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NEIGHBOURLY RELATIONS

Myanmar will support Laos in its ASEAN Chairmanship: President U Htin Kyaw

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw pledged to support Laos in its ASEAN Chairmanship on his one-day goodwill visit to Laos in response to an invitation from the President of The Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mr. Bounnhang Vorachit.

The President expressed his willingness to see Lao play a greater part in the region and pledged to support Laos' ASEAN Chairmanship at bilateral talks with his Lao-tian counterpart.

Together with President U Htin Kyaw, Daw Su Su Lwin, wife of the President, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs and President Office Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint visited the LPDR yesterday morning.

During the talks, the President stressed the need to enhance cooperation between the two peoples to bolster existing friendship between the two countries, acknowledging the long running diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Laos, unbroken now for 60 years.

In his response the Laotian President expressed his willingness to boost cooperation in trade, education, public health and the hotels and tourism sector.

The two leaders held comprehensive discussions on further people-to-people connectivity and government-to-government connectivity and the holding of bilateral ministerial meetings.

Next, the President and party held talks with Laotian Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith on implementation of matters discussed



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin leave Nay Pyi Taw for Lao. PHOTO: MNA

between the two Presidents.

During his visit to Laos, the President laid a wreath at their Unknown Soldier Monument and visited Thatluang Pagoda the National Museum and Wat Si Saket

in Vientiane. Before leaving for Myanmar, the President met with diplomats and their families of the Myanmar Embassy in Laos and Myanmar scholars at the Landmark Mekong Riverside Hotel.

Daw Su Su Lwin, wife of the President, visited Song Mue Nang Handicraft, Wat Si Muang and Ammalin Lao Silk Handicraft in Vientiane.

Likewise, State Counse-

lor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with Lao National Assembly Vice Chairperson Mr. Somphanh Phengkhammy on further cooperation between the two parliaments.

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Amyotha Hluttaw agrees to discuss Bill Revoking Fisheries Law

THE Amyotha Hluttaw agreed to discuss a bill to revoke the 1991 Freshwater Fisheries Law put forward by a parliamentarian yesterday.

It is aimed at avoiding confusion between the 1991 Law and freshwater fisheries laws promulgated by some region/state Hluttaws, said MP U Hsan Myint who submitted the bill to the parliament.

Some Region/ State Hluttaws have enacted their own freshwater fisheries laws in accord with

table 2 of the 2008 Constitution, he added.

"As the freshwater fisheries laws enacted in respective regions and states are suitable for their own regions, they use their own laws. The 1991 Law should be revoked as the two laws will likely cause confusion if both are on the books."

The Amyotha Hluttaw representative called for the promulgation of freshwater fisheries law by remaining region/state Hluttaws,

taking necessary measures into consideration for mitigation of disputes between fish breeders and farmers.

We need a good law that can settle disputes arising from weak rules and regulations of the freshwater fisheries law, he said.

During the 21st day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw the Bill Committee read out a report on the Bill Revoking Duties and Powers of People's Councils and Executive Committees of

Various Levels, and a lawmaker submitted a third revised bill to amend the Ward or Village Administration Law.

The Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee said that submission of the third revised bill amending the Ward or Village Administration Law is aimed at ensuring the election of ward or village administrators in accord with democratic standards and the desires of the people.—*Thein Ko Lwin with the Myanmar News Agency*

A total of 926 suspects arrested on drug-related charges in April

MEMBERS of the Tatmadaw, police officers and anti-narcotic squad personnel arrested a total of 926 suspects — 825 men and 101 women — suspected of being involved in a total of 616 drug cases last April, said the Myanmar Police Force in a statement released yesterday.

According to the meticulously detailed statement, 34.15 kilograms of opium were confiscated in 12 cases, 7.63 kilograms

of heroin in 231 cases, 805,761 yaba pills in 329 cases, 1.36 kilograms of marijuana in 15 cases, 0.11 kilograms of solid opium in one case, 0.02 kilograms of low grade opium in three cases, 14.5 kilograms of opium powder in one case, 0.0047 kilograms of yaba powder in one case, 416.3 kilograms of methamphetamine in six cases, 0.12 litres of liquid heroin in two cases, 16 litres of acetic anhydride in one case,

4,400 kilograms of caffeine in two cases, 17.5 litres of acetone, 3,900 diazepam pills in one case, 37 bottles of diazepam injection, 56 bottles of tramadol injection, 420 tramadol capsules and six buprenorphine pills were confiscated.

Eight cases of failure to register narcotics were brought to court in addition to the other related charges.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Hluttaw MPs to meet with Thilawa farmers over compensation woes

A MEETING is being scheduled between members of Hluttaw and residents of Yangon's Thilawa region in a bid to resolve land disputes over construction of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ), the Thilawa Social Development Group (TSDG) has made it known.

It is known that farmers from Thilawa are still yet to receive any form of compensation for their land which was confiscated from them to make way for the SEZ.

"Members of Hluttaw will meet with Thilawa residents whose land was confiscated during recess of the Second Hluttaw. We'll present the report we submitted to the

Farmland Investigation Committee, of the last government, when the two parties convene in a bid to ensure farmers are issued with farmland compensation. It's from there that we'll know which points the members of Hluttaw will work toward," said U Mya Hlaing, member of the TSDG.

The farmland in question was confiscated during 1996-97 in the name of the Thilawa SEZ, after which a total sum of K20,000 was issued to each land owner. But it was not until over a decade later in 2013 that implementation on the project actually got underway.

"According to farmland law, any land confiscated for the

purpose of a construction project must be utilized within six months of confiscation. If not, the ownership rights over the land fall back into the hands of the original owners. Those with responsibility over the Thilawa project are under the assumption there is no compensation needed to be paid to farmers as they think it was already issued after farmland was originally confiscated. But the original owners have not yet received compensation," said Ashin U Sandarwara, abbot of the Kyunkalay monastery who intervened to help with resolving Thilawa land issues.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Energy ministry plans gas distribution to buses

THE Ministry of Electricity and Energy is planning to distribute fuel to gas buses in Yangon Region as part of its 100-day plan according to the general manager of the CNG department of Myanmar Oil and Gas Enterprise yesterday.

U Hla Win Htay spoke of the

plan to distribute fuel to 65 BRT buses, adding that 30 buses received 600 litres of gas a day in the first week of May.

"The distribution of gas will be made to the remaining 35 buses." The sales began at the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG)

Station No. 042 in Mingaladon township on Monday, the general manager said.

There are 46 gas stations across the country, with 41 in Yangon alone. They supply gas to 28,233 vehicles on a daily basis.—*Zaw Gyi (Panita)*



City buses are seen at CNG refilling station in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker meets outgoing Russian Ambassador to Myanmar



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receiving Russian Ambassador. PHOTO: MNA

PYIDAUNGSU Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than received the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov who has now completed his tour of duty in Myanmar.

The meeting was held in a hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yes-

terday. The two held talks on further bilateral relations and cooperation between the two countries.

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

ASEAN's energy policy can assist in reaching the global greenhouse gas reduction goal; Union Industry Minister says

ASEAN's energy policy will be able to contribute towards ensuring that the global greenhouse gas reduction goal set at the COP21 held in Paris, France, is met said Union Minister for Industry U Khin Maung Cho at the 20th annual meeting of ASEAN Energy Efficiency and Conservation Sub-sector Network in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Energy consumption is set to fall by 20 per cent by 2020 and 30 per cent by 2025 in the region of the 10-member association.

Being a member of the ASEAN, Myanmar also aims to reduce energy consumption by

12 per cent by 2020, 16 per cent by 2025 and 20 per cent by 2030.

Regarding the country's target, Director Daw Naing Naing Lin said that Myanmar will strive to reach its target through low cost and no cost energy saving tips, adding that the previous related meetings discussed energy consumption goals of the whole region as well as individual countries.

The EE&SSN annual meeting ran for four days from 2 to 5 May and was aimed at implementing national and regional energy saving targets.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar will support Laos in its ASEAN Chairmanship: President U Htin Kyaw

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The President and party arrived back in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening. They were welcomed back at Nay Pyi Taw Airport by Vice-Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and officials.

Laos established diplomatic relations with Myanmar on 12 July, 1955, with the opening of its Embassy in Yangon the following year. The Laotian Embassy was reopened after nearly nine years of closure under financial constraint in 1980. The Myanmar Embassy opened doors in Vientiane in 1967.

Under a bilateral trade agreement in 1995 in Yangon and border trade agreement in 2000 in Vientiane, Myanmar-LPDR bilateral trade totaled US\$0.401 million for the 2013-2014 FY. Myanmar mainly exports chickpea to Laos and imports electrical equipment, pharmaceutical products and plastic raw materials. *(Documentary photos of President U Htin Kyaw's visit to Laos are available at www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com)*—Myanmar News Agency



President U Htin Kyaw inspects the Guard of Honour as he arrives Laos. PHOTO: MNA

Ayeyawady govt earmarks over K875 million for rural development

THE Ayeyawady government has stated that it has earmarked a total of K875.07 million (US\$747,943) for rural development projects as part of the new government's first 100-days initiative.

Basic infrastructure and water accessibility activities will be prioritised, with K30 million to be spent on each township in the region, according to the Department of Rural Development for Ayeyawady Region.

"It's difficult to complete large scale projects within a pe-

riod of a hundred days. [The allocation of this budget for regional development] will allow for transparency and benefit [the public] as there is now a fund for such large scale projects; they don't need to be put up to tender," said U Soe Than, director of the department.

The first-100-day initiative for upgrading basic infrastructure will include the paving of 2.7 miles of concrete roads for seven townships; 2.5 miles of smooth stone roads and 3.4 miles of laterite roads for four townships;

and 3.3 miles of dirt roads for three townships. It will also include the construction of 25 concrete bridges for 16 townships; a wooden bridge for one township; three trans-river bridges for one township; and a box culvert for one township.

A total of K5 million is expected to be spent on water access in each township, which includes the digging of hand-dug wells together with maintenance repairs to existing wells, water reservoirs, water purification facilities and water ponds in a total

of 26 townships, which are comprised of 199 villages.

"Since the Department of Rural Development uses information provided by village and ward administrators relating to matters of water availability and upgrading of basic infrastructure, there will be areas in real need of attention that will be missed out. The development initiatives would be that much more effective if field studies could be conducted to obtain this information directly from the local residents," said U San Lay, chair of the My-

anmar Farmers Development Party of Ayeyawady Region.

The hundred day project initiatives commenced on April 1 and must be completed within a hundred days. The Department of Rural Development for Ayeyawaddy Region has made it known they have so far completed thirty per cent of earmarked water availability projects, together with ten per cent of basic infrastructural development projects, and will work to complete all projects by the end of May.—Myitmakha News Agency

Teak poles from U Bein bridge to be showcased

Aung Thant Khine

WE have in principle agreed to build a museum near Taungthaman Lake to showcase the century-old teak poles from U Bein Bridge in Amarapura township, Mandalay Region, said an official from the Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

"The damaged poles will be showed off at the museum but those which can be repaired will be reused and preserved as part of the original structure" said U Nyo Myint Tun, the director of Department of Archaeology and National Museum.

