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## YCDC to sell affordable housing units to low-income families



A view of the Yangon skyline.—PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

### By Aye Min Soe

YANGON, 24 July — Yangon City Development Committee is planning to develop affordable housing units for low-income families, including those of industrial zone workers, an official said Friday.

The YCDC City Plan-

ning Department official said the project will help the low-income households buy accommodation by installment. In order to pay the installments, they must earn at least K300,000 per month.

Housing demand has soared in Yangon, rising from 20,000 units in 2000

to around 30,000 units in 2015, according to a YCDC survey of industrial workers and those who do not own homes.

Meanwhile, housing units worth around K10 million each are being developed in Yangon's outskirts townships of Hline-thaya, Dagon Myothit and

Shwepyithar for people who cannot afford homes and workers in industrial zones, according to YCDC.

The homes will be sold under a lottery system, which will draw from individual applications for housing.

The housing development will add 1,168 hous-

ing units in East Dagon Myothit township, 2,976 units in South Dagon Myothit township, 1,909 in Dagon Seikkan township and 1,200 in Shwepyithar township, increasing the total number of affordable housing units in Yangon Region to nearly 10,000 this fiscal year, according

to YCDC.

The development will involve construction of six-storey buildings with eight units per floor. Units will range from 490 to 680 square feet.

More than a quarter of Yangon's 7 million inhabitants do not own homes.

GNLM

## Employment fair focuses on personality-based job matching

### By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 24 July — For young people in Myanmar, uncertainty about the right career path can be a bigger barrier to finding work than a lack of employment opportunities, the organizer of a Yangon job fair said Friday.

U Than Soe, joint secretary of the Myanmar Young Entrepreneurs Association, said young people often find themselves

in jobs that are not suited to their personality or interests. "All job hunters have a burning desire to get a job, but they themselves do not know which sector they are interested in and have little idea before landing jobs," he said.

To help remove some of the uncertainty, the Myanmar Society for Human Resource Management has introduced a "career inter-

est test" for job seekers at the fair which runs until 26 July at Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall on U Wisara Road in Yangon.

"We conduct this test for those people free of charge with the aim of helping youths to find a job suited to them," said U Tin Maung Thein, chairman of MSHRM. Currently there are many job opportunities in banking, sales and marketing, travel and tours, and

(See page 2)



Job seekers fill out applications at a job fair in Yangon.

PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

Pyithu Hluttaw

## UEC explains electoral differences at Pyithu Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — People with temporary National Registration Cards will not be allowed to vote in the 8 November general election, U Myint Naing of the Union Election Commission told the Pyithu Hluttaw on Friday, in response to a query about differences in rules between the upcoming ballot and the 2010 vote.

The electoral register for early voting has been posted in offices of UEC sub-commissions, he said, affirming measures to ensure that a person cannot vote twice.

The 2010 election lacked accurate records of people eligible for early

voting, he added.

U Kyi Tha of the Gwa constituency called for improved record keeping for rural farmlands that belong to the Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Ltd.

Deputy Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation U Ohn Than responded that

the Settlement and Land Record Department is making efforts to digitalize a map of farmlands and fields so as to provide accurate data on land use. The Pyithu Hluttaw approved the banks and financial institutions bill submitted by the Central Bank of Myanmar.—MNA



Daw Khin Hmwe Lwin.  
MNA



U Kyi Tha.  
MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw

## Call for Speakers' Corner relocation rejected at Amyotha Hluttaw

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — A call from Yangon constituency MP U Phone Myint Aung for relocation of the Speakers' Corner from the west corner of the Kyaikkasan Ground in the country's largest city to a more suitable place was turned down Friday in the Amyotha Hluttaw.

It would be impossible to move the public site to another place, U Kyaw Kyaw Win, Deputy Minister at President's Office, responded, explaining that the area is set up in the township of Tamwe for peaceful parades, assemblies and public speaking

in accordance with the law. Before the establishment of the Speakers' Corner, protests occurred near Sule Pagoda or at Mahabandoola Park or other central locations, causing

traffic congestion, he added. The Amyotha Hluttaw agreed to discuss the monogamy bill, the Pyithu Hluttaw amendment bill and the organ donation bill.—MNA



Dr Khin Shwe of Yangon Constituency 9.—MNA



U J Yaw Gu of No.12 Constituency, Kachin State.—MNA

## Myanmar Pearl Exhibition raises country's FE



Merchants check pearl lots at Myanmar Pearl Auction.—MNA



PYIDAUNGSU AND PYITHU HLUTTAW OFFICES OFFER WASO ROBES: Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Pyithu Hluttaw Thura U Shwe Mann leads the congregation including Deputy Speaker U Nanda Kyaw Swa to offer Waso Robe to venerable monks in Hluttaw complex on 24 July, 2015.—MNA

## France's outgoing ambassador calls on Defence Services Chief

Senior General Hlaing shaking hands with Mr Thierry Mathou who has completed his tour of duty in Myanmar.  
MYAWADY



NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, the Com-

mander-in-Chief of Defence Services, and Mr Thierry Mathou, the outgoing ambassador from France to Myanmar, held talks Friday over promoting relations between armed forces of the two countries.

During the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, they dis-

cussed matters related to exchange visits of high ranking military officers of the two countries, trainings and appointing military attachés.

The meeting also focused on the role of the Tatmadaw in the upcoming general elections.

Myawady

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — Over 337 pearl lots were sold during Myanmar Pearl Exhibition through a tender system at Maniyadana Jade hall here, receiving €3,262,370 for the state.

The exhibition was held between 22 and 24 July, featuring more than 300 pearl lots by Myanmar Pearl Enterprise, Myanmar Atlantic Co and Aungzabu Co.

Over 80 merchants including those from Japan, Norway, China, Singapore, Thailand and India visited the pearl sale.

MNA

## Employment fair focuses ...

(from page 1) information technology, a businessman at the fair said.

Despite high demand for staff, local companies are facing scarcity of skilled workers as well as salary negotiation problems with experienced workers, he added.

U Than Soe said he expected more than

20,000 visitors at the three-day event, which was first staged in 2009.

Past events have received around 25,000 visitors and 20 percent of all applicants got jobs, he added. The fair covers 100 booths from 61 companies including a few international businesses and will continue till 26 July.

GNLM

NATIONAL

# President U Thein Sein meets South Korean delegates

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July—President U Thein Sein received a South Korean delegation led by Korea Rural Community Cooperation Chief Executive Officer Mr Lee Sang-Mu at the Presidential Palace here to discuss development of agriculture and fishery.

They also discussed land reclamation, development of the Panghlaing River, poverty reduction and rural improvement.

Also present at the visit were Union ministers U Wunna Maung Lwin, U Myint Hlaing, U Ohn Myint, Dr Kan Zaw, Yangon Mayor U Hla Myint and officials.—MNA

**President U Thein Sein poses for documentary photo together with South Korean delegation led by Korea Rural Community Cooperation Chief Executive Officer Mr Lee Sang-Mu.**

MNA



**By Ye Myint**

YANGON, 24 July — Government and ethnic negotiators on Friday adjourned talks aimed at finalizing a draft national ceasefire accord until next month, having been unable to seal a deal on three proposed amendments to the pact following three days of discussions in Yangon.

The two sides will seek to finalize the NCA and reach a compromise on unresolved proposals from both sides at the next round starting the first week of August, chief negotiators said in their concluding remarks following the adjournment.

In a press conference at the Myanmar Peace Centre, spokespersons told the media both sides will have to seek approval from their respective leaderships about proposed NCA signatories and international witnesses, as well as the number of ethnic armed groups to ink the ceasefire.

On the three unresolved amendments, both sides reiterated that they agreed in principle on two points, but needed approval from their respective leaderships, while the third point will require further negotiation.

The two sides during the first two days of the talks reached agreement on

10 of 13 amendments to the draft accord proposed by the ethnic side.

According to the spokespersons, the ethnic side's insistence that all armed groups be involved in the signing process remained a major point of contention.

Pu Zing Cung, a deputy leader of the ethnic senior delegation, said the ethnic side still firmly held that the signing of the truce deal must include 17 groups—the 16 members of the Nationwide Ceasefire Coordination Team plus the All Burma Students' Democratic Front (ABSDF).

“The government side responded to us that it prefers not to sign with six NCCT member groups, but the inclusion of the six groups in a political dialogue after the ceasefire deal will be taken into consideration,” he said.

U Hla Maung Shwe, senior adviser at the Myanmar Peace Centre, insisted that there would be no exclusion of some groups from the peace process and ways were being sought to move forward on the issue.

“The ethnic side sought a guarantee at the current talks and the government side agreed to negotiate the issue at the next round of talks,” he said.

According to the ethnic peace negotiator Pu Zing

## Gov't, ethnic armed groups adjourn ceasefire talks until next month



**Negotiators from Union Peace-Making Working Committee and a senior delegation of ethnic armed organizations conclude talks in Yangon, adjourning until the first week of next month.**

PHOTO: YE MYINT

Cung, the ethnic side proposed international organizations including the United Nations, ASEAN and the European Union, as well as

the United States, the United Kingdom, Norway, Japan, China, India and Thailand officially witness the signing of the NCA.

“We also proposed all leaders from the two sides including vice-presidents, parliament speakers, top leaders in the

Union Peace-Making Working Committee leaders and the attorney-general should be signatories to the ceasefire deal,” he added. —GNLM

### Low demand limits Mawlamyine Airport schedule

**By Ko Moe (GNLM)**

YANGON, 24 July—Mawlamyine Airport is in operation only one day a week due to a decline in passenger numbers, a Transport Department official said Friday.

“Myanmar National Airlines usually has around 30 passengers on the Yangon-Mawlamyine-Kawthoung flight service and uses Mawlamyine

Airport only on Mondays,” the official said.

Relatively few passengers disembark at Mawlamyine, the majority of them foreigners.

“The majority of visitors travel to Mawlamyine by highway buses which are less expensive,” the official said.

## Lenovo reveals market expansion goal in Myanmar

By Khaing Thanda Lwin

YANGON, 24 July — Chinese technology giant Lenovo aims to expand its share of the Myanmar consumer electronics market from 21 to 28 percent by

the end of the fiscal year, a company official said Wednesday.

At the company's first media conference in Yangon, Dr Harry Yang, vice-president and general manager of Lenovo South

East Asia, said the company had set a goal of becoming the region's No. 1 personal computer brand within two years.

"On the business front, we see strong growth momentum in Southeast Asia,

with Myanmar being a key growth driver in the region for Lenovo," he said.

With a population of over 51 million people, it is estimated that Myanmar's IT market will grow from US \$110.51 million in 2011 to \$233.56 million in 2016, Dr Yang added.

Mr Roland Chew, country general manager of Lenovo Indo China, said the firm will increase its investments in all segments of the country. Key areas of investment include expansion of retail stores, desktop sales and after-sales services, he added.

Lenovo entered the Myanmar market in 2009 and is the leading seller of PCs in the country.

GNLM



## International charity aids conservation of Indawgyi Lake

MONYIN, 24 July — Conservation charity Fauna & Flora International is planning to build silt control ponds near Indawgyi Lake, Kachin State, to prevent inflows of polluted water.

Located in Monyin Township in the northern Myanmar state, Indawgyi Lake is one of the largest inland lakes in the country and is on the list of ASEAN Heritage Parks. Indawgyi Wildlife Sanctuary was established on 4 March 1999. The lake measures 100 square miles and is

surrounded by five reserved forest areas on 215 acres.

One of its 29 tributaries, Kaungton Creek empties into the west bank of the lake. The water in the lake, previously green, has become muddy and silted due to gold digging operations upstream of the creek.

With nearby villages recently joining the national electrical grid, firewood consumption has decreased significantly, aiding environmental conservation efforts, according to locals.—GNLM-001



Computers on display at Yangon's Parkroyal Hotel.—PHOTO: KHAING THANDA LWIN

## Telenor to construct phone towers in Matupi, Chin State

MATUPI, 24 July — Norwegian telecommunications company Telenor has begun work to erect mobile phone towers in

Matupi, southern Chin State.

The company expects to complete the work in about a month, it said.

The plan includes the erection of two towers in Matupi town, one near Ngalang village and other smaller ones in villages, ac-

ording to Chin World Media. The company expects to provide service to Chin resident from early next year.—Van Biak Thang

## Health workers treat school children

NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — Doctors, dentists and nurses provided free medical check-ups and treatment Thursday to about 900 students in Pobbathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

They first gave a talk to the children on dental and oral health and the importance of washing hands.—Shwe Ye Yint



## New road to cut travel time for villagers

TATKON, 24 July — Nay Pyi Taw Council member U Myint Shwe led an inspection Thursday of a new road under construction in Tatkon Township that promises a faster

connection to town for residents of remote Kyein village.

At present, it takes villagers about three days by bullock cart caravan to reach Tatkon.

The 10-mile-long road is being built at a cost of K522.9 million from the Nay Pyi Taw Council budget.

Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)



## Electoral officials inspect voter lists in Tatkon Tsp

TATKON, 24 July — In preparation for the coming general election, officials went on a field trip Thursday to check the voter list in Tatkon Township on 23 July.

The chairman of Nay Pyi Taw Council Area Election Sub-Commission was briefed on compiling of voter lists and amendments to the list by the township election authority.

According to the township officials, their work includes enrolling servicemen and police force members.—Tin Soe Lwin (Tatkon IPRD)

## Guardians apply stipends for students in Ottarathiri Tsp



NAY PYI TAW, 24 July — The Ministry of Education has begun trialling a stipend programme for students in Ottarathiri Township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area.

Under the programme, needy student at primary

school level will receive K 5,000 per month, middle school student K 8,000 and high school students K10,000. Parents and guardians applied for the stipends at No. 10 basic education middle school in Pantin village.—Shwe Ye Yint

## Red Cross, firefighters demonstrate rescue operations

MANDALAY, 24 July — A rescue team comprising firefighters and Mandalay Red Cross members on Thursday demonstrated procedures for rescuing someone trapped under fallen debris in their home.

The team demonstrated security measures around the house, with Red Cross members giving first aid and firefighters clearing debris with the use of chain saw, ropes and knives.

Incidents involving trees collapsing on homes and flooding are most frequent during monsoon season.

Tin Maung (Mandalay)



REGIONAL

# Defence gets access to evidence for DNA tests in Thailand backpackers murder trial — lawyer

BANGKOK, 24 July — A Thai court has given defence lawyers access to evidence for DNA testing in the trial of two Myanmar workers accused of murdering two British tourists in Thailand, a defence lawyer said on Friday.

The investigation has been dogged by allegations of police incompetence and mishandling of evidence, with rights groups saying the accused men are being used as scapegoats since they are foreign migrant workers in Thailand.

British tourists Hannah Witheridge, 23, and David Miller, 24, were killed last September and their bodies were found on a beach on Koh

Tao, an island in the Gulf of Thailand popular with backpackers and divers.

Post-mortem examinations showed both suffered severe head wounds and Witheridge was raped.

The defence team for the men accused of the crime, Win Zaw Htun and Zaw Lin, both aged 22, says police analyses of DNA samples found at the scene are the only evidence tying them to the crime, making retesting of the material crucial.

Among the evidence available for retesting were a garden hoe allegedly used as the murder weapon, blood found in the sand at the murder scene, shoes and hair samples, said lead defence lawyer Nakhon Chompuchat.

“The court said that lawyers are free to request all the DNA samples for independent DNA testing at anytime,” Nakhon told *Reuters*, adding that a forensic expert testified that DNA swabs from the crime scene had been duplicated in a laboratory, so samples were still available. “Now we must decide what to re-test.”

On Thursday, police forensic expert Kewalee Chanpan told a court on Samui island, site of the trial, that all genetic material tested in a lab was replicated and saved, but that it deteriorated over time.

Police had issued conflicting statements about the DNA, including that some was lost or “used up”. They later took back that statement, saying DNA

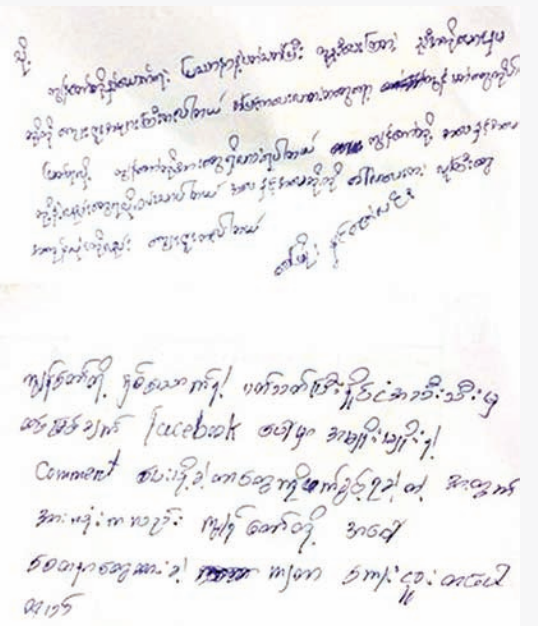


The pair deny they are responsible for the killings.—REUTERS

samples had not been lost. The murder trial resumed on Wednesday,

when the court heard how the British pair were tracked by more than a

dozen security cameras during their final hours. *Reuters*



## Malaysia's home ministry suspends publications over 1MDB reports

KUALA LUMPUR, 24 July — The Malaysian government's crackdown on the media and dissenters widened on Friday, as the home ministry suspended the publishing permit of *The Edge Weekly* and *The Edge Financial Daily* for three months over their reporting of an alleged graft scandal.

The Edge Media Group, which has a staff of around 350 people in Malaysia, has been reporting extensively on allegations related to mismanagement and corruption in the troubled state investment fund 1MDB.

Earlier this week, authorities blocked access to a website critical of Prime Minister Najib Razak's government and two opposition lawmakers were issued travel bans in connection with investigations into 1MDB.

1MDB, with debts of over \$11 billion, is being investigated by authorities in Malaysia for financial mismanagement and graft. The state-owned firm's advisory board is chaired by the prime minister.

The Edge Media Group said in a statement on Friday that the ministry issued a notice that claimed the two publications' reporting of 1MDB was “prejudicial or likely to be prejudicial to public order, security or likely to alarm public opinion or is likely to be prejudicial to public and national interest”. The publications will be

suspended for three months from 27 July.

“We don't see how exposing the scam to cheat the people of Malaysia of billions of ringgit can be construed as being detrimental to public and national interest,” said The Edge Media Group publisher and CEO Ho Kay Tat.

“This is nothing more than a move to shut us down in order to shut us up.”

On Monday, the government blocked access to the Sarawak Report website, saying the British-based news portal had violated a local internet law in a move condemned by opposition lawmakers.

Ho said The Edge will go to court and try and get the suspension lifted. The media group's website would continue to be active, it said.

*The Wall Street Journal (WSJ)* reported earlier this month that investigators looking into 1MDB had traced close to \$700 million of deposits into personal bank accounts belonging to Najib, according to documents from the probe.

*Reuters* has not verified the *WSJ* report.

Najib has denied taking any money for personal gain and said the corruption allegations are part of a malicious campaign to force him out of office. He is weighing legal options against the *WSJ*.—*Reuters*

## Indonesia's Widodo seeks to tame bureaucrats blocking infrastructure drive

JAKARTA, 24 July — Frustrated with his bureaucrats over delays to road and port building projects crucial to reviving the economy, Indonesia's president is pushing for a new, faster selection process to find officials who can deliver on time.

With economic growth at its slowest in nearly six years and his popularity ebbing, Joko Widodo is considering sidelining civil service panels set up to pick the most capable candidates for top jobs.

Widodo took office last October with the reputation of a reformer in a country consistently ranked among the world's most corrupt by watchdog Transparency International, but risks tainting that image by appearing to backtrack on a reform move.

However, staffing delays and ministerial meddling with the selection panels that take 10 times longer than the old system, itself criticized as being patronage-driven, have made it tough to launch projects, fuelling the impatience of investors.

“The president was thinking out loud, with some of the cabinet, whether he should put on hold temporarily all the selection schemes for public officials,” one senior official at the presidential pal-

ace told *Reuters*, echoing Widodo's understated style of giving orders.

It was not immediately clear what alternative Widodo will follow. But the comment reflects his frustration that public officials did not live up to his expectations, added the official, who declined to be identified because of the sensitivity of the subject.

Widodo wants to spend about \$20 billion this year on new ports, roads and other projects, but the bureaucracy has so far disbursed only around a tenth of the capital spending budget.

A revival in infrastructure projects would boost growth in southeast Asia's largest economy from a first-quarter figure of 4.7 percent to around the 6 to 7 percent rate analysts estimate is needed to ensure jobs for those entering the workforce.

Still, sidelining the panels could be a risky move.

“That would send a very ambivalent message about clean governance reform,” said consultant Kevin O'Rourke, who advises investors on political risks in Indonesia.

Widodo remains committed to governance reform, however, said his chief of staff, Luhut Panjaitan. “The president re-



Indonesia's President Joko Widodo

ally wants to discipline the bureaucracy,” he told reporters.

He said he did not know of plans to revamp the selection panels, although the administration was looking into their functioning.

The selection panels, used by every ministry and about 100 local government bodies, were meant to take the politics out of civil service appointments, giving more weight to merit. Sidelining them might make it simpler to fill long-vacant posts with officials who can sign off on spending decisions.

But Yuddy Chrisnandi, the minister handling administrative and bureaucratic reform, has faced criticism for staffing panels with people loyal to him.

“This is an example of how bureaucratic reform cannot make headway with patronage-motivated figures as ministers,” said O'Rourke. *Reuters*

Simply filling vacant posts will not resolve the spending snarls if the civil service itself is left unreformed.

Indonesia's civil service of 4.6 million is still structured along military lines adopted in the 1960s by late strongman Suharto and has a culture of following orders, rather than independent thinking.

Coupled with new caution in the face of scrutiny by anti-corruption authorities, this means that billions of dollars are not being spent when the economy needs them most.

“Civil servants won't sign anything,” said the palace official.

Conditions for civil servants have changed from the Suharto era, when they had to be members of the ruling party and could expect promotion in return for loyalty, but some habits persist.

Widodo wants to cut to three weeks the time the panels take for appointments, said Sofian Effendi, chief of the civil service commission. They need about 10 weeks, versus just one, under the old seniority-based system, he added.

“The new system has not been perfect,” he said. “But having the highest rank doesn't mean the candidate is the most suitable.” *Reuters*

## Upper house passes bill for narrowing vote gap

TOKYO, 24 July — Japan's upper house on Friday passed a bill for redrawing electoral districts in an effort to narrow the large vote weight disparities between constituencies that the top court found almost unconstitutional.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party and four opposition parties passed the bill through the House of Councillors on the strength of their combined majority, setting it on track to be enacted into law at a plenary session of the House of Representatives as early as Tuesday. The electoral reform law is expected to be applied from the upper house election slated for the summer of 2016, which will also be the first election in which the voting age is lowered to 18 from the previous 20 under new legislation

enacted last month.

While keeping the total number of upper house seats unchanged at 242, the latest legislation would merge four two-seat prefectures — Tottori and Shimane, Tokushima and Kochi — into two two-seat constituencies.

It would also slash the number of seats from four to two each for Miyagi, Niigata and Nagano prefectures, while raising them by two each for five other prefectures — Hokkaido, Tokyo, Aichi, Hyogo and Fukuoka. The measures would narrow the vote weight disparity between the most and least populated constituencies to 2.97 times from 4.77 times in the previous upper house election in July 2013, which the Supreme Court ruled last year as being “in a state of unconstitutionality.”

Six LDP lawmakers

enacted from the four prefectures to be merged under the legislation walked out before the vote, while the LDP's coalition ally Komeito and major opposition Democratic Party of Japan voted against the bill.

The LDP and the four opposition parties — the Japan Innovation Party, the Party for Future Generations, the Assembly to Energize Japan and the New Renaissance Party — jointly submitted the bill the day before. Parties including Komeito and DPJ have submitted a separate election reform bill to reduce the vote weight gap, but no voting will be held for it as the upper house already passed the other election bill. It is the first time the LDP and Komeito have taken separate stances in voting on a bill since they formed a

coalition in 1999. Makoto Nishida, secretary general of Komeito in the upper house, said the LDP-endorsed bill is insufficient in accommodating the equal vote value the Constitution calls for.

Under the existing election law, at least two seats have been allotted to a prefecture even if its population is small, as constituencies carried the significance of selecting representatives for each of the 47 prefectures in the country.

The latest bill would alter that significance and bring further changes in the electoral districts as it aims to resolve the issue through fundamental reforms ahead of the upper house election in 2019. Upper house elections are held every three years to elect half of the six-year-term lawmakers.

Kyodo News

## China says has every right to drill in East China Sea

BEIJING, 24 July — China said on Friday it had every right to drill in the East China Sea close to waters disputed with Japan, adding that it did not recognise a “unilateral” Japanese median line setting out a boundary between the two in the waters.

Japan this week called on China to halt construction of oil-and-gas exploration platforms in the East China Sea close to waters claimed by both nations, concerned that Chinese drills could tap reservoirs that extend into Japanese territory.

Patrol ships and aircraft from both countries have been shadowing each other in the area over the past couple of years, raising fears of a confrontation and clash.

In an escalation of the latest dispute, Japan released aerial photographs of China's construction in the area, accusing it of unilateral development and a half-hearted attitude towards a 2008 agreement to jointly develop resources there.

China resumed exploration in the East China Sea two years ago, Japan said. In 2012, Japan's government angered China by buying a disputed island chain there from private owners.

Before then, China had curtailed activities under an agreement with Japan to jointly develop undersea resources in disputed areas.

