P-TO-P CONNECTIVITY

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends ASEAN-Dialogue Partner meetings in Laos

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended meetings between ASEAN and dialogue partners at the National Convention Center in Vientiane, Laos yesterday.

During the ASEAN-China ministerial meeting, cooperation in ASEAN-China trade and investment sector, China’s continued support to the establishment of the ASEAN community, implementation of the 2+7 Cooperation Framework for ASEAN-China relations and matters related to ASEAN Infrastructure Investment Bank (A-IBB) and holding ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit on 7 September in Vientiane were discussed.

Those present held discussions on ASEAN-China youth exchange visits and launching a Visit ASEAN-China Year in 2017.

Likewise, the Union minister was present at ASEAN-Canada, ASEAN-Japan, ASEAN-Australia and ASEAN-US Ministerial Meetings.

During the ASEAN-Canada ministerial meeting, foreign ministers discussed a wide range of matters including cooperation in transboundary crimes and capacity-building programs and the upcoming 40th ASEAN-Canada Dialogue Relations set to be held next year.

The ASEAN-Japan meeting focused on narrowing the development gap in ASEAN and matters related to health and industry sector and disaster rehabilitation works.

Union Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi co-chaired the ASEAN-Australia Ministerial Meeting in which further cooperation between the two sides and regional and international issues were discussed.

In her address at the meeting, the Union minister highlighted the importance of people-to-people connectivity and an exchange program allowing students to gain cultural and social experience on their studies to connect the two regions.

During the ASEAN-US meeting, those present held talks on further programmes to boost cooperation between ASEAN and the US and regional and international matters.

The Union minister also attended the Ninth Lower Mekong Initiative (LMI) Ministerial Meeting that focused on sustainable infrastructure partnership and the Master Plan of Action to Implement Lower Mekong Initiative 2016-2020, the 9th Mekong-Japan Ministerial Meeting and ASEAN-New Zealand Ministerial Meeting.

In the evening, Union Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended a gala dinner hosted by Laotian Foreign Affairs Minister Mr. Saleumxay Kommasith.

VIETNAM — Southeast Asian nations overcame days of deadlock on Monday when the Philippines dropped a request for their joint statement to mention a landmark legal ruling on the South China Sea, officials said, after objections from Cambodia.

Beijing publicly thanked Cambodia for supporting its stance on maritime disputes, a position which threw the regional block’s weekend meeting in the Laos capital of Vientiane into disarray.

Competing claims with China in the vital shipping are among the most contentious issues for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, with its 10 members pulling between their desire to assert their sovereignty while finding common ground and fostering political and commercial ties with Beijing.

China claims most of the sea, but ASEAN members the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei all have rival claims. In a ruling by the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration on July 12, the Philippines won an emphatic legal victory over China on the dispute.

The Philippines and Vietnam both wanted the ruling, which denied China’s sweeping claims in the strategic seaway that channels more than $5 trillion in global trade each year, and a call to respect international maritime law to feature in the communique.
Second regular session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw begins

THE second regular session of the Second Pyidaungsu Hluttaw began in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with a question and answer session and submission of a proposal calling for eradication of drug trafficking and illicit use of narcotic drugs and the establishment of drug rehabilitation centers.

During the Q & A session, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu elaborated on the flood mitigation measures in Yangon region's Thongwa and Kayan Townships and ongoing flood recovery programs in Sagaing and Magwe Regions and Rakhine State.

The Union minister said that major repair of sluice gates and construction of irrigation facilities will be carried out depending on allocation funds to minimise farmland flood risk in the two Yangon townships.

Second regular session of Amyotha Hluttaw begins

The Union minister added that rehabilitation works were being undertaken to ensure more-compact cultivations in flood-hit areas of the regions and state with the provisions for tractors for ploughing farmlands.

Agricultural loans for the 2015-16 FY have been provided to farmers since 16 May, allowing K150,000 per acre and more than K4bn from the special fund of the President and the Union fund was distributed for rehabilitation of farmlands flooded in 2015 in Sagain, Magwe, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions and Kayah, Mon and Rakhine States, said the Union minister.

During the first day of the second session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw, U Sai Wan Hlaing Kham of Shan State Constituency 3 put forward a proposal calling the Union government to eradicate drug trafficking and illicit use of narcotic drugs in wards and villages across Shan State (North) and establish drug rehab centers.— Myanmar News Agency

BFM, MAA jointly conduct talks on autism in Mandalay

WITH the aim of encouraging people to raise public awareness and understanding of children with autism, KBR2’s Brighter Future Myanmar foundation-BFM and the Myanmar Autism Association held the second educative talks forum on autism in Mandalay on Saturday.

During the occasion, U Tin Tun of Kanbawza Bank Ltd, director for upper Myanmar, said the talks are aimed at providing further assistance to people with autism and pushing for equal rights and more employment opportunities.

Prof Dr Nyan Win Kyaw, Consultant to the Myanmar Autism Association and Dr Myint Lwin explained the condition of autism, which is a neuro-developmental disorder characterised by impaired social interaction, verbal and non-verbal communication, and restricted and repetitive behavior. Daw San San Myint, Vice Chairperson of the Myanmar Autism Association recounted her experiences as a mother of a child with autism.

A documentary film on autism was shown to the public at the event.—Thura Lwin (Eco)

US Embassy apologizes for tear gas incident

THE US Embassy in Yangon yesterday released a statement apologising for a tear gas incident which inconvenienced passers-by and people in the neighbouring area during its routine security drill about 8 p.m. on Sunday.

The embassy said in its statement that no one was injured and the country exceeded the tax revenue collection target in 11 types of tax but failed to reach its target in seven types of tax. The deputy minister also explained distribution of tax revenues and the ministry’s efforts to ensure a taxation system meeting international standards and stop tax evasion.

Then, a member of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Public Accounts Committee read out the committee’s findings and remarks on the report.

Afterwards, Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win clarified the amendment of the 2016-17 Budget and the amendment bill of the Union Budget Law 2016. Regarding Recommendation 203 on the Protocol to the 1930 Forced Labour Convention 29, Union Minister U Thein Swe reported to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to document the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention 1930 No. 29 and Recommendation 203 as a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO).—Myanmar News Agency

Second regular session of Pyithu Hluttaw

THE second regular session of the second Pyithu Hluttaw began in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with the Pyithu Speaker U Win Myint requesting that MPs seek his approval before participating in meetings or training courses they are invited to.

The instruction also said that invitation letters should be addressed to U Win Myint. PSOs of the lawmakers have been banned from participating in meetings and training programs organised by local and foreign organisations.

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Regarding the instruction, U Pe Than of Myebon Township expressed his view that the “instruction interferes with the rights of a parliamentarian,” saying that lawmakers must have a right to take part in meetings or training courses that help them benefit their voters.

In his address, U Win Myint said that there are prioritized bills including the amendment of 2016-17 Budget and the amendment bill to 2016 Union Budget Law to be carried out during the second regular session.

During Q & A session, Union Minister U Pe Zin Tun said that works are underway to supply electricity to Minkin at the end of this December as installation of 66KV Butalin-Kani-Minkin power line and Minkin sub-power station are nearing completion.

U Win Myint responded to a question on Manipura projects, saying that irrigation and hydropower generation projects will be made public transparently following a feasibility study report being approved by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation. Next, the Pyithu Hluttaw approved the bills revoking the bills including the amendment of the 2016-17 Budget and the amendment bill of the Union Budget Law 2016. Regarding Recommendation 203 on the Protocol to the 1930 Forced Labour Convention 29, Union Minister U Thein Swe reported to Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to document the Protocol to the Forced Labour Convention 1930 No. 29 and Recommendation 203 as a member of the International Labour Organization (ILO).—Myanmar News Agency

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**South China Sea deadlock broken ...**

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"Calling for bilateral discussions. Cambodia opposed the wording on the ruling, diplomats said.

