

President U Htin Kyaw meets outgoing Russian Ambassador to Myanmar

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JADE ISSUES PERSIST

Govt to limit jade mining under new laws and restrictions

Thein Ko Lwin



A miner searches for discarded jade stones at a mine dump in Hpakant, Kachin State. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW laws will soon be enacted to restrict jade production within the Lonekhin and Hpakant mining blocks in Kachin State, said Union Minister for Natural

Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win at a session of the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

No more jade mining blocks

will be allowed, and restrictions will be set on the current jade mining businesses operating in the regions, added the Union minister.

Although the Myanmar Gems Law has been enacted further rules and regulations will be drawn up by the ministry.

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Removal of squatters is in conformity with law: Home Affairs

Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe told the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday that the recent removal of squatters in Yangon Region was carried out entirely within the law.

The operation was conducted under the direct supervision of the ministry concerned, Maj-Gen Aung Soe responded to a query raised at the parliament, stressing that the eviction of squatters did not require any court order.

U Htay Oo of Yangon constituency 2 enquired about the forceful removals of squatters without any court orders in Dagon Seikkan, Mingaladon and Hlegu townships last year.

When asked about the police presence at the sites, Maj-Gen Aung Soe explained that the deployment of police was just to prevent unnecessary conflict between the squatters and officers on duty.

"The police were present there only for security reason," he said. According to statistics released by the Yangon Region government, there are 1,280 squats on land owned by the Department of Agriculture in Hlegu, 232 squats on the land designated as an area for state projects in Dagon Seikkan, and 478 squats on farmland in the Pinyinabin industrial zone in Mingaladon.—Thein Ko Lwin

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker warns MP over proposal to aid Rakhine State IDPs

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint called on parliamentarians to avoid making statements that could harm the dignity of the Parliament during a parliamentary session yesterday.

The speaker warned the Pyithu Hluttaw representatives af-

ter MP Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Constituency posted a Facebook status about how an urgent motion to help IDPs in Rakhine State was denied a discussion in parliament.

The urgent motion called on the Union government and the Ra-

khine State government to provide humanitarian aid to about 2,000 IDPs in Rakhine State as soon as possible.

The speaker said the urgent proposal was rejected because it focused on inviting the Arakan Army (AA), with which the Myan-

mar Defence Services are currently in conflict, though it was disguised by language about humanitarian aid for IDPs.

"The proposal was blocked from entering parliament in accordance with the rules and regulations that provide for the rejection

of a proposal if it is thought to pose harm to the constitution or to the functions of the parliament, directly or indirectly," said the Speaker.

"The proposal was disqualified for the reason that any proposal shall not be disclosed

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Pyidaungsu, Pyithu Hluttaw Speakers meet Sri Lankan parliament speaker

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than held talks with Mr Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, over friendship and legislation between the parliaments of the two countries.

Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than hosted a dinner in honour of the Sri Lanka parliamentary delegation at the Park Royal Hotel yesterday evening.

Mr Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka also called on U Win Myint, Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw,

yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, U Win Myint clarified measures being taken for power sharing, national reconciliation, amending, revoking and making laws at the Pyithu Hluttaw.

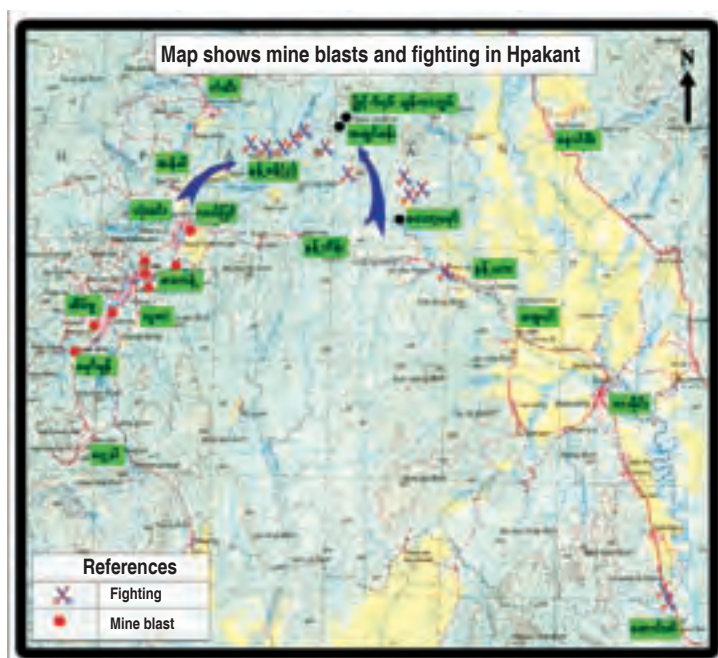
Speaker U Win Myint also expressed his hope that the two countries, which possess similar culture and live in the same religion, would find ways to promote bilateral cooperation and mutual trust.

Mr Karu Jayasuriya also spoke on the political reforms in Sri Lanka since 2015 and preparations for amending the country's constitution.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than receives Mr Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka. PHOTO: MNA

Seven taken captive, five freed by KIA



SEVEN people were taken captive by members of the Kachin Independence Army (KIA) from a village in Hpakant Township, Kachin State, on 29 April. The motive for the kidnappings has not been confirmed.

On hearing the news, government troops, together with a local people's militia, faced 13 engagements with the KIA during the effort to clear their hideouts in the area from 1 to 10 May. The army seized various

ammunition during the raids on the KIA's training school and five hideouts.

KIA troops detonated mines in residential areas in the township and fired heavy artillery and grenades at army bases and police stations during the Tatmadaw operations. The attacks caused damage to the township, leaving one woman dead.

The KIA freed 5 people on 2 May, and two are still held in captivity.—*Myawady*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker warns MP ...

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before the speaker's permission, and a matter that is similar to one that was [previously] decided in a parliamentary session shall not be included in a [different] proposal," added the speaker.

In response to the warning from the speaker, Daw Khin Saw Wai told reporters that she has the

right to answer media questions about the denial of the proposal.

The MP added that she tried to submit the proposal in order to represent the voice of her constituency.

She continued that the Lower House also denied her second attempt to submit the amended proposal, in which statements about the AA were deleted.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Child victims counted among total trafficked persons in Upper Myanmar

EIGHT children are among the total trafficked victims, numbering 38, detected in upper Myanmar up until this April for 2016, said an officer from a police force combating the trafficking of people in Mandalay.

Police Major Hnin Aye called for the report of missing children to the police, saying that the number of trafficked children stood at 20 last year.

A total of 617 cases of human trafficking were reported in 2015 and 319 in 2014, he added.

Based on facts and figures, the police officer said that, often, biological fathers of the child victims, their grandparents and relatives are among those found guilty of child trafficking.

Child victims are being brought into situations of exploitation such as forced labour, forced marriage and forced prostitution, he added.

According to the anti-human trafficking police force (Mandalay), educative talks have been conducted to raise

public awareness of human trafficking in the region as well as other parts of Upper Myanmar.

"We have educated the parents of children forced to beg in cooperation with ward administrators and members of NGOs and INGOs," said Police Major Hnin Aye.

According to human trafficking statistics, a total of 3,160 victims were trafficked during an eight year period between 2008 to 2015. —*Aung Thant Khaing*

NLD names former Permanent Representative to UN as Union Minister for State Counsellor

U KYAW TINT SWE will be named Union Minister for State Counsellor, according to U Win Htein, a member of the central committee of the National League for Democracy.

The appointment of a Union minister to the newly formed ministry is described as an effort

to assist State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in carrying out her responsibilities in her capacity as Union minister for foreign affairs.

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Myanmar's former permanent representative to the UN, was a member of the Letpadaung In-

vestigation Commission, which was assigned to investigate the controversial copper mine project in 2013.

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Tuesday approved the proposal of the president to form the ministry of the State Counsellor. —*Thein Ko Lwin*

Govt to limit jade mining under new laws and restrictions

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In his report to the Parliament the Union minister said that heavy vehicles that exceed the permitted number of machines used on mining site to extract jade were prohibited following regular field trips of an inspection teams led by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The present government limited the number of heavy machinery allowed for jade mining based on the size of the mining sites, allowing miners to use five excavators and 10 dumpers for

an area under 10 acres, 12 excavators and 36 dumpers for area between 10 acres to 30 areas and 20 excavators and 48 dumpers only.

Coordination and cooperation efforts will be made among the ministries concerned, the regional government and Tatmadaw columns to ensure the enforcement of current and future rules and regulations in mining areas, the Union minister told the Parliament.

Punitive actions will be taken against jade mining com-

panies that fail to follow directives on discarding waste soil, he added.

According to statistics, jade mining operations are run on 305 blocks run in joint venture with the government and 7,344 are held by private companies on a mining area of 1,744,757 acres in Lonekhin and Hpakant of Kachin State.

The share of mining blocks under the government's semi-control accounts for 1.25 per cent of the total mining area in Hpakant.

President U Htin Kyaw meets outgoing Russian Ambassador to Myanmar



President U Htin Kyaw shakes hands with Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received the Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Vasily B. Pospelov who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar at Credentials Hall of the President House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the Presi-

dent held talks with the outgoing Russian Ambassador on the promotion of bilateral relations, exchange of visits of high-ranking officials between the two countries and matters related to scholarship programmes. The military co-operation plan between Russia and Myanmar,

approved yesterday by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw, was reportedly not on the agenda.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

FM Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Speaker of Sri Lanka parliament

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, received Mr Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka, at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi

Taw at 1 pm Wednesday.

During the meeting, they discussed and shared the experiences of democratic transitional process as well as the enhancement of bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and Sri Lanka in a cordial manner.—*GNLM*



Union Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr Karu Jayasuriya, Speaker of the Parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA



Union Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds a meeting with Heads of the United Nations agencies and other international organizations in Yangon. PHOTO: MNA

FM Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets resident representatives of UN agencies, Int'l orgs

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Heads of the United Nations agencies and other international organizations in Yangon at 2 pm yesterday at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw.

The Union Minister for Planning and Finance, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and the officials concerned also attended the meeting.

During the meeting, in the interest of people, they frankly

discussed and exchanged views on future cooperation between Myanmar and the UN and other international organizations with short-term projects and long-term goals.

Moreover, they also discussed on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by Myanmar.

The Union Minister stressed the important role of education and peace process for the overall development of the country. — *Myanmar News Agency*

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Union Minister for Information meets foreign ambassadors

INFORMATION Union Minister Dr Pe Myint met foreign ambassadors in his office separately, officials said.

