agency



Gold jewelry displayed in Yangon. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Chinese windshields in high demand

CHINESE windshields and rear-view mirrors are popular in Myanmar, due to their affordability. Windshields from Japan are expensive and harder to import.

"Cases involving damaged windshields mostly happen in Myanmar," said Ko Nay Lin

Aung, who is engaged in windshield sales and distribution business in Yangon.

Windscreens are mostly purchased in Yangon and Mandalay stores with prices ranging from Ks100,000-300,000.—200

Leeches in high demand

A demand for leeches from China has sent Myanmar's market a flurry with prices reaching Ks8,000 per 1.6kg. The blood suckers are collected in Bago, Ayeyawady, Mandalay and Yangon Regions.

"I do odd jobs in the summer whereas I catch leeches in the rainy season. I can catch a viss of leeches within three days. It is hard to find a job in the rainy season but catching leeches allow our family to earn family income," said U Tha Aye living at Salutaw village in Bago.

U Maung Oo from the leech

depot in Waw Township, Bago District said China has been purchasing leeches from Myanmar for ten years now, before they would be taken to Muse, but now buyers are coming from China to Myanmar. The prices of the big leeches are Ks8,000 per 1.6 kg while prices of the small ones were Ks15,000 1.6kgs in the previous year. This year prices of big leeches have fetched up to Ks16,000 1.6kgs and the small ones sell for Ks20,000 1.6kgs.

Leeches are being used in Chinese traditional medicines.—City News

Fortified rice mills to be established

TWENTY fortified rice mills will be set up across the nation in cooperation with those businesspeople who wish to engage in the business, said Dr. Phyo Win Tun, the project officer of PATH's fortified rice project.

Currently, there are only three fortified rice mills in Myanmar. Ten rice mills can produce consumption for 420,000 people.

20 rice mills will be built if there is interest. PATH is currently negotiating with rice mill owners in Ayeyawady Region, also continuing cooperation with rice millers in Mandalay and Sagaing regions. Fortified rice mills will be built within three months after negotiations. It takes about six months to construct rice mills.—200

IBM to open first blockchain innovation centre in Singapore

SINGAPORE — IBM plans to open a blockchain innovation centre in Singapore in collaboration with the government, as the city-state strives to become Asia's main financial technology hub.

The tech giant will be working with the main economic planning agency, the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), and the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) to accelerate blockchain adoption for finance and trade.

One project, together with PSA International - one of the world's largest container transshipment ports owned by state investor Temasek Holdings [TEM.UL] — aims to connect fintech with global trade and logistics.

The blockchain technology works by creating permanent, public "ledgers" of all transactions that could potentially replace complicated systems such as clearing and settlement with one simple database.—Reuters

South Korea warns North Korea not to conduct nuclear test

SEOUL — South Korea on Tuesday warned North Korea that it would face stronger sanctions and isolation if it goes through with a nuclear test, while indicating the view that the country remains ready to conduct such test at any time.

"Our government's judgment is that, given the preparedness at the test site, North Korea maintains a state of readiness to carry out a nuclear test at any time

if its leadership decides to do so," South Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho June Hyuck said during a press briefing.

Cho urged North Korea not to take additional provocative actions as that would only further corner the country.

South Korea, in close cooperation with the United States, is closely watching all activities related to the North's possible nuclear test. *Kyodo News*

In rare consensus, Australian MPs call for e-voting as poll count drags on

SYDNEY — Australians have elected a divided parliament stacked with fractious independents and minor parties but the nation's weary political leaders are united on at least one front: the need for electronic voting.

Counting in Australia's 2 July election dragged into its 10th day on Tuesday, drawing unfavourable comparisons with Japan, Iceland and Spain, where recent elections were all decided in less than a day.

Britons took just seven hours to calculate their contentious Brexit vote to leave the European Union last month.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Opposition leader Bill Shorten have backed e-voting as a solution to Australia's snail-paced count, although experts warn of security issues and others bemoan the potential loss of typically Australian election day quirks like the "sausage sizzle".

Shorten said on Sunday, after already more



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull casts his vote for the general election at the Double Bay Public School in Sydney, Australia, on 2 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

than a week of hand-counting of ballot papers, that it shouldn't take "a grown-up democracy" so long to figure out who has won.

Counting in Australia, where voting is compulsory, is usually resolved on the same evening that Australia's 15 million voters cast their ballots. But a tight election this year and a close-run poll in 2010 demonstrate how polls can drag on for weeks before final results are declared, with electoral officials recounting by hand as they painstakingly pore over

slender margins and wait for postal ballots to arrive.

By comparison, more than 45 million votes were cast in Japan on Sunday and more than 33 million were cast in the Brexit referendum. Both polls produced results within hours.

E-voting could solve Australia's quandary by delivering an instant, computer-counted result, but experts warn the risks might outweigh the benefits.

Electronic voting is currently available to vision-impaired voters via an auto-

mated telephone system. It has also been trialled at state polls. In a 2015 trial in New South Wales, Australia's most populous state, internet security experts found the process vulnerable to hacking.

"Security issues around electronic voting are not solved. Software errors and security problems could potentially impact the election result," said Vanessa Teague, a lecturer in computer and information systems at University of Melbourne.—Reuters

Japan lifts evacuation orders in Fukushima affecting 10,000 people



Photo taken on 11 July 2016, shows the central part of the northeastern Japan city of Minamisoma, in which areas subject to evacuation orders since the March 2011 nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi complex were scaled down on 12 July, enabling the return of more than 10,000 residents. Many residents, however, seem uneager to return, having begun new lives elsewhere. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

FUKUSHIMA — The government on Tuesday further scaled down the areas in Fukushima Prefecture subject to evacuation orders since the March 2011 nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi complex, enabling the return of more than 10,000 residents to the city of Minamisoma.

Following the move,

the city will be mostly habitable except for one area containing a house. But many residents do not seem eager to return having begun new lives elsewhere.

The government is in the process of gradually lifting evacuation orders issued for areas within a 20-kilometre radius of the plant of Tokyo Electric

Power Company Holdings Inc. and in certain areas beyond the zone amid ongoing radiation cleanup efforts.

Eight municipalities in Fukushima Prefecture have areas defined as evacuation zones, which are divided into three categories based on their radiation levels. The most seriously contaminated area is designated as a zone "where it is expected that residents will face difficulties returning for a long time."

The areas in Minamisoma for which evacuation orders were lifted had a registered population of 10,807, or 3,487 households, as of 1 July.

To encourage evacuees to return, the central government and the city reopened hospital facilities, built makeshift commercial facilities and prepared other infrastructure.

Radiation cleanup activities have finished in residential areas, but will continue for roads and farmland until next March. As part of efforts to restore the city's infrastructure,

East Japan Railway Co. resumed some services on the Joban Line connecting Tokyo to Fukushima and Miyagi in Japan's northeast. Trains are now running on a 9-kilometre section of the line between Haranomachi and Odaka stations, both in Fukushima.

"Today marks the start (of our reconstruction efforts). Let us rebuild Minamisoma," Mayor Katsunobu Sakurai said during a commemorative ceremony in front of Odaka Station.

Local residents welcomed the first train to arrive at the station. Aboard the train, Akiko Gunji, a 67-year-old who lost her home in the tsunami disaster and now lives in temporary housing, said, "We have all been waiting for the Joban Line to resume operation."

The government is hoping to lift all of the remaining evacuation orders apart from those for seriously contaminated zones by next March, officials said.—Kyodo News

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Abe's victory good news for US ahead of November election: experts

Ko Hirano

WASHINGTON — The victory by Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling coalition in Sunday's upper house election will reinforce the Japan-US alliance and contribute to stability in the Asia-Pacific region, especially as Americans are primarily focused on domestic issues in the run-up to November's presidential election, according to US experts in Japanese affairs.

