THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. II, No. 328, 6th Waxing of Tabaung 1377 ME | Monday, 14 March, 2016

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PARTIAL SOLUTION

Homeless draw lots for housing in Yangon

Buildings in Maha Bandoola Housing Complex are under construction. PHOTO: SHEIN KHET

HOMELESS people in Yangon drew lots to rent apartments at the new Maha Bandoola Housing Complex in South Dagon Township.

Since the buildings are between 70 and 90 per cent complete, the winners of the lotteries are expected to move into the apartments in early April, said U Nay Win, director of the Yangon Region Government.

The winners of the lotteries will be announced at respective township general administration offices and the Housing Development Department daily.

A total of 35,491 people have applied for 1,152 rental apartments at the housing complex. Tenants will have to pay K30,000 per month for rent.

According to the Yangon Region government, leases can be revoked if tenants fail to follow the terms of their tenancy, which prohibit re-renting or selling the apartment.

There are 24 apartments in each four-storey building in the complex, and each unit measures 22 feet by 25 feet.

A total of 26 companies that won the tender for the construction of the buildings have constructed the complex in cooperation with the Housing Development Department. *—Thi Thi Min*

New GIS power station to serve seven Yangon townships

A NEW 230-KV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) technology power substation was commissioned into service in East Dagon Township yesterday, supplying more electricity to seven townships in Yangon Region.

Myanmar's first GIS power substation was installed in the 2011-2012 fiscal year along with several other facilities as part of an effort to satisfy an increase in power demand in Yangon due to rising urbanisation and industrialisation, said Union Minister for Electric Power U Khin Maung Soe at the opening ceremony held at the sub-power station.

The implementation of power facilities came with short-term and long-term plans as the electricity consumption of Yangon Region has increased from 1050 MW in 2015 to 1,250 MW in the summer of 2016, while the country's highest supply reached 2,430 MW in the dry season, he added.

The completion of the GIS sub-power station and power grid line are expected benefit people and industries in South Dagon, North Dagon, East Dagon, Shwepaukkan, South Okkalapa, North Okkalapa and Mingaladon townships.

The new facilities cost more than US$18 million.

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Pre- World Water Day 2016 Technical Conference held

THE National Water Resources Committee conducted a Pre-World Water Day 2016 Technical Conference at the Myanmar International Convention Centre II in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, prior to World Water Day 2016, which falls on 22 March.

The seminar was held under the two themes of 'sustainability and systematic management of water resources' and 'development of water-related job opportunities and implementation of better multipurpose water management'.

Discussions at the seminar focused on greater cooperation in development of river basins, the establishment of human resources for the management of water resources and challenges to pragmatic undertakings. U Tun Lwin Oo, the director general of the Water Resources Utilisation Department, invited scholars to contribute suggestions to the successful implementation of the undertakings to ensure the systematic management of water resources, including the Ayeyawady River.

The United Nations observed the first World Water Day on 22 March 1993. This year's theme for the day is 'Water and Jobs'. Myanmar formed the National Water Resources Committee in July 2013 and has observed the day since 2014.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Participants of National Water Resources Committee pose for photo at Pre-World Water Day 2016 Technical Conference. PHOTO: MNA

Over a quarter million Ayeyawady villagers could experience El Nino induced water shortages

THE Department of Rural Development has made it known the El Nino weather front could cause drinking water shortages to over 250,000 citizens of 446 villages throughout the Ayeyarwaddy Region.

It has been estimated that citizens need a daily water intake of half a million gallons, while villages likely to experience water shortages should inform the relevant authorities a week before a shortage befalls them, according to the Department of Rural Development.

"Our departments have made estimations based upon studies conducted. We studied the nearest source of water to villages once the water source in the village dries up. We are ready to act as soon as these village experience any [drinking water] shortages." said U Than Soe, head of the Department of Rural Development for Ayeyawady Region.

It is known that a government budget exists of over K35 million which can be used for short term alleviation to water shortages in these village by transporting water via motorboat and car.

"Those villages in real need of water can get in touch. We will provide assistance, starting from the digging of wells." said Ko Sithu Soe, managing director of the Ayeyawady Development Company that provides assistance to victims of flooding within the region.

A total of 146 villages suffered from water shortages during last year's summer season, while this year has seen those figures increase to roughly 300 villages, with the majority of those villages located in the townships of Ngapudaw, Thabaung, Kyaunggon and Yekyi, according to the records of the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Villagers in Ayeyawady Region collect water from a canal. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

The very first 230-KV GIS technology power substation. PHOTO: MNA

New GIS power station to serve ...

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At present, only 34 per cent of the country's population can access electricity. Yangon's electricity consumption is higher than in other parts of the country. The GIS substation will provide additional electricity to the eastern parts of Yangon Region.

According to official statistics, out of the country's 10 million households, only 2.22 million had access to electricity in 2011.

In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, 3.7 million households, or 34 per cent of the country's households, had access to electricity, while about 6.8 million households still lack regular access. To provide people with sufficient power supply, successive governments are obliged to implement power projects, said Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe, stressing the need for boosting the country's power generating capacity. While neighbouring Thailand produces 27,000 MW with 4,000 MW reserve, Myanmar can produce about 3,500 MW, said the union minister, adding that Myanmar needs to produce another 20,000 MW to catch up with Thailand. Only when the country builds more hydro power, coal-fired and natural gas stations to generate electricity will the goal of nation-wide power access be reached, he added. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Man scores hole-in-one

U AUNG MAW scored an ace at the 12th hole by striking a Bridgestone No. 2 ball with Reygrande Iron No. 9 from a distance of 150 yards at the Silvery Golf Course run by the Yangon City Development Committee on 12 March. U Aung Maw was playing with U Moe Kyaw Aye, Major Yan Aung, U Moe Kyaw Aung and U Tin Htut.—*GNLM*

Lethwei contests to be held at Kyaikkaylartha Buddhapujaniya Festival

THE Buddhapujaniya Festival at the Kyaikkaylartha Pagoda in Lamine, Ye Township, will kick off on 22 March with a Mon-Myanmar traditional boxing contest, musical concerts and theatrical shows.

The boxing contest will open at 1pm on 22 March and end on 23 March during the festival. There will be three-round or four-round contests with participants Saw Htoo Zaw (Doe Yoe Yar) against Tun Naing Oo (Aphyu-yaung-thwe-thit) and Shwe Yarman (Shwedawpon) against Aung Paing Lay (Shwe Thaung Yin) on 22 March. Soe Lin Oo (Doe-yoe-yar) will face Saw Gaw Mu Do (Thatti); Kyar Pauk (Shwethaungyin) will face Saw Min Aung (Taungkalay); and Saw Sa War (Doe-yoe-yar) will face Soe Htet Oo (Aphyu-yaung-thwe-thit) on 23 March. Famous singers like Shwe Htoo, Gfatt, Aung Htet, DJ-Chan Nyein, Ni Ni Khin Zaw and Wine Lay will perform in the music festival on the night of 23 March. Theatrical shows will be staged every night of the festival, according to the event committee.—*Nay Myo Htut (Ye)*

National Buddhist body holds meeting

THE 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held a meeting yesterday to discuss religious issues, including disputes, doubts and missions, with prominent monks expressing their points of view.

The committee's chairman Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa presided over the meeting and delivered a speech.

After Religious Affairs Union Minister U Soe Win briefed the committee on the government's religious undertakings, monks read out progress reports of their respective committees.

The Sangha Plenary of All Orders of Sangha was held from 24 to 26 May 1980 for the first time in a bid to ensure the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Sasana, or the teachings of the Buddha. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Minister for Religious Affairs U Soe Win briefs religious undertakings. PHOTO: MNA

Commander-in-Chief leaves for 13th ASEAN army chiefs meeting in Laos

Senior military officers of Laos welcome Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing on his arrival at Vientiane, Laos capital. PHOTO: MYAWADY

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing left Nay Pyi Taw for Laos yesterday to attend the 13th ASEAN Chiefs of Defence Forces' Informal Meeting (ACDFIM) to be held in Vientiane from 13 to 15 March.

Upon arrival at the Wattay International Airport in the Laos capital, the delegation led by the commander-in-chief was welcomed by the Director of Foreign Relationships of the Lao People's Armed Forces Brig-Gen Kenchan Nathalancy, Director of the Airforce Department Brig-Gen Khamphat and diplomats from the two countries.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing will have sideline meetings with each of the army chiefs of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

While in Laos, the commander-in-chief conducted an on-site inspection of the land chosen for the construction of a new Myanmar military attaché office.

At the residence of the Myanmar ambassador to Laos, the senior general met with families of embassy staff, military attachés and scholars and encouraged them to play their parts in promoting bilateral relations.—*Myawaddy*

Dawei braces for ten days of electricity shortages

THE local government in Dawei district, Tanintharyi Region, will provide substitute part-time electricity to local residents for a ten day period between 19-28 March during which time natural gas extraction from the Zawtika natural gas project will be halted.

"We will consult with the regional minister as for how to provide substitute electricity. Since we don't have the generators of the Hpothigyo company anymore, we're currently anticipating the arrival of generators from regional government." said U Win Swe, Minister of Electricity and Industry for Tanintharyi Region.

Extraction of natural gas from the offshore Zawtika natural gas project, a joint venture between Myanmar oil and gas enterprise and the Thai PTT Exploration and Production Company, will be temporarily halted in order to conduct maintenance activities on the gas rig.

Since the regional government has just a couple of 2 mega watt generators in its possession, it is not possible to provide the entire district with electricity which is why only a part-time supply of electricity can be provided, it is known. "Having been made aware [of the halting of electricity supply] at the last minute is causing up difficulties to provide [a substitute supply]. Even when we can provide electricity, we will have to prioritize towns [over villages], and even that will only be a part-time supply." added U Win Swe.

The Adaman Power Utility (APU) company has taken responsibility for providing the distribution of power throughout the Dawei district, while according to the contractual agreement signed with the regional government, they are only to provide electricity whereby it is the sole responsibility of the regional government to provide availability of gas. As the government is not able to provide gas during the ten day period of gas rig maintenance, APU is exempted from responsibility to provide electricity, with it falling on the government to provide. — *Myitmakha News Agency*

Mercantile Marine College holds graduation

THE Mercantile Marine Degree College under the Ministry of Transport concluded its diploma course with a graduation ceremony at its parade ground in Kamayut Township, Yangon Region, yesterday.

Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung presented awards to Nay Ye Lwin and Kaung Htet Naing for their outstanding performance in nautical and engineering modules, respectively.

In his address, the union minister said the graduating officers were taught in line with the curricula recognised by the International Maritime Organisation. He encouraged further pursuit of knowledge in their related fields in this highly competitive world.

A total of 133 students—64 in nautical and 69 in engineering—graduated this year from the Mercantile Marine Degree College. Established in 1963, the school has produced 2,540 marine officers and 2,485 nautical engineers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Minister U Nyan Tun Aung presents award to an outstanding cadet of Mercantile Marine Degree College.
PHOTO: MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

Donation ceremony to mark Sitagu Sayadaw's 79th birthday

TO MARK the 79th birthday of renowned Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara, a large donation will be made at the World Buddha University located on Sagaing Hill in Sagaing Region this month.

The donation ceremony is scheduled to take place on 22 March. Meals and other gifts will be offered to around 1,000 nuns.

Thousand of monks will be provided robes and other gifts by the Sayadaw on 24 March in conjunction with a ceremony to fix a diamond orb and a golden umbrella to the top of the local Htupayone Pagoda.

Local and international visitors are invited to observe the Sayadaw's birthday celebration on Sagaing Hill.

