THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Amyotha Hluttaw, Pyithu Hluttaw form parliamentary committees

THE first regular session of the second Amyotha Hluttaw (Upper House) continued for its third day in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announcing lists of the members of the Bill Committee, Public Accounts Committee, the formation of the Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.

In his announcement at the third day session, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker clarified duties, powers and rights and term of the Bill Committee formed with 15 members led by Chairman U Zaw Min of Sagaing Region Constituency No (6) and Secretary Dr Myat Nyana Soe of Yangon Region Constituency No (3).

Next, the Speaker announced that the Public Accounts Committee was also formed with 15 members led by Chairman U Saw Than Htut of Kayin State Constituency No (2) and Secretary Dr Sai Hseng Kyauk Hsum of Shan State Constituency No (6). He then clarified the duties, powers, rights and term of the committee.

The Speaker informed parliamentarians of the formation of the Amyotha Hluttaw Rights Committee and the Amyotha Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.

According to yesterday's session, the Amyotha Hluttaw Rights Committee is set to be formed with 15 members led by U Aye Tha Aung of Rakhine State Constituency No (6) as the chairman and U Min Oo of Bago Region Constituency No (6) as the secretary.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Government's Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting

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Fire in Namhsan left about 300 families homeless. PHOTO: IPRD

Firefighters extinguish fire in Namhsan. PHOTO: IPRD

Aid flows into Labutta. Ayeyawady Region. PHOTO: IPRD

PUBLIC AID LINES OPEN

GOVT FORMS QUICK RESPONSE TO TWO HUGE FIRES

FOLLOWING two huge fires in Shan State and Ayeyawady Region on Thursday, the Union Government held an emergency meeting yesterday for the relief and recovery of the victims of the disasters.

The fire occurred in two areas, leaving about 300 families homeless in Namhsan in northern Shan State and about 195 families homeless in Labutta, Ayeyawady Region.

At the meeting, the president spoke on a quick response to the two disaster including sending relief aids, setting up temporary tents, distributing clothes, family kits, supplying text books to students and reopening of schools, assisting the students in taking examination, health care services and sending relief aids to there by the Tatmadaw and Ministry of Transport.

After the meeting, the President flew to Namhsan to assist in the relief and recovery tasks and Vice President U Nyan Tun went to Labutta to supervise the same tasks there.

The fire in Labutta started at around 7 pm at a house on Ayeyathiri Road. The blaze ultimately destroyed 179 homes and more than 20 fishery shops, leaving 761 people homeless.

The fire was brought under control at around 2 pm and there was no injured nor causalities in the Labutta fire.

A temporary shelter for the victims has been set up at a monastery in Labutta with local authorities providing assistance to them.

The government has opened hot-lines for donating relief aid to the fire victims.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw, ...

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Committee is also set to be formed with 15 members and led by U Thein Swe of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No (10) as the chairman and U Kyaw Ni Naing of Shan State Constituency No (11) as the secretary.

Pyithu Hluttaw forms two committees and one commission

THE Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday put on the record a congratulatory message sent by China's National People's Congress (NPC) before announcing the forming of two committees and a commission.

Mr Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the NPC's Standing Committee, sent a message of congratulations to Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint.

The establishment of the Bill Committee, the Public Accounts Committee and the Commission of Studying, Examining and Reviewing Legal Affairs and Special Cases met with parliamentary approval with the speaker recommending the approval of the Rights Committee, which is to be chaired by the deputy speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw. U Ti Khun Myat is the incumbent deputy speaker.

The speaker also proposed the establishment of the Government Guarantees, Pledges and Undertakings Vetting Committee.

U Tun Aung of the Naungcho constituency was chosen as chairman of the Bill Committee and U Aung Min of the Zalun constituency as chairman of the Public Accounts Committee.

Thura U Shwe Mann, former Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, was chosen as chairman of the Commission of Studying, Examining and Reviewing Legal Affairs and Special Cases.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets Chinese, US Ambassadors

Speaker U Win Myint receives US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchel. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of Pyithu Hluttaw (Lower House) U Win Myint yesterday received Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Lian and US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchel at Pyithu Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw separately.

Also present were Pyithu Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and officials of Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*

KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation reaches out to fire victims in Namhsan, Labutta

Relief aid from KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation arrives Labutta. PHOTO: KBZ

KANBAWZA's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation reached out to the fire victims in Labutta, Ayeyawady Region and Namhsan, Shan State, yesterday, distributing aid including food and cash to individuals.

Volunteers of the foundation distributed rice, edible oil, dried fish, beans, drinking water, K 500,000, breakfast, lunch and dinner to each family of 225 households in Labutta and of 285 households in Namhsan. The fire occurred at Namsam in the Palaung Self-Administered Zone in northern Shan State on 4th February and Labutta in Ayeyawady Region on the same day.—*GNLM*

Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker meets US, Chinese Ambassadors

SPEAKER of AmyothaHluttaw (Upper House) U Mahn Win Khaing Than yesterday received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Derek Mitchel and Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Lian at Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw separately.

Also present were Amyotha Hluttaw Deputy Speaker U Aye Tha Aung and officials of Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Speaker U Mahn Win Khaing Than welcomes Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Lian. PHOTO: MNA

Medical syndicate meets ahead of National Medical Conference

A work coordination meeting of the Medical Syndicate at University of Medicine.

A WORK coordination meeting of the Medical Syndicate was held at the University of Medicine-1 in Yangon on 4-5 February ahead of the 10th National Medical Conference.

The 10th National Medical Conference will be held on 15 and 16 February in Nay Pyi Taw aiming at at focusing on the country's medical education system to reform in accord with National Education Law, Private Education Law and Higher Education Law.

The work coordination meeting was attended by Director-General U Kyaw Zin Thant of the Medical Research Department under the Ministry of Health, rectors and professors from Universities of Medicine in Yangon, Mandalay, Magway and Taunggyi and Defense Services Medical Academy and officials.

During the meeting, those present held discussions on a wide range of matters including university entrance, curriculum reform, the role of the private sector and research sector development. —*Myanmar News Agency*

President consoles Namhsan fire victims

President U Thein Sein hands over relief aid for fire victims to local authorities. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein yesterday consoled victims whose houses were burnt down in a fire of two days ago in the twonship of Namhsan, northern Shan State.

The fire began in the early afternoon and continued untill yesterday morning, with officials estimating the number of victims at 1,500 from 300 households.

Fire brigades from nearby townships sent 21 fire engines to put out the fire.

The president, on behalf of the government, provided K300,000 (US$237) each to the fire victims and K100,000 ($80) each to eleventh graders in addition to 1,000 bags of rice.

He also presented Buddha Statues, relief items, food and clothes.

During his visit to Namhsan, President U Thein Sein urged officials to speed up the provision of makeshift accommodations.

The president visited a monastery, a religious community hall and a high school, where he spoke words of comfort to the victims and provided them with basic needs.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice-President U Nyan Tun inspects rehabilitation drive for Labutta fire victims

VICE-President U Nyan Tun, accompanied by Union Ministers Dr Daw Myat Myat Ohn Khin, Maj-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office, the commander of South-West Command, deputy ministers and officials, inspected rehabilitation works for fire victims in Labutta, Ayeyawady Region yesterday.

The Vice-President heard reports on measures being taken to accommodate fire victims at a relief camp and the arrangements being made to rehabilitate them by the Ayeyawady Region Chief Minister U Thein Aung and officials.

The Vice-President then spoke words of encouragement to fire fighters, Tatmadawmen and volunteers who were clearing debris, and comforted fire victims accommodated at a monastery in Ward-5 in the township.

In meeting with the victims, the Vice-President elaborated on the government's plan to provide them with relief aid, and education and health care plans and rehabilitation drive for the Labutta fire victims.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Nyan Tun assists in helping fire victims in Labutta. PHOTO: MNA

Relief supplies sent to aid Namhsan, Labutta fire victims

RELIEF supplies donated by wellwishers have been sent to flood victims in Namhsan in Shan State (North) and Labutta in Ayeyawady Region.

Tatmadaw helicopters carrying relief materials donated by families of the Defense Services (Army, Navy and Air) arrived in Namhsan yesterday.

Lt-Gen Yar Pyae of Commander-in-Chief (Army) Office and party met officials of the Palaung Self-Administered Zone and department officials, presenting personal goods, clothes and foodstuff for the fire victims.

Military helicopters delivered relief supplies donated by the Defense Services (Army, Navy and Air) and the Ministry of Health to the Labutta fire victims.

The Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, the Ministry of Border Affairs, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Livestock, Fishery and Rural Development, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, President's Office and the Ministry of Defense made cash and kind donations to the fire victims.—*Myawady*

The Tatmadaw reaches out to Namhsan where the huge fire hit on 4th February, sending relif aids to them by its helicopter. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Mezali sluice gate 50pc complete

Mezali sluice gate being seen under construction. PHOTO: SOE WIN (MLA)

THE construction of a sluice gate near Mezali Village in Nyaungdon Township, Ayeyawady Region, is 50 per cent complete, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation.

The project, which is being implemented with a contribution of K4.9 billion (US$3,826,630) from the union government budget, is slated for completion this March.

The project is aimed at protecting villages from floodwater and assisting local farmer's summer paddy cultivation, according to the ministry.

Upon completion, the sluice gate will help local farmers improve their livelihoods and protect them against floods, said U Toe Nyein, assistant director of the Irrigation Department.

According to the ministry, plans to build another sluice gate near the confluence of the Panhlaing River and the Hlaing River are being drafted with the help of Dutch technologies.—*Soe Win (MLA)*

Locals in Wuntho Tsp selling baby teak

RESIDENTS in Wuntho Township in Sagaing Region are earning extra income by selling baby teak trees and seeds as the township forest department is collecting teak for the establishment of commercial teak plantations in the region.

Locals who have no land of their own can now generate income all the year round by collecting teak seeds within the forest reserve to sell them.

"All family members collect teak seeds in the forest reserve, selling at least K10,000 per basket to buyers from Nay Pyi Taw, Kachin State and the forest department of Kawlin Township," said a local from Khatat Village in Pinlebu Township. "We also sell baby teak trees at K23 per pant."