The platforms are

being erected on the Chinese side of a median line delineating the exclusive economic zones of the two countries, according to a Japanese ministry official said.

China's Foreign Ministry said its drilling activities in waters which are not disputed and under Chinese administration are “completely appropriate and legal”. “China and Japan have not yet delineated maritime boundaries in the East China Sea, and China does not recognize the Japanese side's unilateral marking out of a so-called ‘median line’,” the ministry said in a statement.

China's position is that it had a 200 nautical mile exclusive economic zone, and its continental shelf in the East China Sea extends to the Okinawa Trough, it added.

Japan was the one distorting the consensus reached in 2008, and Japan should “create good conditions and atmosphere” for resuming talks, which China sees as a good way of managing the dispute, the ministry said.

Japan worries that the platforms will tap into gas fields that overlap the median line and could also be used as radar stations or bases for drones or other aircraft to monitor air and sea activity near the disputed chain of islets, known as the Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China.

Reuters

## Nepal's most popular trekking trail declared safe for tourists

KATHMANDU, 24 July — The trekking route around Mt Annapurna that attracts around 60 percent of foreign trekkers visiting Nepal is safe, an independent US-based structural and earthquake engineering firm said in Kathmandu on Thursday.

Releasing the findings of a field assessment of the 200-kilometre trail conducted between 25 June and 2 July, Kit Miyamoto, president and CEO of Miyamoto International, said that only 2 kilometres of the trail have hazards, but they existed before the recent quakes.

Of 250 accommodations assessed along the route, 97 percent were found undamaged by the quakes. “Following the April and May 2015 earthquakes, observed structural earthquake-related damage in the Annapurna region was very limited (3 percent of total buildings stock and 0 percent of bridges assessed). Similarly, it appears that



The trekking route around Mt Annapurna that attracts around 60 percent of foreign trekkers visiting Nepal is safe, an independent US-based structural and earthquake engineering firm said in Kathmandu on 23 July, 2015.— KYODO NEWS

the Annapurna Circuit and Annapurna Sanctuary trails covered in this study are largely undamaged by landslides after the earthquakes,” the report he released says.

Tulasi Prasad Gautam, director general of the Tourism Department, said the assessment report will facilitate insurance coverage for tourists wishing to trek in the area. “We will put hazard signs at the few points found to be hazardous. All

in all, the route has been found safe for trekkers,” Gautam said.

The firm is also conducting a similar assessment of Mt Everest trail, the second most popular in Nepal, and is expected to release its report soon.

Nepal's tourism sector was badly affected by a series of natural disasters since 2014 when an avalanche hit Mt Everest in April and a snowstorm hit the Annap-

urna trail in October. This year, massive quakes in April and May destroyed hundreds of archaeological monuments, and triggered an avalanche on Mt Everest, leading to mass exodus of tourists from the country.

The quakes killed 8,898 people, making this the nation's deadliest disaster on record.

Kyodo News

## US sanctions ship firm over 2013 failed arms transfer to N Korea

WASHINGTON, 24 July — The US government said on Thursday it has imposed sanctions against a company and its president for their dealings with a North Korean ship company already blacklisted over unauthorized transport to the country of Cuban arms in 2013.

The Treasury Department said assets under US jurisdiction of Senat Shipping Co in Singapore and its president Leonard Lai have been frozen and

transactions involving them prohibited, alleging the company provided material support to Ocean Maritime Management Co of North Korea.

“Arms shipments transported by OMMC serve as a key resource for North Korea's ongoing proliferation activities,” Adam Szubin, acting undersecretary for terrorism and financial intelligence, said. Ocean Maritime Management operated a North

Korean ship which was suspected of trying to bring Cuban weapons, including fighter jets, to North Korea in 2013, disguising the cargo as sugar. The cargo ship was seized by Panamanian authorities.

The transfer and export of military materials to North Korea are prohibited by UN Security Council resolutions adopted following Pyongyang's nuclear tests and launch of ballistic missiles.—Kyodo News



Heavy rainstorm turns buses into boats in Wuhan, capital city of central China's Hubei Province on 23 July, 2015.—XINHUA

## US Justice Dept asked to probe Hillary Clinton's email use — NYT

NEW YORK, 24 July — The US Justice Department is weighing a request by two government inspectors general to open a criminal investigation into Hillary Clinton's use of a private email account for her work as secretary of state, the *New York Times* reported on Thursday.

The inspectors general, who were not clearly identified in the *Times*'s report, have asked the Justice Department to decide whether Clinton, the leading Democratic contender for the 2016 presidential election, mishandled classified information while she was the nation's most senior diplomat.

The Justice Department has not decided whether it will pursue a criminal inquiry, the *Times* said in its report published online late Thursday night, which cited unnamed government officials.

Clinton has repeated-

ly said she broke no laws or rules by eschewing a standard government email account for her State Department work in favour of a private account linked to a computer server in her New York home. She has also said she sent no classified information through email.

Her exclusive use of a private email account first came to public attention in March, opening her to a volley of criticism from political opponents as she began her presidential campaign that she was sidestepping transparency and record-keeping laws.

She says she last year gave the State Department all the work-related emails she had, amounting to some 55,000 printed pages covering her four-year tenure beginning in 2009, although her staff have recently acknowledged there are gaps in the records she retained.



Hillary Clinton

The State Department is now obliging her request to make public as many of the emails public as disclosure laws allow, and is regularly releasing them in batches through to next January.

Some of the emails have been retroactively marked as classified or containing some sort of sensitive information, according to the State Department, although the department says

this does not mean the information was classified at the time an email was sent.

The inspectors general behind the complaint sent a memorandum to the State Department last week saying that at least one email already made public contains classified information that was apparently not properly redacted, the *Times* reported. Which email they had in mind is unclear.

The Justice Department and spokesmen for Clinton did not immediately respond to requests for comment on Thursday night.

While Clinton is the clear frontrunner for the Democratic Party's nomination, several recent polls have found a majority of voters find her untrustworthy, a feeling likely to be exacerbated by a criminal investigation by the federal government.

Reuters

## French constitutional body approves eavesdropping law

PARIS, 24 July— France's Constitutional Council on Thursday broadly approved a law giving state intelligence services more scope to eavesdrop on the public to tackle what authorities have described as an unprecedented terror threat.

The surveillance law, unveiled in March two months after 17 people were killed by homegrown Islamist gunmen in Paris, has drawn comparisons with the US Patriot Act introduced after the 11 September, 2001 attacks on the United States.

President Francois Hollande himself was among those who asked the Council to rule on the constitutionality of a law that waives the need for warrants to use phone taps, cameras and hidden microphones and allows authorities to force Internet providers to monitor suspicious behaviour.

His government has said it expressly forbids bulk collection of telephone records as has been done by the US National Security Agency, but civil rights groups have argued that its provisions could amount to mass surveillance and are lacking sufficient checks and balances.

Instead of requiring a judge's approval, security officials can under the new law order surveillance after advice by a newly created supervisory body specifically dedicated to such approvals.

The Constitutional Council rejected an article

that would have allowed authorities to conduct operations in emergency situations without approval. It also rejected an article on international surveillance on the grounds that lawmakers had not sufficiently defined conditions for its use.

Hollande's office said in a statement that the rejection of the two articles did not deprive intelligence agencies of means to protect citizens and French interests.

Under the new law, surveillance agencies will in exceptional cases be able to use so-called "IMSI Catcher" spy devices that record all types of telephone, Internet or text-messaging conversations in an area.

They will also be able to bug suspects' flats with microphones and cameras and add "keyloggers" to their computers to track every keystroke.

The law also allows authorities to require Internet providers to track suspicious behaviour by monitoring so-called "metadata," for example the time and frequency of use of a given site, but not the actual content of any communications.

France's Digital Council, an independent commission that advises the government on the effects of digital technologies on society, welcomed the clearer controls on surveillance but said the bill did not adequately protect civil liberties.

Reuters

## Vucic: We stand ready for dialogue continuation



Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic stated on Thursday that Belgrade stands ready for the continuation of the dialogue with Pristina in Brussels.

TANJUG

Nis, (Serbia), 24 July — Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic stated on Thursday that Belgrade stands ready for the continuation of the

dialogue with Pristina in Brussels.

We have made numerous comprises in the talks to date, but managed to preserve vital national in-

terests, Vucic told reporters in Nis.

He said that the EU would like to see the issues discussed in the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue solved before the Western Balkans' conference, which is to take place in Vienna on 27 August.

This is a continuation of the Berlin process initiated by German Chancellor Angela Merkel last year with an eye to encouraging cooperation between the Western Balkan countries through a number of conferences and accelerating their EU pathway.

"I think that everybody would like to see the Vienna conference as a

great holiday," Vucic said, adding that this event will be attended by German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann and President of the European Commission Jean-Claude Juncker.

The last round of the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue in Brussels ended after 17 hours of negotiations without an agreement on the following issues: formation of the Community of Serb municipalities, energy, telecommunication and Peace Park, which was built by Serbs on a bridge in northern Kosovska Mitrovica to protect themselves from attacks by ethnic Albanians.—Tanjug

## Obama departs for Kenya, returning to his father's homeland

WASHINGTON, 24 July — President Barack Obama departed for Kenya on Thursday, his first trip to his father's homeland as US president, kicking off a swing through Africa that will also include a stop in Ethiopia.

Obama, the first black US president, is the son of a black father from Kenya and a white mother from Kansas. He travelled to Kenya as a US senator but has not gone since winning the White House.

Obama is expected to meet with family members while in Nairobi, but he will not be travelling to the village most closely associated with his family name.

The trip will focus otherwise on security and economic initiatives as the president shores up his legacy on the African continent.

Obama will also do some lobbying of lawmakers who are coming along for the visit. The president

is seeking support from Congress for a deal to curb Iran's nuclear programme.

The White House released a list of 10 lawmakers flying with Obama on Air Force One including nine Democrats and one Republican, Senator Jeff Flake of Arizona.

The Democrats are Senator Chris Coons of Delaware, Senator Ed Markey of Massachusetts, Representative Karen Bass of California, Representative G K Butterfield of North

Carolina, Representative Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Representative Barbara Lee of California, Representative Gregory Meeks of New York, Representative Charles Rangel of New York, and Representative Terri Sewell of Alabama.

On the return flight to the United States, a second group of 10 Democratic representatives will join Obama, the White House said.

Reuters



US President Barack Obama waves as he boards Air Force One for travel to Kenya and Ethiopia from Joint Base Andrews, Maryland on 23 July, 2015.

REUTERS

## PERSPECTIVES

Saturday, 25 July, 2015

## Preparedness key to surviving disasters

By Kyaw Thura

**D**isasters can be natural, manmade, intentional or accidental, but, regardless of the cause, all have the potential to cause damage to human life and property.

News about the plight of victims affected by recent devastating natural disasters across the world is shocking. Facing the possibility of

floods, landslides, earthquakes and other natural phenomena, local communities should develop some strategies for disaster preparedness so as to ensure the best chance of survival.

It is absolutely important that victims remain calm and avoid panic in dire circumstances as much as they can, because safety and health are critical to all in the post-disaster situations. It is, however, understandable that the outbreak of a disaster is a stressful moment causing panic, fear, confusion, uncertainty and anxiety.

There can be times when water has to be released from irrigation facilities in a bid to ward off greater disasters. In this respect, government authorities should take a proactive approach to identifying the potential impact their actions might have on the people residing in the affected area.

There is no such thing as a cheap life. Every person can contribute to the betterment of society in some way or other. For unfortunate victims of any disasters, we must try to become a shoulder to cry on, if we want to turn our fragile world into a caring and humane society.

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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.

## The Higher Purpose of Democracy

Kyí Mun

Q : So how can I set myself free ?

A : Who has bound you ?

-A Zen Master

Let us consider the higher purpose of democracy as follows:

**H** for **Hope**  
**I** for **Initiative & Resourcefulness**  
**G** for **Goal-driven**  
**H** for **Honour**  
**E** for **Esteem (To value highly, respect, high regard)**  
**R** for **Reconstruction & Reforms**  
**P** for **Peace, Progress & Prosperity**  
**U** for **Unity In Diversity**  
**R** for **Revolutionary Transformation**  
**P** for **People Participation**  
**O** for **Objectives**  
**S** for **Strategy**  
**E** for **Enjoyment of Democracy**

## \* HOPE

In a democracy, there is always a chance for every citizen to hope for enjoying the privileges of liberty, equality and fraternity. In a democracy, you can always hope for and experience human rights, justice and the rule of law. You can also hope for equality of condition, opportunity and treatment. In a democratic country, you can always hope for personal achievements in political, economic, educational, technological, artistic, scientific, cultural and religious endeavors.

## \* INITIATIVE &amp; RESOURCEFULNESS

In a democracy, you can be assertive with initiative and resourcefulness, because you have the right to live and move and have your being in freedom.