The venerable Sitagu Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara was born on 23 February 1937, in the town of Thegon, Bago Division, in central Myanmar. From 1975 onward, he has given lectures to the public throughout the country and abroad.

The Sayadaw runs missionary operations at the Sitagu International Buddhist Missionary Centre, which was newly established in Yangon, Myanmar.—*Tin Maung*

Exporters plan to promote rubber exports to partner countries

LOCAL merchants plan to export 80,000 tonnes of rubber this fiscal year, although the price of natural rubber has declined to K540 per pound in domestic market, according to the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

"Currently, price of rubber in the local market has fallen below K600 per pound. However, local exporters plan to promote regular exports of the country's natural rubber to foreign countries," said the secretary of the association.

Last fiscal year, Myanmar exported around 70,000 tonnes of rubber to partner countries, selling for $1,500 per tonne.

"It is not easy to expand the exportation volume to 100,000 tonnes to keep abreast with neighbouring countries because of the quality and our agriculture technology," said farmer U Than Hla Aung.

Local growers have set up rubber plantations on 1.5 million acres of farmland nationwide with technical assistance from Japan.—*MLT/ Union daily*

Crime NEWS

The revolver seen together with bullets.

Revolver discovered in rubbish container in Bahan Tsp

A REVOLVER and bullets were found by staff of the Sanitation Department of the Yangon City Development Committee in Bahan Township in Yangon on Friday, according to a police report.

U Lay Myint discovered the .32 revolver with bullets in a bag when he and five other YCDC staff collected garbage from a rubbish container near the township administration office in Shwetaungkgar (Golden Valley) Ward-2 in Bahan Township at around 1pm on that day.

They reported the find to the township police that evening.

The Bahan Myoma Police Station collected the revolver and accessories and is investigating the gun's origins.—*Police*

Fire kills disabled man in Hpa-an Tsp

A HOME fire broke out in Hlwaka Village-tract in Hpa-an Township, Kayin State, on Friday, killing a disabled man, according to a police report.

U Win Myint, 37, who previously suffered a stroke and was not able to move his legs, was burned in the blaze after he was alone in the house that day.

According to neighbours, the fire spread from a discarded cigarette. It spread quickly to the man's house when it made contact with some alcoholic beverages in the house.

U Win Myint's body was found by his relatives at around 8am on that day.

Police are still investigating the case.—*Tin Win Hlaing*

Married couple drowned in Mu River

A MARRIED couple drowned after falling into the Mu River while they were fish farming in Myinmu Township, Sagaing Region, according to a police report.

According to locals, U Myint Oo, 30, fell into the river first, and his wife Zin Mar Khaing, 25, died when she attempted to rescue her husband from the river. The river measures 10 feet deep where they fell in. Police are investigating the case. The bodies of the couple have been sent to the Myinmu Hospital.—*KKN (Myinmu)/ Union Daily*

Thai border police fatally shoot Myanmar smuggler

THAI authorities confiscated stimulant tablets and a gun from drug smugglers in Maesai, a major border crossing between Thailand and Myanmar, on Thursday.

A combined team found 200,000 WY variety yaba pills, a pistol and eight bullets from the suspects who were en route from Maesai to Chinroi Township in Myanmar that day, arresting three men for illegal drug dealing.

One of the suspects named Maung Ar Si, 35, attempted to flee and was fatally shot three times by police.

According to the investigation, Maung Ar Si, 48, Maung Ar Hsar, 43, and Maung Phile Lo, 30, and the dead suspect accepted 1,000 Thai baht each to deliver the illegal drugs to smugglers.

All the suspects involved in the case were taken into custody by the Maesai Police Station.—*Myintmo*

Thai border police seen together with suspects.

Abandoned newborn found dead in Shan State

AN INFANT was found dead after being abandoned in the compound of ward administrator U Nay Oo Thar in Naungchozay Ward in northern Shan State.

The body was found on Saturday morning by ward administrator U Myat Moe Aung of the Saydatamon social organisation and local police. According to a subsequent investigation, the abandoned newborn was beaten to death. Officials organised a funeral for the abandoned baby.—*Soe Win*

LOCAL
Business

Myanmar's new stock exchange plans its first listing on 25th March

MYANMAR'S new stock exchange plans its first listing on March 25, the deputy finance minister told Reuters on Sunday, more than three months after it launched.

The Southeast Asian country's economy was devastated by nearly 50 years of military rule and rapid reforms since the junta handed over power in 2011 have included the development of capital markets to help finance growth, such as the new stock market.

But with challenges ranging from governance standards to inexperience and lack of capacity, progress has been slow. Since the exchange's official opening in December, there have been no transactions because there is nothing to trade.

Deputy Finance Minister Maung Maung Thein said three companies would list and start trading on the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX) on March 25. He declined to name the companies, but said the three initial listings would be those companies "most ready."

Trading would be limited to one company at a time for several days because the market was still in its infancy, he said.

A Yangon-based banker said that none of the companies that have been discussed by officials as potential candidates for listing have issued a prospectus.

Pedestrians walk past a cultural heritage building where the Yangon Stock Exchange market is established. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

The exchange had tentatively planned to launch trading on March 11 but problems found in test trading delayed it, the banker said. That was the latest in a string of delays to the start of trading.

The first company to list would have been First Myanmar Investment (FMI), the banker said. FMI is a conglomerate of tycoon Surge Pun and one of Myanmar's biggest public companies.

A spokesperon for FMI declined to comment and directed enquiries to the YSX.

The FMI listing will not involve an initial public offering or the raising of fresh capital, the banker said. The listing is a recycling of a previous share issue as FMI would list shares it has previously sold to the public through direct subscription, he said.

Pun's firm has a head start on other companies in Myanmar in terms of meeting the governance and transparency standards required for a listing. FMI sister company Yoma Strategic Holdings is listed in Singapore, and is the only Myanmar company listed abroad.

Aside from FMI, the government wants five other companies to prepare to list. Among them are Myanmar Citizens Bank, First Private Bank and Thilawa SEZ Holdings, which controls a new industrial zone jointly run by the government and a Japanese consortium. Myanma Economic Bank owns 51 per cent of the exchange, presenting another potential problem if foreign investors should be allowed to invest in the future. The bank is among several lenders on the US Department of Treasury's list of sanctioned entities due to its ties to the former junta.

Japan's Daiwa Securities and the Japan Exchange Group, which operates the Tokyo Stock Exchange, own the rest of the YSE. ($1 = 1,209.0000 kyat)—*Reuters*

Singapore remains top foreign investor

SINGAPORE remains the top foreign investor in Myanmar with 24.44 per cent of the total investment in the Oil and Gas sector, 20.31 per cent in the electric power sector, 19.79 per cent in the industrial sector and 18.84 per cent in the transport and communications sector.

Myanmar has received a total of over US$23.84 billion in foreign direct investment between the 2011-2012 fiscal year and 2015-2016, including $5.83 billion in the oil and gas sector and $3.48 billion in the communications sector, according to the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA) under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.—*Min Sandi*

Maymyo flower growers flourish

FARMERS in Tatkon Township, Nay Pyi Taw, are profiting from the sale of Maymyo flowers, earning up to K1.5 million (US$1,230) per acre, according to a local flower grower.

Farmers in Chongyi and Kinmontan villages in Tatkon Township normally grow seasonal crops, depending on the availability of underground water pumped by the tube-well. This season, they turned to Maymyo flowers in order to gain extra money.

Each farm employs three to five labourers to carry out irrigation and weed-clearing. A woman labourer is paid K2,000 per day, while a man makes K3,000. A bundle of seven flowers sells for between K200 and K220. The hawkers who buy the flowers at retail price gain a profit of up to K4,500 after selling their hauls, said a farmer from Chongyi Village.—*Tin Seo Lwin*

Maymyo flowers seen blossoming in a plantation in Tatkon. PHOTO: TIN SOE LWIN

Malaysian police arrest Australian reporters over security breach

KUALA LUMPUR — Two Australian reporters were arrested for suspected breach of security during an event attended by Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, police said yesterday.

The two Australians crossed the security line and aggressively tried to approach Najib during his visit to Malaysia's Sarawak state on North Borneo Saturday evening, police said.

Both were subsequently arrested for failing to comply with police instructions not to cross the security line. The two claimed to be reporters from Australian Broadcasting Corporation,and was in Sarawak to cover the visit by the Malaysian prime minister.

They were released on police bail yesterday after giving statement and were under investigation for "obstructing a public servant in the discharge of his public functions", according to a police statement. —*Xinhua*

Amid sea disputes, China to set up maritime 'judicial centre'

Zhou Qiang, President of China's Supreme People's Court, gives a speech during the third plenary session of the National People's Congress (NPC) at the Great Hall of the People, in Beijing, China, on 13 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BEIJING — China plans to set up an "international maritime judicial center" to help protect the country's sovereignty and rights at sea, its top judge said yesterday.

Giving a work report at the annual meeting of China's largely rubber-stamp parliament, chief justice Zhou Qiang said courts across China were working to implement the national strategy of building China into a "maritime power".

"(We) must resolutely safeguard China's national sovereignty, maritime rights and other core interests," he said. "(We) must improve the work of maritime courts and build an international maritime judicial centre."

He gave no details. It is not clear when the judicial centre may start working, where it would be located or what kinds of cases it would accept.

China disputes a group of uninhabited islets with Japan in the East China Sea, and also claims most of the South China Sea. Taiwan, Malaysia, Viet Nam, the Philippines and Brunei also have competing claims there.

The Philippines has lodged a case with an arbitration court in The Hague about its dispute with China in the South China Sea, angering China which has pledged not to participate.

China's increasingly assertive claims in the South China Sea, along with its rapidly modernizing navy, have rattled nerves around the region.

Zhou said about 16,000 maritime cases were heard by Chinese courts last year, the most in the world. China has the largest number of maritime courts globally, he added. Zhou pointed to a 2014 case at a southeastern China maritime court involving a collision between a Chinese trawler and a Panama-flagged cargo ship in waters near the islets China disputes with Japan in the East China Sea. The case, which was ended via mediation, clearly showed China's jurisdiction over the region, he said.—*Reuters*

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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
Circulation & Advertising
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532
Ads and subscription enquiries:
adv.gnlm@gmail.com

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

Abe renews resolve to win upper house election

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe who heads the ruling Liberal Democratic Party renewed his resolve to win the House of Councillors election this summer at the party's convention in Tokyo yesterday.

On the cooperation between the Democratic Party of Japan and the Japanese Communist Party to challenge the LDP-led ruling bloc in the upper house election, Abe said, "They can do anything for an election, teaming up with anybody. We cannot lose to such irresponsible power."

The upper house election "will be a battle between the coalition of the LDP and the Komeito party which takes responsibility for the public versus the DPJ-JCP force," he said.

Abe also criticised the DPJ and JCP for their plan to scrap security laws enacted last year, saying, "If they are scrapped, the bond of the strengthened Japan-US security alliance to protect the public will be spoiled."

The controversial security laws pushed by the Abe government expanded the scope of the Self-Defence Forces' operations overseas, allowing it to come to the aid of the United States and other friendly nations under armed attack, even if Japan itself is not attacked.

Komeito leader Natsuo Yamaguchi was among the guests invited to the party convention.

"We should not be caught off our guard (for the election). If we are seen lax even only a little, we will receive a harsh verdict from the public," Yamaguchi said.

Reflecting Abe's strong willingness to amend the war-renouncing Constitution, the LDP also adopted a strategy for this year stipulating that the party aims to deepen public debate on revising the supreme law and discuss the matter fully in parliament.

According to the strategy the LDP defines the upcoming upper house election as an election to cement a stable political base for the ruling coalition to promote policies.

