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WHEN LESS IS MORE

President-elect to clarify ministries on Monday

FOLLOWING yesterday's discussion of a proposal for the formation of the next government with 21 ministries as well as 18 ministers, the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw will hear clarification on the proposal by President-elect U Htin Kyaw and will make a decision on it on 21 March.

The president-elect was also at the parliament when his proposal was debated yesterday.

Five parliamentarians discussed the number of the President-elect's proposed ministries on the ninth day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw yesterday, expressing their support for the

proposal.

U Naing Htoo Aung of Ngahtoegy Constituency expressed support to the proposal of the formation of the next government with 21 ministries, comparing the number of ministries formed in Thailand and Singapore and the United States

with a population of 320 million.

U J Yaw Wu, a Kachin State representative, also supported the President-elect's proposal to have 21 ministries as well as 18 ministers and welcomed the proposed Ministry of Ethnic Affairs, saying that the Law on Protection of Ethnic Minorities

Rights passed in the first Pyidaungsu Hluttaw is productive.

In his discussion, U Thant Sin Maung of Monywa Constituency suggested that the Ministry of Cooperatives be excluded from the list of proposed ministries

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Dredging operation underway to accommodate cargo ships in Yangon River

Ko Moe

A SAND dredging operation for Yangon River waterway is underway spending US\$1.6 million, according to Myanmar Port Authority.

The sand dredging operation is aimed at making the river deep enough for container ships to enter Yangon River. The project kicked off on 10 March, said U Aung Kyaw Htoo of the Authority, adding that the operation is slated for completion in 15 days.

According to sources, Boskalis, a Danish company, is carrying out the operation to dredge at least 1.8 water miles at 100 metres in width and five metres in depth.

Upon completion, time and cost can be saved as cargo ships will be able to enter Yangon River without waiting for high tide, added U Aung Kyaw Htoo.

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Dredging operation would improve waterway of Yangon River. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

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Money changer cheated of \$60,000 in Mandalay

A MONEY changer fell victim to a scam after conducting a money changing operation with three foreigners last Tuesday, losing US\$60,000.

Mandalay International Airport police said that the cheating foreigners left the country for Thailand on a Bangkok Airways flight on that day after stealing money from the Central Money Changer on 27th street between 81st street and 82nd street.

Police identified the three foreigners, Mr. Koba Narmania, Mr. Nugzar Narmania and Mr.

Malkahz Narmania as Georgian citizens who stayed for two nights at the Kaung Myint Hotel in Mandalay.

According to police, the two foreigners arrived at the money changer on Tuesday and told Daw Than Than Myaing that they wanted to exchange Myanmar currency for \$60,000 at the rate of K1, 210 to the dollar. They then stole wads of \$100 bills while she was answering a phone.

They left the money changer, taking their Myanmar currency and passports and leaving a bag

with bundles of dollar notes in it.

A few minutes later, the scam victim found only \$1,126 in the bag they had left as bundles were stacked with \$100 notes only on the top and bottom. However, the remaining bills were one dollar notes.

The Central Money Changer confirmed that it was cheated out of \$60,000. According to the police, the case has been filed and investigation is ongoing in cooperation with Transnational Organized Crime department.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

MoE nominates YUDE to join OU5

THE Ministry of Education has approved the Yangon University of Distance Education (YUDE) to join the Five Open Universities (OU5), a grouping of distance learning institutions in five other ASEAN nations.

The ministry released an order on 14 March allowing the YUDE to join the OU5, according to Professor Dr Thazin Lwin of the Chemistry Department at the YUDE.

The OU5 will become the

OU6 with the membership of Myanmar's YUDE, bringing opportunities to Myanmar students at 35 distance universities in the country, including online teaching, learning and research together with other ASEAN countries.

The OU5 includes the Universitas Terbuka (UT) in Indonesia, the University of the Philippines Open University (UPOU), Sukhothai Thammathirat Open University (STOU) in Thailand, the Open University of Malay-

sia and Hanoi Open University in Viet Nam. The achievement comes following the recent participation of YUDE professor Dr Thazin Lwin in a recent meeting of OU5 in Indonesia.

"Working together with the OU5 will promote cooperation in teaching and research among distance universities in ASEAN countries and will assist in promoting the distance education system in Myanmar," said Professor Dr Thazin Lwin.—*Saw Thein Win*



Students of University of Veterinary Science formally open the new facility as Deputy Minister Dr Aung Myat Oo attends the ceremony. PHOTO: MNA

University of Veterinary Science gets e-library, new lecture building

A two-storey lecture building and an e-library of the University of Veterinary Science in Nay Pyi Taw were opened yesterday.

Post-graduate students of the university formally opened the two facilities of the university in the presence of Deputy Minister for Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development Dr Aung Myat Oo and officials. The newly opened facilities would assist the students of the universities in their learning.—*Myanmar News Agency*

KOICA hands over Pilot Project of WFK-Volunteer to ISPE in Mandalay

A handover ceremony of two Pilot Projects implemented by World Friends KOICA-Volunteer, Mr. Sun Sang Woo and Ms. Choi Hyun Jin was held at Institute of Sports and Physical Education (ISPE) in Mandalay, 17th March 2016.

The former project costs US\$31,142.89 including US\$ 7,100 contributed by ISPE in Mandalay and the latter is worth US\$ 83,811.58 including US\$49,297.7 contributed by KOICA.

At the ceremony, KOICA chief resident representative Mr. Nam Kwon Hyoung handed over the said projects to U Myo Myint Aung, Principal of Mandalay ISPE who returned appreciation words.

Afterwards, both WFK-Volunteers explained the purpose of the projects which include "Publishing sport science textbook and Improving training facility" and "Improving sport medical

environment and Opening sports medicine and health curriculum course."

KOICA, through its World Friends Korea volunteers program has been supporting various projects to facilitate the activities of the volunteers and contribute to capacity building of host organizations. Currently there are around 100 World Friends Korea volunteers serving in Myanmar in various fields.—*GNLM*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker meets ambassadors



Speaker U Win Myint holds talk with Japanese Ambassador Mr Tateshi Higuchi. PHOTO: MNA

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint received Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar HE Mr Tateshi Higuchi and EU Ambassador to Myanmar HE Mr Roland Kobla at the

guest hall of the parliament in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Also present at the calls were Deputy Speaker U T Khun Myat and responsible personnel.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets ambassadors



Speaker U Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talk with EU Ambassador to Myanmar HE Mr Roland Kobla. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than separately received EU Ambassador to Myanmar HE Mr Roland Kobla, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea HE Mr Lee Baek-Soon, Ambassador of Japan to Myanmar HE Mr Tateshi

Higuchi at the guest hall of the parliament in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the calls were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and personnel from Amyotha Hluttaw office.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President-elect to clarify ministries on Monday

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should be under the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation as the two ministries are similar in their undertakings of providing loans to rural people.

U Ba Shein of Kyaukryu Constituency also expressed his delight at the proposed formation of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs and over restructuring the next administration, but the parliamentarian called for a detailed explanation on how the four ministries excluded from the proposed list of ministries are set to be merged with which ministries.

In his discussion, Dr Aung Thu of Yangon Region Constituency No 6 lauded merger of ministries to make implementation more efficient and effective and formation of the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs to achieve national reconciliation for ensuring non-disintegration of the Union and non-disintegration of national unity.

Parliamentary approval for the proposal is set to be sought on the tenth day session of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw following the President-elect's clarification on his proposal coming Monday.—*GNLM*

Mon people urged to uphold national causes

The following is the unofficial translation of a message sent by U Thein Sien, President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, on the occasion of the 41st anniversary Mon State Day, which falls on 19 March.

I am honoured to send a message to all the national brethren residing in Mon State to mark the 42nd anniversary of Mon State Day, which falls on 19 March.

It was on 19 March that Mon was granted statehood in the draft Constitution of 1974. The day has since then been designated as Mon State Day and annually

observed for 42 years now.

Disagreement among the national brethren in Mon State in the past resulted in armed conflict, thereby undermining the pace of development in the region. Now that there prevail the fruits of peace and prospects of development in the region, the local residents are required to

further these achievements by working together with the central government and the local government.

The government signed the nationwide ceasefire agreement with eight ethnic armed organisations on 15 October last year, followed by the Union Peace Conference held thereunder at

the Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw from 12 to 16 January this year. It is, therefore, necessary for all the national brethren to make combined efforts to ensure that these major achievements pave the way for the restoration of lasting peace and development.

I would like to urge all the

national brethren residing in Mon State to uphold national causes such as non-disintegration of the Union, non-disintegration of national solidarity, perpetuation of sovereignty and restoration of genuine peace. Only then will our country be able to stand tall in the international community.

President goes on inspection tour of development projects in Putao

PRESIDENT U Thein Sein yesterday attended a gathering of local governmental officials and cultural and religious groups at the Phonkanrazi hall in Putao district, Kachin State.

At the event, Kachin State Chief Minister U Lagun Ngan Sai briefed on measures intended to fulfill the needs for education, health, transportation and drinking water, including future plans for regional development.

Union Minister U Khin Maung Soe explained the distribution of electricity to Putao and arrangements for increased supply of power.

On the occasion, President U Thein Sein provided rice and oil to 14 religious organisations and four cultural troupes in Putao district.

The president called for collaborated efforts on regional stability and development, stressing the need to enhance the devel-

opment of human resources and health care services. He pointed out the importance of better transport infrastructure and improved productivity for the region to ensure self-sufficiency. He also recalled his government's commitment to reforms in the political, administrative, economic and private sectors in the past five years.

The president proceeded to Namhtwam hydropower project in Putao township, where he was briefed on ongoing undertakings and future activities. He urged officials to implement hydropower projects in order of priority and consider projects suitable for privatisation.

Located on the Namhtwam creek seven miles southwest of Putao, the Namhtwam hydropower project will have turbines with an installation capacity of 3.2 megawatts and is expected to be completed in March 2017.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Thein Sein presents ration to organizations in Putao. PHOTO: MNA

Union Minister inspects jetty, storage tanks construction project in Thilawa area



The project for building a jetty and storage tanks for handling oil and tar at Thilawa port area. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY TRANSPORT MINISTRY

UNION Minister for Transport and Rail Transportation U Nyan Tun Aung conducted an inspection tour of a project to build a jetty and storage tanks for handling oil and tar at Thilawa port area in Yangon yesterday.

The project is being implemented under a build, operate and transfer system on a 37 acre plot in the area by Puma Energy Asia Sun Co Ltd with a total investment of US\$86.4 million. The project includes construction of a jetty with an approach bridge and four tanks for storing oil and tar as well as supportive facilities.

