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A DILEMMA OF PEACE

MILITARY MPS JUSTIFY CONTINUED CONFLICT WITH AA

THE Amyotha Hluttaw session continued for its 19th day with representatives discussing an urgent motion calling for an end to fighting in Rakhine State and for bringing the Arakan armed group into political talks.

Union Minister for Defense Lt-Gen Sein Win said the anti-war protests and the submission of the urgent motion during the administration of President U Htin Kyaw present a political dilemma for the government as the AA "began attacks" in 2015.

The Union minister called on the AA to end its armed struggle and cooperate with the government elected by the people.

He also said the AA opposes Myanmar's democratic system as it is attacking the state that consists of executive, legislative and judicial pillars and the Tatmadaw, which is "safeguarding the country against all internal and external dangers in accordance with Article 339 of the constitution".

Military-appointed MP Lt-Col Ye Naing said the AA attacked the Tatmadaw's military columns in alliance with the KIA in 2012-2013 and joined the TNLA and MNDAA in attacking the government's administrative mechanism in the Laukkai region in 2015.

"The armed groups it joined are organisations breaching the existing laws by fighting against the government and Tatmadaw troops following a peace invitation on 18 August 2011," the military MP said.

Col Than Htaik, another military MP, stressed the need for "goodwill to achieve peace and prosperity by the entire people with Union spirit".

Union Minister for Defense Lt-Gen Sein Win. PHOTO: MNA

"Only with everyone's cooperation will the nation build a peaceful Union," he added.

MP U Min Oo of Bago Region Constituency 6 said the proposal should be documented as it needs serious consideration by all members of parliament in order to reach an agreement within a pragmatic framework.

Next, the Amyotha Hluttaw documented the proposal by a 195-6 vote.

During a question-and-answer session, U Soe Win of Rakhine State Constituency 12 asked Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Aung Thu about the forced eviction of more than 8,000 households in Hlegu Township by the ministry and whether there is a plan to compensate and rehabilitate the victims.

The Union minister said the ministry evicted the squatters with the help of the Yangon Region government in accordance with "rules and regulations and procedures".

"No compensation or accommodation will be given to squatters," said the Union minister, adding that only 1,280 houses were emptied, according to a list made by the Yangon North District General Administration Department before the removal procedures began.

Next, U Sai Tun Aung of Shan State Constituency 2, who is also a member of the Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, read out a report on the bill to revoke the 1974 People's Council Law.

Then, U Aung Kyi Nyunt of Magwe Region Constituency 4 submitted a motion regarding a bill to revoke duties and powers of people's councils and executive committees of various levels.—*Myanmar News Agency*

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Parliament to discuss private hospital lease

THE Pyithu Hluttaw session entered its 21st day yesterday with one representative putting forward a proposal to suspend the lease of a 4.3-acre plot owned by the Ministry of Health near Yangon General Hospital for the construction of a private hospital.

While submitting the proposal Dr San Shwe Win of Yekyi Constituency called for the suspension of the lease of land for private hospital construction, blaming a lack of transparency regarding the rental process.

According to the representative, the 4.3-acre land plot is owned by the Ministry of Health and it is situated near Yangon General Hospital (YGH).

The representative pointed out that the land is set for the future extension of YGH.

The Pyithu Hluttaw approved the proposal to be discussed in the parliament and invited representatives willing to take part in the parliamentary discussion on the proposal to list their names no later than 6 May.

A question and answer session followed.

Responding to a question raised by U Sit Aye of Taungtha Constituency about the ministry's plan to avoid power outrages this summer, Union Minister for Electricity and Energy U Pe Zin Tun said that arrangements are being made to have additional 300 megawatts of electricity from hydropower and natural gas-fired power stations incorporated into the power system.

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Dr San Shwe Win. PHOTO: MNA

Environmental damages have impact on fish population in Taungthaman lake

A fisherman catches fish in Taungthaman Lake in Mandalay. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

DAMAGES to the environment has resulted in a decrease in the population of large fish within Taungthaman lake, located in Amarapura township of Mandalay Region, according to local fishermen.

"I've been out on the lake since 3am trying to catch fish, but my haul only comprises tiddlers; I've not caught any sizable fish. I'll get about K5,000 for today's haul. After we've paid our daily fee of K2,000 to the keeper of the lake, to be permitted to catch fish on the lake, we're left will almost no profit despite the fact we've been fishing," said Ko Thein Aung, a fisherman.

The decline in large species of fish in the lake is linked to pollution of the lake from the disposal of chemicals into from the Mandalay Industrial Zone, along with waster material from residential areas, according to the Department of Fisheries.

"The scarcity of fish is also concerned with climate change. The breeding rate of fish has decreased because of the extreme heat we are experiencing. We need to introduce many species of fish offspring into the lake. We could see abundant numbers of fish after introducing fish offspring. Another reason [for a decline in fish numbers], is related to overfishing. The introduction [into the lake] of the Hilsa species of fish should be avoided when introducing fish offspring as the offspring could affect the Hilsa fishes' reproduction. We could see abundant fish in the coming year if we just fill the lake with fish offspring," said U Hnin Oo, vice chair of the Myanmar Fisheries Federation. Other problems which are affecting the Taungthaman lake include the current forming of sandbanks and a proliferation of litter, it is known. "We've had to open the sluice gate to allow water to flow into the lake, for failing to do so would see the lake completely dry out," said a local.

It is known that thousands of fish died in 2014 and 2015 in the lake of Taungthaman. *—Myitmakha News Agency*

Visitors to Chin State spike in April

THE number of people visiting Myanmar's isolated and less-traversed Chin State has picked up this April, according to French hotel booking website Jovago Myanmar. "Myanmar is famous around the world for its natural beauty. Chin State's Reed Lake was the most visited destination during the Thingyan New Year period," said Hugo Schleicher, managing director of Jovago Myanmar.

Tourists visiting Myanmar tend to come for the beautiful beaches, mountains and natural scenery. Improvements to Myanmar's infrastructure have given rise to interest in natural locations off the beaten track. "It's better to visit Reed [Lake] in a group, and it's more beautiful during the winter months. There are VIP express coaches that run between Yangon and Kalay, [the gateway into Chin State]. Ticket prices range between K25,000 and K30,000. Renting a private car, which can carry five individuals, to make the journey from Kalay to Reed [Lake] costs around K200,000, while a 10-person car fetches approximately K300,000. Online tourist operators can help with additional information if required," explained U Zaw Wai, the press officer for Jovago Myanmar.

Locally grown fresh fruit such as strawberries, avocados, apples, oranges and melons can be bought along the road to Chin State, while world-famous historical war cemeteries and forts are of much interest to travellers visiting the region.

The Myanmar tourist industry is gaining momentum, with tourists to the Golden Land reaching 4.7 million during 2015, resulting in revenue of as much as US$2.1 billion. *—Myitmakha News Agency*

Reed Lake in Chin State has attracted visitors at home and abroad. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Strong winds cause over K3 billion damage in Mandalay

THE Mandalay Region government on Tuesday said that the total damage to homes and buildings stands at a cost of K3.127 billion caused by recent wild weather, namely wind.

According to the regional government, donations amounting to K101 million raised by Tatmadaw battalions and regiments as well as social organisations and K532 million raised by 29 other organisations have been brought together to aid the community.

The disaster occurred at various intensities between 21 and 25 April and from 29 April to 1 May during which time all townships in the region except Mogok were effected, it added.

Regional ministers as well as Hluttaw representatives have made field trips to review and aid local rehabilitation. Philanthropic organisations have also gone to the region to give a helping hand, said Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung.

Affected households will be given priority to receive provisions of aid rather than departmental buildings, added the Chief Minister.

Strong winds devastated 61 building including schools and 1,417 houses, ripped the roofs off 13,352 houses and 334 monasteries and cause 2,420 houses to collapse across the region.

High winds blew the Htidaw (umbrella) off 11 Pagodas and damaged a htidaw atop one pagoda without breaking it. Strong winds left 18 people dead and 24 injured, killing 1,410 and wounding 121 cattle.— *Aung Thant Khaing*

Union Attorney-General, EU delegation discuss reforms in judiciary sector

Union Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo holds talks with EU delegation over reforms in judiciary sector. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo held talks with an EU delegation over issues related to reforms in the judiciary system in Myanmar yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The delegation, led by EU Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Roland Kobia, offered to make efforts at further cooperation in its My Justice project and conducting training courses in Myanmar. Also discussed was the implementation of the strategic plan by the Union Attorney-General's Office to provide legal assistance to the people. *—Myanmar News Agency*

Parliament to discuss private...

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According to the Union minister the country is expected to have a power supply deficit of 280 megawatts this summer with demand of 2,730 megawatts and supply of 2450 megawatts.

On a question about the government's policy on the name of a group of people living in the country, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe replied that people in Tarmoenye region have not yet been officially recognised yet as an ethnic group however they have been allowed to use their racial name, 'Mon Won Bamar', on the citizenship IDs in order to have a unique identidy.

According to rules and regulations of the issuance of citizenship security cards, IDs have been issued for Mon Won people since 1989 and have included the racial name, added the Union minister.*—Myanmar News Agency*

Union Information Minister meets literature associations, discusses development

Union Minister Dr Pe Myint and representatives from literature associations discuss development of literature along with freedom of expression in Myanmar. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint held talks with representatives from literature associations on the development of Myanmar literary works along with freedom of expression and publication and the holding of literary seminars yesterday.

The Union minister and those from the Myanmar Writers Association, Myanmar Literature Lovers Association, Myanmar Writers Union and Myanmar Poets Union attended a meeting at the office of the Printing and Publishing Department in Yangon.

The Union minister also met with the chairman and members of the Myanmar Libraries Foundation for library development brainstorming in the afternoon.

While meeting with representatives from the Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association and the Myanmar Publishers and Booksellers Association, the Union minister discussed the establishment of Print City and Book City, setting book reviews column in the State-run newspapers and conducting printing courses.

In the evening, the Union minister held talks with representatives from the Myanmar Music Association (Central) on measures to be taken against the piracy of music albums, copy right infringement and the amendment of laws that are considered in need of change or scrapping altogether.—*Myanmar News Agency*

ASEAN Puppet Exchange prepares for One ASEAN Tour

Phoe Thant

FOLLOWING a series of successful ASEAN Puppet Exchange (APEX) projects across Southeast Asia, over 20 puppet artists and musicians will be in Yangon, Myanmar on 9-16 May to begin working on a One ASEAN puppet performance. Artist-to-artist workshops for ASEAN's arts and culture development will be held at the Laurel Art Academy, organised by local puppet troupe Htwe Oo Myanmar, according to www.asean.org.

Puppeteers and musicians from Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Singapore, and Viet Nam will come together to join Myanmar's artists to develop the first of three combined puppet and music performances this year. The remaining ASEAN Member States will be involved in the second and third performances in 2016. Two showings from the APEX visit will be held at 6.30 pm on 12 May and 6.30 pm on 15 May at Laurel Art Academy's hall.