Dr Pe Myint met Ambassador of the United States to Myanmar Mr Scot Marciel at 11am, Australian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Nicholas Coppel at 1pm and British Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Andrew Patrick at

2pm.

Their discussions focused on bilateral media cooperation, the changing trends of the country's information sector, its challenges and prospects for further cooperation.

The union minister was accompanied by Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe and officials.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Union Defence Minister meets US Ambassador to Myanmar

UNION Minister for Defense Lt-Gen Sein Win received US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scott Alan Marciel at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting the two

held comprehensive discussions on the promotion of relations between the two Defence Services, Asia-Pacific regional issues and illegal transboundary migrants.

— *Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar police assist disaster victims



Policemen remove trees knocked down by heavy wind, rain and hail. PHOTO: YE ZARNI

MANY parts of the country have been hit by natural disasters brought about by the El Niño front over the last few months.

Members of the Myanmar Police Force have been contributing their energy and resources

to the rescue, rehabilitation and clean-up required in disaster-hit areas.

On Sunday, 8 May, members of Unit-10/25 of the Security Police Force, based in Sinbaungwei, Myaing and Yay-

sagyo townships in Magwe Region, took part in rebuilding damaged houses hit by strong wind, hailstones and heavy rain, and they cleaned fallen trees that blocked roads in those areas.— *Ye Zarni*



Czech Ambassador speaking at the meeting. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Czech Ambassador meets entrepreneurs in Mandalay

THE Czech Ambassador to Myanmar met the vice chairman and the secretary and executives of the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MRCCI) and entrepreneurs from its sister business groups in the meeting hall of the MRCCI at Yadanabon Super Center in Mandalay on Monday.

At the meeting the vice

chairman of the MRCCI gave a welcoming speech while the ambassador elaborated on products made by the Czech Republic, opportunities for bilateral cooperation in business between the two countries and progress on the signing of an agreement for promoting trade. Both sides discussed matters related to cooperation in agriculture, livestock

breeding and nautical transportation.

There are a total of seven sectors in the Myanmar-Czech cooperation plan regarding businesses.

Under the agreement the Mandalay Beer brewery has been upgraded and the quality of certain products upgraded, it has been learned.— *Thiha Ko Ko*

Crime NEWS 22-wheel vehicle crash leaves one person dead



Damaged car being seen. PHOTO: TIN TUN TAR (TATKON)

A 22-wheel vehicle collided with a second vehicle between mileposts 279/0 and 279/1 on the Yangon-Mandalay Highway in Tatkon town, Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, leaving one dead.

The 22-wheel vehicle, en route to Pinyinmana from Yamaethin, collided with a second vehicle which was being driven by one Chit Win Tun ,37, with passengers on board when the former lost control. The 22-wheel vehicle driver

fled the scene in his car.

The accident killed a passenger identified as U Bu Thee, 60, from Shwe Dar village and injured another ten passengers. The surviving passengers are undergoing medical treatment at the local 100-bed general hospital. Police found the 22-wheel vehicle abandoned around Thapyaychaung village. Local police there are searching for the driver and have filed charges against him.— *Tin Tun Tar (Tatkon)*

Yaba seized on Lashio-Mandalay Road

A LOCAL police squad in Nawng-hkio seized yaba from a motorcycle driver on the Lashio-Mandalay road on Monday.

Police searched the motorcycle being driven by one Sai Tun Sein with Sai Aik Kham Pan on board at milepost 80/4 on Pyihtaungsu road and discovered 3,900 yaba pills. Police have filed charges against both suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Saya Maung (Muse)*



Sai Tun Sein and Sai Aik Kham Pan. PHOTO: SAYA MAUNG (MUSE)

Fire destroys a warehouse and four houses in Amarapura



Fire devouring houses in Amarapura. PHOTO: TIN MAUNG (SUB-MN)

AN outbreak of fire caused by electric short circuiting destroyed a warehouse and four houses in Hmantan ward, Amarapura town, Mandalay region on Tuesday.

The accident occurred around midnight due to the electric short-circuiting of a switch board in the kitchen of a Salt warehouse belonging to one U Aung Naing. Nobody was inside the warehouse at the time. The fire quickly got out of control and damaged the warehouse and another four houses in the area. The fire was put out by firemen with the help of neighbours. Local police have filed charges against the warehouse owner.— *Tin Maung (Sub-MN)*

LOCAL Business

Shrimp breeders suffering from infertility

Soe Soe Yu

FRESHWATER and saltwater shrimp businesses are faced with losses this year because of infertile shrimp, according to the Myanmar Shrimp Association.

“Shrimp farming businesses ranging from breeding stations to saltwater shrimp breeding farms are not thriving this year. A species called Vannamei is being imported from abroad to bolster numbers. The breeding business is currently dependent on the species. If the imported species is a pedigree the shrimp farming sector might begin to thrive”, said Daw Toe Nanda Tin, vice chairman of the Myanmar Importers’ Association.

There are not many local companies breeding Vannamei shrimp. Shrimp farming businesses are faced with losses because of inadequate breeding, according to shrimp businessmen.

“The government needs to intervene in shrimp breeding. We cannot extend our businesses without government subsidy. The freshwater prawn needs to be a priority”, said U Tun Aye, the



Shrimps are seen in a basket at a farm near Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

chairman of the Myanmar Importer’s Association.

Previously, the shrimp farming industry was so flourishing that shrimp could not be

purchased from local factories in 2013. Only imported shrimp were being sold on the domestic shrimp market.

The legal import of shrimp

to fill the gap is of vital importance in fulfilling the needs of local demand to ensure the health of the industry, said Daw Toe Nanda Tin.

MPU and KEB Hana Card sign MoU

THE Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) and South Korean KEB Hana Card signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to jointly conduct payment services in Myanmar.

According to the MoU, MPU Card users will have access to the services of KEB Hana Card and South Korean businessmen will also receive the financial service from local banks. Members of the MPU and KEB Hana Card also negotiated to develop services with Master Card based in the USA, said U Mya Than, the chairman of the MPU.

The MPU Card was issued in September of 2012 and its service has been made available at nearly 1,500 ATMs of MPU across the country. There are also about 3,000 points of sales (POS) which can accept payments with MPU Cards. The MPU e-Commerce system was introduced last year in order to aid people wishing to pay tax using MPU Cards.—200

Sugarcane planters reap handsome profits

GROWERS from northern Myingyan Township in Mandalay Region earned healthy profits from their sugarcane plantation this season.

“We currently sell for K300 per sugarcane plant to local merchants, including owners of sugarcane juice shops in the town,” one farmer said.

Brokers from Myingyan, Taungoo, Mandalay, Bagan and

Nyaung U are the primary buyers from the plantations.

Local growers usually begin growing sugarcane between June and July, cultivating about 6,000 plants per acre.

Myingyan Township is located in Myanmar’s central dry zone. Farmers there usually grow different kinds of bean, sesame, watermelon, cucumber, onion, tomato and sugarcane.—*Than Zaw Min*

Mandalay brokers face millions in losses from trade errors

“MERCHANTS from Mandalay wholesale brokerages should carry out trading in cash so as to avoid the possible losses caused by pre-buying and pre-selling systems,” said U Aung Swe Hein from the Mandalay Trading Centre.

The Mandalay Trading Centre is planning to form a committee to solve trade problems among local brokers who have lost millions of kyats from trading errors in recent days.

U Soe Win Myint, owner of a sale centre, said: “The root cause of the problem is greed. The association has already urged all members to be engaged in pre-buying and

pre-selling. It is just like football gambling.”

The association, which was set up in 1935, has over 19,000 members from the Mandalay municipal area.

“This is not a pre-emptive attempt. We have not got some information about it. We need to negotiate with members. We have to deal with this problem because members have asked for help. Normally, we don’t solve such problems.” A net loss of nearly K3 billion (US\$2,568,493) from traders’ errors has occurred within five years at the Mandalay Trading Centre.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Three offshore gas fields see low demand from partner countries

THREE of Myanmar’s four offshore gas fields have attracted low demand for natural gas from partner countries, according to Electric Power and Energy Ministry. The Zawtika Project, the country’s largest offshore gas field has proven to be the exception.

The low demand has been linked to the fall in crude oil prices in the world market.

Myanmar is home to four natural gas exploration pro-

jects: the Yetagun Project, operated by Petronas Co, in the Andaman Sea; the Shwe Project, operated by Daewoo International Co, in the Bay of Bengal; the Yadana Project, operated by Total SA, a French energy group, in the Andaman Sea; and the Zawtika Project by the Thai oil company PTTEP, in the Gulf of Mottama.

In the past, Thailand has purchased over 400 million cubic feet of natural gas from the

Yetagun Project per day. However, the neighbouring country has reduced its demand to 200 million cubic feet a day.

Likewise, demand from China has declined to just over 300 million cubic feet from 600 million cubic feet per day. The world’s most populous country normally buys natural gas produced from the Yadana Project.

Since late 2014, the price of natural gas has gradually fallen in local market.—200

Industries manufacturing ready-made meat products to be established

FACTORIES which can manufacture high quality frozen meats and ready-made meat products will be built in Myanmar with the assistance of foreign technical experts, according to the Myanmar Livestock Federation.

High quality ready-made meat products will be manufactured by grinding around 30,000 vises (a viss is approximately 1.6 kilograms) of chicken and

mutton daily, said U Win Sein, the vice chairman of this federation.

“We will establish industries which can produce ready-made meat balls. Both domestic and Thai entrepreneurs will cooperate in order to bring the manufacturing of meat products to Myanmar with the use of technology from Thailand”, he added.

In the initial phase only

10,000 vises of meat products will be manufactured daily. The production will be positively related to demand for the product.

Raw meat materials which will be used in the meat production by those factories will be purchased from local breeders during the first year. Those same factories, however, will produce raw meat materials later on.—200

Hopes growing for fresh push for nuke-free world from Obama

HIROSHIMA — Hopes are growing among people in Hiroshima, including atomic bomb survivors, that US President Barack Obama will express his renewed determination for a world free of nuclear weapons on his historic visit to the site of the US atomic bombing at the end of World War II later this month.

On Tuesday, the Japanese and US governments announced the president's plan to travel to Hiroshima on 27 May after a Group of Seven summit in the central Japan prefecture of Mie, as the first sitting US leader to do so.