According to sources, the project is slated for completion in 30 months after the signing of the agreement that allows the lease of land use for an initial period of up to 50 years with the right to extend 10 more years twice.—*GNLM*

Gun powder explosion leaves three injured

GUN powder stored at a building exploded, injuring three in PyinOoLwin yesterday.

The explosion happened at a building near Anisakhan

Airport around 11 am.

The gun powder is said to be stored for quarrying stones. The injured were taken to hospital.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Dredging operation underway to accommodate cargo ships in Yangon River

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According to the official, only cargo vessels with a capacity of 150,000 tonnes and draught of nine metres are being allowed to use Yangon River waterway which is narrow with tight turns and fast moving water.

The waterway can be used by large cargo ships for 20 days

a month following the dredging operation, said Deputy General Manager U Zaw Tun Lwin, adding that the container ships can travel for only travel for nine days at the moment.

According to sources, 1,868 cargo ships moored at Yangon port until this February while receiving 2002 over the 2014-2015 FY.

Crime NEWS

Fire destroys three houses in Shwe Pyi Tha



The house seen on fire. PHOTO: SHWE MYINT OO (SHWE PYI THA)

A FIRE destroyed three houses on Ze Zawah road, ward 5, Shwe Pyi Tha township on Thursday.

The accident occurred around 2 pm when a house owner offered candle lights to ward off evils and left the house.

The fire was brought under control within 35 minutes by 84 firemen with 16 fire engines and with the help of neighbours.

Action is being taken against the host, who will be charged.— Shwe Myint Oo (Shwe Pyi Tha)

Fire destroyed Bayintnaung market

A fire broke out in Bayintnaung market on ward 1, Mayangon township, on 16 March. According to the investigation, a worker from the market found the fire broke out at U Myo Myint Lwin, Dynamo shop, while they were on patrol, said by chairman U Htay Win from Municipal market. But the reason of outbreak of fire is not known yet. Deputy Director U Myat Thu from Fire Services Department said, the market covered with iron grille and it is difficult to put out the blaze. The fire was controlled by the firemen at 10:05am. It took 59 fire engines and over 501 firemen to put out the blaze. Local police have filed charges against U Myo Myint Lwin.— Tin Win Lay (Kyimyintdai)



Fire being extinguished. PHOTO: TIN WIN LAY (KYIMYINTDAI)

Vehicle crashes into a shop in Tachilek



Vehicle crashes into a shop in Tachilek . PHOTO 200

A VEHICLE crashed into a shop selling medicines & bicycles when the driver lost control on Bogkyoke Aung San road, Tachilek township, Shan State on Tuesday.

The accident damaged a motorbike, nine bicycles, the main front door and medicine stock.

Police are searching for the absconding driver and have filed charges against him.—200

Car accident occurred in Myawady-Kawkareik road



A vehicle heading to Myawady from Kawkareik being driven by Maung Kyaw Htay, 35, with his brother on board caused a car accident near Kwin Kalay village, milepost 158, Kayin State, on 15 March when the driver lost control.

The accident killed the driver on the spot. When the traffic police arrived at the scene, they found the driver did not hold the car license.

The driver was deemed guilty of careless driving by the police.— Tin Win Hlaing (Kawkareik)

Expired coconut Jelly seized in Kawthoung

LOCAL Authorities seized expired coconut jelly from a whole-sale shop located in Aye Yeik Nyein ward, Kawthoung town, on Monday. According to the police, all of these coconut jellies were imported from Thai-

land. Although all of the Jellies had expired, the wholesale shop had already delivered some of the stocks to other regions. We are going to collect them, said a member of the police. —Kyaw Soe



Expired coconut Jelly seized in Kawthoung. PHOTO: KYAW SOE

A man killed in car accident

ZAW Myint Oo (a) Kalar was killed on the spot in a car accident occurred near Monda village, Kanma township, Magwe reigon on 15 March.

According to the investigation, a vehicle en route to Monda village from Ywa Tha Hla village driven by Thurein,

34, with Zaw Myint Oo (a) Kalar and Pho Thae (a) Thein Htet on board was overturned when the driven lost control. The accident killed Zaw Myint Oo and injured Pho Thae. The car driver was deemed guilty of careless driving by the police station.— Kyaw Zayya

Yabba and Raw opium seized



Sai Kyaw Aung and Sai San. PHOTO: MPF

A combined team comprising local authorities and members of the anti-drug squad from Loilem seized raw opium weighing 32 kilos and 21,800 tablets of Yabba from a vehicle driven by Sai Kyaw Aung with Sai San on board on Mong Pan-Mong Tong road on 14 March.

Similarly, the police seized 980 tablets of Yabba from Ko Paing and Ma Myint Myint Yee at Shwe Padauk beer shop at 62 street, Chanmyathasi township.

And, the police seized 1,190 pills of Yabba from a motorbike driven by Myo Tun Tun and Ma Nilar Than on 62 street, Chanmyathasi.

Likewise, members of the police discovered 143 tablets of Yabba from Ye Naing and Aung Ko Min at ward 15, Pan Kaung village, Paung township. The police have filed charges against them under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs Law.—Myanmar Police Force

LOCAL Business



A modern bus from BRT bus line. PHOTO: KHIN MAUNG WIN (THE MIRROR)

Public Bus Co to expand new routes of BRT for Yangon commuters by 2017

THE Public Bus Company plans to expand new routes within Yangon by 2017 with the aim of fulfilling the demand of commuters, its chairman Dr Maung Aung said.

The new route will run along Shwepyitha, Hlaingthaya, 8-mile junction, Botahtaung Pagoda Road from Thilawa Port Terminal and Parami from Dagon University.

"We will fully operate our public transport service business with 65 buses at the beginning of April," said Dr Maung Aung.

Currently, the company is operating its service business with a fleet of 45 buses along

Yangon's main roads.

On 7 February, with a fleet of 18 buses imported from China, the company launched its services along the first route of the Bus Rapid Transfer (BRT), which has 23 stops running from Htaukkyant to Pyay Road and Bogoyoke Aung San Road to 8-mile junction via Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road.

The second route has 27 stops running Pyay Road, Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Bogoyoke Aung San Road, Botahtaung Pagoda Road and Strand Road.

Each bus can carry over 80 passengers and bus fare is set at K300 per head for buses with

an air conditioning system. The BRT buses operate between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. daily. The BRT Lite system help reduce traffic congestion by providing safe and comfortable public transport.

The Public Bus Company began its business with K10 billion worth of shares owned by the government and K15 billion worth of shares owned by public companies.

Between November last year and February, the company has received K2.4 billion (US\$ 1.6 million) from selling of its shares. The company stopped share selling at the end of February this year.—*MLT/Union Daily*

Myanmar Computer Federation to invite tender for ICT City project this month

THE Myanmar Computer Federation will invite tender for ICT City project to be developed in Thanlyin Township in Yangon at the end of this month, its spokesperson said.

Currently, the MCF has received permission for the project from the Yangon Region Government, with plans to initiate the construction works in May.

The MCF has spent over

K3.7 billion (US\$3 million) on buying 360 acres of land from locals, planning to establish four zones on the project areas. The project area will be divided into four zones.

The project will be implemented by the MCF in cooperation with local public companies and some foreign investors for the purpose of operating ICT-related businesses in a sin-

gle place.

Some technology companies are expected to be operated within the next two years in the zone.

The project covers research centers, technology training centers, shopping malls, cinemas and sports centers.

Both local and foreign companies will be invited to participate in the tender process.—*200*

KBZ Bank leads income taxpayers' list for four years in succession

KANBAWZA Bank Limited has stood at number one for four years in succession on the list of the top 50 income taxpayers with over K22 billion for 2014-2015 Fiscal Year, announced the Internal Revenue Department yesterday.

The Bank paid K6.015 billion in income tax for 2011-2012 FY, K10.827 billion for 2012-2013, K17.062 billion for 2013-2014 and won presidential excellent performance award for three

years in succession.

The bank was once again the largest income taxpayer for this year by paying over K22 billion in income tax.

According to the bank, K23 billion has been paid in income tax for 2015-2016 so far.

Moreover, K30 billion is being paid in advance for the 2016-2017 FY, with K32 billion set for 2017-2018 FY.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar-Taiwan plastics factory to be built in Yangon

THE Taiwanese based Fast Customer Service (FSC) and domestic Horizon Myanmar companies are currently planning a joint venture to construct a plastics factory in Yangon, it is known.

"We aim to produce plastic containers in collaboration with a Taiwanese company from recycled plastic bottles and polystyrene take-away containers," said U Khin Maung Kyi, general manager of the Horizon Myanmar company.

The Yangon townships of Hmawbi and Hlaing Tharyar have been earmarked as locations for the plastics factory in question, with construction to begin next year in 2017.

"We will principally provide technological assistance so that the factory can produce plastic products of an international quality. We will recycle discarded plastic items, turning them into high quality products," said David Chen, director of the FCS company.

The factory will produce bicycle parts, water bottles, medicine packaging and plastic fibre piping, which will then be distributed among Myanmar markets at a desirable price, it is known.

The majority of plastic products entering into Myanmar originate in China, while plastics products manufactured in Japan and Thailand are being sold within the country.—*GNLM*

China tops list of investors in Myanmar

CHINA tops the lists of foreign countries with investments in Myanmar till the end of February this fiscal year according to official figures released by the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration.

China stands first with over US\$15 billion worth of 126 investment projects, followed by Singapore with over \$12 billion in 199 projects.

Foreign direct investment has come from 43 countries into Myanmar, the majority of investment went into the country's oil and gas sector with over \$19 billion worth of 151 development projects, followed by the energy

sector with \$19 billion in investments.

Between April and till the end of February this fiscal year, investment from European countries has reached nearly \$6 billion. The largest was from the UK (just over \$4 billion), the Netherlands (\$989m), France (\$541m), Luzin Bez (\$45m), Switzerland (\$14m) and Norway (\$11m).

Myanmar has received a total of over \$23.84 billion in foreign direct investment between the 2011-2012 FY and the 2015-2016 FY according to the DICA under the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development.—*ML/Union Daily*

Defiant North Korea fires ballistic missile into sea, Japan protests

SEOUL — North Korea fired at least one ballistic missile yesterday, which flew about 800 km (500 miles) before hitting the sea off its east coast, South Korea's military said, as the isolated state stepped up its defiance of tough new UN and US sanctions.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the missile was likely a medium-range Rodong-missile. If confirmed, it would mark North Korea's first test of a medium range missile, capable of reaching Japan, since 2014.

The launch comes amid heightened tension on the Korean peninsula after the North rejected UN Security Council sanctions imposed earlier in the month in response to a nuclear test conducted in January and the United States issued fresh sanctions this week.

