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BUILDING RAKHINE STATE

Rakhine State needs pragmatic action to ensure peace, stability and development

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi called for pragmatic action to bring peace, stability and development to Rakhine State at a work coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The State Counsellor, who is also the chairperson of the central committee for the implementation of peace, stability and development in Rakhine State, stressed the need for the government to gain public trust including from those involved in the process of scrutinising citizenship and all local people.

At the meeting the State Counsellor welcomed frank and open discussions on the challenges of implementing undertakings related to peace, stability and development in the state.

Next, Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung, vice chairman of the central committee, elaborated on ongoing works and progress in developmental undertakings for townships in Rakhine State and work



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi chairs meeting of the central committee for the implementation of peace, stability and development in Rakhine State. Photo: MNA

plans set to be implemented by ministries concerned.

Then, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu who is also the vice chairman of the central committee, explained relief and resettlement works and spoke on the sectors needing to be fulfilled in order to achieve the committee's goals. He also spoke on progress being made regarding the issuance of national verification cards, related difficulties and current matters.

In his address, Union Minis-

ter Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, chairman of the working committee on security, peace and stability and the rule of law, stressed the need for job creation in order to build mutual trust to ensure that the NVC program will be fully implemented.

Union Minister U Thein Swe, chairman of the immigration and national verification working committee, gave a presentation on the issuance of 1,919 identity cards for national verification and ongoing works.

Next, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement reported on the construction of storm-resilient shelters in Myebon and Taunggup, arrangements being made for more shelters in other townships and measures being taken for rehabilitation and socio-economic development works.

Then, Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe, chairman of working committee on coordination with UN agencies and international organisations, explained

works being carried out in co-operation with the international community and matters related to the provision of international aid.

Following discussions on the sectors, future work programmes were laid down at the meeting.

In her concluding remarks the State Counsellor highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration between the ministries concerned and the State government in implementing the work programmes.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Survey reveals over 1,700 plots of vacant land within Yangon's industrial zones

A COMPILED list of over 1,700 plots of vacant land from within industrial zones of the greater Yangon Region will be presented to regional government tomorrow, according to the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection for Yangon Region.

The majority of vacant plots from among Yangon's 29 industrial zones are reportedly located within the Myaung Takar Industry Zone.

"Of course, these plots have been fenced off. They're completely void of any enterprise im-

plementation; they're all left sitting idle. Some industrial zones feature only a few vacant plots, while some use just two or three plots for the storage of raw materials. It looks as though their using up a great deal of land with one form of enterprise. The land

is used up for warehouses, offices and housing. In actual fact, their [factories] only take up two-thirds of their space," said U Tin Oo, head of the Directorate of Industrial Supervision and Inspection for Yangon Region.

Work began on compiling a

list of vacant plots of land within all of Yangon Region's industrial zones on 19 May this year, which has revealed many instances of land for the construction of factories being used in lieu for storage, offices and staff accommodation.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

VP U Henry Van Thio holds talks on disaster management to aid Rakhine flood victims

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, chairman of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, held talks with members of the regional government and departmental officials on relief and resettlement works to aid flood victims in Rakhine State at the regional government building in Sittwe yesterday.

In his address at a donation ceremony for flood victims, the Vice President said that the government is committed to providing necessary assistance to flood victims as soon as possible, adding that his visit was to comfort the victims.

The government has focused on Rakhine State which has poor infrastructure and efforts are being made to improve the education, health and economic sectors

of the State through cooperation and collaboration between sub-committees and the regional government, said the Vice President.

He went on to say that works are underway to establish industrial zones and a special economic zone in the State, calling on local people to work hard to grab opportunities.

The Vice President stressed the need for public participation for the success of democratic administration as only the people can shape the future of the country, pledging to strive to build a people-oriented government.

Next, the Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye elaborated on disaster preparedness measures and pointed out that peace and stability are key to socio-economic development in Rakhine State.



VICE-President U Henry Van Thio holds talks with authorities in Rakhine State on relief and resettlement works to aid flood victims in the state. PHOTO: MNA

In his address, the Union minister noted the Tatmadaw's involvement in relief and rehabilitation operations.

Then, members of the regional government and departmental officials reported on situations in flooded areas, the provision of relief supplies to flood victims, requirements for rehabilitation efforts and works to be done for flood prevention.

In his concluding remarks,

the Vice President highlighted the importance of short-term and long-term plans against disaster, assuring that Rakhine State will develop through cooperation between the people, the government and Tatmadaw.

The national natural disaster management committee will prioritise the outcomes of the meeting, he added. During the cash and goods donation ceremony Union Minister Dr Win Myat

Aye, Deputy Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut and the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Health and Sports presented cash donations including K36 million for flood victims, K6 billion for the construction of cyclone shelters in Rakhine State and K43.4 million to improve the availability of potable water at IDP camps in Pauktaw Township as well as medicine. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe receives Councilor of US State Department



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe receives Adviser to the US Secretary of State Ambassador Kristie Kenney. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe met with Adviser to the United States Secretary of State Ambassador Kristie Kenney at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the councilor of the US State Department said that her visit is aimed

at highlighting the US's special attention to Myanmar.

The Union minister elaborated on the ongoing internal peace and national reconciliation process of the country. Also present were Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

UEC's electoral tribunal upholds eligibility of NLD's representatives-elect

THE Union Election Commission's electoral tribunal has handed down its verdicts on the complaints of election frauds filed by two candidates in Kayin State and Kachin State.

U Naing Maung Maung Lwin of the Kayin State constituency, who contested last year's elections representing the Union Solidarity and Development Party, complained to the Union

Election Commission on 23 December last year that his opposite running mate U Saw Than of the National League for Democracy committed voter fraud during the election.

After hearing the case, the tribunal pronounced the election of the NLD representative as eligible, ordering the plaintiff to pay K30,000 in fine as lawyer's expense.

The USDP candidate U Chan Gyaung Hsar filed a complaint against NLD's representative-elect U Dein Khan Phon of PutaO constituency in Kachin State on 11 December last year. The tribunal returned a verdict that the election of the defendant was eligible. The plaintiff was ordered to pay K200,000 to the defendant as court expense. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Ministry provides loans to village-tract farmers with unpaid debts

DESPITE some still owing debts to the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank an agricultural loan of K160.95 billion for the 2016 monsoon cultivation season has been distributed to 161,063 farmers in 1,038 village-tracts in Ayeyawady Region and loans are being provided to the remaining village-tracts, said a spokesper-

son of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation yesterday.

The spokesperson denied that the Bank refused to loan money to village-tracts where farmers with unpaid debts reside, assuring that timely distribution of agricultural loans for different farming seasons are being carried out across

the country. According to the ministry's spokesperson, 351,695 farmers received loans amounting to K232.46 billion under the farm loan programme last year and debt collection is underway as farmers still have to repay K17.19 billion despite the extended repayment period ending on 15 April 2016.— *Myanmar News Agency*

DMH releases water level updates

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced, according to the 12:30 hr MST observation yesterday, that the water levels of the Chindwin River have risen by about 2 feet and six inches around Mawlaik, about one foot around Kalewa, one foot and six inches around Minkin and about six inches around Monywa above their respective danger levels.

The water levels may fall below their danger levels during the next two days, added the

department.

Moreover, the department predicted flood conditions above danger level, saying that the water level of the Chindwin River has risen beyond the danger threshold by about three feet around Kani.

It may fall about one foot and six inches over the next two days but still remain above its danger level, added the department.

According to its 12:30 hr MST observation yesterday, the

department said that the water level of the Ngawun River around Ngathaing Chaung has exceeded the danger level by about six inches.

It may continue to rise about six inches over the next two days and may remain above its danger level, department said.

The department advised people settled near the river bank and low-lying areas along the Ngawun River to take precautionary measures.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Swollen Chindwin River threatens people living near it with floods.

President U Htin Kyaw tours Incheon Free Economic Zone in Republic of Korea

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw, en route to Mongolia to attend the 11th ASEM Summit, dropped in at the Incheon Free Economic Zone of the Republic of Korea yesterday morning.

The President and party visited the 33-story Songdo G-Tower within the zone's Songdo International Business City.

The 490-foot-tall Songdo G-Tower was started to build in 2010 and opened in 2013. The building has a park on its 29th floor and a free economic zone centre which is located on the 33rd. An observation deck on the top of the G-Tower provides views of Incheon Bridge and Songdo New City below.

The President then went to the U-City Centre of the G-Tower where officials gave a brief account of the Songdo Business City and U-City Centre.

Following this the President visited the Memorial Hall for the Incheon Landing Operation and watched documentary video clips on the Korean War.

Afterwards, Myanmar Ambassador to the RoK Thura U Thet Oo Maung hosted the President for a luncheon at a Korean traditional food restaurant in the city.

The President and party left for Mongolia in the afternoon and arrived at Chinggis Khaan International Airport in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia in the evening.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw observing the G-Tower in Republic of Korea.



President U Htin Kyaw visits memorial place for Incheon Landing Operation.



Panoramic view of Incheon Free Economic Zone.

PHOTO: MNA

Dr Pe Myint meets US ambassadors to discuss media reform

INFORMATION Union Minister Dr Pe Myint met Advisor to the US Secretary of State Ambassador Kristie Kenney and US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Scot Marciel at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday afternoon.

The trio discussed the transformation of village libraries into community centres, the improvement of the

Myanmar Translation Society (now Sarpay Beikman), preparatory measures to shift Myanmar Radio and Television from being state-owned to becoming a public service and the training for ministerial spokespersons.

The group also sought ways for the United States to aid media reform.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Landslide kills four in Phakant

FOUR migrant miners died in a landslide in Hpakant that occurred on 12 July.

The landslide happened at a mountain of dumped soil from jade mines in the evening when seven migrant workers were searching for a jade among dumped soil.

Local authorities stopped searching for the bodies at night, due to possibility of landslide again.

To prevent landslides, lo-

cal authorities have suggested that migrant miners squatting around at-risk areas be relocated to safer areas and that mining companies dump their waste soil in accordance with technical safety rules.

When miners began using heavy machinery to extract jade from mines in Myanmar in 2005, migrant workers across the country flowed into the area to scavenge small jade stones from the discarded mine soil.—*GNLM*

Yangon gov't prepares to bring e-Yangon payment system online within six months

Ye Khaung Nyunt

THE Yangon regional government is preparing to launch the 'e-Yangon' system, a money transfer medium, within six months and the public will be able to access information by calling a phone number (ph 1881) upon completion of the project, said Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein at a meeting involving officials from a one stop service centre in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in the second week of this month.