This leg of the programme is entitled APEX-Earth, which focuses on heritage, cultural roots and the environment. Visiting artists include the PeSTAB (Brunei), Sovanna Phum Art Association (Cambodia), Jampalao (Lao PDR), Sri Warisan Som Said (Singapore), and the National Puppet Theatre of Viet Nam. Guest artists include representatives from Utervision of Japan who will observe and incorporate ASEAN ideas and ways of intercultural exchange to their practices in Tokyo.

The APEX collective is a membership of over 160 ASEAN puppet artists and practitioners who have come together to develop the mobility of artists and appreciation of ASEAN as one community. Since 2014, APEX has used puppet performances and workshops to help ASEAN's people recognise and understand the unity and diversity of all ten ASEAN Member States' cultures, stories and languages. APEX aims to develop the work of ASEAN's puppet artists as well as a long-term relationship of collaboration and understanding among artists within and without ASEAN. With the support of the Japan-ASEAN Solidarity Fund administered by ASEAN Foundation, APEX is one step closer to the development of the One ASEAN puppet show and tour in 2017 to celebrate ASEAN's 50th Anniversary. Through this cultural treasure, APEX shall demonstrate ASEAN's interconnected traditions and cultures, provide an overview of ASEAN as a region and help develop new and wondrous art for its people.

APEX-Earth is organised by Artsolute of Singapore with the support of ASEAN's puppeteers from all ten member states. APEX was featured at the 48th ASEAN Day celebrations in Jakarta and has also visited Brunei, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, and the Philippines. This 8th exchange is APEX's first visit to Myanmar.

PHOTO: ASEAN

Yangon sees 139 crimes over previous four months

A TOTAL of 139 crimes including 55 murders and 18 robberies have occurred in Yangon Region over the past four months with 47 in April alone according to the office of the commander of the region's police force.

The police office said that 25 of 138 cases were still waiting to be brought to trial. Twenty-eight crimes were committed in March, 33 in February and 31 in January, with the police office saying that Yangon Region saw 397 criminal cases in 2014 and 397 in 2015. —*Ko Moe*

Bill to Revoke the Duties and Powers of the People's Councils and Executive Committees of Various Levels published for public notice

THE Pyidaungsu Hluttaw has made public the Law Revoking Duties and Powers of People's Councils and Executive Committees at Various Levels.

The 1977 Law Revoking Duties and Powers of People's Councils and Executive Committees at Various Levels (1977 Pyithu Hluttaw Law No.13) will be revoked with this Law.

The bill is covered in the state-run dailies today.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Tatmadawmen, members of Police Force and members of Fire Brigade seen cleaning a Naung Kham lake which was full of water hyacinth plants, garbage, other twining shrub plants in No 3 Ward of KengTung, Shan State (East) on 3 May 2016. PHOTO: OFFICE OF COMMANDER IN CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Lashio drug dealers arrested in dawn raid

Drug dealers arrested after police crackdown. PHOTO: MNA

POLICE arrested 46 people during a dawn raid on drug dealers in Lashio Township, northern Shan State, according to the Myanmar Police Force.

Lashio police raided a building used as a base located on a hill four miles from Lashio, seizing heroin kept in 36 boxes of soap and 80 bottles, plus 2,820 tablets of ecstasy, 25 swords and 17 motorcycles.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Heroin and yaba seized in Shan State and Yangon

MEMBERS of the Ngar Ao Police Outpost searched a house owned by one Ma Khin Toak in Ngar Ao village, Mabein Township on 1 May and discovered 179 yaba pills. Police searched another two houses in the same village on that day and confiscated 1,000 yaba pills and 0.4 grams of heroin from one Maung Tin and 348 yaba pills from one Kyaw Lin Oo's house.

Ma Khin Toak, Maung Tin alias Khin Maung Tin and Kyaw Linn Oo. PHOTO: MNA

On the same day, members of the Hsenwi Myo Ma Police searched a house owned by one Yaw Ae in No. 4 Ward, Hsenwi and seized 163 yaba pills.

On Monday members of the Yangon Police Force (East District) searched the home of one Aung Phyo Htet and discovered 1201 yaba pills. Hla Sein and Ma Khin Thitsar Oo were discovered together with Aung Phyo Htet on the property. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Crime NEWS

NISSAN vehicle overturns on Yangon- Mandalay highway

A VEHICLE en route from Nay Pyi Taw to Yangon collided with concrete road dividers and overturned between mileposts 88/7 and 89/0 on the Yangon - Mandalay at about 7:30am on Tuesday.

The accident occurred when the driver Maung Maung Myint Lwin, 35, lost control and crashed into the barrier. No one was injured but the car was reportedly badly damaged by the accident.

The driver, Nyein Chan, has been charged by the police.— *Khin Ko(Kyaukdaga)*

Three illegal excavators seized in Kyaikhto

Illegal excavators being seen. PHOTO: YE KAUNG OO

LOCAL police discovered three illegal excavators on a container vehicle in Mupalin village, Kyaikhto township, Mon state on Monday.

The police searched the container vehicle being driven by one Ye Naing Tun, 28, with Saw Zaw Set alias Ah Nge Kaung, 36, on board and seized three illegal excavators.

When interrogated, Saw Zaw Set admitted that the pair were going to transport the three excavators to Yangon region. Local police have filed charges against them.— *Ye Kaung Oo*

Man lying on the road dies

A MAN was found lying in a satellite communications yard in Ward 26, Dagon (South) on Monday. People nearby discovered him and informed the local police station.

When police arrived at the scene they found that the anonymous man was still alive but could not speak. Police sent the man to Thingangyin Sanpya general hospital.

The man died upon arrival at the hospital. Police are still trying to identify the man after sending the dead body to the mortuary for a post mortem. The case is still under investigation.— *Myanmar Police Force*

LOCAL Business

A trader checks the quality of jade at Myanmar's 2011 Mid-Year Emporium for jade, gems and pearls at an emporium hall in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: REUTERS

Myanmar jade to be sold in euros only at emporium

MYANMAR jade will only be available for purchase using euros during the next gems and jade emporium, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Under the supervision of the ministry, the Myanmar Gems Emporium Central Committee will hold the first showcase during the term of the new government at the Maniyadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw before the end of June.

Normally, the emporiums turn good profits for participants, one local jade trader said.

Local traders may apply to sell their mined products by reporting the quantity they seek to sell no later than 11 May.

Vendors will have to pay a deposit and premium fees to the organizer, who will inspect the jade and set prices for products products between 19 May and 10 June.—*200*

Rubber price increases despite low yield

THE price of Myanmar rubber is on an upward trend at the moment keeping in step with world rubber prices. At the moment domestically there is high demand following a rubber low yield. The yield of rubber has declined in countries which suffer from the effects of El Nino, according to the Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.

At the end of April this year the prevailing market price of rubber was K730 per RSS 3 pound which is up from K630 per pound as it was in March. The world rubber price was over US$1,700 per tonne.

Myanmar exports 92 per cent of the rubber yield collected domestically: 70 per cent goes to China and 22 per cent to Europe and Japan. The volume of rubber cultivation across the globe decreased 13 per cent because of the harsh weather and Myanmar is counted among those countries in which rubber production has fallen.

The market price of rubber decreases by 50 per cent over the last three years because of a decline in Myanmar rubber quality and because of high rubber availability on the world market.

Rubber producers who have suffered from low prices are seeing their fortunes turn due to the current rubber market price which is heading upwards, said rubber entrepreneurs.—*200*

MACCS registrations increases substantially

THE Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) is designed to facilitate trade at the Customs Department. The system is now, however, gaining attention and so MACCS registrations have increased, said U Maung Maung Htwe Swe, assistant director of the Customs Department.

The Customs Department introduced an IE Code system and registrations for MACCS service starting on 1 April. From 1 to 29 April there were a total of 443 user registrations of MACCS including 343 for Customs Brokers; 49 for Importers/Exporters; 46 for Freight Forwarders; three for Warehouses/ Container yards and two for OGAs. MACCS user registration is available during the working hours of the office.

MACCS aims at import/ export related businesses and the entrepreneurs' associations. MACCS registrations can be made by 30 June.

Import/Export declarations for Customs Department have to be filled using the system in addition to getting an Importer/ Exporter Code (IE Code) when MACCS starts. MACCS will start November of this year after registrations and prearrangements are complete.—*200*

New border trade zone in Maungtaw nearly finished

CONSTRUCTION on the Kanyinchaung border trade zone in Maungtaw Township, Rakhine State, is 90 per cent complete, and it is estimated to be finished this December, the project manager said.

With the aim of improving the economic status of residents in the region, the project has been implemented by regional authorities since 2013, with the contribution of K600 million (US$513,000) by the government, plus K400 million ($342,000) by private businessmen.

The new zone will be the major gateway to generate income from exports to Bangladesh, which has a population of about 160 million people, who are expected to import agricultural products and breeding supplies.

Since 1995, Myanmar has regularly exported agricultural products, breeding supplies and fisheries products to Bangladesh. The import and export volumes dramatically decreased by 66.85 per cent in the 2012-2013 fiscal year because of conflict instigated by Buddhist nationalists against Muslims living in Rakhine State, whom nationalists accuse of being illegal immigrants.

"We decided to establish another trade zone in Maungtaw Township after the riot quieted," said U Aung Myint Thein, chairman of the Maungtaw border trade gate.

He added: "We want financial assistance from the government as our current funds are not sufficient to install some facilities in the interior of the main building and the construction of a fence around the zone."—*MPPS/Union Daily*

Japanese buyers put off by high prices of Myanmar coffee

AN appreciation in the value of coffee beans this year from Ywangan township, located in the Danu Self Administrative Region of Shan State, has put off Japanese buyers, according to the Mandalay Coffee Association (MCA).

A ton of Ywangan coffee beans fetched $3,300 in 2015. But this month, which marks the end of the 2016 coffee season, has seen the price of the bean shoot up to $4,000 because of its premium quality.

"We sold [our coffee beans] to Japan this time last year. But there's no export to Japan this year because of an increase in the price of the coffee bean. Ywangan coffee is quite expensive. They [Japanese buyers] just came to inspect the coffee beans but didn't make any purchases," said U Min Hlaing, secretary of MCA.

Ywangan coffee is officially recognised by the Specialty Coffee Association of America (SCAA) after the beans scored 85/100 after being taste tested. The popularity of coffee, and subsequent consumer demand, has caused a trend in the appreciate of coffee on the world market.

"We sent samples of the beans to Japan last year. They're already aware of the quality of our coffee bean. We have exported 18 tons of Ywangan coffee, together with coffee from Pyin Oo Lwin, to Japan costing $3,500 per tonne," said U Win Aung Kyaw, chair of the Ywangan Coffee Association.

Coffee berries. PHOTO: MYITMAKAH NEWS AGENCY

The coffee grown in Ywangan village is a of the Costa Rican coffee bean variety and was introduced as a substitution crop for opium in 1985. The township boasts 6,600 acres of coffee plantations across 125 villages, which has the capacity to produce over 700 tonnes of coffee beans annually.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Indonesia to hold new round of executions; no word on foreigners

JAKARTA — Indonesia is preparing to execute several prisoners, a police official said on Wednesday, though authorities have not said if foreigners will be among them, a year after the execution of foreign drug traffickers drew widespread condemnation.