Citing Abe's recent drives to strengthen Japan-US ties such as enacting controversial security laws that enable the Self-Defence Forces to fight overseas for the first time since World War II and concluding negotiations for the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade liberalisation initiative, the experts say Abe's firmer grip on power will boost bilateral cooperation in ensuring peace and stability in the region in the face of China's growing assertiveness and North Korea's missile and nuclear weapons developments.

David Parker, an associate fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington-based think tank, argues Abe's victory has significance for Japan-US relations at a time when "the US is in the throes of a very contentious presidential campaign, and the populist strains in US politics are raising levels of uncertainty at home and in the minds of our allies."

As Parker suggests, populist forces are evident on both sides of the political spectrum in the United States in the current election cycle. Presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, for example, has created

a source of concern among US allies by indicating that if elected, he would consider withdrawing US forces from Japan and South Korea and allow the two countries to go nuclear for self-defence.

Trump has also threatened to pull the United States out of the TPP, saying the 12-nation Pacific Rim trade deal would cost millions of US jobs and be "the death blow for American manufacturing."

His presumptive Democratic opponent Hillary Clinton has also expressed skepticism toward the deal, which she had championed when she served as secretary of state during President Barack Obama's first term.

"In this context, stability in Japan — and steady, internationalist leadership from Tokyo — is something that broadly benefits the United States, the alliance, and regional stability," Parker said in an interview.

The victory by Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its coalition partner, the Komeito party, also comes as China steps up territorial claims in the East and South China seas with coercive measures. Tokyo and Washington oppose Beijing's unilateral attempts to change the status quo in the seas and have called for settling disputes in accordance with international law.

Referring to Abe's fourth straight national election victory as the LDP leader, Daniel Sofio, a research analyst at the CSIS, hailed continued stability in Japanese politics.

Before Abe returned to power in December 2012, six prime ministers came and went quickly,



David Parker, an associate fellow at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, speaks in an interview with Kyodo News in Washington on 11 July 2016, following a sweeping victory by Japan's ruling coalition in the upper house election. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Daniel Sofio, a research analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies, speaks in an interview with Kyodo News in Washington on July 11, 2016, following a sweeping victory by Japan's ruling coalition in the upper house election. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

with each serving on average one year in office.

"With this longevity of service comes stable leadership. Provided that Mr. Abe and the LDP stay focused on policy, this could be a good thing" even for Japan's allies and partners particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, Sofio said in a separate interview.

But Sofio expressed a cautious view about Abe's eagerness to amend Japan's Constitution, now that Sunday's election have given the LDP, Komeito and other lawmakers supportive of amending the charter a combined two-thirds majority in the House of Councillors, opening the way to constitutional reform proposals.

"It's up to the government and people of Japan to decide, but whatever direction Abe pursues, it should not come at the expense of economics. There is a growing consensus that Abenomics is failing, and a relaunch will require significant political capital," he said. "If Mr. Abe focuses too much of his energy on constitutional reform, it could endanger his economic reform agenda."

An amendment requires approval by at least two-thirds of the members of each house of the Diet, Japan's parliament, as well as a majority in a national referendum. The LDP-Komeito coalition already holds a two-thirds majority in the House of Representatives, the more power-

ful lower chamber.

Abe has questioned a contradiction between the existence of the SDF and the ban on Japan maintaining armed forces in the war-renouncing Article 9. But some in the two-thirds forces, most notably Komeito, have expressed reluctance to touch on the provision, apparently concerned that it could trigger a backlash from the public. According to a Kyodo News opinion poll conducted 30-31 January, 37.5 per cent of respondents were in favor of amending the Constitution after the upper house election and 50.3 per cent were against. The charter has never been altered since its promulgation in November 1946.—*Kyodo News*

Singapore jails four Bangladeshi men 2 to 5 years for terrorism financing

SINGAPORE — A Singapore court jailed four Bangladeshi men for between two and five years for terrorism financing on Tuesday in a case that has put the city-state's most marginalised migrant-worker community in the spotlight.

Authorities said the men contributed from S\$60 (\$45) to S\$1,360 (\$1,000) to fund attacks in their homeland in the name of Islamic State in Bangladesh. It was Singapore's first case of terrorism financing.

"The amounts were significant relative to the salaries of the accused persons," said the prosecutor, who did not give his name for security reasons.

The sentences would send a "strong message that every and all terrorism financing will be dealt with", he said.

The four were among eight Bangladeshi men detained under the Internal Security Act in April for planning attacks

in their home country. The colonial-era law allows suspects to be held for lengthy periods without trial.

The group's leader, Rahman Mizanur, 31, a draftsman earning S\$1,800 (\$1,300) a month, was jailed for five years.

"I wanted to learn my religion but they show me the wrong way, the wrong activities," Mizanur said in court. "My intentions were wrong ... I'm very remorseful."

Two others were jailed for two and a half years and the fourth for two years. Bangladesh, a deeply religious but mostly moderate Muslim-majority country of 160 million people, has faced a series of militant attacks over the past year, the most serious on 1 July when gunmen stormed a cafe in the capital, Dhaka, and killed 20 people, most of them foreigners.

Wealthy, multi-ethnic Singapore, has not faced any successful militant attacks in decades. There

were no indications the men had planned to carry out attacks in Singapore.

Most Bangladeshis in Singapore are low-skilled and employed in construction and shipping.

Of the other four Bangladeshis detained in April, two who have yet to face trial pleaded not guilty when charged, saying they were unaware where their money was going. The remaining two have yet to be charged and remain in detention. No other details have been given. Singapore authorities said the eight men, aged 26-34, plotted attacks in parks where they shared radical propaganda and videos. Five other Bangladeshis who came to the attention of authorities attention during the investigation were sent home in April and arrested upon their return. Bangladesh police said they were being investigated for connections to the Ansarullah Bangla Team militant group.—*Reuters*

North Korea will treat US detainees under 'wartime law'

SEOUL — North Korea said on Monday it had told the United States it will cut the only channel of communication between them, at the United Nations in New York, after Washington blacklisted leader Kim Jong Un last week for human rights abuses.

All matters related to the United States, including the handling of US citizens detained by Pyongyang, will be conducted under its "wartime law," its official KCNA news agency said.

The move was the latest escalation of tension with the isolated nuclear-armed country, which earlier on Monday threatened a "physical response" after the United States and South Korea said they would deploy the THAAD missile defence system in South Korea.

North Korea said last week it was planning its toughest response to what it deemed a US "declaration of war" after Washington announced sanctions on

Kim Jong Un. A US-based North Korea monitoring project, 38 North, said on Monday that satellite images from 7 July, a day after the sanctions announcement, showed a high level of activity at North Korea's nuclear test site, but it is unclear whether this was for maintenance or preparation for a fifth nuclear test.

"As the United States will not accept our demand for the immediate withdrawal of the sanctions measure, we will be taking corresponding actions in steps," KCNA said on Monday.

"As the first step, we have notified that the New York contact channel that has been the only existing channel of contact will be completely severed," it said. "The Republic will handle all matters arising between us and the United States from now on under our wartime laws, and the matters of Americans detained are no exception to this." —*Reuters*

Opinion

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Willingness to change matters most

KhinMaung Aye

AT least 1.25 million people around the world lose their lives annually in avoidable traffic accidents with more than 50 million people injured. More than 90 per cent of the dead and the injured are found to be from the developing countries. As Myanmar is one among these nations, Myanmar is not spared with 4,420 people losing their lives in 15,406 cases of traffic accidents in 2015 which is 3.45 times the mortality rate when compared to 2005.

Such being the case, a national council to ensure road safety has already been formed to reduce the cases of outbreak of traffic accidents by half in a four-year time. According to the traffic experts, the root

causes of road accidents are: personal fault; mechanical fault; road fault; and bad weather conditions. Amidst these four principal causes, personal fault is chiefly attributed to the outbreak of road accidents. One can, therefore, jump to the conclusion that traffic accidents are mainly caused by the drivers as well as pedestrians who fail to strictly abide by the traffic rules and road discipline.