The missile was launched from north of the capital, Pyongyang, flying across the peninsula and into the sea off the east coast early yesterday morning, the South's Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff said in a statement.

It appeared the North may have fired a second missile soon after from the same region, with a



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un looks at a rocket warhead tip after a simulated test of atmospheric re-entry of a ballistic missile, at an unidentified location in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 15 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

projectile disappearing from radar at an altitude of about 17 km, it added.

South Korea did not confirm the type of the missiles. But 800 km was likely beyond the range of most short-range missiles in the North's arsenal. The North's Rodong missile has an estimated maximum range of 1,300 km, according to the South's defence ministry.

A US official told Reuters in Washington that it appeared to be a medium-range missile fired from a road-mobile launcher.

The US State Department said in a statement it was closely monitoring the situation and urged North Korea to focus on taking concrete steps toward fulfilling its international commitments and obligations.

Japan quickly condemned the launch, lodging a protest with North Korea through its embassy in Beijing, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told parliament.

"Japan strongly demands North Korea to exercise self-restraint and will take all necessary measures, such as warning and surveillance activity, to be able to respond to any situations," Abe said.

Last week, the North fired two short-range missiles into the sea off its east coast and its leader Kim Jong Un ordered more nuclear weapons tests and missile tests to improve attack capability.

North Korea often fires missiles at periods of tension on the Korean peninsula or when it comes under pressure to curb its defiance and abandon its weapons programmes.

New US sanctions on Pyongyang were issued on Wednesday aiming to expand its blockade by blacklisting individuals and entities that deal with the North's economy. The North has also reacted angrily to annual joint military drills by US and South Korea-

an troops that began on 7 March, calling the exercises "nuclear war moves" and threatening to wipe out its enemies.

South Korea and US officials began discussions this month on deploying the advanced anti-missile Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system to the US military in the South, despite Chinese and Russian objection.

Japan has previously said it was considering THAAD to beef up its defences.

North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in 6 January and launched a long-range rocket on 7 February in defiance of existing UN Security Council resolutions.

On Wednesday, North Korea's supreme court sentenced a visiting American student to 15 years of hard labour for crimes against the state, a punishment Washington condemned as politically motivated.—Reuters

Viet Nam's 1st nuclear power plant to be operated by 2028

HANOI — Viet Nam's first nuclear power plant will be put into operation by 2028, said an adjusted plan on the national electricity development during 2011-2020 period with a view to 2030 yesterday.

According to the plan recently approved by Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Tan Dung, nuclear power plants will be developed in Viet Nam to ensure stable future power supply when domestic primary energy sources are depleted.

Capacity of nuclear power in Viet Nam is set to reach 4,600 megawatt (MW) by 2030 while some 32.5 billion kWh of nuclear power will be produced, accounting for 5.7 per cent of the country's total electricity production, reported Viet Nam's state-run radio VOV yesterday.

In the meantime, the country will speed up development of electricity from renewable energy such as wind power, solar power, and biomass power among others. Proportion of these kinds of electricity will be gradually increased in Viet Nam's total electricity structure.

According to the plan, during 2016-2030, Viet Nam needs investment of some 3,207 trillion Vietnamese dong (148.3 billion US dollars) for the development of all kinds of electricity supply and power grid, reported VOV.

The plan was made under the estimated gross domestic production (GDP) expansion of 7 per cent during 2016-2030 period.—Xinhua

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Hoax bomb threat grounds Nepal Airlines aircraft in New Delhi

KATHMANDU — A bomb alert which temporarily grounded a Kathmandu-bound Nepal Airlines flight from New Delhi on Thursday, was the result of a hoax threat, an official from the airline said.

The cockpit received the alert from airport security during push-back in preparation for takeoff, Shailesh Kansakar, a spokesman

for the flagcarrier, told Kyodo News in Kathmandu.

"The plane was then parked, passengers were evacuated, and airport security personnel are screening the aircraft for a possible bomb," Kansakar said.

It is unclear how airport security at the Indira Gandhi Airport in New Delhi received the bomb alert.

The Airbus A320 with flight code RA206 was supposed to leave New Delhi at 10:40am local time.

Speaking to Kyodo News late on Thursday afternoon, Kansakar said the flight was "security cleared and will depart for Kathmandu."

He said earlier in the day that a search of the plane was carried

out as per security protocol.

The news came the same day as an Air India received a bomb threat regarding a flight from New Delhi to Bangkok. That plane landed at Bangkok's Suvarnabhumi Airport, where it was moved to an isolated area and evacuated of passengers. No explosives were found in a subsequent search of the aircraft.—Kyodo News

Cases of online human rights abuse hit record high in 2015

TOKYO — Legal affairs bureaus across Japan dealt with a record 1,736 cases involving human rights violations online in 2015, up 21.5 per cent from the previous year, the Justice Ministry said yesterday.

Actions taken by the bureaus

include instructing victims about how to request an Internet provider delete objectionable content, as well as requests made directly by the bureaus.

Among the cases handled by the bureaus, they requested the deletion of a photo of a victim

changing clothes in a dressing room and a video of people inciting hatred against Koreans.

Despite the increase in online abuse, the overall number of human rights violation cases, including bullying, fell 3.3 per cent to 20,999 in 2015, the ministry

said.

By type of infringements, work-related abuse including power harassment stood at 2,488 cases, up 10.8 per cent. Bullying at schools saw an increase of 3.2 per cent, bringing the number to 3,883.—Kyodo News

Bangladesh police launch heist probe; Manila banker took away cash in car

DHAKA/MANILA

Bangladesh police launched a criminal investigation on Thursday into the cyber theft of \$81 million from the central bank's US account but said it was too early to pinpoint any suspects.

The money was transferred to accounts in the Philippines, and a Senate hearing there was told that nearly half a million dollars was skimmed off and packed into a bank branch manager's car. The bulk went to two casinos and an individual who is believed to be a junket operator.

The heist took place between 4 February and 5 February, when unknown hackers breached the computer systems of Bangladesh Bank and attempted to steal \$951 million from its account at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, which it uses for international settlements.

The other transfers were blocked, but \$81 million went to accounts in a Manila branch of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) (RCB.PS), and was quickly further transferred.

Romualdo S. Agarrado, a reserve officer of RCBC who was at the branch at the time, told the hearing that a withdrawal slip for 20 million pesos (\$432,000) from one of the accounts was made out by the manager Maia Santos Deguito herself and cashed.

Agarrado cited her as saying at the time: "I would rather do this than me being killed or my family."



Romualdo Aggarado (R) of the Rizal Commercial Banking Corp (RCBC) testifies during a Senate hearing of money laundering involving the theft of \$81 million from the US account of the Bangladesh Bank, at the Philippine Senate in Manila, on 17 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

In Dhaka, a central bank spokesman said a police team visited the bank on Thursday to understand the workings of the accounts and budget department and the computer system as they launched their probe.

"We have just started our investigation. It is a bit early to name suspects," a police official said. The cyber thieves hid their tracks by installing malware that manipulated a central bank printer to hide evidence of the heist, according to a person familiar with an investigation by cyber security experts.

However, the investigators have so far found no evidence of inside involvement in the hacking of the bank's computers, the

source said.

Earlier, central bank officials filed a police report that said that a computer and printer the bank used to order SWIFT wire transfers were manipulated so that authorities could not see records of outgoing wire transfer requests or receipts confirming that they had been received.

Details about the issues with the computer and printer were among the first clues to surface as to how the attack was carried out.

A representative from Brussels-based SWIFT, a bank-owned cooperative that runs a secure private messaging system widely used for requesting money transfers, declined comment on Wednesday.—Reuters

Viet Nam discussing with China, other Mekong countries to ensure sustainable use of water

HANOI — Viet Nam is discussing very actively with China and other Mekong River countries in order to ensure sustainable use of the Mekong water resources, said a Vietnamese official on Thursday.

Le Hai Binh, spokesperson of Viet Nam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, made the remark at a regular press briefing in Viet Nam's capital Hanoi when responding to a reporter's enquiry over China's discharge of water to Mekong River downstream to help alleviate drought and saline intrusion in Viet Nam's southern Mekong Delta region. "Through diplomatic channel, Viet Nam has requested China to increase the release of water from Jinghong dam in China's Yunnan Province to help alleviate the drought and saline intrusion in a number of Vietnamese southern provinces in the Mekong Delta region," said Binh.

"According to information from Vietnamese Embassy in China, on 14 March, 2016, representative from Chinese authorities of water resources met with Vietnamese Embassy representative and informed us that from 15 March to 10 April this year, China will increase discharge of water from Jinghong dam down the river from 1,100 cubic metres per second to 2,190 cubic metres per second, which double the

long-run annual average," Binh told reporters. "Prior to making request to the Chinese side, Vietnamese competent authorities have worked together very closely to come up with a detail plan to help relieve the drought in Vietnamese provinces around the Mekong Delta," Binh said.

"For the Vietnamese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we are discussing very actively with China and other Mekong River countries in order to ensure sustainable use of the Mekong water resources and ensure harmony between the interests of all the riparian states and that of people living in the region," Binh told reporters.

The ongoing serious drought is damaging some 160,000 hectares of paddy rice in Viet Nam's Mekong Delta, causing losses of some 5,000 billion Vietnamese dong (222.2 million US dollars), and affecting about 290,000 hectares of fruit trees, Vietnamese media reported earlier on Tuesday. Spokesperson of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Lu Kang said on Tuesday that China will release emergency water supply from Jinghong Hydropower Station from 15 March till 10 April to the lower reaches of the Mekong River to alleviate drought in Laos, Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia and Viet Nam.—Xinhua

Activists raise concerns over Indonesia's proposed anti-terrorism law

JAKARTA — Rights activists yesterday called on Indonesia's parliament to reject government proposals designed to tighten the country's anti-terrorism laws.

The revisions to the law, proposed in the wake of a militant attack in the capital Jakarta in January, include detention without trial for up to three months and allow the arrest of people "if they assemble to discuss terrorist and radical acts".

International Commission of Jurists and other rights groups said in a joint statement that the proposed amendments are "an attack on human rights".

"The proposed amendments would authorise unnecessarily prolonged detention of suspects, putting them at risk of torture, ill-treat-

ment, enforced disappearance, and arbitrary detention," said the statement. Other rights NGOs raised concerns over a proposal to strip Indonesians of citizenship if they join overseas militant organisation, arguing such a move would leave people stateless. Government officials were not immediately available for comment. The legislation is pending parliamentary approval and government officials have urged MPs to pass revisions as soon as possible, citing a persistent security threat from militants in the world's most populous Muslim nation. January's attack in Jakarta, which killed eight people including four attackers, announced the arrival of Islamic State in Southeast Asia. Since then, Indonesian police have rounded up dozens of

suspected militants across the island of Java island.