Manila agreed to drop the reference to the ruling in the communique, one ASEAN diplomat said on Monday, in an effort to prevent the disagreement leading to the group failing to issue a statement.

The communique referred instead to the need to find peaceful resolutions to disputes in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, including the United Nations' law of the sea, to which the court ruling referred.

“We remain seriously concerned about recent and ongoing developments and took note of the concerns expressed by some ministers on the land reclamation and escalation of activities in the area, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and may undermine peace, security and stability in the region,” the ASEAN communique said.

It was important to avoid militarisation of the region, and for freedom of navigation to be maintained, ASEAN said.

Beijing says the court ruling has no bearing on its rights in the sea, and described the case as a farce.

Cambodia’s position was the right one and would safeguard unity of ASEAN and cooperation with China, China’s Foreign Minister Wang Yi told Cambodia’s Foreign Minister Prak Sokhonn, according to a statement posted on China’s Foreign Ministry website early on Monday.

“China greatly approves of Cambodia and other ASEAN countries taking charge of impartiality and safeguarding fairness,” Wang said.— Reuters

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**National Literary Award committee urged to select winners by majority vote**

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint called on the National Literary Award Scrutinizing Committee to select the winners by a majority vote while holding a meeting with the committee in Yangon yesterday.

In his address, the Union minister stressed the need for more efforts to do the best for this year’s national literary award presentation.

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**Union Foreign Affairs Minister holds separate talks with her counterparts in Laos**

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held separate talks with the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Russian Federation and Democratic People’s Republic of Korea at National Convention Center in Vientiane yesterday.

The Union minister met with Ms. Julie Bishop MP, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Australia, Mr. Sergey Lavrov, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Russian Federation, and Mr. Ri Yong Ho, Minister for Foreign Affairs of DPRK, at separate meetings.

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**Ministry of Bago Region renamed**

WITH the agreement of Bago Region Hluttaw, the name Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock under the Bago Region Government has been changed to Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation.

The order of the name change was signed by President U Htin Kyaw and announced by the President Office yesterday.— MNA

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**Students take part in human rights workshop**

A workshop on a plan to offer the subject of human rights law to law students as a compulsory subject for 2016-2017 Academic Year took place in Yangon yesterday, with addresses by Union Minister Dr Myo Thein Gyi, President Dr Daw Than Nwe, chairman of Myanmar National Human Rights Commission, and Dr. Srirupa Petcharamdee, chair of Shape-SEA Programme Management Team/HIRP.

The workshop was aimed at enhancing the capacity of faculty members as law students are set to learn human rights law upcoming academic year, said Prof. Dr Daw Than Nwe.

The program is designed to encourage law students who will become stakeholders in the field of jurisdiction or legislation to attain extensive knowledge of human rights law since their time in the university, added the MNHRC member.

During the workshop, those present including foreign professors and experts held discussions on requirements of local human rights teachers, Myanmar human rights standards, the concepts of international human rights and practices and resources for human rights education and materials.

The workshop, jointly organized by the MNHRC and Mahidol University of Thailand, is scheduled to last for three days till 27 July.— Zaw Gyi (Pandita)/ Ye Htut

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**DMH cautions people about possible flooding**

THE Department of Meteorology and Hydrology announced yesterday that water levels of the Ayeyawady River were recorded at 1.5ft at Bhamo, Mandalay and Sagaing below their respective danger levels during the next day at Bhamo and next three days at Mandalay and Sagaing.

The water level of Dolkatawady River at Myitnge was recorded at 2ft below its danger level and may reach its danger level during the next three days, added the department at the 12:30pm announcement yesterday.

The Chindwin River at Hkami- ti reached 5.5ft above its danger level and it may remain above its danger level over the next three days.

Moreover, the water level of Ngawun River at Ngathuang Chaung reached 1.5 feet above its danger level and may remain at this level over the next five days.

Besides, the water level of Ayeyawady River at Shwegu reached 0.5ft above its danger level and it may continue to rise above 1.5ft during the next two days and may remain above its danger level.

According to yesterday’s report, water levels have exceeded by about 3ft at Homalin, 3.5ft at Phaukpyin, 4ft at Mawlaik, 1.5ft each at Kalewa and Kani, 1ft at Minkan of Chindwin River above their respective danger levels.

The water levels may continue to rise about 1ft at Homalin, about 1.5ft each at Phaukpyin, Mawlaik and Kalewa, 1ft at Minkan and about 0.5 ft at Kani during the next two days and may remain above their respective danger levels.

The department advised people settled near the river bank and low lying areas in Bhamo, Mandalay, Sagaing and Myitnge Townships and along Ngawun River to take precautionary measures and along Chindwin River.

— Myanmar News Agency

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**National Health Policy under review**

The director-general from the Ministry of Health has said that Myanmar’s National Health Policy will be reviewed by experts.

“The new government is reviewing the old National Health policy because it is outdated to be suited to the contemporary situations. I think we need three months at least to revise because there are many factors to consider,” said Prof. Dr Myint Han, director-general of the Ministry of Health.

MNH policy was adopted in 1993, and needs updating. Both expert opinions and that of general public will be taken into account.

“People are saying this and that, not knowing what we’re going to revise or add or change. Actually, we do not know exactly yet the guidance by the higher authority and the opinion of health experts,” explained the director-general.

The new government is reviewing the old MNH policy under the leadership of the ministry of Health. The old policy lasted two years, and needs more added to the plan. The new one will be finished in the next three months.

Then we will submit to Hluttaw said Dr Myint Han. — Zar Zin

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**Union Information Minister Dr Pe Myint. PHOTO: MNA**
Hyundai Co to assist new road project between Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin

HYUNDAI has offered technical assistance in constructing a new highway between Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin, according to a spokesperson from Hyundai.

Singaporean and Thai engineers will work on the project that will see travel times between Mandalay and Pyin Oo Lwin halved. “If it is necessary, a cave will be created on the target road as a steep mountain is situated on the project land,” said a project manager. A technician group led by Kim Yeong Min, an engineer of Hyundai Co, inspected the project area on Sunday.

The road will be 20 miles long and 50 feet wide. Of them, the two-mile long asphalt road and four-mile long soil pavement have already been built in Patheingyi Township as well as a two-mile long road built from Aneysakhon to Toegyigon Village in Pyin Oo Lwin township.

The current road between PyinOoLwin and Mandalay is over 40 miles long, that is part of Mandalay-Muse Road. The two way road is used by semi-trailer trucks, cargo vehicles, public buses and personal cars with traffic an issue on the road.—Aung Thant Khaing

Trade centers to be established in Rakhine, Shan states

THE Ministry of Commerce will open two trade centers in Rakhine and southern Shan State this year to promote Myanmar’s trade sector by sharing latest economic information among local businesspersons.

“This is part of the ministry’s programme to establish 11 trade centers in states and regions,” said U Zaw Min Tha, deputy head of the Department of Consumer Affairs (branch) in northern Shan State.

The trade centers take records relating to sample goods and price, production regions and addresses of merchants to create more business links with traders from other countries.

The ministry has opened nine of 11 trade centers in Mandalay, Myitkyina, Monywa, Pathein, Magwe, Loikaw and Muse. The 9th trade center, named Maung Shweli was opened in Muse on Friday.

Thazinnye Trade Center in Rakhine State and Kanbawza Trade Center in southern Shan State will be launched by the end of this year, with the ministry planning to relax some restrictions for a smooth flow of commodities in country.—Aung Thant Khaing

Crime NEWS

Unlicensed vehicles seized in Kyaukdaga Tsp

10 VEHICLES without licenses on Wednesday were found by local authorities in Myochaung Village-tract in Kyaukdaga Township in Bago Region.

Acting on a tip-off, a combined police force led by Police Lt-Col Hla Oo searched around Myochaung Village-tract and discovered nine ownerless vehicles in different places.