President Joko Widodo's administration has pledged to resume executions by firing squad at a prison on Nusakambangan Island, despite criticism from rights groups and foreign governments.

"We have had a warning since last month to prepare the place," said Central Java provincial police spokesman Aloysius Lilik Darmanto.

"We carried out some rehabilitation of the location like painting and repairs because there will probably be more people who will be executed," he said, adding that the firing squad had been training and receiving counselling.

He declined to say how many prisoners would be executed, or when, or if there would be foreigners among them.

Authorities executed eight drug traffickers in April last year including seven foreigners, drawing condemnation from Australia and Brazil which has pleaded for their nationals to be spared.

Authorities have not given a breakdown of the numbers of foreigners on death row but citizens of France, Britain and the Philippines are known to be among them.

A 59-year-old British women, Lindsay Sandiford, was sentenced to death after being convicted in 2013 of trying to smuggle cocaine worth $2.5 million into the country.

A Philippine maid, Mary Jane Veloso, got a last-minute reprieve last year in response to a request from Manila after an employment recruiter, whom Veloso had accused of planting drugs in her luggage, gave herself up to police in the Philippines.

Her lawyer said he hoped she would not be in the next batch of prisoners to be executed.

"The execution of Mary Jane should be delayed because we are waiting for the legal process in the Philippines," said lawyer Agus Salim.

Filipino death row inmate Mary Jane Veloso shows her handicraft during a workshop at Wirogunan prison in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, on 12 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

A lawyer for Serge Atlaoui, a French national, said authorities had not contacted the French embassy on whether his client would be executed in the next batch.

The government typically informs the embassies of foreign convicts days before their executions.

Indonesia imposed a moratorium on executions for five years before resuming them in 2013. It has executed 14 convicts, most of them foreigners, under Widodo.

But amid international outrage last year, scheduled executions were postponed while the government focussed on reviving the economy, officials said.

Indonesia's representative at a UN narcotics conference was jeered last month when he defended the use of capital punishment for drug offences.—*Reuters*

Dhaka arrests five Bangladeshis deported from Singapore

DHAKA — Police in Bangladesh have arrested five men deported from Singapore as part of an investigation into an alleged Islamist plot to carry out attacks in the South Asian country, authorities in Dhaka said.

Singapore's Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) said on Tuesday it had detained eight other Bangladeshi men who were planning attacks in their homeland, using the name Islamic State in Bangladesh (ISB).

The five men returned to Bangladesh were not involved with that group, the MHA said, but were found during the same investigation to be in possession of jihadi-related material or to support the use of armed violence for a religious cause.

Dhaka city police spokesman Maruf Hossain Sardar said the five, who travelled to Singapore between 2007 and 2011, were being investigated for possible connections with local militant group Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT).

Islamist militants in Bangladesh have targeted atheist bloggers, academics, religious minorities and foreign aid workers in a series of killings that dates back to February 2015 and has claimed at least 20 lives.

The Islamic State and a group affiliated to al Qaeda have claimed responsibility for most of the attacks but Bangladesh authorities have dismissed the claims as 'baseless' and said homegrown militant groups were responsible. Bangladesh authorities have said the ABT was behind the attacks on online critics of religious extremism and the killing last month of a gay rights campaigner and his friend.

The MHA said on Tuesday the eight men still held in Singapore were detained under the colonial-era Internal Security Act.

Wealthy, multi-ethnic Singapore, which has not faced any successful militant attacks in decades, said investigations showed the group had identified several possible targets in Bangladesh.—*Reuters*

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'Bongbong', the son, leads Marcos revival in the Philippines

MANILA — For the son and namesake of late Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos, winning the vice presidency in next week's election is as much about restoring his family's tainted image as it is about making the country a better place.

"Bongbong", as Ferdinand Marcos Jr. is known, has been leading most opinion polls ahead of the 9 May election, marking the revival of a name synonymous with martial law, torture and billions of dollars of plundered wealth. A poll published on Wednesday had him slipping to second place for the first time, but he was just two points behind Congresswoman Leni Robredo.

Marcos Jr., 58, says his family is not the only issue and his popularity comes from public disenchantment with a political establishment that emerged after his father's overthrow in the iconic "people power" revolution in 1986.

"We keep hearing about all these wonderful things happening to our economy and yet people are poor," he said in an interview.

"That's where the frustration comes from... There's clearly a desire for something different."

Unlike most other countries, elections for the Philippine president and vice-president are held separately and the two can be political rivals.

The maverick mayor of the southern city of Davao, Rodrigo Duterte, 71, is leading opinion polls for president.

The senior Marcos was president of the Philippines for two decades, including nine years as the head of a martial law government.

Later governments have documented 75,000 cases of torture, illegal detention and disappearances in those years. The rule by the senior Marcos and his wife Imelda, known for her lavish lifestyle and thousands of pairs of shoes, has been called a kleptocratic "conjugal dictatorship".

The family fled to exile in Hawaii after the ouster, where the senior Marcos died in 1989. After that, the widespread hatred of the Marcos family began to ebb.

Bongbong Marcos returned from Hawaii in 1991 and rebuilt the family's political base in its stomping grounds of Ilocos Norte province, serving as governor, congressman and senator. His mother Imelda is seeking re-election next week to the House of Representatives from a district in the province, while his sister Imee is seeking re-election as the provincial governor.

Political strategist Pastor "Boy" Saycon says the Marcos years were not all that bad, although he spent three months in jail at that time when the government rounded up student activists.

"There was this discipline being instilled," he said. "Because that's the problem of our country today - there is no discipline."—*Reuters*

Japan, EU leaders agree to accelerate free trade talks

BRUSSELS — Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and European Union leaders agreed Tuesday to expedite negotiations for a free trade deal and reach a broad accord by the end of the year, Japanese officials said.

Abe shared the view in a meeting with Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, and Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission, the executive branch of the 28-member bloc, they said.

Tusk was quoted as saying a free trade agreement should be reached during an annual Japan-EU summit in the latter half of the year.

Japan and the regional grouping, which began free trade negotiations in April 2013, missed the earlier envisioned deadline for reaching a deal set for the end of 2015.

During the meeting, Abe said Japan is trying to improve relations with China. He explained that China seems eager to reciprocate, though there were sharp exchanges of views during last Saturday's Japan-China foreign ministers' talks in Beijing.

The Japanese premier said he will seek to hold a bilateral summit between the Asian neighbors in early September, when China will host a summit of Group of 20 major economies, the officials said.

(From L) Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker attend a joint press conference in Brussels on 3 May, 2016, after their talks. The leaders agreed to expedite negotiations for a free trade deal and reach a broad agreement by the end of the year.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

He also expressed concern about Beijing's ongoing militarization of the South China Sea, while Tusk supported the idea of sending a joint message from the Group of Seven industrialised nations on the need to observe international and maritime laws.

Touching on increasing uncertainty in the global economy, Abe pointed to the need for flexible fiscal policy in order to spark demand. Juncker said he is in full agreement on that point.

Meanwhile, Abe revealed a plan to map out humanitarian and other support measures to help stabilise Middle Eastern and African nations at the G-7 summit to be held in Japan later this month, the officials said.

He was hopeful that the EU will remove all remaining restrictions imposed on imported Japanese food products after the 2011 nuclear disaster at the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station, they said.

Abe is visiting Belgium on the third leg of his weeklong trip to major European nations and Russia to lay the groundwork for the G-7 summit on 26 and 27 May in central Japan's Mie Prefecture.—*Kyodo News*

Mahathir stripped of police escort for attending anti-government rallies

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's police chief said Wednesday that former Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is no longer entitled to a traffic police escort because he attended "illegal" antigovernment rallies.

Fresh from being sacked as the adviser of the national oil company Petronas in March, due to his persistent criticism of the government, Mahathir found himself last Thursday bereft of a privilege he enjoyed since he retired in October 2003.

"It is my decision to withdraw the outriders as he was attending illegal functions. It does not make sense for law enforcers to escort someone to an antigovernment or an illegal rally," Inspector-General of Police Khalid Abu Bakar was quoted as saying by The Star online daily.

He said Mahathir could still request an escort service for official functions and such requests would be considered on a case-by-case basis.

He also added that the 90-year old statesman, who ruled the country for 22 years from 1982 to 2003, is still entitled to his bodyguard "for his personal safety."

"I hope Tun Mahathir understands our position on the matter," Khalid said.

Mahathir has been on the warpath with Prime Minister Najib Abdul Razak, who is caught in a corruption scandal. The latter began to seriously fight back when, in early March, Mahathir openly collaborated with the opposition in a campaign to demand Najib's resignation.

On 11 March, Najib's office issued a statement saying the Cabinet decided to terminate Mahathir's service as Petronas adviser because he "is no longer supporting the current Government, he should no longer hold any position related to the Government."

Mahathir was appointed as Petronas adviser just after he retired from office.

He has found himself the subject of multiple police investigations over his alleged seditious and defamatory anti-Najib remarks.—*Kyodo News*

Pakistan army launches inquiry into political worker's death

KARACHI — Pakistan's army chief on Wednesday ordered an inquiry into the death of a political activist in custody of the paramilitary Rangers force, the first known inquiry since 2013 when Rangers launched a major crime crackdown in the city of Karachi.

The Muttahida Qaumi Movement (MQM), a secular party that has long dominated the port city of Karachi, has accused the Rangers of having carried out dozens of extra-judicial killings of party members since 2013, something the Rangers deny.

Aftab Husain, a prominent activist and aide to Farooq Sattar, the MQM leader in the National Assembly, was arrested at his house on Sunday and died on Tuesday.

The Rangers initially said Husain died of a heart attack, but the MQM said Husain was "extra-judicially killed" in the force's custody.

"COAS has directed to hold an inquiry to find out truth in the case of Aftab Ahmed," the army said in a statement, referring to the army chief, General Raheel Sharif, who is chief of army staff (COAS).

The MQM has held sway over Pakistan's commercial hub for years and law enforcement agencies, its opponents and many residents have accused it of racketeering, abduction, torture and murder of opponents in its bid to maintain power.

The party denies links to crime.

The Rangers' campaign against crime in the city has been widely seen as part of a broader effort by the army to exert its influence over civilian politics.

In a separate statement, the head of the Rangers said the force had set up a "high level investigating committee" to look into Husain's death and had suspended the officials suspected of involvement.