Earlier this week, Indonesian anti-terror forces killed two ethnic Uighur Chinese men on Sulawesi island where they had joined the country's most high-profile Islamic State supporter. Indonesia's proposed counter-terrorism measures are not as harsh as those in neighbouring countries.

Malaysia last April reintroduced a law under which individuals can be detained without trial for up to two years with two-year extensions thereafter. Australia has in recent years passed measures banning its citizens from returning from conflict zones in Syria and the Middle East, while making it easier to monitor domestic communications.—Reuters



An Indonesian policeman holds a weapon while walking near a broken glass window from a Starbucks outlet in Jakarta, on 14 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan to send weapons grade plutonium back to US this weekend, Greenpeace says

TOKYO — Japan will load weapons-grade plutonium onto a ship as early as this weekend to send to the United States, in what will be largest such shipment of the highly dangerous material since 1992, Greenpeace said yesterday. The shipment of 331 kilograms of plutonium, enough to make

about 50 nuclear weapons, will be loaded in Tokai Mura northeast of Tokyo onto the Pacific Egret, an armed British ship, and transported to the US Department of Energy's Savannah River Site in South Carolina, the environmental group said.

Shipments of plutonium are

highly sensitive because the material can be used in advanced nuclear weapons or as a so-called dirty bomb.

In Japan, public sensitivity is also high because the country is the only nation to be bombed with nuclear weapons.

The US Embassy in Tokyo

declined to comment.

The shipment is a tiny portion of the nearly 50 tonnes of plutonium Japan holds. Most of Japan's plutonium comes reprocessing spent nuclear fuel burned in the country's reactors. All but two of Japan's reactors have been shut down since the Fukushima

nuclear disaster of 2011. The plutonium being shipped this weekend was supplied by the United States, the United Kingdom, and France for the Japan Atomic Energy Agency's Fast Critical Assembly project in Tokai Mura, according to the International Panel on Fissile Materials.—Reuters

OPINION

Don't fall prey to religious agitation

Kyaw Thura

THERE is convincing evidence that lack of an incisive analysis of a particular prevailing situation acts as a constant reminder of how a nation can collapse into chaos. At a time when the transitional period has reached a crucial juncture, incitements to racial hatred and religious tension have gone viral on social media in connection with the election of a non-Buddhist as vice president. It is

absolutely imperative to base our judgment on experience and common sense.

It is safe to say that Buddhists are in the majority in the country. However, it does not necessarily mean that the people of majority faith reserve the right to run the country. A few years back, our country experienced a sudden surge of resurgent religious tensions between the two communities instigated on the false religious pretext, apart from over six decades of ethnic armed conflict. In a country whose constitution grants freedom of worship to different faiths, such religious agitation is none but a shameful act of terrorism.

By hook or by crook, destructive elements will try one way or another to spread malicious rumours intended to deliberately undermine the morale of citizens and exacerbate tensions. We should not underestimate their sheer malice. They will trick us into falling prey to such political and religious agitations.

We have all learned from past experience that extreme sentiments have just caused us to face lengthy delays in our march to a genuine democracy that can boost such characteristics as peace, stability, justice, equality and prosperity. After undergoing a series of crises, we are left to weather the storm with the accumulated wisdom of hindsight.

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HAPPINESS AND WELL-BEING: CRUCIAL FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Dr. Aung Soe (a) Aung Kyaw Moe
Ex United Nations Volunteer (UNV) UNDP

ON 21 June 2012, 193 member nations of the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution to mark International Day of Happiness on 20th March every year.

The twin concepts of happiness and well-being increasingly feature in international discussions of sustainable development and the future we want.

It is quite obvious that each person dreams of a happier, peaceful and developed global society on this earth.

Many countries are going beyond the rhetoric of the quality of life to incorporate practical measures to promote these concepts in their legislation and policy-making. These good practices can inspire other countries so that measuring and accounting for broader well-being, and not simply national income, becomes a universal practice.

Gross national happiness, the quantitative measurement of well-being and happiness of a na-

tion, originated in Bhutan consider seven measures; economic wellness, environmental wellness, physical wellness, mental wellness, workplace wellness, social wellness and political wellness.

Happiness may have different meanings for different people. But we can all agree that it means working to end conflict, poverty and other unfortunate conditions in which so many of our fellow human beings live.

The environmental issue is the more fragile one in nature-loving Myanmar. Unfortunately, many natural areas are facing various risks, especially from extractive industries, after years of apparent lack of conservation. The government will have to smartly balance economy and environment to get its people happy.

Happiness is neither a frivolity nor a luxury. It is deep-seated yearning shared by all members of the human family. It should be

denied to no-one and available to all. This aspiration is implicit in the pledge of the United Nations Charter to promote rights, social progress and improved standards of life.

As for physical wellness, we can not only count the number of hospitals but the quality of healthcare. We need to ensure that the citizens in the country are not living in stress and depression to claim that they are mentally fit.

No doubt, it is a task and duty of every planet-citizen to invest in health, wealth and economy to build a safer, healthier and happier future. Towards this end, all endeavours should be integrated, coordinated and cooperated as a global team-work.

Now is the time to convert this promise into concrete international and national action to eradicate poverty, promote social inclusion and inter-cultural harmony, ensure decent livelihoods, protect the environment and build institutions for good governance. These are the foundations for human happiness and well-being.

Nevertheless, life-style mod-

ification is one of the key points in building Health, Wealth and Happiness. Suitable daily exercise is recommended to high-blood pressure, cardio-vascular events, stroke, etc. Social drinking, if not controlled, could lead to severe alcoholism ends up in socio-economical crisis.

You need to taken an adequate rest, sleep and average vocational trips for relaxation. Be contented with your earning! Healthy, nutritious and balanced diet should be consumed. Carbohydrates, proteins, fats, vitamins, minerals and water should be in balanced proportion. Unhealthy choices of food many lead to obesity i.e. a challenge for health and happiness.

Health, wealth and happiness do not come itself; they are to be created.

Moving forward to become a developed country in health and psychological terms, we have many to do, but beyond any doubt we can.

The political wellness is measured mostly by quality of democracy and individual freedom. The quality of democracy can be raised by all the citizens

and institutions by burgeoning of democratic practices, respecting the law and enjoying their rights.

We must join hands in building up the society of zero discrimination where the rule of law prevails as well. Every workplace should be turned into a sound working environment and cut the unemployment rate by generating decent jobs for each worker.

Wish every planet citizen, including Myanmar to enjoy happiness, health and well-being in every strata.

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Myanmar photographers win national award at Sony World Photography Competition

THREE Myanmar photographers won national awards at the Sony World Photography Awards 2016, the world's biggest photography competition.

Kyaw Bo Bo Han won the first prize in the national competition for Myanmar photographers

with a photo titled "Routine Morning of Beauty Country", which depicts monks and novices lining up to collect alms amid misty Shan State mountains. The runners up in the Myanmar national competition were He Len and Sai Aung Main. Photographers from

60 countries were given national awards. The annual contest aims to recognise and reward the best contemporary photography in the world.

The Sony World Photography Awards has five competitions—professional, open, youth,

student focus and national awards. This year's contest attracted 230,103 entries from 186 countries.

Photographers of all abilities are invited to submit either their best single shot or a series of work. Submitted images are

judged by the World Photography Organisation and a specially selected jury from the World Photographic Academy. The award ceremony is scheduled to be held at Somerest House in London between 22 April and 8 May.—
Aung Kyaw Tun

People in flood hardest-hit areas of Myanmar to face food insecurity in coming months



YANGON People in the flood hardest-hit area of Myanmar are enduring increased levels of food security in coming months, according to a UN report Friday.

The report is based on a Crop and Food Security Assessment Mission (CFSAM) by the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP).

National paddy production of Myanmar in 2015 is down 2 per cent on the average of the past three years due to the flood after Cyclone Komen in late July and early August.

The CFSAM estimated that the national paddy production in 2015 is down 2 per cent on the average of the past three years

and 3 per cent below the production in 2014.

In the worst affected regions/states, particularly in Chin and Rakhine, paddy production is set to fall by 15 per cent, constraining food access and pushing consumer prices up.

Nearly 470,000 hectares of rice paddy were affected and almost a quarter of a million livestock were killed, including 23,000 hectares of shrimp ponds, especially in Rakhine State and Sagaing Region where the impact of the cyclone was most severe.

FAO is ensuring a focus on longer term interventions which enables farmers and communities to better cope with future emergencies, according to Bui

Thi Lan, FAO Representative in Myanmar.

The report also recommends for long term recovery, resilience building and disaster risk reduction, including developing grain banks at communal and regional levels to reduce post-harvest losses; constructing micro-dams in suitable areas and establishing a National Information and Early Warning Unit on Food and Nutrition Security.

FAO aims to meet the immediate agricultural needs of 332,750 individuals still recovering from the 2015 floods. However, FAO and WFP currently face a funding short fall and require further funding to meet all food assistance needs rehabilitation. — *Xinhua*

Singapore property expo expected to generate K9 billion

MYANMAR'S biggest real estate expo will be held in Singapore this month with a focus on showcasing high-quality apartments and condominiums being developed in Yangon.

The event is scheduled to take place at the Grand Park City Hall Hotel near Peninsular Plaza. Images of over 2,000 apartments and condominiums will be on display for sale at the event, with prices ranging between K50 million (US\$4,111) and K3 billion

(\$2.4 million).

Organised by the online property trading website iMyanmarHouse.com, this will be the second time Myanmar real estate is exhibited overseas.

As over 200,000 Myanmar citizens live and work in Singapore, local real estate developers have high hopes of attracting potential buyers there.

This year's event focuses on not only Myanmar migrant workers in Singapore but also foreigners as Myanmar recently

enacted the new Condominium Law, which allows foreigners to own apartments in the country.

During the event, five experts will share their knowledge and experiences relating to the Myanmar real estate market.

Flats and condo apartments worth over K7 billion (\$5.7 million) were sold during last year's expo, and real estate developers expect that the second expo will generate at least K9 billion (\$7.4 million).—*Soe Win (MLA)*

School ferries to be replaced with modern school buses

SCHOOL ferries will be replaced with modern school buses in the 2016-2017 academic year, according to the Yangon Region All-Private Bus Lines Control Committee.

The school ferries currently running will be replaced with mini-buses, city buses and mi-

cro buses.

All the new school buses will be painted yellow so that they are instantly recognizable as vehicles carrying children. The Ministry of Education and the Traffic Police Force are jointly drawing up a plan to ensure road safety in the

coming academic year, said the head of the aforementioned committee.