Initiative means : the ability to decide and act on your own without waiting for somebody to tell you what to do. It also means: the power or opportunity to act and gain an advantage before other people do. It can also mean : A new plan for dealing with a particular problem or for achieving a particular purpose. And resourcefulness means: Having the ability to find ways and means of solving a problem, finding a solution and devising a cutting edge to win in competition. Resourcefulness also means being imaginative, creative, proactive, and having sound judgment and common sense.

## \* GOAL-DRIVEN

Without a definite goal, a clear direction and a wholesome higher purpose there can be no meaning in embarking on a journey. In going on a journey, it is usual to have a definite destination and a good purpose. So, in building democracy, there should be the goal of forming a government of the people, by the people, for the people, for achieving peace, progress and prosperity for the whole country.

## \* HONOUR

Honour means : (1) High regard or respect; especially (a) glory, fame; (b) good reputation. (2) Adherence to principles considered right; integrity (3) Chastity (4) High rank, distinction (5) A title of certain officials, as judges (with His, Her, Your). (6) Something done or given as a token of respect. (7) A source of respect and fame. (-Webster's Dictionary). In building democracy, the State, the people, all the citizens must be given due honour, as honour is deserved by a sovereign state and people. Democracy must always

honor the sovereignty of the State and the dignity of the people.

## \* ESTEEM

Esteem means: To value highly; respect. To consider; favorable opinion, high regard. In building a democratic state, all classes of the people must be held in high esteem. Customs, traditions, cultures, arts and crafts, etc, must be accorded favorable esteem. In democracy, all the people including infants, children, youths, students, elderly people, etc, must be held in high-esteem. In a democracy, fairness, justice, equality of condition and opportunity must be held in good esteem. The beauty of democracy is holding people high in esteem.

## \* RECONSTRUCTION &amp; REFORMS

In establishing democracy, national reconstruction and reforms must be done sustainably in the following sectors:

- **Political Reforms**
- **Economic Reforms**
- **Financial Reforms**
- **Educational Reforms**
- **Technological Reforms**
- **Socio-cultural Reforms**
- **Eco-environmental**

Since political and economic forms of security are of primary importance, emphasis must be given to them. Economic infrastructure, rural electrification, agricultural mechanization must also be given priorities in the national reconstruction agenda.

## \* PEACE, PROGRESS &amp; PROSPERITY

The primary purpose of building democracy is : To abolish aristocratic, autocratic, despotic and anarchic political systems, practices and cultures. Under these systems, the greatest good cannot be achieved for the greatest number of people. Since a country is made up primarily of its people, the broad masses of the people should have:

- **Peace**
- **Progress and**
- **Prosperity**

Just like other developed democratic countries of the world, Myanmar must advance to relatively decent levels of development and modernization. This world is not governed by the law of the jungle. The democratic world is ruled by the law of the people, by the people, for the people.

## \* UNITY IN DIVERSITY

In building democracy, internal unity and internal peace are indispensable. In a true democracy, unity, peace and cooperation are the driving forces of the democratic practices. All the national races, ethnic groups and communities must be genuinely convinced that unity, peace and cooperation are in their own interests as well as in the interest of the whole country. Since all the national races are living on the same, common land, all the races must share win-win outcomes.

## \* REVOLUTIONARY TRANSFORMATION

In the transformation to democracy, incremental improvements have their place, quantum improvements have theirs and the revolutionary transformation must be the dynamic driving force. If the people have really strong passion for democracy, they will not settle for less than true and full freedom, sovereignty and independence, in the political, economic, educational, socio-cultural and other public spheres. The revolutionary will of the entire people must be strategically mobilized and chan-

neled into liberty, equality and fraternity.

## \* PEOPLE PARTICIPATION

Since building democracy is meant for the entire people and the whole country, all classes and strata of the people must be actively involved in the historical movement for democracy. Indigenous people are the natives, not the foreigners; they are the hosts, not the guests. People should be self-reliant. The broad masses of the people must follow the principle of : "Self-picking up and self-standing"; "Attā hi attano' nāthó", meaning one should take refuge in oneself or self-determination. It is said that in the ocean, the waves come and go but the waters remain; so in human political affairs, leaders come and go, but the people remain; only the people are invincible."

## \* OBJECTIVES

Objectives for establishing democracy in Myanmar should be:

- Freedom, Sovereignty, Independence
- Liberty, Equality, Fraternity
- Human Rights, Justice, the Rule of Law
- Separation & Independence of (The Executive) Government, Legislation and Judiciary
- Economic Development & Modernization
- Scientific & Technological Advancement & Modernization
- Educational Advancement & All-round Development
- Socio-cultural Development and Refinement
- National Defense Capabilities Development & Modernization
- Ecological Protection & Renewal

## \* STRATEGY

Strategy means : the art of the general, meaning the general has got to:

- ✓ Out-think
- ✓ Out-plan
- ✓ Out-perform the opponent.

In building democracy, the winning strategy should be:

Faith in Democracy  
 Focus on Establishing Democracy, and  
 Fight for Democracy

No strategy can succeed and bear fruit unless it is effectively and efficiently executed.

## \* ENJOYMENT OF DEMOCRACY

Building democracy is sowing the seeds of :

- Freedom, Sovereignty and Independence
- Liberty, Equality and Fraternity
- Peace, Justice and the Rule of Law
- Political, Economic, Educational, Cultural Development & Modernization.

The broad masses of the people should be fully convinced that they reap what they sow.

## \* CONCLUSION

The higher purpose of democracy is to continuously raise the levels of :

- Political Development and Modernization
- Economic Development and Modernization
- Technological Development and Modernization
- Socio-cultural Development and Modernization
- Educational Development and Modernization
- Eco-environmental protection and renewal

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## ARTICLE

# Putting Morality First

Htun Tin Htun

“You yourselves must strive; the Buddhas only point the way.

Those meditative ones who tread the path are released from the bonds of Mara.

(Dhammapada, verse No. 276.)

Peace, Progress, Prosperity, Happiness and Harmony are what the People in this Planet want to enjoy for the Present and the Future. In the Buddha’s Teaching, morality or virtue (sila) is of vital importance, for only by laying the firm foundation of moral purity will one be able to proceed towards the attainment of the higher stages, namely, concentration (samadhi) and wisdom (panna) as it is said in the Visuddhimagga: “a wise man, after establishing well in virtue, develops consciousness and understanding.” An aspirant therefore specially needs purity of mind, purity of speech and purity of body (action). In the text, it is said that a person has been perfected with sila when he does not violate actions of body and actions of speech (silasampada).

Understanding right understanding (view) is of paramount importance for all Buddhists. Good in fact is usually done by way of actions through the door of mind or speech or body; reversely, evil is also done in the same manner. Why do we make sin or commit evil? In reality, it is not because of outside circumstances, nor a force existing apart from ourselves, but the unwholesome way we conduct ourselves on mind, speech and body, and all this has its roots in our mental processes, collectively called “mind”, as the Buddha taught in the Dhammapada: “Mind precedes all mental states. Mind is their chief; they are all mind-wrought. If with an impure mind a person speaks or acts, suffering follows him like the wheel that follows the foot of the ox. Mind precedes all mental states. Mind is their chief; they are all mind-wrought. If with a pure mind a person speaks or acts, happiness follows him like his never-departing shadow.” (Verse No. 1 and 2).

Teachings of the Buddha guide all Buddhists in the world how to become mindful, energetic and wise people. Be good to others. Keep our mind pure. Here, suffering consequently fol-

lows one because of one’s evil deeds, whereas happiness also follows one by virtue of one’s good deeds. In this respect the main task in gaining happiness and dispelling suffering is to avoid evil deeds (varita sila) and do good moral deeds (caritta sila). As are prescribed by the Buddha. Such a behavior is called moral conduct of a man in Buddhism.

The term “sila” includes other similar terms, such as volition (cetana), mental factor (cetasikam), restraint (samvaro) and non-transgression (avitikamo). Here, composing means non-inconsistency of verbal and bodily actions, or serving as a foundation of wholesome states. The characteristics of sila (lakkhana) are composing: its function (rasa) has a double sense: action to stop misconduct, and achievement as the quality of blamelessness; it is manifested (paccupatthana) as a pure state in all actions; and its proximate cause (padatthana) is a combination of shame and conscience.

Investigative and insight knowledge of Dhamma is of great importance for all Buddhists to learn and practise in order to produce beneficial results. Buddhism teaches man to live in peace and harmony. The Buddha exhorted His followers not to take His Teachings on blind faith but to accept them only after close investigation and inquiry as to whether the Teachings are really acceptable according to one’s own intelligence and experience. Even though Buddha wanted His followers to absorb the Dhamma, He did not want them to accept it without clarity of mind and complete understanding.

No external agents can help for one’s own moral development. Morality in Buddhism is essentially practical in that it is only a means leading to the final goal of ultimate happiness. On the Buddhist path to emancipation, each individual is considered responsible for his own fortunes and misfortunes. Each individual is expected

to work his own deliverance by his understanding and effort. Buddhist salvation is the result of one’s own moral development and can neither be imposed nor granted to one by some external agent. The Buddha’s mission was to enlighten men as to the nature of existence and to advise them how best to act for their own happiness and for the benefit of others.

Good moral conduct is therefore the very foundation of progress towards enlightenment or supreme wisdom, which means the real peace and happiness of man’s life. As moral conduct or virtue (sila) is a practice to restrain the unwholesome acts of speech and body, when a person is free from any sort of verbally and bodily misconduct, he is said to have kept or observed sila properly. In brief, that which is restraint from all vicious and sinful acts or evils is called sila.

Morality matters most. Without ethical principles or moral conduct, man normally descends to an animal level where there is no compassion and love, no tolerance and reasoning intellect, and no moral restraint in thoughts, words and deeds. Without moral character or restraint, any man or society or race or nation, in any place or home or town or country must, apparently, be engrossed somehow or other with some kind of anguish arising from insecurity, instability, disunity, turmoil, conflicts, fights, battles, and even great wars.

“One for all and all for one” is the ultimate noble aim of the People in this Planet. The Buddha wanted all human beings to lead ideal lives – to be kind, compassionate and considerate to one another and to exercise patience, tolerance and understanding in all activities and relationships. The Buddha, with His supreme wisdom, realised that there were weaknesses and pit-falls in human society. He introduced the Buddha Dhamma in order to enlighten, emancipate and reform mankind to lead a meaningful life.

His Teachings were clear and comprehensive – they covered the existence of a human being, from birth to the grave.

Right View, Right Thought, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Concentration are the eight constituents of the Noble Eightfold Path (Ariya Path) leading to the cessation of suffering (dukkha). The moral concepts in Buddhism (Right Speech, Right Action and Right Livelihood) are in no sense “commandments”, for no one has commanded that one should keep them; the Buddha only advised or admonished us for our own happiness and for that of others that we should observe certain rules of morality (sila). For instance, whoever follows the moral precepts laid down by the Buddha has assuredly experienced a happy state of life; contrarily, whoever can’t observe them may positively find him /her in a state of misery.

“As kinsmen welcome a dear one on arrival even so his own good deeds will welcome the doer of good who has gone from this world to the next.” (Dhammapada verse No. 220). As Buddhists recognize no Supreme Being or God, there also cannot be commandments for their moral purity. They believe that moral purity can only be gained by the actual practice of restraint by oneself, not to violate one’s moral precepts mentally, verbally and bodily. Moral precepts are kept for the sake of the happiness of man. Happiness of course comes not only from maintaining a good standard of morality in this life, but also as the result of skilful actions in past existence.

Lifelong learning is a requisite for all Buddhists to develop their mind-centred and mindfulness-based practice to achieve their supreme results. Those who were unable to comprehend His Teachings or were not prepared to accept His Teachings, would rate His Teachings as too idealistic and incapable of achievement. Despite such assertions, His Teachings, if reduced to the simplest of

terms, could be contained in just a few words. “Not to do any evil (pāpa) “To avoid all evil (akusala), to cultivate the good (kuḷāla), to purify one’s mind (citta); this is the teaching of the Buddhas.” (Dhammapada Verse 183) . These words were true during the Buddha’s time. These words are just as true and applicable for the present and the future. If everyone does what is good for oneself and for others as well and completely shuns evil, that would affect others as well as oneself and the world would definitely be a better place to live in.

“If by renouncing a lesser happiness one may realize a greater happiness, let the wise man renounce the lesser, having regard for the greater.” (Dhammapada verse No. 290). As the moral principles taught by the Buddha are universal for all men and women at all times, happiness or misery of man/woman therefore depends on himself/herself, how s/he can or cannot abide by the rules of moral discipline that should be kept by a moral person. Unless a basis of uprightness in moral matters has been made secure, it is impossible to realize the Supramundane Wisdom and so Freedom.