Obama may call for nuclear disarmament in a short speech or a statement while in Hiroshima, according to a source close to bilateral relations, and US media have reported that Obama could give a speech similar to his 2009 Prague address in which he called for a world without nuclear weapons. "I hope he will



Hiroshima Gov. Hidehiko Yuzaki meets with reporters at the prefectural office in Hiroshima on 11 May 2016.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

say in his speech, 'Nuclear weapons should never be used again,' and that 'dropping atomic bombs was a mistake,'" said Manabu Shigeyoshi, a 67-year-old Hiroshima city resident. Shigeyoshi's mother survived the atomic bomb attack. "I want to listen carefully to what President Obama has to say," said Yuji Egusa, 88, who was a student working on a nearby island when the atomic bomb detonated over the city on 6 August, 1945. Egusa, who

suffers from a cataract traced to his exposure to radiation, hopes Obama will muster the courage to speak his mind while visiting.

Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui, who has long sought a visit by Obama to the city, told reporters on Wednesday he expects Obama to "accept the feelings of hibakusha and reinforce his speech in Prague." Atomic bomb survivors are called hibakusha in Japanese.

With Obama's Hiroshima trip confirmed, the focus has shifted to whether he will have an opportunity to meet with survivors. Josh Earnest, the White House press secretary, said it is not yet decided whether Obama will meet some of them.

Akinori Okada, 87, who was about 2.7 kilometres from the epicenter at the time of the explosion, said he wants Obama to "meet with and listen to hibakusha to learn how much anguish the atomic bomb has caused."

While in Hiroshima, Obama may visit the Peace Memorial Museum, which displays artifacts that belonged to atomic bomb victims and survivors, and the Atomic Bomb Dome, skeletal remains of the only major building left standing after the explosion.

Seiko Ikeda, 83, who suffered a severe burn on her face at age 12 when the bomb was dropped 1.5 km from her, hopes the president will not just visit the museum and the dome but listen to survivors' voices.

Ikeda said she believes if Obama hears their stories in person, he likely will be emotionally overcome.

Hiroshima Gov. Hidehiko Yuzaki told reporters that he hopes Obama will see the effects of the atomic bomb firsthand, allowing him to understand how widespread the damage was, adding that he also hopes the president will meet with hibakusha.
—Kyodo News

Philippine presumptive president reveals possible members of Cabinet

MANILA — Philippine presumptive President Rodrigo Duterte has bared some possible members of his Cabinet, including secretaries from the previous administrations and a former military general.

The Davao City mayor, who is leading the partial unofficial election results, told reporters that he has yet to talk to other people whom he would consider to be part of his Official Family.

In dialogues with businessmen prior to the 9 May elections, Duterte said that he would appoint as his peace adviser his former classmate and fellow Davaoeno, Jesus Dureza, who served as the peace adviser and press secretary of former president Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

He was also eyeing hotel owner Carlos Dominguez to be his secretary at the Department of Finance or the Department of Transportation and Communications.

Duterte was also considering his running mate Senator Alan Peter Cayetano to head the Department of Foreign Affairs after the one year ban for losing candidates. Cayetano has been trailing behind other vice presidential bets Leni Robredo and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. based on partial, unofficial count of the election watchdog. The incoming president said that Leoncio Evasco, his chief of staff and former member of the leftist New People's Army, would stay beside him. But he did not mention yet the position he would give to Evasco, incumbent mayor of Maribojoc town in central province of Bohol.

Duterte said that former Armed Forces of the Philippines chief of staff Hermogenes Esperon Jr. would also be part of the Cabinet. Esperon also served the Arroyo government as head of the Presidential Management Staff Office.—Xinhua

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Thailand faces 'moment of shame' at UN rights council review

BANGKOK — Thailand faces a "moment of shame" when the UN Human Rights Council reviews its rights record on Wednesday, a rights group said, amid fresh arrests of online critics accused of criticising the junta.

The crackdown comes as Thailand's military government prepares to put a widely criticised military-written constitution to the public in August.

The military seized power in a May 2014 coup saying it had to end a bitter cycle of political unrest that had rocked Thailand since

2006 when the army ousted former prime minister Thaksin Shinawatra.

Rights groups say the junta has tightened its grip on power and severely repressed rights in the past year. It has jailed critics, introduced new laws aimed at curbing freedom of speech, censored the media and restricted political debate.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a cyclical review of the human rights record of the 193 United Nations member states.

Thailand, which was last reviewed in 2011, is one

of 14 countries being questioned by the UPR working group in the current session, which ends on Friday.

"It will be a moment of shame for the Thai government at a major international forum where Thailand once was honoured and respected," Sunai Phasuk, Thailand researcher for Human Rights Watch, told Reuters.

"I hope it will send a clear message back to Bangkok that they immediately have to reverse their course."

Colonel Winthai Suvarree, a spokesman for the junta, said it wants the Thai del-

egation to "tell the truth about what is happening in Thailand".

On 27 April, troops arrested eight activists over Facebook comments critical of the junta and the draft constitution. The eight were released on bail on Tuesday.

Two of the eight face separate charges of royal insult. They were charged on Wednesday with insulting the revered monarchy in private Facebook messages, the latest in a growing number of royal insult charges under the junta.

"We have additionally charged them with royal defamation and computer crimes," Police Lieutenant Colonel Chaiporn Nitayapat, who is in charge of the case, told Reuters.

Issues raised in documents seen by Reuters submitted to the UN by rights groups and UN member countries include the expansion of internal policing powers for the military and the use of military courts to try critics.

More than a decade of political strife has seen at times violent street protests by both Thaksin's supporters and their opponents.
—Reuters



Activists who were detained after posting critical comments on Facebook of the ruling military junta, leave the military court in Bangkok, Thailand on 10 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

Tokyo governor under fire over travel expenses, car use

TOKYO — Tokyo Gov. Yoichi Masuzoe has been in the hot seat since he was found last month to have spent massive amounts on official trips overseas and used official cars for frequent visits to his vacation home.

While the 67-year-old has been widely regarded as the front-runner in the capital's 2018 gubernatorial election, his path is now looking increasingly uncertain as scandals involving him show no signs of abating.

The former welfare minister first came under fire last month when it was learned he spent more than 200 million yen (\$1.8 million)

on eight overseas trips over two years since he became governor in 2014.

That was quickly followed by news that he used metropolitan government vehicles 48 times in about a year from April 2015 to travel either to or from a vacation home Yugawara, a hot-spring resort area in Kanagawa Prefecture.

In the face of mounting criticism by taxpayers and other governors that he does not know the value of money and uses public resources excessively, Masuzoe apologised over the vehicle use and said he would reduce spending on overseas visits.

"I will not use official vehicles in principle from now on," Masuzoe said on a TV programme me earlier this week, while saying he may still visit his vacation home.

Earlier, Masuzoe had said that he used the vehicles in accordance with applicable rules and asserted there was no problem from a crisis management standpoint with his being away from Tokyo so often as he could still be reached and issue instructions in the event of an emergency.

However some major politicians have criticised Masuzoe's actions. Former Osaka Gov. Toru Hashimoto wrote on his Twitter

account, "It's wrong to use official vehicles" in such a way.

Among incumbent governors, Kanagawa Gov. Yuji Kuroiwa said last month he was "shocked" at the amount Tokyo spent on overseas trips, while Saitama Gov. Kiyoshi Ueda also said he questioned the appropriateness from the standpoint of the public.

A week-long visit to Paris and London by a Masuzoe-led delegation last autumn as part of the preparations for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics cost some 50 million yen, enough to buy a new condominium in central Tokyo. —Kyodo News



Tokyo Gov. Yoichi Masuzoe.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Australia holds five suspected of plotting sailing trip to join Islamic State



An officer takes pictures of a boat, which Australian police have seized in Cairns, Queensland, Australia in this still image taken from video, on 11 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Australian police have detained five men suspected of planning to sail a small boat from the far north to Indonesia and the Philippines en route to joining Islamic State in Syria, officials said on Wednesday.

The men were held on Tuesday after towing the seven-metre boat almost 3,000 km (1,865 miles) from Melbourne to Cairns in Queensland state, police said.

Australia has come under criticism for its tough immigration policies aimed at stopping asylum seekers taking boats from Indonesia to Australia, but few are believed to have attempted the journey in the opposite direction.

"We're investigating the allegation they were planning to make their way through Indonesia to the Philippines, with a view to ending up in Syria," Victoria state Deputy Police

Commissioner Shane Patton told reporters in Melbourne.

"It's not a common occurrence, I would suggest, people trying to get to Syria via boat, but I don't have the exact figures for sure."

The five had not yet been charged. Under tough new security powers passed in 2014, Australian face up to a decade in prison for overseas travel to areas declared off limits, which includes the province of Raqqa in Syria, a key strategic hub for Islamic State militants.

Australia, a staunch US ally, has been on heightened alert for attacks by home-grown radicals since 2014 and authorities say they have thwarted a number of potential attacks, while there have been several "lone wolf" assaults, including a cafe siege in Sydney that left two hostages and the gunman dead.

Approximately 100 people have left Australia for Syria to

fight alongside organisations such as Islamic State, Australia's Immigration Minister said last month.

Police said it was unclear where the men, aged between 21 and 33, had planned to put the boat in the water. Indonesia and Australia share a maritime border, but it spans several hundred kilometres of open sea at its narrowest point.

The Australian Broadcasting Corp said that Melbourne-born radical preacher Musa Cerantonio, a vocal supporter of the Islamic State who was deported from the Philippines to Australia in 2014, was among those detained. Cerantonio, who converted to Islam from Catholicism at 17, was believed to be planning to join Islamic State when he was deported for having "invalid travel documentation". He was placed under surveillance but not arrested upon his return.—Reuters

Kidnapped son of Pakistani ex-PM arrives home from Afghanistan

KABUL/LAHORE — The son of a former Pakistani prime minister who was rescued by Afghan and US forces from al Qaeda captors in Afghanistan arrived home to a rapturous welcome in Pakistan on Wednesday, three years after being kidnapped from his home town.

Ali Haider Gilani was rescued on Monday by a joint force of Afghan and US commandos who attacked a house held by al Qaeda militants in Paktika province, just across the border from Pakistan.

Before his departure from Afghanistan, Gilani, with long hair and a grey-streaked beard, thanked his rescuers.

Looking tired but otherwise healthy, the son of former Prime Minister Yusuf Raza Gilani said pressure from Pakistani forces fighting militants in lawless frontier lands had forced his captors to take him over the border into Afghanistan.

"I really appreciate the Afghan government's efforts and

the Afghan forces' efforts for someone, these sacrifices, for someone from another country," he told reporters at Afghanistan's Ministry of Defence where he was handed over to Pakistani diplomats.

"That shows the efforts of the Afghan government to bringing peace in the region," he said.