This is indicating that it is of utmost importance to enforce the traffic rules and road discipline on the part of authorities. In this regard, deterrent punishment is recommended. The longer term imprisonment and heavier fines would help a lot. Nevertheless, meting out pun-

ishment should accompany awareness promotion. Awareness of the danger of reckless driving, drunk driving, not wearing helmets and seat belts, not crossing the roads at zebra crossings and jumping the red light etc should be given for a period.

In this juncture, it is worth recalling that the mindset matters most. Unless the users of the road can drop their old habits of not sticking to the laws, rules and regulations, the accidents will continue to happen. A strong case of law-abiding citizens is Switzerland where people are perfectly obedient to the traffic rules and road discipline; no driver is seen to get through the painted roundabouts with no brick walling in-

stalled; no pedestrian is beheld to jump the red; all cars are witnessed to stop for the pedestrians to cross the road at the zebra crossings (white striped crossings). As Switzerland is a developed, democratic nation, the people of Myanmar ought to follow their footsteps at least in abiding of the traffic rules if they really want to reduce the mortality rate and the number of outbreak of accidents which are avoidable. Let's not forget that what matters is not the road-dividing barriers or brick-walled roundabouts or any barriers placed on the road to prevent the outbreak of the accidents. It is in fact the willingness to abide by the traffic rules and road discipline that can reduce road accidents.

A Right Competition or Let's Be Second Gavesø

Ashin Spriya (Gemini)
(MA, ITBMU)

ALL of us are acting as both leaders and followers in life. Relatively, a leader or a senior person should outdo followers or subordinates in a certain domain in one way or another. Some people might argue over this statement saying, 'Leaders are just those who are in authority, that is, government, especially president of a country'. It is because we see the latter govern the former. It is visibly correct.

However, there is a forgotten point. The father is a leader in a family, for instance, and offspring are juniors. Without his leadership, that family cannot stand. In a school, too, the headmaster is a leader without whose management the school could not be run properly and his students are subordinates. Even in a short trip in a city, a person familiar with the streets leads another person or many to the right destination where they want to go. He is called a leader on that trip. The latter is followers. According to this logic, everyone can be thought as a leader in his area concerned.

Simply speaking, we tend to forget our identity, i.e. who we are. I mean we have by and large no idea that we are leaders despite our leaderships in our domains of skillfulness, interest. Villagers think village-head is a leader while junior teachers and students see the headmaster is. City-dwellers consider the mayor a leader and citizens so regard the president of their nation. But we do not remember that we ourselves are

leaders.

The absence of forgetting ourselves as leaders has an unnoticeable impact on our society. With this loss of self-identification, we do not make an appropriate exertion that a leader has to in his work while being a senior or head of followers. We do not then learn thoroughly, nor keep our morality well, nor train ourselves hard and nor behave well in front of our subordinates. That is, as a result, nothing but a pernicious cause for the quick decline of our society. By seeing the leaders in respective places so unqualified, the followers' esteem and respect for the leaders would decrease inch by inch, which will impinge on the leaders themselves and our society so hugely that we would not be able to imagine its ill effects.

So now is the time for the leaders or seniors (such as presidents, mayors, headmasters, village heads or fathers), in order to make a good competition with juniors or followers (like citizens, city dwellers, junior teachers and students, villagers or sons and daughters). The competition is nothing to do with physical appearance or physical strength but mental strength. Bearing in mind this sense of competition, the leaders should learn harder to be more skillful in a subject or art, work, etc., than the followers. The leaders should try to avoid committing improper acts, with the thought that the followers would lose their respect for them. And the leaders should let them see their acts or examples of good mentality: tolerance, nobility, generosity, kindness, honesty and

the like which are powerful weapons of attractions for the followers to be of high regard for the former. They need to show the more hardworking effort to the latter. By the time when juniors follow the same good way the leaders go, the better way the leaders should seek. It is here between seniors and juniors or between leaders and followers a competition, a badly required competition that is believed to enhance our human society in its entirety.

Here is an inspiring story as to such a good competition that is found out in the Buddhist literature. It was at the time of the Kassapa Buddha, a former Enlightened One, prior to the Gotama Buddha. There was a devotee of Him, by name Gavesø. He was the leader and benefactor of about five hundreds devotees. Nevertheless, the leader devotee was not in strict pursue of the Buddha's teachings and did not observe morality well. So were and did his followers.

One day he thought. He was a benefactor, leader and spiritual guide of about five hundreds of devotees. Though, he did not observe precepts perfectly, nor did they keep precepts either. He was all the same with them in the absence of practicing morality. There was nothing that he surpassed them. It was time for him to be better.

With his firm decision, he immediately related his followers of five hundreds to bear in their mind that he would be a strict observer of precepts from that day onwards. Out of profound esteem for the devotee Gavesø, they decided to follow the way exactly their

leader would do. Thus they did the same.

Knowing that, the leader had a desire to further practice the Buddha's teachings with the intention of surpassing his subordinates. Therefore, he told them that he would as of that day refrain from sexual intercourse. Also did his people imitate him. Again he informed them of his abstinence of having dinner and instead, of eating once a day. His devotees, too, did not fail to abstain so. Finally, the leader Gavesø had a deeper consideration. It was that his followers had caught up with him in whatever steps he made to be a better leader. For that purpose, he made a brave decision. He approached the Kassapa Buddha for allowing him to become a monk under Him. As a monk, he tried to practice the doctrine with all his might. Shortly afterwards, he was liberated as an arahant.

The news drove the devotees of about five hundreds to step into the leader now arahant Gavesø's shoes. They were ordained as monks under the guidance of the Buddha, ultimately attaining arahantship respectively due to their concerted efforts.

Gavesø, the leader in this story, has a reasonable opinion that 'a leader must be truthfully superior to his juniors'. It is an efficient and far-sighted view that can turn the entire human society into a place of peace and prosperity. It is true with these reasons. Naturally, juniors are imperceptibly influenced by the actions of seniors. Juniors imitate seniors. For instance, children come to behave in the ways or manners their parents or relatives do at the very often

sight of the former's acts. So, much possibly, the son of a father drunkard is likely to become a successor drunkard. It indicates the fact that it is hard for the ordinary to struggle against the environment they are in.

But those who have close contacts with the Gavesø-like seniors will be different. They will be active and curious enough to be who they should be in life. They will want to be second Gavesø. That will be an impetus, a spirit of competition with their seniors or leaders in a right way. This will give rise to the catching up with the attributes of their leaders. U Pe Maung Tin, a late author of 'The Exposition' and rector of the Yangoon University of British colonial period, said, 'A student must be smarter than his teacher.' It is very wise of him to say this noticeable remark of education. If successive students of a teacher decreased in the quality of their field, the people of the world would go down to the hell.

To conclude the article, both seniors and juniors should have the sense of the right competition with each other. The competition made by a senior to be a better person is a norm of persuasion of his juniors. In fact, it means that he respects himself and loves his junior(s) in a true sense. The competition by a junior is an imitation or an heir of his senior as well as an example of persuasion of his future successors. This good competition between seniors and juniors will help the society develop in every sector of a country.

Ref: Gavesø Sutta, Angut-taranikāya, Panca-anguttara Pali

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Sittwe to help flood victims



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greeting Tatmadawmen and their families. PHOTO: MNA

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Sittwe to help flood victims in Rakhine State yesterday.

At the briefing hall of Regional Command in Sittwe, the Senior General heard reports on relief efforts in MraukU, Kyauktaw, Minbya, Ann and Thandwe Townships where torrential rains caused flooding from 5 to 7 July.

Next, the Senior General gave instructions on disaster preparedness plans.

Then, the Senior General went to a station hospital where he cordially greeted Tatmadawmen and family members who have been receiving treatment and presented gifts to them.

Likewise, the Senior General met with officers and other ranks and their families at Bandoola Hall of Sittwe Station.