“Self-conquest is far better than the conquest of others. Not even a god, an angel, Mara or Brahma can turn into defeat the victory of such a person who is self-subdued and ever restrained in conduct.” (Dhammapada verse No.104-105). In Buddhism the moral precept is roughly divided into three categories; namely, moral precepts for 1). Laymen; 2). Novices (samanera); and 3). Monks (Bikkhu) and Nuns (Bikkhuni). An average layman/laywoman usually observes the Five Precepts (pancasila) or Eight Precepts (atthangasila), or Eight Precepts of Livelihood (ajivatthamaka sila), or Nine Precepts (navanga sila). Furthermore, a lay Buddhist should also abstain from committing the ten evil actions, but cultivate the Ten Meritorious

Deeds (Punnakiriya) and Ten Perfections (parami). A novice (smanera) has to observe the Ten Precepts adhering to 75 Rule of Training (sekhiya). A Buddhist monk (Bikkhu) has to observe 227 Rules of Discipline (patimokkha) in general or 91,805,036,000 minute rules all in detail, while a Buddhist nun (bikkhuni) observes 311 Rules of Discipline in general.

“Though one may conquer a thousand times a thousand men in battle, yet he indeed is the noblest victor who conquers himself.”(Dhammapada verse No.103). The basis of all human society is the intricate relationship between parent and child. A mother’s duty is to love, care and protect the child, even at extreme cost. This is the self-sacrificing love that the Buddha taught. It is practical, caring and generous and it is selfless. The world has never experienced such phenomenal material progress as it is realising in this age. However, despite this wonderful progress, it is most unfortunate that mankind tends to neglect its spiritual well-being. Mankind appears to have been blinded by material achievements thinking that materialism is the end of all things. Mankind has forgotten that materialism alone does not provide the true happiness or spiritual well-being sought after by mankind. Men must seek true happiness and spiritual well-being through their respective religions as an additional adjunct to materialism. Spiritual solace and materialism go hand in hand to provide true happiness for all. “The sun shines by day, the moon shines by night. The warrior shines in armour, the holy man shines in meditation. But the Buddha shines resplendent all day and all night”. (Dhammapada verse No. 387)

Reference: The Article “Morality (Sila), by Kaba-Aye Sayadaw Ashin Panna Dipa; MORAL AND ETHICAL CONDUCT OF A BUDDHIST by Ven Dr K Sri Dhammananda.

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# Frontlines of Yemen's war shift in favour of Riyadh

DUBAI / ADEN, 24 July — The tide of Yemen's messy war has unexpectedly turned, handing a morale boost and possibly decisive military momentum to Gulf Arab-backed forces bent on ending the ascendancy of the Houthis, a powerful militia they see as a puppet of Iran.

The loss of the strategic southern port of Aden in the space of just a few days is a spectacular reversal for the Houthis, a once obscure rural group that won national importance last year before gaining the upper hand in a four-month-old civil war.

At stake in what happens next is the stability of a country that is a cockpit of rivalry between regional powers Saudi Arabia and Iran, sits on leading international shipping routes and provides a haven for al-Qaeda's boldest international wing.

Abdulkhaleq Abdulla, a political scientist in the United Arab Emirates (UAE), said Gulf Arab states saw Yemen as a proving ground for their resolve to confront Teheran, and last week's capture of Aden proved they could hold their own.

"If America and Iran are now on good terms ... this is a show of things to come — We are ready to defend our own turf," he said, referring to an Iranian nuclear accord that could open the way to a rap-

prochement between Washington and Teheran.

"In this zero-sum game, the balance of power in the region has swung to the Gulf states' advantage, after this net loss for Iran in Yemen."

The capture of Aden by thousands of anti-Houthi forces was made possible in part by a military effort prepared for many weeks by wealthy Gulf Arab states which trained and supplied Yemeni recruits especially for the task.

The Gulf Arabs, including Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), have deployed some of their own special forces, as well as backing up the effort with hundreds of air strikes.

But the advance may also have benefited from efforts to weaken a key pillar of Houthi power, namely an alliance with former president Ali Abdullah Saleh, who has the loyalty of army units that are probably the country's toughest military force.

The tie-up is rooted in tactics rather than ideological sympathy — Saleh and the Houthis were once sworn enemies but made common cause last year against shared enemies.

The move, typical of Yemen's constantly shifting political landscape, gave the Houthis a decisive edge on the battlefield.

Diplomats and Yemeni politi-



Workers and Southern Resistance fighters unload an aid shipment from a Saudi military cargo plane at the international airport of Yemen's southern port city of Aden on 23 July, 2015.—REUTERS

cians say representatives of Saleh, whose army loyalists laid siege to Aden alongside the Houthis back in March and April, are negotiating with diplomats from the UAE.

If successful, the gambit may deliver a critical impetus to US-allied Gulf States, who intervened militarily in March to restore to power President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, a Saudi and US ally, and beat back Iran's influence in the region.

"Gulf countries have been working on the military training

and arms supplies that drove the events in Aden, but it's simultaneously working through the backdoor to split Saleh from the Houthis," Farea al-Muslimi, a Yemeni researcher with the Carnegie Middle East Centre said. Adel Shuja, a leader of the party Saleh leads, told *Reuters* that negotiations between the ex-president's representatives and the United States, Britain and the UAE "to find a peaceful solution to the crisis...have made significant progress so far".

A Western diplomat contacted

by *Reuters* played down the significance of the contacts, saying that they came as part of regular discussions with Yemeni officials. Saleh's party denied any meetings in an official statement, and a party official tweeted that Saleh was opposed to quitting the country.

A politician from Yemen's government said the talks focussed on the departure from Yemen of Saleh, an arch survivor who balanced nimbly between rival armed and tribal groups during his three decades in office.—*Reuters*

## Turkish army returns fire on Islamic State after soldier killed

ANKARA / BEIRUT, 24 July — Turkish forces returned fire on Islamic State militants in Syria with tank shells on Thursday after a Turkish soldier was killed and two others were wounded in a cross-border firefight, military and government officials said.

The fighting comes days after a suspected suicide bombing by the Islamist radical group in a Turkish border town killed 32 people, many of them students and some of them Kurds, touching off waves of violence in the largely Kurdish southeast.

Turkey's NATO allies have long expressed concern about control of the border with Syria, which in parts runs parallel with territory controlled by Islamic State. Monday's suicide bombing

in the southeastern town of Suruc highlighted fears about the Syrian conflict spilling onto Turkish soil.

The Turkish army has stepped up security along parts of the border, as fighting in Syria involving Kurdish militia, Islamist militants and Syrian security forces intensifies.

"Turkish soldiers returned fire after shots came from the Syrian side of the border, from the region where Islamic State militants are," a Turkish official said, adding that, in line with rules of engagement, four tanks returned fire after being fired upon by the militants.

The army said one sergeant had been killed and two others wounded. One Islamic State militant had been killed, and Turkish

forces had later retrieved his body and rifle.

Another Turkish official said fighter jets had been scrambled to the Syrian border, although Turkish jets regularly patrol the 900 km (560 mile) frontier with Syria.

Rami Abdulrahman, founder of the UK-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights that tracks the conflict in Syria through a network of sources on the ground, gave a different account.

He said the clashes erupted when two Syrian civilians tried to cross into Turkey and the army opened fire, killing one of them, an elderly man. Islamic State then returned fire and two of their militants were killed, he said.

The Turkish army was not immediately available to comment. Local media said the fighting was close to the village of Elbeyli, east of Kilis, and an area where the armed forces have sent reinforcements in recent weeks.

The skirmish came a day after US President Barack Obama and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan agreed to work together to stem the flow of foreign fighters and secure the border.

US defence officials said the United States and Turkey had reached agreement to allow US-led coalition warplanes to use the Incirlik US Air Force base in eastern Turkey for strikes against Islamic State. The officials, speak-

ing on condition of anonymity, declined to disclose specifics.

The US currently is not allowed to fly any bombing sorties, but does launch drones. Agreement for the use of Incirlik marks a significant Turkish move in co-operation with Washington over Syria.

The clashes were the latest in a wave of violence that followed Monday's suspected Islamic State suicide bombing.

The Suruc bombing enraged Turkey's Kurdish minority, many of whom suspect the government of tacitly backing Islamic State in Syria against Kurdish forces, something Ankara strongly denies.

One police officer was shot and killed and a second wounded on Thursday in the mainly Kurdish city of Diyarbakir, security sources said. On Wednesday two police officers were killed in a town on the Syrian border and militants from the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) claimed responsibility.

Turkey has been negotiating an end to the PKK's 30-year-old campaign for autonomy for Turkey's estimated 14 million Kurds and is worried about its growing influence in war-torn Syria. Ultimately, it fears emergence of an independent Kurdish state embracing parts of Iraq, Syria and Turkey.

*Reuters*

## Two killed in new push by Libya's eastern government forces in Benghazi

BENGHAZI, (Libya), 24 July — Two Libyan soldiers were killed and 10 wounded on Thursday when eastern government forces made a new push against Islamist fighters in the embattled centre of Benghazi, medics said.

Forces loyal to Libya's internationally recognized government have been fighting Islamist groups in the country's second-largest city for over a year, part of a wider struggle since Muammar Gaddafi was overthrown and killed in 2011.

Army forces backed by armed residents have regained some of the territory in the eastern city lost last year, but critics say their use of war planes has heavily damaged Benghazi without gaining much on the ground.

On Thursday, the government forces made a new attempt towards taking the commercial port where Islamist groups have positions, military officials said. The port has been closed since last autumn.

"The air force bombed terrorist targets in Sabri," said Nasser al-Hassi, a spokesman for the force, referring to a seaside central district near the port.

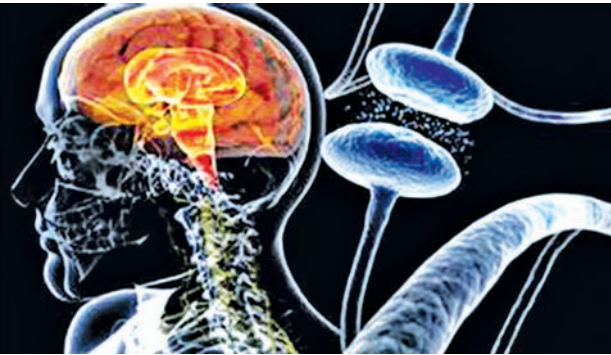
*Reuters*



Police forensic experts examine the street following an attack on police officers in Diyarbakir, Turkey, on 23 July, 2015.—REUTERS

## BUSINESS &amp; HEALTH

## Mexican researchers hail new treatment for Parkinson's disease



MEXICO CITY, 24 July — Medical researchers from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM) announced on Wednesday that a new treatment for Parkinson's disease could lead patients to make an 85-percent recovery.

In a Press release, UNAM researcher Patricia Vergara Aragon explained that tests on rats showed that titanium dioxide microplants bearing dopamine allowed the animals to recover motor function.

Parkinson's disease primarily affects people over 50 and causes gradual deterioration of neurons in the brain responsible for creating dopamine.

Dopamine acts as a chemical messenger that links neurons across the brain and is responsible for controlling the movement of the human body.

In collaboration with researchers from the Centre of Applied Investigation and Advanced Technology of the National Polytechnic Institute, the UNAM team said they succeeded in placing dopamine molecules within a microreservoir in a ceramic base, using the sol-gel technique. Once applied to the patient, this technique allows the neurotransmitters affected by Parkinson's to remain stable for a long time, they added.

Xinhua

## S Korea's economy slows in Q2 on MERS shock, weak exports

SEOUL, 24 July — South Korea's economy slowed in the second quarter due to the outbreak of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS), weak exports and drought, central bank data showed on Thursday.

Real gross domestic product (GDP) expanded 0.3 percent during the April-June period compared with the prior three-month period, according to the Bank of Korea (BOK). The economy recorded a zero-percent growth for five straight quarters.

It was lower than 0.4 percent, which the BOK suggested as its estimate last month. The bank froze the benchmark interest rate at an all-time low of 1.5 percent in July after lowering it by a quarter percentage point in March and June respectively.

The BOK revised down its 2015 growth outlook for the economy by 0.3 percentage points to 2.8 percent in June on the back of the MERS outbreak.

Thirty-six people died

of the MERS corona virus, which infected a total of 186 people. No new case of contagion has been reported in the past 18 days, indicating the MERS crisis nearing to an end.

Consumers refrained from entertainment and social gatherings for the MERS fears. Some shunned even going for shopping, and many people on the street wore facial masks, refraining from going to public venues crowded with people.

The quarterly growth of GDP reduced from 0.8 percent in the first quarter to 0.3 percent in the second quarter. It fell from 0.8 percent in the third quarter of last year to 0.3 percent in the fourth quarter.

From a year earlier, the real GDP expanded 2.2 percent in the second quarter after growing 2.5 percent in the first quarter.

Private consumption slid 0.3 percent in the second quarter from three months earlier, posting the lowest gain in a year. Facility investment rose 0.4 per-

LONDON, 24 July — The world's first malaria vaccine got a green light on Friday from European drugs regulators who recommended it should be licensed for use in babies in Africa at risk of the mosquito-borne disease.