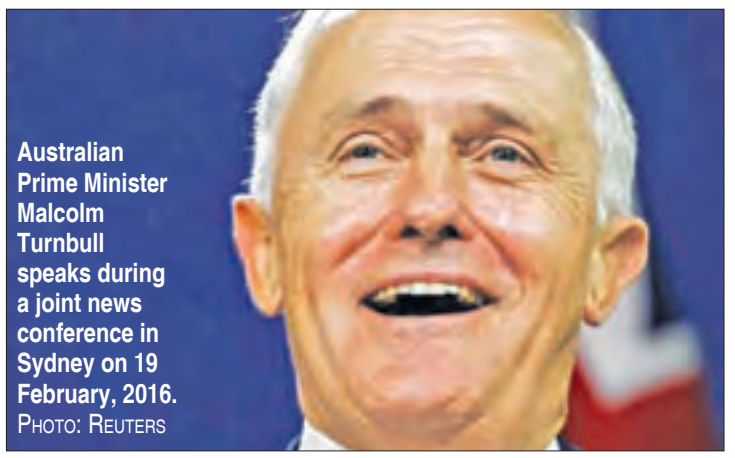
Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in August formed a "grievances redressal committee" to address MQM concerns, but the body has not published findings. The army is not known to have launched any inquiries into deaths of MQM members since 2013.

Last year, the UN Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances referred 55 cases of what it called illegal abductions of MQM workers to the government, concluding a "pattern of specific targeting" of the MQM by Rangers.

While Karachi murder rates have dropped sharply and many businesses welcome the Rangers' operation, the force has been dogged by allegations of brutality. Army chief Sharif said recently "across the board accountability" was essential, linking anti-corruption efforts to the war on Islamist militants.

General Asim Bajwa, the army spokesman, said in a Tuesday media interview six senior army officials had been "punished" over corruption charges unrelated to the Rangers inquiry. —*Reuters*

Australia PM Turnbull confirms will call election for 2 July



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull speaks during a joint news conference in Sydney on 19 February, 2016.
PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull confirmed on Wednesday that he would call an election within the next week to be held on 2 July, looking to cash in on a budget plan aimed at creating jobs and spurring growth.

The conservative government delivered a spending plan on Tuesday that effectively doubled as the launch of its election campaign, after Turnbull said he planned to use a political deadlock over industrial relations to dissolve parliament.

The Liberal-National coalition, which returned to power in 2013, has lost its lead against the opposition Labour party in the latest polls, with the two sides now running neck-and-neck, but Turnbull said he expected to win. "I am quietly confident that the Australian people will give us another term in government," he said on Channel 9 TV.

"You can expect there to be an election on the second of July," Turnbull said in an interview on Australia Broadcasting Corp radio, adding that he would call the poll "between now and the 11th of May." The government handed down its budget the same day that the Reserve Bank of Australia cut interest rates to a record low of 1.75 per cent, seeking to restrain a rising currency and stem deflation. Turnbull said the move made sense given that inflation was below the central bank's target band. —*Reuters*

Opinion

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March in lockstep to peace while accepting differences

Kyaw Thura

AS is known to all, our country is endowed with natural resources. Despite this, the country still remains on the list of least developed countries, according to a 2015 report by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) to the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

More than half a century of internal armed conflict resulting from political dispute has been sapping the country's huge potential for graduation from that status. Unless all decision makers dedicate themselves to finding common ground on the critical issues of poverty and development, our country will be in no position to lift itself out of the LDC status.

The failure to reach a consensus on the sharing of powers and resources will bode ill for the government's approach to peace building. Federalism is a crucial mechanism for building trust, which is absolutely vital to a country with a variety of ethnic and religious issues to deal with.

There is every reason to think that failure to calm nerves among the ethnic groups will continue to inflame tensions and go so far as to disrupt the pending union-level peace conference and political dialogue, thereby undermining the process of finding peaceful means of political resolution in national interests for the good of the people and the country as a whole.

So far, the country has entered ceasefire agreement with eight ethnic armed groups. Plans are under way to hold peace talks with remaining armed groups as part of the government's election promise to ensure an inclusive and participative democracy. It is one thing to march in lockstep toward peace, but it is another to accept differences and work together on common ground.

Poverty and Human Rights

Dr. Khine Khine Win

IN 1995 the United Nations adopted two definitions of poverty. **Absolute poverty** means a condition characterized by severe deprivation of basic human needs, including food, safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, health, shelter, education and information. It depends not only on income but also on access to services. **Overall poverty** takes various forms, including: lack of income and productive resources to ensure sustainable livelihoods; hunger and malnutrition; ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services; increased morbidity and mortality from illness; homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments and social discrimination and exclusion. It is also characterized by lack of participation in decision making and in civil, social and cultural life.

According to UNDP's Human Development Report 2014, over 2.2 billion people of the world's population, "are either near or living in multidimensional poverty" and 2015 report states " worldwide 795 million people suffer from chronic hunger". In September 2015, United Nations General Assembly adopted the important document entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" by UN member States. One of the visions of this agenda is to envisage a world free of poverty, hunger, disease and want, where all life can thrive. Indeed, the first of the seventeen of the sustainable development goals in this agenda is "End poverty in all its forms everywhere". This agenda acknowledge that billions of citizens in the world continue to live in poverty and are denied a life of dignity. There are rising inequalities within and among countries. There are enormous disparities of opportunity, wealth and power. Gender inequalities remain a key challenge. It clearly shows that our world today is in poverty and many citizens suffer from poverty and inequalities. Moreover, this agenda recognized that eradicating poverty in all forms and dimensions is the global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development.

Human rights are universal and belong to everyone regardless of rich or poor, sex, nationality, language and any other status. All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They have all equal rights regardless of the place of residence, developed or developing or least developed countries. Today, human rights have become a bandwagon. Neverthe less, human rights are violated everywhere particularly for people who are suffering from poverty. People living in poverty lack secure access to sufficient quantities of basic necessities such as right to food, safe water and basic sanitation notwithstanding UDHR article 25 states everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services.

People living in poverty are often trapped because they are excluded from the rest of societies. Their basic rights including right to information, right to education, right to food, right to privacy, right to participation etc are being tragically neglected.

They lack political voice. Their needs and concerns are often absent in policy debates. They are also the victims of discrimination on grounds and have very limited knowledge on their basic rights and freedom. People in poverty having no knowledge would not be able to demand their inalienable rights or seeks redress for the violation or infringement thereof.

On the other hand, poverty weakens accountability and the question of accountability lies at the very heart of poverty eradication. Generally, many of the governments of poor countries are not accountable. Corruption also burdens poverty eradication. Without accountability, corruption flourishes and corruption impedes good governance. When governance fails, human rights are violated. It is noteworthy that poverty drives weak accountability, strong corruption, less governance and more human rights abuse. I hope you now generally understand that human rights abuses are a cause and a consequence of poverty.

Countries today agreed to take bolder action against extreme poverty in which poverty is considered as a violation of human rights. It means end to poverty is global priority concern and prime opportunity has risen to protect the human rights.

In order to address poverty, there is Guiding Principles on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights which is adopted in 2011 by Human Rights Council in its resolution 21/11 and is specifically focused on the human rights of people who live in poverty. Based on international norm and standard of human rights, these principles intended as a practical tool for policy makers to ensure that public policies including poverty eradication efforts reach the poorest member of society, respect and uphold their rights. Now that States have shown their commitment to eliminating extreme poverty in a human rights-based manner, it is crucial that they put this into practice through the application of the Guiding Principles in all poverty eradication measures and other policies that impact on the rights of persons living in poverty according to OHCHR.

Internationally, most governments have signed a number of treaties on human rights and other international conventions, such as the one related to labor rights and organized crime and human trafficking. These treaties obligate governments to ensure that citizens are able to enjoy human rights regardless of rich or poor.

To conclude, to end poverty is a global priority concern even so it is not easy to address. Many obstacles and challenges are along the way to end poverty and it will not be able to achieve without a revitalized and enhanced Global Partnership as long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality exist.

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100-year-old Sittwe Lake under heavy renovation

Renovations in progress at Sittwe Lake. PHOTO: MYAT WAI

SITTWE Lake is now under heavy renovation by local authorities in cooperation with the Japan International Cooperation Agency, with the aim of distributing drinking water to residents.

The project was carried out with the use of over K1.8 billion allotted by the Union government budget for the 2016-2017 financial year.

The lake was established in 1906 to distribute drinking water to about Sittwe Township's 40,000 residents at the time. The population has increased to over 130,000 over the last 110 years.

The initial depth of the lake was 18 feet, but it is now just eight feet deep, and its water storage capacity is 448.24 million gallons.

The renovation will create one big lake and five small lakes on 180.71 acres of land. It is estimated that the water storage capacity will reach an additional 224.75 million gallons after the project is completed.

The Rakhine State development department has carried out renovations of ponds and lakes across the state since the 2011-2012 fiscal year in 14 townships.—*Myat Wai*

Never too much and too fast

Aung Myint Oo

THE view ahead put me to a halt as it was very unusual sighting of something big and well-lit with multi-colour flashing lights moving towards me though it's slow. The reason of describing the sight as unusual was that the road was dedicated for activities such as jogging and cycling only and what I saw was definitely not a runner or a cyclist or even a group of them.

Oh, no! I exclaimed when I was able to identify the moving object as an ambulance reversing slowly since the running track was so narrow that there was no space for turning. An ambulance on running track means a fellow runner is very likely to be in trouble which is what I wanted to see as a last thing on a running track. Obviously, I absolutely don't want to experience it either as a witness or worst as a victim. In the meantime, I prayed hard for the fellow runner whom the ambulance was carrying a speedy recovery and hoping that he or she just sustained a slightest possible injury and "touch wood" not a heart attack or something of that sort.

Being one of the most popular leisure sports activities, running or jogging obviously brings numerous health benefits be it physical or psychological, put aside some positive social and societal implications. However, negative side effects ranging from minor sports injuries to serious life-threatening conditions such as heart attack should not be ignored although incidence of the latter is reported to be extremely low.

Literatures estimated that the overall yearly incidence rate for running injuries varies between 37 and 56% depending on the type of runners and on different circumstances. Majority are lower extremity injuries with predominance for the knee.

There have been comprehensive safety tips for the runners from sports institutions around the world. Tips include pre-activity assessment, warm-up and cool-down stretches, attires such as selection of appropriate running shoes, fluid intakes, importance of progressive trainings, protective equipment such as cap, reflective clothing or markers for night runners, advices for inclement weathers, importance of carrying personal identifications, useful information such as blood type, pre-existing medical conditions and contact details of next-of-kin for emergency.

However, neither the most comprehensive tips nor the best trainers are the replacement for the judgement of the runners on their own safety to avoid any possible adverse incidence no matter how trivial or crucial. Hence, on top of all written guides and advices, one should always remember this little, but very handy tip which is "listen to your body before running". Yes, if there is any remote sign of shortness of breath or giddiness or tightness of chest, do not hesitate to call it off.

With this little note, I encourage everyone to start if have not, or to continue if already, the most cost-effective and enjoyable physical activity, besides its all health and non-health benefits, to enjoy the rush of post-run endorphins which will make you feel on top of the world.

Myanmar Football Fans Still Have a Unique Chance with Carlsberg, to See UEFA Euro2016™

DANISH brewery group Carlsberg announced that opportunities remain until May 15th for one lucky Myanmar football fan to win a once-in-a-lifetime trip.

The contest, announced earlier this month, will award its winner a VIP experience for two - including an all-expenses paid trip to attend the UEFA Euro 2016 Semi-final, which is one of the biggest football events in the world and it will be held in France from 10th June to 10th July 2016.