Then, the Commander-in-Chief held talks with Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and officials on relief and rehabilitation works for flood victims, citizenship verification process, immigration matters, border fence and matters related to accommodation and employment for return of local people working in other parts.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar looks to develop scout registration system



The scouts posing for a group photo after the meeting. PHOTO: KO LATT (MNA)

THE Myanmar Scout Federation and the Asia-Pacific Region Scout Federation jointly organised a meeting to develop a registration system in Yangon on Monday.

Yangon Region Hluttaw

Speaker U Tin Maung Tun, APR Regional Director Mr. Jr C Pangilinan and Chief Commissioner of Myanmar Scouts Dr Tin Nyo spoke on the occasion.

Altogether 35 scout trainees

from the Basic Education Department and Higher Education Department also attended the meeting which is set to last for five days until Thursday.— *Ko Latt (MNA)*

250,000 young fish to be added into over 500 acres of paddy field

MANDALAY Regional Fisheries Department official, U Hla Win said that 275,000 of young fish is to be released into 550 acres of paddy in Mandalay Region to create a fix farmed environment.

Sturgeon, Barbus and Tilapia will be distributed to put

into the paddy field. The farmers who wish to breed the fish at their farmlands can receive the fish free of charge and they will be distributed over 500 per acre for the farmers. This is also to encourage farmers to stop illegal fishing.

Mixed farming of fish and

paddy is rarely seen in arid regions because of the farming method. Only five per cent of mixed farming is seen in Mandalay Region. JICA will assist in increasing the number of farmers who are engaged in mixed farming of fish and paddy.—200

People's Forum

Dear Editor,

NOWADAYS in Myanmar, most writers write articles about democratization and rights of peoples' participation in democratic nation building task. Some share their theoretical knowledge of democracy to the readers in English or in Myanmar. Hopefully, to some degree, the general public are familiar with the practices of democracy and are able to practice the ethics of democracy under the rule of law. Some citizens and public officials are inherited with evil legacy of successive dictators in Myanmar i.e. corruption and moral degradation. I am sure that evil legacy is detrimental to the next generation because the next generation might wrongly perceive the practice of corruption and moral degradation as a part of culture in Myanmar. My simple perspective is that those who have obsession with evil legacy cannot be discarded easily. Gradually, they will realize that they possess the disgusting inheritance. Then they might discard such immoral and unjust practices. For the time being, they pretend as if they are the proponents for building a democratic state. If they still embrace the evil legacy, there will be destructive and disruptive consequences on the road to the goal of democracy. That is why the citizens, politicians, public officials, cabinet members, law enforcement personnel and military services personnel have to build the democratic society with unity, authentic aspiration for democracy and harmony. The mindsets prioritized in extreme ego must be changed to the mindsets which based on moderate ego so that there would not be any conflict or impediment in democratization. If we really want our country to be a developed and peaceful nation, we must get rid of wrong attitude or negative mindsets inherited from the successive dictatorial regimes. Every sensible persons stress that immoral behaviors and negative mindsets should not be prevalent among the public officials and some citizens concerned. The democratically appointed government and the entire countrymen must have mutual trust and love in order to build the national tasks. Since I am a Myanmar citizen, I love my country and I want my country to be prosperous with genuine peace. In this 21st century, the globalization creates goodwill bridge among nations. It is time for all nations to strengthen the goodwill terms among them for peace and trade constantly. Likewise, we ought to solidify peace and unify the national races in our country. From now onwards, I honestly urge all stakeholders, politicians and activists to stop doing blame game on previous acts of the regimes.

It is absolutely waste of time. Today is sweet and bright tomorrow is in our hands.

Truly
Hein Htet

Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s shield Chess Tournament 2016 launches in Taungoo

THE opening ceremony of the Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s shield Chess Tournament 2016 was held at Taungoo Air Force Base Headquarters on Monday.

On the behalf of the Commander-in-Chief (Air), Air Base

Commander Col. Myint Thaug, officers and other ranks of Taungoo Air Force Base, Tatmadaw members from Taungoo station and sport enthusiasts attended the opening ceremony.—*Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*



Commander-in-Chief (Air)'s shield Chess Tournament being observed by air fire officers. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

May wins battle to be British PM but faces tussle over Brexit

LONDON — Theresa May has won the battle to be Britain's prime minister but will face a much tougher struggle once in power — overseeing her country's divorce from the European Union.

May backed the "Remain" camp during the campaign for Britain's referendum on EU membership on 23 June but has made clear since then that it must now go ahead, saying: "Brexit means Brexit." But she has also said Britain should not trigger the exit proceedings until London is ready to start negotiations.

Invoking Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty would begin those talks but lawyers and politicians differ over who has the authority to trigger the clause and whether it is irreversible.

"There should be no decision to invoke Article 50 until the British negotiating strategy is agreed and clear — which means Article 50 should not be invoked before the end of this year," May,

59, said late last month when she launched her campaign to succeed Prime Minister David Cameron.

That potentially puts May on a collision course with German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is often portrayed as the EU's most influential politician as leader of its strongest economy. Merkel said on Monday talks with Britain would "not be easy" and has said she expects London to begin the formal process of leaving as soon as it picks a new prime minister. May, whose only remaining rival quit the race to replace Cameron on Monday, will be Britain's first woman prime minister since Margaret Thatcher, who governed from 1979 until 1990.

Cameron, who called the vote to appease anti-EU lawmakers in his own party but campaigned for continued membership, said he plans to tender his resignation to Queen Elizabeth on Wednesday. May will take office the same day.

Article 50 envisages a period

of up to two years to negotiate an amicable separation. Triggering it quickly might weaken London's hand in negotiations on the terms of its break with the EU but any delay could add to uncertainty for investors wondering how the future relationship with the EU will look. Supporters say she has steely determination, pays attention to detail and focuses on getting on with the job at hand. She has also been described by a Conservative Party grandee, Ken Clarke, as a "bloody difficult woman".

May has made clear she will respect the will of the British people, expressed in the referendum last month. "There will be no attempts to remain inside the EU, no attempts to rejoin it by the back door, and no second referendum. The country voted to leave the European Union and as Prime Minister I will make sure that we leave the European Union," she said during a speech on Monday. —Reuters



Britain's Home Secretary Theresa May leaves 10 Downing Street in London, Britain on 19 April 2016.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Half Europeans fear, resent refugees — survey

WASHINGTON — About half of Europeans fear the arrival of refugees raises the risk of attacks in their countries, a survey published on Monday found, and many, especially in the east, see them as a burden on their economy.

Washington-based Pew Research Centre found the share of people believing that "refugees will increase the likelihood of terrorism in our country" was, among others, 46 per cent in France, 52 per cent in Britain, 61 per cent in Germany, 71 per cent in Poland and 76 per cent in Hungary.

The Hungarian and Polish governments have led criticism of European Union efforts over the past year to distribute asylum

seekers around the bloc, mostly from Syria and Iraq.

Chancellor Angela Merkel, who oversaw a welcome in Germany for about a million refugees last year, said on Monday that Islamist militants had used the wave of arrivals to infiltrate Europe. Some of those involved in Islamic States attacks in Paris and Brussels are believed to have come from Syria.

Asked whether refugees were a burden because they took jobs and benefits, respondents in the 10 states surveyed gave diverse answers, from 31 per cent of Germans who agreed to 82 per cent of Hungarians. In Italy, 47 per cent thought refugees more to blame

for crime than other groups, a little more than in Sweden and Hungary. Only 13 per cent of Spaniards thought that, however.

Asked for their view of Muslims, Some two thirds of Poles, Greeks, Italians and Hungarians were "unfavourable", a view shared by fewer than a third of French, Germans and Britons.

The Pew data tracked changes over time in some countries.

In Germany in 2005, only 9 per cent of people thought Muslim immigrants wanted to adopt local customs, whereas now 32 per cent hold that view. In France, that opinion is shared by 43 per cent of people, up from 36 per cent in 2005. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Two bailiffs, suspect dead in Michigan courthouse shooting

DETROIT — Two bailiffs were shot dead during a scuffle with a prisoner turned gunman inside a southwest Michigan courthouse on Monday that also wounded two people before police officers killed the shooter, a county sheriff said.