The shot, called RTS,S or Mosquirix and developed by British drugmaker GlaxoSmithKline in partnership with the PATH Malaria Vaccine Initiative, would be the first licensed human vaccine against a parasitic disease and could help prevent millions of cases of malaria in countries that use it.

Recommendations for a drug license made by the European Medicines Agency (EMA) are normally endorsed by the European Commission within a couple of months. Mosquirix, also part-funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, will also now be assessed by the World Health Organization, which has promised to give its guidance on when and where it should be used before the end of this year.

Malaria killed an esti-

mated 584,000 people in 2013, the vast majority of them in sub-Saharan Africa. More than 80 percent of malaria deaths are in children under the age of five.

Andrew Witty, GSK's chief executive, said EMA's positive recommendation was a further important step toward making the world's first malaria vaccine available for young children.

"While RTS,S on its own is not the complete answer to malaria, its use alongside those interventions currently available such as bed nets and insecticides would provide a very

meaningful contribution to controlling the impact of malaria on children in those African communities that need it the most," he said in a statement.

Global health experts have long hoped scientists would be able to develop an effective malaria vaccine, and researchers at GSK have been working on RTS,S for 30 years.

Hopes that this shot would be the final answer to wiping out malaria were dampened when trial data released in 2011 and 2012 showed it only reduced episodes of malaria in babies

aged 6-12 weeks by 27 percent, and by around 46 percent in children aged 5-17 months.

EMA's recommendation is that the shot should nevertheless be licensed for use in babies in the full age range covered in the trials — from 6 weeks to 17 months.

Some malaria specialists have expressed concern that the complexities and potential costs of deploying this first vaccine when it only provides partial protection make it less attractive and more risky.

However Joe Cohen, a GSK scientist who has led the development of Mosquirix since 1987, said on Friday he has no doubt the vaccine could significantly reduce the toll of sickness and death caused by the malaria among African children. "I have absolutely no reservations in terms of rolling this vaccine out," he told Reuters. "Why? Because the efficacy, when translated into cases averted and deaths averted, is just tremendous. It will have an enormously significant public health impact."—Reuters



The signage for the GlaxoSmithKline building is pictured in Hounslow, west London on 18 June, 2013.—REUTERS

## Mitsubishi Motors to end US car production

TOKYO, 24 July — Mitsubishi Motors Corp has decided to withdraw from vehicle production in the United States as part of its efforts to focus more on growing Asian markets, sources close to the matter said on Friday.

The Tokyo-based automaker plans to sell its plant in Illinois where the company currently manufactures about 60,000 sport utility vehicles a year, they said.

Mitsubishi Motors will shift more resources to its Asian plants such as those in Thailand and the Philippines, the sources said. While the company makes SUVs in Russia, it withdrew from production in Europe in 2012.

Kyodo News

## China H1 rail investment tops 43 bln USD

BEIJING, 24 July — China has invested more than 265.1 billion yuan (43.3 billion US dollars) in domestic railway construction in the first half of the year, up 12.7 percent from one year earlier, China Railway Corporation said on Thursday.

In the first six months, an additional 2,226 km of new railway lines were put into service, the company said in a statement to Xinhua.

To bolster a slowing

economy, the Chinese government has made railway infrastructure one of the seven prioritized sectors for investment. The rest include environmental protection, clean energy, the power grid and health care.

At the start of 2015, the country set targets of investing more than 800 billion yuan in railway construction for this year and creating 8,000 km of new lines on track.

Xinhua



## Gunman kills two, wounds seven in Louisiana theatre before taking own life — police

LAFAYETTE, (Louisiana), 24 July — A lone gunman opened fire inside a crowded movie theatre in Lafayette, Louisiana, on Thursday evening, killing two people and injuring seven others before taking his own life, police said.

Gunfire erupted during a 7 pm CDT (1:00 am BST) showing of the film “Trainwreck”. The incident took place almost three years to the day after 12 people were killed at a cinema in Aurora, Colorado.

Lafayette Police Chief Jim Craft said two people died in the hail of bullets before the 58-year-old suspect killed himself with a handgun as officers rushed to the scene shortly after 7:30 pm.

Seven people were wounded, three of them critically, authorities said. One person underwent surgery and “was not doing well,” Craft said.

Authorities said they knew the gunman’s identity but were not releasing his name during the early stage of the investigation. They offered no immediate motive and did not disclose any clues they might have found.

“The shooter is deceased. We may never know,” Craft said, adding that the man appeared to have a criminal history that he described as “pretty

old.”

Police officials said that bomb-sniffing dogs had picked out a backpack inside the Grand 16 Theatre and that they had also signalled “suspicious” items inside the suspect’s car. A robot was being used to probe the vehicle further.

Investigators also headed to the gunman’s home. His body remained inside the theatre several hours later. None of the victims, who were described as ranging in age from teens to early 60s, were immediately identified by authorities.

Witnesses said the gunman abruptly stood up in the darkness of the theatre about 20 minutes into the movie and began shooting.

“He wasn’t saying anything. I didn’t hear anybody screaming either,” Katie Domingue, who was

watching the film with her fiance, told the local *Advertiser* newspaper.

Republican Louisiana Governor Bobby Jindal travelled to Lafayette, a city of about 120,000 people roughly 55 miles (90 km) southwest of Baton Rouge.

“As governor, as a father and as a husband, whenever we hear about these senseless acts of violence it makes us both furious and sad at the same time,” he said at a briefing.

Jindal said that two of the wounded victims were teachers, one of whom told him that she survived the attack because her friend rolled over her as bullets rang out. That teacher then managed to pull a fire alarm in the theatre, he said.

Four police officers in the area heard the gunfire and rushed to the theatre, which is on a main thor-

oughfare near downtown, authorities said.

The shooting came three years after a gunman opened fire at a movie theatre in Aurora, Colorado, during a midnight screening of the Batman film, “The Dark Knight Rises”, killing 12 people and wounding 70 others.

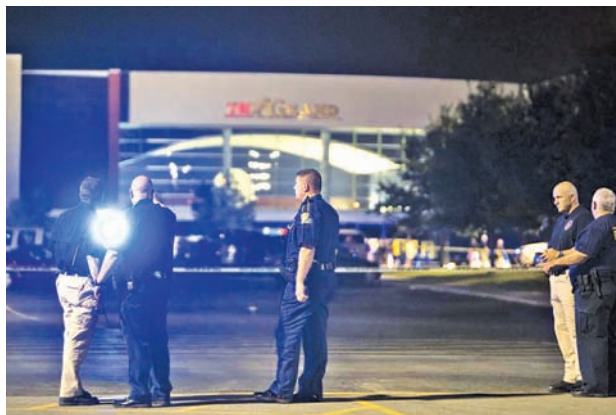
James Holmes, a former neuroscience graduate student at the University of Colorado, was convicted last week on 165 counts of murder, attempted murder and explosives in the 20 July, 2012, rampage.

Jurors in that case were trying to determine if Holmes should face the death penalty or life in prison.

The United States has witnessed several mass shootings in the last two months.

A gunman is accused of a racially motivated shooting at a black church in South Carolina that killed nine church members in June. More recently, a gunman attacked military offices in Tennessee last week, killing five US servicemen.

Jindal, who last month announced his candidacy for president, said he had ordered National Guard members at offices and other facilities to be armed in the wake of the Tennessee attack.—Reuters



Officials stand by the scene outside the movie theatre where a man opened fire on film goes in Lafayette, Louisiana on 23 July, 2015.—REUTERS

## Obama urges Britain to stay in EU in BBC interview



US President Barack Obama speaks to college-bound students at a “Reach Higher” initiative event hosted by the first lady at the White House in Washington on 23 July, 2015.—REUTERS

WASHINGTON, 24 July — US President Barack Obama told the BBC in an interview excerpt that aired on Thursday that Britain must remain in the European Union to maintain its global influence.

Britain’s EU membership “gives us much greater confidence about the strength of the transatlantic union,” Obama said, adding the EU had “made the world safer and more prosperous.”

British Prime Minister David Cameron, seeking to end a decades-old rift within his Conservative Party over Britain’s place in Europe, has promised to negotiate a new settlement with Brussels and hold a referendum on EU mem-

bership by the end of 2017.

Obama added in another excerpt from the interview that his biggest frustration was the failure to pass “common-sense gun safety laws” in the United States “even in the face of repeated mass killings.”

“If you look at the number of Americans killed since 9/11 by terrorism, it’s less than 100. If you look at the number that have been killed by gun violence, it’s in the tens of thousands,” Obama said in the White House interview.

“For us not to be able to resolve that issue has been something that is distressing,” he said.

Reuters

## Serbia to set up air traffic accident investigation centre



Minister of Transport Zorana Mihajlovic

BELGRADE, 24 July — The Serbian parliament adopted on Thursday the Law on Investigation of Air, Rail and Water Traffic Accidents, which provides for the establishment of a center headquartered in Belgrade to investigate air traffic accidents.

The centre will be dealing with circumstances and causes of accidents and be making recommendations about possible ways to prevent such accidents from happening again in the future.

The centre will be managed by a chief investigator who will occupy a post of director in a special organization.

The parliament also adopted amendments to the Law on Obligations and the Basics of Property Relations in Air Transport.

Minister of Transport Zorana Mihajlovic said that the amendments were aimed at making passengers’ rights come first by aligning with relevant EU directives.

Tanjung

## Abe Cabinet approves guidelines for FY 2016 budget compilation

TOKYO, 24 July — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s Cabinet approved on Friday guidelines for compiling the fiscal 2016 budget, aiming to achieve robust economic growth while modestly pursuing fiscal consolidation.

In the guidelines, the government sets no ceiling on budget requests from ministries and agencies for the third straight year, in an attempt to flexibly adapt the budget to economic conditions — a move which could prompt ruling party lawmakers to demand more spending.

If ministries and agencies submit requests in line with the guidelines, general-account budget requests for the year starting April 2016 are likely to surpass 100 trillion yen (\$807.5 billion) for the second consecutive year.

Ministries and agencies will make budget requests by the end

of August based on the guidelines, for scrutiny by the Finance Ministry for compilation of the fiscal 2016 budget later this year.

Social security outlay requests, which will comprise the largest part of the budget, were allowed to increase by 670 billion yen from 30.2 trillion yen in the fiscal 2015 budget, reflecting the aging population.

But the Finance Ministry, which believes the increase stemming from the graying factor should be at around 500 billion yen annually, is poised to strictly review the requests in an effort to rein in expenditure in the absence of a ceiling.

“I want each ministry to take a fresh look at the list of priorities and thoroughly eliminate unnecessary measures to prioritize the contents of the budget,” Finance Minister Taro Aso told a Press conference.

The guidelines set aside around 4 trillion yen for policies to implement the government’s latest growth strategy, which calls for utilizing robot technology and supporting and increasing women’s employment among other measures.

To fund the special spending, the guidelines seek a reduction of around 10 percent in discretionary policy spending requests including public works.

Requests for mandatory spending including personnel costs will total some 12.5 trillion yen, the same level approved in the fiscal 2015 budget.

But ministries and agencies which reduce such requests will be allowed to demand an amount equivalent to 30 percent of the reduction be added to the special spending as an incentive to cut the cost.

Kyodo News

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Dated; July 25, 2015

**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY  
HOLIDAY NOTICE**

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 31<sup>st</sup> JULY 2015 (FULL MOON DAY of WASO) Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

**CLAIMS DAY NOTICE  
MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (006N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV LANTAU ACE VOY NO (006N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2015 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 Claims 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: 2301186

**WEATHER REPORT**

**BAY INFERENCE:** Monsoon is weak to moderate in the Andaman Sea and South Bay and moderate to strong elsewhere in the Bay of Bengal.

**FORECAST VALID UNTIL EVENING OF THE 24<sup>th</sup> July, 2015:** Rain or thundershowers will be scattered in Lower Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway and Taninthayi Regions and Kayah State, fairly widespread in Shan, Chin and Kayin States and widespread in the remaining Regions and States with likelihood of isolated heavy falls in Upper Sagaing and Mandalay Regions, Kachin and Rakhine States. Degree of certainty is (100%).

**STATE OF THE SEA:** Squalls with moderate to rough sea are likely at times Deltaic off and along Rakhine Coasts. Surface wind speed in squalls may reach (35 - 40) m.p.h. Sea will be moderate elsewhere in Myanmar waters.

**OUTLOOK FOR SUBSEQUENT TWO DAYS:** Continuation of increase of rain in the Upper Myanmar areas.

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**Japan urges Russian prime minister  
not to visit disputed isles**

Tokyo, 24 July — Japan has urged Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev not to visit Japan-claimed islands off Hokkaido, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said on Friday, calling the planned trip to the isles at the center of a long-standing bilateral dispute "unacceptable." The planned visit, seen by experts as underlining Moscow's intention to reassert its control of the four islands, comes at a time Tokyo and Moscow are making preparations for President Vladimir Putin's visit to Japan later this year.