It urged upper house members to be ready for an election whenever it is held, amid lingering speculation that Abe could call a snap general election simultaneously with the upper house election. Apparently in reference to a series of scandals and gaffes by LDP members, party members were warned to remember that the LDP gave up power in the wake of the defeat in the 2009 House of Representatives election.

"Based on that bitter experience and remorse, we should rule with a sense of tension," it said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who also serves as president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, addresses the party's convention at a hotel in Tokyo on 13 March 2016. Abe renewed his resolve to win the House of Councillors election this summer. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The ruling coalition of the LDP and the Komeito party controls a majority of the 242-member upper house and more than two-thirds of the 475-member House of Representatives.

Half of the 242 upper house seats come up for election every three years. Of the 121 seats up for grabs, 73 will be filled by winners in single- and multiple-member electoral districts while the remaining 48 are chosen under the nationwide party-list proportional representation system.—*Kyodo News*

Cambodian PM's son leads ruling party's youth group in visit to China

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen's eldest son Hun Manet yesterday led a youth group in the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) to visit China with an aim to enhance youth-to-youth ties between the two countries.

Speaking to reporters at Phnom Penh international airport before the departure, 37-year-old Hun Manet, a member of the CPP's Central Committee, said the 57-member delegation would spend 11 days in China to strengthen youth-to-youth relations between the two countries.

"Every year, we exchange such a visit that could enhance our relations and cooperation,"he said.

"The visit aims to exchange views between youths of the two countries, mainly focusing on youth's activities and contributions to national development."

He said during the visit, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the CPP's youth and the Communist Party of China (CPC)'s youth would be signed in Beijing.—*Xinhua*

North Korea denies cyber attacks on South Korea officials

SEOUL — North Korea denied yesterday that it conducted cyber attacks against officials from rival South Korea, calling the South's accusation that it did so a "fabrication".

South Korea's spy agency told lawmakers on Friday that North Korea had recently stepped up cyber attack efforts against the South and succeeded in hacking the mobile phones of 40 national security officials, according to members of parliament who received a closed-door briefing.

"The South is claiming the North's cyber attack and using it for its own political purpose," an opinion piece in the Rodong Sinmun, the official daily newspaper of the North's ruling party, said yesterday.

It accused the South of making the cyber attack claim in order to justify a controversial new "anti-terrorism" law.

"There is nothing to expect but the sound of eating corpses from a crow's mouth. However, we cannot just overlook the South's abrupt, provocative, and heinous accusations against its neighbour," the article said.

Earlier in the week, South Korea's National Intelligence Service also said North Korea had tried to hack into email accounts of South Korean railway workers in an attempt to attack the transport system's control system, although it said had interrupted the hacking attempt against the railway workers and closed off their email accounts.

South Korea has been on heightened alert against the threat of cyber attacks by North Korea after it conducted a nuclear test in January and a long-range rocket launch last month, triggering new UN sanctions.

Tensions are also heightened on the Korean peninsula as South Korea and the United States conduct annual joint military exercises that the South says are the largest ever and yesterday included the arrival in South Korea of the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USSR John C Steins.

North Korea has denounced the exercises as "nuclear war moves" and threatened to respond with an all-out offensive.

A hand is silhouetted in front of a computer screen. PHOTO: REUTERS

The North denied South Korea's previous accusation that it conducted cyber attacks against the South's nuclear operator.

The United States accused North Korea of a cyber attack against Sony Pictures in 2014 that led to the studio cancelling the release of a comedy based on the fictional assassination of the country's leader, Kim Jon Un.

North Korea denied the accusation.—*Reuters*

Japan-made stealth fighter prototype delivery unlikely by end March

TOKYO — The delivery of a prototype of the first Japan-made stealth fighter is unlikely to meet the end-of-March deadline due to a delay in the flight test schedule, sources close to the Defence Ministry said yesterday.

The prototype, developed by a consortium of domestic companies led by Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd., is now expected to be delivered to the ministry in mid-April or later, they said.

The fighter — 14.2 metres long and 9.1 metres wide — will undergo flight tests in central Japan, including the maiden flight, after several ground run tests, they said. The deadline had been extended from March last year to verify the functioning of the engine and flight control system.

The development of a full-scale test model began in fiscal 2009, with costs for the programme totaling about 39.4 billion yen ($346 million).

The fighter features stealth capabilities through the use of carbon fiber that absorbs radio waves and makes it difficult for radar to detect the aircraft.

The Defence Ministry's Acquisition, Technology and Logistics Agency plans to assess data obtained from the prototype and decide by fiscal 2018 whether to develop domestically or engage in joint international development of aircraft to replace the Air Self-Defence Force's F-2 fighter. —*Kyodo News*

Five killed in building collapse in northern India

NEW DELHI — At least five people have been killed in a building collapse due to heavy rains in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh, a senior police official said yesterday.

"The two-storey building collapsed in the state's Meerut town because of heavy rains that have been lashing the region since Saturday," he said, on condition of anonymity.

While five bodies have been pulled out of the debris of the house by rescuers, efforts are on to bring out any more people trapped inside, the official said.

"Out of the five killed, three are children. Two others also sustained injuries in the building collapse and have been admitted to a local hospital," he said. A probe has been ordered into the incident, the official added. —*Xinhua*

China's top judge says large jump in terrorism convictions

BEIJING— Chinese courts convicted more than 1,400 people last year for harming national security, including taking part in terrorism and secessionist activities, China's top judge said yesterday, double a broadly equivalent number given for 2014.

Hundreds of people have been killed over the past few years in China's resource-rich Xinjiang Province, strategically located on the borders of central Asia, in violence between the Muslim Uighur people, who call the region home, and ethnic majority Han Chinese.

Paramilitary policemen walk past Erdaoqiao Grand Bazaar in Urumqi, Xinjiang Uighur autonomous region, in 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

Officials have blamed the unrest on Islamist militants and separatists, though rights groups and exiles say anger at Chinese controls on the religion and culture of the Uighurs is more to blame for the strife. China denies any repression in Xinjiang.

In an annual report to China's largely rubber-stamp parliament, chief justice Zhou Qiang said Chinese courts in 2015 convicted 1,419 people for harming state security, including taking part in terrorist attacks and secessionist activities.

He did not give a comparison, but last year in his work report he said courts convicted 712 people for separatism and terrorism in 2014, up 13.3 per cent on the previous year.

Last year courts stepped up their efforts against people who "instigated secessionist activities, led, organised and took part in terrorist groups and who spread video and audio products about terrorism", Zhou said.

This year courts "will implement well the laws on state security and counter-terrorism and severely punish terrorists and secessionists", he added.

New Chinese security laws, including the counter-terrorism law and the draft cyber security law, have been controversial as they codify sweeping powers for the government to combat perceived threats, from widespread censorship to heightened control over certain technologies.

Critics of the counter-terrorism legislation say that it could be interpreted in such a way that even non-violent dissidents could fall within its definition of terrorism.

Western governments have expressed their concern to Beijing, though last week China's third-ranked leader rebutted criticism saying the country was taking a "distinctly Chinese approach" to national security with its raft of new laws.—*Reuters*

OPINION

Humanity is not alone

Kyaw Thura

CLIMATE change is the most urgent issue facing us today, considering the changing weather patterns in many parts of the world. Searing heat, melting glaciers, rising sea levels and widespread flooding are not without dire consequences. It is absolutely vital for all of us to address this environmental catastrophe on a global scale.

Global warming leads to extreme heat waves with the potential to cause glaciers to melt and sea levels to rise, thereby triggering flooding and erosion in coastal regions. Flooding can decrease water quality and limit water resources in arid zones.

In the past few years, our country has experienced an upsurge in the frequency of adverse weather conditions affecting the lives of people across a third of the country. As an agricultural country, 70 per cent of Myanmar's population depends heavily on the natural environment, and as a result, they are always left with few resources to cope with in the face of disaster.

However, it will not be fair if we find a solution to the problem of human beings.

The effects of climate change do not discriminate in favour of the lives of plants and animals. It is, therefore, absolutely vital that everyone plays their part in combating climate change because scientists have become aware of the mass migrations of animal species to new locations and the increased risk of plant species becoming extinct if temperatures keep soaring higher year after year.

After all, peaceful coexistence means more than the need to live together in perfect social and racial harmony. It also means the need to be in harmony with our environment.

Write for us

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.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

The report, Population survey of the Sarus crane to be conducted in Myanmar (GNLM, Feb 27) is greatly appreciated. It is indeed important to get a clear idea about the population dynamics of endangered and vulnerable species of wildlife by collecting reliable census data by comprehensive ground survey using both professional biologists as well as enthusiastic volunteers caring for ecological conservation. In addition to the Sarus crane, few other species in Myanmar also need comprehensive survey data for comprehensive efforts of successful conservation and include the following: Golden deer, Salt water crocodile, Indochinese leopard, Indochinese tiger, Red Panda, Green peafowl to name only a handful.

Thanking you
Sincerely yours
Saikat Kumar Basu

Nation Building, Anticorruption Drive and Rule of Law

Sayar Mya

It is my honor and great pleasure in sharing knowledge on "Nation Building" through a series of articles with the esteemed readers of the Global New Light of Myanmar in the past few weeks.

Being a Myanmar Foreign Service officer, I had been posted to a number of foreign countries and have had the opportunity to witness the anticorruption drive and the endeavor for the rule of law in their own suitable model and mechanism in all the countries that I had stationed.

Again, it is my delight in sharing knowledge on the general concept of "Anticorruption Drive" and the maneuver of "the Rule of Law" with the esteemed readers.

Corruption is a paradigm of the destructive side of human nature.

Corruption is a form of dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted with a position of authority, often to acquire personal benefit. Corruption may include many activities including bribery and embezzlement, though it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries. Government, or 'political', corruption occurs when an office-holder or other governmental employee acts in an official capacity for personal gain.

The word corrupt when used as an adjective literally means "utterly broken". The word was first used by Aristotle and later by Cicero who added the terms bribe and abandonment of good habits.

Stephen D. Morris, a professor of politics and the author of "Political Corruption in Mexico" writes that political corruption is the illegitimate use of public power to benefit a private interest.

Economist Ian Senior, Consultant of UK, defines corruption as an action to (a) secretly provide (b) a good or a service to a third party (c) so that he or she can influence certain actions which (d) benefit the corrupt, a third party, or both (e) in which the corrupt agent has authority.

Daniel Kaufmann is the president of the Natural Resource Governance Institute, formerly the Revenue Watch Institute - Natural Resource Charter. Previously he was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution. He extends the concept to include "legal corruption" in which power is abused within the confines of the law - - as those with power often have the ability to make laws for their own protection.

How do we define corruption?

Generally speaking it is to be dubbed as "the abuse of entrusted power for private gain". Corruption can be classified as grand, petty and political, depending on the amounts of money lost and the sector where it occurs.

Grand corruption consists of acts committed at a high level of government that distort, deform and disfigure policies or the central functioning of the state. At such situation, it enables leaders to benefit at the expense of the public budget or tax.

Petty corruption refers to everyday abuse of entrusted power by low-level and mid-level public officials in their interactions with ordinary citizens. In day-to-day activities, people often are trying to access basic goods or simple services in places like hospitals, schools, police departments and other agencies.

Political corruption is the exploitation and manipulation of policies, institutions and rules of procedure in the allocation of resources and financing by political decision makers, who abuse their position to sustain their power, status and wealth.

What is transparency?