"We are striving to make the e-Yangon system available within six months", said the Chief Minister, adding that the system must be undertaken to make Yangon corruption free.

The e-Yangon project will be implemented based on progress of the one stop service in the Thilawa SEZ and the regional government is preparing the service to be available in 44 townships of Yangon, except Kokogyun Township.

Yangon Region Minister for Kayin National Race Naw Pann

Thinza Myo expressed her view that transparency will be boosted and corruption can be diminished thanks to the e-Yangon system.

Public awareness of the system will be made via the media following the launch of the system, added the regional minister.

According to sources, e-payment is being used in the Thilawa SEZ where applying for permits can be completed at the one stop service centre and an online system is available for industrial applications.

Survey reveals over 1,700 plots of vacant land . . .

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In order to mitigate any grievances among industrial zone owners during conducting of the vacant plots survey, the data collection was reportedly carried out systematically by a team made up of the Urban Housing Department, Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC), representatives of industrial zones concerned, together with members of the township level General Administration Departments.

Chairpersons of industrial zones have voiced that a survey on vacant plots of land has been collected but that they are still to receive any instruction as to how the plots of land must be handled.

"The government led team has carried out their survey. But a directive is still yet to be passed on whether or not the vacant land is to be confiscated. They've already issued a directive which states that brick walls must be built by three months of indus-

trial zone implementation, with completion of buildings within a year," said U Aye Thaung, chair of the Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone.

A vast number of vacant plots of land have reportedly been discovered in industrial zones located with Yangon's northern district, while industrial zones situated in east and southern districts of the region have utilized a great deal more of land within their zones.—*Myit-makha News Agency*

Landslide dam burst confirmed by ID

THE Irrigation Department confirmed yesterday that a natural landslide dam burst on 3 July in Tunzan township, Chin State.

Deputy Director U Maw Maw Naing of the Irrigation Department quoted an inspection

team saying that the burst of the landslide dam presented no threat to local residents.

The department constructed a passage to channel the flow of the water from the dam to a safe place. Regarding the dam

or lake caused by the landslide on the border between Sagaing Region and Chin State, Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation dealt with possible risks of the lake before the rainy season.—*Min Thit*

The natural dam caused by landslide in Chin State. PHOTO: IRRIGATION DEPARTMENT



Tourism ministry approves 16 new hotels nationwide

THE MINISTRY of Hotels and Tourism has released figures showing it granted permission for the construction of 16 new hotels over the past six months.

Between January and the second week of July, the ministry received 36 proposals to develop new hotels across the country. Of those, planning permissions to build 16 new hotels have been granted by the authorities after making inspections, including assessments on environmental impacts.

Until the second week of July this year, the ministry has permitted 1,356 hotels to be developed in the country, representing over 53,000 rooms nationwide, it said.

Since 2011, the ministry has removed some restrictions to granting operating licences to both local and foreign investors

in the hospitality industry in a bid to improve tourism services for international visitors.

Investors from Myanmar and abroad wishing to operate in the service industry have increased month by month.

According to the ministry's figures, there are 338 hotels and guest houses with 16,218 rooms in Yangon, 176 hotels with 7,071 rooms in Mandalay, 63 hotels with 5,111 rooms in the capital Nay Pyi Taw, 32 hotels with 888 rooms in Taunggyi, 85 hotels with 2,621 rooms in Inlay and 81 hotels with 2,761 rooms in Bagan.

Last year's tourist arrivals reached 4.68 million. The number is expected to rise again this year. According to the ministry's master plan (2013-2020), tourist arrivals are estimated to hit 7.49 million by 2020.—*200*

Crime NEWS

One worker dead, five injured following industrial accident

ONE worker died and five others were injured in an industrial accident that took place on Hlaingthayar Twantay road, near Ma Myo Su village, Twantay township on Wednesday.

According to an investigation a 22-wheel vehicle carrying a V-pile, being driven by one Saw Hla Sein Yu, 36, stopped abruptly to avoid hitting an upcoming overhead electrical wire. The sudden stop caused the V-pile to fall onto six workers who were sitting next to it.

One man succumbed to his injuries at the scene while five others were injured seriously. The injured are undergoing medical treatment at Insein



The V-pile being seen after falling. PHOTO: THAN HTET (HLAINGTHAYAR)

general hospital. The driver has been deemed guilty of careless driving by police.—*Than Htet (Hlaingthayar)*

A man died of misfire while assaulting daughter

A MAN died due to a firearm misfire when he struck his own daughter with a gun in Oktwin, Bago region on Monday. According to an investigation, Ko Win Maung alias Je Win Maung, 48, became enraged and belligerent when he dis-

covered that his daughter had forgotten to feed the family dog.

He struck his daughter with the butt of his gun which misfired and shot him dead. Police are still investigating. — *Ko Lwin (Swa)*



The firearm that misfired the victim. PHOTO: KO LWIN (SWA)



Two snatchers being seen. PHOTO: KO YE

Two snatchers get caught in Tamwe

TWO snatchers were charged with robbery for looting a wallet from a man at Ma Hlwagone road, Tamwe township on 13 July.

According to the investigation, two men snatched the wallet from a passenger bus driver Ko Nay Myo Hlaing who was

counting the money on his line bus.

The police arrested two men while the police were patrolling.

The local police have taken action against Tun Tun Win, 26, from Dala township and Nway Naing Oo, 21, from South Dagon Myothit.— *Ko Ye*

Illegal sawn timber seized in Sagaing

A COMBINED inspection team comprising police officers and staff from Forestry Department seized illegal sawn timber from a vehicle at milepost 663, on the Shwebo-Myitkyina road, on Tuesday.

Police stopped the vehicle heading for Shwebo from

Myitkyina. It was being driven by one Ye Lwin Oo, 26. Upon conducting a search the police discovered illegal sawn timber weighing 3.3 tonnes. The driver is being charged under Section 6(1) of the Public Property Protection Act.—*Myanmar Police Force*

LOCAL Business

Central Bank encourages foreign banks to proceed in seeking licenses

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has called on foreign banks to start preparing to seek licenses to operate in accordance with its rules and regulations.

A total of 13 foreign banks have sought permission to launch branches in Myanmar. Among them, Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV), E. Sun Commercial Bank from China (Taipei), Shinhan bank from South Korea and State Bank of India have been selected tentatively.

Among these four banks, BIDV is the first to be permitted to launch its banking services in Myanmar.

According to the rules and regulations laid down by CBM, foreign banks can only open one branch in Myanmar, with minimum capital of US\$75million. Over

half of the bank's capital has to be deposited in the CBM.

The CBM allows the foreign companies to co-operate only with the local banks and to operate wholesale banking.

Foreign banks are also allowed to lend money to foreign investment companies and local banks. The interest of the loan is fixed between 10 and 13 per cent per annum. If the loan is taken out in foreign currency, the rate of the interest will be the one both sides agree to.

BIDV kicked off its banking operation on 1st July, with capital of US\$85million. BIDV will open its official bank branch on 31st July at Hnang Anh Gia Lai Myanmar Center Tower, which is situated at No. 192, Kaba Aye Road, Bahan Township, Yangon.—200

Induced breeding of climbing perch tested in cooperation with World Fish Myanmar

INDUCED breeding businesses of climbing perch (anabas testudineus), which is a native species of Myanmar, is being tested in cooperation with World Fish Myanmar according to an announcement of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation last Friday.

According to the agreement to effectuate the fishery development between World Fish Myanmar and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation, the induced breeding of the climbing perch and research related to fish farming methods has been conducted. Now, these experimental breeding businesses in Pantanaw hatchery in Ayeyawaddy have shown fruitful results.

Climbing perch breeding study has been conducted under a series of processes: preparation of the lake, maintaining of fish species, reduced

breeding, feedstuffs and the observation of growth.

Preparation of the lake includes water treatment, filling the lake, cleansing the lake, the maintaining of a stable artificial environment and the installation of Hapa.

Climbing perch have been collected from natural lakes and ponds in order to maintain the fish species sector. Aquatic feedstuff is introduced into the lake twice a day.

In the breeding stage the birds are chosen and then injected with single dose of hormone which comes from the pituitary gland of rohu. Seven or nine milligrams of hormone dose are used for female climbing perch while four or five milligrams of hormone are used for male climbing perch. The growth of the birds is monitored once a week, according to the ministry.—City News



A farmer digging in soil with a hand shovel at a cabbage farm outside Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Farmers to receive advanced loan under advanced purchase system

GROWERS of crops, who in some circles are referred to as 'farmers', will receive advanced loans depending on their crops under an advanced purchase system, the renowned Win Star variegated vegetables trading business in Tatkon has reported.

The advanced purchase is offered for both mixed cropping and multiple cropping. All the brokerages do not offer advanced purchase. Some brokerages offer the

advanced purchase only with the close farmers. If they have to give loans to strangers, they need to be guaranteed by a respected person.

Advanced purchase has risks because there is a possibility of losses. However, the price of advanced purchase is always lower than the market price at a harvest time, at which time the loans will be repaid. The farmers do not need to pay interest, said U Maung Maung Win,

the proprietor of the Win Star variegated vegetables trading business.

An advanced payment of between Ks50,000 and Ks500,000 will be provided for various things such as sunflowers, groundnuts, green grams, pigeon peas and mung beans in the coming growing season.

"The growers of paddy, chili, tomatoes and onion can also ask for loan. Almost all the growers take payments from the advanced

purchase system. We do not need to give the interest but we are faced with the price manipulation," said U Win Naing Tun, a grower from Tatkon Township. Local seeds merchants also make the advanced purchase.