The Wuntho Forest Department is planning to establish commercial teak cultivation this monsoon at plot No.2 of Philay forest reserve.

The department has established these commercial teak plantations yearly under the national programme to develop one acre of teak plantation per village.

Forest now covers 70 % of the total land area in the region by increasing teak and other tree plantations.

There are nine forest reserves.—*Sai Lumin (Media Group)*

Teak seeds being collected. PHOTO: SAI LUMIN (MEDIA GROUP)

Crime News

Police sieze illegal guns in Chin Shwehaw

MIbs and ammunition seized in Chin Shwe Haw.
PHOTO: ZARMANI AUNG (LASHIO)

AUTHORITIES seized illegal guns at Chin Shwehaw bridge gate, Shan state (north) on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, members of the police searched a car heading from Kunlon driven by one Ar Chein alias Lout Lu and found five M-16 assault rifles and almost 2,000 rounds of ammunition.

Lout Te alias Ar Shan alias Kyaw Kyaw Aung from ward 2, Chin Shwehaw township admitted that the seized guns were carried from Wah region by Lout Phar, Lout Kyone, Lout Shan and Kyan Shwin Kywin before he was caught with them.

Police arrested Lout Kyone and Kyan Shwin Kywin at Lout Phar's work site. When interrogated, they admitted to having carried the guns from Khan Tee and gave them to Lout Te for transportation. Local police have filed a lawsuit against three of the men and are still searching for the other two.— *Zarmani Aung (Lashio)*

Yabba, opium and ice found in Tachilek

LOCAL police seized raw opium, Yabba, ice and other drug related items at a house in Lwe Si Tone (lower) village, Tachilek township on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, members of the police searched a house owned by one Kyaw Kyaw, 57, and Ma Nyunt Yee, 47, and found .9 grams of ice, .6 grams of opium, 158 Yabba pills, 21 grams of raw opium and drug related items. Charges have been filed against the suspects under the Anti-Narcotic law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Kyaw Kyaw and Ma Nyunt Yee.
PHOTO: MPF

Two teachers poisoned by purified water

TWO teachers were poisoned on Monday in Zayyawaddy town, Pyu township. According to an investigation, the two teachers vomited and became dizzy after drinking purified bottled water at the office. Other teachers opened the bottles and noticed the smell of pesticide. Teachers Daw Swe Swe Thet and Daw Pan Pan Thet Wai were taken to Pyu general hospital to undergo medical treatment.—*Ko Lwin (Swar)*

Police discover amonium nitrate in Muse

Amonium nitrate being seen unloaded. PHOTO: SAYA MAUNG (MUSE)

MUSE police seized amonium nitrate at a house owned by one Kyan Kyar Hlan in Kaung Mu Ton ward, Muse on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, a combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from the township customs department searched the house and discovered 9,135 bags of amonium worth more than K 310 million. Police from Muse station are in hot pursuit of the owner of the house who managed to escape from the scene. Police have filed charges against her.—*Saya Maung (Muse)*

Myanmar and Thai banks discuss direct monetary transfers in towns along its boarders

A GROUP from the northern office of the Thailand Economic Bank, together with the Tachileik branch of the Myanmar Economic Bank and other independent banks, sat together for discussion in the meeting hall of the Tachileik Traders Association yesterday in a bid to enable traders of Thai-Myanmar boarder towns to be able to directly wire finances between each other.

"The main focus of discussion was about the enabling traders in the boarders towns of Tachileik and Mai Sai to be able to make direct financial transfers between themselves. At the moment, money wired from Thailand goes directly to Yangon. That said, money then does arrive everyday in Tachileik." explained Daw Zin Min Thant, manager of Kanbawza Bank's Tachileik branch.

She also made it known that a discussion was held over the exchange of information between banks of both countries to allow for the easy provision of letters of credit.

It is known that a decision was made during the meeting for official submissions to be made by both countries to their relevant government departments for a cap of 200,000 Thai baht to be set on the amount of money which can be wired between both countries on a daily basis.

The town of Tachileik is currently served by the Myanmar Economic Bank and six independent banks, while there are a minimum of five banks located in the Thai boarder town of Mai Sai.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Stacks of Myanmar Kyat are prepared at a bank ahead of being transported in Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mandalay to Commemorate Union Day

"THE big sale festival will be held in commemoration of the 69th anniversary of Union Day. The duration of festival is from 10- 12 February. Over 50 stalls are reserved and ready in order to make available all traditional apparatuses, food and costumes in one place", said U Sai Pan Sai, the President of Sale Festival Committee.

"It is aimed at displaying ethnic food, ethnic appliances and regional farm products. We hope this enormous festival will draw abundant numbers of people, even foreigners", said U Sai Pan Sai, the President of Sale Festival Committee", he added. The venue is 35 Road, between 66 street and 68 street, Chanayethasan Township, Mandalay Regional Division. Furthermore, 15 ethnic groups will participate in the festival. They are; Kachin, Kayin, Kayan, Kokang, Chin, Mon, Bamar, Rakhine, Shan, Red Shan, Palaung, Taungyoe, Pa-O, Inntha and Naga.—*002-Mirror*

Local, foreign donations invited for victims of Namhsan, Labutta fires

PEOPLE who wish to aid the victims of Namhsan and Labutta fires are invited to make cash donations to the National Natural Disaster Management Committee and the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement in Nay Pyi Taw, and respective region/state staff officer offices through the following bank accounts.

(1) Myanmar Currency

Bank Account Name - Natural Disaster Management Fund
Bank Account Number - OA-011834
Bank - Myanma Economic Bank, Nay Pyi Taw
Address - No (26) Thiri Kyawswa Street, Bank Zone, Nay Pyi Taw

(2) Foreign Currency

Bank Account Number - 1DA-0300086
Bank Account Name - Natural Disaster Management Fund
Bank - Myanma Foreign Trade Bank
SWIFT CODE - MFTB MMMY
Address - No (80-86), Maha Bandoola Garden Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar

Contact Persons' Address

- U Soe Aung, Director-General, Relief and Resettlement Department, Ph: 067-404050, 09-8600025
- U Myo Set Aung, Assistant Secretary (Director), Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement, Ph: 067-404373, 09250965889
- Daw Lei Lei Aye, Director, Relief and Resettlement Department, Ph: 067-404316, 092021491
- Daw Nilar Tun, Deputy Director, Relief and Resettlement Department, Ph: 067-404243, 09420703647

National Natural Disaster Management Committee invites cash, kind for fire victims in Namhsan, Labutta

THE National Natural Disaster Management Committee has invited wellwishers who want to make cash and kind donations for fire victims in Namhsan and Labutta to contact the following addresses of the committee's office under the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Sr	Head Office/Region, State, District staff officer office	Phone Number	Address
1	Director-General	067-404050 09-8600025	Relief and Resettlement Department, Office No (23), Nay Pyi Taw
2	Deputy Director-General	067-404048 098601165	Relief and Resettlement Department, Office No (23), Nay Pyi Taw
3	Director (Admin-Finance)	067-404316 092020491	Relief and Resettlement Department, Office No (23), Nay Pyi Taw
4	Director (Relief)	067-404318 067404420 0943120865 09428125027	Relief and Resettlement Department, Office No (23), Nay Pyi Taw
5	Region Staff Officer Office in Nay Pyi Taw Council Area	067-550284 09262690033	Nay Pyi Taw Council Area, Zabuthiri Township, Sector (12), Nay Pyi Taw
6	Kachin State Staff Officer Office	074-24015 074-21822 0947024142	Relief and Resettlement Department, Tatkon, Aden Ward, Myitkyina
7	Kayah State Staff Officer Office	083-22079 083-23130 0949400953	Relief and Resettlement Department, No (14/Kha) Thameinhtaw Street, Minsu Ward, Loikaw
8	Kayin State Staff Officer Office	058-22451 058-23398 0949771414	Relief and Resettlement Department, Workers' Street, No (6) Ward, Hpa-an
9	Chin State Staff Officer Office	070-21768 0933347840 0947172295	Relief and Resettlement Department, No (1) Golf Court Street, Myothit Ward, Haka
10	Sagaing Region Staff Officer Office	071-23221 071-26508 09-47093480	Relief and Resettlement Department, Nandawun Ward, Office Complex, Monywa
11	Taninthayi Region Staff Officer Office	059-24020 059-23576 0949852808	Relief and Resettlement Department, Azarni Street, Byawtawa Ward, Dawei
12	Bago Region Staff Officer Office	052-2230361 052-2230193 0943054261	Relief and Resettlement Department, Thameinbayan Street, No (7) Warehouse, Otthamyothit, Ward-6, Bago
13	Magway Region Staff Officer Office	063-25950 063-28601 0947202929	Relief and Resettlement Department, No (948) Po Yadana Purified Water Factory Street between Z Seik street and No (16) street, Aung Mitta (Ka) Ward, Magway
14	Mandalay Region Staff Officer Office	02-39457 02-67470 0943120867	Relief and Resettlement Department, No (64/65) between 34th street and 35th street, Pyigyi Myat Shin Ward, Chanaye Thasan Township, Mandalay
15	Mon State Staff Officer Office	057-24825 057-24296 0949805199	Relief and Resettlement Department, No (72) at the corner of Taungpaw street and Hsemyaung street, Maung Ngan Ward, Mawlamyine
16	Rakhine State Staff Officer Office	043-23069 043-22903 0949650910 095680465	Relief and Resettlement Department, University Street, Magyimyaing Ward, Sittwe
17	Yangon Region Staff Officer Office	01-521967 01-661812 01-651089 01-564689 0973104693	Relief and Resettlement Department, Kyaikwyne Pagoda Road, Mayangon Township, Yangon
18	Shan State Staff Officer Office	081-208322 095214395	Relief and Resettlement Department, No (54) Office Complex, Ward-3, Sector-1, Ayethayar, Taunggyi
19	Ayeyawady Region Staff Officer Office	042-21061 042-25014 0949000290	Relief and Resettlement Department, Bantbwaygon warehouse compound, Bantbwaygon Ward, Pathein

India ratifies nuclear liability convention, hopes to win foreign investment

NEW DELHI — India ratified an international convention on nuclear energy accident liability, the government said on Thursday, the final piece in its efforts to address the concerns of foreign nuclear suppliers and draw them into a market worth billions of dollars.