They collected a Toyota Hi-flex car on Myochaung-Minhla Road, three Super Custom cars near village market and Myochaung-Seinkantlent Road, a Mazda B350 car, two Hilux cars and a Surf car and a Hilux double cab near Phado-Myoahung Road.

Police are still investing the case in an effort to arrest owners of those vehicles. —Ko Lwin (Swa)

50 killed, 48 others injured by railway accidents over 200 days

FIFTY people were killed while 48 others sustained serious injuries in train related accidents between January and July this year, according to railway police.

According to official figures, a total of 78 collisions between cars and trains happened in 2015, leaving 13 people dead and 55 others were injured. Nearly 100 people were killed and 90 were injured in 189 railway related accidents last year.

The number of railway accidents including deadly crashes between trains and motorcars over 200 days has reached 115 across the nation. To reduce railroad accidents, railway police continue efforts to disseminate railroad safety knowledge to commuters and general public through seminars and pamphlets. —Ko Myo (Shwepaukkam)

Poppy production camp closed in Pekhon

THE anti-drug squad in southern Shan State has raided an opium poppy farm in Pekhon township seizing k13m worth chemical substances and raw opium. They discovered chemicals used for heroin production including 160L of hydrochloric acid worth K12m and 48kg of ammonium chloride worth K1m and 24L of opium oil from the camp. No one was found at the site.—Kyemon

2.1 kilo of heroin seized in Kawthaung

MEMBERS of the Anti-Drug Squad Unit 34 of Kawthaung searched a motorbike driven by Myo Win (alias) Nyi Chea near the Yangyan football-ground on 23 July and found 1 kilogram of heroin from him.

The police continued to search his house in Gandaw-in-street. Shwepyitha Ward, Kawthaung town and confiscated 1.1 kilo of heroin from the kitchen room of his house. The police have filed charge against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substance Laws.—Myanmar Police Force
Local Business

Citizen investments expected to reach over 38 per cent in real estate sector

Citizen investments are expected to reach over 38 per cent in the housing sector in the 2017-18 fiscal year, according to the next Myanmar five-year development plan. Investment from Myanmar citizens per fiscal year is mentioned in the plan, with over K1.6bn of investments in all sectors in 2017-18. Citizen investments of K629bn are expected to invest in the real estate sector.

Citizen investors have to submit required forms and a proposal to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) to seek exemption and relief in investment. The process of approval for investment has to pass many stages. MIC will ask for the opinion of the regional and state governments concerned as well as ministries concerned regarding the proposal they have received. Only after obtaining their opinion, MIC will decide whether to grant permission for investment at a MIC meeting. —200

Over 40 tonnes of coffee to be exported to Taipei and South Korea

OVER 40 tonnes of coffee produced from Ywar Ngan Township are to be exported to Taipei and South Korea, according to the Ywar Ngan Coffee Association. The coffee received 87 out of 100 marks for its quality, color, fragrance and taste.

“Currently, 18 tonnes has been exported to Taipei. Samples of coffee have been already introduced to South Korea. South Korean merchants will hold talks with Ywar Ngan coffee association concerning the purchase of coffee in early August,” said U Win Aung Kyaw, the chairman of this association.

The export price to Taipei is US$3,400 per tonne. Taipei has been offered to make another order again. The Ywar Ngan coffee has been offered US$3,600 per tonne as a minimum at the world coffee market. Currently, the said coffee association is attempting to identify its coffee as a product of Ywar Ngan area because Thailand, Malaysia and China are expected to be establishing factories and purchasing Ywar Ngan coffee.

This year, seven tonnes of coffee have been sold to America. Ywar Ngan coffee association has made contact with Japanese coffee companies to open business links. —200

Cement factories to become JVs

CEMENT plants under the Ministry of Industry which produce 5,000 tonnes per day will be turned into joint ventures (JVs) with public companies, it is learnt from the Ministry.

A total of 56 state owned factories have already been privatized. Korea and China are mostly engaged in the industry.

“The list of the state owned factories and the labor force have already been uploaded onto the website of the Ministry of Industry. Those who want to establish JVs can come to discuss at the department concerned if the requirements from the ministry and their proposals are met,” said U Myo Zarn Win, the assistant secretary of the Ministry of Industry.

The industrial enterprises and factories under the Ministry of Industry are being privatized for short term or long-term contracts and some are made JV with private entrepreneurs.

Applications for short-term rent shall be submitted to the economic committee of the government whereas those for long-term contracts will be sent to the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC). —Zar Zar

France to provide greater financial assistance

THE French Development Agency (FDA) is to provide more and more financial assistance to Myanmar, with over €200m being poured into Myanmar over two years, according to H.E Mr. Olivier Richard, the French ambassador to Myanmar.

“France has doubled their assistance to promote the quality of life in Myanmar,” said H.E Mr. Jean Ayrault, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Development.

France is a major European Union member donor to Myanmar. Currently, France also contributes a major portion of monetary assistance for the project that combats three major infectious and parasitic diseases HIV/AIDS, malaria and TB through Global Fund. More French companies are interested in investment in Myanmar.—200
Japan to release 1st nuclear energy white paper in 7 years

TOKYO — The government nuclear commission will compile a White Paper on Nuclear Energy for the first time since the release of the 2010 report was halted in the wake of the Fukushima disaster in March 2011, the Cabinet Office said on Monday.

The Japan Atomic Energy Commission plans to release the 2016 report next March. It will cover the tougher nuclear regulations the country has introduced and changes in the environment surrounding nuclear power in the wake of the meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant, triggered by the massive earthquake and tsunami on 11 March, 2011.

The last nuclear energy white paper to appear was the 2009 edition. The 2010 report was due to have been released in March 2011, but the commission abandoned plans to publish it following the disaster.

The new white paper, which will adopt a neutral tone, is expected to become an annual report or record on the lessons of the nuclear disaster and issues surrounding nuclear energy.

Following the Fukushima crisis, the government body has faced criticism over its role in promoting nuclear power and for failing to provide clear management. Its operations have since been scaled down and the number of its commissioners has been cut from five to three.

The commission has been separately preparing a report on basic thinking on nuclear power use, simplifying the framework for nuclear energy policy it had been releasing prior to the accident.

Using the paper as a guideline, the commission will urge ministries and agencies involved to implement specific policies, according to the office. —Kyodo News

Searchers fail to detect emergency signal from missing Indian plane

NEW DELHI — Indian rescuers have failed to pick up any emergency transmitter signals from an air force plane that went missing last week with 29 people on board, an official said on Monday, in the latest setback to a search operation in the Bay of Bengal.

Sixteen ships and aircraft have been deployed to search for the Russian-made AN-32 that disappeared on a routine re-supply flight to remote islands in the Bay of Bengal on Friday.

Rajan Bargotra, a senior coastguard official, said the absence of signals from an emergency locator transmitter (ELT) made the operation very difficult.

“It is important to know why ELT has not worked as it could have helped narrow down the location of the plane,” Bargotra told reporters in New Delhi.

The ELT device is meant to start transmitting the plane’s location the moment it touches water or in the event of a crash.

There were 21 military personnel on board the plane including six crew. The other people on board were civilians, and some family members of soldiers deployed on the islands.

Scientists at the Indian Space and Research Organisation were using satellites in the search, while the navy scoured an area of about 14,400 square nautical miles. Difficulties have been compounded by stormy monsoon weather in the Bay of Bengal. — Reuters

Duterte defends deadly crime crackdown in national address

MANILA — Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte vowed big reforms to tackle chronic economic flaws on Monday and defended his pursuit of a deadly anti-narcotics war, saying drugs were drowning the country and human rights were no excuse to shield criminals.