The event is expected to attract 2.5 million fans to the stadiums, including 1 million foreign visitors. The matches will be broadcast live in more than 230 territories around the world and around 7 billion viewers are expected to watch the UEFA EURO 2016 matches on TV. A new competition format will see 24 teams taking part in the final tournament, instead of 16, which has been the case since 1996. There will be 51 matches - 20 more than in 2012. Carlsberg is the official sponsor of, and has been associated with, the UEFA European Championship since 1988.— *GNLM*

Myanmar Police Force supply water to drought-hit-areas

MEMBERS of the Myanmar Police Force are in the process of supplying water for drinking, washing and bathing to communities who have recently been facing water-shortages.

Members of the Air Police Force (Yangon-Branch) under the Myanmar Police Force donated 700 drinking water bottles— each bottle holding 20 litres— to villagers of Ahnochaunggyi village in Dala Township, Yangon Region on 30 April.

On 1 May, Members of the Police Forces in Magwe and Thayet Townships, Magwe Region distributed 8,000 gallons of drinking and bathing water, members of Myo Ma Police Station in Ann Township, Rakhine State supplied 1,700 gallons of water. On Monday members of the Thaton Township Myo Ma Police Force and Chaungsone Township Police Outpost in Mon State distributed 2,050 gallons of water while members of the Kataikkyi Police Outpost donated 1,300 gallons of drinking water to residents in their townships. On that same day members of the Dawei District Police Force supplied 400 gallons of drinking water to the people of Launglong Township.—*Ye Zarni*

Police seen supplying water in drought-hit-areas. PHOTO:YE ZARNI

Chin people to receive free eye surgeries

MORE than 100 ethnic Chin people with vision problems in Mindat Township, located southern Chin State, will undergo eye surgeries at a hospital founded by a Buddhist monk.

Headed by Dr Mint Myint Khin, eye surgeons have performed the operations on 160 patients as of 1 May. The programme runs until 7 May.

The eye hospital was established with the aim of helping people fight eye diseases and loss of vision, and there are plans to continue offering free surgical services in the coming years.

According to the 2014 nationwide census, Myanmar's disabled population accounts for more than 2.3 million (4.6 per cent) of the country's total population of over 51 million, half of whom are visually impaired persons.

The most common eye diseases in Myanmar are cataracts, glaucoma, cornea diseases, injuries and retinal diseases.—*District IPRD*

Trump soars from long-shot to presumptive Republican nominee

Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks as (L-R) his son-in-law Jared Kushner, his daughter Ivanka, his son Eric, Eric's wife Lara Yunaska and Trump's wife Melania look on, during a campaign victory party after rival candidate Senator Ted Cruz dropped out of the race for the Republican presidential nomination following the results of the Indiana state primary, at Trump Tower in Manhattan, New York, US, on 3 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

INDIANAPOLIS — Republican front-runner Donald Trump went from long-shot contender to become the party's presumptive nominee on Tuesday with a commanding win in Indiana, and the party began to coalesce around him as top rival Ted Cruz bowed out of the race.

The New York billionaire, who has never held public office, had repeatedly defied pundits' predictions that his campaign would implode. He prevailed despite making outrageous statements along the way that drew biting criticism but still fed his anti-establishment appeal.

The former reality TV star now can prepare for a matchup in the 8 November election with Hillary Clinton expected to be his Democratic opponent. Clinton's march to the Democratic nomination was slowed by rival Bernie Sanders' victory over her in Indiana.

Trump's immediate challenge is to unite deep fissures within the Republican Party as many party loyalists are appalled at his bullying style, his treatment of women and his signature proposals to build a wall on the border with Mexico and deport 11 million illegal immigrants.

"We have to unite the party if we want to win in November," said Henry Barbour, a Republican National Committee leader from Mississippi. "Donald Trump is the guy with the keys to the car. He's the one who needs to unite us. Now is his opportunity. The voters have picked him."

Trump himself called for unity in a speech at a victory rally that was free of his usual bombast and flamboyance. Trump's victory put to rest a belief that Republicans would choose their nominee at a contested convention when party leaders gather in Cleveland 18-21 July.

At his victory rally at Trump Tower in New York, Trump walked on stage with wife Melania and other family members as the Rolling Stones' "Start Me Up" blared over loudspeakers.

He is likely to formally wrap up the nomination on 7 June when California votes, although Ohio Governor John Kasich vowed to stay in the race as Trump's last challenger.

Trump called Indiana a "tremendous victory" and immediately directed fire at Clinton.

"We're going after Hillary Clinton," he said. "She will not be a great president, she will not be a good president, she will be a poor president. She doesn't understand trade." Republican National Committee Chairman Reince Priebus called Trump the party's presumptive nominee in a tweet and said, "We all need to unite and focus" on defeating Clinton.

As the vote returns flowed in, Cruz announced that he has ended his campaign in Indianapolis, with his wife, Heidi, at his side. Cruz, 45, sounding beaten but defiant, said he no longer sees a viable path to the nomination.

"We gave it everything we got. But the voters chose another path, and so with a heavy heart, but with boundless optimism for the long-term future of our nation, we are suspending our campaign," said Cruz, a US senator from Texas. Clinton's campaign signaled the former secretary of state's approach to dealing with Trump in a statement issued by senior Clinton adviser John Podesta, who said Trump seeks to "bully and divide Americans."

"Throughout this campaign, Donald Trump has demonstrated that he's too divisive and lacks the temperament to lead our nation and the free world. With so much at stake, Donald Trump is simply too big of a risk," he said.

Cruz had hoped to show he was still a factor in the race. Some at his event expressed shock at the decision by Cruz, who had been the last serious challenger to Trump out of an original field of 17 candidates. Dan Follis, 62, was too rocked by Cruz's announcement to know for sure his next thought on the campaign. But he was sure of one thing: "I will not vote for Trump." Trump won at least 51 of 57 possible delegates awarded in Indiana, according to the Associated Press delegate tracker. His victory in the state pushed him to 1,047 delegates of the 1,237 needed to clinch the nomination, compared with 153 for Kasich.

Cruz had 565 delegates before suspending his campaign.

On the Democratic side, Clinton now has 2,202 of the 2,383 needed, while Sanders has 1,400. Trump declared Cruz a tough man to beat. "Ted Cruz, I don't know if he likes me or doesn't like me. But he is one hell of a competitor. He is one smart guy. And he has got an amazing future," Trump said. Trump also reached out to both Hispanics and African-Americans as he talked about ensuring jobs and saying he would "make America great again." "This is going to be a beautiful and loving country," Trump said. But anti-Trump groups said they would continue fighting, and Lanhee Chen, who had advised former Republican candidate Marco Rubio, broached the possibility of a third-party candidate. "Tonight's outcome raises seriousness & urgency of discussions about third-party alternative; how real it is depends on who steps up to run," he tweeted. Cruz had been counting on a win in Tuesday's primary to slow the New York businessman's progress toward the nomination. But Trump rode momentum from wins in five Northeastern states a week ago to wrest Indiana from Cruz, whose brand of Christian conservatism had been expected to have wide appeal in the state.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Malaysia's finance ministry to dissolve 1MDB board of advisers

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's finance ministry said on Wednesday it would dissolve the board of advisers at state fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB), following the recommendations of a parliamentary inquiry into the troubled firm.

The Malaysian parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) last month had recommended for the 1MDB advisory board, chaired by Prime Minister Najib Razak, to be abolished, following a probe into alleged graft and mismanagement at the fund.

The finance ministry, which is the sole shareholder of 1MDB, said in a statement it would also remove Article 117 and change all references of "Prime Minister" to "Minister of Finance", in the fund's company articles. —*Reuters*

Russia to add three new military divisions to counter NATO — agencies

MOSCOW — Russia will add three new military divisions to counter the growing strength of The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), Russian agencies quoted Defence Minister Sergei Shoigu as saying on Wednesday.

The divisions, which will be deployed along Russia's western and southern borders, will be formed by the end of the year, the Interfax news agency reported. "The Ministry of Defence has adopted a series of measures to counter the growing capacity of NATO forces in close proximity to the Russian borders," it cited Shoigu as saying.—*Reuters*

Sixty girl students poisoned in Afghanistan's northern Takhar Province

TALUQAN (Afghanistan) — Around 60 students of a girl school were mysteriously poisoned in Rustaq district of northern Afghanistan's Takhar province on Wednesday, a police spokesman in the province said.

"Some 60 students of grade seven to 12 of Mir Mulai Girl School in Rustaq district were mysteriously poisoned today at around 10:00am and have been taken to hospital for medical treatment," Abdul Khalil Asir told Xinhua. Investigation has been initiated to determine the reason for the problem, the official added.

This is the second incident of its kind in Takhar province over the past two weeks. In the previous incident, which happened in the same district Rustaq on 19 April, a total of 62 students of a girl school were poisoned and the vommiting caused them to fall unconscious for several hours. —*Xinhua*

French presidential election set for 23 April and 7 May, 2017

PARIS — The two rounds of France's 2017 presidential elections will take place on 23 April and 7 May, the government announced on Wednesday.

Opinion polls show former prime minister Alain Juppe from the centre-right Les Republicains party is the front-runner.

Far-right party leader Marine Le Pen is seen making it to the run-off between the top two candidates after the first round, but then losing.

Parliamentary elections will take place right after, on 11 June and 18 June. —*Reuters*

Consul: Fire was not started deliberately, probe ongoing

BELGRADE — It has been officially confirmed that the fire which engulfed the Serbian Orthodox Cathedral of St. Sava in Manhattan during the Easter holidays was not started deliberately, Serbia's Consul General in New York Mirjana Zivkovic told the national broadcaster RTS after talking with New York Mayor Bill de Blasio on Tuesday evening.

Zivkovic said that the a letter had been sent to the US State Department via the Serbian Embassy in Washington, urging that the Consulate be given access to all results of the investigation. "We expect this to happen as soon as the investigation is completed," Zivkovic said. "The most unlikely scenario is that candles caused the fire, as the service ended, believers left, and the church was then closed," Serbian Patriarch Irinej told the *Blic daily*.—*Tanjug*

People walk on the rubble of damaged buildings after an airstrike in the rebel held area of Aleppo's Baedeen district, Syria, on 3 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dozens killed in Aleppo battle

SYRIA — Dozens of people were killed in a day-long battle between Syrian rebels and government forces in western Aleppo that was still going on intermittently on Wednesday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights and combatant sources on both sides said.

The combatant sources gave conflicting accounts of the outcome of the battle that began early on Tuesday in and around the Jamiyat al-Zahraa area of western Aleppo. A rebel said insurgents had managed to take some ground from the government side, while the army said the attack was repelled.

The fighting threatened the army's defensive lines around government-held areas of western Aleppo.

Observatory director Rami Abdulrahman said dozens had been killed on both sides in what he described as the most intense battle in the area in a year. Government forces were reinforced by allies from Lebanon's Hezbollah, he said.