The switch from ferries to school buses is meant to offer more safety to students than light trucks or Dynas, which are currently used to ferry students to and from school. —200

Ferry services to universities to double during exam period

FERRY services to universities will be doubled during the examination period this month, according to the All-Private Bus Lines Control Committee.

Only 50 per cent of university students are expected to take the ferries, while the rest are expected to take public buses.

"We have made arrangements to boost the ferry services for the convenience of the students during the examination period," said U Hla Aung, the Yangon Region All-Bus Lines Control Supervisory Committee.

The committee will also tighten the enforcement of rules for the ferries.—200

Amarapura farmers store cow forage for summer

FARMERS in Amarapura usually store forage for cattle they breed throughout the year in order to avoid shortages in summer.

Some farmers cut pea stems with choppers at a cost of K5,000 per hour and store them in granaries to be used as cattle forage. The owners of the

choppers also profit during the summer.

Some farmers choose to be paid for their crops in cartloads of stems instead of money. Most farmers who breed cattle store all varieties of pea stems to ensure sufficient supplies of forage during summer, said a farmer from Amarapura. —*Teintamen*



Amarapura farmers usually store forage for cattle.

PHOTO: TEINTAMEN

Myanmar International Marionette Festival coming to Mandalay next month

THE Myanmar International Marionette Festival will take place in early April in Mandalay and will feature a variety of 'edutainment' programmes, said an event organiser.

With the aim of raising public interest in the traditional art of puppetry, the event will run on 2 and 3 April at the National Theatre in Mandalay. It is sponsored by Myanmar Upper Land and its partner organisations.

The festival also aims to support the development of marionette troupes around the country and to exchange information with international puppeteers, said a spokesperson for the Myanmar Marionette Association.

Marionette troupes from Myanmar, Germany and Indonesia will take part in the event with the organisers planning to invite marionette troupes from other ASEAN countries.

The two-day event will include workshops, panel discussions, art exhibitions and photo galleries in addition to puppetry performances.

Puppetry has a long tradition as a folk art in Myanmar and is commonly seen at religious festivals.

Though once highly popular, the art form now has relatively few practitioners. At present, around 20 professionals remain in the field.—200

Germany says embassy, schools in Turkey closed until weekend



A police officer stands guard in front of the German Consulate, which is closed on indications of a possible imminent attack, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 17 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

BERLIN — Germany will keep its diplomatic missions and German schools in Turkey closed until the weekend due to a highly credible security threat, a Foreign Ministry spokeswoman said yesterday.

“How long the danger remains, I can’t say. But the fact is that due to the current assessment of the situation, we have decided to keep the embassy and schools closed until the weekend,” the spokeswoman told a government news conference.

German magazine *Der Spiegel* reported separately that the US CIA, the Turkish secret service and Kurdish security sources told German’s foreign intelligence service on Wednesday that a suicide attack linked to Islamic State was planned on German diplomatic missions or the schools until Sunday. —Reuters

EU urges more countries to impose sanctions on Russia over Crimea

BRUSSELS/MOSCOW — The European Union called yesterday for more countries to impose sanctions on Russia over its annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean peninsula two years ago, but the Kremlin said Crimea was Russian land and its status non-negotiable.

In a statement issued on the anniversary of the formal absorption of Crimea into Russia, the 28-nation EU said it was very worried about Moscow’s military build-up in the region.

The EU also said it would maintain sanctions that ban European companies from investing in Russian Black Sea oil and gas exploration.

“The European Union remains committed to fully implementing its non-recognition policy, including through restrictive measures,” the European Council, which represents EU governments, said in its statement. “The EU calls again on UN member states to consider similar non-rec-

ognition measures.”

The Kremlin responded by saying the issue of Crimea could not be “a matter of negotiations or international contacts”.

“Our position is known: this is a region of the Russian Federation. Russia has not discussed and will never discuss its regions with anyone,” President Vladimir Putin’s spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in a teleconference with reporters.

“In this case we should treat with respect the expression of the will of Crimean residents and the decision which was taken two years ago,” he said.

Peskov was referring to Crimea’s referendum on secession from Ukraine in March 2014, which was followed by a formal request from the local parliament to the Russian Federation to admit it as a new subject with the status of a republic.

On Friday Putin will visit the construction site of a bridge being

built to Crimea across the Kerch Strait to connect the Russian mainland with the peninsula, Peskov added.

NATO and the EU are concerned by Russia’s military build-up in Crimea, which they say is part of a strategy to set up defensive zones of influence with surface-to-air missile batteries and anti-ship missiles.

As well as the EU, the United States, Japan and other major economies including Australia and Canada have also imposed sanctions on Russia over Crimea, but others including China and Brazil have avoided direct criticism of Moscow.

The 28-nation EU imposed its Crimea sanctions in July 2014 and then tightened them in December 2014, banning EU citizens from buying or financing companies in Crimea, whose annexation has prompted the worst East-West stand-off since the Cold War. —Reuters



People inspect weapons during celebrations of the Defender of the Fatherland Day in Sevastopol, Crimea, on 23 February. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia to supply 40 Mi-28 attack helicopters to Algeria

MOSCOW — Russia will deliver 40 Mi-28NE attack helicopters to Algeria in line with a bilateral contract, Interfax news agency said yesterday, quoting a source in Russia’s arms exporting bodies.

The Mi-28 helicopter, dubbed “Night Hunter” by the Russian military, is said by arms experts to be among the best in the world in its class. It is capable of carrying out missions day and night and in most adverse weather conditions.

The Mi-28NE modification is equipped with a dual-control system, which allows to fly the helicopter both from the pilot’s cockpit and from the cockpit of the operator pilot who acts as an instructor. The source quoted by Interfax gave no details about the helicopter contract with Algeria. —Reuters

Indonesia waives visa for 79 extra countries

JAKARTA — Indonesia has waived visa requirements for nationals from an extra 79 countries, expanding the list to 169 visa free nations as it continues its efforts to boost foreign visitor numbers.

President Joko Widodo on 2 March signed a decree, granting visa-free entry to tourists who wish to travel in the country for 30 days, said a statement published on the Cabinet Secretary website yesterday.

“The presidential decree comes into effect once it is ratified,” the statement said, noting that the Legal and Human Rights Ministry authorised it on 10 March. According to the statement, Australia is included in the list of countries after the country was mooted three times last year but later the reciprocal issues were dropped over. Australia requires foreigners a visa to enter into the country. —Xinhua

Singapore, Thailand, US conclude trilateral air exercise

SINGAPORE — Exercise Cope Tiger, a trilateral air exercise conducted by the air forces of Singapore, Thailand and the United States, concluded yesterday at Korat Air Base of Thailand, according to a press release by Singapore Ministry of Defence.

The exercise, the 22nd in its series, was conducted in two phases. The first phase was a command post exercise, held at the multinational operations and exercise centre in Changi Naval Base of Singapore from 8 to 11 December last year, while the second phase was a flying training exercise conducted at Korat Air Base, Thailand, from 7 to 18 March, 2016.

This year’s exercise involved 87 aircraft, 48 ground-based air defence systems and about 2,000 personnel from the participating nations, the ministry said, adding that Singapore’s Air Force’s Heron-1 unmanned aerial vehicle and multi-mission radar also participated in the Exercise Cope Tiger series for the first time.

In addition, the exercise participants also took part in a two-day joint socio-civic programme, where they provided basic health and dental services to the local communities in the vicinity of Korat Air Base and Chandy Range. —Xinhua

Prince Charles: You should not be prisoners of history, reconciliation is vital

BELGRADE — The Prince of Wales said in a speech he gave at the Serbian parliament late on Thursday that he could see that extraordinary progress had been made in the Balkans and that peace and stability had returned there after the horrific conflicts of the 1990s.

Prince Charles said that there could be few places on Earth where one felt the weight of history more than in the Balkans and that no-one should forget or ignore that history, but it was “vital not to become prisoners of it.”

The heir to the British throne said that “only reconciliation offers the assurance that our children and grandchildren will not suffer the same agonies as our generation.

“I can only assure you that Britain is with you as you build your common future. Peace and stability in this region will mean that all of us, whether in the Balkans, in the United Kingdom, or elsewhere, can enjoy a safer and more prosperous future. Together, we can build this future,” Prince Charles said.

He started his speech in Serbian, which was greeted with applause by the guests.

The speech, expected to be Prince Charles’ only live speech during his and his wife Camilla’s tour of the Balkan region, was followed by prolonged applause and the national anthems of the two countries. —Tanjung

Iran seen escaping UN sanctions over missiles due to ambiguous resolution

UNITED NATIONS — Iran will likely escape new United Nations sanctions, though the UN Security Council could issue a public reprimand for recent launches of what Western officials described as ballistic missiles capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, diplomats said.

Council diplomats said the case for sanctions was weak, hinging on interpretation of ambiguous language in a resolution adopted by the 15-member body last July, part of an historic deal to curb Iran's nuclear work.

International sanctions on Tehran were lifted in January under the nuclear deal brokered by Britain, France, Germany, China, Russia and the United States. Diplomats said all six countries agreed the ballistic missile tests do not violate the core agreement.

However, the Security Council resolution "calls upon" Iran to refrain for up to eight years from activity, including launches, related to ballistic missiles designed with the capability of delivering nuclear weapons.

Key powers agree that request is not legally binding and cannot be enforced under Chapter 7 of the UN Charter, which deals with sanctions and authorisation of military force. But Western nations, which view the language as a ban, say there is a political obligation on Iran to comply.

Britain said the missile launches show Iran's "blatant disregard" for the resolution, while France said it was "a case of non-compli-



A ballistic missile is launched and tested in an undisclosed location, Iran, on 9 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ance." The United States initially deemed the tests a violation, but has softened that stance, calling Iran "in defiance" of the resolution.

Russia, which has Security Council veto power, says Iran has not violated the resolution. Russia opposes new UN sanctions, but acknowledged that if the missiles were proven capable of carrying a nuclear weapon, it could be suggested Tehran has not been "respectful" of the council.

"A call is different from a ban, so legally you cannot violate a call, you can comply with a call or you can ignore the call, but you cannot violate a call," Russian UN Ambassador Vitaly Churkin said on Monday. "The legal distinction is there."

Laura Rockwood, former chief of the legal department at the International Atomic Energy

Agency and now head of the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Nonproliferation, said of the UN resolution: "This was probably a classic case of language negotiated with 'constructive ambiguity' in mind." In a 2010 resolution, the Security Council decided Iran "shall not" carry out activity related to ballistic missiles capable of delivering nuclear weapons — a clear, legal ban.