Larry Darnell Gordon, 44, fatally shot bailiffs identified as Joseph Zangaro, a retired Michigan state police lieutenant, and Ron Kienzle, a retired Benton Township police sergeant, the *Detroit Free Press* newspaper reported.

The shootings of the bailiffs and the deputy came four days after four Dallas police officers and a Dallas transit police officer were killed by a sniper who claimed to be motivated by the use of lethal force by police against African-Americans.

Berrien County Sheriff Paul Bailey told a news conference that the shooting took place at about 2:25 pm local time on the third floor of the St. Joseph, Michigan, courthouse. —Reuters

Merkel urges Britain to quickly clarify relationship with European Union

BERLIN — German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Monday access to the European Union's single market meant accepting the bloc's basic freedoms and rejected suggestions from London that Britain could retain full EU market access while curbing immigration.

Speaking at the annual diplomatic corps reception in Meseberg, north of Berlin, Merkel said Britain should clarify quickly how it wants to shape its future relationship with the EU, adding she wanted London to remain an important partner.

"But of course the EU and the remaining 27 member states also have to protect their interests," Merkel said.

"For example, whoever would like to have free access to the European internal market will also have to accept all basic freedoms in return, including the free movement of people."

Some British politicians have suggested Britain could have full EU market access, including for its vital financial sector, while limiting the number of EU nationals who enter the country. —Reuters

Kerry to visit Moscow this week to discuss Syria, Ukraine — State Department

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State John Kerry will visit Moscow this week to discuss Syria, Ukraine, Nagorno-Karabakh and other issues with Russian officials, State Department spokesman John Kirby said on Monday.

Kerry will travel to Moscow on Thursday after taking part in Bastille Day celebrations in France, Kirby said. After Russia Kerry will visit Luxembourg for bilateral talks, Brussels where he will meet with EU foreign ministers, and London where he will take part in multilateral meetings on Syria and Yemen, the spokesman said. —Reuters

Three die in Hercules C130 military cargo plane accident in Portugal

LISBON — Three people died in an accident involving a Hercules C130 military cargo plane at Portugal's Montijo military airport, local media and the national civil protection agency said on Monday.

State news agency Lusa said three people were killed in the accident and another person had been injured. SIC television reported the accident happened as the plane burst into flames at take-off.

No one at the defence ministry was immediately available to comment. —Reuters

Bangladesh takes extra security measures in all domestic, int'l airports

DHAKA — The Bangladeshi government as part of its efforts to thwart any untoward terrorist incident has taken extra security measures in all domestic and international airports including main Hazrat Shahjalal International Airport in capital Dhaka.

Bangladeshi Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon told journalists on Tuesday that the extra security measures have been taken in the wake of the two recent terrorist attacks — one in Dhaka's diplomatic enclave Gulshan and the other near the country's largest Eid congregation venue.

He said general passengers may have to face some inconvenience due to extra security measures.

"We hope they (passengers) will understand the situation and accept this for the greater interest of the country." —Xinhua

South African twins planned attacks on US Embassy, Jewish buildings

JOHANNESBURG — South African twins arrested over the weekend were planning attacks on the US Embassy in the capital, Pretoria, as well as on buildings owned by Jewish people, police said on Monday.

Four South Africans, including the twins, Brandon-Lee and Tony-Lee Thulsie, faced charges in court ranging from conspiracy to firearms offences, the spokesman for the elite police unit Hawks, Brigadier Hangwani Mulaudzi, said.

The four, arrested in Johannesburg on Sunday, will be detained in custody until 19 July, when their case will be heard, Mulaudzi said.

Quoting the charge sheet, the News24 news organisation said the twins had been attempting to fly to Syria. Security officials say there are no known militant groups operating in South Africa, but Britain and the United States warned in June of a high threat of attacks against foreigners in the country's shopping malls.

Mulaudzi named the other two siblings as Fatima and Ibrahim Mohammed Patel. "The indictment does talk to issues of terror plots that they were planning against the US

Embassy as well as Jewish Buildings in the country," he said, referring to the twins.—Reuters



Civil defence members work at a site hit by a barrel bomb in the rebel held area of Old Aleppo, Syria, on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

UN calls for aid access, civilian evacuations in Syria's Aleppo

GENEVA — The United Nations said on Tuesday it was deeply concerned about increased fighting in and around the Syrian city of

Aleppo and called for humanitarian aid access and the safe and rapid evacuation of civilians. UN spokeswoman Alessandra Vellucci

told a regular UN briefing in Geneva that intensified hostilities between government forces and armed groups had cut 300,000 people in

eastern Aleppo off from humanitarian supplies and commercial goods, and prices in the city were already rising.—Reuters

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YOSSA BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YOSSA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

After nuclear deal, Iran sticks to wary tactics in key Gulf waterway

ABOARD THE USS NEW ORLEANS — Iran's elite Revolutionary Guard Corps on Monday dispatched five military vessels to monitor a US warship hosting one of America's top generals on a day trip through the Strait of Hormuz, coming as close as 500 yards (meters).

For Army General Joseph Votel, who oversees all American military forces in the Middle East, the approaches were a safe though worrying reminder of how little time American forces have to decide whether IRGC ships might pose a threat.

The five Iranian vessels consisted of four speedboats, three with mounted machine guns, as well as a guided missile patrol ship.

"As you've seen in a relatively compressed space here, there is great opportunity for miscalculations," Votel, head of the US military's Central Command, told reporters on the bridge of the USS New Orleans, an amphib-

ious dock ship with about 650 Marines aboard.

It was also the latest sign that the IRGC appears to be sticking to a familiar posture in the Gulf that predates last year's nuclear accord between Iran and six world powers including the United States.

One of the four speedboats that approached the New Orleans and its escort, a Navy guided missile destroyer, the USS Stout, cut its engines and watched as the US warships passed. An hour before, a larger Iranian guided-missile patrol craft came by.

US officials stressed that such approaches fell within the category of professional interactions, the kind they see during 90 per cent of the US Navy's roughly 250 transits through the Strait of Hormuz each year. But the Navy says some 10 per cent are classified as unsafe, abnormal or unprofessional.

"We don't always have a lot of time to deal



General Joseph Votel, the head of the US military's Central Command, speaks aboard the USS New Orleans, an amphibious dock ship, as it travels through the Strait of Hormuz, on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

with those interactions. I think what we've probably learned here today is that it's measured in minutes," Votel said.

For its part, Iran sees the Gulf as its backyard and believes it has a legitimate interest in expanding its influence there. It has long argued that the region should organize its own security collectively, without outside powers. Accordingly Iran uses its sea power in the Gulf to show it will not be cowed by Washington's naval presence, analysts say.

But in 2008 and 2010, in moves that prompted critics to accuse Iran of destabilizing the region, the Islamic

Republic threatened to disrupt oil shipping in the Gulf by shutting the Strait of Hormuz if there were any attack on its nuclear sites.

The US military's concerns about Iran's behavior in places like the Strait, one of the world's most important oil shipping channels, have persisted despite the accord under which Tehran curbed its disputed atomic programme in exchange for relief from economic sanctions.

"That (the nuclear deal) certainly has addressed one very important threat ... but their other activity out here has not changed," Votel said.—Reuters

South Sudan leaders order ceasefire as civil war fears grow

JUBA — South Sudan's president and vice president ordered their loyalists to cease hostilities on Monday after days of fighting threatened to plunge the country back into civil war and bring further instability to an impoverished region of Africa.

Fighting erupted four days ago in the capital Juba between followers of President Salva Kiir and Riek Machar, the former rebel leader who became vice president under a deal to end a two-year civil war.

The violence, which has killed hundreds of people, broke out as the world's newest nation prepared to mark five years of independence from Sudan on 9 July.