Transparency is about shedding light or making public on rules, plans, processes and actions. It is to let the people know why, how, what, and how much. Transparency ensures that public officials, civil servants, managers, board members and business people act visibly and understandably. They are to report on their activities to the relevant authorities. It means that the general public can hold them for accountability and responsibility. It is the surest way of guarding against corruption. It also helps increase trust in the people and institutions on which our futures depend.

What are the costs of corruption?

Corruption brings negative impacts to societies in a multitude of ways. In the worst cases, it costs lives – perhaps in hundreds. Short of this, it costs people their freedom, health or money. The cost of corruption can be divided into four main categories namely (1) political, (2) economic, (3) social, and (4) environment.

On the political front, corruption is a major obstacle to democracy. It is also against the rule of law. In a democratic system, offices and institutions lose their legitimacy when they are misused for private advantage. This is harmful in established democracies, but even more so in newly emerging ones. It is extremely challenging to develop accountability on political leadership in a corrupt climate.

In term of economic, corruption depletes national wealth. Corrupt politicians invest scarce public resources in hidden projects that will line into their pockets rather than benefit communities. It prioritize high-profile projects such as dams, power plants, pipelines and refineries over less spectacular but more urgent infrastructure projects such as schools, hospitals and roads. Corruption also hinders the development of fair market structures and distorts competition. On the other hand, it deters investment.

"Corruption is a form of dishonest or unethical conduct by a person entrusted with a position of authority, often to acquire personal benefit. Corruption may include many activities including bribery and embezzlement, though it may also involve practices that are legal in many countries. Government, or 'political', corruption occurs when an office-holder or other governmental employee acts in an official capacity for personal gain."

On the social front, corruption corrodes the civic fabric of society. It undermines people's trust in the political system, in its institutions and its leadership. A distrustful or apathetic public can then become yet another hurdle to challenging corruption.

In the environmental front, degradation is another consequence of corrupt systems. The lack of relevant laws or non-enforcement of environmental regulations and legislation means that precious natural resources are carelessly exploited, and entire ecological systems are ravaged and destroyed. From mining, to logging, to carbon offsets, greedy companies across the globe continue to pay bribes in return for unrestricted destruction.

What should we do to fight Corruption?

Generally, there are three guiding principles such as (1) build partnerships, (2) move ahead step-by-step and (3) stay non-confrontational. Researchers have learned from experience that corruption can only be kept in check and control if representatives from government, business and civil society work together in unison to develop standards and procedures they all support. People also know that corruption cannot be rooted out in one big sweep. It takes time. With much patience, it needs fighting it through a step-by-step and project-by-project process. The non-confrontational approach is necessary to get all relevant parties around the negotiating table.

What is Bribery?

Bribery is the offering, promising, giving, accepting or soliciting of an advantage as an inducement for an action which is illegal, unethical or a breach of trust. Inducements can take the form of gifts, loans, fees, rewards or other advantages such as taxes, services, donations, and favors etc.

Why it is highly important?

Anticorruption drive goes beyond the domestic jurisdiction of a nation.

Governments need to take effective action in the fight against international bribery both at the national level and through international groups including the G20, European Union, UN and the OECD.

The G20, also known as the Group of 20 is a bloc of developing nations established on 20 August 2003. Distinct and separate from the G-20 major economies, the group emerged at the 5th Ministerial WTO conference, held in Cancún, Mexico, from 10 September to 14 September 2003. The World Trade Organization (WTO) is an intergovernmental organization which regulates international trade. The G-20 accounts for 60% of the world's population, 70% of its farmers and 26% of world's agricultural exports.

The European Union (EU) is a politico-economic union of 28 member states that are located primarily in Europe. The EU operates through a system of supranational institutions and intergovernmental negotiated decisions by the member states. Supranational is an international organization, or union, whereby member states transcend national boundaries

or interests to share in the decision-making and vote on issues pertaining to the wider grouping.

The mission of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is to promote policies that will improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world.

The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. It works with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change. It also measures productivity and global flows of trade and investment. The body analyses and compares data to predict future trends. It set international standards on a wide range of things, from agriculture and tax to the safety of chemicals.

All national legislation should outlaw bribery between firms that deal with the government sector and private sector. Governments should fully implement and enforce laws criminalizing foreign bribery and prohibiting off book accounts - - payment or receipt of money for which no official record is kept - - in accordance with the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and the UNCAC.

The UNCAC (United Nations Convention against Corruption) is a multilateral convention negotiated by members of the United Nations. It is the first global legally binding international anti-corruption instrument.

It is to report regularly on the enforcement of these laws to the relevant bodies.

What is the Rule of law?

Derived from internationally accepted standards, the World Justice Project's definition of the rule of law is a system in which the following four universal principles are upheld.

1. The government and its officials and agents as well as individuals and private entities are accountable under the law.

2. The laws are clear, publicized, stable, and just; are applied evenly; and protect fundamental rights, including the security of persons and property.

3. The process by which the laws are enacted, administered, and enforced is accessible, fair, and efficient.

4. Justice is delivered timely by competent, ethical, and independent representatives and neutrals that are of sufficient number, have adequate resources, and reflect the makeup of the communities they serve.

These four universal principles are further developed in the following nine factors of the WJP Rule of Law Index, which measures how the rule of law is experienced by ordinary people in 99 countries around the globe.

Constraints on Government Powers: Factor 1 measures the extent to which those who govern are bound by law. It comprises the means, both constitutional and institutional, by which the powers of the government and its officials.

Absence of Corruption: Factor 2 measures the absence of corruption in a number of government agencies. The factor considers three forms of corruption namely bribery, improper influence by public or private interests.

Open Government: Factor 3 is about government openness. The World Justice Project (WJP) Open Government Index 2015 is the first effort to measure government openness based on the general public's experiences and perceptions worldwide. The Index presents aggregated scores and rankings as well as individual scores for each of the following dimensions of government openness uh as (a) publicized laws and government data, (b) right to information, (c) civic participation, and (d) complaint mechanisms.

Fundamental Rights: Factor 4 measures the protection of fundamental human rights.

Order and Security: Factor 5 measures how well the society assures the security of persons and property. Security is one of the defining aspects of any rule of law society and a fundamental function of the state.

Regulatory Enforcement: Factor 6 measures the extent to which regulations are fairly and effectively implemented and enforced. Regulations include legal and administrative, its structure and behaviors within and outside.

Civil Justice: Factor 7 measures whether ordinary people can resolve their grievances peacefully and effectively through the civil justice system. The delivery of effective civil justice requires that the system be (1) accessible and affordable; (2) free of discrimination; (3) free of corruption; (4) without improper influence by public officials; (5) The delivery of effective civil justice also necessitates that court proceedings are conducted in a timely manner and not subject to unreasonable delays; (6) Finally, recognizing the value of Alternative Dispute Resolution mechanisms (ADRs), this factor also measures the accessibility, impartiality; and (7) efficiency of mediation and arbitration systems that enable parties to resolve civil disputes of effective civil justice requires that the system.

Criminal Justice: Factor 8 evaluates the criminal justice system. An effective criminal justice system is a key aspect of the rule of law, as it constitutes the conventional mechanism to redress grievances.

Informal Justice: Finally, Factor 9 concerns the role played in many countries by customary and 'informal' systems of justice – including traditional, tribal, and religious courts, and community-based systems – in resolving disputes. These systems often play a large role in cultures in which formal legal institutions fail to provide effective remedies for large segments of the population, or when formal institutions are perceived as remote, corrupt, or ineffective. This factor covers three concepts: (1) whether these dispute resolution systems are timely and effective; (2) whether they are impartial and free of improper influence; and (3) the extent to which these systems respect and protect fundamental rights.

Legal and political systems, structures and practices that condition a government's actions to protect citizens' rights and liberties, maintain law and order, and encourage the effective functioning of the country.

Whistleblowing

Making a disclosure in the public interest by an employee, director or external person, in an attempt to reveal neglect or abuses within the activities of an organisation, government body or company (or one of its business partners) that threaten public interest, its integrity and reputation.

The term in English is largely positive although many languages lack a similar concept with the same connotation.

Why it matters

Companies and organisations should empower whistleblowers who experience or witness bribery and corruption through effective whistleblower policies and procedures.

Citizenship matters

Roqué Gonzalez* lives in an isolated indigenous community in Argentina without roads, electricity or running water. One of the biggest barriers its people face to overcoming such hardships is identity – they are not recognised as citizens.

Without official documents proving citizenship, indigenous people are unable to vote and are deprived of social benefits and basic services, such as healthcare and education. Cut off by geography, language and illiteracy, the people in Roqué's community have had scant contact with the authorities and know little about their rights and entitlements.

By raising awareness about why citizenship matters and assisting with the application process, we're helping them and other indigenous communities in the country to achieve full citizenship and access the government support they've long been missing. In the first six months of 2012 alone, more than 100 people were able to obtain identification cards from the Ministry of the Interior.

Gaining citizenship has an immediate impact on a family's well-being. With the correct documentation, for example, mothers can access the government's child benefit programme, which helps pay for their children's schooling and healthcare. We are also calling on the government to officially recognise the community as a whole. Such recognition would see the community qualify for state programmes that support indigenous people, including much-needed investment in infrastructure and public services.

"Being documented means our communities now have access to the same assistance as urban residents," says Roqué. He is one of a growing number of people who now know that documentation – and more importantly, identity – paves the way for greater accountability and a fairer society.

* Names have been changed

Secret Diaries

On the evening of 9 June 2010, the people of the Southern Brazilian state Paraná took to the streets. 30,000 residents stood in the cold air that night, in protests that covered 15 cities. Some held signs calling for greater transparency, others waved state flags and chanted to the music of a local band. Some were dressed in costume, others sang the national anthem. With the noise of the protesters behind him, one student demonstrator told a reporter "[This day] will truly be a milestone to start changing the history of Paraná."

They were demonstrating in response to the Diarios Secretos, or Secret Diaries, a ground-breaking investigative journalism project led by four Brazilian journalists – James Alberti, Katia Brembatti, Karlos Kohlbach and Gabriel Tabatcheik – that led to the biggest-ever scandal at Paraná's legislative assembly.

(To be continued)

New disturbance at Trump rally as crucial Republican contests near

US Secret Service agents detain a man after a disturbance as US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump spoke at Dayton International Airport in Dayton, Ohio on 12 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

DAYTON — Secret Service officers rushed on stage to protect US Republican presidential front-runner Donald Trump during a disturbance at a rally on Saturday, a day after rowdy protests shut down his event in Chicago.

Trump briefly ducked at the podium and four Secret Service members scrambled to surround him after a man charged the stage at Dayton International Airport in Ohio.

Officers then grabbed the man, dressed in a black T-shirt and jeans, before he was able to reach the stage and hauled him away.

"I was ready. I don't know if I would have done well but I would have been out there fighting, folks," Trump told a rally later in the day. He said the man "was looking to do harm."

The incident further increased tension after Trump's Chicago rally was scrapped amid chaotic scenes on Friday.

Trump's Republican rivals hurled scorn at the New York billionaire, saying he helped create the nervous atmosphere that is now sweeping the race for the White House with his fiery rhetoric.

Trump blamed supporters of Democratic candidate Bernie Sanders for the incidents in Chicago, where scuffles broke out between protesters and backers of the real estate magnate. He called the US senator from Vermont "our communist friend."

The scenes in Chicago followed a series of recent incidents of violence at Trump rallies, in which protesters and journalists have been punched, tackled and hustled out of venues, raising concerns about degrading security leading into the 8 November election.

"All of a sudden a planned attack just came out of nowhere," Trump said in Dayton, describing the events in Chicago. He called the protest leaders there "professional people". Sanders, a US Senator from Vermont, hit back.