"I would also like to thank US forces which, at the critical moments of my release provided me with shelter, food and medical care," he said. "I'm just looking forward to being reunited with my family and just getting back to normal life."

The rescue offered a rare moment of warmth and respite in long-running tensions between Kabul and Islamabad, which many in Afghanistan blame for fostering and sheltering Taliban leaders on their soil.

Pakistan denies it helps the insurgents and says it is itself the target of militants from Afghanistan.—Reuters



Ali Haider Gilani, (C) son of former Pakistani prime minister Yusuf Raza Gilani, speaks to media after he was rescued in Afghanistan in a joint operation by Afghan and US forces, at the Defence ministry in Kabul, Afghanistan on 11 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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Painting agriculture as a promising profession

Kyaw Thura

DESPITE its heavy dependence on agriculture, our country has seen more and more young rural people leave farming as they have witnessed the extent of the poverty their ancestors have struggled with. Worse, people have come to portray the business of agriculture as a profession for the poor. It is absolutely vital to reverse the economic and social declines in rural areas. Successive governments have placed the issue of agricultural development at the top of their agenda. Even then, farmers still have still had to eke out their livings, though they have been working themselves to the bone to feed the country. It is, therefore, crucial that the government realise that the success of the fight against poverty rests with its management to ensure that farmers enjoy proportionate returns for their agricultural output. As an agricultural country, Myanmar has a long tradition of regarding farmers as beneficent. However, in today's reality, our neglect of the welfare of farmers amounts to biting the hand that feeds us. The government should direct its efforts at providing technical support and financial assistance to farmers so as to unlock the full potential of agriculture. In doing so, what matters most is to develop a strategy for improving the quality of rural life by painting the agricultural sector as a promising profession.

We, Asian Youth, Are The Future

SUN Xi

PROFESSOR Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore and a Top Global Thinker, wisely says, "Europe represents the past, America represents the present, Asia represents the future."

Indeed, most Asian people have such confidence. According a latest online survey among 18,235 internet users from 17 countries, five Asian countries China (41%) Indonesia (23%), Saudi Arabia (16%), Thailand (11%) and United Arab Emirates (10%) are the top optimistic societies, who think the world is generally getting better.

Such confidence in a better future is likely backed by an unignorable fact: Asia is Rising. Here are some simple but astonishing facts.

First, Asia's share of the world GDP in real US\$ purchasing power parity (PPP) has risen steadily, from 23.2% in 1990 to 38.8% in 2014, and it is forecasted to expand to nearly 45% by 2025. In PPP terms, Asia has been the home for three of the world's four largest economies, China, Japan and India.

More accurately speaking, Asia is not simply rising, but just resurging to its historic leadership, because for 18 of the past 20 centuries Asia continuously contributed for over half of the world economy.

Second, Asia's share of global merchandise trade has grown from 14% in 1948 to around 32% in 2014, with its ex-

ports growing three times faster than the rest of the world over the past decades. Between 2011 and 2014, Asia did more than any other region to lift merchandise export volume growth.

Now, China has been the largest trading nation in the world in terms of imports and exports, since overtaking the US in 2013.

Third, 60% of the world population in Asia (4.4 billion) creates the largest market. Asia is projected to be the second largest contributor after Africa to future global population growth, adding 0.9 billion people between 2015 and 2050.

Ageing population will be a big challenge for Asia, but meanwhile its current 500 million middle class is projected to triple to 1.75 billion in 2020, a huge momentum for Asia's future development.

Of Course, there is no question that despite huge growth potential, Asia is facing several critical shortcomings in achieving a more comprehensive and sustainable development.

First, Asia lacks a universal image, the economic, political and social disparities among Asian countries are huge; Second, Asia lacks unified and strong leadership, it is nearly impossible to form a strong regional union in the near future; Last but not the least, Asia lacks general consensus on universal values, especially human rights and democracy.

However, our "Asian Dream" will not end up as a mirage but eventually will turn into a reality. Hope for a better Asia comes from our Asian

youth, especially those born after the 1980s.

First, there has been less hatred among young Asians. War always results in tremendous trauma and the hatred after war can last several generations. Asia suffered lots of wars in the history and there have also been bilateral conflicts within Asia after the 1980s. Even today, Asia is still not entirely peaceful.

Nevertheless, very few Asian youth have personally participated in those conflicts or directly confronted their Asian counterparts on battlefields. Asian youth blessedly do not have irreconcilable enmity with one another. This certainly helps create a valuable foundation for building trust and cooperation among them.

Second, Asian youth share a similar vision of peace and development. In this new era, war is a sunset business and going out of fashion. Instead, peace and development have become mainstream global objectives. Most Asian nations are keen to build peaceful societies which focus on economic development. Myanmar has entered its democratic journey peacefully.

China and India, the world's fastest-growing economies and the largest developing countries, have over 60 per cent of Asia's population. Most importantly, both countries account for the majority of Asian youth. Moreover, most Chinese youth were born after the reform and opening up from 1978, while a large proportion of Indian youth were born after their country's economic liber-

alization beginning in the 1990s. Chinese and Indian youth are more interested in doing business than entangling in conflicts. Their preferred vision for peace and development will help strengthen the foundation for a more peaceful Asia.

Last but not least, Asian youth cherish the value of mutual understanding and cooperation. They are the generation growing up with the Internet. In Asia, there are over a billion netizens and most are increasingly open-minded and actively involved young people in online communities. Information technology has made young Asians better connected than previous generations.

Mutual learning and exchanges have also helped young Asians better understand one another. For instance, China had only 1,381 foreign students in 1980. By 2015, the number had surged over 280 times to 397,635 with 60.4 per cent of them from Asia. At the National University of Singapore, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy was established in 2004 to "inspire leaders, improve lives and help transform Asia". Since then, it has fostered thousands of young Asian officials who are likely to seek win-win cooperation rather than zero-sum competitions with their Asian peers in the future.

Young Asians have grown up with booming intra-regional trade and investment. Free trade agreements (FTAs) were largely absent in Asia until the 1990s. But between January 2000 and April 2013, Asia's concluded FTAs jumped from

three to 76. The Asean-China Free Trade Area is the largest free trade area in terms of its coverage, with over 1.9 billion people in it. Such fast-growing regional trade and investment dependency will encourage young Asians to pursue closer cooperation with one another.

There is a Chinese maxim, "A youth is to be regarded with respect (hou sheng ke wei)", in the Wisdom of Confucius. Young people are without doubt the hopes for a better future.

Even Deng Xiaoping, best known as the general designer of China's reform and opening up, said in 1978: "Our generation is not wise enough to find common language on this question (the Diaoyu/Senkaku islands dispute). Our next generation will certainly be wiser. They will certainly find a solution acceptable to all."

Although we young Asians may not be any wiser than older generations, we definitely share a much more common consensus over the goals of peace and development. More critically, we are determined to deliver such goals through more creative solutions and win-win cooperation.

With this confidence in a better future, our "Asian Dream" will not just remain a dream.

The writer, a 1980s China-born alumnus of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, is a senior investment analyst and independent commentary writer based in Singapore.

National-level Disaster Preparedness plan to be implemented

THE Fire Services Department under the Ministry of Home Affairs will draw up a plan to mitigate the losses and damages that could be caused by the impacts of El Nino according to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The ministry will arrange to brace for the possible impact of natural disaster, followed by the El Nino weather, said Maj-Gen Aung Soe, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs at a parliamentary session on 8 May.

"The ministry is drawing up the plan as a national project to

allow us to be prepared against the possible danger of natural disaster which can break out across the country. 15 Regional and State Administrative Fire Services Departments, 73 District Fire Services Department, 73 District Fire Stations, 330 Township Fire Services Departments and 330 Township Fire Stations have already reformed. A total of 428 fire stations out of 703 local fire stations were opened.

Previously, our department had one duty and that was to

extinguish fires. Now our duties have been extended to carrying out timely disaster relief measures', said the deputy minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe.

Despite the existence of preventive measures for the outbreak of fire our country still needs world-class arrangements and systems for the prevention of serious damage, said Dr. Myint Thein, an MP, adding that as this year is witnessing extreme heat. Such a system is urgently needed, he added.

—GNLM

KBZ foundation supplies drinking water to locals



An ethnic woman carrying water.
PHOTO: KBZ

TO supply fresh water to people facing a scarcity of drinking water due to drought induced by El Nino, KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation is sending its fleet of water tankers to areas in southern Shan State, Sagaing and Twantay daily. On Monday the foundation's fleet moved 2800 to 3600 gallon water tankers which were sent out to several villagers around Taunggyi to supply water to the people there.

The foundation had supplied water to the people of several villages around Shwenyaung and Heho in southern Shan State on 6 and 7 May and also filled water into a concrete tank for fire fighting at Heho Airport and the staff quarters.

Meanwhile, employees of the KBZ bank branch in Sagaing visited some villages about 14 miles away from the town and supplied drinking water to the people there currently facing a scarcity of water on the same day while employees from Twantay branch supplied drinking water to people in villages in the southern part of Yangon.—GNLM

Myanmar artists to participate in Myanmar/art at Triennale Di Milano

NINE selected Myanmar artists will display their works at the exhibition Myanmar/art, to be held from 29 June 2016 for three weeks in Italy.

"The Italian embassy strongly supports initiatives, such as Myanmar/art, that aim to enhance cultural relations between the two countries and at contributing to wide people-to-people contacts between Italy and Myanmar," said Italian ambassador to Myanmar Pier Giorgio Aliberti at a press conference held yesterday, where he met with the nine Myanmar artists whose works were selected by a qualified jury.

Myanmar/art, curated by Mauro Salvemini and Eugenia Battisti, will display the works of Aung Sint, Chan Nyein Kyaw, Khin Maung Zaw, Khin Zaw Latt, Kyaw Nyo, Myint Naing, Mon

Thet, Saw Moe Zaw, Tin Maung Oo in the exhibition at the XXI Triennale Di Milano in a space allocated to Myanmar artists. The exhibition has received the patronage of the Italian embassy in Yangon, as well as of the Myanmar embassy in Rome, the Myanmar Honorary Consulate in Turin and the Italy-Myanmar Chamber of Commerce.—GNLM

Appointments & Confirmations of heads of service organisations

President U Htin Kyaw has confirmed the appointments of U Soe Myint as Taninthari Region's Advocate-General and U Thein Tun as Taninthari Region's Auditor-General as approved by the Taninthari Region Chief in accord with the constitution.