The Myanmar Teakwood



Workers repair U Bein Bridge in Mandalay. PHOTO: ATK

Company proposed to build the museum while the Taungthaman Thitsar company has offered to arrange the acquisition of a plot of land. Renovation and maintenance will be carried out to keep the original style with the help of a carpentry team from Inlay region, it has been learned.

"We are preparing to do it in

the traditional way, calling Inn Thar and giving them over 600 poles" said the leader of the carpenters Ko Sai Naung Tun.

U Bein bridge has stood for over 160 years and is now in need of replacement with new poles as the current ones have been worn away and damaged by natural erosion, wild weather and insects.

Crime reduction initiatives carried out in Mandalay

ACTIVITIES relating to security, rule of law and crime awareness have begun during the first week of May in Mandalay's Chanmyathazi township as part of the new government's hundred day project initiative, according to Police Officer Myint Zaw from the Chanmyathazi township police department.

The aforementioned remark was made during a meeting with local ward authorities and elders held in the township earlier this week.

"We must carry out in accordance with direction of state government. We'll put more of an emphasis on [providing] security and [enforcing] the rule of law during the next hundred days. There's a need for the public to cooperate with us

during this time," said Police Officer Myint Zaw.

The public need to contact the relevant authorities should anything unusual arise in their neighbourhood, while a rise in the frequency of muggings also requires the public to keep extra vigilant whilst travelling around, the aforementioned police officer added.

"There could be a great deal of illegal activities within the township. As such, we will cooperate with relevant organisations [in tackling such activities]. We'll strive to be successful in carrying out [the crime reduction initiatives] within the allocated hundred day period," said U Aung Kyaw Soe, administrator for Chanmyathazi township.—Myitmakha News Agency

Eindawya pagoda to be renovated

Aung Thant Khaing

THE Eindawya pagoda, an ancient pagoda located in the village of Nga Ta Yaw in Yezagyo township, Magwe Region, will be renovated by the Office of the Commander-in-Chief(Army), said Tampawady U Win Maung, an archaeologist.

The pagoda is believed to have been consecrated by King Bayint Naung, founder of the Second Myanmar Proper Kingdom in Myanmar Era 917. Evidences suggest that the site was consecrated upon the king's return to his native land after defeating an enemy force in Ava. I was offered the chance to renovate the pagoda. The size of the bricks and the way the bricks are laid indicate that they belong to the Hanthawady Period, said U Win Maung.

"The alphabets inscribed in



Eindawya pagoda.
PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

the bricks are quite similar to those inscribed in the pillars of King Bayint Naung's Palace. This is part of the proof that this pagoda was built by King Bayint Naung," he added.

Lt- Gen Tun Tun Naung from the Office of the Command-

er-in-Chief (Army) and group visited the village and met with local elders and departmental officials to discuss the renovation project.

There are altogether nine pagodas in the village. However, not all of the donors who began the construction of the temples are

known. As for Eindawya pagoda, experts claim that it can be quite certainly said to have been built by King Bayint Naung as there are documental evidences as well as oral history detailing the construction handed down from generation to generation in the region.

Sule pedestrian overpass to be opened soon

A new pedestrian overpass at the corner of Anawrahta Road and Sule Pagoda Road is complete and is expected to be opened in the first week of May.

On 3 May, the bridge was being painted, said the officers from the Road and Bridge Department under the Yangon City Development Committee.

The overpass, like the one at Theingyi Market, includes four pedestrian staircases facing four directions.

The overpass will be opened in the first week of May, said U Tin Tun Oo, the assistant head of the Road and Bridge Department under the YCDC.—*Tin Win Lay*

Crime NEWS



The car seen topsy turvy after accident. PHOTO: 007

Car accident injures five passengers

A VEHICLE collided head on with another between mileposts 50/0 and 50/2, on Mandalay-Myinmu-Monywa road, Myinmu township on Thursday, leaving five passengers injured.

The vehicle being driven by one Win Hlaing, 22, crashed into the other being driven

by one U Tint Lwin, 50, with five passengers on board when the former lost control. U Tint Lwin's vehicle overturned. The accident seriously injured five passengers who are currently receiving medical treatment at Myinmu General Hospital.—077

Fire destroys South Dagon Industrial Zone (2)

A FIRE destroyed South Dagon Industrial Zone (2) in ward 63, Dagon Myothit (South) township, Yangon on Thursday. According to an investigation the fire broke out around 8:00 pm, starting in a finished wood prod-

ucts factory.

The fire was rated level- 4 according to the Yangon Regional Fire Department. Firefighters rushed to the scene and battled the blaze with the aid of over 30 fire engines, finally extinguish-

ing the blaze at around midnight. Some firemen sustained minor injuries in the battle. U Phyo Min Thein, Chief Minister of Yangon Region, and officials arrived at the scene. Police are still investigating the case.—*Tin Win Lay*



Firefighters battling the blaze in South Dagon. PHOTO: TIN WIN LAY



Yaba and ammunition seized in Maungtau. PHOTO: MNA

Yaba and ammunition seized in Maungtau

MEMBERS of the border guard searched a vehicle being driven by one Ma Saw Su Pan with Kyaw Nyein, Nyi Nyi Naing and Zaw Lin Htoo on board at Maungtau check point on Tuesday before seizing 19,305 yaba pills from a vehicle.

On that same day, the police searched the home of one Win Sein in Naingkhalaung village, kyondo township and discovered

12,414 yaba pills, four firearms, a hand-grenade, 199 bullets, a motorcycle and a car.

Similarly, an anti-drug squad at Tachilek gate seized raw opium weighing 3 kilograms, heroin weighing 20 grams and 6,400 yaba pills from a motorcycle being driven by one Ar Mu. Police searched a Wut Yee restaurant owned by one Ma Yin San and discovered 365 yaba pills. The

Paing Soe and Nyi Phyo Paing were found together with the host.

On Monday a police squad in Keng Tung arrested one Thein Aung and Ar Yee in Naung Khon village and seized 311 yaba pills, a knife and four motorcycles. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*MNA*

LOCAL Business



Thilawa Special Economic Zone. PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG

Thilawa SEZ industrial firms to begin operations later this year

ELEVEN companies invested in the country's first Thilawa Special Economic Zone, located in Yangon Region, are likely to begin operating later this year according to Dr Than Than Thwe, joint secretary-general of the Thilawa SEZ Management Committee.

Aside from one investor all involved companies are meeting their plant construction targets. Construction of the entire zone sits at around 70 per cent completion.

Fifty companies including 14 from Japan, four from Taiwan and three from Thailand in addition to investors from China, Sweden, the U.S, Hong Kong,

Australia and domestic companies have offered to invest in the SEZ project. Over 40 of them received investment certificates on 12 December 2014.

"We granted 36 companies from Japan, the U.S, Hong Kong, Singapore and France permission to operate their businesses in the zone," said Dr Than Than Thwe.

The selected firms include electrical and electronic products manufactures, food and beverage producers, car makers and auto accessory plants.

The government set the land rental price within the zone at US\$70 per square foot in accordance with accepted international investment policies.

Currently, investment-related businesses have been dealt with by the staff of the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development located near 48 Street in downtown Yangon.

The 396-hectare Zone-A of Thilawa SEZ enterprise, which is located 25 kilometers southeast of Yangon, is being implemented in two phases. Initiated in late November 2013, the first phase comprising 211 hectares was put into operation in September 2015.

Initially, the Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Co sold 2.145 million shares to the public at K10,000 (US\$8.53) per share.—Zar Zar

Thilawa SEZ shares set to hit YSX set on 20 May

Ye Khaung Nyunt & Myat Thandar Maung

MYANMAR Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited is set to begin selling share on the Yangon Stock Exchange on 20 May, according to a press release from the MTSH issued yesterday.

The MTSH sold K2.145 million, selling at K10,000 per share, through 450 bank branches across the country from 3 March until 9 April, 2014.

A total of 16,700 shares of the company had been sold according to the MTSH.

In its press release, the company said that it aims to spread investments following the beginning of share selling on the YSX which will contribute toward better administration of the company. Together with 10 per cent of the Myanmar government the MTSH holds a 41 per cent share in the Thilawa SEZ project which is in joint venture with 49 per cent Japanese investment in which the Japan International Cooperation Agency holds 10 per cent while MMS Thilawa Development Co Ltd, formed with three Japanese companies, owns 39 per cent.

According to the company, 55 per cent of its total shares had been sold to the public and the re-

maining 45 per cent of shares are owned by nine companies with five per cent each.

The share-holders of the MTSH are: Golden Land East Asia Development Ltd, Myanmar Sugar Development Co Ltd, Myanmar Edible Oil Industrial Public Corporation, First Myanmar Investment Co Ltd, Myanmar Agricultural & General Development Public Limited, National Development Company Group Limited, New City Development Public Co Ltd, Myanmar Technologies and Investment Corporation Ltd and Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Ltd. Reportedly, a K31 billion investment was made by Myanmar's Ministry of Finance, which holds a 51 per cent stake with Daiwa and JPX who share a 49 per cent stake. The Yangon Stock Exchange was first opened on 25 March, 2016.

The first six public companies to trade stocks on the exchange were First Myanmar Investment Co Ltd. (FMI), Myanmar Agribusiness Public Corporation Ltd (MAPCO), First Private Bank Ltd, Myanmar Citizens Bank Ltd, Golden Land Public Company Ltd and Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Ltd.

Rice exports likely to increase this year

IT is estimated that the export quantity of rice is likely to increase by 500,000 tonnes this fiscal year over last year's figure according to the Myanmar Rice Federation.

Dr Soe Tun, vice chair of the MRF, said it is expected that the export figure will stand between 1.5 and 2 million tonnes this FY. China is the main trade partner for Myanmar on the rice market. However, the country is currently seeing increased demand from some Asian and African states. "It is a difficult task estimating

China's demand for rice this FY. The demand could fluctuate for any number of reasons," said U ohn Ngwe, chairman of the federation.

Myanmar exported 1.4 million tonnes of rice to 70 foreign countries over the 2015-2016 FY. Over 75 per cent of that went to China. In cooperation with the Ministry of Commerce the MRF will establish a laboratory in Hlegu Township in Yangon in order to research diseases that affect fruits and vegetables as well as paddy.—Chan Chan

Golden Saint prepares to enter Myanmar gems and jewelry market

GOLDEN Saint, based in Australia, has plans to extend its business into the Myanmar gems and jewelry market according to Kitco news agency.

In April, Golden Saint attracted the attention of Myanmar gems and jewelry companies and dealers at the international gems and jewelry emporium held in

Myanmar. Golden Saint, in its announcement, said Myanmar, Viet Nam and Cambodia are promising markets in terms of the gems and jewelry businesses. This being so, it has been planning to enter the Myanmar market to extend their gems and jewelry business which includes the trading of diamonds.

"The recent emporium held in

Yangon has created a new opportunity to receive many new customers for the company, said Keng Hock Seah, director of the Finance department of this company.

Golden Saint is a gems and jewelry company which sells high quality diamond and gold from Africa and other countries.—PPN/ Union Daily

Share prices on Yangon Stock Exchange continues to fall

DEMAND for stock has gradually declined since April as the value of share prices on the Yangon Stock Exchange continues to fall, according to share traders.