Myanmar's seed industry suffered from heavy losses because of advanced purchase system in 2008. The government had to intervene to save the farmers, and the advanced purchase lost its popularity.—Zar Zar

Petrol price need to be aligned with world price

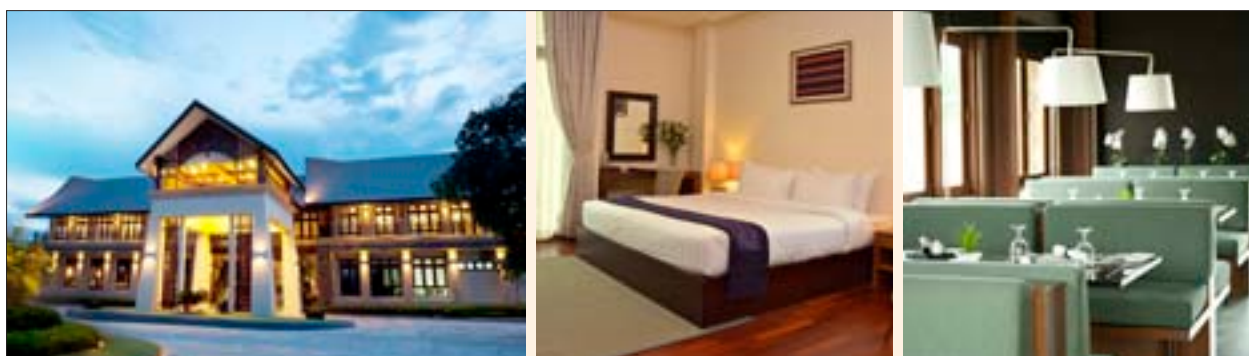
THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy will call upon petrol distributors to keep the price of petrol in Myanmar equal to international prices according to U Myint Zaw, managing director of the

Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE), in order to allow vehicle owners to avoid suffering from higher petrol prices than necessary.

Myanmar's petrol

market is dependent on the price of Singapore's crude oil. Therefore, there is a small gap between Myanmar's petrol price and that of the countries in the Middle East.

The ministry is taking a closer look at petrol prices by forming an exclusive team. The Ministry of Electricity and Energy has granted licences to a total of 1,759 petrol stations.—200



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Japan's Emperor Akihito (L), flanked by Empress Michiko (2nd L), leads his royal family members Crown Prince Naruhito (4th R), Crown Princess Masako (R), Prince Akishino (behind Naruhito), Princess Kiko (behind Masako) and their daughter Princess Mako to greet guests during the annual spring garden party at the Akasaka Palace imperial garden in Tokyo, Japan, on 27 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan emperor abdication debate could stir discussion on female succession

TOKYO — Reports that Japanese Emperor Akihito intends to abdicate within a few years could re-open debate about female succession, but any such move is likely to provoke strong opposition within the current conservative ruling party.

The 82-year-old monarch, who has had heart surgery and been treated for prostate cancer in recent years, expressed his intention to abdicate in a few years to the Imperial Household Agency, public broadcaster NHK said on Wednesday.

No reason was cited and agency officials later denied the earlier reports.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and other officials on Thursday declined to comment, but Akihito has been cutting back on official duties recently.

His place has been taken by his heir, 56-year-old Crown Prince Naruhito. But Naruhito has only one daughter, so since only males can inherit the Chrysanthemum Throne, the

throne after Naruhito would pass to nine-year-old nephew Hisahito.

No Japanese emperor has abdicated since 1817 and the Imperial Household Law governing the royal family system would have to be revised to allow this, a process requiring parliamentary debate that could take years and might spill over into other areas, such as female succession.

"This is something that has needed to be fixed," said Kenneth Ruoff, head of the Center of Japanese Studies at Portland State University, of the laws on abdication.

"When they open up the debate they will have to debate all kinds of things."

Before Hisahito, no male had been born into the imperial family for more than four decades. This prompted discussion of equal inheritance for women, a move opposed by traditionalists eager to preserve a male line they believe goes back more than 2,000 years. Most Japanese backed the proposed

change and advisors to then Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi recommended that women be given equal rights to inherit, but debate was shelved when Hisahito was born the next year.

In March, Japanese officials including Prime Minister Shinzo Abe protested when a UN committee said it intended to criticise male-only inheritance as discriminatory. They said the UN move was "totally inappropriate" and disregarded Japanese history. The committee withdrew its criticism.

Key parts of Abe's political base want him to steer the nation back towards a traditional ethos including pride in the ancient imperial line. Given that Hisahito is the only male of his generation and women in the imperial family leave it upon marriage, long-term succession remains far from assured. Proposed solutions include allowing women to remain and set up branch families, but debate has languished. —Reuters

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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Pakistan says leader of school attack killed in US drone strike

PESHAWAR (Pakistan) — The alleged mastermind of the 2014 attack on a school in Pakistan in which more than 150 people died, most of them children, has been killed in an American drone strike in Afghanistan, the Pakistan military and sources in the Pakistani Taliban said.

General Asim Bajwa, director general of the Pakistani army's media division, reported the death of Umar Narai, also known as Khalifa Umar Mansoor or Khalid Khurasani, in a message on Twitter.

US Defence Department spokesman Peter Cook confirmed that US forces carried out an air strike in Afghanistan's eastern Nangarhar province on 9 July, killing Umar Khalifa and four other militants. Cook said Khalifa, a leader of the Tariq Gidar Group, was killed in a strike that targeted members of Islamic State-Khorasan Province. The State Department had put the Tariq Gidar Group, a faction linked to the Pakistani Taliban, on its list of "Specially Designated

Global Terrorists" in May. The Pakistani Taliban made no official comment. One senior member of the group said the movement had decided not to comment on the death until a successor had been chosen.

"It's a huge loss to the small but most effective Taliban faction of Khalifa Umar Mansoor," the commander said. There is no such prominent figure of his status to run his organisation."

The strike was the second in the space of two months against a senior insurgent leader close to the

frontier between Afghanistan and Pakistan.

In May, Mullah Mohammad Akhtar Mansour, leader of the Afghan Taliban, was killed by a drone on the Pakistani side of the border. The Pakistani Taliban is waging war against the Pakistani state and is separate from the Afghan Taliban. It claimed responsibility for the attack on the Army Public School in Peshawar, in northwest Pakistan, in December 2014, in which at least 132 children, nine staff and several attackers were killed. —Reuters



In this file image taken from a video recording, Omar Khalid Khorasani (C), a top Pakistan Taliban commander, gives an interview in Pakistan's Mohmand tribal region on 2 June 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

Malaysia, Singapore to sign MoU on high speed rail

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia and Singapore will sign a memorandum of understanding (MoU) on the long anticipated high speed rail linking the two countries, local media reported on Thursday.

The signing will be witnessed by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak and his Singaporean counterpart Lee Hsien Loong, according to a report by the *New Strait Times*.

The newspaper reported that the MoU will be followed by detailed negotiations, on areas such as planning, development, execution of the project and future operations, targeting a formal bilateral agreement by the end of the year.

The *New Strait Times* reported earlier that the project is expected to start in 2018. The proposed high speed rail is expected to cut the traveling time between the Malaysian capital and the city state to 90 minutes. —Xinhua

Cambodian Prime Minister heads to Mongolia for ASEM-11

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen flew to Mongolian capital Ulan Bator on Thursday for the 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit, to be held on 15 and 16 July, a senior official said.

Sry Thamarong, minister attached to the prime minister, said the summit will discuss many important issues, namely assessment of ASEM's past 20 years' experience, building hard and soft connectivity between Asia and Europe, and future generation of ASEM.

"The summit is very important to enhance relations and cooperation between Asia and Europe for common development and prosperity," he told reporters at Phnom Penh international airport before the departure.

He said the summit will also touch on climate change, sustainable development and multi-lateral trading systems, disaster risk reduction and management, energy security, food security, water management, and regional and international issues.

He added that there will be a retreat session on 16 July in which the ASEM leaders will discuss a wide range of issues, including anti-terrorism, migration, human rights, interreligious understanding, anti-money laundering, and combating drug trafficking, cross-border crimes and human trafficking.

According to the official, Hun Sen will address the plenary session of the summit on the topic "Soft Connectivity".—Xinhua

Bank Holiday

All Banks will be closed on 19th July 2016 "Martyr's Day" under the Negotiable Instruments Act.

Central Bank of Myanmar

China's legal setback could spur more South China Sea claims

AMSTERDAM — China's resounding defeat in a legal battle with the Philippines over territorial claims in the South China Sea could embolden other states to file lawsuits if Beijing refuses to compromise on access to the resource-rich region.

There are several avenues for litigation that countries could pursue rather than risk any action at sea that would worsen military tensions, legal and security experts said.

The Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) in The Hague concluded that China had violated the Philippines' economic and sovereign rights. Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Taiwan and Viet Nam also have unresolved, overlap-

ping claims on parts of the South China Sea. A five-judge tribunal dismissed China's "Nine-dash line" — a 69-year-old claim to roughly 85 per cent of the South China Sea — saying it was unlawful under the 1982 UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS).

The ruling is binding for Beijing and Manila, but it also set a legal precedent by determining that UNCLOS rules take precedence over China's historic claims. That bolsters the treaty's standing in international law, experts said. "It will have enormous impact on future jurisprudence and on the perceived legitimacy of other claims in the South China Sea and around the world," said Gregory



Protesters from a local pro-China party chant slogans against the United States supporting an international court ruling that denied China's claims to the South China Sea, outside US Consulate in Hong Kong, China on 14 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Poling, head of the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative. Although China rejected the Hague court, which has no enforcement powers, Poling said that the vast majority of international arbitration awards over the last century have eventually been respected. "Reputational damage

matters to modern states," he said.

The United States has launched a round of quiet diplomacy to persuade countries around the region not to move aggressively to capitalise on the ruling, several US administration officials said on Wednesday.

"This is a blanket call for quiet, not some attempt to rally the region against China, which would play into a false narrative that the US is leading a coalition to contain China," said one official, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to describe private diplomatic messages. —Reuters

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Invitation for Cooperation in High Grade Paper Mill (Thabaung) Under No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

High Grade Paper Mill (Thabaung), under No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry is intended to invite the investors who are interested to cooperate in the following (4) Sectors.

- To Upgrade the Capacity of the existing High Grade Paper Mill.
- Plantation the Paper Tree and Power Tree to use as raw materials.
- Manufacturing the Value Added Products related to the Pulp and Paper Production.
- Establishment of Biomass Power Plant which can provide the necessary Electricity, Water and Steam for the whole industrial complex.

The investors who interested in those cooperation are required to submit their Draft Proposal, in which mentioning kinds of business, to Technology Development Department, No. (3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry at Office No. (37) Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, not later than 4 pm (Myanmar Standard Time) on 15th September, 2016.

Base Line Data concerning the Mill are available at above office and interested entities can submit the Draft Proposal commencing from the date (15-7-2016) by presenting document of company profile.

Document of Company Profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Memorandum of Association & Articles of Association (MoA & AoA)
- Name of Foreign Technical Cooperation (if it is Local Company).