The United States agreed to soften the language on ballistic missiles in the July resolution, largely because Russia and China insisted, diplomats said. "When you look at your hand, and you can't even bluff ... you fold," said a US official. Despite Russia's opposition to new sanctions, the United States has vowed to continue pushing for UN Security Council action on the ballistic missile tests. Instead

of sanctions, the council could decide to issue a statement rebuking Iran, not only for the missile tests, but for threatening another state.

The commander of Iran's Revolutionary Guards' missile battery said the missiles tested were designed to be able to hit US ally Israel. The United States condemned the remarks and Russia said countries should not threaten each other.

Churkin also argued the UN resolution required a heavy burden of proof that the ballistic missiles were "designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons." The United States and its European allies are expected to make a technical case to the council about how Iran failed to abide by the UN resolution.

"These were designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons. This merits a council response," US Ambassador to the United Nations, Samantha Power, told reporters on Monday.

According to the International Missile Control Regime, ballistic missiles are considered nuclear capable if they have a range of at least 300 km and can carry a payload of up to 500 kg.

Mark Fitzpatrick of the International Institute for Strategic Studies said he did not believe Iran's missile launches were a violation of the "ambiguous" resolution because the "missiles in question can't be proven to have been designed to deliver nuclear weapons." —Reuters

Followers of Iraqi cleric Sadr rally in Baghdad, demand access to Green Zone

BAGHDAD — Followers of influential Iraqi Shi'ite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr were gathering on a main bridge in Baghdad yesterday, demanding that they be allowed to march to the gates of the heavily fortified Green Zone to hold an anti-corruption sit-in.

Security forces put barbed wire across the bridge leading to the zone, which houses government offices, the parliament and embassies.

Hundreds of demonstrators rallied on the opposite side of the bridge, carrying Iraqi flags and chanting "Let's get rid of them, they're all thieves!". The Interior Ministry said it had not authorised any sit-in near the Green Zone, fearing that it could lead to clashes with forces guarding the entrance.

Sadr on Thursday rejected calls to cancel the sit-in, calling the Green Zone "a bastion of support for corruption".

The cleric wants Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi to replace cabinet ministers with technocrats unaffiliated with political parties in order to counter systemic political patronage that has abetted corruption. —Reuters

Major fighting in Yemen coming to an end: Saudi coalition spokesman

RIYADH — The spokesman for the Saudi-led coalition battling the Iran-allied Houthis in Yemen has been quoted as saying major fighting in the country is drawing towards a close, one year after the military campaign began.

Fighting between two of the main battlefronts in Yemen, along the border with Saudi Arabia and in the city of Taiz, has calmed this month following mediation by local tribes and there have been secret talks in Saudi Arabia towards finding a resolution.

Saudi TV channel al-Arabiya quoted the spokesman, Brigadier General Ahmed al-Asseri, as saying on Thursday that "the major fighting in Yemen is nearing an end ... (and) the next phase is a stage of restoring stability and reconstructing the country".

Arabiya gave no further details and Asseri could not be immediately reached for comment.

The Saudi-led coalition be-

gan its military campaign a year ago with the aim of preventing the Houthi group and forces loyal to Yemen's ex-president Ali Abdullah Saleh from taking control of the country. It also aims to restore President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi to power in the capital Sanaa.

Asseri and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir have in recent days said that any peace talks can only take place between Hadi and the Houthis, and through the UN special envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed.

Asseri announced last April that the coalition's initial operation had ended, saying it had "neutralized most of the military capabilities of the Houthi militias and their allies that represented a threat to Yemen and neighbouring countries".

However, the fighting then intensified as the coalition added small numbers of ground troops to



A view of buildings destroyed during recent fighting in Yemen's southwestern city of Taiz on 14 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

support Yemeni fighters, backed by an increasingly heavy air campaign.

The coalition retook Yemen's second city, Aden, from the Houthis and Saleh's forces in July, the northeastern town of Marib in September and the small north-

western port of Midi this year.

Bitter fighting in Taiz since the autumn calmed somewhat this month and a Houthi siege of the city ended. Near-daily attacks on Saudi border positions have gone on for months, killing hundreds of the kingdom's soldiers and civil-

ian residents of frontier regions.

More than 6,000 Yemenis, about half of them civilians, have been killed in the fighting and airstrikes over the past year, the United Nations says. Millions more have been displaced. —Reuters

ICRC to expand activities in Afghanistan: visiting president

KABUL — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) will step up its relief operations in Afghanistan to address the needs of war-affected communities in the Asian country, visiting ICRC President said yesterday.

"There are more displaced people, more war-wounded and more disabled people. Humanitarian concerns are growing, yet international attention is dwindling. It seems that the more the Afghan people suffer, the less attention there is on them," Peter Maurer told reporters at a press briefing on the last day of his five-day visit yesterday.

The international humanitarian organisation will increase its budget for Afghanistan by 10 per cent this year, according to Maurer.

"We have increased our budget for Afghanistan for 2016, recognising the scale of the problem. We will explore the possibilities of further expanding our activities, including the evacuation of wounded people," he said.



President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Peter Maurer (C) speaks during a Press conference in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan, on 18 March. PHOTO: XINHUA

Maurer arrived in Kabul on Monday. During his visit he met with Afghan President Mohammad Ashraf Ghani, Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah besides making field trips to provinces to meet displaced people, detainees and visit orthopedic centers. He also met with some representatives of armed opposition groups, according to ICRC.

Maurer also expressed

concerns over the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the conflict-ridden country.

"Every indicator shows that the humanitarian situation is in a downward spiral," he said while drawing attention to the recent increase in attacks on health facilities in Afghanistan.

Violence has been on the rise since the draw-down of US and NATO

forces over the past two years as the Afghan security forces struggle against a surge in attacks by Taliban and other anti-government fighters.

More than 3,540 civilians were killed and over 7,450 injured in across the country last year, according to a report released by the UN mission in the country last month.

The report has attributed 62 per cent of the

casualties to the Taliban and other insurgent groups, 17 per cent were attributed to security forces while the rest 21 per cent of civilian casualties were unattributed or caused by explosive remnants of war.

"In the last year, attacks against health facilities and personnel have gone up by 50 per cent. Every bombed out hospital and every doctor or nurse who is forced to flee, means thousands of people cannot get immediate medical treatment when necessary," Maurer noted while calling on parties of the conflict to respect and protect civilians and medical missions.

"Afghans are the second largest group of arriving in Europe today. This shows that the chronic violence and insecurity, and the permanent unpredictability of the war, has pushed people beyond their limits," Maurer added.

The ICRC has had a permanent presence in Afghanistan since 1987, which is the aid agency's largest operation in the world in terms of staff numbers.—Xinhua

Turkish forces disable bomb in vehicle in southeast

DIYARBAKIR — Turkish bomb-disposal experts disabled an explosive device in a vehicle found overnight near a government building in southeast Turkey, security sources yesterday as a recent spate of bomb attacks prompted security warnings in major cities.

The vehicle was found with 150 kg (331 lb) of explosives in the town of Hani in the mainly Kurdish region's Diyarbakir Province, the sources said. Police were examining security cameras in the area as part of the investigation.

Kurdish militants on Thursday claimed a suicide bombing in Ankara that killed 37 people this week and warned of further attacks, while Germany shut down its diplomatic missions and schools in Turkey.

The US Embassy in Ankara issued a statement overnight saying its citizens "should be mindful of their security precautions", noting Kurdish New Year (Newroz) celebrations taking place this weekend and saying large events can turn confrontational and escalate into violence.

"The US Embassy also reminds individuals that terrorist organisations have targeted transportation hubs, Turkish government facilities, and public spaces in the recent past," it said.

Last Sunday's suicide bombing was the second in a month in the heart of Ankara claimed by the TAK militant group, opening a dangerous new phase in Turkey's war with Kurdish militants as deadly attacks spread to its biggest cities well beyond the southeast where conflict is usually focused.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HARTA VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HARTA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (027W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (027W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEA
CONTAINER LINES**

Phone No: 2301185

China to strengthen crackdown on fake goods, online piracy

SHANGHAI — China will make fighting online piracy and the sale of fake goods to emerging markets a key priority this year, the state-run Xinhua news agency reported Chinese vice-premier Wang Yang as saying.

Wang, who Xinhua said made the remarks at a televised conference on fake products on Thursday, said the crackdown was crucial to achieving an in-

novation-driven economy and supply-side structural reform.

Products sold to emerging markets in Africa and Latin America will be closely scrutinized to protect the image of "Made in China" goods, he said, while the government will also look to strengthen market supervision in suburban areas and promote the use of original software

by companies.

Wang said 1.1 million piracy cases had been handled since China's new leadership took over in 2013, with 59,000 cases prosecuted and 78,000 violators sentenced.

On Tuesday, China's annual consumer rights day TV show took aim at faked online sales, online food delivery apps and dodgy false teeth.—Reuters



A shopkeeper, selling fake foreign brand watches, waits for customers in Beijing in 2008. PHOTO: REUTERS

Embattled SeaWorld to stop breeding killer whales

SAN DIEGO — SeaWorld said on Thursday it will stop breeding killer whales in captivity, bowing to years of pressure from animal rights activists, but the orcas already at its three parks will continue performing as they live out their remaining years.

SeaWorld Entertainment Inc’s (SEAS.N) decision came after it pledged in November to replace its signature “Shamu” killer whale shows in San Diego with modified presentations of the animals that focused on conservation.

“We don’t need all these theatrical ‘tricks,’” SeaWorld President Joel Manby told reporters on a conference call. He said the parks will use birth control to halt reproduction among its killer whales, also known as orcas.

SeaWorld, which operates marine parks in San Diego, Orlando and San Antonio, has a total of 29 killers whales, including

six on loan to a park in Spain. Five of them were captured in the wild, but it has not caught orcas at sea for almost 40 years.

The parks have been criticized for their treatment of the captive marine mammals, with some activists seeking an end to public exhibition of killer whales altogether.

The criticism intensified after three orcas died at SeaWorld San Antonio within a six-month span in 2015.

The life span of a killer whale in the wild is typically 30 years for males and 50 for females, with some females living as long as 100 years, according to the website of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. SeaWorld’s oldest killer whale, Corky, is 51.

SeaWorld, whose shares rose 9.4 per cent on Thursday, also said it will scrap plans for a \$100 million project called “Blue World” to enlarge its orca



Young children get a close-up view of an Orca killer whale during a visit to the animal theme park SeaWorld in San Diego, California, in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

habitat at SeaWorld San Diego. Under the new plan, the orcas will still be shown to visitors at set times but re-designed viewing areas will “reflect the natural world” with a programme focusing on “orca enrichment, exercise and overall health,” according to the SeaWorld website.