"As is the case virtually every day, Donald Trump is showing the American people that he is a pathological liar. Obviously, while I appreciate that we had supporters at Trump's rally in Chicago, our campaign did not organise the protests."

President Barack Obama told a fundraising event in Dallas that political leaders "should be trying to bring us together and not turning us against one another."

Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton drew criticism for releasing an initial statement that did not mention Trump by name and tied violent campaign events to a shooting in a South Carolina black church last year that left 9 people dead.

While campaigning in St. Louis, Missouri, on Saturday, Clinton criticised Trump directly for "ugly, divisive rhetoric" that encourages aggression and violence.

The months-long Republican race may be coming to a head at nominating contests on Tuesday where Trump is seeking victories that might give him an almost insurmountable lead for the nomination.

Primaries in Florida and Ohio will be particularly important since they are winner-take-all states, where all Republican delegates are given to the winner of the popular vote instead of being awarded proportionally.

It will be a make-or-break day for Republican candidates John Kasich, the governor of Ohio, and US Senator Marco Rubio of Florida, who both must win their home states to forge a credible path forward.

Trump has drawn fervent support as well as criticism for his calls to build a wall along the US-Mexico border and to impose a temporary ban on Muslims entering the country.

His rallies often attract small groups of protesters, but Friday's was the first at which there may have been as many protesters as supporters.

At an event in Kansas City on Saturday, Trump urged police to arrest people who disrupt his events.

"They'll have to explain to Mom and Dad why they have a police record and why they can't get a job. And you know what? I'm going to start pressing charges against all these people and then we won't have a problem," he said to cheers.

Outside the rally, police broke up confrontations between Trump supporters and protesters who shouted, "Shut it down!"

Police on horseback and riot gear briefly moved into a crowd of protesters and officers used what appeared to be pepper spray against demonstrators for a few seconds.

Rubio, who according to the *New York Times* slightly edged out Kasich on Saturday to win the Washington DC primary with 37 per cent of the vote, bemoaned the state of the presidential race during an event in Florida, saying it had "become reality television."

"Last night in Chicago, we saw images that make America look like a Third World country," Rubio said, reminding supporters the stakes on Tuesday are high.

Kasich told journalists before a campaign event in Cincinnati, Ohio, that Trump had created a "toxic environment."

Republican candidate US Senator Ted Cruz of Texas called the Chicago incidents "sad."

Vanderbilt University political scientist John Geer said that the tension on display at Trump's events are a proxy for what is going on in the electorate writ large.

"People have strong reactions to Donald Trump," Geer said. "They are playing out in the voting booth and they are also playing out at these events."—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Vulin: Migrants not crossing Serbia's borders

BELGRADE — The inflow of migrants into Serbia has been stopped, Minister of Social Policy Aleksandar Vulin said on Saturday.

"No one is crossing Serbia's borders," Vulin told TV Pink in reply to the question on the current migrant situation.

At the time when some European countries are advocating the opening of borders, and others their closing, Serbia must take care of itself, as a country beween a rock and a hard place.

"If the countries located behind us along this route or final destination countries do not want to receive migrants then Serbia cannot let them pass through its territory," Vulin said.—*Tanjug*

Obama to visit London in bid to keep UK in the EU

LONDON — US President Barack Obama will come to London in April and urge British voters to back continued membership of the European Union, *The Independent* yesterday newspaper reported.

Britons vote in June on whether to remain part of the world's biggest trading bloc and Obama has previously said he wants Britain to stay in the EU and help maintain the post-war transatlantic partnership. Most opinion polls show voters are split with a large number of people as yet undecided.

Obama is due to attend a technology fair in Germany in late April and a source told the *Independent* yesterday he would visit the British capital around that time. "It would be pretty shocking if he didn't ask voters to stay in the EU," the source was quoted as saying. The White House declined to comment and Prime Minister David Cameron's office did not offer an immediate comment when contacted by Reuters.—*Reuters*

Okinawa police arrest US sailor on suspicion of rape

NAHA, (Japan) — Police arrested yesterday a US Navy sailor on suspicion of raping a woman in Okinawa.

The suspect, identified as Justin Castellanos, 24, seaman at the US Navy's Camp Schwab in northern Okinawa, denies the allegation, the police said.

He allegedly raped a women in her 40s, who was a traveller from Fukuoka Prefecture, in his room at a business hotel in the Okinawa capital of Naha in the early hours of yesterday. The suspect took the woman to his room after finding her sleeping in the corridor, the police said. The suspect and the woman were both staying at the hotel but were not acquainted, they said. Crimes of US military personnel have caused concern and protests in Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of US forces in Japan.—*Kyodo News*

Al Qaeda in Syria seizes bases, weapons of Western-backed group

BEIRUT — The al Qaeda-linked Nusra Front has seized the bases and weapons of a Western-backed rebel group in overnight fighting in northwestern Syria, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said yesterday.

Rami Abdulrahman, director of the Observatory, said the Nusra Front had also detained dozens of members of the 13th Division rebel group, one of the factions that has received foreign military aid including US-made anti-tank missiles.

The commander of 13th Division, which fights under the banner of the Free Syrian Army, could not immediately be reached for comment. A Nusra Front statement accused the 13th Division of attacking some of its bases in Idlib province.—*Reuters*

IMF's Lagarde says yet to receive a request from Cuba for IMF membership

NEW DELHI — Cuba has not yet made a request for membership of the International Monetary Fund, the fund's chief said yesterday, adding such a request would be considered in accordance with its rules.

Christine Lagarde's comments came just days after the European Union and Cuba signed an agreement in Havana to establish normal relations, bringing the Communist-run island further into the international fold and paving the way for full economic cooperation with the 28-member bloc. Cuba was one of the founding members of the IMF until it quit in 1964. "We have not received a request by the authorities of Cuba to be included as a member," Lagarde told reporters at the end of a conference in New Delhi.—*Reuters*

Border attack feeds Tunisia fears of Libya jihadist spillover

Policemen patrol during a military operation to eliminate militants in a village some 50 km (31 miles) from the town of Ben Guerdane, Tunisia, near the Libyan border on 10 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

TUNIS/ALGIERS — The signal to attack came from the mosque, sending dozens of Islamist fighters storming through the Tunisian town of Ben Guerdan to hit army and police posts in street battles that lit the dawn sky with tracer bullets.

Militants used a megaphone to chant "God is Great," and reassure residents they were Islamic State, there to save the town near the Libyan border from the "tyrant" army. Most were Tunisians themselves, with local accents, and even some familiar faces, officials and witnesses to Monday's attack said.

Hours later, 36 militants were dead, along with 12 soldiers and seven civilians, in an assault authorities described as an attempt by Islamic State to carve out terrain in Tunisia.

Whether Islamic State aimed to hold territory as they have in Iraq, Syria and Libya, or intended only to dent Tunisia's already battered security, is unclear and the group has yet to officially claim the attack.

But as fuller details of the Ben Guerdan fighting emerge, the incident highlights the risk Tunisia faces from home-grown jihadists drawn to Iraq, Syria and Libya, and who have threatened to bring their war back home.

Despite Tunisian forces' preparations to confront returning fighters, and their defeat of militants in Ben Guerdan, Monday's assault shows how the country is vulnerable to violence spilling over from Libya as Islamic State expands there.

Authorities are still investigating the Ben Guerdan attack. But most of the militants appear to have been already in the town, with a few brought in from Libya. Arms caches were deposited around the city before the assault.

"Most of them were from Ben Guerdan, we know their faces. They knew where to find the house of the counter-terrorist police chief," one witness, Sabri Ben Saleh, told Reuters. "They were driving round in a car filled with weapons, my neighbours said they knew some of them."

Troops have killed 14 more militants around Ben Guerdan since Monday. Others have been arrested and more weapons seized.

Officials say they are still determining if the militants had been in Libya before or had returned from fighting with Islamic State overseas. But that such a large number of militants and arms were in Tunisia is no surprise.

After its revolt in 2011 to topple Zine El-Abidine Ben Ali, Tunisia has struggled with growing Islamic militancy.

More than 3,000 Tunisians have left to fight with Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, according to government estimates. Tunisian security sources say many are with Islamic State in Libya.

Gunmen trained in Libya were blamed for attacks on tourists at the Bardo Museum in Tunis a year ago and at a beach hotel in Sousse in June.

Tunisians also play a major role in Islamic State in Libya where they run training camps, according to Tunisian security sources.

But the scale of Monday's attack was unprecedented. The militants were well-organised, handing out weapons to their fighters from a vehicle moving through the city, with knowledge of the town and its military barracks.

"We came across a group of terrorists with their Kalashnikovs, and they told us: 'Don't worry we are not here to target you. We are the Islamic State and we are here for the tyrants in the army,'" said Hassein Taba, a local resident.

The attack tests Tunisia at a difficult time. After Islamic State violence last year, the tourism industry that represents 7 per cent of the economy is struggling to tempt visitors to return.

With its new constitution, free elections and secular history, Tunisia is a target for jihadists looking to upset a young democracy just five years after the overthrow of dictator Ben Ali.

"The battle of Ben Guerdane in Tunisia, 20 miles from the Libyan border ... is proof enough that the Islamic State has cells far and wide," said Geoff Porter, at North Africa Risk Consulting. "But what these cells can reliably do ... and how they are directed by Islamic State leadership in Sirte, let alone in Iraq and Syria, is not known."—*Reuters*

At least 17 militants killed in southern Yemen

ADEN — Air strikes killed at least 17 suspected al-Qaeda militants overnight in the southern Yemeni port city of Aden, witnesses, medics and a security official said yesterday.

The air strikes hit al-Mansoura district, a stronghold for militants and an area which has witnessed several attacks against local security officials since the Saudi-led coalition retook Aden last July from the Iran-allied Houthi militia.

The sources said at least 20 civilians and militants were wounded as well as three members of the security forces. The strikes targeted the militants who were sitting atop vehicles and one of the strikes hit a local government building. Intermittent clashes were still going on, they said.

There was tenuous calm in the district later in the district yesterday, with streets leading out of the area closed off.

A Reuters reporter saw the rubble of a butcher's shop and the wreckages of destroyed cars. Electricity was cut across the district and food shops remained closed.

A security official said the strikes, thought to have been carried out by the Saudi-led coalition, were the "second stage" of retaking al-Mansoura from militants.

There was no immediate comment from the Saudi-led coalition on the strikes.

They took place a day after forces loyal to Yemen's president broke a siege by the Houthis around Taiz, Yemen's third biggest city, about 200 km (124 miles) northwest of Aden.

Yemen's embattled government has been forced out of the capital Sanaa by the Houthi rebels and is now based in Aden, but struggles to impose its authority even there.

The southern city has gone from being one of the world's busiest ports as a former hub of the British empire to a backwater, and then in recent months, a conflict zone.

The coalition began a military campaign a year ago to prevent the Houthis from taking complete control of Yemen. —*Reuters*

Yazidi teenager escaped Islamic State, appeals for help for sex slaves

Nihad Barakat Shamo Alawsi in Zakho, northwest of Dohuk, Iraq, on 29 February 2016.
PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — It was a "black morning" two years ago when Islamic State militants seized the Yazidi town of Sinjar in northwest Iraq, abducting thousands of civilians including a 15-year-old girl and 27 members of her family.

The teenager, Nihad Barakat Shamo Alawsi, was taken to Syria and then to the Islamic State stronghold of Mosul in northern Iraq, she told an event in London on Wednesday.

"They raped us, they killed our men, they took our babies away from us," Alawsi, now 17, said at the event organised by the UK-based AMAR Foundation, a charity that provides education and healthcare in the Middle East.