The First Myanmar Investment Co (FMI) began selling shares first on the YSX at K26,000 (US\$22.19) per share and jumped to a maximum daily

price of K41,000 (\$34.99). Around 500,000 shares have been traded on the YSX so far. The share price of FMI hit a record low on 5 April, selling for K28,000 per share.

FMI launched on the exchange on 25 March with a market capitalisation of K610 billion. "Both demand and supply have steadily decreased in the market. As a re-

sult, traders are showing very little interest in trading shares on the YSX," said U Myat Min Thu, a share trader, who said his view is that the local authorities should try to control the current situation.

Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Public Holdings will begin selling its shares on the YSX in the middle of this month, U Thet Tun Oo, an of-

ficial of the YSX, said. The Securities Exchange Commission only grants local public trading entities licenses to those firms that qualify to be listed on the YSX in line with the norms set by the commission.

The first six public companies approved for listing are the First Myanmar Investment Co Ltd, First Private Bank, Great Hor Kham

Public Co Ltd, Myanmar Agribusiness public Co Ltd, Myanmar Citizen Bank and Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Public Holding Limited. The country's first ever Yangon Stock Exchange was officially opened in downtown Yangon in December of last year. The exchange was opened with six selected local public companies.—Chan Chan



A Thai Lion airplane takes off at Soekarno-Hatta airport in Jakarta. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thai Lion prepares for Yangon-Bangkok route

THE Thai Lion company, based in Thailand, has been preparing for a Yangon-Bangkok destination to be opened, according to an announcement from Thai Lion.

Thai Lion will introduce a new commercial flight between Yangon and Bangkok at some point this month, they said. It will operate the Yangon-Bangkok trip

twice a week.

The plane will fly between Don Maung Airport in Bangkok and Yangon International Airport. There will be two flights, Thai Lion said, that will take off from Don Maung Airport: the first one leaves Bangkok at 6:15 am (Thailand Standard Time) and arrives at Yangon at 7:10am

(Myanmar Standard Time); and the second flight leaves Bangkok at 8:25am (TST) and arrives at Yangon at 9:30am (MST).

There will also be two return flights: the first leaves Yangon at 10:20 (MST) and arrives at 12:20 (TST) and the next flight leaves Yangon at 7:55 (MST) and arrives at 9:45 (TST).—PPN/Union Daily

Microbiology to be used in poultry farming

MICROBIOLOGY will be applied to poultry farming to reduce costs, waste and increase the environmental friendliness of the industry, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

The Myanmar Livestock Federation has opened a branch office to jointly conduct this new method of farming with PPA Livestock Feeding based in Thailand which shares technical know-how related to microbial breeding.

PPA Myanmar will provide the technical know-how for the local breeding businessmen and has invited businessmen who want to be engaged in the project to register their interest, said U Win Sein, the vice chairman of

the federation.

"This feeding method can mainly save money. It will help to protect the chickens against diseases. It will make them grow rapidly, allowing the businessmen to earn more", he added.

The method is known as an Ecological and Low Carbon Breeding Farm. The method has been found to be suited to Myanmar's natural environment because it is based on sawdust. Plenty of raw materials can be used and it is slated to bring benefits to businesses that engage the project on a large scale.

"Traditional breeding methods are not eco-friendly; it can cause air pollution and damage the environment. The sawdust

substrate used in this microbial breeding can absorb ammonia. It will bring more benefits to the microbial breeders", said Ko Nay Min, a breeder.

Only 25 per cent of microbial products are required to be mixed with traditional feedstuff. By doing so, it can cost K300 for 1 viss (approximately 1.6 kilograms) of chicken. There is 20 to 22 per cent protein content in microbiology feedstuff and just 18 per cent in traditional feedstuff.

Microbial breeding started in Northern Shan State and there are now 20 townships of Kachin, Nay Pyi Taw, Bago, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions in which this kind of method is being adopted.—Zar Zar

Taipei breeders to carry out commercial duck farming in Myanmar

BUSINESSMEN from Taipei, Taiwan are said to be preparing to invest in the country's duck farming industry in the near future with plans to develop a huge farming network which may produce up to 20,000 visses (a viss is approximately 1.6 kilograms) of meat every day to fulfill domestic demand, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

Those Taiwanese breeders will operate their livestock farming in the country under a five-year contract with a plan to breed

the Chinese native duck for meat production.

U Win Sein, vice chairman of the MLF, said there is only a handful of farmers who carry out duck farming on a commercial scale within the country and they alone cannot produce enough meat for daily domestic consumption.

"We cannot distribute adequate volume of meat to the local market. We transport our products only to hotels and restaurants," one of farmers said.

Recording an annual average growth rate of almost 3.5 per cent, global duck meat production expanded by some 1.3 million tonnes between 2000 and 2011, according to FAO data.

Production in Africa and Asia grew by 3.7 per cent per year in the review period, while Europe recorded a 2.1 per cent gain.

Egypt is the major producer in Africa, its industry having grown from 38,000 tonnes a year back in 2000 to almost 70,000 tonnes in 2009.—200

Exports reach US\$200 million in 22 days

MYANMAR has earned over US 200 million from the export sector between 1 and 22 April, according to Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar exported agricultural products, fishery and forestry products; mineral extractions; natural gas and industrial finished materials etc via border trade and sea trade. The volume of exports in agricultural, mineral and forestry products has declined, according to the figures released by the Ministry of Commerce.

The value of export fell by

US\$24 million in agricultural products, US\$0.18 million in animal products, US\$3.18 million in mineral products and US\$0.70 million in forestry products respectively. The total value of export was US\$206.958 million earned during 22 days of this budget.

The yield of various peas, rice and other agricultural products declined because of the outbreak of natural disasters in 2015-2016, according to a responsible person from the Ministry of Commerce.—MPPS/Union Daily

Hungary to provide assistance to agricultural and electric sectors

COMMODITIES including agricultural products will be exported to European countries through Hungary, said the deputy minister for Hungarian Foreign Affairs and Trade with UMFCFI officials.

Hungary will provide technological know-how in order to help Myanmar agriculture develop and boost agricultural production. Hungary will also carry out contract farming and joint venture projects. It will then buy back the farm prod-

ucts, according to a UMFCFI official.

The two sides discussed the exporting of high quality products to neighbouring countries. Hungary will further provide electricity to 40,000 villages which at this time do not have access to the national grid.

Hungary is said to plan to join the hotel and tourism sector by building infrastructure and providing links to enterprises from both countries.—MPPS/Union Daily

Local kapok fibre price rises due to low production

THE price of kapok fiber obtained from red silk cotton fruit has increased this season due to high demand in the local market, according to merchants.

The price of kapok fiber has risen to K2,000 (US\$1.71) per viss (approximately 1.6 kilograms) from K1,300 (\$1.11) this year, one grower said.

Red silk cotton fruit has remained consistently popular with buyers, favoured over other products because of its quality and perceived health benefits.

Buyers are facing difficulties in collecting red silk cotton fruit this season for the purpose of producing quality silk cotton to meet domestic demand.

The increase in price of kapok fibre is reportedly linked to a lack of labourers in the grow-

ing regions to harvest the fruit as the majority of the labour pool go abroad to find job opportunities and higher wages.

"The durability of kapok attracts people who want to own pillows filled with the organic cotton," said Ma San San Ye, a bed pillow salesman.

Kapok is a fibre taken from the seed-pod of the tropical kapok tree, also known as the silk-cotton tree. The kapok tree is valued and its produce hard to come by due to the fact that the tree typically only gives fruit every 5-10 years. It is a deciduous and loses its leaves during the dry season (May to October) in the tropics. Red silk cotton trees are found mostly in dry regions including Mandalay, Sagaing, Monywa and Shwebo.—200



PHOTO: kapokfibersuppliers.com

China says South China Sea criticism could rebound like coiled spring

BEIJING/SHANGHAI — International criticism of China over the disputed South China Sea will rebound like a coiled spring, a Chinese diplomat said on Friday, as a US warship visited Shanghai against a backdrop of rising tension in the region.

China claims almost all of the energy-rich South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion (£3.45 trillion) of trade passes each year. The Philippines, Brunei, Viet Nam, Malaysia and Taiwan have overlapping claims.

China's increasingly assertive moves in the waters, including building artificial islands and air strips, have rattled nerves, with the Group of Seven (G7) advanced economies warning last month they opposed provocation there.

Ouyang Yujing, director-general of Chinese Foreign Ministry's Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs, said China took note of



Ouyang Yujing, China's director-general of the Department of Boundary and Ocean Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is surrounded by reporters after his briefing on China's stance on the South China Sea, in Beijing, China, on 6 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the criticism. "Of course we're willing to take on board constructive comments and criticism by the relevant countries," Ouyang told a news briefing.

"But if they are aimed at putting pressure on China or blackening its name, then you can view it like a spring, which has an applied force and a counterforce. The more the pressure, the great-

er the reaction." China has been stepping up its rhetoric ahead of a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on a case the Philippines has brought against China's claims in the sea. US officials have expressed concern the ruling, expected soon, could prompt China to declare an air defence identification zone, as it did over the East China

Sea in 2013. China has neither confirmed nor denied it could do that.

The ruling is expected to favour the Philippines and risks raising tension because China rejects the court's authority to hear the case, even though it is a signatory of the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea under which it is being heard.

China has been particularly angered by what it sees as interference by the United States, whose military has carried out "freedom of navigation" patrols through the sea. Last Friday, the US Defence Department said China had denied a request for the 7th Fleet's aircraft carrier strike group, to visit Hong Kong. Still, China has allowed the 7th Fleet's command ship, the USS Blue Ridge, to visit Shanghai, where on Friday, Joseph Aucoin, commander of the US 7th Fleet, declined to speculate on the reason for the cancellation of the Hong Kong visit.—Reuters

India's main opposition Congress party launches scathing attack on Modi gov't

NEW DELHI — India's main opposition Congress party Friday launched a scathing attack on Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, accusing it of "murdering the democracy" and being indifferent to the plight of the poor, especially farmers.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, her son and vice-president of the party Rahul Gandhi and former Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh all took turns to slam the central government at a mega rally in the national capital.

"In two years, the Modi government has started to destroy everything. Every step they take is destroying the democracy. Everybody is troubled under their rule. Farmers are forced to commit suicides. But the Modi government has closed their eyes," Gandhi said.

She added: "Life has taught me to fight. I want to say this to all these people, no matter how much you

try to destroy the democracy, we will not let your dangerous plans succeed. If they think they can remove the Congress, then I am afraid, they do not know what the Congress is made of." Rahul Gandhi also came down heavily on the Indian government, saying farmers are committing suicide, "but Prime Minister Modi does not care."

"There has been no concrete proof of employment in the country," he said. Singh, who was India's prime minister from 2004 to 2014, echoed similar voices. "I would like to tell Modi and the Bharatiya Janata Party that the Congress is the soul of India. Many have tried to remove the Congress but have failed," he said. "The Congress is like the flowing Ganga river. You can do what you like, but will never be able to stop it. The Congress will always do whatever it takes, sacrifice all for the betterment of the nation."—Xinhua

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

Singapore, Australia to jointly develop military training areas



Troops from the Singapore Guards Formation of the Singapore Armed Forces and troops from the Seventh Australian Regiment of the Australian Defence Force land on the beach during a preview of Exercise Trident which is part of Exercise Wallaby at Freshwater Bay in Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Australia and Singapore will jointly develop military training areas and facilities in Australia, the city-state's foreign ministry said, as part of a deal that expands defence cooperation between the two countries and improves economic ties.