Nuclear reactor makers such as General Electric (GE.N) have been reluctant to set up plants in India because of a 2010 liability law that makes equipment suppliers potentially accountable for accidents, not just the plant operators as is the global norm.

Since then, India which wants to ramp up the share of nuclear power from barely 3 per cent to 25 per cent by 2050 has been trying to assuage the fears of the nuclear suppliers.

Last year it launched an insurance pool with a liability cap of 15 billion Indian rupees ($225 million) to cover the suppliers' risk of potential liability.

On Thursday, the Indian Foreign Ministry said it had submitted the document to ratify the Convention of Supplementary Compensation for Nuclear Damage, which seeks to establish a uniform global legal regime for the compensation of victims in the event of a nuclear accident.

"This marks a conclusive step in the addressing of issues related to civil nuclear liability in India," the Foreign Ministry said after the document was handed to the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna.

A policeman stands at a kiosk at the proposed site of the Jaitapur nuclear plant in Ratnagiri district, about 360 km (224 miles) south of Mumbai in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

Energy-starved India plans to construct about 60 nuclear reactors and has been in talks with Westinghouse Electric Co LLC, GE as well as France's Areva (AREVA.PA) for setting them up at sites already selected around the country.

Russia is separately building six reactors in southern India and is in talks for another six.

The total size of the Indian market is estimated at $150 billion dollars, making it equal to or just behind China's.

India expects to seal an agreement with Westinghouse to build six reactors by the first half of this year, a government official said in December, after it ratified the international convention on compensation.—*Reuters*

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Chief Executive Officer -
Nakagawa Kiyoshi
gnlmdaily@gmail.com
Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye
khinmaungaye.hotmail@gmail.com
Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
koayeminsoe2006@gmail.com
Chief Reporter
Ye Myint, uyemyint76@gmail.com,
Consultant Editors
Jacob Goldberg
jgold.news@gmail.com
Alec Wilmot
alec.wilmot.gnlm@gmail.com
Editors
Ye Htut Tin
mryehtuttin@gmail.com
Kyaw Thura, kthura.spk@gmail.com,
International news
Tun Tun Naing
tunyunaing@gmail.com
Reporters
Khaing Thanda Lwin
juniorlwin25@gmail.com
Tun Aung Kyaw
tunaungkyaw.31@gmail.com
Translators
Hay Mar Tin Win
haymarfat@gmail.com
Proof reader
Nwe Nwe Tun
Computer Team
Tun Zaw, Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung,
Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win,
Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin
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adv.gnlm@gmail.com

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China told North Korea it does not want to see tensions rise

BEIJING — China has told North Korea it does not want to see anything happen that could further raise tensions, China's foreign minister was quoted as saying yesterday, after Pyongyang announced plans to launch a satellite soon.

North Korea has said it has a sovereign right to pursue a space programme, although the United States and other governments suspect such rocket launches are actually missile tests and have called for Pyongyang to abandon the launch plans.

The North was believed to be making preparations for a test launch of a long-range rocket, US officials have said, after activity at its test site was observed by satellite. Pyongyang told UN agencies on Tuesday it planned to launch a satellite between 8 and 25 February. Tension had already risen in East Asia last month after North Korea's fourth nuclear test, this time of what it said was a hydrogen bomb. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said it was natural that Beijing had sent its special envoy for the nuclear issue, Wu Dawei, to North Korea in what he described as "a serious situation". He said China needed contacts "with all parties", mentioning the United States, South Korea and Russia.

"At the same time, we also need to have necessary contacts with the North Korea side, to listen to their opinions," Wang told Hong Kong's Phoenix Television in London after Wu had returned from North Korea."Of course, an important point is to express China's clear position to North Korea. We don't want to see anything happen that could cause further tensions," he said.

"We hope all sides, including North Korea, can meet each other halfway, and should work hard together to push the North Korean nuclear issue onto the track of a negotiated resolution."

China is isolated North Korea's most important diplomatic and economic supporter, but Beijing has been angered by Pyongyang's nuclear programme and signed up to numerous rounds of stringent United Nations sanctions.

US Secretary of State John Kerry and Wang agreed last week on the need for a significant new UN Security Council resolution against the North, but there were few signs of progress on agreeing on the details.—*Reuters*

Japanese volcano erupts, nearby nuclear plant unaffected

TOKYO — A Japanese volcano about 50 km (30 miles) from a nuclear plant erupted yesterday, shooting ash nearly 2 km into the night sky along with fountains of lava, but there were no immediate report of damage and operations at the power station were not affected.

Following what they termed an "explosive eruption," Japan's Meteorological Agency raised the warning level on the peak, which experiences hundreds of small eruptions a year, to 3, meaning that people should not approach the mountain.

"It appears that stones have been thrown about 2 km from the crater, but this area is quite far from any communities," Kazuhiro Ishihara, an emeritus professor at Kyoto University, told NHK national television.

Television footage showed red streams of lava bursting from the side of the mountain, but Ishihara said he thought the impact of the eruption would not be that serious.

The Sendai nuclear power station, run by Kyushu Electric Power and located on the same island, resumed operations last year after being shut down, along with all of Japan's nuclear plants, after a 2011 earthquake and tsunami triggered a meltdown at the Fukushima nuclear plant.

A spokeswoman for Kyushu Electric said there was no impact from the eruption on the plant and its operations, and it was not taking any special precautions. Japan lies on the "Ring of Fire" — a seismically active horsehoe-shaped band of fault lines and volcanoes around the edges of the Pacific Ocean — and has more than 100 active volcanoes.—*Reuters*

An aerial view shows the crater atop Mt. Sakurajima in Kagoshima, southwestern Japan, in August 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Macao orders mass cull of live poultry over bird flu scare

HONG KONG — Macao health authorities have ordered a territory-wide slaughter of live poultry and a three-day suspension of sales after the H7 avian influenza virus was found at a chicken stall, the government said on Thursday.

The stall's operator and two workers were sent to hospital for a 10-day isolation to prevent an outbreak. All of them tested negative for the H7N9 virus and none showed signs of illness, the health department said.

An environmental sample taken from the stall in the Mercado Municipal do Patane market tested positive for the bird flu virus Wednesday, prompting the government to order the cull of all 15,000 live birds, including those in the Macao Wholesale Market.

A three-day suspension of sales would mean poultry, especially chickens, will be off the menu until at least Sunday.

"Resumption of trade would depend on the result of disinfection and (supply source) inspection," a government spokeswoman said.

The poultry supplier for the relevant chicken stall has been identified as being in Gaoming District of Foshan City, Guangdong Province. Mainland authorities have been notified of the matter and will help trace the source of infection, the Macao government said.

In nearby Hong Kong, the health authorities said the poultry supplier in question has not exported birds to Hong Kong but urged people to stay away from live poultry should they travel to mainland China during the Lunar New Year holiday.

At least 667 human cases of H7N9 have been reported on the mainland since the virus emerged in 2013, with 227 of them having died from infection.—*Kyodo News*

Iran investment chief welcomes Japan involvement in oil exploration

TOKYO — The head of Iran's foreign investment organisation suggested on Thursday that the country, one of the major oil producers in the Middle East, would welcome Japanese investment in oil and gas exploration there, including in a project from which Japan withdrew amid US sanctions.

"There is no impediment" to Japanese companies entering "business in the field of gas and oil exploration as well as refineries," Mohammad Khazaee said in an interview in Tokyo. "In general," he said, the field is "open" to Japanese companies.

The deputy minister of economy and finance noted, however, that although Japan has a "good chance" to enter the Iranian oil sector, "these things are based on market competitiveness."

Japanese oil company Inpex Corp. had a 75 per cent stake in a development project in Azadegan in southwestern Iran, one of the world's largest oil fields, but withdrew from it in 2010 amid toughening US sanctions on Iran over its nuclear programme.

The sanctions imposed by the United States and other Western countries were lifted last month after confirmation by a UN nuclear watchdog that Iran had implemented measures promised under a landmark nuclear deal reached in July.

Following the lifting of sanctions Khazaee says Iran has the right to expand oil production and suggested that it can export more oil given that it currently exports less than half of what it used to.

Khazaee notes, however, that Iran is concerned about oil price falls, saying his country is willing to cooperate with other members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries over determining production levels.

"We are willing to cooperate with other OPEC members to come to a reasonable price," Khazaee said. "We are fully ready to cooperate" in a way that would benefit all OPEC members, he added.—*Kyodo News*

Mohammad Khazaee, head of Iran's foreign investment organisation, is interviewed by Kyodo News in Tokyo on Febraury, 2016. Khazaee said Tehran would welcome Japanese investment in oil and gas exploration in Iran, including in a project from which Japan withdrew amid US sanctions. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

It's complicated, China says of relationship with Taiwan

BEIJING — A senior Chinese official yesterday described ties with self-ruled Taiwan as "extremely sensitive and complex" and warned of uncertainties ahead, after Taiwan last month elected an independence-leaning opposition leader as its new president.

China considers Taiwan a wayward province, to be brought under its control by force if necessary. Defeated Nationalist forces fled to Taiwan in 1949 after the Chinese civil war.

Since January's landslide win by Tsai Ing-wen and her Democratic Progressive Party in Taiwan's presidential and parliamentary elections, China has warned against any moves towards independence and said it will defend the country's sovereignty.

Tsai has said she will maintain peace with China, and Chinese state-run media have also noted her pledges to maintain the "status quo" with China.

Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) Chairperson and presidential candidate Tsai Ing-wen waves to her supporters after her election victory at party headquarters in Taipei, Taiwan on 16 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

Speaking via a newly installed hotline, Zhang Zhijun, director of China's Taiwan Affairs Office, told Andrew Hsia, head of Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, that the peaceful development of ties over the past eight years could only be maintained by recognising both sides belong to one China.