"The worst thing was the torture in Mosul. We were beaten and raped continuously for two weeks," she said, speaking through an interpreter. "Girls were taken from their families and raped constantly and then they were handed out to "emirs.""

The Sunni militants captured around 5,000 Yazidi men and women in summer 2014. Some 2,000 have managed to escape or have been smuggled out of Islamic State's self-proclaimed caliphate in Iraq and Syria, activists say.

Islamic State considers the Yazidis to be devil-worshippers. The ancient Yazidi faith blends elements of Christianity, Zoroastrianism and Islam.

The United Nations says Islamic State still holds an estimated 3,500 people captive in Iraq, the majority of them women and girls from the Yazidi community.

Alawsi said a man who took her as a slave died a few weeks later, and she was sold to another man who already had a wife and another Yazidi sex-slave. He beat and raped her and a month later she became pregnant.

"I thought the child I was carrying was a member of Daesh and would become a Daesh criminal when he grew up," Alawsi said quietly, using a pejorative Arabic name for Islamic State.

Alawsi gave birth to a baby boy, but three months later she managed to escape after the baby's father decided to marry her to his cousin.

"I managed to make a phone call to my family with someone's help, and I managed to escape, but I had to leave the baby behind," she said. Most of the Yazidi population, numbering around half a million, are displaced in camps in Iraq's northern Kurdistan.

Alawsi now lives in one of the camps with her mother, father and siblings, and works with AMAR, volunteering to come to London to speak of her people's plight. Two of her brothers and two sisters are still held by Islamic State.

"It's not a life, we are not living a life until the rest of our people are released by Daesh," Alawsi said.

"I beg you to help my people, to save them from Daesh, and to free especially the sex slaves, the young girls and children that have been taken."—*Reuters*

Poverty, child marriage, violence decline when women own land — World Bank

NEW YORK — Can land rights for women drive down child marriage and domestic violence?

"Yes and more", says an international group of land and property rights specialists who are due in Washington this week to discuss how improved land management can reduce global poverty and foster development.

When women have rights to land, argues Klaus Deininger, a lead economist and organiser of this week's World Bank conference, children's health and education improves, household resources increase and there are fewer child brides as daughters do not need to be married off young for financial reasons.

Equally, women with land rights tend to have savings accounts, a factor that reduces domestic violence. "If women have stronger bargaining power, they actually can resist. Their husbands will think twice before beating them because they can move out and take their money with them," Deininger said.

Organisers say the conference will focus on women and property with particular emphasis on gender equality and land rights which are key to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The goals, adopted by the United Nations last September, provide the foundations for an ambitious plan to tackle the world's most troubling problems over the next 15 years. Land and property rights experts say when women are included in a nation's land ownership, there can be far reaching impacts. In sub-Saharan Africa, women make up more than half of the agricultural workforce, yet fewer than one in five own farms, according to the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

But if women farmers had the same access to resources as men, the number of hungry in the world could be reduced by up to 150 million, the UN World Food Programme (WFP) says. According to Rodney Schmidt of the Rights and Resources Initiative, a global coalition that works on forest and land policy reform, more than half the world's land is still held under age-old customary arrangements often arranged by gender.

Traditionally, women are most often engaged in producing and collecting food, and as such, women do play a major role in how land is used, he said.

When foreign companies enter the picture, buying land from local governments, they can find themselves on a collision course with resident communities, he added.

"These women and their families and men are watching their livelihoods disappear," Schmidt said. "You have the seeds there of major social conflict."

Some 1,400 delegates representing governments, the private sector, academia and non-governmental organisations are expected at the World Bank land and poverty conference from 14-18 March, organisers said.—*Reuters*

'Big 5' off the cards as South Africa closes 2016 leopard hunting season

JOHANNESBURG — For the first time in decades, hunters with deep pockets cannot target the so-called "Big 5" game animals in South Africa because the government has imposed a ban on leopard hunts for the 2016 season.

The temporary ban comes in the wake of a global uproar last year over the killing of Cecil the Lion in Zimbabwe by a US dentist.

The decision, however, was driven by science, not emotion. South African Environment Minister Edna Molewa is a vocal advocate of the hunting industry, which the government estimates contributes 6.2 billion rand ($410 million) annually to Africa's most advanced economy.

Leopard is one of five game most desired by hunters, along with lion, rhino, buffalo and elephant.

The South African National Biodiversity Institute (SANBI), a government research organisation, recommended the temporary ban because it said leopard numbers could not be firmly established.

"There is uncertainty about the numbers and this is not a permanent ban, but we need more information to guide quotas," John Donaldson, SANBI's director of research, told Reuters.

Given their secretive and nocturnal nature, leopards are not easy to count.

SANBI drew on studies and data from a number of sources but Donaldson said most was from protected areas and national parks, not private lands.

The Professional Hunters Association of South Africa (PHASA) says this gives an incomplete picture.

"There are lots of leopards on private land," said PHASA chief executive Tharia Unwin. She said PHASA was providing the government with leopard data from private lands.

South Africa has also been scorched by its worst drought on record and Unwin said this was good for leopard numbers as predators typically thrive when the rains are poor, leaving much of their prey in a weakened and easy-to-kill state.

Unwin said it cost up to $20,000 to shoot a leopard and several of PHASA's members had to refund clients who had put down deposits for leopard hunts. Most of the foreign hunters who come to South Africa for such game are American.

Hunting all of the Big 5 has been legal in South Africa since the 1980s when hunts for white rhino were resumed.—*Reuters*

TRADEMARK CAUTION

We, **NAO GLOBAL Co., Ltd.**, a company registered under the laws of Thailand, which is located at 159 Soi Sukhumvit 62, Sukhumvit Road, Bangchak, Prakhanong, Bangkok 10260, Thailand, is the sole owner of the following trademarks;

SNOW TOWEL — **Reg. No. 1231/2016**

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Reg. No. 1233/2016

Reg. No. 1234/2016

The above trademarks were registered and recorded with the Office of the Registration of Deeds Yangon in respect of the following goods in **Classes 3, 5 and 16: "**Perfumed cool towel, ice eau de cologne towel, terry towel, cotton towel, refreshing tissue, cleaning wipe".

We have learned that there are the products bearing the same name as our trademarks which is being illegally imported into and distributed in Myanmar without having our authorization. As the illegally imported product is a counterfeit product and is not produced by our company, there is no assurance that it was produced via a qualified manufacturing process and therefore it may not be safe for consumers. Furthermore, this illegal trading and importing constitutes a violation of the Criminal Law, Myanmar Merchandise Marks Act, and the Specific Relief Act, which may incur an injunction, fine or imprisonment for the infringer.

We claim the trademark, trade name, and other relevant intellectual property rights to our above trademarks. We reserve the right to take any and all available legal actions, such as sending a statement, launching a raid action, and filing Civil and Criminal Actions with the court under the applicable laws of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, against any infringer and/or person and/or company that violates our rights, passes off our trademark, and/or intimidates or deceives the public, including our customers, by any means, including through sales, distribution, or advertising.

Daw May Thwe Hlaing, LL.B., LL.M., (H.G.P.)
For **NAO GLOBAL Co., Ltd.**
Tilleke & Gibbins Myanmar Ltd. No. 1608, 16th Floor, Sakura Tower, 339 Bogyoke Aung San Road, Kyauktada Township, Yangon, Myanmar
Email address: myanmar@tilleke.com
Dated: 14.3.2016

PICTURE OF THE DAY

HEZHOU — A woman of Yao ethnic group walks in a field of rape flowers in Shenpo Village under Yao Autonomous County of Fuchuan, south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, on 12 March 2016. Rape flowers in south China were in full bloom in recent days. PHOTO: XINHUA

15-year-old boy nabbed for alleged killing of mother

KOBE — A 15-year-old boy was arrested Saturday for allegedly stabbing his mother to death in western Japan, police said.

The police arrested the boy at the scene in his home in Ashiya, Hyogo Prefecture, after he called them, saying he stabbed his mother in the neck around 7 pm Saturday. His name is being withheld as he is a minor under Japanese law.

According to the police, the teenager admitted to the charge. A kitchen knife, believed to be used to stab the boy's 52-year-old mother, was found in his home.

The boy is quoted by the police as telling he goes to a school in neighbouring Kobe city.—*Kyodo News*

Press release (released in Myanmar)

No: 11/2016, dated 07/3/2016

BIDV is preliminary approved establish its banking branch in Myanmar

On 4 March 2016, on behalf of the Union Government and the Central Bank of Myanmar, the Foreign Bank Licensing Committee announced its preliminary approval to prepare for commencement of banking operations in Myanmar to four foreign banks, including: BIDV (Vietnam), E.SUN Commercial Bank (Taiwan), Shinhan Bank (South Korea) and State Bank of India (India). This is the second time foreign banks are licensed by the Union Government of Myanmar. Earlier, in October 2014, the Government of Myanmar granted licenses to 9 foreign bank branches. With persistence, determination and kind support from the National Assembly and the Government of Vietnam, BIDV has successfully become the first Vietnamese bank approved to establish its banking branch in Myanmar.

Before that, in April 2010, following the Vietnamese Prime Minister's directions, BIDV established its representative office in Myanmar and acted as the chair of the Association for Vietnamese Investors in Myanmar (AVIM). The representative office and AVIM have made positive contributions to economic, investment, trade and tourism cooperation between the two countries. They also consulted and shared experiences with the Government of Myanmar in economic reforms.

As the Chairman of AVIM, under the guidance of Vietnam and Myanmar Governments, BIDV has been relentlessly supporting and promoting trade and investment programs between the two countries. This lays a solid foundation for creating a stable customer base for BIDV's business activities in Myanmar. So far, BIDV has established relationship with almost Vietnamese enterprises investing or having interest in the Myanmar market. BIDV also proactively established channels to regularly communicate with the Government, ministries and large financial institutions in Myanmar (such as state-owned banks MFTB, MICB; SMIDB, or private bank KBZ, etc.).

Under the joint declaration between Vietnam and Myanmar on the 12 priority economic cooperation areas, including finance – banking, the economic cooperation between Vietnam and Myanmar has witnessed breakthrough development in the recent 6 years. On investment, Vietnam's total investment value in Myanmar increased 28 times during the 2010 – 2015 period. Number of projects increased from 2 in 2010 with total registered capital of USD23.65 million (ranked 22th) to 08 in 2015 with a total registered capital of USD691.57 million (ranked 10th). Trade turnover between the two countries increased 2.9 times from USD152 million (2010) to USD434.7 million (2015)

The economic cooperation between the two countries over the last two years, however, has shown signs of leveling off. Main reason was attributed to the lack of Vietnam's banking operations in Myanmar. No Vietnam's projects were licensed in Myanmar in 2014 and value of trade in 2015 reached only USD434.7 million compared with USD480.6 million of 2014.

With the kind consideration of the State President of Vietnam, the Chairman of the National Assembly of Vietnam and the Vietnam Prime Minister, during their official visits and economic forums between the two countries, high-ranking leaders of Vietnam mentioned and expressed the aspiration of soon being granted the BIDV banking branch license in Myanmar.

In Jan 2016, the CBM announced the new foreign bank licensing for the 2nd time. On January 8 2016, BIDV submitted the "Expression of Interest". On January 11 2016, BIDV is selected to be able to submit the "Response for RFP" for the next assessment round. On February 08 2016, BIDV submitted the "Response for RFP" to the CBM.

The foreign banking branch licensing assessment process has been publicly and transparently conducted through an international consultancy agent, based on specific criteria such as operation scale, financial capability, risk management, international practice compliance, capacity and experience on banking operation management, overseas subsidiaries, operation experience in Myanmar, ability to contribute to Myanmar's economy at present and in the future.