Reuters reported earlier Singapore will fund a A\$2.25 billion (US\$1.7 billion) expansion of military training facilities in Australia, according to a government source.

Land-scarce Singapore has long sent troops to Australia for military exercises. The new deal would allow the Asian nation to increase the number of troops it has on rotation in Australia to 14,000, from 6,000.

Under the agreement, Singapore would fund the cost of expanding the Shoalwater Bay Training Area and the Townsville Field Training Area, both in the north of Queensland state.

Both bases lie in electorates critical to the government. The timing of the agreement is viewed as a political coup for Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull ahead of an anticipated July federal election.

Singapore will have enhanced and expanded military training access in Australia over a period of 25 years, the city-state's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in a statement.

The two countries will enhance military personnel

exchanges and initiate civilian personnel exchanges. They will also strengthen intelligence and information sharing, such as in counter-terrorism, the MFA statement said.

The move to forge closer military ties between Australia and Singapore comes at a time of rising tensions between much of Asia and China, which has been building military and civilian facilities on its artificial islands in the disputed South China Sea.

The region is also facing rising risks from Islamic extremists.

Earlier this week, Singapore said it had detained eight Bangladeshi men who were planning attacks in their homeland. It deported five others who were arrested by police in Bangladesh.

The city-state and Australia also updated a free trade agreement, which includes improved access for businesses to bid for government procurement contracts and allowed for easier movement of people between the two markets.

Singapore currently ranks as Australia's fifth largest trading and investment partner.—Reuters

Opinion

Write for us

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

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Constructive journalism is the bedrock of healthy democracy

Kyaw Thura

FREEDOMS of expression, assembly and association are all regarded as well-established provisions in international human rights law. As a fourth pillar of nation building, the media have both the rights and responsibilities to take part in strengthening and supporting democratic processes in tandem with the three others, executive, legislative and judicial.

In London last month, the United Nations called for the world's media to take a more

constructive and solution-focused approach to a cacophony of voices, which the global body said are 'often ill-informed and based on narrow agenda'. This highlights the importance of constructive journalism in educating, engaging and empowering people. Sir Martyn Lewis, a former BBC News presenter in the 80s and 90s who covered the death of Prince Diana, argued that responsible media is 'solutions-driven journalism that not only reports

problems but also explores potential solutions to those problems'.

It is, therefore, safe to assume that a democracy is incomplete unless it recognises free speech and free press. This does not necessarily mean that journalists enjoy the right to brandish their pens at will in a reckless manner. In our country as a young democracy, many people still hold the view that politics is going against the government. It is not difficult to justify this gen-

eral public perception, given the length of time they had to live under unilateral rule. The country underwent more than five decades of rule by a single party.

Now is the time for the media to inspire people to action by highlighting the importance of public participation in democracy and encouraging them to participate in shaping better democratic governance. On the whole, a healthy democracy entails shared responsibility.

Draft of Right to Information Law to be reviewed

Jaiden Coonan

THE previous government's draft of the Right to Information Law is likely to undergo a review process starting as early as this month, according to National League for Democracy Central Information Committee member U Aung Shin.

The USDP approved the draft law and attempted to rush it through while it was still the dominant party in government, according to U Aung Shin. But due to the contents of the law, it was held back for debate.

"The draft was approved by the previous government, but when they discussed the law, there were many objections. They tried to enact the law during their time but were unable to pass it in time," U Aung Shin told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

The Right to Information Law is designed to promote open governance by allowing citizens access to public information. It would see an Information Officer appointed to all government organisations within 120 days of the bill being signed by the president.

U Thiha Saw, executive director of the Myanmar Journalism Institute, said the major issue



raised at the stakeholder meeting was the belief of the previous Minister of Information, U Ye Htut, and Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe that the ministry should run the scrutinising committee.

Section 10 of the draft states that if a request is denied, the complainant can request that the Union government review the case along with the government bodies that rejected the request,

and a decision would have to be made within 60 days.

If the complainant is unhappy with the decision following the review, they may take the case to court.

However, U Thiha Saw said stakeholders believe there should be an independent body in charge of the process—not the government.

"We still don't trust them

because of the old bureaucrats. There needs to be an independent body."

Several attempts were made to contact the Ministry of Information for comment, but no calls were returned before the time of print.

Article 19, a human rights group aimed at promoting freedom of expression and information, noted that the law is "overly

broad and [has] unclear exemptions".

"The draft does not define exemptions properly and includes exemptions that are not acceptable under international standards. For example, 'national security' is not defined and could, therefore, include virtually anything," the group said.

Article 19 also pointed out that the draft law protects 'prominent persons' who could be guilty of corruption and that appeals costs could potentially be expensive, as they are not outlined in the draft law.

"It also limits the law to citizens," Article 19 argued on a on-line statement.

"Under international law, all persons have a right to information."

The group fears this could be used to discriminate against, "ethnic minorities or marginalised groups".

At this year's Freedom of Press Day conference, where the theme was the right to information, held at the Chatrium Hotel on 3 May, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint said that due to his history as a writer he, "values freedoms and is ready to work toward press freedom in Myanmar."

"REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS: A CRISIS OF SOLIDARITY"

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

THIS September, the United Nations General Assembly will bring together world leaders to address one of the leading challenges of our time: responding to large movements of refugees and migrants.

War, human rights violations, underdevelopment, cli-

mate change and natural disasters are leading more people to leave their homes than at any time since we have had reliable data. More than 60 million people -- half of them children -- have fled violence or persecution and are now refugees and internally displaced persons. An

additional 225 million are migrants who have left their countries in search of better opportunities or simply for survival.

But this is not a crisis of numbers; it is a crisis of solidarity. Almost 90 per cent of the world's refugees are hosted in developing countries. Eight

countries host more than half the world's refugees. Just ten countries provide 75 per cent of the UN's budget to ease and resolve their plight.

With equitable responsibility sharing, there would be no crisis for host countries. We can afford to help,

and we know what we need to do to handle large movements of refugees and migrants. Yet too often, we let fear and ignorance get in the way. Human needs end up overshadowed, and xenophobia speaks louder than reason.

See page 9 >>

KBZ foundation speeds up its water supply project

AS part of its efforts in combating the water scarcity problem currently affecting the country, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation funded K50 million to a water supply project yesterday to pipe water from a natural water source to the residents of Pintaya, southern Shan State.

On that same day officials of the KBZ Bank in Taunggyi donated

ed over K31 million to the reconstruction of a bridge in Kanthaya Ward and K140million to the construction of a Dhamma School in Taunggyi on behalf of the foundation.

KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation has also invited farmers who have lost cattle due to recent severe weather to contact local foundation representatives

in order to receive compassionate cash assistance.

Meanwhile, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation has funded K50 million into the reconstruction of 350 homes and to repair the roofs of 1,134 homes destroyed by the El Nino-induced gale-force wind and hail storms on 22 and 23 April.

The foundation has further donated 6,000 zinc coated roof sheets to Kyaukse Township, which was also hit by the severe weather. Four thousand zinc coated roof sheets have been donated to Singaing Township at a total value of K35 million.

The foundation has paid the farmers approximately K1million for every cow lost, and so far have compensated for 17 cows.

Meanwhile, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation is supplying drinking water by water tankers to people facing a scarcity of water induced by El Nino and has drilled 112 tube-wells so far to help alleviate drought.—GNLM



Ethnic women seen carrying water supplied by KBZ Foundation.
PHOTO: KBZ

Local recruitment agencies meet employment quotas

THE majority of local recruitment agencies meet employment quotas by finding jobs for 500 people a year who have registered with the companies, said the Labour Department in a statement.

The department prescribed the number of jobs the agencies have to fill a year to check whether the agencies are conducting their business effectively. The department will go on an inspection

tour of the agencies which fail to meet the prescribed target to check whether they have acceptable reasons for the shortfall. The department will take action against those deemed to not be meeting standards.

There might be difficulties for the new agencies to meet the prescribed quota although it is not a big deal for the well-established agencies said a man employed to

find employment for the unemployed.

"We can meet this target even in four or five months. There is no difficulty for us", said Ko Lin Lin from a recruitment agency.

Currently, there are over 70 recruitment service agencies but there are still many waiting for a business permit according to the department.—200

MOTHER (2) POEM:

- * Dumpling or Springroll
Starts with a wrapper of dough
To wrap or to fold
- * A fragile wrapper
Nothing more, we are at birth
Against odds, to last
- * Next come the fillings
Meat, veges, all the yummys
To make it tasty
- * With or without Dad
Mom adds values like fillings
For worthy living
- * As a final deal
She then wraps or rolls and seals
With great love to feel

Aye Phyu



Israeli artistes perform Israeli folk dance at the reception to mark 68th Independence Day of the State of Israel at Hotel Royal ACE in Nay Pyi Taw on 3 May. PHOTO: KYAW HTIKE SOE

"REFUGEES AND MIGRANTS: A CRISIS OF SOLIDARITY"

>> from page 8

Countries on the front lines of this crisis are struggling every day to meet the challenge. On September 19, the General Assembly will hold a high-level meeting to strengthen our efforts for the longer term. To help the international community seize this opportunity, I have just issued a report, "In Safety and Dignity", with recommendations on how the world can take more effective collective action.

We need to begin by recognizing our common humanity. Millions of people on the move have been exposed to extreme suffering. Thousands have died in the Mediterranean, on the Andaman Sea, in the Sahel and in Central America. Refugees and migrants are not "others"; they are as diverse as the human family itself. Movements of people are a quintessentially global phenomenon that demands a global sharing

of responsibility.

Second, far from being a threat, refugees and migrants contribute to the growth and development of host countries as well as their countries of origin. The better new arrivals are integrated, the greater their contribution to society will be. We need more measures to promote the social and economic inclusion of refugees and migrants.

Third, political and community leaders have a responsibility to speak out against discrimination and intolerance, and to counter those who seek to win votes through fearmongering and divisiveness. This is a time to build bridges, not walls, between people.

Fourth, we have to give greater attention to addressing the drivers of forced displacement. The United Nations continues to strengthen its work to prevent conflict, resolve disputes peace-

fully and address violations of human rights before they escalate. One powerful new tool is the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, a blueprint agreed last year by all 193 members of the United Nations that includes a strong focus on justice, institutions and peaceful societies.

Fifth, we need to strengthen the international systems that manage large movements of people so that they uphold human rights norms and provide the necessary protections. States must honour their international legal obligations, including the 1951 Refugee Convention. Countries where refugees arrive first should not be left to shoulder the demands alone. My report proposes a "global compact on responsibility sharing for refugees".

There is a pressing need to do more to combat smugglers and traffickers, to rescue and protect people en route, and to ensure

their safety and dignity at borders. More orderly and legal pathways for migrants and refugees will be crucial, so that desperate people are not forced to turn to criminal networks in their search for safety.