"At present, relations across the Taiwan Strait are extremely sensitive and complex, and uncertainly about the future has increased," Zhang told Hsia, according to China's official Xinhua news agency.

Both bodies should increase communication and improve their risk management and do more to benefit people on both sides of the strait, Zhang added.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Council, in a statement, said Hsia told Zhang that the peaceful development of relations was the "common factor" for all sides in Taiwan.

More interaction was good for mutual trust and understanding and the two needed to think of ways to reduce the risk of confrontation, it quoted Hsia as saying.

The past eight years have been marked by calm between China and Taiwan, after the election of the China-friendly Ma Ying-jeou as president in 2008, and his subsequent re-election.

Ma signed a series of key economic deals with Beijing and held a landmark meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping in November in neutral Singapore.—*Reuters*

Japan ready for North Korea's rocket launch: Kishida

TOKYO — Japan is prepared for North Korea's planned launch of a long-range rocket in defiance of UN resolutions but will continue pressuring Pyongyang to abandon its plan in cooperation with the international community, Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said yesterday.

"Japan will continue to exert full force to gather and analyse information to protect the safety of the people. Japan will also cooperate with the international community to urge North Korea to exercise restraint," Kishida told reporters.

North Korea is planning to conduct the launch, seen by Japan and many other countries as a disguised test of long-range ballistic missile technology, sometime between 7am and noon Pyongyang time any day from 8 February to 25 February.

North Korea has claimed that the launch is aimed at putting a satellite into orbit.

Defence Minister Gen Nakatani said director-level defence talks between Japan, the United States and South Korea were held yesterday morning via video link, during which they shared information about the situation.

"Japan, the United States and South Korea are closely working together to analyse information," Nakatani told a press conference.—*Kyodo News*

23 South Koreans arrested in Cambodia on suspicion of telecom scam

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian police yesterday raided a villa on the northwestern outskirts of Phnom Penh and arrested 23 South Koreans on the suspicion of their involvement in a telecom scam, local media reported.

"Twenty-three South Koreans were detained and more than 20 sets of desktop computers and other materials were seized as evidence," Lieutenant General Y Sokhy, director of the Interior Ministry's department for combating terrorism and transnational crimes, was quoted as saying by the Fresh News Service.

He said the suspects will be sent to the court of law for legal action.

In the telecom scam, scammers use VoIP (Voice over Internet Protocol, a type of internet phone service) from Cambodia to threaten and extort money from victims in South Korea.—*Xinhua*

OPINION

Negotiation is everything

Kyaw Thura

THE ability to negotiate successfully in the peace talks can make all the difference to today's political climate of our country. It is safe to assume that bilateral diplomacy is an integral part of the peace talks at the negotiation table. Only when the conflicting parties respect the validity of each other's position can peace negotiations be productive.

One thing for all the stakeholders engaged in the peace process to bear in mind is that everything is negotiable if they can develop full negotiation consciousness. With this in mind, they should all try and be more assertive rather than aggressive. If we contain what we want, how can others fulfill it? In this respect, being assertive means expressing opinions and feelings without anger or anxiety. In other words, you should seek your own interests while respecting the interests of others.

Granted that our country has suffered prolonged spells of human capital deficiency as a direct consequence of six decades of ethnic armed conflict and political instability, it will definitely take time, patience, tolerance, understanding and trust to restore peace and stability. After all, political negotiation is a catalyst for peace, stability, change, reform and in the end development on all fronts across the country.

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email khinmaungaye.hotmail@gmail.com with your name and title.

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.

Nation Building through Normative Concept

Sayar Mya

ON 28 January 2016, President U Thein Sein delivered the State of the Union address to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, which was broadcast live and subsequently printed in all the media in Myanmar as well as in English.

In 2011, the President promised to implement policies and processes that reflect the then prevailing conditions in order to build a more stable and developed nation. As promised, his government has carried out political, economic, administrative and private sector development reforms in order to fulfill the wishes of the people to have peace, stability and development.

As a result of the reform process for five years, General Election was held on 8 November 2015. It was an important milestone in the democratic transition process that was held freely and peacefully.

In accordance with the election results, the National League for Democracy will soon assume legislative and executive duties. On 30 March 2016, the term of office of the incumbent Government will end.

The author of this article is a retired Myanmar diplomat and had served in various capacities in four countries and visited many foreign lands.

At a time of assuming power by a new administration in our beloved country --- Myanmar, the writer would like to share knowledge with the esteemed readers on various aspect and ingredients in building a nation.

In this first article of Nation-building series, the writer has the honor to share "normative concept" in nation building.

Nation-building is a normative concept such as describing or setting standards or rules of behavior. In other words, it means different things to different people.

It started with conceptualization. It is the process of development and clarification of concepts by renowned personalities. In other words, clarifying one's concepts with words and examples and arriving at precise verbal definitions.

Cars are being seen on Kokkine Overpass. PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN

The latest conceptualization is essentially seeking expertise and assistance in nation-building programs. Generally speaking such nations could be termed as dysfunctional or unstable or "failed states".

In such backdrop, the economies are given as assistance in the development of governmental infrastructure, civil society, dispute resolution mechanisms, as well as economic assistance, in order to increase stability. Nation-building generally assumes that the administration or the government is doing the nation building intentionally for the betterment of the people.

It may sound simple, but not in the implementation.

However, it is important to look at the evolution of theories of nation-building across the world. It is also necessary to study at the other concepts of nation-building. It may have either step into the shoes of the former or integrated with the existing structure. Perhaps, both supplanted and included paradigm may involved.

Many people believe and accepted that nation-building is evolutionary rather than revolutionary. Usually it takes a long time and is a political, economic and social process that cannot be jump-started from the outside.

The evolution of the Italian city-states into a nation is one example.

The German city-states into the Zollverein customs union and later a nation are another example. Zollverein German customs union was established in 1834 under Prussian leadership. It created a free-trade area throughout much of Germany and is often seen as an important step in German reunification.

The multiple languages and cultural groups in France into the nation of France is also another interesting factor.

The development of China from the warring kingdoms, took a very long time. They were the result, not only of political leadership, but of changes in technology and economic processes. It started with the agricultural evolution and then industrial revolutions. It coincides with the development of communication, culture and civil society, and many other factors.

Seymour Martin Lipset (18 March 1922 – 31 December 2006) has called the United States as "The First New Nation". **Lipset** was an American political sociologist, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution at Stanford University, and the Hazel Professor of Public Policy at George Mason University.

The United States, at first 13 colonies with diverse origins, came together to form a new nation and state. That state, like so many in contemporary times, faced the prospect of secession and disintegration in 1865. The United States took another 100 years for the integration of black and white, North and South, East and West.

This was a new type of nation-state, because its people were not all of the same ethnicity, culture, and language. The situation had been thought to be the case paradigm in the early defining of the concept of nation-state.

However, nation-building by one nation may destroy others. In the building of the US nation and others, aboriginal nations were erased or marginalized.

The Six-Nations Confederacy of the Iroquois had existed before the US nation. The "Six Nations", comprising the Mohawk, Onondaga, Oneida, Cayuga, Seneca, and Tuscarora peoples. The Iroquois, also known as the "Haudenosaunee Confederacy" was a historically powerful and important northeast Native American confederacy. It was thought by some to be a model for US. Today many "First Nations" are in the process of nation re-building, re-building the social, cultural, economic and political foundations for what is left of self-governance. First nations seek to re-build cultural identities as nations in order to challenge their disintegration by others in the creation of their own states.

The Harvard Project on American Indian Economic Development was released in 2001 by the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard. It outlined the proposal of a Nation Building Model of Economic Development. The project defined Nation-building as: "Equipping First Nations with the institutional foundation necessary to increase their capacity to effectively assert self-governing powers on behalf of their own economic, social and cultural objectives."

The study identified four core elements of a nation-building model.

(1) Genuine self rule (First Nations making decisions about resource allocations, project funding and development strategy).

(2) Creating effective governing institutions (non-politicized dispute resolution mechanisms and getting rid of corruption).

(3) Cultural match (giving first nations institutions legitimacy in the eyes of their citizens). [Keys to successful community and economic development: Genuine self-government; Capable governing institutions.]

(4) Need for a strategic direction with long-term planning.

What is nation-building?

Rand Corporation defines nation-building as "the use of armed force in the aftermath of a conflict to underpin an enduring transition to democracy." [RAND Corporation is an American nonprofit global policy think tank originally formed by Douglas Aircraft Company to offer research and analysis to the United States Armed Forces.]

Comparing seven historical cases on Germany, Japan, Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan, it could be seen "in which American military power has been used in the aftermath of a conflict to underpin democratization elsewhere around the world since World War II."

They review the events as the lessons learned. This definition of nation-building is substantially different than those which see nation-building as the province of people within a nation.

The definition centers on the building of democratic processes. However, many argue that the use of the military to bring about democracy may be naturally contradictory. Whether nation-building can be imposed from outside is one of the central questions in this field, and whether that can be done by the military is a further part of the question.

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Navigation channels changed in Chindwin river

Chindwin river has now changes in navigation channels. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

THE Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems has announced the change of navigation channels in the Chindwin river for the safety of vessels as the river is beginning to recede.

As of 1 February, vessels are required to navigate upstream through pillars 3 and 4 and downstream through pillars 4 and 5, the announcement said.

The changed navigation channels have a clearance of 300 feet in width and 40 feet in depth.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Farmers face lack of labour to harvest winter crops

ALTHOUGH growers in Sagaing Region have got a large harvest this season they are facing lack of available labour to cut and gather winter crops this harvest time, locals say.

"Normally, we seek employees within our village, but this year we need to find them from nearby villages," said a farmer from Nyaungbinkai Village in Yinmabin Township in Sagaing Region.

"Increasing numbers of young people in our village find works overseas, that is the main reason the workers are growing scarce."

Lack of workers is forcing farmers to pay more in wages. Current expenses for a labourer is K4,000 per day, he added.

According to the nationwide census, 70 % of the country's total population live in rural areas. The rural communities mainly rely on agribusinesses. Farmers mostly grow rice, wheat, various kinds of beans, onion, potato, chili and other seasonal crops.—*Phoe Chan (Monywa)*

Scarce labourers seen on a field. PHOTO: PHOE CHAN (MONYWA)

Nation Building through Normative Concept

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What is a nation?