Duterte’s month into his presidency, Duterte used his inaugural State of the Nation Address to warn the public to steer clear of drug use, after 120,000 people had surrendered or put an end to separatist conflicts, including a unilateral ceasefire with Maoist rebels. He said the current policies that have spurred one of Asia’s fastest rates of economic growth would be continued and strengthened.

His address was widely anticipated and the buildup dominated by promises by his aides of a rousing speech that would stir patriotism.

But, as has become typical of the Duterte’s unanticipated style, after 30 minutes reading from a teleprompter, he started to ignore it and veered far off script, attracting both applause and laughter.

A speech expected to last approximately 40 minutes went on for one hour and 32 minutes. The budget for his address, normally a top event on the social calendar of the country’s political and showbiz elite, was scaled back dramatically and Duterte told guests to dress down, reflecting his disdain for opulence and lavish spending. He pledged to fix a host of economic problems that have been a blight for Filipinos and foreign investors alike, vowing a major overhaul of notoriously creaky infrastructure, with new roads, bridges and trains, and a speeding up of business applications.

He promised to introduce new technology to improve the country’s snail-paced internet and free public wi-fi, universal healthcare and the pursuit of an end to separatist conflicts, including a unilateral ceasefire with Maoist rebels.

He said he has had issues that have spurred one of Asia’s fastest rates of economic growth would be continued and strengthened.

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China says South Korea’s THAAD anti-missile decision harms foundation of trust

SEUL — Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi has criticised South Korea’s move to deploy an advanced US anti-missile defence system to counter threats from North Korea, saying it harmed the foundation of their mutual trust, news reports said on Monday.

The announcement by South Korea and the United States this month that they would deploy a Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) unit has already drawn protests from Beijing that it would destabilise regional security.

The decision to deploy THAAD is the latest move to squeeze the increasingly isolated North Korea, but China worries the system’s radar will be able to track its military capabilities. Russia also opposes the deployment.

“The recent move by the South Korean side has harmed the foundation of mutual trust between the two countries,” Wang was quoted by South Korea’s Yonhap news agency and KBS television as telling South Korean Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se.

Wang and Yun met late on Sunday on the sidelines of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations conference of foreign ministers in Vientiane.

Yun told Wang that the move was aimed at protecting South Korea’s security and that it would not damage China’s security interests, Yonhap said.

South Korea and the United States have said THAAD would only be used in defence against North Korean ballistic missiles.

North Korea has launched a series of missiles in recent months, the latest last week when it fired three ballistic missiles that it said was a simulated test of preemptive strikes against South Korean ports and airstrips used by the US military.

The missiles flew 500-600 km (300-360 miles) into the sea off its east coast and could have hit anywhere in South Korea if the North intended, the South’s military said. North Korea came under the latest round of United Nations Security Council sanctions in March after Pyongyang’s fourth nuclear test in January and the launch of a long-range rocket the following month.—Reuters

Australia plans indefinite detention of convicted extremists

SYDNEY — Australia will indefinitely detain people convicted of terrorism-related charges if it feels they pose an ongoing danger to society upon their release, Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said on Monday.

Turnbull compared the measures to those employed against some child-sexual offenders and cited what he called a growing number of attacks such as the recent Bastille Day attack in Nice, France, that killed dozens.

“The measures we are announcing today are designed to deter terrorism, prevent it, ensure that the nation and our people are kept safe,” Turnbull told reporters on Monday.

“It will provide a very real incentive for people in prison for terrorist offences not to engage in continued extremist activity.” A staunch US ally, Australia has been on heightened alert for attacks by home-grown radicals since 2014, having suffered several “lone wolf” assaults, including a cafe siege in Sydney in which two hostages and the gunman were killed. About 100 people have left Australia for Syria to fight alongside organisations such as Islamic State, Australia’s Immigration Minister said last month.—Reuters

Japan, South Korea agree to move towards implementation of comfort women deal

VIENITIANE — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and his South Korean counterpart Yun Byung Se affirmed on Monday their intention to move towards implementing a landmark deal over Korean women forced into wartime brothels for the Japanese military, with an agreed foundation to help the aging women set to be established this week.

The ministers, who are in the Laos capital of Vientiane to attend a series of regional meetings, also confirmed bilateral cooperation and close coordination with the United States in dealing with North Korea as they stay on alert for a possible fifth nuclear test or further ballistic missile launches by Pyongyang, a Japanese official said.

In a major turnaround in bilateral ties, the two ministers signed a deal late last December under which Japan pledged 1 billion yen ($9.5 million) to a new South Korean foundation aimed at aiding the former “comfort women.” Sources close to the matter said earlier it is set to be established this week.

After the setup of the fund, the focus will shift to when the Japanese government will disburse the 1 billion yen. Some lawmakers of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party have said the public funds should not be released unless a statue of a girl symbolizing “comfort women” in front of the Japanese Embassy in Seoul is removed. At the time of the deal, the Japanese and South Korean governments did not mention the removal of the statue as a condition for Tokyo’s contribution, but South Korea said then that it “will strive to solve this issue in an appropriate manner.”

The official who briefed on the meeting said the Japanese government “has not yet decided when to disburse the money.”

While North Korea ignores global condemnation and continues its pursuit of nuclear and missile programmes, Kishida reiterated Japan’s support to Yun over the planned installation of an advanced US antimissile defence system in South Korea to counter nuclear and missile threats from North Korea, the official said.—Kyodo News

China built thermal power plant on trial in Viet Nam

HANOI — Unit 1 of Viet Nam’s Duyen Hai 3 Thermal Power Plant, which is built by Chinese contractor, has just experienced the first fire furnace, a preparation to run trial before the unit is put into operation. Local Nhan Dan (People) newspaper on Monday quoted the plant’s investor Viet Nam Electricity as saying that the first fire furnace is of great importance, creating a premise for the unit to start generating electricity by the end of 2016. The plant is located in Viet Nam’s southern Tra Vinh Province, with total capacity of 1,245 megawatt. In August 2011, the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) contract for Units 1 and 2 was awarded to a consortium of Chinese companies including Chengda Engineering, Dongfang Electric Corporation, and the Southwest Electric Power Design Institute (SWEPDI), a subsidiary of the China Energy Engineering Group and Zhejiang Electric Power Construction.—Xinhua

A Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) interceptor is launched during a successful intercept test, in this undated handout photo provided by the US Department of Defence, Missile Defence Agency. Photo: Reuters
Criminals do commit crimes on any occasions and any place. Such situations are threats to locals and foreigners alike. Such situations are threats to the global communities regardless of any different regions. The tragic incidents cannot be by hate crimes or acts of terrorism occur from time to time even if there are no civil wars in particular countries.

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Democrats in disarray on eve of convention to nominate Clinton

PHILADELPHIA — The head of the Democratic Party resigned on Sunday amid a furor over embarrassing leaked emails, hoping to head off a growing rebellion among party leaders. Sanders had demanded earlier in the day that Wasser- man Schultz resign.

The furor was a blow to a party keen on projecting stability in contrast to the volatility of Republican candidate Donald Trump, who was formally nominated at a raucous convention in Cleveland last week.

It also overshadowed prepa- rations in Philadelphia for Clinto- n’s coronation as the nominee to face Trump in the 8 November presidential election. She will be the first woman nominated for president by a major U.S. political party. The four-day Democratic convention will open on Monday.

In some good news for Clinton, the New York Times reported that she was formally nominated at a raucous convention in Cleveland last week.

Sanders said Wasserman Schultz, a U.S. representative from Florida, had made the right decision for the future of the Democratic Party. “The party leadership must also always re- main impartial in the presidential nominating process, something which did not occur in the 2016 race,” he said.

Bloomberg will endorse her in a prime-time speech on Monday, saying she will be the best choice for moderate voters in 2016.

The cache of emails leaked on Friday by the WikiLeaks website disclosed that DNC of- ficials explored ways to under- mine Sanders’ insurgent pres- idential campaign, including raising questions about whether Sanders, who is Jewish, was re- ally an atheist.