The number of migrants is expected to continue to grow as a result of trade, labour and skill shortages, the ease of travel and communications, rising inequality and climate change. My report proposes important measures to improve global governance in this area, including through a "global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration".

Refugee and migrant crises are far from insurmountable, but they cannot be addressed by states acting alone. Today, millions of refugees and migrants are being deprived of their basic rights, and the world is depriving itself of the full benefits of what refugees and migrants have to offer.

The World Humanitarian Summit I am convening in Istanbul May 23 and 24 will seek new commitments from States and others to work together to protect people and build resilience. I expect the September 19 meeting of the General Assembly to point the way toward solutions to the most immediate refugee and migration challenges, and commit world leaders to greater global cooperation on these issues.

Human beings have moved from place to place across the millennia, by choice and under duress, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future. Only by upholding our duty to protect those fleeing persecution and violence, and by embracing the opportunities that refugees and migrants offer to their new societies, will we be able to achieve a more prosperous and fairer future for all.—Source: United Nations Information Centre, Yangon

Former Cambodian child beggar triumphs over trafficked past to help others

SINGAPORE — When Longdy Chhap was five, polio consumed his body, leaving him confined to a wheelchair and rolling around to play outside in his village near the seedy Cambodian border town of Poipet.

By his own telling, his family became poor because of him, so when a broker came to his neighbourhood and offered wayward or disabled children easy money begging across the border in Thailand, the choice was easy for Longdy, who guesses he was about eight at the time.

Holding his hand to one ear, he said one voice told him “a disability kid makes a family poor”. In the other, he heard the broker’s voice: “You will have good money to help your family.”

So Longdy became one of hundreds of children trafficked from Cambodia to beg on Thailand’s streets.

There are at least 1,000 trafficked child beggars in Thailand, most of them from Cambodia, according to the Mirror Foundation, a Thai charity that spreads awareness about child trafficking and rescues about 50 children each year.

Children like Longdy beg on pedestrian overpasses and busy shopping streets in the Thai capital Bangkok and other cities.

Longdy spent years sitting on sidewalks and streets as a child beggar, learning to navigate the police system so well he later could plan to get arrested when he missed his family and wanted to be deported back home.

Now 27, he told his story after speaking on a panel at Trust Forum Asia, an event in Singapore last week on trafficking and slavery hosted by the Thomson Reuters Foundation.

As a child in Poipet, Longdy helped with his parents’ noodle and spring roll shop, waking at 3am to chop vegetables and meat with his four siblings as their mother cooked.

When seasonal rains poured down on the dusty neighbourhood roads, his wheels got stuck, caked in mud, stranding him at home where he watched as other children headed to school.

His father once asked him if he wanted to enrol.

“I really wanted to, but I saw them all play with their two legs, and I thought no, it’s not



Longdy Chhap, a Cambodian who suffered from polio and was trafficked as a child to beg in Thailand uses a laptop before an interview in Singapore on 29 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

my world,” Longdy said, sitting in a hotel lobby in Singapore, his crutches at his side.

When the broker came to his home, she was full of promises. “You just sit and ask, and Thais give you money,” he recalled her telling him. So one day, he was loaded into a car with other children, covered with a tarp and smuggled into Thailand.

As the smugglers neared checkpoints, the children would get out of the car and walk through the jungle, someone pushing Longdy in his wheelchair. When they passed the checkpoint, they would meet up with the car and get in again.

The first few weeks the children were well fed and free to watch TV — a treat for Longdy considering there was only one TV in his village, which he could watch by paying the owner shots of cheap local brew.

But then the children began long days begging, dropped off at 5 am, picked up at 6pm, and warned not to move.

If Longdy did not collect enough money, he would not be fed. The broker said she would send all his wages to his family, but Longdy’s mother received only about a third of his earnings.

The last time he was pulled off the streets, Longdy was referred to a shelter run by the International Organisation for Migration in Battambang, a Cambodian city south-east of Poipet that was far away enough to keep him off the streets. After three years there he moved at the age of 13 to a shelter run by the aid organisation Hagar International in the Cambodian capital

Phnom Penh. He described hitting other children and flying into a rage, breaking the television, electric fan or chairs.

“Some staff really hated me because of my behaviour. Even now, the staff that hated me say, ‘Unbelievable that you changed,’” Longdy said in his gentle voice, crediting them for turning his life around. “Hagar changed me from zero to 10.”

At first he did not want to meet with the counsellor, but the counsellor lured him with candy, cake and Coca-Cola. As their relationship warmed, he opened up, and life got better.

He helped Hagar staff in the office, and later became a mentor for the boys programme. When he finished 12th grade at age 23, he decided to never give up on his studies.

He is halfway through a bachelor’s degree programme in psychology, studying on a scholarship at the Royal University of Phnom Penh. He is also learning English.

In his spare time, he volunteers as a counsellor for Flame, a local organisation helping children from slums.

He hopes to get a master’s degree, or even a doctorate, and to help children like himself who have suffered traumas.

“I want to share my expertise, experience,” he said.

“I don’t look down on myself anymore. Some people may look at me and laugh, but I don’t care. I know what I have to do. I know my background: I was a beggar. But now I’m a counsellor.” —Reuters

India to gradually move to gas-based economy: Dharmendra Pradhan

NEW DELHI — India plans to shift to a gas-based economy by boosting domestic production and buying cheap liquefied natural gas (LNG) as the world’s third-biggest oil importer seeks to curb its greenhouse emissions, oil minister Dharmendra Pradhan said.

New Delhi has promised to shave a third off its emissions rate by 2030, partly by boosting the use of cleaner burning fuels.

“Gradually we are shifting towards a sustainable gas economy,” Pradhan told Reuters in an interview.

Gas accounts for about 8 per cent of India’s energy mix, while oil accounts for more than a quarter.

India’s gas supply deficit is expected to widen from 78 million cubic metres a day (mcmd) this fiscal year to 117 mcmd in 2021-22, according to a government estimate.

India recently negotiated better terms for a long-term LNG deal with Qatar and importer Petronet LNG (PLNG.NS) is in talks with Exxon (XOM.N) to renegotiate pricing for gas from Australia’s Gorgon project.

“The price should be affordable to us. We respect long-term contracts but everybody has to appreciate the changing scenario,” said Pradhan. “In a bigger canvas ... India has the potential of a huge market base”.

Pradhan last month visited Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Iran to deepen ties with its main oil suppliers.

“We want to move beyond a buyer-seller relationship,” he said, adding that India was offer-

ing them stakes in its pipelines, petrochemical complexes and refineries.

India is also in talks with Abu Dhabi National Oil Co and Saudi Aramco to lease strategic oil storage.

Pradhan said Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s visit to Iran later this month would “certainly” deliver concrete results.

Iran has set aside its Farzad B gas field for development by Indian firms, a move that could result in the building of an LNG plant as India consumes or markets its production share, he said.

Over two years Asian LNG prices have slumped by three quarters to \$4.65 per million British thermal units (mmBtu).

Pradhan expects hefty LNG investments worldwide to ensure affordable long-term prices, a trend that “will suit India as a consuming country.”

India is building import terminals on its eastern and western coasts and pipelines to boost industrial use of gas.

In the fiscal year to March, India’s gas production declined by about 4.2 per cent, while imports rose around 15 per cent.

India recently offered better gas pricing to boost domestic output, but its most recent investment in an LNG terminal in Kerala has been underutilised since it lacks pipelines to connect to demand centres after farmer opposition caused land acquisition problems. Pradhan said the government was talking to the states and hoped obstacles to a pipeline connecting Kochi to Mangalore would be resolved after state elections in Kerala.—Reuters



An Oil and Natural Gas Corp’s (ONGC) well is pictured in an oil field on the outskirts of Ahmedabad, India, on 16 March. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan, Viet Nam to step up maritime security cooperation

HANOI — Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Pham Binh Minh agreed on Thursday to deepen cooperation in the field of maritime security as China’s militarisation of the South China Sea goes on, Japanese officials said.

Kishida and Minh, who doubles as foreign minister, also confirmed the need for the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to be united over the South China Sea issue, they said.

The Japanese foreign minister relayed to his counterpart Tokyo’s

intention to work closely with the new Hanoi government, in place since early April. As a specific co-operation measure, Kishida said Japan will swiftly provide Viet Nam with more secondhand vessels to be used as patrol ships to boost Viet Nam’s sea patrol capabilities, in addition to the six already hand-

ed over. Kishida’s visit to Viet Nam comes as Tokyo has invited Viet Nam’s leader along with other Asian and African countries to participate in an outreach part of the Group of Seven summit Japan will host late this month.

Ahead of his meeting with Minh, Kishida met with new Prime

Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and agreed to further relations between the two countries.

He will call on President Tran Dai Quang on Friday before returning home from his eight-day trip to China, Myanmar, Thailand, Laos and Viet Nam. —Kyodo News

Top reason Americans will vote for Trump: 'To stop Clinton'

NEW YORK — The US presidential election may turn out to be one of the world's biggest un-popularity contests.

Nearly half of American voters who support either Democrat Hillary Clinton or Republican Donald Trump for the White House said they will mainly be trying to block the other side from winning, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Thursday.

The results reflect a deepening ideological divide in the United States, where people are becoming increasingly fearful of the opposing party, a feeling worsened by the likely matchup between the New York real estate tycoon and the former first lady, said Larry Sabato, director of the University of Virginia's Centre for Politics.

"This phenomenon is called negative partisanship," Sabato said. "If we were trying to maximize the effect, we couldn't have found better nominees than Trump and Clinton."

Trump has won passionate supporters and vitriolic detractors for his blunt talk and hardline proposals, including his call for a ban on Muslims entering the United States, his vow to force Mexico to pay for a border wall, and his promise to renegotiate international trade deals.

Former Secretary of State Clinton's appeal to voters seeking continuity with President Barack Obama's policies, has won her a decisive lead in the race for the Democratic presidential nomination, but finds strong opponents among those disillusioned by what they see as lack of progress during Obama's tenure.

The poll asked likely voters about the primary motivation driving their support of either Trump or Clinton heading into the general election on 8 November.

About 47 per cent of Trump supporters said they backed him



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton arrives for a campaign event in Athens, Ohio, United States, on 3 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

primarily because they don't want Clinton to win. Another 43 per cent said their primary motivation was a liking for Trump's political positions, while 6 per cent said they liked him personally.

Similar responses prevailed among Clinton supporters.

About 46 per cent said they would vote for her mostly because they don't want to see a Trump presidency, while 40 per cent said they agreed with her political positions, and 11 per cent said they liked her personally.

The 29 April-5 May poll included 469 likely Trump voters and 599 likely Clinton voters. It has a credibility interval of 5 percentage points.

To be sure, voters' opinions could change over the next several months. Candidates will be feted at party conventions, will square off in a series of national debates, and will be targeted by millions of dollars worth of advertisements.

But the negative atmosphere is likely to reign, says Alan Abramowitz, an Emory University professor who has studied the rise of negative partisanship in America.

Both campaigns probably will decide their best strategy is to

work even harder to vilify each other, he said.

"It's going to get very, very negative," he added.

That would play into a longer-term trend.

A 2014 study by Pew Research Centre found that Democrats and Republicans have shown increasingly negative views toward each other over the past few decades. In 2014 more than a quarter of Democrats, and more than a third of Republicans, viewed the opposition as "a threat to the nation's well-being."