To understand the concept of nation-building, one needs to have some definition of what a nation is. Early conceptions of nation defined it as a group or race of people who shared history, traditions, and culture, sometimes religion, and usually language. Thus the United Kingdom comprises four nations, the English, Irish, Scottish, and Welsh.

The people of a nation generally share a common national identity, and part of nation-building is the building of that common identity. Some distinguish between an ethnic nation, based on race or ethnicity, and a civic nation, based in common identity and loyalty to a set of political ideas and institutions, and the linkage of citizenship to nationality.

Today the word nation is often used synonymously with state, as in the United Nations. But a state is more properly the governmental apparatus by which a nation rules itself.

Today, however, we have to say that a state is a human community that successfully claims the domination of the legitimate use of physical force within a given territory. The term "territory" is one of the characteristics of the state. Specifically, at the present time, the right to use physical force is ascribed to other institutions or to individuals only to the extent to which the state permits it.

In approaching the question of nation-building, and in particular its relationship to state-building, it is important to keep in mind that this definition specifies the legitimate use of force.

The Evolution of Nation-Building Theory

The term nation-building is often used simultaneously with state-building, democratization, modernization, political development, post-conflict reconstruction, and peace building. But each concept is different, though their evolution is intertwined.

The concept of nation-building came to be used especially among American political scientists a decade or so after World War II. It aims to describe the greater integration of state and society, as citizenship brought loyalty to the modern nation-state with it.

Reinhard Bendix [RB (25 February 1916 – 28 February 1991) was a German American sociologist] focused on the expansion of citizenship and of rights to political participation.

Karl Deutsch [KD (21 July 1912 – 1 November 1992) was a social and political scientist from Prague. His work centered on the study of war and peace] focused on the role of social communication and national integration in nation-building in Western societies. Others began to apply it to non-Western societies as well.

Almond and Coleman have the view for the functional approach to understand and compare the political systems of developing countries. [**Gabriel A. Almond** (12 January 1911 – 25 December 2002) was a political scientist from the United States; **James Scott Coleman** is Dean, College of Humanities and Sciences Virginia Commonwealth University.] They argued for the interdependence and multi-functionality of political structures. They were of the view especially that the input functions of political systems could help to distinguish stages of political development.

They defined input functions as follows.

(1) Political socialization and recruitment.
(2) Interest articulation. (It is the expression of an idea in words).
(3) Interest aggregation. (It is to put together different items).
(4) Political communication.

Output functions are as follows.

(5) Rule-making.
(6) Rule application.
(7) Rule adjudication or negotiation.

Most nation-building after the end of the Cold War seems to focus more on the above mentioned output functions.

Lucian W. Pye (21 October 1921 – 5 September 2008) was a political scientist, sinologist and comparative politics expert considered one of the leading China scholars in the United States.

Lucian Pye linked modernization with Westernization and "the diffusion and dissemination of a world culture," what we might today call globalization. He identified political development with the following aspects.

A world culture is based on advanced technology and the spirit of science. The move toward is on a rational or balanced view of life, a secular and worldly approach to social relations. It is to seek of a feeling for justice in public affairs. Above all, it is on the acceptance in the political realm that the prime unit of the polity (a society as a political unit) should be the nation-state.

A nation state is a geographical area that can be identified as deriving its political legitimacy from serving as a sovereign nation. A state is a political and geopolitical entity, while a nation is a cultural and ethnic one. The term "nation state" implies that the two coincide, but "nation state" formation can take place at different times in different parts of the world.

Lucian Pye identified multiple meanings of political development, among them:

- as prerequisite to economic development,
- as politics typical of industrial societies,
- as political modernization,
- as administrative and legal development,
- as mass mobilization and participation,
- as the building of democracy, and
- as stability and orderly change.

He identifies "**equality**" as one of the basic themes running through all of these. While nation-building after 9/11 [The September 11 attacks (also referred to as September 11, September 11th, or 9/11) were a series of four coordinated terrorist attacks by the Islamic terrorist group al-Qaeda on the United States on the morning of Tuesday, 11 September 2001.] still incorporates many of these meanings of political development, however, "**equality**" does not seem to play a major role in practice.

Dudley Seers (1920–1983) was a British economist who specialized in development economics. After his military service with the Royal Navy he taught at Oxford and then worked for various UN institutions. He was the director of the Institute of Development.

Dudley Seers, in his presidential address to the Society for International Development in 1969, presage and foretell what has become the concept of human development. He said:

The questions to ask about a country's development are therefore:

What has been happening to poverty?

What has been happening to unemployment?

What has been happening to inequality?

If all these have declined from high levels, then beyond doubt this has been a period of development. **Dudley Seers** goes on to identify a number of objectives for development for developing countries.

The author of this article intends to share knowledge with the esteemed readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar on the explanations of **Dudley Seers** in conjunction with the UN Development Programme, the NGO efforts and the World Bank in the next article in the context of nation-building.

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WikiLeaks' Assange should go free from embassy and be compensated

A police officer walks past the Ecuadorian Embassy in central London, Britain, on 5 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange should be allowed to go free from the Ecuadorian Embassy in London and be awarded compensation for what amounts to a three-and-a-half-year arbitrary detention, a UN panel ruled yesterday.

Assange, a computer hacker who enraged the United States by publishing hundreds of thousands of secret US diplomatic cables, has been holed up in the embassy since June 2012 to avoid a rape investigation in Sweden.

Both Britain and Sweden denied that Assange was being deprived of freedom, noting he had entered the embassy voluntarily. Britain said it could contest the decision and that Assange would be arrested if he left the embassy.

Assange, an Australian, appealed to the UN panel, whose decision is not binding, saying he was a political refugee whose rights had been infringed by being unable to take up asylum in Ecuador.

It ruled in his favour, although the decision was not unanimous. Three of the five members on the panel supported a decision in Assange's favour, with one dissenter and one recusing herself.

"The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention considers that the various forms of deprivation of liberty to which Julian Assange has been subjected constitute a form of arbitrary detention," the group's head, Seong-Phil Hong, said in a statement.

"(It) maintains that the arbitrary detention of Mr Assange should be brought to an end, that his physical integrity and freedom of movement be respected, and that he should be entitled to an enforceable right to compensation."

Assange, 44, denies allegations of a 2010 rape in Sweden, saying the charge is a ploy that would eventually take him to the United States where a criminal investigation into the activities of WikiLeaks is still open.

Sweden said it has no such plans.

Assange had said that if he lost the appeal then he would leave his cramped quarters at the embassy in the Knightsbridge area of London, though Britain said he would be arrested and extradited to Sweden as soon as he stepped outside.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Zimbabwe's Mugabe declares disaster in drought-stricken areas

HARARE — Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe has declared a state of disaster in most rural parts of the country severely hit by a drought, with 26 per cent of the population said to be in need of food aid, the government said in a statement late Thursday.

Declaring a state of disaster allows international donors to raise money quickly to provide food aid to Zimbabwe, which has said it will step up imports of the staple maize by buying up to 700,000 tonnes this year to avert hunger.—*Reuters*

German spy agency got 100 tip-offs about IS fighters among refugees

BERLIN — Germany's domestic intelligence agency (BfV) has received more than 100 tip-offs that there are Islamic State fighters among the refugees currently staying in Germany, *Berliner Zeitung* newspaper cited the agency's chief as saying.

The newspaper said yesterday, without citing its sources, that BfV chief Hans-Georg Maassen had recently mentioned this number at a discussion in the Interior Ministry with politicians who focus on domestic policy issues.

But Maassen also said that among those tip-offs there were some cases of untruthful defamation, the newspaper said.

The domestic intelligence agency was not immediately available to comment when contacted by Reuters.—*Reuters*

Britain's pro-EU campaign predicts big victory in vote

LONDON — Britain will vote to stay in the EU by a "substantial margin" predicted the leader of a campaign to keep the world's fifth-largest economy in the trading bloc, slating the opposing "out" movement for what he said was failure to present an alternative to membership.

Stuart Rose, chairman of the "Britain Stronger in Europe" group, was speaking as Prime Minister David Cameron tries to convince eurosceptics of the benefits of a potential new EU deal ahead of a referendum on membership possibly as early as June.

"We'll win by a substantial margin," Rose, a former chief executive of Marks & Spencer, said at a media lunch on Thursday.

"Britain's stronger, Britain's more secure, Britain will be more prosperous if we stay in Europe," he added. "That's the choice and I'm confident we will win."

Pitching the choice of the "imperfect reality" of membership against the "uncertain risk" of an exit from the EU, Rose said the groups who advocated leaving had not made clear what sort of trading relationships Britain would have instead.

"I don't think they've got a very strong case ... tell us how 'out' will look," he said.

Opinion polls suggest voters are fairly evenly split over membership of the bloc which Britain joined in 1973. The last time it held a referendum on the issue in 1975, 67 per cent voted to stay in and 33 per cent voted to leave.—*Reuters*

In contentious debate, Clinton and Sanders both claim 'progressive' mantle

DURHAM, (N.H) — Democrat Hillary Clinton went on the attack against rival Bernie Sanders on Thursday in their most contentious presidential debate yet, questioning whether his ambitious proposals were viable and accusing him of an "artful smear" in suggesting she could be bought by political donations.

Sanders fought back repeatedly, questioning Clinton's progressive credentials and portraying her as a creature of the political establishment in a debate that featured heated exchanges on healthcare, college tuition funding and efforts to rein in Wall Street.

The intensity reflected a race that has seen Clinton's once prohibitive lead in polls shrivel against Sanders as the two vie for the Democratic nomination for the 8 November election.

One of Clinton's most forceful remarks came in response to a suggestion by Sanders that she could be influenced by political donations by Wall Street.

"Enough is enough. If you've got something to say, say it directly," she said. "But you will not find that I ever changed a view or a vote because of any donation that I ever received.

"So I think it's time to end the very artful smear that you and your campaign have been carrying out," she said.