The President has also confirmed the appointments of the following heads of service organisations shown against each on expiry of the one-year probationary period.

Name	Appointment
(a) U Mya Than	Director General Small Industries Department Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation
(b) U Khant Zaw	Director General Rural Development Department Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

He has also appointed the following heads of service organisations shown against each on probation from the date they assume charge of their duties.

Name	Appointment
(A) U Tin Win Aung Deputy Director General Pyithu Hluttaw Office	Director General Pyithu Hluttaw Office
(B) U Ko Ko Naing Deputy Director General Office of the Union Chief Justice	Director General Office of the Supreme Court of Myanmar

Fundraising event to assist war victims in Shan State



Displaced war victims in northern Shan State. PHOTO: MARNAGA

A FUNDRAISING show titled 'Stop the War' was held at the Myanmar Convention Centre in Yangon on Thursday, with a wide range of entertainment programmes performed by local celebrities and ethnic minority groups.

All proceeds from the event will be donated to war victims in conflict-stricken areas in northern Shan State. Moreover, the event organisers also accepted donations for war victims in Rakhine State during the show.

The event mainly entertained audience with tradition-

al dances and songs performed by famous Myanmar vocalists and dance troupes.

Over 8,000 people have fled their homes as a result of the conflicts between the Tatmadaw and ethnic armed groups since late 2012. They are currently being sheltered at relief camps in Nantkham, Mong Tung, Mongshu, Kyaukme, Kutkai, Laukkai and Mong Tung townships.

Members of the public may dial 0977653899 or 09442413899 to make donations.—Khin Zali

Clinton loses to Sanders in coal state of West Virginia



US Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders holds a campaign rally in Sacramento, California United States on 9 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON/NEW YORK — US Democratic presidential candidate Bernie Sanders defeated Hillary Clinton on Tuesday in West Virginia's primary, winning over voters deeply skeptical about the economy and signaling the difficulty Clinton may have in industrial states in the general election.

The loss slows Clinton's march to the nomination, but she is still heavily favored to become the Democratic candidate

in the 8 November election.

In a November match-up with Donald Trump, Clinton will need to win over working-class voters in the US Rust Belt, which includes key states such as Ohio and Pennsylvania.

Trump, 69, won contests in West Virginia and Nebraska handily on Tuesday. The presumptive Republican nominee is set to meet with party leaders in the US Congress on Thursday, including US House of Repre-

sentatives Speaker Paul Ryan.

After Ryan said last week that he was not yet ready to endorse Trump, Trump said on Sunday that he would have to decide whether he still wanted Ryan to preside over the party's July convention.

Trump said in a Fox interview on Tuesday night that he would like Ryan to chair the convention as planned. "He's a very good man, he wants what's good for the party," the New York billionaire said.

Trump has zeroed in on Clinton's protracted battle with Sanders, a 74-year-old US senator from Vermont. He has taunted Clinton in recent days by saying she "can't close the deal" by beating Sanders, her only rival for the Democratic Party's nomination since 1 February.

Clinton, 68, has said she will ignore Trump's personal insults, including his repeated use of his new nickname for her, "Crooked Hillary," and instead will criticise his policy pronouncements.—Reuters

French finance minister admits to 'inappropriate' conduct towards female journalist

PARIS — French Finance Minister Michel Sapin admitted on Wednesday to behaving inappropriately towards a female journalist, days after a sex scandal forced the resignation of the vice-president of the lower house of parliament.

Sapin said that he was sorry about what he did but insisted that that should not be "confused with the seriousness of harassment or sexual assault".

"During a trip to Davos in January 2015, amid about 20 people, I made a comment to a journalist about her clothing and put my hand on her back," Sapin said, in a statement that partly denied what French journalists wrote in a recent book about what happened at the World Economic Forum.

"There was no aggressive or sexual intent in my conduct but the mere fact that the person was shocked shows that those words and this gesture were inappropriate, and I was, and still am, sorry," he said in a statement sent to Reuters on Wednesday.

Sapin, one of Socialist President Francois Hollande's closest backers, said the journalist immediately asked to talk with him and that he apologised to her.

Hundreds of female French politicians on Tuesday denounced sexual harassment in the corri-

dors of power and what they called a Mafia-style code of silence that lets it go unpunished, a day after lawmaker Denis Baupin quit his post as vice-president of France's National Assembly after being accused of harassment.

Baupin denies any wrongdoing. Sapin said that "in the current circumstances" he felt he

had to issue that statement.

Five years ago, when a sex scandal forced Frenchman Dominique Strauss-Kahn to resign from his post of IMF chief, the case unleashed a soul-searching debate within France about sexual abuse that goes undeclared or undetected in the upper echelons of power.—Reuters



French Finance Minister Michel Sapin (R) and Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius leave the Elysee Palace following the weekly cabinet meeting in Paris, France, on 3 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indonesia to issue regulation allowing castration of child molesters

JAKARTA — The Indonesian government decided Wednesday to soon issue a government regulation in lieu of a law imposing chemical castration of child molesters following a recent series of sexual attacks against minors in the country.

The decision was made after a limited Cabinet meeting on violence against children chaired by President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo.

Coordinating Minister for Human Development and Culture Puan Maharani told a press conference that the decision was taken with the view that sexual violence against children "is an extraordinary crime" that deserves "an extraordinary punishment." According to data of the National Commission for Child Protection, from 2010 until 2014, almost 22 million children suffered violence, with 62 per cent of them exposed to sexual abuse.—Kyodo News

I will run for president next year:Ljajic

BELGRADE — Leader of the Social Democratic Party of Serbia (SDPS) Rasim Ljajic has said he will run in the 2017 presidential race.

"As things are now, I will be a candidate in the presidential elections, so citizens will have their say concerning my performance in various offices," Ljajic tells the *Blic* daily.

Asked whether this means he will not be in a next government, he says "does not have any wish or over-high expectation", adding it is not his decision to make.

Ljajic notes that leader of the Serbian Progressive Party (SNS) Aleksandar Vucic will decide on the make-up of the new government which will also include the Alliance of Vojvodina Hungarians (SVM), beside the SNS-led list that incorporates the SDPS.—Tanjug

Drought-hit South Africa partners with Iran to build desalination plants

CAPE TOWN — South Africa has partnered with Iran to develop desalination plants along all coastal communities to boost water supplies, the water minister said on Wednesday, as the worst drought in living memory dries dams.

"Now with the partnership that we have entered into through the binational commission between South Africa and Iran we want to go full steam," Nomvula Mokonyane told reporters.—Reuters

Impossible for Turkey to accept changes in counter terrorism law — EU Minister

ISTANBUL — It is impossible for Turkey to accept changes to its counter-terror law, which already meets European Union standards, EU Affairs Minister Volkan Bozkir said on Wednesday.

Speaking to broadcaster NTV, Bozkir also said that making changes to the counter-terror law is not an element of the planned visa-exemption deal with Europe.

The EU last week asked member states to grant visa-free travel to Turks in return for Ankara stopping migrants reaching Europe, but said Turkey still had to change some legislation, including bringing its terrorism laws in line with EU standards.—Reuters

London police say abandoned item on bus was non-suspicious

LONDON — London's Metropolitan Police said on Wednesday that officers had established that a suitcase abandoned on a bus was non-suspicious.

Earlier, the police force had issued a statement saying that specialist officers were dealing with an unattended item found on board a bus in Hackney, northeast London, and cordons had been put in place while the item was assessed.

Police were called at 08:39 am (0739 GMT) to deal with the item spotted on a number 271 bus on Holloway Road.

The British authorities consider the security threat level to be "severe", meaning that an attack is "highly likely".

In July 2005, suicide bombings on London's transport system, including one on a bus, killed 52 civilians.—Reuters

Car bomb in Baghdad's Sadr City kills 64 — police, medics

BAGHDAD — A car bomb claimed by Islamic State in a Shi'ite Muslim district of Baghdad killed at least 50 people and wounded more than 80 others on Wednesday, Iraqi police and hospital sources said.

The SUV packed with explosives went off near a beauty salon in a bustling market at rush hour in Sadr City. Most of the victims were women and many of the wounded are in critical condition, the sources said. Amaq news agency, which supports Islamic State, said a suicide bomber had targeted Shi'ite militia fighters.

The ultra-hardline Sunni jihadist group, which considers Shi'ites apostates, claimed a twin

suicide bombing in Sadr City in February that killed 70 people.

Security has gradually improved in Baghdad, which was the target of daily bombings a decade ago, but violence directed against both the security forces and civilians is still frequent and large blasts sometimes set off reprisal attacks.

The fight against Islamic State has exacerbated a long-running sectarian conflict in Iraq, mostly between the Shi'ite majority and the Sunni minority.

Sectarian violence also threatens to undermine US-backed efforts to dislodge the militant group from vast areas of the north and west of Iraq that they seized in 2014.—Reuters



People gather at the scene of a car bomb attack in Baghdad's mainly Shi'ite district of Sadr City, Iraq, on 11 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Amid domestic 'apology' concern, Obama fixes historic Hiroshima trip

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama has decided to make a historic trip to Hiroshima, building on last month's visit by Secretary of State John Kerry, while bracing for a possible backlash from Americans critical of the plan.

"There are a lot of people with a lot of opinions on this trip," White House spokesman Josh Earnest told reporters following the announcement of the unprecedented trip by a sitting US president to the Japanese city devastated by an American atomic bomb 71 years ago.

Earnest's comment reflected the difficulties Obama's staff faced before arriving at the politically sensitive decision.

Though opposition has not been raised yet, Earnest suggested that the White House had expected World War II veterans and Obama's opponents to accuse the president of intending to apologise to Japan for dropping the bomb they say prevented unnecessary deaths of American service members.

Earnest said that if people view Obama's trip to Hiroshima as tantamount to an apology, "they will be

interpreting it wrongly."

The American Legion, a major group of war veterans, urged Obama to make sure he does not apologise in the western Japanese city, saying in a statement that the group is "heartened" to hear the remark by Earnest.

A senior Japanese government official, who asked not to be named, said he does not think an apology from Obama when he visits the city on the occasion of a Group of Seven summit in central Japan in late May "will be a priority for many people in Japan."

Many atomic-bomb survivors, their supporters and relatives are urging Obama to declare on his visit an unwavering US commitment to realising a world free of nuclear weapons.

Kerry last month became the first US Cabinet member to go to Hiroshima and laid a wreath at a monument of the Peace Memorial Park near ground zero.

Japanese people favorably received Kerry, who said he was overwhelmed by the "gut-wrenching" exhibits at the Peace Memorial Museum and would persuade Obama to visit the city.