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Two dead, 14 wounded in shooting at Florida nightclub — US media

FORT MYERS, (Florida) — At least two people were killed and 14 wounded in a shooting at a nightclub in Fort Myers, Florida early on Monday, CNN and local TV reported, citing police.

Local TV stations reported that the Club Blu club had been hosting a teen party at the time.

At least one person had been detained.

Fort Myers police could not be reached immediately for comment.

The shooting comes the month after a massacre at a nightclub in the Florida city of Orlando, in which a lone gunman killed 49 people in the deadliest mass shooting in US history. — Reuters

Al Qaeda chief urges kidnappings of Westerners for prisoner swaps

ISLAMABAD — Al Qaeda chief Ayman al-Zawahiri has appeared in an audio interview calling on fighters to take Western hostages and exchange them for jailed jihadists, the monitoring service SITE Intelligence Group said on Sunday.

In recording posted online, Al-Zawahiri called on the global militant network to kidnap Westerners “until they liberate the last Muslim male prisoner and last Muslim female prisoner in the pris- ons of the Crusaders, apostates, and enemies of Islam,” according to SITE.

Reuters could not verify the authenticity of the recording.

Zawahiri is believed to be seeking refuge in the Afghanistan-Pak- istan border area that is the Taliban’s base. — Reuters

Former New York City Mayor Bloomberg to endorse Hillary Clinton — NYT

NEW YORK — Former New York City Mayor Michael Bloom- berg plans to endorse Hillary Clinton in a prime time address at the Democratic convention, the New York Times reported on Sunday.

Citing Bloomberg’s adviser Howard Wolfson, the newspaper said that he plans to make the case for Clinton from the “perspective of a business leader and an independent.”

Bloomberg, who was previously elected as a Republican and later became an independent, has been sharply critical of Republi- can presidential nominee Donald Trump. — Reuters

Ties with Turkey will be impacted if US doesn’t extradite Gulen: minister

ANKARA — Turkey’s ties with Washington will be impacted if the United States does not extradite the cleric it accuses of mas- terminding a failed military coup, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Monday, adding he would meet with US officials on the topic during a coming visit.

Cavusoglu made the comments in an interview with private broadcaster Haberturk TV.

Turkey says cleric Fethullah Gulen, who has lived in self-im- posed exile in the United States since 1999, was responsible for the July 15 coup attempt that aimed to overthrow the government.

Gulen denies the charge. Washington has said Ankara must first provide clear evidence of Gulen’s involvement in the attempt- ed coup and lawyers have said any extradition process could take years. — Reuters

Vulin: Nearly 3,000 migrants in Serbia

BELGRADE — There are nearly 3,000 migrants in Serbia at this time, and the number of those entering Serbia from Macedonia and Bulgaria is declining, Minister of Employment, Labour, Veteran and Social Affairs Aleksandar Vulin said on Monday.

Police and Serbian Armed Forces troops are patrolling along the borders, protecting our territory from illegal entries, Vulin told the media.

“The number is declining not because the refugee crisis is coming to an end but because we have introduced measures,” Vulin said, adding that anyone who entered Serbian territory had the right to request asylum.

They will be accommodated at our centres and go through pro- cedures, while those who do not request asylum will be returned to the countries where they had come from, he said. — Tanjug
KABUL. — Civilians are being killed and wounded in record numbers in Afghanistan, the United Nations reported on Monday, just days after one of the deadliest attacks ever in Kabul.

Overall, at least 1,601 civilians were killed and 3,565 wounded in the war in the first six months of 2016, the United Nations reported, as insurgent groups like the Taliban try to topple the government installed in Kabul after the 2001 US-led military intervention.

Anti-government groups, the largest of which is the Taliban, accounted for at least 60 per cent of non-combatants killed and wounded. 

Twin blasts on Saturday were claimed by Islamic State militants and killed at least 80 people and injured more than 230, most of them civilians.

Those numbers are not included in the UN report, but the attack highlighted its finding that suicide bombings and complex attacks are now harming more civilians than they are roadside bombs.

Casualties caused by pro-government forces increased 47 per cent over the same period last year, the United Nations said.

Afghan forces were responsible for 22 per cent of civilian casualties overall, and the international troops remaining in the country caused 2 per cent, while 17 per cent could not be attributed to one side or the other.

For the first time, the Afghan air force killed or wounded more civilians in its operations than did air strikes carried out by international forces, the United Nations reported.

UN officials said they had heard more commitments by both sides, but few effective actions to improve protection of civilians.

"Every civilian casualty represents a failure of commitment and should be a call to action for parties to the conflict to take meaningful, concrete steps to reduce civilians’ suffering and increase protection," Tadamichi Yamamoto, the top UN official in Afghanistan, said in the report.

"Pluralities not backed by meaningful action ring hollow over time. History and the collective memory of the Afghan people will judge leaders of all parties to this conflict by their actual conduct."

More than 1,500 children were killed and wounded by the war, in the highest toll ever recorded in a six-month period by the United Nations. Most civilians were caught up in ground clashes between the two sides as the Taliban increasingly threatened population centres and government troops went on the offensive following the withdrawal of most international combat troops in 2014.

Ground engagements accounted for 38 per cent of civilian casualties, followed by complex and suicide attacks at 20 per cent, UN investigators found.

Casualties caused by roadside bombs decreased dramatically, by 21 per cent, a drop the United Nations attributed to changes in the nature of the conflict, as well as better bomb-detection by the government. The report was sharply critical of the Taliban, who "continued using indiscriminate tactics, including carrying out devastating complex and suicide attacks in civilian areas."—Reuters

Afghan security forces inspect the damage caused by a suicide bomber at the site of the attack on the western outskirts of Kabul, Afghanistan, on 30 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BAQUBA, (Iraq) — Up to 12 people were killed and 25 others wounded on Monday in a suicide car bomb attack in Iraq’s eastern province of Diyala, a provincial security official told Xinhua.

The attack took place in the morning when a suicide bomber drove his explosive-laden vehicle into a crowded checkpoint at the eastern entrance of the town of Khalis, west of the provincial capital city of Baquba and some 65 km northeast of Baghdad, the official said on condition of anonymity.

The latest report said 12 people, including three women and two children, were killed and 25 others wounded by the suicide car bomb attack in Diyala, the official said. The blast on fire 13 civilian vehicles nearby and damaged many others, and destroyed part of the checkpoint’s building.

Earlier in the day, the official, citing police reports, put the toll at 10 killed and 12 wounded in the Khalis blast.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack, but the Islamic State (IS) militant group turned out to be behind most of similar suicide attacks in the past, targeting areas where crowds of people gather, including markets, cafes and mosques across Iraq. The attack came a day after another suicide bombing, claimed by the IS, at a crowded checkpoint near Adan Square at the entrance of the Shiite district of Kadhimiya, leaving 21 people dead and 35 others injured.—Xinhua
Bomb-carrying Syrian dies outside German music festival; 12 wounded

BERLIN/ANSBACH, (Germany) — A 27-year-old Syrian man denied asylum in Germany a year ago died on Sunday when he set off a bomb outside a crowded music festival in Bavaria, an official said, in the fourth violent attack in the country in less than a week.

Police said a dozen people were wounded, including three seriously, in the attack in Ansbach, a town of 40,000 people southwest of Nuremberg that is also home to a US Army base.

The incident will fuel growing public unease about Chancellor Angela Merkel’s open-door refugee policy, under which more than a million migrants have entered Germany over the past year, many fleeing war in Afghanistan, Syria and Iraq.

The dead man had been in treatment after twice before trying to kill himself, though Sunday’s explosion was more than just “a pure suicide attempt”, Bavarian Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann told Reuters.

An Islamist link could not be ruled out, he earlier told reporters.