Presidential spokesman Ateny Wek Ateny said Kiir and Machar had spoken by phone on Monday, a day which saw tanks and helicopters involved in some of the fiercest clashes yet.

"All the commanders of (Kiir's) forces are directed to cease any hostility and abide by the order and control their forces," Ateny told Reuters. "President Salva Kiir is determined to carry on his partnership with Riek



South Sudanese policemen and soldiers stand guard along a street following renewed fighting in South Sudan's capital Juba, on 10 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Machar."

Machar responded by ordering his troops to stand down.

"The president has declared a unilateral ceasefire, I want to reciprocate

the declaration of unilateral ceasefire," he told the independent Eye Radio.

Much is unclear, however, about the latest violence in Juba, including what the objective of either

side has been and how much control Kiir and Machar have over their forces.

The US State Department said it was carrying out an "ordered departure" of its staff from South Sudan.

The fighting has raised fears of a return to the civil war that erupted in late 2013 and broadly ran along ethnic lines, pitting Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, against Machar, a Nuer.

The conflict killed thousands of people, forced more than 2.5 million people from their homes and left almost half the population of 11 million people struggling to find food. Oil production, by far the biggest source of government revenue, has plummeted.

A new flare-up risks driving yet more people to refugee camps in neighbouring countries in the central African region, which is already plagued by myriad woes.

Central African Republic is riven by conflict, the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo is contending with a patchwork of militias and rebels groups, and Burundi is embroiled in a violent political crisis.

The UN Security Council on Sunday demanded Kiir and Machar rein in their forces and end the fighting. The UN mission in South Sudan, UNMISS, expressed its "outrage" after its bases in Juba were caught in the crossfire between the two sides and two Chinese peacekeepers were killed. —Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULTHARA VOY NO (06/16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULTHARA VOY NO (06/16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-1 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 KULNATEE CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV OCEAN CARRIER VOY NO (CH0353)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV OCEAN CARRIER VOY NO (CH0353) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 13.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T.-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 CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301928

Twenty killed, dozens injured as trains collide in Italy

BARI, (Italy) — Twenty people died and dozens were injured when two passenger trains collided head-on in southern Italy on Tuesday, a regional official told reporters.

The force of the impact crumpled carriages and sent debris flying into an olive grove that flanked the single stretch of track in countryside between the towns of Corato and Andria.

"Unfortunately the death toll has risen to 20," said Giuseppe Corrado, the deputy head of the local province. He appealed for blood donors to go to local hospitals.

Firemen worked in fierce summer heat after the crash, which happened at around 11.30 am (1030 BST), picking through the wreckage and shattered carriages in search of other victims.

"The rescue is complicated because this happened in the middle of the countryside," said Luca Cari, a fire service spokesman, the sound of crickets ringing out as rescue teams started to extract bodies from the site.



Firefighters work at the site where two passenger trains collided in the middle of an olive grove in the southern village of Corato, near Bari, Italy, on 12 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

There was no immediate indication of what had caused the two trains to be travelling towards each other on the same line and the Transport Ministry said it was dispatching two investigators to the region of Puglia to look into the disaster.

"We won't stop until we get a clear explanation over what happened," Prime Minister Matteo Renzi told reporters, cutting short a visit to Milan

in northern Italy to return to Rome. He was due to travel to Puglia later in the day.

The trains each had four carriages. A photograph released by the fire brigade showed that three carriages had disintegrated under the impact, suggesting at least one of the trains had been travelling at high speed.

"It looks like there has been a plane crash," said the mayor of Corato, Massimo Mazzilli.

The stretch of track is operated by regional rail company Ferrovie del Gargano. It was not clear how many people had been on the trains at the time of the collision.

The last major rail disaster in Italy was in 2009 when a freight train derailed in Viareggio, in the centre of the country, and more than 30 people living close to the tracks died in the subsequent fire. —Reuters

Citibank to close Venezuela government accounts: Maduro

CARACAS — Venezuela’s President Nicolas Maduro said on Monday that Citibank NA C.U.L, planned to shut his government’s foreign currency accounts within a month, denouncing the move by one of its main foreign financial intermediaries as part of a “blockade.”

“With no warning, Citibank says that in 30 days it will close the Central Bank and the Bank of Venezuela’s accounts,” Maduro said in a speech, adding that the government used the US bank for transactions in the United States and globally.

“Do you think they’re going to stop us with a financial blockade? No, gentlemen. Noone stops Venezuela.”

Citibank, a unit of Citigroup Inc (C.N), could not immediately be reached for comment about the purported measure against Venezuela’s monetary authority and the Bank of Venezuela which is the biggest state retail bank.

With the OPEC nation’s economy immersed in crisis, various foreign companies have been pulling out or reducing operations.—*Reuters*

Eiffel Tower shut, France fetes end to Euros security test



Portugal fans react near the Eiffel Tower after their team won in the Portugal v France EURO 2016 final soccer match in Paris, France, on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — The Eiffel Tower was closed for safety reasons on Monday as workers cleared up the “fan zone” at its base amid official relief that the competition had ended without any serious security incidents.

“The current situation does not permit us to open under adequate safety conditions,” said a spokesman for the company that operates the tower, one of the world’s most popular tourist attractions, and under which tens of thousands watched the final on giant screens on Sunday night.

French police arrested 40 people overnight after the Eiffel Tower fan zone reached its 90,000-capacity, leaving some frustrated at being unable to watch a match that France ultimately lost 0-1 to Portugal.

Police used tear gas and water cannon to disperse the crowd, and firefighters were called in to deal with a car and a scooter set ablaze during the trouble.

Nevertheless, Interior Minister Barnard Cazeneuve told a news conference the month-long tournament, involving dozens of matches and millions of fans, had gone off smoothly despite some fan violence, notably battles between Russian and British fans in the port city of Marseille early on in the tournament.

France has been under emergency rule since Islamist militants killed 130 people last November in multiple attacks on Paris and outside the Stade de France stadium where the final match was played on Sunday night.

Fears of an Islamist militant attack on the competition prompted heightened security measures, but officials had resisted calls to ban the fan zones in Paris and elsewhere.

“France was able to remain France,” said Cazeneuve, adding that the country nevertheless remained on maximum security alert. The security focus would now turn away from soccer to a Tour de France cycling race and the summer season of open-air festivals across the country of 65 million people, he said.—*Reuters*

Sample of waste from steel company in central Viet Nam taken for analysis

HANOI — Sample of waste that Formosa Ha Tinh Steel Corporation (FHS) discharged into natural environment has been taken for analysis, said an official from Viet Nam’s central Ha Tinh Province on Tuesday.

On Monday afternoon, Ha Tinh police and relevant agencies detected nearly 100 blocks of black waste with bad smell being buried in Ha Tinh’s Ky Anh town.

The waste has been transported from FHS to be discharged in Ky Anh, reported Viet Nam’s state-run news agency VNA.

Vo Ta Dinh, director of Natural Resources and Environment Department (NRED) in Ha Tinh Province, where the FHS is located, some 350 km south of Viet Nam’s capital Hanoi, said on Tuesday that his department made a record on the fact that the FHS discharged waste into natural environment as well as took samples of the waste for analysis.

These samples will be tested to find out whether they are hazardous waste. Once the results of the tests are available, individuals and organisations with violations will face strict punishment, said Dinh.

According to the Ha Tinh NRED, the FHS and Ky Anh urban environment company signed a one-year contract on waste discharge, which takes into effect from 15 April, 2016.—*Xinhua*

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

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

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

The consulting services (the “Services”) include:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Atten:

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

Beyonce got 1K pound worth meaty treats delivered to concert

LONDON — Singing diva Beyonce got 1,000 pounds worth of meat delivered to her entourage before her concert in Manchester.

The 34-year-old singer made the order with local butchers WH Frost and it consisted of 200 gammon steaks, 200 chicken thighs, 140 chicken supremes and 100 boneless chicken fillets, reported Contactmusic.