(For more information, contact No. 95 67 40 8335, 408129)

Notice to Director Mr. Hoyin Hsu of Jido. Co., Ltd. & Sale Executive Ei Thaw Zin Oo of Golden Cornerstone Investment Pte Ltd. and Persons concerned

Under instruction of U Kyaw Win (12/La Tha Na (Naing) 019523), assigned by Company Director Meeting Minute of San Kaung Industry Limited at Hlaing Tharyar Township, Yangon Region, it is hereby notified under law.

1. It was learnt to know under construction and documentary evidence that Director Mr. Hoyin Hsu of Jido Co., Ltd. & Sale Executive Ei Thaw Zin Oo of Golden Cornerstone Investment Pte Ltd. came to San Kaung Industry Limited and executed Agreement for sale and purchase of empty packaging bag dated (6-8-2015) to purchase -

Item	Quantity	Rate(USD)	Amount(USD)
AD Star Polypropylene Woven Block Bottom Valve Sack	100,000	0.23	23,000
Size	48 (w) ± 0.5 x 61 (L) ± 0.05 x 10 ± 0.5 (Top/ Bottom) x 13 (Valve-length)cm NL/H (Air performances/ 0 to be detrmind		
Type	Block Bottom Valve Sack		
Fabric Colour	Beige		
Printing	2 colours front/ 2 colours on back (As per customer's approved artwork)		
Packaging	500 Sacks/ bale		
Quantity	100,000 sacks		
Price	0.23 USD per sack		

by Deed No. KTK/CYR/S 19/ 2015 and paid advance (30%) and San Kaung Industry informed JIDO Co., Ltd. on (31-8-2015) that empty cement bags ordered to purchase has been completely manufactured. Having sent total (950) bags being desirous to test by packaging with (450) bags on (31-8-2015) and (500) bags on (21-9-2015), last date to pay balance under Para (5) of Deed No. KTK/CYR/S 19/2015 made between JIDO Co., Ltd. and San Kaung Industry Limited is (4-9-2015) and balance to be paid is (70%). Being prescribed payment date is over, Sale Maketing Manager Soe Myat Thu of San Kaung Industry Limited send Memorandum by dated (25-3-2016) to settle balance and carry the empty bags remained. But JIDO Co., Ltd. defaulted to pay balance 70% and carry the bags remained.

2. Therefore, it is hereby categorically notified to come and pay balance 70% payable for empty bags and carry the empty bags remained within (15) days with effect from date this notice is inserted in the daily newspaper. In failure to abide by the claim, it is hereby notified that action will be taken in accordance with existing laws.

Under Instruction - **U CHIT KO KO**

LL.B, H.G.P., Dip in Business Law

Dip in Applied Psychology, Dip in Maritime Law,

WIPO (Switzerland)

Advocate & Business Law Consultant (Sr. 2803)

U THAN HTAY

[LL.B, WIPO (Switzerland)]

Advocate (Sr. 3851)

U AUNG MYINT TUN (LL.B) U YAR ZAR WIN (LL.B) U AUNG PYAE PHYO LWIN

Advocate (Sr. 7471)

Higher Grade Pleader

(Sr. 39603)

[LLB, WIPO (Switzerland)]

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Opinion

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Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Economic growth through more privatisation

Kyaw Thura

FAVOURED by a great wealth of untapped natural resources, our country has much to gain in inclusive growth and sustainable development by implementing fundamental reforms in the privatisation of services in transport and electricity just as in telecommunications.

The government has vowed at every opportunity to incentivise the private sector as a means to propel sustainable economic growth. The simplest thing for the

government to encourage the private sector starts with the reduction in the number of state-owned services which can better thrive under private ownership. In this respect, encouragement should be given to open and competitive markets.

Economic researchers are unanimous in the phenomenon that private sector development is central to the success of economic reform, but they warn that its benefits should not be limited to the business people only.

An importing thing to note is that market competition does not necessarily mean market monopolisation. It is, therefore, incumbent on the government to protect the end-users from being overcharged for essential consumer goods by adopting development strategies that will guarantee consumer welfare.

In addition, the government should implement effective competition policies that will enable private industries to become more competitive

home and abroad and willing to provide the best deals for customers. With this end in view, many countries and regional blocs are busy with the adoption of effective competition laws and frameworks designed to empower the poorest section of society, thereby ensuring social mobility.

All things considered, the government's commitment to political reform will be judged ineffective as long as the grass roots of society remain to be hit the hardest in an outbreak of political turmoil.

Freedom of other religions (Christianity, Hinduism, Islamism, Animism and others) in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein
(Religious Affairs)

Christianity

About 10 per cent of the entire population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar takes faith in Christianity. There are many Christian churches and worship centers throughout the country. The Christian people have lived peacefully and harmoniously with other national races of different religions in the Republic of Union of Myanmar since years ago. There are four Christian religious organizations mainly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, and Christian religious leaders and other Christian personnel are allowed to go abroad to attend their religious meetings, conferences, seminars and trainings. Congratulatory messages of the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar are sent to the ceremonies of Christian holy days such as Easter Day, Christmas Eve and other festivals. The financial

grant is also yearly provided by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to be able to promote and flourish the Christianity in the country. Various kinds of books, magazines and journals on Christianity are freely published and distributed, and also renovations and constructions of churches and worship centers all over the country are allowed. Some of leaders of Christian Religious Organizations are issued traveling free pass in order to tour the whole country to carry out their religious matters and affairs.

Islamism

About 4 per cent of the entire population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar takes faith in Islamism, and many Islamic mosques, worship centers and religious schools are situated throughout the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. Altogether 5 Islamic Religious Organizations are mainly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and all these organizations are able to perform freely and carry out their

religious affairs in accordance with the existing laws and orders of the country. Many leaders of the Islamic Religious Organization and other Islamic personnel are occasionally allowed to go abroad to attend their religious meetings, seminars, conferences and trainings. Congratulatory messages of the Ministry of Religious Affairs are sent to the ceremonies of their holy days and other religious festivals such as the Prophet Mohammed Birthday. Idulfiti day, Iduladwaha day and other significant religious days. Many books, magazines and journals on Islamism are freely published and distributed and financial grant is provided by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to promote and flourish their religion in the country. The Haj Pilgrims from the Republic of Union of Myanmar are yearly sent by the arrangements of Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to fulfill their religious duties there in accordance with five pillars of Islamic faith. Atid

also renovations and constructions of mosques and other religious buildings are allowed. Besides, some of leaders of Islamic Religious Organizations are issued traveling free pass to tour the whole country in order to perform and carry out their religious matters and affairs.

Hinduism

About 4 per cent of the entire population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar take faith in Hinduism, and there are many Hindu temples and worship centers throughout the country. Despite differences among people of different religious of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Hindu people have been living in harmony together with other national people of different religions since years ago. Two Hindu religious organizations are mainly recognized by the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and they are freely carrying out their religious affairs in accordance with the existing laws and orders of the country. The financial grant is yearly provided by the Govern-

ment of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Hindu Religious Organizations to promote and flourish their religion in the country. Besides, books, magazines and journals on Hinduism are freely published and distributed. Congratulatory messages of the Ministry of Religious Affairs are sent to their religious ceremonies such as Depavali day and other festivals. Some of leaders of Hindu Religious Organizations are issued traveling free pass to tour throughout the country in order to carry out their religious matters and affairs.

Animism and others

About one per cent each of the entire population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar takes faith in Animism and others.

From time immemorial, all Myanmar nationalities of different religions in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar extending and attaching great importance to each other, have lived through thick and thin regardless of colour, caste and religion.

Regional Wushu competition seeks fresh blood

WITH the aim of turning out new talented athletes from states and regions, a regional-level Wushu competition is scheduled to take place in September, according to

the Myanmar Wushu Federation.

Organised by the Myanmar Wushu Federation, events for under the 12-year-olds and amateur level events will be held during

this year's contest. The amateur level contest will include ten categories.

The organising body prohibits its selected national athletes from

participating the upcoming tournament as the event only allows young players, said U khin Soe, joint secretary of the federation.

"We plan to offer over 40

awards to the winners this year," he added. As Wushu originated in China, traditional wushu practices have developed and spread across the world.—200

SSMNC's 47-member plenary session concludes



47-member SSMNC meeting in progress. PHOTO: MNA

THE State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held the second day of its 47-member plenary session at the Wizaya Mingala Dhamma Hall on Thiri Mingala Kaba Aye Hill yesterday.

Union Minister for Religious and Cultural Affairs Thura U Aung Ko paid obeisance to Chairman Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and member Saydaws.

The member Saydaws dis-

cussed matters related to the committee's handling of religious issues in areas of disputes, promotion and education.

The meeting came to a successful conclusion in the afternoon. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Circular train passenger numbers on the rise

MYANMA Railways is suffering financial losses despite an increase in the number of passengers after reducing train fares for circular trains according to an official from Division 7 of Mayanma Railways.

The number of passengers taking Yangon circular trains

has increased by 1500 a day, MR reports.

"Previously, the train fare was K200 for all distances but now, the shorter distances cost K100 while the longer ones cost K200. This is appealing as most passengers travel shorter distances" said U Kyaw Soe Lin,

traffic manager of Division 7 of Myanmar Railway.

There are over 71,000 passengers who rely on the circular trains during rainy season. Passengers no longer need to bother with finding the correct coaches and can spend less" said U Kyaw Soe Lin. — *Soe Soe Yu*

ASEAN senior officials meet for energy issues in Nay Pyi Taw



ASEAN senior officials meeting on energy being held in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Energy took place in Nay Pyi Taw, attracting senior officials from Australia, China, India, Japan, South Korea, New Zealand, Russia and the United States.

The four-day meeting was chaired by U Htein Lwin, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of

Electricity and Energy.

The meeting focused on future action plans for further cooperation in the energy sector, with its chairman describing the development of energy as crucial to the ASEAN region and its partners as well.

An agreement has been reached between the ASEAN

countries to use energy in a clean manner in a bid to be more sustainable and sufficient. The outcomes of the meeting will be brought before the 34th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting scheduled for September for approval.

Myanmar hosted the 27th ministerial meeting in 2009. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar to invest \$206m in new fleets for rail transportation sector

MYANMA Railways is planning to spend US\$206 million on the purchase of 66 train carriages from Japan in 2018 according to MR's General Manager U Tun Aung Thin.

The new train carriages are a type of diesel-electric multiple unit, said the general manager, adding that the purchase of 66 train carriages will be made through an ODA loan.