Clinton charged that Sanders' proposal for single-payer universal healthcare coverage would jeopardise Obamacare, calling it "a great mistake," and said his plans for free college education would be too costly to be realistic.

Democratic US presidential candidate and Senator Bernie Sanders (L) and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton speak simultaneously as they discuss issues during the Democratic presidential candidates debate. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I can get things done. I'm not making promises I can't keep," Clinton said.

Sanders said he would not dismantle Obamacare but would expand it, pointing to the many other countries that provide universal healthcare.

"I do not accept the belief that the United States of America can't do that," Sanders said. "By moving forward, rallying the American people, I do believe we should have healthcare for all."

Sanders said his proposal for free tuition at public universities would be paid with a tax on Wall Street speculation. "The middle class bailed out Wall Street in their time of need. Now, it is Wall Street's time to help the middle class," he said.—*Reuters*

UN peacekeepers linked to new Central Africa rape cases

BANGUI — The UN peacekeeping mission for Central African Republic said on Thursday it has identified seven new cases of sexual abuse by its troops including women and girls Human Rights Watch (HRW) says were raped or gang raped.

The latest cases, which involved at least five children, come on top of more than 20 allegations of sexual abuse and exploitation by UN peacekeepers in the country last year.

Troops from France and Georgia involved in restoring order to the turbulent former French colony since a 2013 spike in inter-communal violence are also accused of sexually abusing children. "(I) will not rest until these heinous acts are uncovered, perpetrators are punished, and incidents cease," said MINUSCA head Parfait Onanga-Anyanga during a visit to Bambari in the country's centre, where the latest alleged abuses took place.

The mission's previous head, Babacar Gaye, resigned amid sexual abuse allegations by peacekeepers last August.

Human Rights Watch accuses soldiers from Congo Republic and Democratic Republic of Congo of raping or sexually exploiting eight women and girls between October and December 2015 near Bambari airport.

The victims were among the nearly 1 million Central African Republicans displaced during three years of violence between Christian and Muslim militias and were at the time living in a nearby temporary camp, HRW added.

A 14-year-old girl said that last November two armed peacekeepers dragged her into a patch of tall grass where one restrained her arms as the other raped her.

A woman said that three soldiers at the Republic of Congo base gang raped her when she visited in search of food or money.

"They were armed. They said if I resisted they would kill me. They took me one by one," she told Human Rights Watch. —*Reuters*

German police raids over possible Islamic State attack

BERLIN — German forces arrested two men on Thursday suspected of links to Islamic State militants preparing an attack in the German capital, police and prosecutors said, amid fears of another deadly attack on European soil.

Police and special forces raided four flats and two offices in Berlin and properties in the northern regions of North Rhine-Westphalia and Lower Saxony.

"Specifically (the raids) concern possible plans for an attack in Germany, even more specifically in Berlin," Martin Steltner, a spokesman for Berlin prosecutors, told Reuters TV.

Berlin police spokesman Stefan Redlich said the authorities were investigating four Algerian men. Police detained two men and a woman.

"Our understanding is that the four men accused could have planned to carry out such an attack together," Steltner said.

German media reported that central Berlin landmarks and tourist attractions Checkpoint Charlie and Alexanderplatz were targets.

Redlich said the Berlin suspects worked in those two locations and that searches were carried out there. But he could not confirm that they were the targets.

Redlich and Steltner said police acted on a tip-off but gave no further details.

Security agencies have been monitoring the suspects since January, Funke Media Group said. The men behaved conspiratorially, changed their mobile phones multiple times and communicated via instant messaging services, it added.

The Tagesspiegel newspaper, citing security sources, said leading members of Islamic State (IS), who were responsible for the Paris attacks that killed 130 people in November, had given the order for an attack in Germany.

Prosecutors declined to comment on the report. Police seized computers, mobile telephones and sketches in the raids, Steltner said, adding "we haven't found the smoking gun".

A couple was arrested in North Rhine-Westphalia and another man was arrested in Berlin, Steltner said. All were detained on existing warrants related to other matters.

The man detained in North-Rhine Westphalia was arrested in a shelter for refugees and arrived a short while ago in Germany claiming to be from Syria, Steltner said.

He is wanted by Algerian authorities, who believe he is a member of Islamic State, said Steltner. He is suspected of having military training in Syria.—

Genreal view of the former Berlin Wall border crossing point Checkpoint Charlie is pictured in Berlin, Germany, on 4 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russia and Turkey trade accusations over Syria

Smoke rises over the industrial city in Aleppo, Syria, on 4 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIRUT/MOSCOW/LONDON — Russia said on Thursday it suspected Turkey was preparing a military incursion into Syria, as a Syrian army source said Aleppo would soon be encircled by government forces with Russian air support.

Turkey in turn accused Moscow of trying to divert attention from its own "crimes" in Syria, and said Aleppo was threatened with a "siege of starvation". It said Turkey had the right to take any measures to protect its security.

In another sign of the spreading international ramifications of the five-year-old Syrian war, Saudi Arabia said it was ready to participate in ground operations against Islamic State in Syria if the US-led alliance decided to launch them.

The United Nations on Wednesday suspended the first peace talks in two years, halting an effort that seemed doomed from the start as the war raged unabated. Washington said on Thursday however it was hopeful they would resume by the end of the month, and Russia said it expected that no later than 25 February.

Donors convened in London to tackle the refugee crisis created by the conflict. British Prime Minister David Cameron said they raised $11 billion for Syrian humanitarian needs over the next four years.

Turkey said at the conference up to 70,000 refugees from Aleppo were moving towards the border to escape air strikes.

Footage online showed hundreds of people, mostly women, children and the elderly, marching towards Turkey's Onucpinar border gate, carrying carpets, blankets and food on their backs.

Four months of Russian air strikes have tipped the momentum of the war Assad's way. With Moscow's help and allies including Lebanon's Hezbollah and Iranian fighters, the Syrian army is regaining areas on key fronts in the west.

Russia's defence ministry said it had registered "a growing number of signs of hidden preparation of the Turkish Armed Forces for active actions on the territory of Syria".

Any Turkish incursion would risk direct confrontation between Russia and a NATO member.

"The Russians are trying to hide their crimes in Syria," said a senior official in Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's office.

"They are simply diverting attention from their attacks on civilians as a country already invading Syria. Turkey has all the rights to take any measures to protect its own security."

In London, Davutoglu said the "humanitarian logistic corridor" between Turkey and Aleppo was "under the invasion of these foreign fighters and regime forces (with) the support of Russian warplanes".

"What they want to do in Aleppo today is exactly what they did in Madaya before, a siege of starvation," he added.

Davutoglu pledged that whatever the cost Turkey's door would remain open to all Syrians. It has already taken in more than 2.5 million.

Relations between Russia and Turkey have deteriorated badly since Turkey shot down a Russian warplane near the Syrian border in November.

State Department spokesman John Kirby declined to comment on Turkish military operations on the Syrian border, saying only: "They are working to secure that stretch of border, but I'm not going to comment on specific military activities of another nation inside their borders."

Aleppo, just 50 km (30 miles) south of the Turkish border, is a major strategic prize in the war and is currently divided into areas of government and opposition control. Many of the rebels fighting in and around the city have close ties to Turkey.

This week, three days of intensive Russian bombing helped the army and allied fighters to sever a major supply line to the northwest of the city, in the process reaching two Shi' ite towns loyal to the government for the first time in 3-1/2 years.—*Reuters*

Moderate quake hits Tokyo, vicinity in Japan

TOKYO — An earthquake initially measured at 4.6 magnitude hit Tokyo and its vicinity at around 7:41am local time yesterday, without triggering tsunami alerts.

The quake was registered at level 4 on Japan's seismic intensity of 7 in parts of Tokyo and nearby Kanagawa Prefecture. The tremor affected most area of the Tokyo Metropolitan area, according to Japan's Meteorological Agency.

The quake shortly affected local train service, said local reports. There were no immediate reports on damage and injuries.—*Xinhua*

South Africa mine collapse traps more than 100 people

JOHANNESBURG — Nearly 80 rescued miners were brought to the surface yestersay, police said, after about 115 were trapped underground following a collapse at a gold mine in northeastern South Africa earlier in the day.

Mike McChesney, chief executive of the small gold producer Vantage Goldfields (VTGFF.PK) told Reuters that 115 workers had initially been trapped at Lily mine, but most had been rescued and the rest would probably emerge soon.

"As we speak they might already all be out. Most have been evacuated," he told Reuters by telephone from the company's offices in Barbeton town in Mpumalanga province about 360 km east of Johannesburg. No fatalities have been reported.

South Africa's mines are the deepest and among the most dangerous in the world.

Fatalities in the industry have been falling due to both improved safety practices and a reduction in the labour force as production declines.

The collapse occurred at the main entrance to the mine, the company said in a statement.

Vantage Goldfields is an Australia-based company mining gold at Barberton, a town that traces its origin in the country's 19th century gold rush. Vantage was delisted from the Australian bourse in January 2015. Manzini-Zungu, spokesman for the Association of Mineworkers and Construction Union (AMCU), said some 115 union members were trapped underground after a cave-in at the mine also known as Makonjwaan.

Rescue workers and vehicles stand by at the scene of the Lily mine collapse near Barberton, on 5 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

"At this point, it's unclear what caused the disaster," he said.

Some 76 mine workers had been brought to the surface so far and another 42 people were still unaccounted for, police spokesman SelvyMohlala said.

Last year, 77 workers were killed in mining accidents, the lowest number on record.—*Reuters*

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Number of migrants registering in Germany falls markedly in January

BERLIN — Germany registered 91,671 migrants in January, less than half November's level, officials said on Thursday as pressure mounted on Chancellor Angela Merkel to deliver on her pledge to reduce the influx.

Support for Merkel has fallen sharply due to her open-door refugee policy, with a poll on Wednesday showing 81 per cent of people think her government does not have the situation under control.

An Interior Ministry statement on the latest migrant tally gave no explanation for the notable drop in migrant arrivals, but it said previously that a downward trend seen since late last year was due mainly to freezing winter weather.