The rebel fighter said about 40 government fighters had been killed, while rebel losses stood at 10 dead. The military source denied heavy casualties in army ranks, but said dozens of civilians and many rebels had been killed.

The rebel and a second opposition fighter said insurgents had at one point captured a strategic location known as Family House, but later lost it after the government side brought in reinforcements.—*Reuters*

Islamic State kills US Navy SEAL in northern Iraq

STUTTGART (Germany) — Islamic State militants killed a US Navy SEAL in northern Iraq on Tuesday after blasting through Kurdish defences and overrunning a town in the biggest offensive in the area for months, officials said.

The elite serviceman was the third American to be killed in direct combat since a US-led coalition launched a campaign in 2014 to "degrade and destroy" Islamic State and is a measure of its deepening involvement in the conflict.

"It is a combat death, of course, and a very sad loss," US Defence Secretary Ash Carter told reporters during a trip to Germany.

A US defence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the dead serviceman was a Navy SEAL.

The SEALs are considered to be among the most able US special operations forces and capable of taking on dangerous missions. The serviceman's identity and rank were not disclosed by the Pentagon.

The governor of the US state of Arizona, Doug Ducey, identified the slain serviceman as Charlie Keating IV, and said Keating had attended high school in Phoenix.

The San Diego Union-Tribune newspaper, in southern California, cited unnamed SEALs and their family members in reporting that Keating was the grandson of Charles Keating Jr., a banker who played a leading role in the US savings and loan scandal of the 1980s that embroiled five US senators.

A senior official within the Kurdish peshmerga forces facing Islamic State in northern Iraq said the man had been killed near the town of Tel Asqof, around 28 kilometres (17 miles) from the militant stronghold of Mosul.

The Islamic State insurgents occupied the town at dawn on Tuesday but were driven out later in the day by the peshmerga. A US military official said the coalition had helped the peshmerga by conducting more than 20 air strikes with F-15 jets and drones.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Navy SEAL was killed "by direct fire" while on a mission to advise and assist local forces in Iraq.

Carter's spokesman, Peter Cook, said the incident took place during an Islamic State attack on a peshmerga position some 3 to 5 km behind the forward line. In mid-April the United States announced plans to send an additional 200 troops to Iraq and put them closer to the front lines of battle to advise Iraqi forces in the war against the Islamic State militant group.

Underscoring the complicated nature of the US role in Iraq, the White House told reporters that even though the serviceman died in a combat situation, he was not on a combat mission.

"He was not on the front lines. But he was two miles away, and it turns out that being two miles away from the front lines between Iraqi forces and ISIL is a very dangerous place to be," said White House spokesman Josh Earnest, using an acronym for Islamic State.

Last month, an Islamic State attack on a US base killed Marine Staff Sergeant Louis Cardin and wounded eight other Americans providing force protection fire to Iraqi army troops.

Such Islamic State incursions are rare in northern Iraq, where the Kurdish peshmerga have pushed the militants back with the help of coalition air strikes and set up defensive lines that the militants are rarely able to breach.

The leader of a militia deployed alongside peshmerga in Tel Asqof said the insurgents had used multiple suicide bombers, some driving vehicles laden with explosives, to penetrate peshmerga lines.

The Kurdistan Region Security Council said at least 25 Islamic State vehicles had been destroyed on Tuesday and more than 80 militants killed. At least 10 peshmerga also died in the fighting, according to a Kurdish official who posted pictures of the victims on Twitter.

The peshmerga also deflected Islamic State attacks on the Bashiqa front and in the Khazer area, about 40 km west of the Kurdish regional capital Erbil, Kurdish military sources said.

The Islamist militants have been broadly retreating since December, when the Iraqi army recaptured Ramadi, the largest city in the western region. Last month, the Iraqi army retook the nearby region of Hit, pushing the militants further north along the Euphrates valley.

But US officials acknowledge that the military gains against Islamic State are not enough.

Iraq is beset by political infighting, corruption, a growing fiscal crisis and the Shi'ite Muslim-led government's fitful efforts to seek reconciliation with aggrieved minority Sunnis, the bedrock of Islamic State support. —*Reuters*

Mortars fired at Israeli soldiers from Gaza Strip

JERUSALEM — Mortars were fired early Wednesday at Israeli soldiers stationed near the Gaza Strip enclave, the Israeli army said.

A mortar round was fired at forces during "operational activity" near the security fence border in the southern Gaza Strip early Wednesday, a statement from the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) spokesperson said.

No injuries were reported, and the IDF responded and fired towards the threat with tanks, the statement added.

The Gaza Strip enclave had been ruled by the Hamas organisation, which Israel deems a terrorist organisation, since 2007, with Israel imposing a de-facto blockade on the enclave. Since then, several rounds of fighting between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip had taken place.

On Tuesday, shots were fired towards Israeli soldiers traveling in a military vehicle near the border. Nobody was injured, but damages were caused to a heavy army engineering machinery, the Times of Israel website reported. Earlier on Tuesday, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu visited the Gaza Strip area, where he was briefed by military officials on the situation in the area, and about the recently discovered underground tunnel which crossed over from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territories. Israeli security forces believe the tunnel was aimed to carry out attacks.—*Xinhua*

Three Red Cross workers kidnapped in Congo by suspected rebels

KINSHASA — Three Red Cross staff members have been kidnapped in eastern Congo in an attack blamed by a rights group on Rwandan rebels.

The abductions were confirmed on Tuesday in a tweet from Dominik Stillhart, the Red Cross's director of operations, who added: "We're doing everything we can to bring them back home safely."

The Congo-based Centre of Studies for the Promotion of Peace, Democracy and Human Rights said the three were drivers from Goma in the east of the country. Their vehicles were abandoned at the site of the kidnappings, it said.

It said the culprits were believed to be members of the Rwandan rebel group, Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda (FDLR), which consists of former soldiers and Hutu militiamen behind Rwanda's 1994 genocide.

The rebel group, which has waged wars against other armed groups and the government, is thought to be at the heart of instability in the region. Members say they want to return to Rwanda but the UN peacekeeping mission has said the group's goal is to overthrow the Rwandan government.

There have been a series of abductions targeting aid workers in the vast central African country. The United Nations said in January a spike in kidnappings and insecurity had made it difficult to provide humanitarian aid.—*Reuters*

Malaysia dissolves 1MDB advisory board; takes over its assets

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia's finance ministry said on Wednesday it would dissolve the board of advisers at 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB) and take over its remaining assets, in an apparent move to scale down a state fund whose scandals have rocked the government.

Parliament's Public Accounts Committee (PAC) last month had called for the 1MDB advisory board, chaired by Prime Minister Najib Razak, to be abolished, after a probe into alleged graft and mismanagement at the fund, whose debt in January had totalled about 50 billion ringgit ($12.5 billion).

The finance ministry, which is the sole shareholder of 1MDB, said in a statement it would also comply with the PAC's recommendation to remove Article 117 and change all references of "Prime Minister" to "Minister of Finance", in the fund's company articles. Najib is also the finance minister.

Article 117 requires the prime minister's written approval for all of 1MDB's financial commitments, including investments, and matters such as the appointment of the board of directors.

Ownership in 1MDB's subsidiaries and land assets in Bandar Malaysia Sdn Bhd, TRX City Sdn Bhd, Air Itam and Pulau Indah will be transferred to the Ministry of Finance Incorporated, the ministry said.

It did not say what happens to the debt linked to these assets.

In its report, the parliamentary committee had slammed the board of state fund 1MDB for being irresponsible and urged a probe into its former chief executive, but stopped short of implicating Najib.

The ministry also accepted the resignation of 1MDB's board members, who had collectively stepped down after the release of the report.

New board members would be appointed to reflect the limited business profile of 1MDB, it said.

However, 1MDB president Arul Kanda will remain in his role until further notice, the statement said. "(Arul) will continue to focus on his specific mandate to implement the rationalisation plan, which will include resolution of the recent contractual dispute with IPIC (International Petroleum Investment Co)," the ministry said. Last week, 1MDB did not meet its deadline to pay a $50.3 million coupon on a $1.75 billion bond following a stand-off with Abu Dhabi sovereign fund IPIC, triggering cross defaults on some of its other bonds. —*Reuters*

North Korea hails anti-smoking progress; leader Kim keeps puffing

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un smokes a cigarette as he gives guidance on the development of Ssuk Islet in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 2 June 2014.
PHOTO: REUTERS

PYONGYANG — North Korea said on Wednesday a campaign was helping to cut the number of smokers, although its leader Kim Jong Un is frequently seen with a cigarette in hand in photographs in state media.

The government has cut the total area planted with tobacco "as much as possible" and health warnings are required on cigarette packs, the North's official KCNA news agency said. "The number of non-smokers is remarkably increasing with each passing day," KCNA said, adding the number of male smokers was 8 per cent lower in 2013 compared with four years earlier.

The news agency made no mention of leader Kim's habit and the fact that he is frequently seen with a cigarette in hand in public, including at an event where he declared success in miniaturizing a nuclear warhead while standing next to a large object that looked to be a ballistic missile.

Kim's father, Kim Jong Il, was also believed to be a heavy smoker, seen puffing on a cigarette on state media in 2009, a year after he was thought to have suffered a stroke, despite claiming several years earlier to have quit.

The elder Kim died in December 2011 of a heart attack while on a train, the North's state media said.—*Reuters*

South Korean president says securing cooperation with Iran for denuclearised peninsula

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye said her landmark visit to Iran was an opportunity to secure a room for cooperation with the Persian country in denuclearizing the Korean peninsula, local media reported on Wednesday.

Park made a three-day visit to Iran from Sunday to hold a summit with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. She became the first South Korean president to visit the Middle East country since Seoul and Tehran set up diplomatic ties in 1962.

"This visit was aimed at securing of a room for cooperation with Iran on the Korean Peninsula denuclearisation issue," Park said during a meeting with press corps on the flight from Tehran back to Seoul. Park said it was very rare and meaningful for Iran to clearly and publicly express its position about the peninsula's denuclearisation in consideration of the very amicable relations that Iran traditionally had with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Rouhani expressed his country's opposition to nuclear development on the Korean peninsula during a joint press conference on Monday after a summit with Park.

Park noted that President Rouhani strongly voiced his opposition to any nuclear development and publicly expressed his support for peaceful reunification on the peninsula, saying he repeatedly stressed his opposition to any security instabilities on the peninsula.

Park's comments came amid lingering concerns about the DPRK's fifth nuclear test, which South Korea's military expected to occur around the Pyongyang's ruling party convention on Friday.