Barbara Monson, 59, a Republican from Murray, Utah, is among them. "No matter who the Republican (nominee) is, I would have voted for him," poll respondent Monson said of her support for Trump. "It's never going to be Clinton. Never."

Jo-Anne Michaud, 69, an independent voter from Abingdon, Maryland, told Reuters she would try to keep an open mind. Although she has voted for both Republicans and Democrats in the past, she feels repelled by Trump.

"I used to like the guy when I watched his show," Michaud said. "But I just hate the way he talks now. I don't think he's a nice person deep down inside."—Reuters

Britain's Labour suffers losses in regional election, awaits London mayor result

LONDON/EDINBURGH — Britain's Labour Party suffered losses on Friday in regional and local elections, especially in Scotland, but waited to see if it would, as expected, capture the big prize of London mayor.

It was not clear whether the scale of the losses would increase pressure on its new, leftist leader Jeremy Corbyn from centrists fearing a swing back to old-style socialist policies.

While the party, Britain's official opposition, fared poorly in some of dozens of contests in Scotland, Wales, parts of England and Northern Ireland, it looked set to win London's mayoral election, where former hu-

man rights lawyer Sadiq Khan was expected to become the first Muslim to take the post.

The ruling Conservatives failed to make any big gains in England and Wales, but made good headway in Scotland where partial results show it may leapfrog Labour as the second party of the Scottish National Party.

Britons voted on Thursday to elect new devolved authorities in Scotland and Wales, more than 2,700 local officials across England and a new mayor of London.

"If you compare from when Jeremy took over to now, we are on a clear path of improvement," Labour's finance spokesman John McDonnell told BBC radio

after it said results suggested the party had increased its share of the vote in "key wards" since last year when it was beaten by the Conservatives.

Corbyn has struggled to hold his Labour Party together after he was elected as leader in September on a wave of enthusiasm, particularly among younger voters, for change and an end to 'establishment politics'.

But his left-leaning stance has jarred with several lawmakers in parliament, some of whom have been looking into ways to topple Corbyn despite his strong backing from a major funder to the Labour Party, the trade unions.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

US embassy in Kabul warns of kidnap threat

KABUL — The United States embassy in Kabul issued an emergency security warning to US citizens on Thursday after an attempted kidnapping of an American and a number of other foreigners in the Afghan capital earlier in the week.

The warning, posted on the US embassy website, said that an attempt to kidnap several expatriates, including a US citizen, was made on Monday and it said that the threat of kidnapping and hostage-taking was high. The warning came days after an Australian aid worker was kidnapped in the eastern Afghan city of Jalalabad. Kidnapping and abduction for ransom has been a regular occurrence in Afghanistan, with both Afghans and foreign nationals targeted.—Reuters

Two Cambodian boys killed, one badly by war-era landmines

PHNOM PENH — Two boys were killed and another one was seriously wounded when a war-era bomb exploded in a field in northwestern Cambodia's Oddar Meanchey Province on Friday, provincial police chief Major General Men Ly said.

The three boys, aged between 12 and 15 years old, found the bomb when they tended cows in a rice paddy field near their village, he said. "They had tried to break apart the bomb, causing the ordnance to explode," he told Xinhua, adding that police had not yet determined the type of the bomb.—Xinhua

Italian police seize assets worth 80m euros to mafia-linked entrepreneurs in Rome

ROME — Italian police carried out a major anti-mafia operation in Rome on Thursday, seizing assets worth 80 million euros (91 million US dollars) to four entrepreneurs allegedly linked to the mafia, local media reported.

All the assets seized belonged to brothers Luigi, Antonio and Salvatore Righi, who are allegedly linked to the powerful Contini clan belonging to the Naples-based Camorra syndicate, Ansa news agency said.

A fourth entrepreneur involved, Alfredo Mariotti, was believed to be an old accolade of the clan who allegedly helped them to extend their interests to the capital since the 1990s.—Xinhua

Vucic: Government ready to back Petnica Science Centre

BELGRADE — The Serbian government is ready to secure additional funds for research, as investment in science and education is one of its priorities, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said in a conversation with Director of the Petnica Science Centre Vigor Majic and Head of Project Management Nikola Bozic on Friday.

The prime minister discussed with Majic and Bozovic ways to solve the financing issues.

He said the Serbian government would assist the science center in running smoothly, and asked of the institution's representatives to improve their work even further, the government's press office said in a release. The Petnica Science Centre is a unique institution in Serbia providing extracurricular, informal science education for talented primary school pupils, secondary-school and university students and science teachers. Education Minister Srdjan Verbic also took part in the meeting.—Tanjung

Debris parts from missing helicopter found in Malaysia's Sarawak state

KUALA LUMPUR — Some parts of debris from the missing helicopter carrying senior government officials were discovered in Malaysia's Sarawak state on North Borneo, Prime Minister Najib Razak said on Friday.

The helicopter carrying six people lost contact with air controls some 20 minutes after taking off Thursday afternoon on the way to state capital of Kuching. Search and rescue operations were subsequently launched.

Najib told a Press conference that parts of the missing AS350 helicopter were found near a river, including a rotation device, a seat, part of the door and part of the rotor blade. The six people on board have yet to be found, he said.

Najib confirmed that senior government officials including Deputy Minister of Plantation Industries and Commodities Noriah Kasnon were onboard.—Xinhua

Canadian wildfire edges south, leaves thousands stranded

CONKLIN/LAC LA BICHE, (Alberta) — The 88,000 residents who fled a wildfire that has ravaged the Canadian oil town of Fort McMurray in Alberta will not be able to return home anytime soon, officials warned on Thursday, even as the inferno edged slowly south.

The out-of-control blaze has consumed entire neighbourhoods of Fort McMurray in Canada's energy heartland and officials warn its spread now threatens two oil sands sites south of the city.

The wildfire has already forced precautionary production cuts or shutdowns at about a dozen major facilities, eating into a global crude surplus and supporting oil prices this week.

"The damage to the community of Fort McMurray is extensive and the city is not safe for residents," said Alberta Premier Rachel Notley in a press briefing late Thursday, as those stranded in camps and on the roadside to

the north of the city clamored for answers.

"It is simply not possible, nor is it responsible to speculate on a time when citizens will be able to return. We do know that it will not be a matter of days," she said.

Three days after the residents were ordered to leave Fort McMurray, firefighters were still battling to protect homes, businesses and other structures from the flames. More than 1,600 structures, including hundreds of homes, had been destroyed by Wednesday morning. Officials declined on Thursday to estimate how many more had been lost.

The communities of Anzac and Gregoire Lake Estates about 50 kilometres (31 miles) south of Fort McMurray were "under extreme threat," late Thursday, as the flames spread to the south-east.

CNOOC Nexen's Long Lake oil sands facility and Athabasca Oil's Hangingstone project are



A pink car remains among the ruins of destroyed buildings after wildfires tore through the Waterways area of Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, on 5 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

also in danger as winds blow southward, according to emergency officials.

There have been no known casualties from the blaze itself, but fatalities were reported in a car crash along the evacuation route. Although the cause of the

fire was unknown, officials said tinder-dry brush, low humidity, and hot, gusting winds left crews unable to stop the massive conflagration.

The blaze, which erupted on Sunday, grew more than tenfold from 18,500 acres (7,500 hec-

tares) on Wednesday to some 210,000 acres (85,000 hectares) on Thursday, an area roughly 10 times the size of Manhattan.

The dry weather conditions prompted the province to issue a fire ban for parks and protected areas on Thursday.—Reuters

Kenyan rescuers free four people trapped under rubble for six days

NAIROBI — Rescue workers on Thursday freed four people who had survived under the rubble of a building in Kenya's capital for six days after it collapsed, the Kenya Red Cross said.

A woman was the first to be found, surviving in a cavity of broken masonry of the building that crumbled last Friday night. Doctors had given her oxygen and fed her by intravenous drip until workers using their hands and power tools to free her.

Later in the day, the Kenya

Red Cross said three more people had been recovered alive from the debris in the poor Huruma District of Nairobi, where the building collapsed after days of heavy rain.

"Super news! Three more people have been rescued alive from the Huruma building collapse. One male and two female," the Red Cross said on its Twitter feed.

Earlier, Reuters witnesses saw the first woman carried to an ambulance to cheers and ap-

plause from a crowd at the scene.

The death toll from the disaster has reached 36, the leader of the operation Pius Masai told reporters. About 140 people have now been rescued, based on the four freed on Thursday.

Dozens are still listed as missing, but Kenyan Red Cross officials say it is not clear whether those listed were caught in the collapse or escaped but have not been traced.

Earlier this week rescuers had said there was little chance of finding more survivors.

A baby was pulled out of the wreckage on Tuesday, dehydrated but otherwise apparently unharmed. The baby was reunited with her father, but Masai said her mother was among those killed.

The Interior Ministry said the building, built close to a river, had been earmarked for demolition, but local authorities had not acted on the order.

Two owners of the building and three local officials have been questioned by police and were released on bail on Wednesday.

The disaster was the latest of its kind in a rapidly-expanding city. Several other buildings in Nairobi have collapsed in recent years, with fewer deaths.—Reuters



Kenya Red Cross rescuers evacuate a woman from the rubble of a six-storey building that collapsed last Friday after days of heavy rain, in Nairobi, Kenya, on 5 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

Greeks strike as new tax, pension reforms loom

ATHENS —Greeks started a 48-hour nationwide strike on Friday in anger at tax and pension reforms pursued by the indebted nation to qualify for more of a multi-billion euro bailout it signed up to last year.

Called by the largest private and public sector unions, the strike left ships docked at port, disrupted public transport and kept civil servants and journalists off the job.

Greece's largest labour union, the private sector GSEE, said the reforms, now pending approval in parliament, were the "last nail on the coffin" for workers and pensioners who have sacrificed enough after six years of austerity.

"They are trying to prove to the Eurogroup that they are good students but they are destroying Greece's social security system," a GSEE official said, referring to euro zone finance ministers who are due to meet on Monday.

Athens hopes the measures, due to be voted on in parliament on Sunday, will help persuade creditors to approve the release of bailout cash.

A tranche of about 5 billion euros (£3.94 billion) is overdue, after talks faltered over the pace of reforms. The Eurogroup is

expected to discuss the stalemate on 9 May.

Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras, elected last year on an initial anti-austerity pledge but who was later forced to sign up to Greece's third international bailout since 2010, has a thin majority with 153 lawmakers in a 300-seat parliament.

Greece needs the bailout funds to pay IMF loans, ECB bonds maturing in July and growing state arrears, subject to lenders signing off on a review in its reform progress that includes changes to its tax and pension laws.

The proposed legislation would raise social security contributions, increase income tax for high earners and introduce a new national pension. It would also gradually phase out a top-up pension for low income earners.

Worn by years of austerity, Greeks fear that the new reforms will push the country further to the brink.

"We don't have food to eat and nobody asks us how we are," said shopkeeper Anna Papadopoulou, 74, who wept as she spoke.