None of Obama's prede-

cessors visited Hiroshima or Nagasaki, the other Japanese city attacked by a US atomic bomb, while he was in office.

A high-profile supporter of Donald Trump, the presumptive presidential nominee of the Republican Party, commended the 69-year-old businessman in a gathering in Indiana last month for having "guts" to drop an atomic bomb if necessary, as wartime President Harry Truman did.

Trump smiled when former basketball coach Bobby Knight, standing beside the presidential hopeful, said Truman's decision saved "millions of American lives."

"Obama is going to get a tremendous backlash if he goes," said Peter Kuznick, an expert on the modern American history who has worked on raising the public awareness of the US atomic bombings at the end of World War II.

Kuznick, professor at American University in Washington, said even if Obama makes no apology, simply going to an atomic-bombed city may be taken by some in the United States as tantamount to saying sorry.

The American public's strong sentiment about using nuclear weapons at the end of the war was on display in 1995 when a Smithsonian plan to hold an exhibition of the atomic bomb attacks was effectively called off.

War veterans and some lawmakers opposed the plan as the exhibition was going to put on display materials showing the ordeal of victims.

As 21 years have passed since the cancelation, major US public polls indicate a perceptible change in how the Americans view the atomic bomb attacks as well as their country's nuclear policy overall.

A Pew Research Centre survey in 2015 indicated that while 70 per cent of respondents aged 65 or older believed the US atomic bombings on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were justifiable, the comparable percentage among those aged 18 and 29 was much lower at 47 per cent.

"In the long run, history is going to view Obama positively" for visiting Hiroshima, Kuznick said.—Kyodo News

Children dying among detained 'Boko Haram suspects' in Nigeria

DAKAR — Babies and children are among more than 100 people to have died in detention this year in a military barracks in northeast Nigeria where suspected Boko Haram members are being held, often without any evidence, Amnesty International said on Wednesday.

Around 1,200 people, one in 10 of whom are children, are being detained at Giwa barracks in the city of Maiduguri, where they are kept in dirty, overcrowded cells without enough food or water and denied access to legal aid or a trial, Amnesty said.

Some 150 people, including seven young children and four babies, have died this year in Giwa barracks, many from disease, hunger, dehydration, and gunshots wounds, according to Amnesty.

Nigerian government officials were not immediately available for comment. Former detainees told Amnesty that inmates received half a litre of water each day, lacked access to washing facilities, and slept on the floor in cells that were rarely cleaned.

"People are detained, often with their children, in appalling conditions which do not meet basic human rights, or keep them alive," Amnesty's Nigeria researcher Daniel Eyre said. A regional offensive last year drove Boko Haram from much of the territory it held in northern Nigeria, undermining its seven-year campaign to carve out an Islamist caliphate. Young men suspected of fighting for the militants are being rounded up in mass arrests — often without any evidence against them — by the military as they return to their homes in towns and villages previously held by Boko Haram, Amnesty said.—Reuters

British police seize \$22m in suspected Russian gang's scam

LONDON — British police seized cheques for \$22 million related to a suspected Russian organised crime scam that used the London futures market to launder cash through two Russian companies, a Swiss firm and a British Virgin Islands investment group.

After a four-month inves-

tigation by police and exchanges operator Intercontinental Exchange Inc (ICE) into suspicious trading on the futures market, City of London Police said on Wednesday they had seized four cheques six weeks after the arrest of a Russian broker on suspicion of money laundering.

"Our investigation points towards a suspected Russian organised crime group using London's futures market to launder millions of dollars worth of criminal revenue," Detective Inspector Craig Mullish from the City of London Police's Money Laundering Unit said.

The Russian broker was ar-

rested in London on 23 March 2015 on suspicion of fraud and has been released on bail until July, the police said in a statement on their website.

No further details were immediately available.

ICE in London was not immediately available for comment.—Reuters

Brazil Senate set to vote on Rousseff impeachment

BRASILIA — Brazil's Senate will vote on Wednesday on whether to put President Dilma Rousseff on trial for breaking budget rules, amid expectations she will become the country's first leader in more than two decades to be removed from office.

If her opponents garner a simple majority of the 81 senators, Rousseff will be suspended for up to six months during the trial and Vice President Michel Temer will take power.

With well over half of senators telling newspapers they will vote to try Rousseff, Brazil's first female leader is expected to leave the Planalto presidential palace on Thursday, following 13 years of leftist Workers Party rule in Latin America's largest economy.

The political crisis has hit at a time when Brazil had planned to be shining on the world stage, as it prepares to host the Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro in August.

Senators are due to start discussion of the motion at 9 am (1200 GMT) after each member of the upper house gets the chance to speak. The final vote is expected to take



Brazil's President Dilma Rousseff (C) greets supporters during the opening ceremony of the National Policy Conference for Women in Brasilia, Brazil, on 10 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

place around 8 pm (2300 GMT).

Rousseff, who has said her impeachment is illegal and branded it a 'coup,' has vowed to fight the process until the last minute. Her government appealed to the

Supreme Court on Tuesday.

"I will not resign, that never crossed my mind," Rousseff said in a speech on Tuesday, to cheers from supporters.

Brazil is struggling with its worst recession since the

1930s and the country's biggest-ever corruption scandal — a long-running probe into a vast kickback scheme at state-run oil company Petrobras.

The economic crisis and the Petrobras investigation

have paralyzed Rousseff's second-term administration.

There are worries the tense political situation may spark protests that could turn violent. On Wednesday, anti-impeachment protesters blocked roads with burning

tires around Sao Paulo, the capital, Brasilia, and other cities, snarling morning traffic and prompting clashes with police. The Workers Party and labour unions have called for a national strike.

The vote will cap a chaotic week that started with the newly installed speaker of the lower house, Eduardo Maranhao, saying he had annulled the full chamber's 17 April vote to impeach Rousseff. He argued the vote contained procedural flaws.

Senate leader Renan Calheiros promptly rejected his decision and said the upper house would press forward with impeachment proceedings.

Maranhao withdrew his decision on Tuesday, following complaints it was illegal. That cleared the way for the Senate vote.

If the case goes to a trial in the Senate, presided over by the head of the Supreme Court, Rousseff's opponents are confident they can muster the two-thirds of the 81 senators, or 54, needed to unseat the unpopular president. Temer would then fulfill the remainder of her mandate until elections in 2018.—Reuters

New Zealand warns hikers away from 'Lord of the Rings' volcano

WELLINGTON — New Zealand has warned hikers and climbers to steer clear of a volcano in a national park whose jagged volcanic rock formations and eerie barren landscapes featured in "The Lord of The Rings" movies.

Quake and volcano monitoring service GNS Science raised the alert for Mount Ruapehu, in the North Island's Tongariro National Park, which last erupted in 2007.

"There are more signs

of life at the volcano," said Volcanologist Brad Scott.

The Department of Conservation warned trekkers to stay out of the Summit Hazard Zone, within two km of the centre of Crater Lake.

"Recent visits to the volcano have confirmed an increase in the output of volcanic gas," GNS Science said. The temperature of the lake has risen from 25 degrees Celsius (77 degrees Fahrenheit) to 46 de-

grees Celsius (115 F) since mid-April. The volcanic alert level has been lifted to "heightened unrest" from "moderate".

Each year, thousands of people trek the so-called Tongariro Crossing, a 20-km (12-mile) alpine crossing that passes all three volcanoes in the area.

The landscape formed the backdrop for Mordor's hissing wasteland in Peter Jackson's "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy.—Reuters



A tourist takes pictures of Mount Ruapehu as it erupts on June 18, 1996 in Tongariro National Park on the central North Island of New Zealand. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DRAGO J VOY NO (610368)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DRAGO J VOY NO (610368) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S BENLINE AGENCIES PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Britain's queen caught on camera calling Chinese officials 'very rude'

LONDON — Queen Elizabeth has been caught on camera saying Chinese officials were “very rude” to the British ambassador during a state visit to Britain by President Xi Jinping last year.

She made the comments at a garden party at Buckingham Palace on Tuesday, the same day that Britain's prime minister, David Cameron, was filmed making undiplomatic remarks about Nigeria and Afghanistan being corrupt countries.

His comments were especially awkward as he is hosting both countries' leaders at an anti-corruption conference in London on Thursday, while the queen's comments are not helpful to the British government's determined efforts to court Beijing to boost trade ties with China.

Under her constitutional role, the 90-year-old monarch never makes any politically or diplomatically

sensitive comments in public, and it is rare for the content of her private conversations to be revealed.

In footage broadcast by the BBC, the queen is seen meeting senior police officer Lucy D'Orsi, who is introduced by an official as having been in charge of security during Xi's visit in October last year.

“Oh, bad luck,” the queen says in response.

D'Orsi then describes her dealings with Chinese officials as “quite a testing time” and recounts that at one point they had walked out of a meeting and told her “the trip was off”.

The queen says: “They were very rude to the ambassador.”

The BBC reported that in China, items about the queen's remarks were censored from its news bulletins.

The Chinese authorities often censor items they object to from foreign news



Britain's Queen Elizabeth smiles during a reception with parliamentarians to mark the Queen's 90th birthday at Buckingham Palace in London, Britain on 10 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

bulletins, which can only be seen by very few people in China as foreign TV channels are only allowed in high-end hotels and a

tiny number of select apartment buildings.

A spokeswoman for the queen said: “We do not comment on the queen's

private conversations. However, the Chinese state visit was extremely successful and all parties worked closely to ensure it

proceeded smoothly.”

Xi's visit was full of pomp and ceremony, with Cameron and his finance minister George Osborne keen to impress the Chinese leader and present Britain as China's firmest friend in Europe.

The queen has been careful to keep her views to herself during her 64-year reign, but several other members of Britain's royal family have made undiplomatic comments about China in the past.

The queen's husband, Prince Philip, warned some British students in China in the 1980s that they would get “slitty eyes” if they stayed there too long.

Her eldest son, heir-to-the-throne Prince Charles, has skipped two state banquets for Chinese guests in Britain, and described some Chinese officials in a journal that was leaked to the media as “appalling old waxworks”.—Reuters

Japan enacts law to expand gov't role in nuclear fuel reprocessing

TOKYO — A law to strengthen state involvement in nuclear fuel reprocessing cleared Japan's parliament on Wednesday, as the government seeks to retain a recycling policy that has been mired in repeated technical troubles.

Under the new operational framework set by the law, a new body will be set up to supervise fuel reprocessing. Japan Nuclear Fuel Ltd., whose main shareholders are power companies, has played a key role in the fuel recycling policy until now.