The seventh ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK), the first party congress in 36 years, is expected to last for three to four days. South Korea's military estimated the DPRK had already completed preparations for its fifth nuclear test at a nuclear test site where the country carried out all of its four nuclear tests. The latest test was conducted on 6 January, followed by the launch of a long-range rocket on 7 February.—*Xinhua*

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(6 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-006(16-17)	Bearings for F-1000 Rig Pump (3) Items	US$
(2)	IFB-007(16-17)	Repair Kits for Drill Pipe Power Tong (3) Items	US$
(3)	DMP/L-001(16-17)	Lifting Sling / Binder & Binder Chain (5) Items	Ks
(4)	DMP/L-002(16-17)	M.S Plate, M.S Pipe, M.S Rod and Angle Iron for River Craft (6) Nos Repairing Job	Ks
(5)	DMP/L-003(16-17)	SAE 15 W 40 Diesel Engine Oil (1) Lot	Ks
(6)	DMP/L-004(16-17)	Hydraulic Oil Light (H.O.L) ISO-VG 46 (or) Between 46 & 68 (1) Lot	Ks
(7)	DMP/L-005(16-17)	Oil Tanker 3200 Gals TA TA LPT 2116 (6 x 2) (3) Units	Ks
(8)	DMP/L-006(16-17)	M.S Plate, U Beam & Angle Iron for TAC-171 Tank (1) Lot	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 2-6-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5TH May, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

People of Dong ethnic group make bamboo rice during a celebration of bamboo rice festival in the Dong village of Wugong, Rongjiang County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 3 May 2016. People of Dong ethnic group eat bamboo rice to celebrate their festival in the habitat. PHOTO: XINHUA

Canadian wildfire forces evacuation order for entire city

CALGARY (Alberta) — The Canadian province of Alberta raced to evacuate the entire population of Fort McMurray where an uncontrolled wildfire was taking hold in the heart of the country's oil sands region, with dry winds forecast for Wednesday that could fuel the blaze.

Alberta appealed for military help to battle the fire and airlift people from the smoke-filled city after authorities issued a mandatory evacuation order for 80,000, but officials said army and air force assistance would take two days to arrive.

About 44,000 people were estimated to be on the roads, fleeing the city, while approximately 8,000 had reached an evacuation center outside Fort McMurray, officials said.

"Right now, we have fire burning within the city," Chief Darby Allen of Fort McMurray's fire department told reporters. "It is impacting communities as we speak. Homes are on fire as we speak."

The 2,650-hectare (6,540-acre) fire, which was discovered on Sunday, shifted aggressively with the wind on Tuesday to breach city limits. The blaze closed off the main southern exit from the city, Highway 93, prompting many residents to head north towards the oil sands camps. The southern route eventually reopened but traffic was quickly gridlocked in both directions. Gas stations throughout the area were out of fuel and police were patrolling the highway with gas cans.

"This is the biggest evacuation we have seen in the history of the province,"

Wildfire is worsening along highway 63 Fort McMurray, Alberta Canada on 3 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Alberta Premier Rachel Notley said at a news conference, adding that there were no known casualties.

"We need to find more camps. We have secured spaces for about 6,000 people. We know we need to find more and that work is under way," Notley said.

Alberta is much drier than normal for this time of year, strengthening prospects for a long and expensive wildfire season, in the wake of a mild winter with lower-than-average snowfall and a warm spring. Authorities expect increased winds on Wednesday that will make it harder to fight the fire.

"Tomorrow is expected to be a more intense burning day," said Bruce Mayer, assistant deputy minister of Alberta's Forestry Division. Suncor Energy, whose oil sands operations are closest to the city, said its main plant, 25 km (16 miles) north of Fort McMurray, was safe, but it was reducing crude production in the region to allow employees and families to get to safety. Suncor said evacuees were welcome at its Firebag oil sands facility, while Canadian Natural Resources Ltd said it was working to ensure any affected CNRL workers and their families could use its camps. Shell Canada also said it would open its oil sands camp to evacuees and was looking to use its airstrip to fly out non-essential staff and accommodate displaced residents. A number of flights from Fort McMurray airport were canceled and the airport advised passengers to check with their airlines for updates. The blaze started southwest of Fort McMurray and spread rapidly to the outskirts of the city, located about 430 km (267 miles) northeast of Alberta's capital, Edmonton. Radio stations were forced off the air as staff left the downtown core.

"There's lots of smoke, it's quite bad and hanging over the city," one resident, Nick Sanders, told Reuters as he packed up to leave downtown. "Where there are trees in the distance you can see the fire."

Television footage and photographs on Twitter showed flames and smoke billowing over the city and a destroyed trailer park. Officials said a gas station had exploded and flames engulfed the roof of a Super 8 Hotel during a live report on Canadian television.

At least one residential neighbourhood in the city's southeast had been destroyed by the fire and others were severely damaged or still under threat, local fire chief Allen said.

"I'm afraid that huge parts of my home town, Fort McMurray, may burn tonight and will continue to burn tomorrow," Brian Jean, leader of Alberta's official opposition party, told CBC Radio, adding that his own home was in the immediate path of the fire. —*Reuters*

Singapore set to pick military helicopters as arms spending rises

SINGAPORE — Singapore will soon pick the winner of a $1 billion (687 million pound) tender for military utility helicopters, the first of several lucrative deals the island nation is pursuing as it modernises its air force and navy amid rising tensions in the region.

With Southeast Asia's largest defence budget, Singapore is a key prize for global arms companies as it looks to invest in new technology and replace ageing equipment.

China's increasingly assertive actions in the South China Sea, which are worrying Southeast Asian countries, are partly a factor, say analysts, given that these have led to Singapore's neighbours spending more on their militaries.

Modern military technology also helps Singapore to keep its edge and compensates for its small size and population, said Richard Bitzinger, a regional security expert at the S.Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore.

Data from IHS, a consultancy, estimates Singapore's annual defence budget will hit $10.72 billion in 2020, up from $9.08 billion in 2015 and about $8.23 billion in 2011.

The most immediate decision for Singapore is to replace its Super Puma helicopters, which are made by European aerospace giant Airbus. Singapore is seeking around a dozen multi-mission aircraft to deploy off ships and on land.

Airbus and the helicopter division of Finmeccanica have been shortlisted and are in final discussions before a decision is made, said sources familiar with the details of the procurement. A decision will be made "soon", defence minister Ng Eng Hen said in April.

Airbus declined comment and Finmeccanica did not respond to questions.— *Reuters*

A Republic of Singapore Air Force Super Puma helicopter lands on the Singapore warship RSS Endurance during a search and rescue operation in the Singapore Strait, about 30 km (19 miles) east of the city state in 2003. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV SINAR SOLO VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SINAR SOLO VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2016 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 SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PATHEIN STAR VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PATHEIN STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2016 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.5.2016 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 COSCO CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Lin-Manuel Miranda, actor and creator of the play "Hamilton," addresses the audience after the plays opening night on Broadway in New York on 6 August 2015. The hit musical scored a record 16 nominations for Broadway's Tony awards on 3 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Hit musical 'Hamilton' leads Broadway's Tony nominations with record 16 nods

NEW YORK — The Broadway musical "Hamilton," which has triggered a ticket-buying frenzy not seen in years, scored a record 16 Tony Award nominations on Tuesday, solidifying its front-runner status for the top prize of best musical.

"Hamilton" features a multiracial cast in a hip-hop and R & B-inflected musical that tells the story of US Founding Father Alexander Hamilton, who was killed in an 1804 duel with Vice President Aaron Burr.

The show won nominations for lead actors Lin-Manuel Miranda as Hamilton and Leslie Odom Jr. as Burr, for lead actress Phillipa Soo, and for best score and book, both written by Miranda. Four featured cast members also received nods.

The haul for "Hamilton" on Tuesday surpassed previous record-holders "The Producers" and "Billy Elliot," which each received 15 nominations.

"It's almost impossible to process," Miranda said in an interview afterward.

"I became aware that if my life were a movie, this would be a montage, playing on fast-forward. And now I'm just trying to slow down the montage."

"Hamilton" had already received widespread critical acclaim, including a Pulitzer Prize, and amassed dozens of rave reviews. First lady Michelle Obama described it in March as "simply ... the best piece of art in any form that I have ever seen in my life."

The "Hamilton" soundtrack has sold more than 325,000 copies in the United States and has been streamed more than 279 million times across online platforms since its release in September, according to figures from Nielsen Music.

The soundtrack won the Grammy Award this year for best musical theater album, and Miranda and his co-stars performed the opening track, "Alexander Hamilton," at the ceremony. The cast was later invited to the White House and performed a couple of the show's songs.

"Hamilton" has propelled the star status of Miranda, who composed a segment of music for December's "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and is rumored to be starring in a movie sequel of "Mary Poppins" alongside Emily Blunt.

Up against "Hamilton" for best musical are "Shuffle Along," with 10 nominations; "Waitress," "Bright Star" and Andrew Lloyd Webber's "School of Rock — the Musical."—*Reuters*

Drake joins Forbes list of top five richest hip-hop stars

NEW YORK — Rapper Aubrey "Drake" Graham became the newest member of The Forbes Five club of hip-hop's wealthiest artists on Monday with a net worth of $60 million, according to Forbes.

The annual list has regularly included rap artists Bryan "Birdman" Williams, Andre "Dr. Dre" Young, Shawn "Jay Z" Carter, Curtis "50 Cent" Jackson and Sean "Diddy" Combs.

But due to a mismanagement of funds which resulted in a bankruptcy last summer, 50 Cent was superseded by Drake, who has increased his net worth through touring, music releases and business deals with Nike, Sprite and Apple.

"Views," the fourth studio album by Drake, a Toronto native who goes by his middle name, sold an estimated 630,000 copies on its 29th April release date, according to Vibe Magazine. With each album selling at $13.99 exclusively on iTunes, the 29-year-old made about $800,000 that night.

Business mogul and rap artist Diddy continued to hold the number one title with a net worth of $750 million thanks to his agreement with Diageo's Circo vodka, stakes in his music television network Revolt, his clothing line Sean John and more.Dr. Dre follows with $710 million, then Jay Z in third place with $610 million and finally Birdman, who came fourth with $110 million. —*Reuters*

Planned 'Star Wars' museum seeking 'locations outside of Chicago'

CHICAGO — Filmmaker George Lucas is seeking a city other than Chicago to host his planned "Star Wars" museum after two years of waging a legal fight for a lakefront project site opposed by a local conservation group, his wife said on Tuesday.

Lucas' apparent decision to give up on Chicago came as top city officials failed to reach a compromise with the group Friends of the Parks on an alternative location for the proposed museum.

After suspending its lawsuit against the project in a goodwill gesture as it entered talks with the city, Friends of the Parks on Tuesday said it objected to an alternative site backed by the mayor, drawing a public rebuke from Lucas' wife, Mellody Hobson.

"In refusing to accept the extraordinary public benefits of the museum, the Friends of the Parks has proven itself to be no friend of Chicago," Hobson said in a statement. "We are now seriously pursuing locations outside of Chicago."

The proposed museum would feature exhibitions of Lucas' collection of paintings, illustrations and digital art from the blockbuster "Star Wars" movie franchise he launched in 1977.