Myanma Railways has short-term, mid-term and long-term plans for the country's rail transportation sector. Apart

from the purchase of new train carriages, installation of automatic railroad crossing gates will be carried out" he added.

According to Myanma Railways, Yangon's circular rail line upgrading project is set to be implemented during the 2017-2018 FY to ensure better services for the convenience of train travelers.

New fleets of railway service are set to be used on Yangon circle line and other lines.

The Yangon circular rail line is 46km long and has 38 stations. — *Ko Moe*

Closing ceremony of basic tailoring course 2/2016 held in Taungoo



Closing ceremony of basic tailoring course being held.

PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

ORGANISED by the Department of Rural Area Development at the Htantabin Township and Taungoo Vocational Training School, the closing ceremony of a basic tailoring course (2/2016) was held on Tuesday.

At the ceremony, an official of the Taungoo District Rural Area Development Department delivered the opening speech. In his speech, those,

who completed the course, will be professional in their career, he said.

"I am delighted to have attended the sewing course. I will strive to find an opportunity to work in a garment factory", said a female attendee.

U Zaw Win, a Member of Parliament, presented prizes to outstanding attendees and officials gave out certificates. — *Shwe Win (Pyay)*

Rate of felonies rising in Bago

BAGO region has seen an increase in the number of felonies committed such as murder and rape this year. Most of the murder cases occurred in Thayawady district whereas rape cases occurred in Bago district, according to local police from Bago region.

The period from January to June has witnessed 18 murder cases and 11 rape cases in Bago district, 18 murder cases and 6 rape cases in Taungoo district, 15 murder cases and 4 rape cases in Pyay district and 17 murder cases and 6 rape case

in Thayawady district in Bago region.

"Most of the murder cases occurred due to domestic disputes like between father and son while the police focus on cases of gambling, drugs and alcohol for reduction of the crime rate. The rapists mostly happened to be under 16" said Inspector of police Min Zaw from Bago region.

There have been 78 murder cases, one burglary case, 24 rape cases, 144 theft cases and 3,359 other cases Bago region as of June. — *City News*

Trump nears end of vice presidential search, to announce pick Friday



Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump (R) and Indiana Governor Mike Pence (L) wave to the crowd before addressing the crowd during a campaign stop at the Grand Park Events Centre in Westfield, Indiana, on 12 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON

— Republican Donald Trump conducted last-minute talks with his top potential picks for his vice presidential running mate on Wednesday and said he would announce his choice on Friday in New York.

“I will be making the announcement of my Vice Presidential pick on Friday at 11am in Manhattan. Details to follow,” the presumptive Republican presidential nominee tweeted on Wednesday night.

Trump had a breakfast meeting on Wednesday with Indiana Governor Mike Pence, and later sat down for talks with former US House of Representatives Speaker Newt Gingrich. His family met on Tuesday with New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who speaks to Trump

on a near-daily basis.

In addition, US Senator Jeff Sessions, 69, of Alabama, a fourth potential candidate for the No.2 spot who has been a close adviser to Trump, was seen going into the Conrad Hotel in Indianapolis, where Trump was.

A source close to the campaign said Trump appeared to be leaning toward Pence but that he could always change his mind. “It’s not done until it’s done,” the source said.

Trump seemed to be trying to decide between Pence and Gingrich, the source added.

The New York businessman is to be formally nominated at the Republican National Convention next week in Cleveland. Traditionally, the vice presidential choice is used to build enthusiasm among party loyalists.

Pence, who faces a Friday deadline on whether to have his name on the ballot to seek another term as governor, said he was humbled to be considered for Trump’s running mate.

“I think he’s giving it very careful consideration, and we’re humbled to be a part of that,” Pence told reporters later. “There are a number of other noteworthy Americans that they are considering, and I’m just honored to be on that list.”

Republicans close to the campaign said they believed Trump had narrowed his short list to Pence, Gingrich and Christie. He has campaigned with all three in recent days as he girds for perhaps the most consequential decision of his campaign ahead of the 8 November election.—Reuters

EU proposes new asylum rules to stop migrants crossing Europe

BRUSSELS — The European Commission proposed more unified EU asylum rules on Wednesday, in a bid to stop people waiting for refugee status moving around the bloc and disrupting its passport-free zone.

In an unprecedented wave of migration last year, 1.3 million people reached the EU and most ignored legal restrictions, trekking from the Mediterranean coast to apply for asylum in wealthy Germany, prompting some EU countries to suspend the Schengen Area system that allows free passage between most EU states.

“The changes will create a genuine common asylum procedure,” said EU Migration Commissioner Dimitris Avramopoulos.

“At the same time, we set clear obligations and duties for asylum seekers to prevent secondary movements and abuse of procedures.” The United Nations refugee agency UNHCR said it had concerns about the new rules and said the new system must not lower standards of protection and asylum.

The proposal would standardise refugee reception facilities across the bloc and unify the level of state support they can get, setting common rules on residence permits, travel papers, access to jobs, schools, social welfare and healthcare.

It would grant prospective refugees swifter rights to work, but also put more obligations on them, meaning that if they do not cooperate with the authorities

or head to an EU state of their choice rather than staying put, their asylum application could be jeopardised.

The five-year waiting period after which refugees are eligible for long-term residence would be restarted if they move from their designated country, the Commission said.

UNHCR spokesman William Spindler said people should be dissuaded from such movements, not punished.

The proposal also spells out more cases in which asylum seekers could be detained, something Jean Lambert, a British Green Party member of the European Parliament, said showed the EU was taking the wrong attitude to people seeking sanctuary.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK’s new finance minister: We will do whatever is necessary after Brexit

LONDON — Britain’s new finance minister, Philip Hammond, said on Thursday that he would do whatever is necessary to steady the economy and restore confidence after the Brexit vote.

Hammond, 60, was appointed by Britain’s new Prime Minister Theresa May to run the world’s fifth largest economy. He was previously Foreign Secretary.

In his first public comments as Chancellor of the Exchequer, Hammond praised Bank of England Governor Mark Carney and said he would take steps carefully considered decisions over the summer. “Markets do need signals of reassurance, they need to know that we will do whatever is necessary to keep the economy on track,” Hammond told ITV. “We’re working together across that referendum divide in the party to deliver the best possible deal for Britain. I think confidence will gradually begin to return and people will start to see the shape of the future that we’re mapping out,” he said.—Reuters

Two died in expressway pileup in western Japan

KOBE — Two people were killed Thursday morning when two cars, a trailer and a truck were involved in a pileup on an expressway in Hyogo Prefecture, western Japan, police said.

Akira Nakase, 44, and Daisuke Yokota, 36, both company employees, were confirmed dead after the accident that occurred in Ashiya on the Hanshin Expressway around 9am. The victims were in different cars. The accident happened when the truck, driven by a 61-year-old man, slammed into a stationary car in a traffic jam, and then another car and a large trailer ahead were also hit, the police said, adding the truck driver sustained slight injuries.—Kyodo News

Afghan forces kill eight militants

FAIZABAD — Eight Taliban insurgents have been killed and a few others injured as clashes erupted in Darayem district of the northern Afghan province of Badakhshan on Thursday, an army spokesman Nasratullah Jamshidi said.

The clashes flared up after the militants targeted security checkpoints in some villages, according to the official, adding security forces retaliated, forcing militants to flee after leaving behind eight bodies on the battle ground.

However, the official avoided commenting on the possible casualties of security forces.

Taliban militants have yet to make comment on the situation in the said district.—Xinhua

One missing as torrential rain hits southern Kyushu

FUKUOKA — A woman in her 80s has gone missing after torrential rain hit southern Kyushu in southwestern Japan on Thursday, with the Japan Meteorological Agency warning of landslides, floods and swollen rivers. Police and firefighters are searching for the woman after a resident in the town of Misato in Kumamoto Prefecture reported her missing. “I saw an old woman near a riverbank but she disappeared later,” the resident was quoted as saying.

About 77 millimeters of rain were recorded in one hour in Minamiaso, Kumamoto Prefecture, and 54 mm in Kirishima, Kagoshima Prefecture, while authorities in Aira, Kagoshima, issued an evacuation advisory to 6,653 residents on Thursday morning.

Rainfall of 43 mm was also registered in the city of Miyazaki in southern Kyushu. Up to 120 mm of rainfall is forecast over a 24-hour period until Friday noon in some parts of southern Kyushu.—Kyodo News

Sole Japanese survivor of Dhaka attack says he hid in garden

YOKOHAMA — Tamaoki Watanabe, the sole survivor among the eight Japanese caught in a 1 July terrorist attack at a restaurant in Bangladesh, told Japanese police that he managed to hide from attackers in the establishment’s garden, investigative sources said Wednesday. The 46-year-old, currently hospitalized in Tokyo to recover from a gunshot wound suffered in the attack, reportedly ran from the Holey Artisan Bakery cafe as the shooting started, taking cover in its garden during the 12-hour siege that left 20 hostages dead. In his first interview with Japanese police, Watanabe confirmed that he had been at the restaurant together with the seven Japanese who were killed in the assault targeting foreigners, and said he did not see the other members of his party after running out of the building.—Kyodo News



File photo show Rafale and Super Etendards fighter jets are parked prior to a mission aboard France's Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier sailing in the Gulf, on 28 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

France to deploy aircraft carrier against Islamic State

PARIS — France will deploy its Charles de Gaulle aircraft carrier to the Middle East in the autumn to participate in operations against Islamic State militants, President Francois Hollande said on Wednesday.

“The battle group, which includes the Charles de Gaulle, will again be deployed to operation Chammal... because we have to strike back at those who attacked us here in January and November 2015,” Hollande said during a speech ahead of the French national day military parade on 14 July.—Reuters

Kerry seeks Russian cooperation despite deep misgivings within US administration

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State John Kerry heads to Moscow on Thursday to again seek deeper Russian cooperation in the war against Islamic State in Syria, but he faces strong opposition from defence and intelligence officials who argue that Washington and Moscow have diametrically opposite objectives in the country.

Kerry's trip, which State Department officials say is his second to the Russian capital this year and his third in 12 months, takes place as US-Russian relations have worsened with tit-for-tat diplomatic expulsions, aggressive Russian manoeuvres towards US aircraft and vessels, and a disregard for a cessation of hostilities in Syria, where Russia has bombed US-backed rebels.

Relations between Moscow and Washington also remain strained over the Ukraine crisis and what the Kremlin considers NATO's unjustified activities

along its borders, raising fears that disagreements could escalate into confrontations, either accidental in Syria or the result of miscalculations in the air and naval encounters from the Baltics to the Black Sea.