Germany has also reimposed spot controls on border points with Austria used by incoming migrants and is seeking to speed up deportations of those not qualifying for asylum.

Merkel has said the number of migrants entering Germany will fall after 1.1 million people arrived last year. Germany was the final destination for the vast majority of migrants who reached the European continent in 2015.

Migrants queue in front of the compound of the Berlin Office of Health and Social Affairs (LAGESO) for their registration process early morning in Berlin, Germany, on 2 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Public unease has grown since a wave of sexual assaults on women in Cologne at New Year that police say were carried out largely by young men of Arab and North African appearance.

The interior ministry said 91,671 people had registered on the so-called EASY system in January, more than double the number in the same month a year ago, although this was more than a third down from December and less than half of November's total.

Among last month's total, some 35,822 were from Syria and about 18,000 from both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The EASY system records people in reception centres and then distributes them around the country based on each state's population and tax revenues. Registration on this system is separate from officially applying for asylum.

The official number of asylum applications rose to 52,103 in January, about double the level in the same month last year and a 7.9 per cent rise from December, said the ministry.

Some 1,623 people from Morocco were entered on the EASY system and the top-selling *Bild* daily cited government sources saying a basic agreement had been reached with North African countries about returning rejected asylum seekers there.

At the end of January, there was a backlog of some 371,754 asylum applications at the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (BAMF), the interior ministry said on Thursday. That was around 7,000 more than at the end of December.—*Reuters*

Auto Telephone Numbers of Thingangyun Exchange Area will be changed

Myanma Posts and Telecommunications is always trying to provide better quality and upgraded services for its auto telephone customers. Thingangyun S-12 Exchange need to be upgraded in mechanical functions. It will be replaced with modern MSAN Exchange urgently.

Therefore, we would like to inform that the numbers (01-56xxxx) of Thingangyun Exchange Host will be changed into (01-856xxxx), by adding (8) to original number (56), (example 01-561234 to 01-8561234) on 10th February 2016.

And the original numbers (01-56xxxx) of Thuwanna Exchange, South Okkalapa RSU Exchange, Yankin RSU Exchange will be changed into (01-233xxxx) , by replacing (233) in the place of original number (56), (example 01-561234 to 01-2331234) on 10th February 2016.

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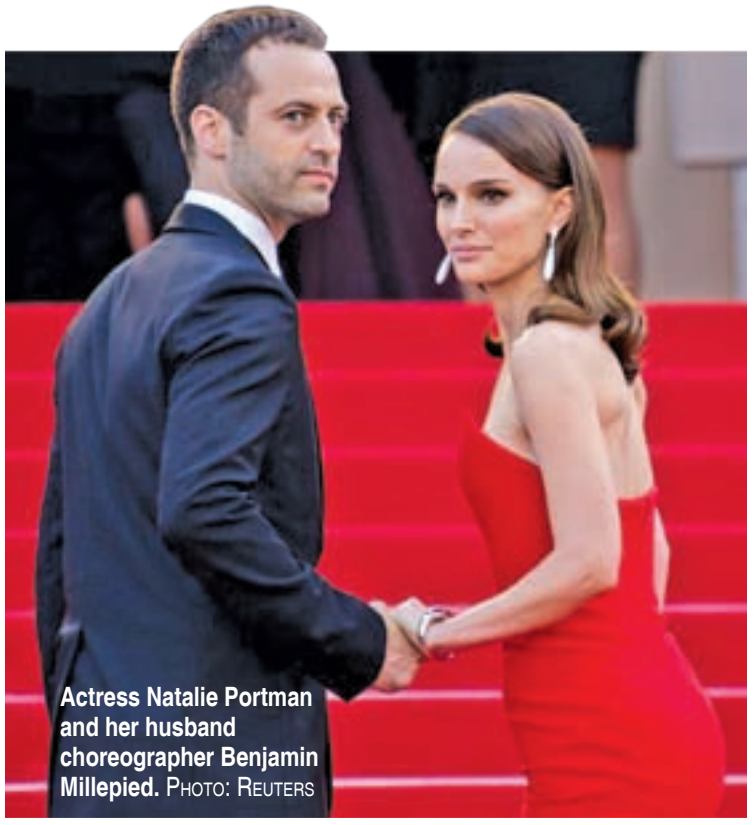
‘Black Swan’ choreographer Millepied stepping down as Paris Opera dance director



Actress Natalie Portman and her husband choreographer Benjamin Millepied. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — French choreographer Benjamin Millepied said on Thursday he was stepping down as director of dance at the Paris Opera after little more than a year in the role, citing personal reasons.

The 38-year old — who is married to Hollywood actress Natalie Portman and collaborated with her on the 2010 ballet drama “Black Swan” — will be replaced by former ballerina Aurelie Dupont.

“I salute the choice of Aurelie Dupont. I was much honored (being ballet director) but what’s important to me is to create, to be inspired by the dancers, and today this job, as it exists, is not made for me,” Millepied told a packed news conference at the Palais Garnier.

Millepied, who explained he wanted to focus on “creation and artistic expression”, said he would continue to work with the Paris Opera for the current season.

Paris Opera director Stephane Lissner paid tribute to Millepied, saying: “He brought a lot to the ballet.

“Being the ballet director and a much sought-after choreographer was causing him trouble ... Aurelie will bring a lot of other things (when) she takes up her post in September.”

Millepied had directed the Paris Opera ballet since November 2014.

The 43-year-old Dupont, who started her career at the Ecole de Danse of the Opera as an 11-year-old and ended it last Spring, hinted that her Ballet might be more traditional than under Millepied.

“He brought a lot of contemporary choreographers... and new choreographic experiences,” she said.

“I will do my best, I promise. I love the dancers, deeply. I want to give the Etoiles the ballets in which they will shine.

“To me the Opera de Paris remains a classical dancers’ company open to contemporary dance and it’s not the other way around.”—*Reuters*

Depp’s band to pay tribute to Lemmy Kilmister at Grammys

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Depp and Alice Cooper’s group The Hollywood Vampires will pay tribute to heavy metal legend Lemmy Kilmister at the Grammy awards.

The band has not yet decided the song they will perform to honour Kilmister, but will be debuting new Hollywood Vampires track “As Bad As I Am” at the show, reported Entertainment Weekly.

“We started this band as a means to toast our ‘dead drunk friends’ at the Rainbow, all the ghosts in the bar, and now I guess Lemmy is involved in that too,” he said. Kilmister, who was the frontman of heavy metal group Motorhead, died of cancer in December at the age of 70.

The Grammys have also announced that Lady Gaga will pay tribute to David Bowie and Chris Stapleton will come together with Gary Clark, Jr and Bonnie Raitt to honour BB King.—*PTI*

Former ‘Friends’ star Matt LeBlanc joins BBC’s ‘Top Gear’

LONDON — Britain’s BBC said Matt LeBlanc, former star of 1990s US hit comedy “Friends”, will join the new presenting line-up for its popular car show “Top Gear” when it returns in May.

The American actor, who achieved global fame as Joey Tribbiani in the NBC sitcom, will be the first non-British host of the show, the BBC said on Thursday.

“As a car nut and a massive fan of Top Gear, I’m honoured and excited to be a part of this iconic show’s new chapter,” LeBlanc said in a statement. “What a thrill!”

Top Gear, one of the BBC’s most successful and profitable shows, was taken off air last year after its star Jeremy Clarkson physically attacked a member of production staff.

Clarkson, along with his two co-presenters, are working on a new motoring show for Amazon.

British radio and TV presenter Chris Evans, who will helm the Top Gear relaunch, said he was thrilled LeBlanc “a lifelong fellow petrolhead” was joining the show.—*Reuters*

Actor Matt LeBlanc. PHOTO: REUTERS

Earth, Wind & Fire founder Maurice White dies at age 74

LOS ANGELES — Maurice White, the founder of R&B funk band Earth, Wind & Fire, died in Los Angeles at age 74, a band spokesman said.

White died at his home on Wednesday night from natural causes, publicist Mark Young said. White had been battling Parkinson’s disease since 1994.

“My brother, hero and best friend Maurice White passed away peacefully last night in his sleep,” White’s brother and fellow band member, Verdine White, said in a statement posted on the band’s Facebook page.

“While the world has lost another great musician and legend, our family asks that our privacy is respected as we start what will be a very difficult and life changing transition in our lives,” he added. “Thank you for your prayers and well wishes.” Earth, Wind & Fire was founded by White, a session drummer, in 1969 after he moved from Chicago to Los Angeles. The Grammy-winning band fused together rhythm and blues, gospel, funk, soul and African sounds, and enjoyed numerous hits, including “Shining Star,” “Boogie Wonderland” and “September.”

While White stopped touring with the band in 1994 due to health issues, he remained active in the songwriting and production of the group’s music.

Earth, Wind & Fire was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2000.—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

Leonardo DiCaprio’s getting more handsome with age: Winslet

LOS ANGELES — Actress Kate Winslet believes her close friend and “Titanic” co-star Leonardo DiCaprio is only getting “more handsome” as he gets older.

The 40-year-old “Steve Jobs” star believes the 41-year-old actor, who she starred alongside in 1997’s “Titanic”, is a “solid and loyal person” and has only got better as he’s got older, reported *People* magazine. “He’s a solid, loyal person. He’s a great friend, he always has been, and not just to me, but to everyone around him. He still has friends he had when we made ‘Titanic’. In many ways he hasn’t changed a bit, but in other ways he absolutely has changed,” Winslet said.

“He’s a stronger actor in this moment than he’s ever been. I think he’s more handsome than he’s ever been. And he feels, to me, the most settled he’s ever felt, in himself, right now, which is quite strange, really, given that there’s a lot happening around him. He’s quite centered and calm, and that’s different to the way he was 20 years ago.—*PTI*

With extra police, Cologne women revel in carnival after attacks

COLOGNE, (Germany) — Undeterred by sexual attacks blamed on migrants on New Year's Eve, German women in clown costumes and bright wigs kicked off six days of carnival celebrations in Cologne on Thursday amid unusually heavy security.