Friends of the Parks filed suit in 2014 to block the proposed transfer of a lakefront property near Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears football team, from the city to the museum project. The lawsuit argued that the museum would violate the public use policy governing development along shore of Lake Michigan.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel has backed the project, saying it would create jobs and expand cultural opportunities, and he proposed an alternative lakefront site on the grounds of the McCormick Place convention centre.—*Reuters*

George Lucas and his wife Mellody Hobson arrive at the European Premiere of Star Wars, The Force Awakens in Leicester Square, London in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Asleep in Jesus
Naw Lay Lay Thein (37 years)

Naw Lay Lay Thein residing at 13/C Zion Hill - Nant Thar Gone quarter, Insein. Beloved youngest daughter of U Saw Kalu Say + Naw Hti Paw. Beloved wife of Saw Zarni Moh and mother of Saw Glenn Johnathan Moh, Naw Judyline Moh, Saw Rain Joseph Moh and Saw Joshua Gabriel Moh. Youngest sister of Naw Eh Gay + Saw David, Naw Si Si Soe + U Tin Myo Naing and Naw Khin Khin Chit + Saw Gaw Khu. Aunty of Six nieces and nephews was called to her heavenly home on 4-5-2016 at 6:45 am.

Funeral service will be held on 6-5-2016 at 9:00 am at Ko Tha Phyu Memorial hall, Insein and thence to Ecumenical Garden, Yae Way for burial

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Funeral service will be held on 6-5-2016 at 9:00 am at Ko Tha Phyu Memorial hall, Insein and thence to Ecumenical Garden, Yae Way for burial

World keen to attract more Chinese tourists: UNWTO chief

A Chinese tourist takes photos of the Aletsch Glacier at the foot of the Jungfrau on 23 January 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

MADRID — Several governments around the world are asking the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) the best way to attract more visitors from China, showing how important China is in the global tourism sector, its Secretary General Taleb Rifai said in an interview with Xinhua.

Promoting the First World Conference on Tourism for Development taking place in Beijing between 18 and 21 May, Rifai said the meeting would discuss how the tourism industry can help with sustainable economic development and promote peace.

He said the conference could not have a more appropriate host than China, because apart from proposing the conference, "China is a leader in tourism and a nation that knows exactly what tourism is able to do for economic and social development."

Rifai called tourism an exchange of experiences that "makes the world a better place."

"In economic terms, the arrival of income and job creation in communities helps the vulnerable sectors of communities," he said.

"There are also political gains with increasing tolerance and understanding of other people, which makes us better people. When you go to a different country, you eat the food, speak to the people, listen to the music and that makes you a more respectful person to other cultures and people," Rifai added.

Meanwhile, investment in infrastructures such as railways, roads and airports is an important benefit of the tourist sector.

"It is very important for us to highlight in Beijing that this development and investment has to be socially and environmentally sustainable. Tourism has to be seen as a force for good for people and for the planet," Rifai said.

More tourists visiting different countries will mean more jobs, more investment, more infrastructure and more development, he commented.

"Tourism can be as important as you want it to be and examples show that countries which pay attention to tourism receive the benefits. It all depends on what you do with what you have and on the political will," said Rifai.

"Travel today is different to travel in the past. People want more opportunities to interact with the local population. This does not happen by itself — we need a plan, itineraries and we need tourism products," he said—*Xinhua*

US families struggling with teens' phone addiction

WASHINGTON — Half of teenagers in the United States feel addicted to their mobile phones, with most checking the devices at least every hour and feeling pressured to respond immediately to messages, a survey released on Tuesday found.

The majority of parents concurred, with 59 per cent of those with children between ages 12 and 18 saying their kids cannot give up their phones, according to a poll of 1,240 parents and children by Common Sense Media.

The findings from the nonprofit group, which focuses on the effects of media and technology on children, highlighted the tension such close ties to devices can cause, with it disrupting driving, homework and other time together.

About a third of those polled said they argue every day about screen use, the San Francisco-based group said.

"It is causing daily conflict in homes," Common Sense Media's founder and CEO James Steyer said in a statement.

Its survey is the latest indication of American families struggling to balance mobile devices in an age of ever-evolving technology. It also underscores the ongoing debate over Internet addiction and its consequences.

A separate review of available data on Internet and technology use cited concerns for problematic media.

Multi-tasking can hinder the ability to form memories and the lack of human interaction can also make it harder to develop empathy, Common Sense Media found.

US children between ages 8 and 12 report spending nearly six hours a day using media, while those ages 13 to 18 spend almost nine hours per day using media, according to the group.

"The seemingly constant use of tech, evidenced by teens immediately responding to texts, social-networking posts, and other notifications, is actually a reflection of teens' need to connect with others," it said in its review.

Ellen Wartella, director of Northwestern University's Centre on Media and Human Development and an adviser for the review, said it is still unclear what the ultimate impact of such media use is on children's behaviour. —*Reuters*

Kate Moore (L) and Morgan Dynda of the US compete in the LG Mobile Worldcup Texting Championship in New York, in January 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(5- 5-2016, Thursday)

6:00 pm
- Weather Report
- Music Programme

6:30 pm
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:50 pm
- Cartoon Programme "Brother Bear (II)" (Part- II)

7:10 pm
- International Drama Series

7:50 pm
- International Drama Series

8:40 pm
- Music Programme

9:00 pm
- English Premier League (Review- II)

9:20 pm
- International Movie Songs

9:30 pm
- Myanmar Traditional Instruments — Myanma Harp (Episode-1)

9:50 pm
- Music Programme

10:00 pm
- Myanmar Video

From 5-5-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm
To 6-5-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm

mitv Myanmar International

(5-5-2016 07:00am ~ 6-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:25	Am	Myanmar's Traditions and Culture "A stir about of Rainbows"
07:49	Am	Gold from Garbage
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	…..Changes
08:42	Am	The 110th Anniversary of Yangon Zoological Garden
08:54	Am	Myanmar Traditional Art Bronze Casting
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Marketable Goods (Straw painting)
09:44	Am	Image of The Monks
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Reviving and Promoting a Traditional Festival
10:53	Am	The Storytellers

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday 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	The Most Prominent Resort and Residence - Ngapali
07:51	Pm	Next Weekend
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts
08:41	Pm	Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns
08:47	Pm	Horse Cart Driver

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday 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)

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Atletico oust Bayern to reach Champions League final

Robert Lewandowski retrieves the ball after scoring the second goal for Bayern Munich as Atletico Madrid's Jan Oblak looks on during UEFA Champions League Semi Final Second Leg at Allianz Arena, Munich on 3 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MUNICH — Atletico Madrid reached the Champions League final on away goals on Tuesday after a 2-1 defeat at Bayern Munich, in which both sides missed a penalty, with the exhilarating tie finishing 2-2 on aggregate.

Atletico will play in the showpiece match for the second time in three seasons against either city rivals Real Madrid, who beat them in the 2014 final, or Manchester City, with the second semi-final scheduled for the Bernabeu on Wednesday.

Bayern's exit ended their hopes of claiming a treble with Atletico going through to the 28 May final at the San Siro in Milan after winning the first leg 1-0 last week.

The Bavarians went ahead with a Xabi Alonso free kick just past the half-hour and could have scored again three minutes later but Thomas Mueller's penalty was saved by Jan Oblak.

Atletico levelled through Frenchman Antoine Griezmann's seventh goal of this season's competition in the 54th, meaning Bayern would need at least two more goals to progress.

Bayern's Poland striker Robert Lewandowski set up a dramatic finale with his 74th minute goal before Atletico's Fernando Torres had an 85th minute spot kick saved by Manuel Neuer.

But it made no difference in the end as Bayern suffered a third straight elimination by a Spanish team at this stage in their three seasons under Pep Guardiola.

"They were better, but we scored an away goal, which was important. We need to keep grounded and first of all think of the Liga before the final," said Griezmann, whose side are level on points with leaders Barcelona in the Spanish title race.

"We're delighted. It was difficult, a really hard game, we had a great opponent in front of us and we had to both defend and try to score. That's what we did," he added.

Guardiola, in his final Champions League home game at Bayern before his move to Manchester City for next season, started with defender Jerome Boateng, back from a three-month injury break on Saturday, and Franck Ribery, himself back from injury.

With a newly-discovered intensity, the Bavarians were dominant in the first half, successfully navigating through the Spaniards' high pressing game and grabbing their first chance with a Lewandowski header in the 12th minute.

"We are a bit lost for words," said Neuer. "We played great football today, did everything we set out to do but it is bitter not to be travelling to Milan for the final."

Atletico keeper Oblak was kept busy in the first half, with the tables turned and Bayern doing the pressing — having 12 shots compared to Atletico's two by the half hour.

Alonso finally got the hosts a deserved lead in the 31st minute, his low free kick clipping Atletico's Jose Maria Gimenez to cancel out Atletico's first-leg advantage.—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

Rich clubs will rule Premier League for 20 years: Ranieri

LONDON — Leicester City manager Claudio Ranieri believes England's rich clubs will dominate the Premier League for the next two decades despite his team's unlikely run to their first top flight title.

"Big money makes big teams and usually big teams win. Now we can say only 99 per cent of the time," the 64-year-old Italian was quoted as saying by the BBC.

"Next season will be the same and for the next 10 or 20 years, it will be the same," he added after his 5,000-1 outsiders clinched the trophy on Monday. He noted surprise winners emerge once every 20 years, with Nottingham Forest in 1978, after promotion the previous season, and Blackburn Rovers in 1995, three years after going up.

"How many years after Nottingham Forest and Blackburn have another team won?" said Ranieri. "The richest, or the team who can pick up the best players to make a team, will win."

Leicester's squad cost less than 60 million pounds ($87.27 million), although their billionaire Thai owner Vichai Srivaddhanaprabha said two years ago he was ready to spend 180 million to claim a top-five finish within three years. But former Chelsea manager Ranieri said he would not pay big transfer fees despite the extra demands facing Leicester, who will play in their first Champions League campaign next term.—*Reuters*

Australia's Tomic slammed for match point 'tank'

MADRID — Bernard Tomic's on-court commitment has come under renewed scrutiny after the Australian played match point holding his racquet backwards in defeat to Fabio Fognini at the Madrid Open.

Tomic, down 0-40 as Italian Fognini sought to serve out the match at 6-2, 5-4, held his racquet by the head with the handle pointing forward and barely moved as his opponent fired an ace past him to seal the win.

News of the stunt triggered a storm of criticism in his home country and on social media from tennis pundits.

"Bernard Tomic has stated before he believes he is a top 10 player, but he won't be top 10 in anyone's books with continued displays of petulance like this," News Ltd media said.

World number 22 Tomic was nicknamed 'Tomic the Tank Engine' after accusations he 'tanked' — or failed to try his best — in a loss to Andy Roddick at the 2012 US Open.

The 23-year-old also holds the record for the quickest loss at a Masters-level tournament on the ATP Tour after being smashed 6-0, 6-1 in 28 minutes by Finn Jarkko Nieminen in Miami in 2014.

Tomic came under fire in the leadup to the Australian Open for retiring during his Sydney International quarter-final after telling the chair umpire his mind was on the year's first grand slam. He later claimed to have suffered food poisoning.

Tomic created further controversy during a Davis Cup match against the United States in Melbourne in March when he publicly criticised team mate Nick Kyrgios for withdrawing from the tie with illness.—*Reuters*

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