Yet Kerry, it seems, still hopes for closer collaboration with Russia, to the disbelief of many officials who say Washington has no strategy on how to deal with the challenges Russia poses in Europe and Syria.

“It isn't clear why the secretary of state thinks he can enlist the Russians to support the administration's goals in Syria,” said one US intelligence official.

“He's ignoring the fact that the Russians and their Syrian allies have made no distinction between bombing ISIS and killing members of the moderate opposition, including some people that we've trained,” the official said, using an acronym for the militant group. “Why would we

share intelligence and targeting information with people who've been doing that?”

US intelligence officers are incensed by the administration's continued overtures to Russia, in part because they say the Russians knew that two rebel camps they bombed this week were far from any Islamic State fighters and housed US-backed rebels or their families.

The first attack, on Monday, killed at least 123 people and injured scores more, many of them CIA-trained rebels and military or intelligence officers from allied Arab countries, said three US intelligence officials. The second, on Tuesday, killed at least 12 rebel fighters at a nearby base, they said.

The camps, the officials said, are in a no-man's-land on Syria's border with Jordan devoid of any Syrian troops or Islamic State fighters, and the Russians attacked it delib-

erately, the officials said. It was not immediately possible to seek comment from officials in Moscow. Other officials argue it is naive to think that because the Russians say they, too, are seeking a negotiated end to Syria's civil war -- which, according to the United Nations, has claimed some 400,000 lives -- Moscow's goal is compatible with that of the United States and its Arab and European allies.

“The Russians want a settlement that would keep (Syrian President Bashar al-Assad or some replacement acceptable to them in power,” said a defence official, who like others who discussed the schism in the administration agreed to do so only on condition of anonymity.

“The president has said that Assad has got to go, and our allies, especially the Saudis, hold that view very strongly. In fact, they keep asking us why we're cozying up to Moscow.”—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (060 7JR)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGON STAR VOY NO (060 7JR) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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Reg. No. 7128/2016

In respect of Class 2: Food coloring; Food dyes.

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Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)

For **AmeriColor Corporation**

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Dated: 15.7.2016

Suspected Islamist recruiter kills four at Kenyan police station - officer

NAIROBI — A suspected recruiter for Somalia's al Shabaab militant group being held in a west Kenyan police station shot dead at least four officers there on Thursday after snatching a weapon from a guard, an officer said. The incident took place at Kapenguria police station in a region near the Ugandan border.

Al Shabaab has

launched a series of attacks against Kenya in recent years, including using local recruits. The group says the attacks are aimed at driving Kenyan forces out of Somalia where they are part of an Africa force fighting al Shabaab.

The suspect was detained on Wednesday for interrogation and grabbed the weapon during a rou-

tine roll call early on Thursday morning, said the officer, who asked not to be named because he was not authorised to speak publicly.

“I can confirm that four police officers have been killed but they could be more,” the officer told Reuters. Kenyan television channel KTN said as many as six officers had died in the continuing

stand-off. KTN and other Kenyan media said police reinforcements had been deployed.

“The suspect has locked himself inside one of the rooms and we are trying to get him out,” the officer said. “We have surrounded the station.”

A police spokesman and a regional official had no immediate comment.—Reuters

Britain's new PM May gives Johnson big job, says needs time before Brexit talks

LONDON— Theresa May became Britain's prime minister on Wednesday with the task of leading it out of the European Union, and quickly named leading 'Brexit' supporters including former London mayor Boris Johnson to key positions in her new government.

The former Conservative interior minister, 59, said after being appointed by Queen Elizabeth that she would champion social justice and carve out a bright new future for Britain after last month's shock referendum vote to quit the EU.

"We will rise to the challenge. As we leave the European Union we will forge a bold new positive role for ourselves in the world, and we will make Britain a country that works not for a privileged few, but for every one of us," she said outside 10 Downing Street, vacated hours earlier by David Cameron.

Cameron stepped down after Britons rejected his entreaties to stay in the EU, a decision that has set back European efforts to forge greater unity and created huge uncertainty

in Britain and across the 28-nation bloc.

May faced immediate pressure from EU leaders to serve formal notice of Britain's withdrawal and set the clock ticking on a two-year countdown to its final departure.

In phone calls with German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande, May said she needed time.

"On all the phone calls, the prime minister emphasised her commitment to delivering the will of the British people to leave the European Union," a spokeswoman for May said.

"The prime minister explained that we would need some time to prepare for these negotiations and spoke of her hope that these could be conducted in a constructive and positive spirit."

Just over an hour after entering her new office, she started naming ministers, appointing the steady and experienced foreign minister Philip Hammond to take charge of the finance ministry. He replaces George Osborne, whose determination to balance Britain's



Britain's Home Secretary Theresa May speaks during her Conservative party leadership campaign at the Institute of Engineering and Technology in Birmingham, England, Britain on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

books made him synonymous with austerity.

In a major surprise, May named Johnson, a leading eurosceptic who had until recently been seen as her main rival for the prime minister's job, to take over as foreign secretary.

Other prominent 'Leave' campaigners were also rewarded. One, David Davis, took the key role of

Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union. Another, Liam Fox, was named to head a new international trade department.

May herself had sided with Cameron in trying to keep Britain inside the EU, so needed to reach out to the winning Leave side in order to heal divisions in the ruling party and show her commitment to respecting the popular vote.

"Brexit means Brexit" has quickly become her new mantra.

By awarding such a senior job to Johnson, she also showed a conciliatory side. The two had clashed over policing in London while Johnson was serving as mayor. And since last month's vote, for which he campaigned vigorously, Johnson had suffered widespread criticism and

ridicule for failing to present a clear Brexit plan and swiftly dropping out of the leadership race.

With his unkempt blonde hair, bumbling humour and penchant for Latin quotations, the man known to Britons simply as 'Boris' will be the government's most colourful figure, but a controversial choice for conducting sensitive diplomacy with world leaders.

Asked by a reporter whether he would apologise to US President Barack Obama for controversially saying the "part-Kenyan" president was biased against Britain because of "an ancestral dislike of the British empire", Johnson said: "The United States of America will be in the front of the queue."

The quip was a reference to a comment by Obama during Britain's EU referendum campaign that the country would be at the back of the queue for trade deals if it voted to leave the bloc. Among other appointments, rising star Amber Rudd switched from the energy ministry to take May's old job as Home Secretary.—Reuters

Cameroon is abusing rights in its fight against Boko Haram — Amnesty

YAOUNDE — Authorities in Cameroon have arbitrarily arrested more than 1,000 people as part of their fight against Islamist militant group Boko Haram and dozens have died of disease or been tortured to death, Amnesty International said on Thursday.

Up to eight people are dying each month in Maroua Prison in the capital of Far North region and pris-

oners are kept in inhumane, overcrowded and unsanitary conditions, Amnesty said in a report. "Cameroon is pursuing the right objective, but in arbitrarily arresting, torturing and subjecting people to enforced disappearances the authorities are using the wrong means," said Alioune Tine, regional director for the human rights group.

Amnesty called on the government to implement

measures to prevent abuses including an end to arbitrary arrests and torture and said the government should ensure detainees have access to their families and to lawyers. The government is yet to comment on the report, which was based on interviews starting last October with more than 200 people in the Far North region that borders Nigeria and Chad.—Reuters

MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE EXPORT MARKETING & MILLING DEPARTMENT INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER

- MYANMATIMBER ENTERPRISE WILL SELL TEAK & HARDWOOD ROUND LOGS AND SAWN TIMBERS BY OPEN TENDERS IN US DOLLARS. PARTICULARS OF THE OPEN TENDER SALES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

(a) DATE & TIME	- (22-7-2016) (12:00) Noon
	- (25-7-2016) (13:00) Noon
(b) COMMODITIES & VOLUME	- TEAK LOGS (151) TONS
	- TEAK CONVERSION (255) TONS
	- HARD WOOD LOGS
	- KANYIN / LETPAN / DIDU
	- ABOUT (2527) TONS
	- TAMALAN HANDSAWN ABOUT(48) TONS
(c) PLACE	- TAW WIN HALL, GYOGONE, INSEIN TOWNSHIP, YANGON.
- FOR FURTHER DETAILED INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE HEAD OFFICE AND ALSO VISIT MYANMA TIMBER ENTERPRISE WEB-SITE (www.myanmar-timber.com.mm).
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Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.7.2016 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.

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY NO ()

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR SOLO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR SOLO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 15.7.2016 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING

LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Ranking shows rich nations not leading way to end poverty, inequality

NEW YORK — Most of the world's richest countries failed to earn top marks on their progress toward reaching the United Nations' goals to end poverty and inequality, with only Germany and the United Kingdom in the top ten, according to a list published on Thursday.

The United States ranked 25th on the index of 149 countries, scoring poorly on promoting clean energy and fighting inequality and climate change, said the ranking by the UN Sustainable Development Network and Bertelsmann Stiftung, a German social responsibility foundation.

UN member states agreed last September to 17 ambitious goals to tackle the world's most troubling problems such as inequality, poverty and climate change.

The agenda is to be implemented over the next 15 years, with a big push globally to win public support.

The index measuring nations' progress is meant to boost interest in the global goals, said Jeffrey Sachs, director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

"We put this report

out ... as a kind of spur," he told the Thomson Reuters Foundation. "Remember these goals? You signed up to them. Here's where you are."

Scoring at the bottom of the list were the Central African Republic and Liberia, while Sweden, Denmark, Norway, Finland and Switzerland topped the list.

Germany ranked sixth, and the United Kingdom ranked tenth, it said.

The United States ranked 25th, below Hungary and above Slovak Republic, it said.

Among other economic giants, China ranked 76th, Japan was 18th, France ranked 11th, India was 110th, Brazil was 52nd and Canada was in 13th place, it said.

When the agenda of global goals was passed, experts warned that some countries might be reluctant to address certain issues such as climate change and gender equality.

A study by Bertelsmann Stiftung last year predicted that the United States would be among nations least likely to meet goals to end poverty and combat climate change.—*Reuters*



Police officers pay their respects ahead of the funeral for Officer Lorne Ahrens in Plano, Texas, US, on 13 July 2016. Five officers, including Ahrens, were killed in a shooting incident in Dallas on 7 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

First funerals held for Dallas police slain in racially motivated ambush

DALLAS — Thousands of police officers joined by ordinary citizens attended funerals on Wednesday for three of the policemen shot dead in a racially motivated ambush attack last week that intensified America's long-running debate on race and justice.