Some 2,000 police were on duty, about double last year's number, after fierce criticism of the small force that was helpless on 31 December when gangs of men — many said to be North African migrants — sexually attacked and robbed women revellers.

Floodlights and video cameras were installed in the centre of the Rhineland city and sales of pepper spray cans were brisk before Weiberfastnacht (women's carnival), the traditional day when women take over their towns and symbolically castrate men by cutting off their ties.

A security point has been set up outside the twin-spired cathedral for women who feel threatened. Teams of people have been deployed around town to register any complaints.

"I don't think we should hold back. I think this is the safest carnival we've had for years and it'll never be this safe again," said Janina Lange, dressed as a brown cat with a painted face, in front of Cologne's landmark Gothic cathedral.

There were fewer "Jecken" (revellers) out in central Cologne on Thursday afternoon than last year, but rain may have kept some away. While it's traditionally the women's day for the festivities, there were many men in the crowd as well.

The attacks on women at New Year in Cologne and other cities exposed fears about the integration of the 1.1 million migrants who arrived last year, plus more this year, and about a possible clash of cultures with the newcomers.

The federal BKA police was quoted by *Die Welt* daily as saying further sexual attacks were possible.

"We cannot be sure ... that the higher sensibility and tougher security measures will prevent a repeat of what happened previously," die Welt quoted a BKA analysis as saying, adding there was no higher risk of an Islamist attack at carnival.

In an attempt to explain to migrants the significance of German carnival, a highlight of the year in the country's mostly Catholic regions, local authorities have provided information pamphlets on it in languages including Arabic.

The festival is called the 'fifth season' in the Rhineland. Alcohol-fuelled parties with fancy dress, popular songs and dancing continue over the weekend, culminating in Rose Monday parades when floats roll through the streets of Cologne and other Rhineland cities such as Mainz and Duesseldorf.

Cologne Mayor Henriette Reker takes part in the 'Weiberfastnacht' (Women's Carnival) celebrations in Cologne, Germany, on 4 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Last year, about 1.5 million people turned out in Cologne for the parade, which features gaudy satirical floats poking fun at local and national politicians.

Chancellor Angela Merkel, who is losing popular support over her open-door refugee policy, is bound to be a target when the floats are unveiled on Monday.

In an unusual display of unruliness, revellers symbolically storm town halls and chase mayors out of their offices.

"It is important that we don't have our fun taken away. Our carnival is our tradition and we must celebrate it just as we have done before" said Bjoern Braun, clad in a bright green, red and gold military uniform and hat in Cologne city centre.

Carnival dates back to ancient times when the Germanic tribes celebrated it to chase away winter demons. Later, it was linked to the Christian festival of Lent, which starts next Wednesday.

The festive eating and drinking mark the final days before Christian start 40 days of fasting in the run-up to Easter.—*Reuters*

The State Guest House, Akasaka Palace, in Tokyo, which was opened to the public on a trial basis, on 5 February 2016. The government plans to start full-year opening of the neo-baroque style building from April to attract foreign visitors and further boost the tourism. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

State guest palace in Tokyo tentatively opened to public

TOKYO — Akasaka Palace, a state guesthouse in central Tokyo, was opened to visitors yesterday morning as part of a two-week trial to prepare for its full-fledged public opening in April.

The government plans to use data on visitor numbers during the trial, scheduled to run through 18 February, to make arrangements necessary for the neo-baroque style facility to be open to the public year-round.

Akasaka Palace's main building, vestibule and Japanese-style annex will be open from 10 am to 5 pm every day except next Wednesday and 17 February.

Entry to the main building will be limited to between 2,000 and 3,000 people each day on a first-come, first-served basis, while entry to the vestibule will be unlimited.

A ballot to enter the Japanese-style annex has already closed, with 1,200 people allowed to enter over the two-week period — less than one-10th of those who applied.—*Kyodo News*

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(6-2-2016 07:00am ~ 7-2-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Great Shwedagon: The Prayer Halls And Buddha Images (Part-2)
07:52	Am	Tea
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Discovering Tribes "MUUN" (Episode-I)
08:50	Am	Lisu New Year Festival
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	ASEAN Head of Mission Special Meeting in Indonesia
09:45	Am	Pretty Play Things From Pakokku
09:51	Am	Orchid Lover
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar HR Conference (2015) (Part- VI)
10:47	Am	The Iron Rider

(11:00 Am~03:00 Pm)-Friday Repeat(07:00Am~11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm~07:00 Pm)- TodayRepeat(07:00 Am~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-3)
07:42	Pm	Yangon Markets: Da Nyin Gone Market
07:53	Pm	Today Myanmar: Tram Line
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Sai Htee Hseng Or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-2)

(09:00 Pm~11:00 Pm)-TodayRepeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00Am)
(11:00 Pm~03:00 Am)-FridayRepeat(07:00Am ~11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am~07:00 Am)-TodayRepeat(07:00Am~ 11:00 Am)

(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Magical Lantern Festival transforms English gardens with dazzling displays

LONDON — With more than 50 giant lanterns and a 66-metre (216-foot) long dragon with thousands of lights, Chiswick House Gardens in west London is marking the Lunar New Year by hosting the Magical Lantern Festival.

Patrick Parsons, one of the organisers who brought the festival from China to one of England's earliest examples of landscaped gardens, said the two countries have a long cultural history.

The Magical Lantern Festival, which runs until 6 March, is part of London's Lunar New Year celebrations for the Year of the Monkey 2016.—*Reuters*

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Brazilian judge throws out Neymar tax evasion case

A Brazilian judge threw out a tax evasion case against Barcelona forward Neymar on Thursday because Brazil's inland revenue has yet to finish its own deliberations in the case.

The Brazil international, his father and two ex-presidents of the Spanish club, were accused of tax irregularities and providing false documentation in cases a prosecutor said involved contractual frauds surrounding Neymar's image rights.

But Judge Mateus Castelo Branco Firmino da Silva would not consider the case because the inland revenue had still to rule.

"It is the understanding of the Federal Supreme Court that the accusation is not possible in tax cases before a final decision in the administrative realm," the judge said.

On Tuesday, a prosecutor in Neymar's home city of Santos said: "Neymar's conduct, along with the others accused, caused millions in losses to the public coffers."

The allegations refer to image rights contracts from 2006 when Neymar was a tenager playing for Santos. Prosecutors allege further fraud occurred during negotiations to take him to Barcelona in 2011. He joined the Catalan giants in 2013.

The prosecutor said he would appeal the decision after Brazil's Carnival, which begins this weekend and ends on Wednesday.

The Barcelona striker also appeared in front of a Spanish judge on Tuesday to give evidence about alleged irregularities surrounding his transfer.

He and his father were last week ordered to pay nearly 460,000 reais ($113,000) to Brazil's inland revenue in taxes owed from 2007 and 2008.—*Reuters*

Barcelona's Neymar arrives to testify at Spain's High Court in Madrid, Spain, on 2 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

Multi-tasking no problem for Man City-bound Guardiola

BERLIN — Bayern Munich coach Pep Guardiola has shrugged off suggestions of a potential conflict of interest after signing with Premier League's Manchester City for next season, saying he was quite capable of mult-tasking.

Guardiola, who won backtack German league titles with Bayern and is on course for a third after joining in 2013, agreed a three-year contract with City this week.

Although he is chasing a treble with Bayern this season he will also need to plan for City's next campaign and the teams could face each other in the Champions League with both through to the last 16.

"I am like a woman," Guardiola told reporters when asked specifically about the issue of conflict of interest on Friday.

"I can do things simultaneously. I can control both situations."

He said he would talk about the City deal once he was in England.

"I cannot say something every week about it," said Guardiola, who rejected a contract extension with Bayern last year.

"It is another four months and for me it is not a problem. Newspapers can continue attacking and I will continue doing my job," he said.

Guardiola was referring to widespread reports alleging internal discontent in the squad about the way he handled his decision to leave Bayern.

The club rejected such reports as well as allegations of weight and discipline problems with midfielder Arturo Vidal during their winter training camp in Qatar.

"He is very strong and has trained very well. I fully trust him," Guardiola said in support of the Chilean. —*Reuters*

China's financial might worries Arsenal's Wenger

LONDON — European clubs should be worried by Chinese football's display of economic might in the January transfer window, Arsenal manager Arsene Wenger said yesterday.

The Chinese Super League out-spent Europe's elite with a series of high-profile signings that could still increase before the local transfer window closes on 26 February.

Jiangsu Suning smashed the league's transfer record for a third time in 10 days by signing Liverpool target Alex Teixeira from Shakhtar Donetsk for 50 million euros (38.55 million pound) yesterday. Asked at a news conference ahead of Sunday's trip to Bournemouth if Premier League clubs should be concerned by China's willingness to compete for top players, Wenger was emphatic.

"Yes, of course," he said. "Because China looks to have the financial power to move the whole league of Europe to China.

"And we... know that is just a consequence of economical power and they have that."

The Teixeira deal follows Guangzhou Evergrande's capture of Colombian striker Jackson Martinez from Atletico Madrid for 42 million euros and Jiangsu's signing of Brazil midfielder Ramires from Chelsea for a reported 25 million pounds. Wenger questioned whether China would sustain high levels of investment in football and predicted even bigger transfers next season.

"I don't know how deep the desire in China is, but if it's a very strong political desire, we should worry," he said.

"In the summer, we will see transfer prices move up again. I am sure that soon the 100 million target will be easy to reach."

The manager also said that despite a bumper television deal providing major funds next season, clubs would find it difficult to lower ticket prices, a longstanding demand from fans.

"What will happen is that the prices of players will go up and (clubs) will need the supplement of money coming in to buy new players," Wenger added.

"So I believe that the pressure on spending the money will become bigger and you cannot necessarily distribute the money to all the people." Veteran midfielder Tomas Rosicky could have played his last game for the club against Burnley in the FA Cup on Saturday, with Wenger confirming that the 35-year-old was out for up to three months after partially rupturing a tendon in his thigh.

The cup game was Rosicky's only appearance of the campaign to date and the Czech Republic international's contract expires at the end of the season, his 10th at the club.—*Reuters*

Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305
gnlmdaily@gmail.com
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