It said its new orca shows could bring between 380,000 to 940,000 more visitors to its parks over the next three to five years.

SeaWorld faced mounting criticism after the release of the 2013 documentary “Blackfish,” which depicted the captivi-

ty and public exhibition of killer whales as inherently cruel.

The year after the film came out, attendance at the most popular SeaWorld park in Orlando fell by 8 per cent to 4.7 million people, according to industry analysts from Themed Entertainment Association and AECOM.

The company also said it will partner with the Humane Society of the United States and had set aside \$50 million to push for an end to commercial whaling and seal hunting as well as the killing of sharks for their fins.

While lawmakers praised SeaWorld’s latest move, animal rights group People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals said the company had taken a step forward but that it should link its tanks to ocean sanctuaries. The company says whales born or raised in captivity would likely die in the wild.— Reuters

<div>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (543N) Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (543N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD Phone No: 2301185</div>	<div>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV HYUNDAI PROGRESS VOY NO () Consignees of cargo carried on MV HYUNDAI PROGRESS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S FAR SHIPPING LINES Phone No: 2301185</div>	<div>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV YANGTZE JEWEL VOY NO (001) Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANGTZE JEWEL VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD. Phone No: 2301928</div>
<div>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV SHIP MARIN VICTORY VOY NO (-) Consignees of cargo carried on MV SHIP MARIN VICTORY VOY NO (-) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING CO LTD. Phone No: 2301928</div>	<div>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV HUA YOU 1 VOY NO (1602) Consignees of cargo carried on MV HUA YOU 1 VOY NO (1602) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD. Phone No: 2301928</div>	<div>CLAIMS DAY NOTICE MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (220N) Consignees of cargo carried on MV CTP FORTUNE VOY NO (220N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 19.3.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P/M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon. Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim’s Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel. No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day. SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY AGENT FOR: M/S SILKAGO LOGISTICS PTE LTD . Phone No: 2301185</div>



PHOTO: REUTERS

My daughter doesn't like 'Frozen': Kristen Bell

LOS ANGELES — Actress Kristen Bell, who voiced the character of Anna in Disney's viral hit "Frozen", says her three-year-old daughter Lincoln is not a fan of the musical drama.

Lincoln first watched it last month—at least Bell tried to get her to watch it, reported E! News.

"I put it on for her, thinking it was going to blow her mind and she like 15 minutes in and was like, 'Turn this off, I don't like this movie,'" Bell said. Lincoln was also not impressed with the fact that her mother was the voice of Anna.

"She could care less. It was too scary for her, I think. She keeps my ego in check. But it was too dark, the scene where

Anna gets struck and then they go to the trolls and it takes place at night."

The actress said the sequel is being "finished written and I think we start recording next month. I have a couple of clues as to what's going to happen," Bell teased.

When asked whether they would come up with another hit like "Let It Go", Bell said she hoped they are never able to top that as she loves the song.

"Nothing should top that. Even when I hear it, hearing it as many times, as I have, every time I hear it, it gives me the tingles."

"It's a brilliantly written song and it's so perfectly suited for her. I think there's going to be a lot of great songs in the next movie but I don't know if any of them will top 'Let It Go.'"—PTI

God Save the Queen? No future for England's punk dream, McLaren's son says

LONDON — The son of former Sex Pistols manager Malcolm McLaren is to burn his 5 million pound collection of punk memorabilia after saying the subversive music genre had been appropriated by the mainstream.

The anarchic Sex Pistols band popularised punk music through songs such as "God Save the Queen", which attacked the British monarch with lyrics including: "she ain't no human being, there is no future in England's dreaming".

"Rather than a movement for change, punk has become like a museum piece or a tribute act," Joe Corre, whose mother is fashion designer Vivienne Westwood, said in an emailed statement.

The Sex Pistols formed in 1975 and sparked controversies galore, with their appearances often resulting in chaos. The BBC refused to air the 1977 song "God Save The Queen", released during Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee.

Punk rock has been increasingly brought into the mainstream over recent years and a series of events under the banner 'Punk. London' is being held in London to celebrate its history, backed by the British Library and the National Lottery.

Exhibitions, gigs, films and talks will take place, with organisers describing the genre as "a rallying call for direct action".

But Corre, who co-founded the lingerie brand Agent Provocateur, said he would burn his entire collection of punk memorabilia on 26 November, the 40th anniversary of the release of the Sex Pistols' debut single "Anarchy in the UK", bemoaning what he called a general "malaise" in Britain.—Reuters

I will never direct dance based film: Shiamak Davar

DUBAI — Ace choreographer Shiamak Davar says he is not certain if he will ever step into direction but if he does, it will be anything but a dance-based film.

Shiamak said he, however, wants to direct a movie, which will have a message of hope.

"I don't think I will ever direct unless there is something, a topic I really want to do, very strong... (has) a message of hope. That can be a story but I haven't come across anything like it and I am definitely not going to direct a dance movie," Shiamak told PTI.

"I would rather do something I am good at. I will obviously put dance in the movie but it shouldn't be the focus because my focus has been theatre. I love

theatre so I would put that in the film, more than just dance," he added.

The 54-year-old choreographer is undoubtedly one of the most revered choreographers in Bollywood and from Salman Khan, Shah Rukh Khan to current generation actors Ranveer Singh and Varun Dhawan, he has made all stars dance to his tunes.

When asked about the general perception about Salman being a difficult actor to choreograph as he creates his own steps, Shiamak laughed and said, "It's a wrong perception that he is difficult to choreograph. I think the only thing, which he doesn't like if one does too much, is technical. That is something I do hence he runs away, saying, 'Oh no!

Why Shiamak?"

"But I have never had any problem with him ever."

Shiamak added that with celebrities like Salman, Shah Rukh and megastar Amitabh Bachchan, choreography takes a back seat as their stage presence is more than enough to uplift an act.

"These people are power because of their performance. They walk on the stage and you forget everything else. We don't need technical (brilliance). We need performers."

Among the current crop of actors, Shiamak finds Varun, Ranveer and Sushant Singh Rajput, Priyanka Chopra and Deepika Padukone the finest dancers in the industry.

Varun and Sushant have

been Shiamak's students in the past.

When asked if he has to put a restrain on Ranveer's high-octane energy levels while choreographing him, Shiamak said, "Ranveer is outstanding. The energy he creates on stage is magical. He is fire. I don't need to control his energy..."

"He respects me and my troupe so much that he comes to my studio, learns everything with us and is very professional. There are times when I tell him don't put much power in a particular song and go classy, cool and he does that."

Shiamak was speaking during the rehearsals for the second edition of Times of India Film Awards (TOIFA), which are set to take place today.—PTI

David Bowie to be honoured at CFDA awards



David Bowie. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — David Bowie is set to be posthumously honoured at the upcoming CFDA Fashion Awards in New York on 6 June.

The "Starman" hitmaker, who passed away in January, was known for his outlandish stage looks and fashion-forward wardrobe picks, reported Con-

tactmusic.

Big Apple-born fashion designer Donna Karan will receive the Founder's Award for her contributions to the industry, 12 years after accepting the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2004, while Gucci's creative director Alessandro Michele will be presented with the International Award, and Norma Kamali will pick up the Geoffrey Beene Lifetime Achievement Award.

Lady Gaga's stylist, Brandon Maxwell, is nominated for the Swarovski Award for Womenswear, and former child stars-turned-fashion icons Mary-Kate and Ashley Olsen will compete for double accolades.—PTI

Former child star Shirley Temple's rare blue diamond ring to be auctioned

LOS ANGELES — A rare blue diamond ring belonging to the late Shirley Temple, one of Hollywood's most famous child actors, is going up for auction starting at \$25 million, auctioneer Sotheby's said Thursday.

The 9.54-carat Fancy Deep Blue diamond ring was purchased by Temple's father for \$7,210 in 1940 around the time of the actress' 12th birthday, Sotheby's said.

The ring will be auctioned on 19 April as part of Sotheby's Magnificent Jewels sale, and is es-



An image of actress Shirley Temple is shown during the In Memoriam segment at the 21st annual Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles, California, on 25 January 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

timated to be valued between \$25 million and \$35 million.

Temple won legions of fans as a bouncy, curly-haired young star in 1930s movies such as "Bright Eyes", "Heidi" and "Curly Top." The child actress went on to forge

a second career as ambassador Shirley Temple Black and died at the age of 85 in 2014.

Her family previously auctioned off a selection of Temple's costumes, scripts and a dress she wore at the 1935 Oscars.—Reuters

New lion enclosure at London Zoo gets royal opening

LONDON — Britain’s Queen Elizabeth opened a new enclosure at London Zoo on Thursday that four Asiatic lions, one male and three females, will call home.

The enclosure, the largest ever at the zoo, will help to conserve the dwindling population of Asiatic lions. There are only about 500 Asiatic lions left in the wild. The subspecies is found in India’s Gujarat state. The new enclosure is designed to recreate a habitat similar to their natural environment.

“The population is doing really well, but they are very vulnerable to any disease, natural disaster,” said Teague Stubbington, deputy team leader for mammals at the zoo.

He added that it is very important to have a captive population in case anything goes wrong in the wild.

The “Land of the Lions” opens to the public on 25 March.—*Reuters*

Mural in the muck tells story of Rome on riverside wall

ROME — Silhouettes of emperors, popes and artists are slowly emerging on the grimy walls of the Tiber River in Rome, part of an epic mural that tells the history of the Eternal City.

Technicians are using power hoses on the dirty stone to stencil the 550-metre-long “Triumphs and Laments”, which is based on charcoal drawings by South African artist William Kentridge.

On display are Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius, Italian dictator Benito Mussolini and the she-wolf who according to legend suckled the city’s mythical founders, Romulus and Remus. Also among the silhouetted figures are the dead bodies of 20th-century filmmaker and writer Pier Paolo Pasolini and murdered former prime minister Aldo Moro.

But organisers say the stenciled shapes will be allowed gradually to fade from view again as the grime slowly reclaims them. “The idea is to create an ephemeral work of art,” the project’s technical director Gianfranco Lucchino, said on the riverside path. “The drawings ... will remain very temporary.”

Long delayed by bureaucracy, the mural project will be officially unveiled in April.

Up to 10 metres (33 feet) tall, on walls built to protect Rome from floods in the 1800s, the monochrome figures tell a story full of contrasts, Kentridge told Rome’s La Repubblica newspaper last month.—*Reuters*

Dog believed lost at sea turns up on island used by US Navy

SAN DIEGO — A dog believed to have drowned after disappearing from a fishing boat off the California coast five weeks ago was found on an island owned by the US Navy and will be reunited with her owner on Thursday evening, the Navy said.