Kishida said at a Press conference that the visit, if it pushes through, would

"go against Japan's position on the territories and hurt the feelings of the Japanese people." The Japanese Embassy in Moscow conveyed Japan's concern on Thursday to the Russian Foreign Ministry and called for Medvedev not to make the visit, he said. Japan is "keeping close tabs" on recent developments in Russia, Kishida said, while downplaying any possible impact of Medvedev's visit on Putin's trip to Japan. The Russian prime minister, who ranks second in the government led by Putin, indicated at a government meeting on Thursday that he plans to inspect economic development on

some of the Kuril islands, saying they would play an important role in Russia's defence.

Cabinet members approved a 10-year development plan for the Kurils starting next year, for which Medvedev said the government will spend 70 billion rubles (\$1.21 billion).

The islands in question, called Northern Territories in Japan and Southern Kurils in Russia, are Kunashiri, Etorofu, Shikotan and the Habomai group of islets that were seized by Soviet forces following Japan's surrender in World War II in 1945. The territorial dispute has prevented the two countries

from concluding a postwar peace treaty.

While he was president in November 2010, Medvedev visited Kunashiri, becoming the first Russian leader to do so. He also inspected Kunashiri in July 2012 as prime minister.

Putin's Japan visit is being arranged after Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Putin agreed in November that it should be realized at an appropriate time this year. To lay the groundwork, Japan is making arrangements for Kishida to visit Russia from 31 August to 1 September, according to Japanese government sources.

*Kyodo News*

**Floats turned at  
Kyoto's Gion Festival**



*Photo taken on 24 July, 2015, in Japan's ancient city of Kyoto shows people taking part in "tsujimawashi," or turning a decorated float, during the Yamahoko parade, part of the city's traditional Gion Festival.*  
KYODO NEWS

**Nearly 200 strike enforcers arrested in Nepal**

KATHMANDU, 24 July — Nearly 200 members from the Communist Party of Nepal Maoist were arrested on Friday for their involvement in torching and vandalizing public and private vehicles during a one-day strike, according to Nepalese police.

"We have arrested as many as 188 strike enforcers so far," police spokesperson Kamal Singh Bom told *Xinhua* by phone, adding that 19 private and public vehicles were vandalized and torched during the strike.

The strike, which was called by the CPN Maoist, a splinter faction of the Mohan Baidya-led CPN

(Maoist) party, has crippled normal life across Nepal, including the capital city.

Public and private vehicles stayed off roads while business firms, major markets, small shops, schools, colleges and private companies have remained closed due to the strike.

Ambulances, media vehicles, vehicles of the Kathmandu-based diplomatic missions and tourist services were allowed to ply on the road.

The one-day strike hit the capital Kathmandu and major cities such as Biratnagar, Pokhara, Chitwan, Nepalgunj and Dhangadhi, local media reports said.

In a press statement, the CPN Maoist under the leadership of Netra Bikram Chand, said it called the strike against the ongoing constitution-drafting process.

The party termed the process "anti-people," saying it can't meet the spirit of the marginalized people.

The Chand-led opposition party challenged the government's national campaign to collect public feedback on the preliminary draft of the constitution, which was organized by the government on Monday and Tuesday.

The campaign has witnessed an overwhelming participation of the pub-

lic across the Himalayan country except in the Madhesh region — the southern belt of the country bordering India.

Millions of people from various walks of life joined the national campaign and gave their suggestions on the draft of the new constitution.

According to the action plan endorsed by the Constituent Assembly, after collecting public inputs on the draft, the Committee on Citizens Relations and Public Opinion Collection would submit a report to the Political Dialogue and Consensus Committee for further discussions on the draft on 23 July.—*Xinhua*

**Yunnan in surrogacy  
crackdown**

KUNMING, 24 July — The government of southwest China's Yunnan Province has launched a crackdown on illegal surrogacy.

Officials with the provincial Health and Family Planning Commission said on Friday that the six-month campaign, involving 10 departments, will focus on spotting and punishing medical personnel and intermediary agencies that help perform surrogate pregnancy services.

Online, TV, radio and print media that carry surrogacy advertising will also

be targeted, while authorities will step up supervision over the sale and circulation of assisted reproductive technology (ART) drugs and medical equipment.

Surrogacy is banned in China, but wombs-for-rent businesses have thrived in the world's most populous country, where studies indicate an estimated one in eight couples face fertility problems.

Advertisements for surrogacy services are easily found on TV and the Internet, calling out to both infertile couples and prospective surrogates.—*Xinhua*



## Angelina Jolie to adapt Cambodian memoir for Netflix film

LOS ANGELES, 24 July — Angelina Jolie is the latest high-profile filmmaker to join the ranks of Netflix Inc, where she will be directing a Cambodian author's war memoir into a feature-length film, the online streaming platform said on Thursday.

Jolie, 40, is producing and directing "First They Killed My Father: A Daughter of Cambodia Remembers," based on author and activist Loung Ung's memoirs of being a child soldier during Khmer Rouge's reign over Cambodia in 1975.

"It deepened forever my understanding of how children experience

war and are affected by the emotional memory of it. And it helped me draw closer still to the people of Cambodia, my son's homeland," Jolie said of Ung's book in a statement.

Jolie and Ung co-wrote the script and Jolie's Cambodian-born son Maddox will be involved in the production, Netflix said. The film will be released on Netflix exclusively in late 2016, and will also be entered at major film festivals.

This will be Jolie's fourth feature directorial effort, following on the success of last year's "Unbroken" and the upcoming "By The Sea," in which she

also stars alongside husband Brad Pitt.

Netflix, which houses an online library of thousands of films and television shows and also develops original content, is available in more than 50 countries, a reach that the company said was key in Oscar-winning Jolie's decision to come aboard.

"Films like this are hard to watch but important to see. They are also hard to get made. Netflix is making this possible, and I am looking forward to working with them and excited that the film will reach so many people," the filmmaker said.

Netflix has become

a force in Hollywood with its original content, most recently racking up 34 nominations at this year's Emmy awards for shows such as "House of Cards" and "Orange is the New Black." Jolie's partner Pitt has also teamed up with Netflix for his upcoming satirical comedy "War Machine," written and directed by David Michod, which will be released on the platform and in select theaters next year.

Other major names developing original content for Netflix include Adam Sandler, Leonardo DiCaprio and Mark and Jay Duplass.—Reuters

## Universal Pictures' 'Jurassic World' sequel set for June 2018

LOS ANGELES, 24 July — After taking the summer box office by storm with more than \$1.5 billion globally, the "Jurassic World" dinosaurs will be getting a sequel slated for 22 June, 2018, Comcast Corp's Universal Pictures said on Thursday.

"Jurassic World," which rebooted Steven Spielberg's "Jurassic Park" dinosaur franchise in June, has become the third highest-grossing film in history, behind only James Cameron's "Titanic" and "Avatar."

The sequel will see the film's leads Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard return, along with Spielberg as executive producer and "Jurassic World" director Colin Trevorrow



Cast member Chris Pratt poses at the premiere of "Jurassic World" in Hollywood, California on 9 June, 2015. The movie opens in the US on 12 June. —REUTERS

penning the script. An official title for the sequel and the director have yet to be announced.

"Jurassic World," co-produced with Legendary Pictures, exceeded

early expectations to achieve the largest opening weekend in movie history with \$524.1 million at the global box office.

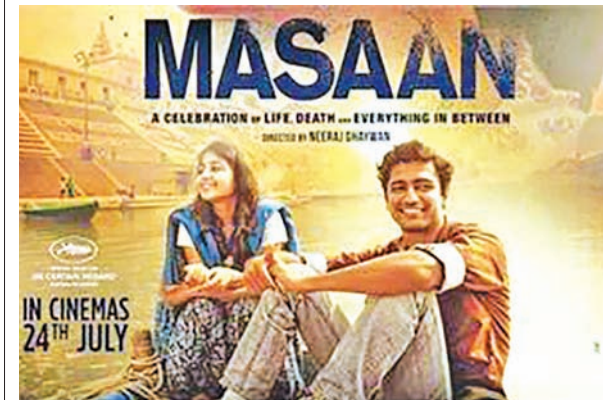
The film added to an already stellar year for

Universal Pictures, which became the fastest studio to hit \$2 billion at the box office in a calendar year last month, buoyed by the success of February's "Fifty Shades of Grey," April's "Furious 7" and May's "Pitch Perfect 2."

In its earnings report on Thursday, Comcast said revenue at the film studio rose 93 percent from a year earlier to \$2.3 billion, bolstered by "Furious 7" and "Jurassic World."

Upcoming Universal movies this year include M Night Shyamalan's horror "The Visit," drama "Everest," Aaron Sorkin's "Steve Jobs" biopic and Guillermo Del Toro's gothic horror "Crimson Peak."—Reuters

## Deliberately cast newcomers for 'Masaan': Neeraj



KOLKATA, 24 July — Neeraj Ghaywan, whose debut film "Masaan" is releasing across the country today, says he deliberately roped in newcomers as they gelled well with the film's fresh and realistic feel.

"I wanted my characters to be like real life. Stars have their own baggage — it is not always easy to make them discard their mannerisms.

"My shoots passed off uninterrupted without any actor being mobbed at any public place," Neeraj, who had assisted Anurag Kashyap in "Gangs of Wasseypur", told PTI.

"As a result, we could do away with any type of hierarchy on the sets and I wanted everyone to feel that all of us were equally behind the film's making. It's a team work," he said.

Richa Chadha, who featured in "Gangs of

Wasseypur" is also one of the actors of 'Masaan'. Neeraj recalled how she broke down during the audience adulation after the film's screening in Cannes.

"There was a five-minute long standing ovation by the critics and reviewers. It was overwhelming for all of us because none of the cast and the crew, most of whom made their debut in this film expected such a response.

"Getting the official selection itself was a huge honour," Neeraj said.

The film has won the acclaimed FIPRESCI, Promising Future awards at the 68<sup>th</sup> Cannes International Film Festival and the Sundance Global Filmmaker Award.

Besides Richa, the film stars Vicky Kaushal, Sanjay Mishra and Shweta Tripathi.—PTI

## Harry Styles thanks fans on One Direction's fifth anniversary

LOS ANGELES, 24 July — Boy-band One Direction's singer Harry Styles, thanking his fans on the completion of five years of the band, has said they own their success to their followers. The 21-year-old singer took to Twitter yesterday to celebrate the occasion and credited the fans behind their success, reported E! Online.

"We have been a band for five years. And it is impossible to thank anyone enough for all the support they have given us over this time..."

"All the crew that we have been so lucky to work with, and everyone who is behind the scenes. We thank you for everything that you do," he tweeted.

The "One Thing" hitmaker also thanked fans for enjoying their music and supporting the group.

"To you who support us, in any way, thank you. We wouldn't be here without you. You did this and we thank you for having us. All the love."

In 2010, media mogul Simon Cowell grouped Harry, Louis Tomlinson, Niall Horan, Liam Payne and Zayn



Boy-band One Direction's singer Harry Styles, thanking his fans on the completion of five years of the band, has said they own their success to their followers.—PTI

Malik to create One Direction after they finished third on the UK's "The X Factor" in 2010. The band signed with Cowell's record label Syco Records after their win.

Malik, however, left the band earlier this year.—PTI

GENERAL

## Idaho will not restrict fishing despite regional drought-linked die-offs

SALMON, (Idaho), 24 July — Idaho fisheries managers will not follow the lead of neighbouring states in restricting catch-and-release angling, despite a drought and heat wave that have killed or stressed large numbers of trout and other fish.

Idaho Fish and Game biologists said the unseasonably hot weather in the state in late June and early July had warmed and lowered the rivers weeks earlier than usual.

But they added this week that those conditions were not expected to con-

tinue to the point where trout, which are often caught and then released, would perish from the added stress of human handling.

Similar conditions in Oregon, Montana and Washington state prompted fisheries managers there to place limitations on fishing.

Fisheries managers and anglers across the Pacific Northwest have reported sightings of struggling and dead fish in streams in numbers that Mark Ahrens, acting chief of fisheries operations for the US Fish and Wildlife

Service's Pacific region, described as alarming.

"It's a depressing thing to be looking at," he said.

In Oregon, the Fish and Wildlife Service scrambled to save adult and juvenile salmon from a federal hatchery where water temperatures for the first time reached highs considered lethal to the coldwater fish.

The federal agency earlier this month trucked 160,000 juvenile and 680 adult spring Chinook salmon to a hatchery in the Columbia River Gorge in Washington from a hatchery in central Oregon where

daytime river temperatures reached 76 degrees, Ahrens said.

The restrictions come at the height of the summer fishing season in the US West, according to state and federal fisheries managers.

Factors feeding the stresses on game fish such as cutthroat trout include reduced precipitation and severely reduced mountain snowpack that usually melts gradually into streams, cooling them and fostering flows, government fish biologists said.