At the Dallas megachurch called The Potter's House, officers by the thousands crowded into the funeral for Dallas Area Rapid Transit officer Brent Thompson, who had married a fellow officer just two weeks before last Thursday's attack.

"I know many of you have dealt with these things quite often," pastor Rick Lamb of Northside Baptist

Church told the crowd. "Today is about Brent and trying to bring some closure to this family as they finish the job that they didn't want to start, but had to start last week." Funerals were also taking place on Wednesday for Sergeant Michael Smith, 55, and Officer Lorne Ahrens, 48, of the Dallas Police Department.

The funerals came a day after President Barack Obama praised the slain officers' heroism, condemned the attack as an "act not just of demented violence but of racial hatred" and made an impassioned plea for national unity. The five officers were killed by a former US Army Reserve soldier who told police that he was angry

about police killings of two black men in Louisiana and Minnesota earlier that week and wanted to "kill white people," especially police.

Funerals for the other two slain officers, Michael Krol, 40, and Patrick Zamarripa, 32, are expected later in the week. The shootings in Louisiana and Minnesota were the latest in a series of high-profile police killings of black men in various US cities that have brought intense scrutiny of police use of force, particularly against black suspects.

The police slain in Dallas last week were patrolling a demonstration decrying the killings by police of Alton Sterling, 37, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, and Phi-

lando Castile, 32, outside St. Paul, Minnesota. Sterling was killed after officers responded to a call that he had threatened someone with a gun. Castile was killed during a traffic stop.

In Baton Rouge, Sterling's 15-year-old son, Cameron Sterling, urged people to refrain from violence as they demand reforms in the US criminal justice system. "I feel that people in general, no matter what the race is, should come together as one united family," Cameron Sterling told reporters in the parking lot of the Triple S Food Mart, where his father was killed. "I want everyone to protest the right way. Protest in peace. ... No violence, whatsoever."—*Reuters*

Buddhist Association in Rangoon

The beneficiaries of a Trust created by Cheah Leong Keah, deceased ("the said Trust") wish to terminate the said Trust so that the Trust property can be distributed. HSBC (Malaysia) Trustee Berhad, being the Trustee of the said Trust, is taking steps to bring the said Trust to an end.

The abovenamed Association has been named as one of the beneficiaries in the said Trust. As such, anyone who possesses any knowledge or information of the abovenamed Association is requested to contact Messrs Presgrave & Matthews, Standard Chartered Bank Chambers, 2 Lebuh Pantai, 10300 Penang, Malaysia (Telephone No.: +604 2626155, Fax No.: +604 2626160/2628373, Email: presmat@presmat.com) within sixty-five (65) days from the date of this notice.

Further, notice is hereby given that unless Messrs Presgrave & Matthews, the Solicitors for the Trustee, receive from the said Association particulars of its claim or beneficial interest in the said Trust within sixty-five (65) days from the date of this Notice, the Trustee will, upon the expiration of the said period of 65 days, distribute the trust property to those who are entitled to it, having regards only to the claims of which the Trustee had notice and the Trustee shall not be liable to the said Association if the Trustee did not have any notice of the claim of the said Association in the said Trust at the time of the distribution of the trust property.

Notice is given to U San Thar Aung (son of U Htay Win) (8/ KaMaNa (Naing)139531) and public concerned

Under the assignment and instruction of my assignor of the right and power Qatm Co., Ltd, it is hereby notified as follows.

U San Thar Aung (son of U Htay Win) (8/ KaMaNa(Naing)139531) has performed his responsibility of the sales of cement and tar of the company while serving in this company

For so having assigned, it has been known that the cost of goods Kyats 9,265,740/- definitely has been sold under the direction. Despite repayment to the company of the above- mentioned cash amount, it has yet to be paid back until now. U San Thar Aung himself has made verification in the company office room that Kyats 6,615,740/- has already been abused for personal advantage on (22-4-2016) and he has acknowledged and made commitment to indemnify it on due date (30-4-2016) and undertaken to tackle for the encumbrance of the goods Kyats 2,650,000/-.

U San Thar Aung could not pay such cash amount on (30-4-2016) and absconded thereof. As such, U San Thar Aung is to pay urgently back the cash amount due to the company within (7) days of this notice in newspaper and on failure of indemnification until due date, action will be taken in due course of provision of existing law, it has been notified to know U San Thar Aung and common others.

Under instruction

Daw Khin Myo Kyi (Serial No.10712)
LL.B,D.B.L,D.I.L.

Advocate

Daw Phue Thinzar Thaw (Serial No.46298)
LL.B
Higher Grade Pleader

U Bo Bo (Serial No.10664)

B.Sc(Geol), M.P.A., M.A(Business Law)
H.G.P.,D.M.A.,D.APsy,D.A.E,
D.B.L.,D.M.L.,D.I.L.,D.I.R,PG.D.L
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PHOTO: REUTERS

Hollywood stands behind Jennifer Aniston's take on media sexism

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood celebrities are lining up behind actress Jennifer Aniston after she penned a blog criticising the media for the way it scrutinizes female stars.

Melissa McCarthy, Jason Bateman and Olivia Wilde were among the A-Listers who showed their support.

"Everybody needs to stop tearing down women," McCarthy, 45, said on "Entertainment Tonight," after declaring she was "one hundred thousand billion per cent" behind Aniston.

Former "Friends" star Aniston, 47, published the blog, "For the Record," on the Huffington Post on Tuesday, writing that she was sick of being harassed by photographers and tabloid reporters.

"For the record, I am not pregnant," she wrote. "What I am is fed up. I'm fed up with the sport-like scrutiny and body shaming that occurs daily under the guise of 'journalism,' the 'First Amendment' and 'celebrity news.'"

lebrity news."

"The objectification and scrutiny we put women through is absurd and disturbing," Aniston also wrote, saying that "we define a woman's value based on her marital and maternal status."

Aniston's husband, actor Justin Theroux, posted an image of her to his Instagram page with the hashtag #wcw for "Woman Crush Wednesday." He linked to her letter and wrote, "Here's just one reason why."

Aniston, who People magazine named as the most beautiful woman of 2016 in April, said she wrote the blog because she "wanted to participate in a larger conversation" even though she does not use social media.

The blog post was "liked" on Facebook more than 27,000 times by Wednesday afternoon.

"The way I am portrayed by the media is simply a reflection of how we see and portray women in general, measured against some warped standard of beauty," Aniston wrote.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Director Ross explores family and parenting in 'Captain Fantastic'

LOS ANGELES — Writer and director Matt Ross says his award-winning "Captain Fantastic" film about a father and his children draws on some elements of his own childhood as well as his own hopes as a parent.

In the movie, for which Ross won a directing prize at the Cannes Film Festival in May, Viggo Mortensen plays a father of six who takes his family from their isolated forest abode to the city.

"There's some autobiographical elements. My mother started some alternative living...communities in northern California and Oregon and I lived on those as a child. My mother is not Viggo's character. This is just fiction," Ross told Reuters.

"I think it really was aspirational for me, the kind of father I want to be... There's a couple of gifts we can give our children. One is to be present in their lives...and the other is to try and I think... every parent does this, we try and teach them so they don't make the same mistakes we do."—Reuters

Calvin Harris takes to social media to criticise Taylor Swift

LOS ANGELES — DJ and producer Calvin Harris criticised his former girlfriend, pop star Taylor Swift, on social media on Wednesday, for making him "look bad" after a celebrity news publication revealed that Swift had written Harris' latest hit song under a pseudonym.

People magazine, citing Swift's representative, said Swift had written "This is What You Came For," which Harris released as a collaboration with R&B singer Rihanna in April.

The magazine reported that

Swift had written the song under the pseudonym 'Nils Sjoberg' while the couple were dating, and that Swift became upset over an interview in which Harris said he did not think he would work with her in the future.

Representatives for Swift did not respond to Reuters for comment.

"Hurtful to me at this point that her and her team would go so far out of their way to try and make ME look bad at this stage though," Harris said, in a series of tweets directed at Swift.

Harris praised Swift's lyric-writing talents and said she had wanted to keep their collaboration secret.

Swift, 26, and Harris, 32, split up last month after dating for more than a year. Swift, who was named 2016's highest-earning celebrity by Forbes magazine this week, has recently been photographed with British actor Tom Hiddleston.

Harris also hinted at a long-suspected feud between Swift and pop star Katy Perry, saying "I know you're off tour and you need someone new to try and



DJ Calvin Harris. PHOTO: REUTERS

bury like Katy ETC

but I'm not that guy, sorry. I won't allow it."

Representatives for Perry did not respond for comment.—Reuters

Leonardo DiCaprio's foundation grants USD 15.7m to stop climate change

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Leonardo DiCaprio's foundation is set to donate USD 15.7 million to help solve environmental issues, such as climate change.

The 41-year-old actor announced that the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation is to pledge the huge sum to fund conservation and environmental programmes to help combat climate change, reported *Us Weekly*.

"Today we are greatly increasing our level of vital grant making and strategic partnerships to help solve some of the world's most pressing environmental challenges," the actor said.

The latest pledge means DiCaprio's organisation has

donated USD 59 million since 1998. To help oversee the latest grants, the Hollywood actor has appointed a new CEO, Terry Tamminen, to the foundation.

"At this critical time, we are pleased to have Terry join us as CEO. Terry is a proven leader, with the experience and passion necessary to work alongside (executive director) Justin (Winters) and the entire LDF team to further strengthen and expand the impact of our global efforts," the "Revenant" actor added.

Earlier this year, DiCaprio, who is a staunch environmental campaigner, praised Pope Francis for helping to try to combat climate change. "He's been inspiring and revolutionary, to come

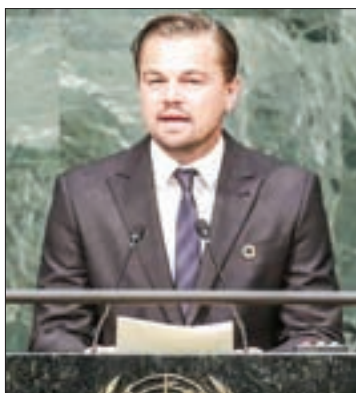


PHOTO: PTI

out and be outspoken about the issue of climate change and endorse the scientific community.