The new entity will now consign reprocessing operations to Japan Nuclear Fuel while mandating nuclear plant operators to shoulder the cost of reprocessing spent fuel in the form of financial contributions to the entity.

Until now, power companies voluntarily set aside reserves to be used for reprocessing.

Japan has struggled to recycle nuclear fuel, as the launch of Japan Nuclear Fuel's reprocessing plant in Rokkasho, Aomori Prefecture, has been repeatedly postponed due to technical

troubles.

Technical problems have also prevented the resumption of operations at Monju prototype fast-breeder nuclear reactor in central Japan, which is designed to burn reprocessed fuel and produce more plutonium than they consume.

Japan's nuclear regulator, the Nuclear Regulation Authority, has urged the government to pick a new operator for Monju, which is currently under the management of the Japan Atomic Energy Agency.—Kyodo News

Research reactors pass safety screenings under new rules

TOKYO — Two research reactors at Japanese universities passed stricter safety screenings Wednesday by the nuclear regulator introduced after the 2011 Fukushima disaster.

The screening has affected research and educational programmes at Kyoto University and Kindai University, the operators of the two facilities. They plan to resume the reactors' operations later this year.

Both commercial and research reactors need to

gain approval to operate under the new safety regulations.

The two reactors halted their operations for a regular checkup in 2014. The Nuclear Regulation Authority began screenings for the reactors that year.

Shunichi Tanaka, the head of the NRA, said at a regular meeting Wednesday that the safety body should consider more effective ways to carry out screenings, given the fact

that it took about a year and a half for the two research units to obtain safety clearance.

They have much smaller output capacity compared to a commercial reactor, with Kyoto University's unit having a capacity of 100 watts and Kindai's reactor 1 watt.

Kyoto University is also seeking to restart another research reactor, also halted in 2014, with an output capacity of 5 megawatts.—Kyodo News

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၁။ သယံဇာတနှင့်သဘာဝပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဝန်ကြီးဌာန၊ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဦးစီးဌာနမှ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံရှိ ဘေးအန္တရာယ်ရှိ စွန့်ပစ်ပစ္စည်း စီမံအုပ်ချုပ်မှုဆိုင်ရာ စီမံကိန်း ဆောင်ရွက်ရန်အတွက် Project Coordinator (၁) ဦးနှင့် Project Assistant (၁) ဦးကို နော်ဝေပတ်ဝန်းကျင်အေဂျင်စီ (NEA) ၏ ငွေကြေး အကူအညီဖြင့်ခေါ်ယူ ခန့်ထားရန် စီစဉ်ဆောင်ရွက်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။

၂။ အဆိုပါစီမံကိန်းကာလမှာ (၃)နှစ် ဖြစ်ပြီး စီမံကိန်းလုပ်ငန်းများကို စီမံခန့်ခွဲဆောင်ရွက်နိုင်ရန်အတွက် ပူးတွဲပါ အရည်အချင်းနှင့်ပြည့်မီသူ Project Coordinator (၁) ဦးနှင့် Project Assistant (၁) ဦးလစ်လပ်လျက်ရှိပါသည်။ သတ်မှတ်အရည်အချင်းနှင့်ပြည့်မီသည့် စိတ်ပါဝင်စားသူများသည် ကိုယ်ရေးရာဇဝင်၊ အသေးစိတ်အချက်အလက်များနှင့်အတူ ၂၀၁၆ ခုနှစ်၊ မေလ ၃၁ ရက်နေ့ နောက်ဆုံးထား၍ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ ရုံးအမှတ် (၅၃)၊ နေပြည်တော်သို့ ပေးပို့လျှောက်ထားနိုင်ပါသည်။

(u) owrw t & n t c i ; (Project Coordinator)

- (၁) ဓာတုအင်ဂျင်နီယာ၊ ကုန်ထုတ်ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ဓာတုဗေဒ၊ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်နှင့်ဆိုင်သော ဘာသာရပ်တစ်ခုခုတွင် မဟာသိပ္ပံဘွဲ့ ရရှိသူဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (၂) သက်ဆိုင်ရာနယ်ပယ်၌ လုပ်သက်အနည်းဆုံး (၃) နှစ် ရှိရမည်ဖြစ်ပြီး စီမံကိန်း အကောင်အထည်ဖော်မှုဆိုင်ရာ လုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံရှိပါက ပိုမိုကောင်းမွန်ပါသည်။
- (၃) အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာနှင့် မြန်မာဘာသာကျွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။
- (၄) ကွန်ပျူတာ ကျွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။ (Microsoft Office)
- (၅) ဆက်ဆံရေးပြေပြစ်ကောင်းမွန်ရမည်။
- (၆) အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာဖြင့်ရေးသားနိုင်သူ၊ ပြောဆိုဆက်သွယ်နိုင်သူဖြစ်ရပါမည်။
- (၇) အစိုးရဝန်ထမ်း မဟုတ်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးကောင်းမွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (၉) လိုအပ်ပါက ပြည်တွင်းခရီးသွားလာနိုင်သူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။

(c) ourwt & n t c i ; (Project Assistant)

- (၁) စာရင်းနှင့် ဘဏ္ဍာရေးဆိုင်ရာ ဒီပလိုမာ (သို့) တက္ကသိုလ်မှ ဘွဲ့ရရှိရမည်။
- (၂) သက်ဆိုင်ရာနယ်ပယ်၌ လုပ်သက်အနည်းဆုံး (၂) နှစ် ရှိရမည်ဖြစ်ပြီး စီမံကိန်း အကောင်အထည်ဖော်မှုဆိုင်ရာ လုပ်ငန်းအတွေ့အကြုံရှိပါက ပိုမိုကောင်းမွန်ပါသည်။
- (၃) အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာနှင့် မြန်မာဘာသာ ကျွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။
- (၄) ကွန်ပျူတာ ကျွမ်းကျင်ရမည်။ (Microsoft Office)
- (၅) ဆက်ဆံရေးပြေပြစ်ကောင်းမွန်ရမည်။
- (၆) အင်္ဂလိပ်ဘာသာဖြင့်ရေးသားနိုင်သူ၊ ပြောဆိုဆက်သွယ်နိုင်သူဖြစ်ရပါမည်။
- (၇) အစိုးရဝန်ထမ်း မဟုတ်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (၈) ကျန်းမာရေးကောင်းမွန်သူဖြစ်ရမည်။
- (၉) လိုအပ်ပါက ပြည်တွင်းခရီးသွားလာနိုင်သူ ဖြစ်ရမည်။

(ဂ) တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်ရမည့်နေရာ - ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဦးစီးဌာန ရုံးအမှတ် (၅၃)၊ နေပြည်တော်

(ဃ) တာဝန်ထမ်းဆောင်ရမည့်ကာလ - (၃) နှစ်

(င) ပြည်ထောင်စုသမ္မတ မြန်မာနိုင်ငံသားဖြစ်ရမည်။

(စ) Project Coordinator နှင့် Project Assistant တို့၏တာဝန်ဝတ္တရားများကို ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ထိန်းသိမ်းရေးဦးစီးဌာန၊ ပတ်ဝန်းကျင်ညစ်ညမ်းမှု ကာကွယ်ရေးဌာန (ဖုန်း ၀၆၇ ၄၃၁၃၂၁) တွင်ဆက်သွယ်ရယူနိုင်ပါသည်။

ဆက်သွယ်ရန်လိပ်စာ - ဦးမင်းမော်၊ ညွှန်ကြားရေးမှူး
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ဖက်စ် - ၀၆၇ ၄၃၁၃၂၁
E-mail- mingmaoforester@gmail.com



PHOTO: REUTERS

Medical records search warrant carried out in Prince case

LOS ANGELES — A search warrant affidavit obtained by the *Los Angeles Times* on Tuesday revealed that a doctor who saw the late pop star Prince twice just weeks before his death and was at the musician's home when Prince's body was found had prescribed him medication.

The document said Dr. Michael Todd Schulenberg was at the star's Paisley Park Studios compound in suburban Minneapolis to drop off test results when Prince's body was found in an elevator on 21 April.

The affidavit said Schulenberg had also prescribed Prince medication, but did not

specify what those medications were or whether the prescription had been filled. The search warrant was carried out on 5 May at North Memorial Medical Centre. Health system spokeswoman Lesa Bader told the *Los Angeles Times* that Schulenberg no longer works for the system. Barb Stevenson, a spokeswoman reached by Reuters, said she could provide no information on the case.

Schulenberg, whose name was misspelled in the documents according to the *Los Angeles Times*, also could not be reached for comment on Tuesday night.

Detectives also revisited Paisley Park on Tuesday as "a component of a complete investigation," the Carver County

Sheriff's Office said in a statement on Twitter, without providing further details. Prince died one day before he was scheduled to meet another doctor who specialises in addiction treatment for a "life-saving mission," that doctor's lawyer said at a news conference last Wednesday.

California doctor Howard Kornfeld was first contacted by Prince's representatives on 20 April, one day before the singer's body was discovered at his home, attorney William Mauzy told reporters. Prescription opioid medication was found at the scene, according to a law enforcement source with knowledge of the investigation but who is not authorised to speak publicly.—Reuters

Trove of Marilyn Monroe's personal belongings to go up for auction

LOS ANGELES — A collection of personal items including handwritten notes and jewellery that belonged to film star Marilyn Monroe will go up for auction in November at Julien's Auctions.

Monroe, one of the most iconic stars of Hollywood's Golden Age of cinema, left numerous items in her will to her acting mentor, Lee Strasberg. More than 500 lots of Monroe's belongings will be at auction in Los Angeles on 19 and 20 November, and they are expected to fetch between \$2 million and \$4 million.

Julien's Auctions said the items had never been on the auction block and are being offered for sale by the estate of Strasberg, who taught stars such as James Dean, Al Pacino, Jack Nicholson and Jane Fonda. He died in 1982.

"Marilyn was a complex and beguiling figure in her lifetime, leaving generations of adoring fans to speculate, infer and debate about her life," Strasberg's wife, Anna Strasberg, said in a statement.

Many of the items are preserved exactly as they were when Monroe died of a drug overdose in 1962, aged 36.

A small clutch evening bag or minaudiere is being sold with two 10-cent coins, eight Philip Morris cigarettes and a used Revlon lipstick in the shade "Bachelor's Carnation," a vibrant red hue. It is expected to fetch between \$15,000 and \$20,000.