Luna, a blue-eyed German shepherd-husky mix, apparently swam 2 miles (3.2 km) to San Clemente Island, off the San Diego coast, where Navy employees found her on Tuesday, Naval Base Coronado spokeswoman Sandy DeMunnik said. The island is a Navy training base.

“It was a long haul for a puppy across treacherous terrain,” DeMunnik said on Thursday. “She was a little thinner, but none the worse for wear.”

Luna, who is about 18-months old, was on a fishing boat with her owner Nick Haworth when she went missing before dawn on 10 February while Haworth and a crew member hauled in a catch, DeMunnik said. Haworth searched the waters for two days backed by Navy personnel, who also searched the island for a week, DeMunnik said.

The San Diego fisherman presumed Luna was dead 10 days after she went missing, posting photos of the dog on Facebook and writing “RIP Luna.”

Luna likely spent no more than a day in the water. She was found sitting along a road on the island.

“Beyond stoked to have Luna back,” Haworth wrote on Facebook. “I always knew she was a warrior.”—*Reuters*



Connor Lamb holds Luna, a German Shepherd who was presumed lost at sea and found by Navy personnel on San Clemente Island, upon the dog’s return at Naval Base Coronado in San Diego, California, on 16 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dystopian film about Hong Kong in 2025 touches nerve with Beijing



An undated handout action still released on 3 March 2016 of ‘Self-immolator’, part of Hong Kong movie ‘Ten Years’ that is nominated for the Best Film award at the upcoming Hong Kong Film Awards, which will be held in Hong Kong, China on 3 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

HONG KONG — “Ten Years”, a film which portrays a dystopian future Hong Kong under tight Chinese Communist Party control, has been a hit in Hong Kong and abroad, selling out cinemas, sparking discussions and being screened at international film festivals.

But Chinese state media has criticised the film and that has aroused new concern about mainland influence over Hong Kong despite a “one country, two systems” formula meant to preserve the city’s autonomy. “Ten Years” is a series of five short films packaged as a feature-length show. Set in the year 2025, the film includes scenes of a self-immolation in front of Hong Kong’s British Consulate and an assassination attempt in a city election.

The scenes, while fictional, underscore tension simmering between mainland China and the former British colony that returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

The film has been nominated for Best Picture at the Hong Kong Film Awards, Hong Kong’s equivalent of the Oscars, due to be announced on 3 April. Its makers say their project began before pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong in late 2014 that exacerbated long-standing concern in the city about creeping mainland control. “We were just trying to produce a film that we thought was true and reflected what is really happening in Hong Kong,” said “Ten Years” executive producer Andrew Choi.

“Our intent was not to be a political film.”

China’s state-controlled Global Times denounced “Ten Years” in a January editorial as absurd and pessimistic and said it was a “thought virus”.—*Reuters*

mitv

Myanmar International

(19-3-2016 07:00am ~ 20-3-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03 Am

News

07:26 Am

Great Shwedagon-The Planetary Posts

07:38 Am

A Visit To Ye

08:03 Am

News

08:26 Am

Pa Khan Traditional Nat Festival In Ku Ni Village (Part-I)

08:50 Am

[Doctor] [Painter]

09:03 Am

News

09:26 Am

Myanmar Game Changers (Episode - III)

09:52 Am

Kindhearted Pet Lovers

10:03 Am

News

10:25 Am

The Caves

10:41 Am

Gardener: King Orange Plantation

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Friday 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

Snow Flakes...Scenic Confluence...To Kachin State

07:47 Pm

Today Myanmar: EL NIÑO PHENOMENON & FIRE PREVENTION

08:03 Pm

News

08:26 Pm

National Literary Icon & Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode- 2) Service Life and Literary Journey

08:54 Pm

Now in Yangon

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

(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Friday 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

(19-3-2016, Saturday)

6:00 pm

• Weather Report

• Music Programme

6:20 pm

• Cassette Recording

• Music Programme

7:30 pm

* 9:30 PM Live:English Premier League “Chelsea Vs West Ham United”

From 19-3-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 Pm

To 20-3-2016(Sunday) 6:00 Pm

This schedule will be repeated four times in 24 hours.

7:50 pm

• Special Movie “I Robot”

9:50 pm

• Myanmar Video

Midnight

• Close Down.

Cocky Coutinho helps steer Liverpool past Manchester United

LONDON — An impudent individual goal from Philippe Coutinho steered Liverpool comfortably into the quarter-finals of the Europa League on Thursday after a 1-1 draw at bitter rivals Manchester United completed a 3-1 aggregate win.

Liverpool's Brazilian playmaker danced down the touchline and glided past a defender, before chipping the ball over keeper David De Gea from a tight angle to quieten the home crowd, who were sensing a comeback after Anthony Martial's penalty opener.

Juergen Klopp's side, who did most of the damage in a 2-0 first-leg victory, will be joined in the last eight by the German coach's former club Borussia Dortmund, who brushed aside Tottenham Hotspur 5-1 over two legs, after a 2-1 win in London.

The quarter-final lineup was completed by holders Sevilla, Athletic Bilbao, Shakhtar Donetsk, Braga, Sparta Prague and Villarreal with the draw taking place on Friday.

Liverpool's rivalry with



Liverpool's Philippe Coutinho shoots from a free kick during UEFA Europa League Round of 16 Second Leg at Old Trafford, Manchester, England, 17 on March. PHOTO: REUTERS

United stretches back over 122 years, but the two sides were playing out their bitter feud on the European stage for the first time in the two-legged tie.

The 196th competitive encounter between the clubs had

the potential to be an epic with United needing to come out all guns blazing in order to have a chance.

When Martial was tripped by Nathaniel Clyne with barely half an hour gone and picked

himself up to coolly dispatch the penalty the comeback looked on.

United had already squandered a number of chances and Liverpool looked vulnerable, but any momentum the home side had built up was crushed a min-

ute before halftime when Coutinho's goal left them needing to score four.

The second half was an anti-climax as United looked bereft of belief and Liverpool threatened on the break.

Liverpool are England's only surviving representative in Europe's second-tier competition as Tottenham's Europa League adventure was ended emphatically by Dortmund.

Led by Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang, who scored twice on Thursday to add to the goal he scored in the first leg, Dortmund proved too strong for the Premier League outfit, who left top scorer Harry Kane on the bench with an eye on their domestic title challenge.

Aubameyang opened the scoring with a superb dipping effort after 24 minutes and doubled the advantage with a venomous effort 19 minutes time.

Son Heung-Min's consolation for Spurs could not stop them falling to their first defeat in 10 European home games.—Reuters

Rooney will make Euros but may not start, says Hodgson

LONDON — England manager Roy Hodgson is confident captain Wayne Rooney will save him from a selection dilemma by making a full recovery from injury in time for Euro 2016 but said the striker would not necessarily be an automatic starter.

Rooney, England's record goalscorer, has been out since 13 February with a knee ligament problem and although he was scheduled to return at the start of April a setback then ruled him out for another month.

Questions have been raised in the media over whether the 30-year-old Manchester United forward will be fit by the time Hodgson names his provisional squad on 12 May but the manager played down fears his captain

could miss the tournament.

"I'm confident he'll get fit and I won't have a situation where I have the dilemma of 12 May arriving and him not being 100 per cent fit but knowing he could make it by the time the tournament starts," Hodgson told British media.

With a wealth of forward options at his disposal, the 68-year-old said even a fully fit Rooney was not guaranteed a starting spot for the 10 June – 10 July tournament.

"I've never said he's is an automatic starter. I've never said anyone is. Does he have a good chance with his track record, ability and experience? Of course he does," Hodgson added.

"But that doesn't necessarily

mean he will be in the lineup. He might not have recovered to the best of his ability, or we might want to use different players or play in a different way.

"If I think others are better or the right men to play in a particular way, he will accept that because he's a footballer, our leader and our captain. If he's fit, he'll go. But not as an automatic starter."

Hodgson has called up Premier League joint-top scorers Jamie Vardy and Harry Kane, the fit-again Daniel Sturridge, and Arsenal's Theo Walcott and Danny Welbeck for friendlies against world champions Germany in Berlin on 26 March and the Netherlands at Wembley three days later.—Reuters

Federer to make return at next week's Miami Open

MIAMI — World number three Roger Federer said via Twitter on Thursday that he will return from knee surgery a little earlier than expected at the Miami Open next week.

Federer, using a series of emojis, indicated a flight from Europe to the United States, followed by symbols of an orange, sunshine, a palm tree, a dolphin, a thumbs-up and finally a link to the Miami Open's Twitter account. The 17-times grand slam champion, who has not played since January's Australian Open, had said three weeks ago via Facebook that he planned to delay his comeback until the Monte Carlo Masters in April. The Miami Open will be played from 23 March – 3 April. Federer had ar-

throscopic knee surgery in Switzerland last month to repair a torn meniscus, having suffered the injury away from a tennis court the day after his Australian Open run ended in the semi-finals.

He withdrew from the ABN AMRO World Tennis Tournament in Rotterdam, the Dubai Duty Free Tennis Championships and the 10-20 March BNP Paribas Open at Indian Wells in California. The Swiss maestro has rarely missed any tournaments for health reasons during his 18-year professional career.

In 2005 Federer was out of action for six weeks while he recovered from foot injury and during 2008 he was troubled by a bout of mononucleosis and back problems.—Reuters



Switzerland's Roger Federer hits a shot during his semi-final match against Serbia's Novak Djokovic at the Australian Open tennis tournament at Melbourne Park, Australia, on 28 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ozil urges Arsenal to fight for every Premier League point

LONDON — Midfielder Mesut Ozil says Arsenal have a fight on their hands to overtake Leicester City at the top of the standings and win the Premier League after exiting two cup competitions in the space of four days.

Arsenal were beaten in the FA Cup by Watford last Sunday and lost 3-1 at Barcelona on Wednesday to exit the Champions League at the last-16 stage for the sixth season in a row.

Manager Arsene Wenger's

team trail Leicester by 11 points, having played a game less, and the Premier League represents their last hope of silverware this season.

"We have to concentrate now and give everything on the pitch. We have to fight," Ozil told the club's website (www.arsenal.com). "I know the teams playing us will fight to take the points against us, so the games will be tough. We have to work harder than before."

Defender Laurent Koscielny

spoke of the frustration and fragile confidence of a team that has failed to win a league game in their last three outings to go alongside their dispiriting losses to Barcelona and Watford.

"We haven't been fighting like we did in the last six months because we lost a little confidence in ourselves and it is harder to win some games," he said. "We need to come back to our basics, be simple and then the confidence will come back."—Reuters