"We have 99 per cent of the scientific community now saying climate change exists and it's caused by mankind.—PTI

Amber Heard meets ex-girlfriend amid legal battle with Depp

LONDON — Model-actress Amber Heard reunited with her ex-girlfriend Tasya Van Ree for lunch earlier this week amid her bitter legal battle with estranged husband Johnny Depp.

The 30-year-old actress was spotted tucking into lunch with Ree, whom she split from five years ago, at Republique in Los Angeles earlier this week, reported *Female First*.

Heard, who brought her pet Yorkshire Terrier along with her, arrived at the plush eatery five minutes after the 40-year-old photographer before spending an hour catching up over delicious grub.

The lunch date comes two

months after Heard filed for divorce from Depp, 53. She claimed in court at the time that her decision was prompted by the actor's physical assault.

The actress was granted a temporary restraining order, which instructs Depp to remain 100 yards away from his wife at all times, although her request to ban him from seeing her pet pooch was thrown out.

The pair, who met on the set of 2011 film "The Rum Diary", are not thought to have put a pre-nuptial agreement in place before they wed in February 2015 in Los Angeles, followed by another ceremony in the Bahamas.—PTI

Israeli athletes pay tribute to Munich Games victims ahead of Rio

TEL AVIV — Athletes and officials representing Israel at the Olympics in Rio next month held a memorial service on Wednesday for the 11 Israelis killed by Palestinian gunmen during the 1972 Munich Games.

Two members of the Israeli team — gymnast Neta Rivkin, who will be Israel's flag bearer at the opening ceremony, and wind-surfer Shahar Tzuberi — laid a wreath at a memorial monument during the ceremony in

Tel Aviv that was also attended by relatives of those killed.

On 5 September 1972, Israeli Olympic team members were taken hostage at the athletes' village by Palestinian gunmen from the Black September group.

Within 24 hours, 11 Israelis, five Palestinians and a German policeman were dead after a standoff and subsequent rescue effort erupted into gunfire. —Reuters



Israeli windsurfer Shahar Tzuberi, who will represent Israel at the 2016 Rio Olympics, lays a wreath during a memorial ceremony for the 11 Israeli team members who were killed by Palestinian gunmen during the 1972 Summer Olympics in Munich, in Tel Aviv, Israel, on 13 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hollande's haircuts set French social media alight



French President Francois Hollande leaves after the weekly cabinet meeting at the Elysee Palace in Paris, on 13 November 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — French social media was abuzz with suggestions of novel haircuts for Francois Hollande on Wednesday after it emerged that the French president's receding hairline was maintained by a costly,

round-the-clock hairdresser.

Satirical newspaper *Le Canard Enchaîné* triggered the fuss with a report, later confirmed by the government, that the 61-year-old was paying nearly 10,000 euros a month to keep his hair in shape.

"Everyone gets haircuts," government spokesman Stephane Le Foll said. "This hairdresser had to abandon his salon and he's on tap 24 hours a day."

Le Foll confirmed the report that Hollande's hairdresser was paid 9,985 euros (8,342 pounds) per month, but stressed that the operational budget of the presidential Elysee Palace was cut by 15 to 20 per cent after Hollande took over from Nicolas Sarkozy in 2012.

Twitter fans made fun of it all with altered photographs and videos, showing Hollande with rock-and-roll or punk haircuts, and in various other guises as the Queen of England, former Paris Saint-Germain soccer star Zlatan Ibrahimovic, and the president's ex-partner Valerie Trierweiler. —Reuters

Fashion forward flight attendants hit the runway at Russia airport

MOSCOW — Flights attendants from various international airlines hit the runway at Moscow's Domodedovo airport on Tuesday — but on a catwalk to showcase how fashion influences

their uniforms.

Cabin crew members strutted down in their outfits to highlight the care that goes into selecting the design, colour and style of the uniforms flight attendants wear,

with traditional costumes sometimes providing inspiration.

Tuesday's fashion show was timed to mark Flight Attendant Day celebrated in Russia on 12 July. —Reuters



Flight attendants from various airlines perform during a show at Domodedovo International Airport outside Moscow, Russia, on 12 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(15-7-2016, Friday)

06 : 00 pm	09 : 10 pm
• Weather Report	• Creator of
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	Imagination (U Soe Tint)
06 : 30 pm	09 : 30 pm
• Cartoon Programme "Rio" (Part-2)	• International Movie Songs
07 : 10 pm	09 : 40 pm
• International Drama Series	• Egg Shell
07 : 50 pm	09 : 50 pm
• International Drama Series	• Music Programme
09 : 00 pm	10 : 10 pm
• MRTV Entertainment Music	• Myanmar Video
	Midnight
	• Close Down

From 15-7-2016 (Friday) 6:00 pm
To 16-7-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 pm

mitv Myanmar International

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

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Discovering Tribes "Gaybar Kayin"
07:47	Am	Chaung Tha Souvenir Business
07:54	Am	A Traditional Doctor
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Horse Cart Driver
08:36	Am	He can do it
08:48	Am	The 110 th Anniversary of Yangon Zoological Garden
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Chance to Change Their Future
09:44	AmShan Novices To Be.....
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Entrepreneur - Dr. Thant Thaw Kaung
10:37	Am	Myanmar Charitable Labour Association
10:49	Am	MURAL PAINTING BAGAN

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Trip To The City of Rakkhita, Rakhine
07:46	Pm	Chinlone and the dreams of the player
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin- A Living Literary Legend of Myanmar)
08:52	Pm	Yoghurt Vendor

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



Sunderland manager Sam Allardyce. PHOTO: REUTERS

Sunderland confirm manager Allardyce in England talks

LONDON — Sunderland have given permission to the Football Association (FA) to speak to manager Sam Allardyce about the vacant England post, the Premier League club said on Wednesday.

Allardyce, 61, is one of the favourites to succeed Roy Hodgson, who resigned last month after England's humiliating exit from the European Championship at the hands of Iceland.

Sunderland said the ongoing speculation over the future of Allardyce, who, according to British media, has already been interviewed by a three-man FA panel, was "extremely damaging" to the club.

"Sam is very much key to our plans," the club, which narrowly escaped relegation last sea-

son, said in a statement.

"After what was an extremely challenging season, we are keen to see a period of stability, both on and off the field, and we want him to remain as manager of our football club."

Sunderland said it allowed the FA to contact Allardyce at the manager's request but sought a quick end to the uncertainty.

"...we urge the FA to respect the disruption that this process is causing and bring about a swift resolution to the matter," the club added. Bournemouth manager Eddie Howe, former England coach Glenn Hoddle, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger and United States manager Juergen Klinsmann have also been linked with the post by the local media.—Reuters

Barcelona sign France defender Digne from Paris St Germain

MADRID — Barcelona have signed France international Lucas Digne from Paris St Germain on a five-year contract for an initial fee of 16.5 million euros (£13.8 million), the Spanish champions said on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old left back spent last season on loan at AS Roma, where he scored once in 32 Serie A appearances as the Italian club finished third in the table.

"FC Barcelona have reached an agreement with Paris Saint-Germain FC to sign the 22-year-old French player Lucas Digne for the next five seasons," the club said on their website (www.fcbarcelona.com). "Barca have paid an initial 16.5 million euros with another four (million) possible according to individual and team results. Digne's buy-out clause is 60 million euros."

Digne, who also had a spell with French club Lille, was in his country's squad at the European Championship, where they lost in the final to Portugal in extra time. He has 13 caps.—Reuters

Ghost of victories past return to haunt Korean champions

SEOUL — As the rest of the world's top women golfers were playing for millions of dollars in prize money at the US Open last week, South Korea's Ko Jin-young was half a world away dreaming of what might have been.

One of the brightest young talents in women's golf, Ko made her mark on the world stage by finishing second at last year's British Open and has risen to 33rd in the world despite playing outside the US circuit, where events offer far more money and

world ranking points than the domestic Korean Tour.

While Ko received an invitation to the US Open, the most prestigious tournament in women's golf, and one she dearly wanted to play, there was one thing holding her back - the threat of a \$100,000 fine from the KLPGA.

The 21-year-old, who won the 2015 Chojung Sparkling-Yongpyong Resort Open with SBS, was a victim of the KLPGA's "Defending Champion" rule, which demands golfers

repay all the prize money from a tournament they win if they do not come back the following year.

Aimed at discouraging players from taking up invitations to foreign tournaments when the dates clash with Korean events, the KLPGA told Reuters 'Regulation 14:2' helped the Tour flourish by giving sponsors value for money and bringing in more fans.

"It is a player's duty to defend their title," the KLPGA told Reuters by telephone. "The regu-

lation is a promise to fans that the champion will be back next year. It also makes sponsors happy to have the champion come back.

"Appearing in a tournament as a defending champion is an honour for a player."

That honour can sometimes become a burden, however.

Players have had to turn down invites to high-profile foreign tournaments including the US Open where this year's champion Brittany Lang pocketed \$810,000

from the \$4.5 million prize pot.

The KLPGA said that, to date, it had never had cause to impose the fine, suggesting Korean players take their defending champion duties very seriously.

That or they are unwilling to repay the prize money.

With domestic tours around the world losing many of their top players to the lucrative US and European circuits, the KLPGA is not alone in threatening financial sanctions on those who do not defend their titles.—Reuters

Murray to miss Britain's Davis Cup quarter-final

LONDON — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray will miss Britain's Davis Cup quarter-final clash against Serbia with captain Leon Smith naming Kyle Edmund and James Ward as his two singles players on Wednesday.

Murray was instrumental in helping Britain to their first Davis Cup victory for 79 years last November, but had suggested it was unlikely he would feature against Serbia, who are also missing their talisman Novak Djokovic.

In the doubles, Andy's brother Jamie, ranked fifth in the

world, will partner doubles specialist Dominic Inglot.

"This date is a real nightmare for everybody, not just for him (Andy Murray), because it's not easy to change surface again," Smith told reporters.

"I was hopeful last week that he would play but then he goes and wins Wimbledon and has Olympics and US Open coming up and I hope he does well there also. As a team we are all delighted for him".

"I hope he comes out Thursday or Friday to support

the team."

World number 73 Daniel Evans, who was named in the initial squad, also missed out due to personal issues and a shoulder injury.

Murray has committed to playing at the 2016 Rio Olympics, where he will look to defend his title.

The quarter-finals will take place between 15-17 July at the Tasmajdan Stadium in Belgrade.—Reuters



Great Britain's Andy Murray reacts during the mens singles final against Canada's Milos Raonic on 10 July. PHOTO: REUTERS