Asked what she wanted to tell the Greek government, she said: "Wake up. We are dying."—Reuters

Pressure builds on shipping industry to set carbon targets

LONDON — Disagreement among nations means no carbon emissions targets have been set for international shipping, but voices from within the industry are calling for global curbs to be set soon, before countries or regional blocs take matters into their own hands.

The shipping sector, like aviation, was excluded from any target cuts under last year's Paris climate deal, which set a goal of restricting the rise in global average temperature to less than 2 degrees Celsius.

Shipping now makes up around 2.2 per cent of world emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), the main greenhouse gas responsible for global warming, and that share is forecast to rise dramatically if nothing is done to slow it.

The International Maritime Organisation, the UN agency responsible for regulating pollution from ships, forecasts CO₂ emissions from vessels rising anywhere between 50 per cent and 250 per cent by 2050 in its "business as



Vessels are shrouded by haze at an anchorage area near the eastern coast of Singapore in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

usual" case, as economies grow and trade increases.

So far, specific targets to curb emissions growth have been blocked by emerging countries like India and Brazil, which expect their shipping volumes to increase over the

next decades.

But some shipping companies, especially ones that have invested in newer, more fuel-efficient ships, say the IMO should take action to limit emissions, before regulation is imposed by regional blocs

like the European Union or individual states.

A session in late April of the IMO's Maritime Environment Protection Committee agreed only to defer further discussion on emissions to its next session in October. That will

be the last chance to come up with targets before the next round of global climate talks, COP-22, the following month in Marrakesh. "The failure to agree a process for emissions reduction puts significant pressure on generating a

positive outcome," said Alastair Fischbacher, head of the Sustainable Shipping Initiative, an industry association that promotes efficiency standards and includes the world's largest container shipping company Maersk Line and huge agricultural shipper Cargill.

"The shipping industry cannot go to COP-22 in Morocco without this. Not only will it damage the industry's reputation, it also runs the risk of external regulators taking the matter into their own hands and circumnavigating the IMO, which no-one in the industry wants to see."

Peter Hinchliffe, secretary general of the International Chamber of Shipping, which represents more than 80 per cent of the world's merchant fleet, predicted the IMO would deliver a framework for CO₂ cuts; the question is when.

"It is the nature of international debate that sometimes it takes longer than some would wish," he said.—Reuters

Brazil judge approves Samarco dam burst settlement with government

RIO DE JANEIRO — A Brazilian judge on Thursday ratified the settlement Samarco and its owners, BHP Billiton (BLT.L) and Vale SA (VALE5.SA), signed with Brazil's government in March to cover damages for a deadly dam spill last year, Vale said in a statement.

The move potentially saps some of the energy

from a separate \$44 billion lawsuit filed by federal prosecutors on Tuesday who criticised the settlement as insufficient.

The agreement will see Samarco, BHP and Vale pay a government-estimated 20 billion reais (\$5.6 billion) over 15 years to cover and repair damages. Vale, however, has outlined it expects to pay less

than that due to the way the deal is structured, calculating future payments depending on how much work remains to be done.

"It's a very important step because you remove any uncertainty about the agreement's validity," said Marilene Ramos, President of Brazil's federal environment agency Ibama which formed part of the

settlement.

"The programmes outlined in the agreement can now be implemented by the companies," Ramos added, referring to the environmental reparation plan which includes work on sewage, landfill, reforestation and water treatment.

The settlement has been strongly criticised by federal prosecutors who

called it little more than a "letter of intent" in their lawsuit. "It is absolutely insufficient," said Jorge Munhós de Souza, one of the prosecutors working on the case.

Samarco Chief Executive Roberto Carvalho told Reuters the settlement and the lawsuit filed by prosecutors covers the same ground.—Reuters

New York City gives nod to 5-cent charge for store bags

NEW YORK — The New York City Council approved a bill on Thursday to require many merchants to charge 5 cents for each plastic or paper bag taken by consumers at checkout counters, and Mayor Bill de Blasio said he intended to sign it.

The bill, backed by 28 of the 48 council members, is designed to encourage consumers to shift to reusable bags in a city that goes through more than 9 billion of the flimsy white containers a year, according to the council. Most of the bags used by shoppers are not recycled, forcing the city to pay millions of dollars to haul 91,000 tons of plastic and paper bags to landfills in other states each year, City Council spokeswoman Amy Varghese said.

The bill would take effect in October.

The city estimates that the fee could reduce plastic and paper bag waste by about 60 per cent, based on the experiences of other cities, the mayor said in a statement released after the council's vote.—Reuters

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

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (03/16)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KULSAMUT VOY NO (03/16) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-5 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.

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Prince had painkiller Percocet in his system

MIAMI — Music superstar Prince's autopsy found the painkiller Percocet in his system, the Minneapolis Star Tribune and KSTP-TV reported on Thursday, citing sources close to the investigation.

Prince also had a dangerously low red blood cell count, indicating he had been ill, Minneapolis ABC affiliate KSTP-TV said, citing two unnamed law enforcement officials.

A spokeswoman for the local medical examiner's office that conducted a post-mortem examination of Prince declined to confirm the reports.

The cause of Prince's death remained undetermined. The medical examiner's office said in late April the autopsy and toxicology results could take weeks.

The news reports came after federal authorities said on Wednesday they were joining the investigation into Prince's death.



Prince performs during the halftime show of the NFL's Super Bowl XLI football game between the Chicago Bears and the Indianapolis Colts in Miami, Florida, US in 2007. PHOTO: REUTERS

The Drug Enforcement Administration and US Attorney's office in Minnesota will bring federal resources to the local investigation and expertise on the illegal use and trafficking of

prescription drugs, the US Attorney's office said.

Also on Wednesday, a lawyer for a California addiction doctor said Prince's representatives had contacted the doctor the

evening before his death, adding that the doctor had planned to visit Prince for a "life-saving mission."

The 57-year-old Prince was found dead on 21 April at his Paisley Park home-studio complex in a Minneapolis suburb. Prescription opioid medication was found at the scene, a law enforcement source told Reuters.

Dr. Howard Kornfeld, who runs Recovery Without Walls, a clinic in Mill Valley, California, planned to fly to Minnesota on 22 April, his lawyer William Mauzy said. In the meantime, his son, Andrew Kornfeld, a clinic staff member, travelled to Minnesota on 21 April for an initial discussion.

When Andrew Kornfeld arrived at Paisley Park, Prince was not available, Mauzy said. A staff member found the artist unconscious in an elevator, and Kornfeld called 911.—Reuters

Janet Jackson returns to spotlight with new video

LOS ANGELES — Janet Jackson has released a first look at her new music video entitled "Dammn Baby" — just as several celebrity news outlets are reporting the singer is pregnant, citing unnamed sources.

The video was shot in March at a studio in Long Beach, California and features Jackson dancing alongside a backing troupe while the light shifts throughout the video.

Hinting at a possible pregnancy, Jackson last month announced that she was temporarily halting her "Unbreakable World Tour" because of a "sudden change" that required her and her husband to plan a family.—Reuters

Selena Gomez to donate Revival tour proceeds to Lupus research

LOS ANGELES — Singer Selena Gomez will donate proceeds from her "Revival" tour to Lupus research.

The 23-year-old singer had to cancel her 'Stars Dance' tour in 2013 in order to undergo chemotherapy treatment for the chronic inflammatory disease and her representatives have said the star is planning to donate money from ticket sales to Alliance for Lupus Research, according to *The Hollywood Reporter*.

Gomez revealed she is healthy and happy and extremely excited to get back on the road.

"This show is so centered around me, and I mean that in a way of confidence, of strength. It has a beautiful feel to it, but it is about me, so if I wanted to come in one day and say I want to change [a song in the show] or add this, I can do that.

"That's the first time I've ever really been able to do that in my life. And I feel, I feel great about it. It's not me making sure I hit all the dance moves," she said.—PTI



Singer Selena Gomez arrives at the Metropolitan Museum of Art Costume Institute Gala (Met Gala) to celebrate the opening of "Manus x Machina: Fashion in an Age of Technology" in the Manhattan borough of New York, on 2 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kristen Stewart pays tribute to Jodie Foster

LOS ANGELES — "Twilight" actress Kristen Stewart paid tribute to her "Panic Room" co-star Jodie Foster at a ceremony to honour the actress-filmmaker with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Stewart was on hand to fete the 53-year-old veteran actress and delivered a heartwarming speech in which she recalled the time they worked together for the 2002 thriller, reported *Ace Showbiz*.

"I watched 'Taxi Driver' when I was far too young to watch it," Stewart said, referring to Foster's 1976 movie directed by Martin Scorsese.

"And I was already saying Jodie Foster was my favourite actress before I was cast as her daughter," she said, jokingly adding, "Technically she was cast as my mom. She came onto the movie late and I was there to show her

the ropes."

Calling Foster her "first adult friend," Stewart went on praising the "The Beaver" director, "There's nothing self-serving about her. She cares about people. She's quite the opposite of the type of person that is gravitated towards being an actress." "I was drawn to her before I met her, and trust me, she's way cooler than me," the 26-year-old actress added.—PTI

Celine Dion to receive 2016 Billboard Icon Award

LONDON — "My Heart Will Go On" hitmaker Celine Dion is set to be the fifth recipient of the Billboard Icon Award on 22 May.

Dion will perform Queen's 'The Show Must Go On' at the 2016 Billboard Music Awards (BMAs), reported *Female First*.

The 48-year-old singer will be recognised for her 36-year career at the upcoming ceremony by becoming just the fifth person to receive the prestigious accolade, following in the footsteps of Neil Diamond, Stevie Wonder, the late Prince and Jennifer Lopez.

Dion, whose beloved husband Rene Angelil and brother Daniel both died of cancer earlier this year, also per-

sonally chose the Queen song to perform at the T-Mobile Arena in Las Vegas and BMA Executive Producer Mark Bracco thinks the song is a fitting choice.

"Celine Dion has a huge repertoire of monster hits and she personally chose to perform 'The Show Must Go On' as her Icon performance on the Billboard Music Awards. I think at this moment in her life, the song has many meanings and it's an amazing choice," Bracco said.

The Icon award will join Celine's many other career accomplishments, including another 10 Billboard awards and five Grammys, while she has also sold a staggering 250 million albums worldwide.—

PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

Japanese language learning taking root in Viet Nam

By Ko Hirano, Kyodo

TOKYO — When Pham Quang Hung started studying Japanese at Foreign Trade University in Hanoi in 1994, he never imagined that Vietnamese children would one day be able to learn the language at elementary school.

Now, Hung, a first secretary for educational affairs at the Vietnamese Embassy in Tokyo, can hardly wait to see the launch in September of a pilot project to offer Japanese lessons at three elementary schools in Hanoi.

It will be the first time that Japanese language education has been offered at the publicly run primary school level in Southeast Asia, according to Japanese officials.

The project follows the development of a Japanese language programme the Vietnamese government introduced for middle and high school students in 2003. At present, English and French are the only foreign languages Vietnamese students can learn at elementary schools.

"I'm so excited about the project," Hung, 39, said in a recent interview. "I understand Viet Nam's Ministry of Education and Training will consider expanding it at the request of other students and parents."

The ministry will run the project in partnership with the Japanese Embassy in Hanoi and the Japan Foundation, a government-backed institution dedicated to promoting international cultural exchange.