“It’s terrible ... that someone who came into our country to seek shelter has now committed such a heinous act and injured a large number of people who are at home here, some seriously,” Herrmann told a hastily convened news conference early on Monday.

“It’s a further, horrific attack that will increase the already growing security concerns of our citizens. We must do everything possible to prevent the spread of such violence in our country by people who came here to ask for asylum.”

He told Reuters the recent attacks raised serious questions about Germany’s asylum law and security across the country and said he planned to introduce measures at a Bavarian government meeting on Tuesday to strengthen the police forces and ensure they have adequate equipment.

Herrmann said the man arrived in Germany two years ago and had been in trouble with local police repeatedly for drug-taking and other offences.

He said investigators had yet to determine the motive of the attacks. “Because the rucksack and this bomb were packed with so many metal parts that could have killed and injured many more people, it cannot simply be considered a pure suicide attempt.”

It was the second violent incident in Germany on Sunday and the fourth in the last week, including the killing of nine people by a deranged 18-year-old Iranian-German gunman in Munich on Friday.

Herrmann said the man, whose identity has not yet been released, had been living in Ansbach for a year. Although his application for asylum had been denied, he was not in danger of being deported immediately given the civil war in Syria.

One US intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said investigators would focus on what the bomber was doing before he left Syria and why he was denied asylum.

US sources said the bombing did not appear to be a well-planned operation and could well turn out to be the act of another deranged individual.

Herrmann said the man had been denied entry to the Ansbach Open music festival shortly before detonating the bomb outside a restaurant called Eugens Weinstube. More than 2,000 people were evacuated from the festival after the explosion, police said.

A large area around the blast site remained blocked off hours later.

Ansbach resident Thomas Debinski said people panicked when they heard the explosion, especially after the events of the past week.

“Suddenly you heard a loud, a really loud bang, it was like an exploding sound, definitely an explosion,” he said. “People were definitely panicking.”

Debinski said it soon became clear that someone had set off a bomb in a rucksack. Earlier on Sunday, a 21-year-old Syrian refugee was arrested after killing a pregnant woman and wounding two people with a machete in the southwestern city of Reutlingen, near Stuttgart.

“Afetr what just happened in Munich, and today in Reutlingen, we know you hear about it, it is very disturbing, when you know that such a thing can happen so close to you, in such a small town as Ansbach,” Debinski said.

—Reuters

Shipping piracy worldwide falls to lowest in 2 decades

KUALA LUMPUR — Shipping piracy cases worldwide have dropped to the lowest level since 1995 due to tightened enforcement in previous hotspot areas like Indonesia, Somalia and Nigeria, the International Maritime Bureau said in a report released on Monday.

The piracy watchdog said that in the first six months of 2016, 96 cases were reported compared with 134 for the same period last year. At its peak in 2010 and 2003, IMB said, its Kuala Lumpur-based Piracy Reporting Centre recorded 445 incidents for the whole year.

“This drop in world piracy is encouraging news. Two main factors are recent improvements around Indonesia, and the continued deterrence of Somali pirates off East Africa,” IMB Director Pottengal Mukundan said in a statement that accompanied the report.

“But ships need to stay vigilant, maintain security and report all attacks, as the threat of piracy remains, particularly off Somalia and in the Gulf of Guinea,” he said.

Piracy in Indonesia more than halved, from 54 incidents in the January-June period of 2015 to 24 in the same period this year, following close collaboration between IMB and Indonesian authorities to improve security at sea and in ports.

The introduction of designated anchorages has helped to curb low-level theft on ships at anchor.

The Indonesian navy was lauded for its quick response in recovering a hijacked tanker off West Kalimantan in May.

Nine pirates were nabbed and the crew was rescued unharmed.

While piracy has dropped in Indonesia, it is on the rise in Nigeria, where the number of cases more than doubled to 24 in the first half of this year from 11 in the same period of last year.

Nigeria is also the world’s piracy kidnapping hotspot. Of the 44 crew captured for ransom in 2016, 24 were taken in Nigeria.

Nigerian attacks are often violent, with vessels being fired upon, IMB said. It said many further assaults go unreported by shipowners.

“In the Gulf of Guinea, rather than oil tankers being hijacked for their cargo, there is an increasing number of incidents of crew being kidnapped for ransom,” Mukundan said. The Gulf of Guinea accounted for seven of the world’s 10 kidnapincidents, with armed gangs boarding vessels 30 to 120 nautical miles from shore. Besides Indonesia and Nigeria, other hotspots during the first half of this year were the Indian Ocean (with 13 cases), China with five and Malaysia and Peru with four each. The six locations accounted for 75 per cent of the total 98 incidents reported this year.

—Kyodo News

French minister rejects charges of changing report on Nice attack

PARIS — France’s interior minister rejected on Sunday an assertion by a senior Nice security official that his staff tried to change a report into policing on the night of the Bastille Day attack that claimed 84 lives.

France’s Socialist government has come under fire for not doing enough to prevent a deranged 26-year-old ploughing a refrigeratruck into a crowd of revelers leaving a 14 July fireworks display on the Riviera city’s beachfront promenade.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said he would file a defamation lawsuit after the head of Nice’s extensive video surveillance network said in a newspaper interview that someone from his staff had sought to change the report.

Led by regional government president Christian Estrosi, conservative politicians from Nice have aggressively questioned whether officers from the national police were present in sufficient numbers on the night of the attack.

The government has repeatedly rejected this accusation.

“For 10 days now, we have nearly every day faced attacks, insinuations and lies from some of those bearing political responsibility in Nice,” the normally unflappable Ca zeneuve said with visible agitation on France 2 television. Nice, a city of nearly 350,000 people, is France’s most heavily policed city with nearly 600 officers municipal police officers and other security agents — more than much larger cities — and an extensive network of surveillance cameras.

—Reuters
NEW YORK — The judge overseeing the probe that led to the arrest last week of suspected Islamist militants in Brazil said Facebook Inc. and Twitter Inc. co-operated with investigators by providing information about the suspects’ use of both social networks.

In an interview late Sunday with Fantastico, a weekly news programme on the Globo television network, Judge Marcos Josegeli da Silva said cooperation by both companies, after a judicial order tied to the investigation, was instrumental to understand the nature of discussions carried out by the suspects, a 12th of whom was detained late Sunday.

“The companies began to provide data related to the context of the conversations and data about where those conversations were posted,” the judge said, without providing more details.

Spokesmen for Facebook and Twitter declined to comment on specifics of the case. Both spokesmen said that their respective companies have zero tolerance for activities related to terrorism and other crimes and that they cooperate with law enforcement authorities when necessary.

Brazilian investigators said the suspects in the ongoing probe, dubbed “Operation Hashtag,” are sympathetic to the Islamic State militant group and through messaging services and the Internet had discussed attacking the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, which start 5 August. In the Fantastico interview, the judge said “there is no anonymity for those sorts of activities on the Internet.”

Separately, Brazil’s federal police said Sunday night they had arrested the 12th suspect targeted by the investigation. The suspect, detained in the west-central state of Mato Grosso, will be questioned and transported, like the other suspects already in custody, to a federal penitentiary.

The judge’s comments about cooperation by the social media companies comes amid growing debate in Brazil and around the world about privacy issues and law enforcement.

Facebook’s WhatsApp messaging service, for instance, has been shut down temporarily on several occasions by Brazilian judges — most recently just last week — in efforts to get the company to hand over content for investigations.

Compared with content on Facebook, Twitter and other social networks that is openly shared with other users, however, data sent by WhatsApp and similar messaging services is encrypted. The data is scrambled between users and therefore, according to those companies, not something even they can access.— Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CONTENDER VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CONTENDER VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 26.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.L.T.T.M.P.L where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S’PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ABLE VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV RATANA THIDA VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV RATANA THIDA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SSL TRUST VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SSL TRUST VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 25.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S THE SHIPPING CORP. OF INDIA LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

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Japanese fantasy world fever grips young Cubans

HAVANA — Cuba may be one of the world’s least connected countries but that is not stopping the Japanese subculture of animated movies, manga comics and video games from spreading feverishly among its youth.