Reuters



(25-7-2015 07:00 am~26-7-2015 07:00 am) MST

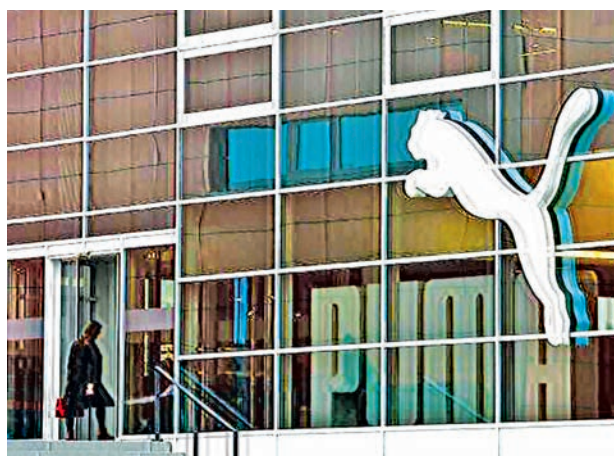
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## Puma's sales start seeing boost from marketing spend

FRANKFURT, 24 July — German sportswear company Puma reported better-than-expected sales for the second quarter as investments in new products and marketing started to pay off, helping to lift its shares as much as 3 per-

cent. Puma launched its biggest ever marketing campaign a year ago to gain back territory lost to Adidas and Nike, prominently featuring Olympic sprint champion Usain Bolt, who has been promoting a new springy-soled running shoe. However, currency headwinds and marketing spending caused a second quarter net loss of 3.3 million euros (2.32 million pounds). Analysts polled by Reuters had forecast a net profit of 920,000 euros.

The sportswear industry sources most of its products from Asia in US dollar contracts, but Puma



A woman enters the headquarters of German sports goods firm Puma before the company's annual news conference in Herzogenaurach on 20 Feb, 2014.

REUTERS

makes a bigger portion of profits than its rivals in markets where currencies have tumbled against the greenback like Brazil, Argentina and Russia.

The loss came despite a 7.6 percent rise in currency adjusted quarterly sales to 772.7 million euros, which beat analysts fore-

casts.

Sales were driven by strong growth in the Americas, where Puma makes a third of its revenue, with a currency adjusted gain of 11.6 percent.

"Investment in new and innovative products is starting to pay off," Chief Executive Bjorn Gulden

said in a statement with regard to a 16.2 percent rise in currency adjusted sales in Puma's heavily promoted footwear business.

Puma, which named pop star Rihanna as its women's creative director in December, reiterated a reduced outlook given in May for its gross profit margin to fall by 100 to 150 basis points from 46.6 percent last year.

The group, majority owned by French luxury goods group Kering, still expects operating earnings to fall to between 80 million and 100 million euros from 128 million in 2014.

It sees currency adjusted sales increasing by a medium single-digit percentage from last year's 751 million euros.

Puma shares were 2.5 percent higher at 157.85 euros at 0717 GMT, outperforming a flat German small-cap index.—Reuters

## 'Selfies' of the 17th century highlighted in Dutch exhibition

AMSTERDAM, 24 July— The selfie may be a contemporary look, but a Dutch museum aims to show that its roots go back centuries.

In an upcoming exhibition, the Mauritshuis in The Hague is showing a collection of self-portraits by master artists including Rembrandt, Jan Steen, Carel Fabritius and Gerrit Dou from Dutch painting's 17th century Golden Age.

The self-portrait was particularly popular among Dutch painters of the period. Rembrandt alone painted and drew dozens over his lifetime, tracing the aging of a brash and self-confident young genius into a bowed and disappointed bankrupt.

The exhibition, "Dutch Self-Portraits - Selfies from the Golden Age", will gather 27 mostly loaned paintings showing the ways artists chose to represent themselves — as wealthy bourgeois, family men, hunters or professional painters. While anybody with a smartphone can make a selfie nowadays, back then the self-portrait was the preserve of the highly skilled, the museum said in a statement on Thursday.—Reuters

## West Ham scrape through on penalties in Europa League

LONDON, 24 July — West Ham United, reduced to 10 men after defender James Tomkins was sent off in the first half, won 5-3 in a penalty shootout against Maltese Cup winners Birkirkara to scrape into the Europa League third qualifying round on Thursday.

The English Premier League side, who entered the competition via the Fair Play League, lost 1-0 on Thursday leaving the tie at 1-1 on aggregate with extra time failing to break the deadlock after Birkirkara were also re-

duced to 10 men.

West Ham scored all five of their penalties in the shootout with substitute Diego Poyet netting the winner for Slaven Bilic's side in the heat of Malta.

Tomkins, who scored a last-gasp winner in the first leg at Upton Park last week, was sent off for throwing Nikola Vukanac to the ground before half-time at the Ta' Qali National Stadium in Valletta.

West Ham now face Astra Giurgiu of Romania, who beat Scottish side Inverness Caledonian Thistle 1-0 on aggregate after a 0-0

draw on Thursday.

They must get through that tie plus a playoff round to reach the group stage of Europe's second-tier competition.—Reuters

*West Ham's Diego Poyet celebrates with team mates after scoring the winning penalty in the shootout against Birkirkara during UEFA Europa League Second Qualifying Round Second Leg -at Ta' Qali National Stadium, in Malta on 23 July, 2015.*

REUTERS



## Salas boosts Solheim hopes with opening 64 at LPGA Classic



*Lizette Salas tees off the fourteenth hole during the first round of the US Women's Open at Lancaster Country Club in Lancaster, PA, USA on 9 July, 2015.—REUTERS*

MICHIGAN, 24 July — American Lizette Salas gave her Solheim Cup hopes a timely boost as she charged into a share of the lead with a sparkling seven-under-par 64 in the opening round of the Meijer LPGA Classic in Grand Rapids, Michigan on Thursday.

The 26-year-old from California recorded an eagle at the par-five 11<sup>th</sup> along with five birdies in a bogey-free display at Blythefield Country Club, ending the day level with compatriot Dori Carter and Australian Katherine Kirk.

Taipei's Hsu Wei-ling and American Jaye Marie Green opened with 65s while in-form South Korean Q Baek, who tied for fifth at last week's Marathon Classic, was among a group of four players on 66.

Salas, whose only career win on the LPGA Tour came at last year's Kingsmill Championship, was thrilled with her opening round as she continues her bid to represent the United States in September at her second Solheim Cup.

"I stayed solid throughout the day and made some putts over 20 feet which are really good confidence boosters for me," Salas told Golf Channel after finishing

birdie-birdie for a scorching back nine of five-under 30. "Kept it in the fairway today, hit some really close and that eagle on 11 really helped as well."

Salas made her Solheim Cup debut in 2013 and lies 10<sup>th</sup> in the 2015 US standings where the top eight will automatically for the 12-player team to take on Europe at St Leon-Rot Golf Club near Heidelberg, Germany from 18-20 September. "It's crunch time for sure and I know I am in the mix," said Salas. "So hopefully a seven under today will kind of keep my name in the mix for captain Juli Inkster.

"A spot in the Solheim Cup is one of my goals this year and I really want to earn it. I don't want to have to rely on a captain's pick."

South Korean world number one Park In-bee, who was beaten in a play-off for last year's Meijer LPGA Classic by her compatriot Mirim Lee, opened with a four-birdie 70.

Reigning champion Lee withdrew from the tournament on Wednesday, citing a wrist injury that will also prevent her from competing in next week's Women's British Open at Turnberry in Scotland.

Reuters

## South Korea goalie out with broken collarbone

SEOUL, 24 July — South Korea have called up Busan goalkeeper Lee Bum-young for next month's East Asian Cup after Kim Jin-hyeon underwent surgery for a broken collarbone sustained playing for his Japanese club Cerezo Osaka.

Kim, who is battling Kim Seung-gyu for the national team gloves, is set to be out of action for at least three months, the J-League club said on their website on Friday.

The Osaka goalie had appeared to win

the nod from coach Uli Stielike after impressing during the Asian Cup in January but his main rival has started the last two games, including the World Cup qualifying win over Myanmar in June.

South Korea open their campaign at the biennial round robin tournament, which is being staged in Wuhan, on 2 August against hosts China before playing Japan three days later and North Korea on 9 August.

Reuters

## Nothing in mind yet for stadium, says Japan Olympics minister

TOKYO, 24 July — Exactly five years before the 2020 Summer Games open in Tokyo, Japan has yet to decide what it wants in its new National Stadium after scrapping a previous design due to ballooning costs, its Olympics minister said on Friday.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's surprise decision last week to take plans for the stadium "back to zero" in the face of growing outrage was the latest in a string of broken promises related to the Games, which Tokyo won two years ago based largely on its organizational prowess and reputation for efficiency.

In addition to being the centerpiece of the 2020 Olympics, the stadium was also supposed to host the biggest matches of the 2019 rugby World Cup, including the opening game and final.

Olympics officials have credited the design by UK-based Zaha Hadid as another factor in Tokyo's winning the Games.

However, with the estimated cost climbing to \$2.1 billion, almost twice that expected, and a futuristic design derided as a bicycle helmet or a drooping raw oyster,



*Japan's newly-appointed Olympics minister Toshiaki Endo smiles as he is appointed first minister for the 2020 Summer Games by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (not in picture), at Abe's official residence in Tokyo on 25 June, 2015.*

REUTERS

there has been a backlash in a country still rebuilding from the massive March 2011 earthquake and tsunami.

Olympics Minister Toshiaki Endo, who also heads a committee tasked with developing a new plan for the stadium, said all options were still open.

"Nothing is decided yet," Endo told a news conference on Friday. "We are asking for lots of opinions."

While previous Olympic hosts have downsized stadium plans, few have ever gone back to the draw-

ing board at this late stage.

Japan is already out of pocket to the tune of around 5.9 billion yen (\$47.62 million) in initial costs to Hadid, other architects and construction firms, media reports say, with little of this likely to return.

There is also the chance Hadid could sue.

A competition to choose a new design is set for this autumn, with a decision made and plans, including cost estimates, drawn up by the end of the year. Construction is set to start early next year and finish in the spring of 2020.

The stadium needs to be large enough to seat 80,000 but other specifications, such as whether or not it has a roof and how it will be used after the Games end, are still being discussed, Endo said.

"As for construction costs, we aren't thinking of anything at this point, we are really starting from zero," he added.

Tokyo has also backed away from another pledge that helped it win the hosting rights — its promise to hold most of the events within 8 km of the Olympic Village — in order to save money by using pre-existing venues.

A few venues are likely to be so far away that

athletes will not even stay at the Village.

Other setbacks included the resignation of Tokyo's previous mayor due to bribery allegations, and delays in destroying the former National Stadium. The structure built for the 1964 Summer Games has now been reduced to a huge patch of raw earth in the centre of the city.

But Endo, who described how on the night of 24 July, 2020, opening ceremonies will commence at the stadium, "which should be completed by then," said Japan's reputation for getting things done should remain undamaged.

Tokyo has also been helped by a change in International Olympic Committee policy that emphasizes keeping costs down.

"It's true that we told the IOC we wanted to hold as many events as possible within 8 km, we felt very strongly about this. But of course we're using peoples' tax money," he said.

"We feel a bit sorry about the difference. But given the situation in Japan and the IOC policy ... this is the way we'll proceed."

Reuters

## Panama demands committee resign in Gold Cup controversy

PANAMA CITY, 24 July — The Panamanian Football Federation (FEPAFUT) has demanded the 10-member CONCACAF Referees Committee resign en masse following what it called the "insulting and shameful" refereeing during this month's Gold Cup.

Panama were knocked out of the competition at the semi-final stage in a 2-1 loss to Mexico on Wednesday after the US referee awarded Mexico two controversial penalties and sent off Panamanian striker Luis Tejada.

Panama were 1-0 up with a minute to go when the first penalty was awarded and then saw a second spot kick go against them in extra time to seal the defeat.

"What happened on Wednesday in the semi-fi-

nal against Mexico was the last straw in a repetitive situation that has been taking place since our team's first game," FEPAFUT said in a strongly worded statement on their web site.

"It was evident and everyone is witness to the fact that Panama were superior to Mexico on the field of play," the statement said, adding the referee acted with the "clear intention of harming our eleven."

"We demand quick answers."

CONCACAF was unavailable for an immediate response.

The controversial awards caused chaos in the Georgia Dome with the Panamanian players hounding the referee and fans hurling objects from the stands. Play was held up for several minutes.



*The referees are escorted from the field following the Panama versus Mexico match after players from Panama charged the official in the CONCACAF Gold Cup semifinal match at Georgia Dome in Atlanta, GA, USA on 22 July, 2015.—REUTERS*

Mexico will play Jamaica in the final on Sunday.

The Panamanians also cited Costa Rica as victims of poor refereeing during the 18-day tournament.

The Costa Ricans lost their quarter-final to Mexico in the final minute of

extra-time when Mexico were awarded a controversial penalty.

"It is imperative that these changes are made to take football's most important maxim forward: that of Fair Play," FEPAFUT said.

Reuters