“The butcher’s shop was in a bit of a panic, as the order came in last minute, but they were told it had come personally from Beyonce and had to be met before she took to the stage on Tuesday,” sources said.

And fans who had purchased VIP tickets for the Formation World Tour costing around 200 pounds were given the added bonus of six whole fillet steaks.

That’s not all the R&B superstar’s tour rider also demanded 12 ice-cream vans to sit backstage at the Emirates Old Trafford ground.

“Working for Beyonce is gruelling labour but she makes sure her team are well fed,” sources added.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS



Singer Taylor Swift arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party in Beverly Hills, California on 28 February, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Taylor Swift tops Forbes highest paid celebrity list

LONDON — Singer Taylor Swift has topped this year’s Forbes list of the world’s 100 highest paid celebrities, earning \$170 million mainly thanks to her hugely successful “1989” world tour.

The “Shake It Off” singer, 26, came ahead of boy band One Direction, currently on a break, who took second place with \$110 million.

“The pop superstar smashed the Rolling Stones’ North Ameri-

can touring record, grossing \$200 million on the continent en route to a quarter-billion dollars in total for her 1989 World Tour,” Forbes said in a statement.

With earnings of \$95 million, American author James Patterson came in third. US television personality Dr Phil McGraw and Real Madrid soccer star Cristiano Ronaldo were tied fourth with earnings of \$88 million, the magazine said.

The other top 10 spots were held by American comedian Kevin Hart, British singer Adele and Barcelona footballer Lionel Messi alongside US radio hosts Howard Stern and Rush Limbaugh.

“The world’s 100 highest-paid celebrities pulled in \$5.1 billion pretax over the past 12 months, more than the GDP of Belize, Gambia and Bhutan combined,” Forbes said.—Reuters

Matt Damon returns as former CIA assassin in latest ‘Bourne’ film

LONDON — Actor Matt Damon returns as a troubled former CIA assassin in the latest edition of the hit “Bourne” movie series this month, reprising a role he says was physically tough to get ready for over a decade and a half since he first took it on.

“Jason Bourne” — the fifth installment of the franchise — hits movie theatres on 27 July, starring Damon as a conflicted, restless hero who resurfaces at the Greek-Macedonian border a decade after going off the grid.

At the movie’s European premiere in London, Damon said it was a “lot of fun” to be back in Bourne’s shoes as he returned to work with familiar faces. But physically — preparing for a movie that features intense fight scenes and a major car chase — was challenging, the actor said.

“It was hard to get ready for it, much harder than when I was 29 — I’m 45 now, so it’s whole different animal,” Damon, who sat out the fourth movie in the series, told Reuters on the red car-

pet. “But you know, that’s a good problem to have.”

Asked who would win a tussle between Bourne and another legendary cinematic spy, James Bond, Damon was non-committal. But he had little doubt about who he would back as the next actor to play the MI6 spy: British actor Idris Elba.

“I like Idris - yeah, I think he’s brilliant,” said Damon. “I’ll watch him in anything and he makes everything he’s in better. He would make that franchise better.”

In the latest Bourne edition - based on the novels by Robert Ludlum - co-star Julia Stiles returns as fellow operative “Nicky Parsons” while Alicia Vikander, a longtime “Bourne” fan herself, debuts as a prodigy hacker in the CIA director’s team.

“The Bourne franchise was one of my absolute favourites - I’m a big fan,” Vikander, dressed in a silver sequined dress, gushed on the red carpet. “It was a real pinch-me moment when I actually saw myself, saw the film for the first time a week ago and I was like ‘Oh my God, I actually got to be in one of them!’”—Reuters



Actor Matt Damon and actress Alicia Vikander pose for photographs during the red carpet event promoting their new film “Jason Bourne” in Seoul, South Korea on 8 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



PHOTO: PTI

Kristen Stewart would like to see a female James Bond

LOS ANGELES — Actress Kristen Stewart has pitched for a female James Bond and said a male actor playing the much sought-after spy would be “stale” now.

While promoting her new film “Equals” with co-star Nicholas Hoult, the subject turned to James Bond, and Stewart voiced her interest in seeing a woman portray the iconic British superspy, reported E! Online.

When asked Hoult what he thought about his name being included as a potential successor to Daniel Craig’s 007, the 26-year-old actor said, “I think I’m a bit

too young, to be honest,” noting that Bond is usually in his “30s or 40s.”

“Yeah, but that’s getting a little stale,” Stewart interjected.

The pair then dismissed critics of casting a black or female actor as Bond. Stewart, 26, even imagined how a female version of the character could be introduced.

“You start off as the Bond girl and then you think it’s just the girlfriend and then you’re like, ‘She’s actually [Bond],’” she said. “In the trailer, it’s him and then [a] bait and switch.”—PTI

Martin Luther King Jr.'s Bible belongs to estate, judge says

ATLANTA — The Bible that Martin Luther King Jr. carried during the civil rights movement in the 1960s belongs to his estate which voted in 2014 to sell the heirloom against the wishes of his daughter, said a court ruling that could now lead to its sale.

A trial was still scheduled to begin on 15 August to settle the question of who owns the slain civil rights leader's 1964 Nobel Peace Prize medal, which the estate also voted to sell, according to court records.

The estate is controlled by King's three surviving children, Bernice and her two brothers, Dexter and Martin Luther King III.

There have been years of legal disputes among King's heirs. King was assassinated in 1968 by a white supremacist in Memphis, Tennessee. The United States marked the 30th anniversary of the US holiday commemorating King in January with speeches, tributes, concerts and parades.

The battle over his possessions plays out as protesters and activists hold marches and rallies across the United States in response to a series of high-profile killings of black men by police, at times invoking King's message of peaceful resistance that was the hallmark of his efforts in the 1960s.

In 2014, the estate sued Bernice

after she refused to turn over the Bible and medal to the estate after her brothers voted 2-1 to sell both items.

Bernice voted against selling the medal and holy book, calling them "sacred" to her family.

The Bible was used by President Barack Obama during his second inauguration.

Fulton County Superior Court judge Robert McBurney ruled on 30 June that the Bible belongs to the estate but did not rule on the medal, court records show. The ruling was reported in local media on Monday.

On the question of who owns the bible, "there is no genuine issue of material fact," McBurney wrote. However, ownership of the Nobel medal "must be resolved by a fact-finder at trial," the judge wrote.

The case has been in mediation, with former President Jimmy Carter participating, but "such a settlement has, so far, eluded the parties," McBurney said in his ruling.

Attorneys for the parties in the lawsuit could not be reached for comment on Monday.

In early 2014, McBurney ordered Bernice King to turn over the Bible and medal so that they could be preserved in a safe deposit box pending the outcome of the lawsuit.—Reuters



Runners lead Jandilla bulls during the fifth running of the bulls at the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, northern Spain, on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Minor injuries, no gorings at San Fermin's fifth bull-run this year

PAMPLONA — The fifth run of Pamplona's week-long bull-running festival on Monday saw only a handful of injuries and no gorings during a quick, 3-minute and four-second dash through the northern Spanish city.

The nine-day San Fermin summer festival, during which half-tonne, specially-bred bulls chase runners in red scarves through Pamplona's narrow, cobble streets, is the most famous of many across Spain and attracts

thousands of revellers.

Five runners were taken to hospitals for general injuries after the near one-kilometre chase on Monday in which bulls from the Jandilla ranch took part, the Red Cross said.—Reuters

Russian adventurer sets off to break hot air balloon record

SYDNEY — A bid to break the world record for solo circumnavigation of the globe in a hot air balloon saw a Russian adventurer depart from Western Australia on Tuesday.

Fedor Konyukhov set off from Avon Valley about 100 kilometers north of Perth at 7:45 am local time.

The record of 13 days is held by the late American adventurer Steve Fossett, who undertook his journey from the same launch

area in Avon Valley in 2002.

Konyukhov, 65, was scheduled to begin his journey in June, however issues with cargo and bad weather delayed the bid to break the world record until now.