More than a thousand “Otakus,” or fans of such fantasy worlds, descended on Havana this week for the country’s third Otaku festival, defying the sweltering heat to sport the costumes of their favorite characters.

Some performed scenes from animation movies on stage, while others belted out songs in Japanese with Spanish subtitles projected in the background. Still others did role playing dance choreographies. A prize was awarded for best cosplay, or role playing in costume, and for best manga drawing.

“Every day, the Otaku community is growing in this country,” said festival participant Juliette Fernandez, who was dressed up as the digital pop princess Hatsune Miku with turquoise pigtails down to her thighs. The 17-year-old, who is learning Japanese and dreams of creating comics, said she started getting seriously into the subculture a year ago.

“We started making the costumes, finding the wigs, designing choreographies and even trying to imitate the characters’ voices,” said Fernandez, whose Otaku group will perform a concert in September.

Some Cubans said the role playing offered them an escape and the science fiction heroes encouraged them to overcome their own difficulties.

“The anime heroes are the people we can identify with, who have problems but manage to overcome them,” said Yoyo Pago- la, 24.

Otaku face challenges pursuing their hobby in Cuba. Internet access in the Communist-ruled island is restricted, meaning fans can not easily look up series and mangas on the web.

“It’s really thanks to ‘El Paquete’ that we’re able to watch anime here,” said participant Jose Cruz, 20, referring to packages of media on USB sticks that can be purchased across Cuba each week.

Cruz, dressed up as anime private Trafalgar Law, said he took a 12-hour bus from the eastern city of Holguin to attend the festival.

Accessories are not on sale in Cuba so Otakus make their own costumes, saving up for the materials.

“It took me four months to make this costume in my spare time,” said Fernando Gonzales, 20, sweating heavily under his full fake suit of armor.

“Between the cardboard, the paint and the glue, it cost a fair bit, so I’m hoping to win the cosplay.”

—Reuters

Gal Gadot’s Wonder Woman is inspired by Princess Diana

LOS ANGELES — Actress Gal Gadot says her Wonder Woman has been inspired by Britain’s Princess Diana.

Warner Bros unveiled the Wonder Woman trailer at San Diego Comic-Con and Gal Gadot, who stars as Diana, warrior princess of the Amazon and its upcoming eighth season, will be the show’s last. The CW, our incredible cast and crew, Kevin, Julie, Warner Bros. The CW and the most loyal fan base the world has ever seen. Wow, what a ride,” he said.

Paul added: “Being cast in The Vampire Diaries has changed the trajectory of my life, to say the very least. I’m beyond fortunate for the experiences I’ve had and lessons I’ve learned over the last seven years.

also want to thank Kevin and Julie, as well as Peter Roth and Warner Bros., Mark Pedowitz and The CW, our incredible cast and crew, and especially the TVD fans all around the world who are the reason this show became such a worldwide success. I am beyond grateful to have been a part of it,” he add-
ed. The final 16 episodes will begin on Friday, 21 October in the US.—PTI

American television series, The Vampire Diaries to end at season 8

LOS ANGELES — The Vampire Diaries has been cancelled and its upcoming eighth season will be the show’s last. The CW has announced the news and stars including Ian Somerhalder and Paul Wesley, who play vampire brothers Damon and Stefan Salvatore, have paid tribute to the show, reported E! online.

“The sun, the moon and stars aligned for me one day in March when I got the official call that I had been cast in this very special role as Damon Sal-
vatore,” Somerhalder said.

“I’m so very grateful to those who fought for me to have this opportunity (you know who you are), for those that have worked so hard to make this show happen, and to those that have loyally watched it, making it part of their lives.

“This show has enriched my life greater than anything I’ve done in my career and it will live in my heart. We are a family and I will miss you. Thank you again to this amaz-
ing cast and crew, Kevin, Julie, Warner Bros. The CW and the most loyal fan base the world has ever seen. Wow, what a ride,” he said.

Paul added: “Being cast in The Vampire Diaries has inspired by Princess Diana.

“Fighting alongside a man in a war to end all wars, Diana will discover her full powers…and her true destiny.” Wonder Woman also stars Chris Pine, Robin Wright, Connie Nielsen, David Thewlis, Danny Huston, Elena Anaya and Ewen Bremner.

Zach Snyder is a producer on the Wonder Woman and he joined the stars of his Justice League mov-
ie, including Gal Gadot, Ben Af
dleck, Ezra Miller, Jason Momoa, Henry Cavill, and Ray Fisher, for a panel at Comic-Con. A teaser for Justice League featuring Wonder Woman alongside Batman, The Flash, Aquaman, Cyborg was also shown at Comic-Con in San Diego. Both the films looked equally impressive and they are currently the top trending topic on social media.—PTI

Beyonce fires back at Matthew Fulk who claims she copied Lemonade

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Beyonce has hit back at claims that she plagiarised a filmmaker’s idea for Lemonade, by filing a motion to dismiss, urging the court to throw out Matthew Fulk’s lawsuit.

Fulk is also trying to imitate the characters’ signing choreographies and even “fleeing the overgrown grass.

Fulks is also said to have al-
leged that a Sen-
or VP at Co-
lumbia Music, Be-
yonce’s record label, saw Palmoia sometime in 2015 and he believes that executive stole his ideas to use for Lemonade, which started shooting at the end of 2015.

Lemonade is the sixth album by American singer Beyonce. It was released on April 23 this year. This visual album also features musicians Jack White, Kendrick Lamar, and bassist Marcus Mill-
er. There are also elements of folk music in the album.—PTI

The Vampire Diaries is ending, season eight will be the last! Photo PTI

Photo PTI

A m-
azons, re-
vealed she took inspiration from the real-life Princess Diana, after watch-
ing a documentary on the late British royal, reported by collider.com

"Fighting alongside a man in a war to end all wars, Diana will discover her full powers...and her true destiny.” Wonder Woman also stars Chris Pine, Robin Wright, Connie Nielsen, David Thewlis, Danny Huston, Elena Anaya and Ewen Bremner.

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Dr Tyrn Myint-U
84 Years Old
Dr Tyrn Myint-U, born 1 January 1932 in Mandalay, son of U Hla Din and Daw Kyin Phwa, passed away in New Hampshire, USA on 19 July 2016.

He studied at Mandalay, Rangoon, and Michigan Universities before completing his PhD in Aeronautics at New York University.

He was for many years a Professor of Mathematics at Manhattan College and served with the United Nations in Bangkok and New York.

He is survived by his wife Daw Aye Aye Thant, his sister, four children, and four grandchildren.

Bereaved family

Condolesences
Our Deepest Sympathies and Heartfelt condolences to our Founder & Chairman of the Yangon Heritage Trust
Dr Thant Myint-U and family
don the demise of their dearly beloved father
Dr. Tyrn Myint-U who passed away peacefully on Tuesday 19 July 2016.
Yangon Heritage Trust (YHT)

Prince Harry regrets not talking sooner about Diana’s death

LONDON — Britain’s Prince Harry has spoken about how he regrets not talking sooner about the impact of the death of his mother, Princess Diana. Diana died in a car crash in Paris in 1997, when Harry was 12 and his brother Prince William was 15.

Harry, now 31 and fifth in line to the throne, said he had not discussed his mother’s death until three years ago, the BBC reported.

“I really regret not talking about it,” he said. “For the first 28 years of my life, I never talked about it.”

He added: “It is OK to suffer, but as long as you talk about it. It is not a weakness. Weakness is having a problem and not recognising it and not solving that problem.”