On March 04 2016, the Licensing Committee has officially announced BIDV was preliminary approved to establish banking branch in Myanmar, which proved that the Myanmar Government has highly recognized and appreciated BIDV's position and capacity.

According to the announcement, within 12 months from the preliminary approval date, BIDV has to complete all procedures and conditions for the branch grand opening as stipulated by the CBM. BIDV affirms and pledges to fulfill all of the conditions as stated in the preliminary approval to successfully obtain the official license. According to the plan, BIDV banking branch in Myanmar will be officially launched in 2016. Its head office will be located at the number 1 Myanmar trade center - the HAGL Yangon Tower.

Mr. Pham Thanh Dung, Vietnam's Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Myanmar commented: "The *lack of Vietnamese bank operating in Myanmar was previously a major obstacle for Vietnamese enterprises to do business in Myanmar. Therefore, the establishment of BIDV's branch in Myanmar will meet the needs of businesses, providing strong support to Vietnamese enterprises in their economic, investment, trade and tourism activities in Myanmar. BIDV's branch in Myanmar will also help to lead and promote business and investment cooperation, especially the 12 economic areas outlined by the two governments"*

The establishment of the Vietnam Banks in Myanmar also marked a milestone in the development of cooperative relations between the two countries' banking sector.

Mr. Tran Bac Ha, BIDV Chairman said: "Following the direction of the Government and the State Bank of Vietnam, together with the support and facilitation of ministries and agencies over the past time, BIDV has been relentlessly determined to implement procedures to open a branch in Myanmar. BIDV has met all evaluation criteria for operation scale, financial capability, and risk management in accordance with international practices. BIDV also has capacity and experience in operating and managing banks and subsidiaries in overseas countries, as well as operating experience in Myanmar in the past 6 years, contributing to the economic development of Myanmar."

"Following the successful implementation and experience in Laos and Cambodia markets over the years, BIDV branch in Myanmar will operate efficiently, providing modern banking products and services, accompanying and supporting Vietnamese enterprises in doing business in Myanmar, as well as contributing to the fulfillment of economic cooperation targets as agreed by the two governments", Mr. Ha said.

Information about BIDV branch in Myanmar:

1. Full branch name: Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam, Yangon Branch (BIDV Yangon).

2. Office address: Hoang Anh Gia Lai Complex Tower, 192 KabarAye Pagoda Rd, Bahan Township, Yangon City, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

3. Initial capital: US$ 85,000,000 (Eighty-five million US dollars).

4. Products and services to be provided:

- In the first phase, BIDV Branch firstly focus on financial products and services to serve foreign enterprises (major customers: Vietnamese investment to Myanmar businesses), Myanmar local banks and local enterprises (based on partnership with Myanmar local banks).

- Depends on the door-opening roadmap and regulations of Myanmar, BIDV Myanmar branch will continue to implement modern banking services according to the demand of local customers.

For further information, please contact:

Joint Stock Commercial Bank for Investment and Development of Vietnam (BIDV)
Branding and Public Relations
Tel: +84.4.22205256;
BIDV Representative Office in Myanmar
Tel: +95-1 553896/551521;
For further information, please visit: www.bidv.com.vn

Eagles of Death Metal frontman apologises for comments on Paris attack

Singer of Eagles of Death Metal, Jesse Hughes, is pictured at the concert at Debaser Medis in Stockholm, Sweden, on 13 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — Eagles of Death Metal frontman Jesse Hughes has apologised for suggesting security guards at the Bataclan concert hall in Paris may have had advance knowledge of the Islamic State attack at the venue that left 89 people dead.

The California-based Eagles of Death Metal were playing at the Bataclan on 13 November, 2015 when gunmen stormed the venue and shot and killed concertgoers.

Hughes told Fox Business Network in an interview that aired on Wednesday that he learned six security guards failed to appear for work at the Bataclan the night of the attack and that "it seems rather obvious they had a reason not to show up."

The owners of the Bataclan had disputed the suggestions Hughes made in the Fox Business Network interview, saying in a statement he had made "grave and defamatory accusations" even though "all the testimonies gathered to this day demonstrate the professionalism and courage" of the guards, according to the entertainment trade publication Variety.

Hughes later apologised for the comment in a statement on the band's Facebook page on Friday.

"I humbly beg forgiveness from the people of France, the staff and security of the Bataclan, my fans, my family, friends and anyone else hurt or offended by the absurd accusations I made in my Fox Business Channel interview," Hughes said. He said the accusations were "unfounded and baseless." Indicating he was under stress, Hughes said he has dealt with nightmares and attended therapy since witnessing the attack.—*Reuters*

Singer Selena Gomez. PHOTO: REUTERS

Selena Gomez becomes most-followed on Instagram

LOS ANGELES — Singer Selena Gomez has officially become the most-followed person on Instagram.

The 23-year-old former Disney star took to Snapchat, to share the good news with her fans.

"Hey guys. I'm officially the number one most followed on Instagram. Thank you!," she said in the video. Gomez now has 69.1 million followers on Instagram, followed by her best friend, Taylor Swift, who has 69 million followers.

Her ex, Justin Bieber is not too far behind, with 61.3 million Instagram followers. —*PTI*

Meghan Trainor would love to collaborate with Bruno Mars

Meghan Trainor. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Singer Meghan Trainor wants to collaborate with Bruno Mars.

The 22-year-old "All About That Bass" hitmaker is disappointed that she could not get time to make music with the "Uptown Funk" singer for her upcoming album, reported Female First.

"I love collaborating! I didn't get enough time this time on my album to really go out and write songs with other artists that I wish I could've but I didn't ... I love it!

"...You know I would love to sing with Michael Buble or Bruno Mars, I always sing along to their records and I'm like, 'Sounds great! We should do this!' And my mom would always say, 'You and John Legend would sound great together!' So when that happened it was one of those moments like, 'Oh my gosh!'," Trainor said.—*PTI*

Justin Bieber, Star Wars wins at Kids' Choice Awards

LONDON — Pop sensation Justin Bieber, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and Ariana Grande were honoured at the 2016 Kids' Choice Awards.

Bieber was one of the early winners. The Canadian singer snatched the favourite male singer award during the ceremony at Los Angeles' The Forum, while Grande got to the favourite female singer award.

Girl group Fifth Harmony won the favourite group category, Adele's "Hello" won the votes for favourite song while Shawn Mendes took the favourite new artist.

The favourite collaboration nod went to Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth for their hit "See You Again".

In the movie categories, "Hotel Transylvania 2" won the favourite animated movie while "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" took the favourite movie.

"The Hunger Games" star Jennifer Lawrence and "Daddy's Home" star Will Ferrell won the favourite actress and actor respectively. —*PTI*

'Frame Your Idea' show in Mumbai from 30 March

MUMBAI — Nearly 70 filmmaking companies and studios will come together here from 30 March for a three-day session, where script writers would offer fresh ideas and content.

Top digital content players as well as broadcasters would be represented at the 'Frame Your Idea' (FYI) show launched by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry to listen to fresh ideas, stories and scripts from Bollywood people, a FICCI release here said.

The FYI made its debut at 'FICCI Frames 2015' in which over 650 meetings were held across 3 days between idea owners and content producers, the release said.

At FYI, anyone with a content idea or story or screenplay for a film, TV show, animation or gaming can pre-register, turn up and pitch it to the right people in the business of entertainment.

"This is the first time that India would see such a great platform created giving an unique opportunity to idea owners to meet producers/ creators & studio one on one," FICCI Animation & Gaming Forum chairman Ashish S K said.

Last year, over 200 content idea owners participated in the show which had representation of over 20 content producers, studios and content commissioners. The pitches were conducted across five categories like film, animation, TV, gaming and documentary.

Two categories have been added to FYI 2016 edition.

The first one is Digital — comprising of web series and short films. This is manifestation of the new content appetite emerging due to internet and mobile as growing platforms of content distribution.

The second category is Finished content — comprising of films and documentaries which claim to be an ambitious step towards the much-needed content market in the country, the release added. According to noted filmmaker Mahesh Bhatt, "The proprietorship of a great idea doesn't lie with any one person and FYI is doing a great service to the idea owners and the practitioners of the trade."

FYI director Viraf Phiroz Patel said, "Once the idea owner registers for FYI 2016, he or she is assured at least 4 meetings of 10 minutes each, with his or her preferred producers/studios/broadcaster, through a 'first come first serve' based automated slotting system. FYI is the shape of change to come.—*PTI*

'Dog Whisperer' Millan defends methods amid probe over cruelty to a pig

Dog trainer Cesar Millan poses with Lassie at 2008 Primetime Creative Arts Awards in Los Angeles on 13 September 2008. PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Popular US television dog trainer Cesar Millan, known as the "Dog Whisperer," said on Friday he understands why he is being investigated for animal cruelty but stands by his training methods, as thousands signed a petition demanding his show be canceled.

Millan told People magazine that he is happy to cooperate with the investigation over a 26 February episode of the Nat Geo WILD TV series, "Cesar 911" in which Millan uses a pig to train a French bulldog terrier mix called Simon, who had killed two pigs in the past.

On the show, Simon is seen chasing the pig and nipping his ear, causing it to bleed.

"In America, animals have rights to a certain extent. And when somebody complains about it, the law enforcement have to come and supervise. They do it to everybody and they're doing the right thing," Millan told People.

A change.org petition signed by more than 10,000 people on Friday called Millan's methods inhumane, saying he "used the pig as a bait for the dog all for 'entertainment' purposes." It asked Nat Geo WILD to cancel his show.

Millan, 46, who found fame through his "Dog Whisperer" TV show that has been broadcast worldwide and who has sold millions of books about his techniques, said he disagreed that he used the pig as bait to provoke the dog, and that Simon and the pig "became best friends" and the dog was no longer aggressive to toward pigs.

In a follow-up segment, which was aired later in the episode, Simon is seen co-existing peacefully with a group of pigs, a chicken and other animals.

A representative for Millan confirmed his comments given to People. The Department of Animal Care and Control in Los Angeles County did not return Reuters' requests for comment.

The American Humane Society said it had received complaints about the episode, and called the incident "abuse" in a statement.

Nat Geo WILD, a unit of 21st Century Fox, on Friday rallied around Millan and said that a clip from the episode that was shared online "caused some concern for viewers who did not see or understand the full context of the encounter."—*Reuters*

Nordic pulp firms see future in turning birch trees into fashion

STOCKHOLM — Nordic pulp makers are developing clean ways to turn birch and pine trees into clothes or sofa covers to help revive their industry and meet demand from fashion and furniture firms for alternative textiles to cotton.

There has been no Nordic production of viscose, the main textile fiber from timber, since the last manufacturer stopped nearly a decade ago, partly on environmental grounds.

But a 2011 spike in cotton prices contributed to increased global demand for viscose and lyocell, the other major textile fiber from wood pulp. Production is dominated by Austria's Lenzing, India's Aditya Birla and South Africa's Sateri.

Three Nordic mills export dissolving pulp, the product that can be turned into textile fiber. The industry would like to see textile fiber factories set up at home that will meet environmental rules and appeal to local firms such as IKEA and Hennes & Mauritz which want to project a green image.

"We have the forest here in the Nordics, we have our pulp mills. It would be better for us if more dissolving pulp was needed in our region," said Markus Mannstrom, chief technical officer of Finland's Stora Enso The forestry industry, which accounts for a fifth of Finland's and a tenth of Sweden's exports, has been hit by lower newsprint demand and foreign competition. But global output of pulp for textiles is expected to grow 30 per cent by 2020 from 4.4 million tonnes in 2015, according to Oliver Lansdell at forest products industry consultancy Hawkins Wright.