For the duration of his 33,000 km journey, Konyukhov will be confined to the tiny gondola of his 52-metre-tall balloon while traveling at speeds of up to 300 km an hour.

The flight will take Konyukhov across Australia, the Tas-

man Sea, New Zealand, the Pacific Ocean, South America (Chile, Argentina), the Atlantic Ocean, South Africa, and Indian Ocean before he lands back in Australia.

Konyukhov, a Russian Orthodox priest, has previously rowed single-handedly across the Pacific Ocean, trekked to both poles, and climbed Mt. Everest. He counts among his heroes the legendary Japanese adventurer Naomi Uemura.—Kyodo News



Sightseers hold their umbrellas against the rain as they tour the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial in Washington in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Entertainment Channel

(13-7-2016, Wednesday)

06 : 00 pm • Weather Report • Pyi Thu Ni Ti 06 : 20 pm • Cartoon Programme "Big Hero (6) " (Part-2) 07 : 10 pm • International Drama Series 08 : 50 pm • MRTV Entertainment Music	09 : 00 pm • Adventurous Young Photographer 09 : 30 pm • International Movie Songs 09 : 40 pm • Waso on the Buddhist Lent 09 : 50 pm • Music Programme 10 : 00 pm • Myanmar Video
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From 13-7-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm
To 14-7-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm

Myanmar International

(13-7-2016 07:00am ~ 14-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh		
07:03 Am News 07:26 Am Unique Pattern of Myanmar...A Trend Of Chin Traditional Dress 07:57 Am Myanmar Street Foods 08:03 Am News 08:26 Am Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant 08:39 Am Pet Fish Biz 08:52 Am Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin" 09:03 Am News 09:26 Am Myanmar Leading Woman: May Sabai Phyu @ L. Hkawn Htoi 09:39 Am International Dances in Myanmar 10:03 Am News	10:26 Am The Richly Blessed Gem Land 10:53 Am Waso or the Buddhist Lent	(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm)-Tuesday Repeat(07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) Prime Time 07:03 Pm News 07:26 Pm Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-1) 08:03 Pm News 08:26 Pm Innovative Handiworks Based On The Art Of Line Drawing 08:46 Pm Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe (09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Barcelona confident Messi will stay, urge fans to support him

MADRID — Lionel Messi is not interested in leaving Barcelona in the wake of his sentencing for tax fraud, according to club spokesman Josep Vives.

A Barcelona court last week handed Messi and his father 21-month prison sentences and fined the former 2.0 million euros (1.70 million pounds) and the latter 1.5 million euros (1.28 million pounds) for tax fraud.

They are unlikely to go to prison because under Spanish law, a first-time offender who receives a sentence of less than two years for a non-violent crime does not serve jail time.

Both have already appealed to the supreme court.

Media reports in England recently claimed Messi's father and agent Jorge had met with Chelsea owner Roman Abramovich aboard his yacht, raising concerns over whether the star would remain with Barca.

"We have maintained contact with his entourage and we are not aware Leo wants to leave the club, we simply don't get



Barcelona's Argentine soccer player Lionel Messi sits in court with his father Jorge Horacio Messi during their trial for tax fraud in Barcelona, Spain, on 2 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

that feeling," Vives told reporters in Spain on Monday.

"We are not worried about this, nothing has reached us to suggest this is the case."

Vives, meanwhile, asked the fans to "express sympathy" for the Argentine by joining via social media a campaign launched by the club called "We

are all Leo Messi."

"It is a simple campaign, but we hope that it will show how much we support him," Vives then told the club's offi-

cial website.

"We are talking about Messi, a player who was 19 when he signed all those contracts and it has been proven that he had no knowledge of all their details. He just focused on football and signed the contracts he was told to sign by his advisers."

"Messi is being treated unfairly and the club are putting themselves in a position to defend him. We have a clear conscience and will not back down. We are inviting supporters to join our campaign."

Vives believes the state prosecutor attempted to discredit Messi.

"The club cannot tolerate this," he said. "There are other well known personalities who have not been subject to this type of situation as Messi has been."

"This shows lack of respect and we don't want that for any fan, for any member and neither for Messi. That is why we are putting this campaign of support together."—Reuters

Murray targets top ranking after Wimbledon triumph

LONDON — World number two Andy Murray has set his sights on overtaking Novak Djokovic at the top of the rankings after capturing his second Wimbledon crown on Sunday.

Murray, who reunited with coach Ivan Lendl last month, has reached the finals of his last five tournaments, winning in Rome and at Queen's Club before beating Milos Raonic in straight sets to end a 36-month hunt for a third grand slam title.

Murray's triumph and Djokovic's third-round loss means 4845 ATP ranking points now separate them.

"I would love to get to number one, for sure, and the way to do that is to show up every week and be focused on that event," Murray told British media.

"It's definitely a goal. It's something I spoke to my team

about, something I chatted to Ivan about."

"This has been a great tournament for me but, if I want to win a few slams over the next few years, I am going to have to get better. I know that he (Djokovic) will come back strong from this because of the player he is."

Djokovic arrived in London as the holder of all four grand slams and the Serb had not been beaten on the big stage since losing to Switzerland's Stan Wawrinka in the 2015 French Open final. "Novak is still clearly number one in the world right now. He is not just going to go away because he has had one bad tournament. You can't forget what he has done in the last 18 months or so — it has been incredible," Murray added.—Reuters



Andy Murray of Britain and Novak Djokovic of Serbia. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ancelotti plans to build on Guardiola's foundations

MUNICH — New Bayern Munich manager Carlo Ancelotti has no plans to rip up the foundations laid by predecessor Pep Guardiola and says he will look to continue the club's tradition of attacking football when the season kicks off in August.

The Italian has large boots to fill as Guardiola, who switched to English Premier League side Manchester City this month, won three straight Bundesliga titles during his tenure at the Allianz Arena.

"I know very well that the style of Bayern Munich is to play attacking football and we want to play attacking football. I love to play attacking football," Ancelotti told reporters on Monday.

"I'm not here to make a revolution because the job that Guardiola did here was fantastic and I would like to follow his

style. I don't think our style is going to change a lot compared to last year. The system will be more or less the same."

Despite the domestic dominance, Guardiola's three-year spell at Bayern was not deemed entirely successful having missed out on the Champions League title.

Ancelotti said it was impossible to predict whether he would do any better.

"Of course everybody wants to win the Champions League, but only one team wins it," added Ancelotti, who is the only manager to have won the Champions League three times.

"I know that Bayern have a fantastic history in the Bundesliga and in the Champions League. The only thing that we cannot control is the result — if I could control that too I would be a ma-



Bayern Munich's new coach Carlo Ancelotti. PHOTO: REUTERS

gician, but I'm only a manager."

Having managed AC Milan, Paris St-Germain, Chelsea, Juventus and Real Madrid, Ancelotti said he had become accustomed to the pressure that comes with taking up a job with clubs targeting Champions League success.—Reuters

West Ham pin 50 million pound price tag on Payet

LONDON — Dimitri Payet is worth not a penny less than 50 million pounds, West Ham United co-chairman David Gold has said, but even that might not be enough to prise the France midfielder away from the London club.

Payet, who joined West Ham from Marseille in June last year, scored 12 goals in all competitions in his debut season in England and was instrumental in helping France reach the Europe-

an Championship final, scoring three times.

His performances for club and country have prompted speculation about a possible move to Chelsea, Manchester City or Paris St Germain, but Gold said West Ham would be reluctant sellers even if someone matched the huge fee.

"We wouldn't even listen to any offer under 50 million pounds and even then we need to keep our best players so we

just don't welcome any offers at all for Dimitri," Gold told the BBC.

"He's instrumental, he's important to us, the team is built round him and he's not for sale. He's settled in London with this family, the fans adore him and we're going to the Olympic Stadium."

"We've done everything we possibly could do. I'm hoping that will be enough (to keep him)."—Reuters