Harry, who is the queen’s grandson, was speaking last week at a barbecue he hosted for the mental health charity Heads Together, attended by sports stars such as former England footballer Rio Ferdinand and Olympic athlete Kelly Holmes.

“I think the key message here is that everyone can suffer from mental health issues, whether you’re a member of the royal family, whether you’re a sports star,” said Harry, a former army officer who served in Afghanistan.

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Nagasaki church among Christian sites
Japan eyeing as World Heritage

TOKYO — A Japanese government panel on Monday selected Christian sites in southwestern Japan including the country’s oldest church in Nagasaki as a UNESCO World Cultural Heritage site candidate for 2018.

It is the second time the panel has picked the sites in Nagasaki and Kumamoto prefectures, including Nagasaki’s Oura Church, which is designated as a national treasure. The area was the focus of persecution of Christians when the religion was banned for most of the Edo Period (1603-1868) and also of its revival thereafter.

The sites on the main island of Kyushu were recommended by Japan in January last year with an eye to being registered as a World Heritage by the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organisation this summer.

But the government retracted the recommendation in February after a UNESCO advisory panel notified Japan that explanations of the sites were insufficient.

The government will submit a letter of recommendation by Feb. 1 next year so that the Kyushu sites will be examined by the UNESCO panel, or the International Council on Monuments and Sites known as ICOMOS, in the summer of 2018.

The Nagasaki and Kumamoto prefectural government officials reviewed their presentations of the sites following suggestions made by the ICOMOS that their explanations should focus on Japan’s history of banning Christianity.

The government panel also screened three other candidates: the Jomon archeological sites in Hokkaido, northern Tohoku and other regions, the Sado complex of heritage mines — primarily gold mines — in Niigata Prefecture, and Mozu-Furusho Kofun, ancient tumulus clusters in Osaka Prefecture.

However, the panel judged they lacked sufficient explanations about global values or measures for preservation.

Among the 12 assets to be recommended in the Kyushu sites are churches and shrines in Nagasaki and Sakitsu village in Amakusa, Kumamoto Prefecture, where some Christians lived in hiding to escape persecution.

Originally, 14 locations in the two prefectures ranging across a wider time span formed the sites for the recommendation but two places, including the ruins of a castle ruled by a Christian lord, were excluded after the suggestions by the ICOMOS.

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Prince Harry chats with staff during his visit to the Burrell Street Sexual Health Clinic in London, Britain, on 14 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS
**Hamilton wins in Hungary to take overall lead**

**BUDAPEST** — Triple Formula One world champion Lewis Hamilton won the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sunday to seize the championship lead from team mate Nico Rosberg for the first time since 2014.

The Briton took the chequered flag less than two seconds ahead of the German, who had lined up on pole position at the Hungaroring but lost out to Hamilton at the start in the key moment of the race.

Hamilton, who has now won in Hungary a record five times, leads Rosberg by six points after 11 of the season’s 21 races. The Briton has won five of the last six races, including the last three.

“The start was everything,” said Hamilton. “This is a great result for the team. What a day.”

Sunday’s win was the 48th of his career and fifth of the season. Until Sunday he had shared the record for Hungary GP wins with seven times champion Michael Schumacher.

“I grew up watching Michael so to have such a similar number, and now one more than he had here, is incredible,” said Hamilton.

Australian Daniel Ricciardo finished third for Red Bull after pushing the Mercedes pair hard enough at one point for the champions to tell Hamilton to pick up the pace.

Ferrari’s four times world champion Sebastian Vettel, also a previous winner in Hungary, finished fourth after sounding off over the team radio about slower cars holding him up as he lapped them.

Red Bull’s Max Verstappen held off Ferrari’s feisty Kimi Raikkonen for fifth. The Finn had started 14th but a long first stint saw him challenging the Dutchman.

The battle between the pair provided a moment of excitement in an otherwise uneventful race, with Raikkonen clipping the back of Verstappen’s car and damaging his front wing in an attempt to pass the 18-year-old.

Fernando Alonso was the sole surviving McLaren in seventh.

McLaren’s hopes of a strong result on the back of their best qualifying performance since re-engineering their team partnership with Honda were dashed early on, with Jenson Button falling down the order with hydraulics problems.

The 2009 world champion also collected a drive-through penalty for a breach of radio rules before finally retiring late in the race.

Rosberg, who has also won five races this year, will have the chance to seize back the lead in his home German Grand Prix. The race at Hockenheim, absent from the calendar last year, takes place in just a week’s time.

“It was all down to the start in the end,” said Rosberg of Sunday’s race. “From then on I was trying to put all the pressure on Lewis but it’s not possible to pass at this track.”

“To have the next race coming up very quickly sounds good, at my home race...it’s going to be awesome.” — Reuters

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**Russia escapes IOC blanket ban for Rio Olympics**

**LAUSANNE (Switzerland)** — The International Olympic Committee (IOC) has rejected clarion calls for Russia to be banned from next month’s Rio Olympics over the nation’s doping record, offering athletes a lifeline by ruling that decisions on individual competitors will be left to the international sports federations.

The IOC’s decision on Sunday, less than two weeks before the Rio Games opens on 5 August, follows the World Anti-Doping Agency’s (WADA) call for a blanket ban in response to the independent McLaren report that found evidence of state-sponsored doping by Russian athletes at the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi. “I think in this way, we have balanced on the one hand, the desire and need for collective responsibility versus the right to individual justice of every individual athlete,” IOC President Thomas Bach said on a conference call.

“In this way we are protecting the clean athletes because of the high criteria we set. This may not please everybody, but this result is one which is respecting the rules of justice and all the clean athletes all over the world.”

WADA and 14 national anti-doping organisations had urged the IOC to impose a blanket ban in the wake of the damning McLaren report, but former Olympic fencing champion Bach said that Russian sportsmen and women “will have to clear the highest hurdle to take part in the Olympics”. The United States Anti-Doping Agency (USADA) said the IOC had failed to show leadership with its decision.

“Many, including clean athletes and whistleblowers, have demonstrated courage and strength in confronting a culture of state-supported doping and corruption within Russia,” USA-DA chief Travis Tygart said.

“Disappointingly, however, in response to the most important moment for clean athletes and the integrity of the Olympic Games, the IOC has refused to take decisive leadership. The decision regarding Russian participation and the confusing mess left in its wake is a significant blow to the rights of clean athletes.” — Reuters

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**Rejuvenated Djokovic happy to be back on hard courts**

**TORONTO** — World number one Novak Djokovic is looking forward to playing on his favoured hardcourt surface at the Rogers Cup in Toronto, but the Serb urged caution as he returns to action for the first time since his shock Wimbledon exit.

The 29-year-old, who was aiming to become the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four grand slams in a year, suffered a third-round loss to American Sam Querrey at Wimbledon.

However, Djokovic, who has won three of the five Masters tournaments this season, is keeping his expectations in check for his return.

“I don’t expect anything. I just try to get myself ready for performing as best as I can,” Djokovic told the ATP website (www.atpworldtour.com).

“I had a bit more time because of the early loss at Wimbledon to spend some quality time with family, regroup a little bit and start training on hard court, which I enjoy the most. So I look forward to it.”

“I have a wonderful history in the Rogers Cup in Toronto and Montreal. That’s what goes through my mind right now. Just enjoy, play well, play singles and doubles and get as many hours in as possible.”

The 12-times grand slam champion, who has a first-round bye, could meet Wimbledon finalist and home favorite Milos Raonic in the semi-finals.

“He’s definitely one of the players that we’re going to see a lot in the future. He works very hard. He’s got John McEnroe in his team so he’s really striving to get better on and off the court,” Djokovic said.

Djokovic brushed aside the Wimbledon loss, which ended his grand slam winning streak at 30.

“Everything happens for a reason so obviously I didn’t enjoy losing the first week of a grand slam,” he said.

“On the other hand, the next day it was already behind me.” — Reuters