Anticipating the rise in demand, in 2011 Sodra, the Swedish association of 50,000 small forest owners, converted a paper pulp machines so they could make textile pulp. Stora Enso did the same in 2012.

Sweden's Domsjo, which has made dissolving pulp since the 1930's and was bought by Aditya Birla in 2011, said demand has risen. "We expect cotton output to peak while textile demand will keep growing," said Dag Benestad, head of dissolving pulp production at Sodra.

The next step would be to set up factories at the mills, creating new jobs and saving money on energy and the cost of transporting for export. Sodra, Domsjo and Stora Enso are among those intensifying research into greener fiber production processes.

Stora Enso in 2015 opened a research centre in Stockholm that looks into how to make viscose production less toxic. Domsjo and Sodra are part of a large project looking at how best to integrate a textile factory with a mill so that the chemicals are recycled.

Recycling or replacing chemicals is essential to restarting production of textile fiber from timber in a region where the pulp industry's image was also tarnished by heavy pollution. It now uses "closed loop" production that stops chemicals seeping out.

Carbon disulfide is the main polluter of viscose production. Swedish Research institute Innventia's Fredrik Aldaeus, who is fine-tuning a method to make pulp that dissolves more easily with reduced or zero carbon disulfide, said a modified viscose fiber plant could be up and running within five years. The main alternative textile fiber from timber pulp is lyocell which was first developed in the 1970s and has a cleaner manufacturing method than viscose. It has been marketed by Austria's Lenzing as Tencel since the 1990s.

Nordic researchers are trying to develop something similar. Herbert Sixta, who used to work at Lenzing, has led development at Aalto and Helsinki universities of a new lyocell-type fiber.

"In three to four years we should be able to show if it's commercially viable provided that we get the necessary financial support," he said.

H&M and IKEA, both at the forefront globally in their sectors on sustainability, are alongside smaller Nordic fashion brands such as Filippa K, are cheering on and cooperating with the pulpmakers, keen to sell products made using local forests to environmentally-conscious shoppers.

"We want them to find a more sustainable way to produce viscose," said Cecilia Brannsten, sustainability expert at H&M, which has increased its use of Tencel in recent years because it has a better green profile despite being more expensive.—*Reuters*

Researcher Fredrik Aldaeus shows a new textile fibre made from wood in the research institute Innventia's laboratory in Stockholm, Sweden, on 8 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

mitv Myanmar International

(14-3-2016 07:00am ~ 15-3-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- Lacquerware Making
07:51	Am	Great Minds of Myanmar (Anthropologist U Kyaw Win)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Hive Hunter
08:45	Am	Dengue Fever
08:52	Am	Guiding Star of Song Birds
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Travelogue: A Tour to Korea (Part-2)
09:40	Am	Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
09:53	Am	Will you feed the pigeons?
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-3) His Public Service & Literary World
10:50	Am	Products Of Myanmar - Pictures Decorated With Seashells And Gemstones

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Food Trip (Ep-3) (Part-2)
07:49	Pm	Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Taste Of Myanmar (Rice Salad with Vegetables)
08:44	Pm	Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Sunday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(14-3-2016, Monday)

6:00 pm
- Weather Report
- Music Programme

6:20 pm
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:40 pm
- Music Programme

7:50 pm
- Korea TV Drama Series

8:40 pm
- Cartoon Programme "BEN 10 ALIEN FORCE (Part- X)"

9:00 pm
- Music Programme

9:30 pm
- Myanmar National Poet And Literary Icon; Prolific Writer of Poems & Prose - Min Thu Wun (Ep-3) His Public Service & Literary World

10:00 pm
- Myanmar Video

From 14-3-2016 (Monday)18:00 Pm
To 15-3-2016 (Tuesday)18:00 Pm
This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

6th Waxing of Tabaung 1377 ME | Monday, 14 March, 2016

Messi and Neymar help Barca to twelfth straight La Liga win

BARCELONA — Lionel Messi scored and provided three assists as Barcelona equalled a club record of 12 consecutive league wins by thrashing struggling Getafe 6-0 at the Nou Camp on Saturday.

The Argentine, who also missed a penalty, scored with a brilliant curling finish from the edge of the area, while Neymar marked his return to action after suspension by netting either side of halftime.

Barca remain eight points clear of nearest challengers Atletico Madrid, who beat Deportivo La Coruna 3-0.

Celta Vigo moved up to fifth in the table with a 1-0 win at home to Real Sociedad with Iago Aspas scoring the winner in the 16th minute.

An own goal by Getafe defender Juan Rodriguez put Barca on their way to their 12th straight victory after eight minutes but then Messi missed a fourth penalty of the season, before laying on passes for Munir El Haddadi and Neymar to stretch the hosts' lead.

The 28-year-old Messi added the fourth before the break and was soon setting up Neymar again in the second half, threading the ball into the path of the Brazilian, who scored his 25th goal of the season in all competitions.

Barcelona's Lionel Messi vies the ball against Getafe's Emiliano Velazquez, Juan Rodriguez and Emi Buendia during Spanish Liga BBVA at Camp Nou stadium, Barcelona on 12 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Then Arda Turan completed the thrashing with an overhead volley to finish off the hapless visitors, who have lost eight of their last nine league games.

Luis Enrique's side are in the midst of a record of 37 matches without defeat in all competitions and the victory over Getafe matched the 12 straight league wins they achieved in 2012-13 under coach Tito Vilanova.

"We're a unique team, different from the rest, and the opposition can't do anything to stop us," Luis Enrique told a news conference.

"We're in a great situation and feeling very confident."

Barca went into the match without having to play in midweek for the first time in 2016, yet Luis Enrique still made five changes from the team that won 4-0 at Eibar last Sunday.

The Catalans host Arsenal on Wednesday hoping to reach the quarter-finals of the Champions League after beating the Premier League side 2-0 in the first leg.

Atletico Madrid kept up their faint hopes of catching Barcelona by recording a fourth straight league win, comfortably beating Deportivo with goals by midfielder Saul Niguez, top scorer Antoine Griezmann and Argentine forward Angel Correa.

Saul headed Atletico in front in the 18th minute by racing into the box to meet a cross from Filipe Luis.

Griezmann, who got the only goal in Atletico's 1-0 win over local rivals Real Madrid a fortnight ago, netted for the fourth game in a row by swivelling to strike into the bottom corner after a lay-off from Spain international Koke.

Substitute Correa put a further shine on the victory by finishing off a lofted pass from captain Gabi, leaving Deportivo in 13th place in the table, still without a league win in 2016.

Third place Real Madrid, who are 15 points behind Barcelona, visit Las Palmas on Sunday.—*Reuters*

Chelsea season ended by Everton's two-goal Lukaku

LIVERPOOL (England) — Romelu Lukaku scored two goals, one demonstrating strength and rare skill, to knock his old side Chelsea out of the FA Cup 2-0 in a dramatic quarter-final featuring two sendings-off on Saturday.

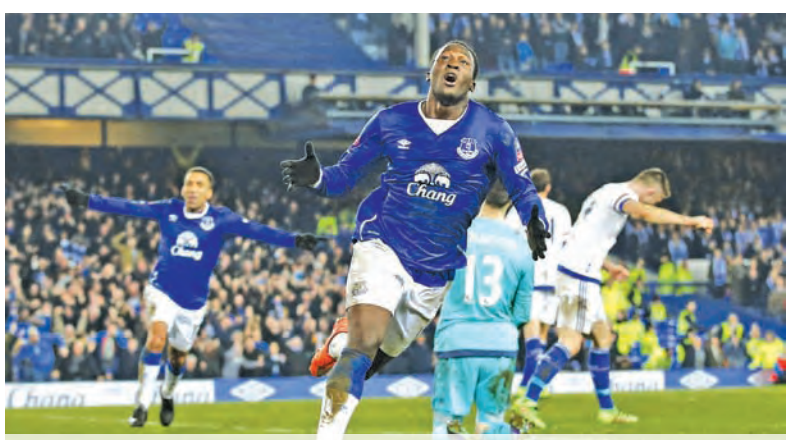
Chelsea striker Diego Costa was shown the red card, following Lukaku's five-minute double, for a second booking as he retaliated with face-to-face aggression after being fouled by Gareth Barry.

Barry was then given a second yellow card three minutes from time but Lukaku, sold by former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho to Everton for 28 million pounds ($40.28 million) two years ago, had already put victory beyond doubt.

With a replay looking likely, Lukaku conjured up a goal from nowhere, muscling past two defenders on the left flank, powering into the box and, after some nifty footwork, firing a left-foot shot into the corner.

It ended Premier League champions Chelsea's chances of any silverware at the end of another wretched week that also saw them crash out of the Champions League against Paris St Germain.

And it meant caretaker manager Guus Hiddink, who won the FA Cup seven years ago in his previous stand-in spell at Stamford Bridge, had failed in his bid to repeat the achievement following the dismissal of Mourinho in December.—*Reuters*



Everton's Romelu Lukaku celebrates scoring their first goal during FA Cup Quarter Final at Goodison Park on 12 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Murray advances, Kerber sent packing at Indian Wells

INDIAN WELLS — World number two Andy Murray was given a tough test but pushed his way past Marcel Granollers 6-4, 7-6(3) in his opening match at the BNP Paribas Open in California on Saturday.

Murray led Great Britain to a Davis Cup victory over Japan last week, but apart from that team event had not competed since his Australian Open final loss to Novak Djokovic on 31 January.

Murray has made plenty of news off the court since then, however, welcoming the birth of his first child last month and earlier this week rebuking Maria Sharapova for her drug test failure.

On the court in Indian Wells on Saturday, Murray overcame a break in the first set, and then took the second in a tiebreak against his Spanish opponent.

"It was very different conditions to what I have been practicing and playing in the past five weeks, against a tough, unorthodox player," Murray told reporters.

"He's got quite a different game. He's very smart player, as well, intelligent player, and often makes the right decisions."

Earlier, Canadian Milos Raonic took only 55 minutes to dispatch Inigo Cervantes.

Raonic, playing for the first time since a groin injury contributed to his heartbreaking five-set semi-final loss to Murray at the Australian Open, was delighted with his form.

"To come out, and really not know how things are going to go, find your rhythm well early on, do the fundamentals well, dictate the match, I'm very pleased with that," Raonic told the Tennis Channel.

"When I look at the overall picture of my progress, development, I have to be very pleased. I've incorporated a lot of new things in my game."

"I'm getting more efficient coming forward at the net and I think I'm able to put more and more pressure on my opponents."

In other second-round action, third seed Stan Wawrinka easily handled Illya Marchenko 6-3, 6-2 and sixth seed Tomas Berdych cruised past Juan Martin del Potro 7-6(4), 6-2.

Frenchman Gael Monfils and Richard Gasquet both advanced, controversial Australian Nick Kyrgios was docked a point for swearing in his loss to Albert Ramos 7-6(4), 7-5, and 10th seed Marin Cilic topped Ryan Harrison 6-4, 6-3.

On the women's side, Australian Open champion Angelique Kerber was upset by Denisa Allertova of the Czech Republic 7-5, 7-5.

Second seed Kerber has been in a bit of slump since beating Serena Williams in the Australian Open final, losing three of her past four matches.

She was not the only high seed to fall, however, as fourth seeded Garbine Muguruza of Spain went down to American Christina McHale 7-5, 6-1.

Muguruza struggled with her serve and was broken five times.

American Sloane Stephens was knocked out by Eugenie Bouchard 7-5, 7-5.—*Reuters*

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Editorial Section — (+95) (01)8604529, Fax — (01) 8604305
gnlmdaily@gmail.com www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532

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