Bilateral educational exchanges will further deepen when Viet Nam-Japan University, an institution backed by the government, business and academic sectors of the two countries, opens in September in Hanoi.

With an eye toward training people for the development of Viet Nam and firmer relations



Pham Quang Hung, first secretary for educational affairs at the Vietnamese Embassy in Tokyo, speaks in an interview with Kyodo News at the embassy on 20 April. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

with Japan, the organisers aim to develop the institution, which initially will operate graduate programmes in English and Japanese, into a leading university in Asia.

Japan is the biggest aid donor for Viet Nam and the fourth-largest trading partner after China, the United States and South Korea. About 1,400 Japanese companies were operating in Viet Nam as of last year, according to Japanese government data.

The issues of educational exchanges and human resources development may be referred to when Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc meets Prime Minister Shinzo Abe during his visit to Japan in late May for an outreach meeting. Abe will host on the sidelines of a Group of Seven summit in Mie Prefecture, central Japan.

Along with a desire to get jobs linked to Japan, admiration for Japanese people's diligence that made the country a major industrialized nation after its defeat in World War II and respect for their mental toughness in the recovery from the 2011 earthquake, tsunami and nuclear cri-

sis have prompted an increasing number of Vietnamese to study Japanese, according to Hung.

"The Japanese people's diligence has become a role model for us," he said, speaking in fluent Japanese. "And needless to say, Japanese animation and cartoons are very popular among Vietnamese schoolchildren."

Hung brushed up his Japanese and earned a doctorate in economics during his 2003-2009 study at Kagoshima University in southwestern Japan before teaching the language and Asian economics at his alma mater until last year.

A 2014 opinion poll on Japan in Viet Nam and six other Southeast Asian countries showed that 67 per cent of 293 Vietnamese people interested in learning Japanese cited a desire to visit Japan as a reason for studying the language.

The poll, conducted by research company Ipsos Hong Kong at the request of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, found in multiple answers that 62 per cent said they like Japanese culture, 40 per cent want to understand Japanese comics, animation and dramas, and 32 per cent believe

the language is useful for their jobs. Recalling the 2003 launch of the Japanese language programme for Vietnamese middle and high school students, Hung said, "We started from scratch."

The initiative, however, has developed to the scale at which as many as about 50 middle and high schools in major cities such as Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and Da Nang are running Japanese classes.

"Such an expansion would not have been possible without the Japanese Embassy's help in training Vietnamese instructors of the Japanese language, as well as supply of teaching materials by the Japan Foundation," Hung said.

The elementary school project will similarly involve Vietnamese instructors who have experience and know-how in teaching at middle and high schools, with teaching materials to be provided by the Japan Foundation.

Including middle and high school students, there were about 46,000 people learning Japanese in Viet Nam as of 2013 and more than 40,000 Vietnamese students are currently studying in Japan, according to Hung.

"The combined figure is the third highest among Japanese language learners in the 10 member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations after Indonesia and Thailand," he said. "And the number of Vietnamese students studying in Japan is larger than those studying in the United States and China."

This may reflect the fact that 46 per cent of a total of 304 Vietnamese respondents to the 2014 poll cited Japan as "the most reliable country" out of 11 non-ASEAN countries in Asia, Europe and the United States.

The rate, logged in a single answer, compared to 8 per cent for the United States and 2 per cent for China.—Kyodo News

Cycling in cities with heavy air pollution still good for health

LONDON — The health benefits of walking and cycling outweigh the harm on health from air pollution, even in cities with high levels of air pollution, according to a study published online Thursday in the journal *Preventive Medicine*.

Air pollution is one of the leading environmental risk factors for people's health. One of the main sources of air pollution in cities is transport and a shift from cars, motorbikes and buses to active travel, such as walking and cycling, would help to reduce emissions. However, people who walk or cycle in such environments will inhale more pollution, which could be detrimental to their health.

Previous studies conducted in Europe, the United States and several other developed countries found that the health benefits of active travel are greater than the risks, but these were undertaken in areas of relatively low air pollution, and the applicability of their results to more polluted cities in emerging economies has been uncertain.

The new study led by researchers from the University of Cambridge used computer simulations to compare the risks and benefits for different levels of intensity and duration of active travel and of air pollution in different locations around the world, using information from international epidemiological studies and meta-analyses.

Using the data, the researchers calculated that in practical terms, air pollution risks will not negate the health benefits of active travel in the vast majority of urban areas worldwide.

Only one per cent of cities in the World Health Organisation's Ambient Air Pollution Database had pollution levels high enough that the risks of air pollution could start to overcome the benefits of physical activity after half an hour of cycling every day, according to the study.—Xinhua



Entertainment Channel

(7- 5-2016, Saturday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Music Programme

6:30 pm

- Myanmar Traditional Instruments - Myanma Harp (Episode-2)

6:50 pm

- Dances

7:00 pm

- Cassette Recordings

8:30 pm

- Music Programme

8:50 pm

- National Literary Icon and Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature "Sayar Zaw Gyi" (Childhood and Student Life) (Episode-1)

9:10 pm

- International Movie Songs

9:20 pm

- Music Programme

9:40 pm

- Myanmar Video

* 08 : 30pm Live: English Premier League "Sunderland Vs Chelsea"



Myanmar International

(7-5-2016 07:00am ~ 8-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon — The Religious Insignias of pagodas In Myanmar
07:44	Am	Impressionist Myanmar Master Artist — U Lun Gywe
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Kyaik Hmaw Wun Yele Pagoda Festival
08:36	Am	Tour of national heritages and archeological sites
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Game Changers (Episode - V)
09:51	Am	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part- II)
10:03	Am	News

10:25	Am	A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Katthapha
10:41	Am	Myanma Agarwood

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Bagan: The Land of Pagoda
07:50	Pm	Today Myanmar: Yangon Stock Exchange Up & Running
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part-I)
08:54	Pm	Now in Yangon

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

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

Liverpool sink Villarreal to set up Sevilla final

LONDON — Liverpool romped into the Europa League final with a 3-0 win over Villarreal on another magical night at Anfield to tee up a showpiece clash with holders Sevilla who swatted away visitors Shakhtar Donetsk 3-1 on Thursday.

Five times European champions Liverpool reached a 12th continental final thanks to an own goal from Bruno Soriano and further strikes from Daniel Sturridge and Adam Lallana to overturn a first-leg deficit and go through 3-1 on aggregate.

Villarreal were largely anonymous throughout and seemed to wilt in the face of a raucous atmosphere and early onslaught by the hosts, while their demise was hastened by a sending off for Victor Ruiz for a second booking after 71 minutes.

It was a superb evening for Sturridge, whose place in the starting lineup had been in doubt after he was left out of key recent fixtures, but he was instrumental in a one-sided victory that prevented Spanish dominance of Europe's two major finals.

With Real Madrid and city rivals Atletico set to contest the Champions League showpiece, Sevilla ensured there would also be a Spanish team in the continent's second-tier competition, while staying on course for a record third straight title.

They had Kevin Gameiro to thank for a comfortable 5-3 aggregate win over Ukrainian outfit Shakhtar with the France striker scoring twice and Mariano Ferreira grabbing a third to book Sevilla's spot in the final in Basel on 18 May.

Villarreal might have fancied their chances of reaching their first major European final, having snatched an advantage in the



PHOTO: REUTERS

first leg that ensured an away goal would leave Liverpool needing to score three times.

The fact that the hosts managed that total without Villarreal finding the net was no mean feat.

The Spanish side were on a club record 12-match unbeaten run in Europe and boasted a watertight defence that had not conceded a goal in 280 minutes in all competitions, before the damn was

burst just seven minutes into the encounter at Anfield.

Liverpool, backed by a ferocious home crowd, broke the deadlock with an own goal from Soriano, who turned in Roberto Firmino's cross from the left with Sturridge lurking.

It was largely one-way traffic as Liverpool, who had beaten heavyweights Manchester United and Borussia Dortmund in their

last two Europa League encounters at Anfield, laid siege to the Villarreal goal throughout the first half.

It took until the 63rd minute, however, for the hosts to add to their lead as Sturridge justified his selection with a sharp finish when he turned in Firmino's effort from close range.

The England striker has been on the bench in a number of key

games this season, having seemingly failed to convince manager Juergen Klopp of his suitability, but gave the German a taste of his immense talent with a superb display. Villarreal still needed one goal to gain the advantage, but their hopes were hit when Ruiz saw red for a second booking after stamping on the foot of Lallana who then turned the ball in from Sturridge's mis-hit shot with eight minutes to play.

"Wonderful night, brilliant game from my side," said Klopp, who has now guided Liverpool to two finals in his short time at the club, after they lost to Manchester City in this season's League Cup final at Wembley.

Standing between the German and some silverware will be Sevilla, masters of the Europa League in recent years.

The difference between Sevilla's domestic and European form has been stark this season with the Spaniards on a dire run in La Liga, with one win in seven, but tightening their grip on the Europa League as they hunt down a record third straight title.

Gameiro had converted a late penalty as Sevilla and Shakhtar drew the first leg 2-2 and he was on target again to open the scoring after nine minutes on Thursday, capitalising on a miscontrol from Maksym Malyshev to finish in style.

Shakhtar were level on the night a minute before halftime, however, when a fine pass from Marlos was finished by Eduardo.

Gameiro then netted his sixth goal in his last five Europa League matches two minutes after the break when he was played in by Grzegorz Krychowiak, and Ferreira rounded off the scoring with a stunning strike from distance just before the hour.—Reuters

British canoeist Pennie has novel answer to Zika threat

LONDON — British slalom canoeist Fiona Pennie is leaving nothing to chance at this year's Rio Olympics where she will fit a mosquito net to her boat between races to minimise the threat of the Zika virus.

Pennie will contest the K1 kayak event at the state-of-the-art Deodoro Whitewater Stadium in the hills above Rio and has already trained on the course several times during the scorching Brazilian summer with no problems.

"We've had emails with instructions on how best to protect ourselves. But really it's not that bad, it's chlorinated water so it's not the kind of water where mosquitoes like to fester!" she said at London's Lee Valley White Water Centre

on Thursday.

"They've had water readings from Rio and compared them to here in London and it's been totally fine.

"But I've got a mosquito net

across my boat so that when I'm not in it between sessions I know they'll not be any mosquitoes in my boat when I get back."

Preparations for the Games have been overshadowed by an

outbreak of the mosquito-borne Zika virus that has been linked to thousands of suspected cases of microcephaly, a rare birth defect, in Brazil.

Some athletes have consid-

ered whether or not to attend, but Britain's slalom canoeists, despite spending most of their time close to water, are no more at risk, according to John Anderson, performance director for Britain's slalom and sprint teams.

"It's all about the absolute basics of personal hygiene. No windows open, full spray repellent and not putting yourself near water at night because that's when mosquitoes bite," he said.

"In the slalom there is no stagnant water at all, it's crystal clear and chlorinated. But the sprint course is a natural lake in the middle of Rio so when the sun goes down, if you're there, there will be mosquitoes about.

"So just don't put yourself in those situations."—Reuters



Great Britain's Fiona Pennie during training during British Canoe Slalom Olympic & Senior team media day at Lee Valley White Water Centre, on 5 May.

PHOTO: REUTERS