"That's a really neat piece



A platinum diamond Blancpain watch owned by actress Marilyn Monroe which is estimated to fetch between \$80,000 and \$120,000 is seen at an auction in Los Angeles, on 10 May 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

and it's like a time warp right back to the 1940s when Marilyn was just becoming famous," said Martin Nolan, executive director of Julien's Auctions.

Amid the items are glimpses into Monroe's life, such as a taxi receipt dated 2 February, 1960 to 20th Century Fox, the year she was starring in "Let's Make Love" for the film studio, and tax documents that detailed the actress' expenditures. A jewellery case owned by Monroe's former husband, baseball great Joe DiMaggio is expected to fetch between \$3,000 and \$5,000. The case has a brass monogram and a combination lock set to 555, reflecting DiMaggio's No.5 player number for the New York Yankees.—Reuters

Woody Allen tops bill at star-studded Cannes festival

CANNES (France) — The 69th Cannes Film Festival has what it takes to be a vintage edition, with Woody Allen leading a pack of celebrated filmmakers presenting their movies to the French Riviera crowds.

The 11-22 May cinema extravaganza opens on Wednesday with Allen's "Cafe Society", featuring Jesse Eisenberg and Kristen Stewart in a story of a young man who arrives in Hollywood during the 1930s hoping to work in the film industry.

"When we will be old we will tell our children you know I was living at a time when Woody Allen's films were coming out, and I think he's one of the greatest auteurs," festival director Thierry Fremaux told Reuters.

Although he has never been in competition, Allen is a Cannes favourite. This year will be the third time he has opened the festival, and several other familiar faces will be presenting their films in the main competition.

"This year the competition is mostly Cannes favourites, Cannes darlings," Variety critic Jay Weissberg told Reuters.

"Fremaux is someone who likes to reward his friends, he's somebody who likes to have the people he knows come back year after year after year."

The Dardenne brothers, who present "The Unknown Girl", have won the festival's highest distinction, the Palme d'Or, twice.

Ken Loach, in Cannes



Jury members actress Kirsten Dunst (L), actress Valeria Golino (C) and actress and singer Vanessa Paradis stand on the terrace at the Grand Hyatt Cannes Hotel Martinez on the eve of the opening of the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on 10 May 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

with "I, Daniel Blake" has won it once, while Bruno Dumont; Jim Jarmusch, who is showing two films including a documentary on Iggy Pop; Park Chan-wook; and Pedro Almodovar have all previously scooped other honours.

Jarmusch's films are two of five distributed by Amazon as the video streaming giant makes its first appearance in Cannes.

While the competition films bring much of the prestige, some of the red carpet glitz will surround some of the out of competition screenings, such as Steven Spielberg's "The BFG", based on the novel by Roald Dahl.

Oscar-winner Julia Roberts makes her Cannes debut in Jodie

Foster's out-of competition film "Money Monster", alongside George Clooney.

"Twilight" star Stewart has been labeled queen of the festival by organisers as she features in "Cafe Society" as well as Olivier Assayas's "Personal Shopper", which is vying for the Palme d'Or crown.

Despite the glamor, security will be intense as France is still facing a high risk of attack.

Private security officers will control the Palais des Festivals entry points while "hundreds" of police officers will be deployed as France is still under a state of emergency after last year's Paris attacks killed 130 people.—Reuters

Climbers near Everest summit for first time in three years

KATHMANDU — Climbers on Mount Everest are on the brink of the first attempts in three years to make the final ascent to the world's tallest peak, after fatal avalanches cut short the 2014 and 2015 campaigns.

Teams at forward camps are looking for a weather "window" to open in the next few days, clearing the way to the 8,850 metre (29,035 foot summit) along the Southeast Ridge first climbed by New Zealand's Sir Edmund Hillary and Sherpa Tenzing Norgay in 1953. The southern route, on the Nepali side of the mountain, has suffered tragedy over the past two years, with 16 sherpa guides killed by an avalanche in the treacherous Khumbu Icefall in 2014.

Last year, an earthquake that killed 9,000 people across Nepal sent a massive snowslide crashing into Base Camp, killing at least 18 climbers and guides and putting an end to that year's campaign.

At least 289 climbers and their guides are in different high camps waiting

for a weather window and jostling to become the first to scale the peak. Nearly 700 people submitted in 2013.

Tourism Department official Gyanendra Shrestha said climbers had fixed ropes up to the South Col, the final camp, at about 8,000 metres (26,246 feet), and were stocking it with supplies. "Climbers have begun to move from the base camp to higher camps for the summit," Shrestha told Reuters from Base Camp.

Ang Tshering Sherpa, chief of the Nepal Mountaineering Association, who is in touch with climbers at Base Camp, said in Kathmandu that, weather permitting, the route from the South Col to the summit would be fixed on Wednesday. "Climbers will then start making summit attempts from Thursday," Sherpa told Reuters.

Veteran mountaineer and blogger Alan Arnette, tracking the campaign, said in a post eight teams had slept at Camp 3 — at 7,162 metres (23,497 feet).

Unpredictable weather



Sherpas spend time near their tents on Mount Everest in April 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

remains a challenge though this year's campaign has been free of incident.

Climbers from around the world spend tens of thousands of dollars to try to climb Everest every

year though none reached the summit in last year's spring campaign.

Last September, Japan's Nobukazu Kuriki, 33, had to call off his solo attempt when he was beat-

en back by wind and snow at 8,150 metres (26,738 feet).

Wang Jing, a 40-year-old Chinese woman, was the only person to climb Everest in 2014 but her

ascent sparked controversy amid reports she took a helicopter over the Khumbu Icefall, in what many Everest climbers saw as a violation of their code. —Reuters

Rodin sculpture sets auction record at spotty Sotheby's sale

NEW YORK — A Rodin sculpture set a new artist's auction record at Sotheby's on Monday when it sold for \$20.4 million, but the strong price was likely to provide little reassurance to an art market that many fear is softening after years of spiking prices.

Sotheby's sale of Impressionist and modern art took in a total of \$144.4 million, missing the low pre-sale estimate of about \$165 million for 62 lots offered. One-third of the

works went unsold. Despite some high points that drew spirited bidding, the sale was marked by its relatively high unsold rate, and somewhat tepid prices for works that did find buyers.

Rodin's marble sculpture, "L'Eternal Printemps," soared far beyond its estimated price of \$8 million to \$12 million, and broke the Rodin auction record of just under \$20 million. Drawing intense, global competition, Sotheby's pointed to the work as emblematic of the

kind of fresh-to-market, quality works that auction houses must now offer to elicit strong prices and spirited bidding. Executives employed words such as discerning, measured and selective to characterise both the night's results and the present market itself.

"It's emblematic of the marketplace we're in right now," said Helena Newman, European chairman of Impressionist and modern art, adding "It's nuanced market." —Reuters



News Channel in Brief

(12- 5-2016, Thursday)

6:00 am

• Paritta By Hilly Region Missionary Sayadaw

7:35 am

• Dance of National Races

8:35 am

• Documentary
• Beautiful ASEAN

10:35 am

• MRTV Migrant

Workers Programme

11:15 am

• Graphic Info

12:50 pm

• TV Drama Series

1:40 pm

• TV Drama Series

2:30 pm

• Real Story Real Movies

3:35 pm

• Weekly Sport Info

4:35 pm

• Football Magazine (Shan United)

5:15 pm

• People's Talks

5:35 pm

• Current Affairs

6:35 pm

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

7:15 pm

• TV Drama Series

8:00 pm

• News / International News/ Weather Report

9:00 pm

• News
• Hluttaw Image
• Teleplay
• TV Drama Series
• Talk On Old Film (Part-2)

Note / Hourly News Bulletins (Local + International)



Entertainment Channel

(12- 5-2016, Thursday)

6:00 pm

• Weather Report
• Music Programme

6:20 pm

• Preparation for Ve Ve Cup Football Matches

6:30 pm

• Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:40 pm

• Cartoon Programme
• "Space Chimps" (Part - 2)

7:10 pm

• International Drama Series

7:50 pm

• International Drama Series

8:50 pm

• English Premier League (Review-II)

9:30 pm

• Life In NightArt In Life (Ep-2)

10:20 pm

• Myanmar Video

From 12-5-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm
To 13-5-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(12-5-2016 07:00am ~ 13-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Jade Pagoda: Weirawsana
07:44	Am	We'll Leave After 12 Passengers Are On Board
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Director: Thiha Kyaw Soe
08:40	Am	Paper Products... Plain but Pretty
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Tea
09:52	Am	Gardener: Rose Plantation
10:03	Am	News

10:26	Am	Hanlin, A Treasure Trove Of The Ancient Pyu City
10:50	Am	Black Gold (Part- I)

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: To my dream city (Part-1)
07:52	Pm	Now in Yangon
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
08:42	Pm	Goldsmith
08:47	Pm	Myanmar Outstanding Lady "Thin Zar Phyto"

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

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

West Ham farewell marred by attack on Man Utd bus

LONDON — West Ham United's Boleyn Ground farewell party turned sour on Tuesday when Manchester United's team bus was attacked by bottle-throwing home fans after it got stuck in traffic.

Huge crowds, many without tickets, had congregated outside the stadium for the sell-out Premier League clash, West Ham's final home game before moving to the 60,000-seat Olympic Stadium after 112 years at Upton Park.

However, the carnival atmosphere was replaced by shameful scenes as some West Ham fans spotted United's coach on Green Street outside the ground and threw missiles, including a smoke canister, at the vehicle.

Several windows on the coach were damaged during the chaos and policemen with riot shields moved in to quell the trouble.

Footage filmed by United's players on board the bus showed them cowering on the floor as they bus came under attack.

Police eventually managed to escort the United team to the entrance less than an hour before the scheduled 1845 GMT (1945 London time) kick-off and the match began at 1930 GMT.

“It wasn't nice, the coach got smashed up,” said Manchester United captain Wayne Rooney. “I'm sure you will see the images but it was disappointing.”

United manager Louis van Gaal looked visibly shaken by the incident as he walked into the stadium.

“The way we have been received is not the proper way of course,” the Dutchman said. “That makes all the influence on the players and that is a pity.”

West Ham's co-chairman David Sullivan, whose side ended an emotional night with a 3-2 victory, said United should have arrived earlier to avoid trouble.

“I think the police and officials have been kind, I would make them kick off at 7:45 if it was up to me. Manchester United know the score, they should have been here at four o'clock,” he said. London's Metropolitan Police said in a statement that one officer and a member of the public sustained minor injuries, but no arrests had been made.



Manchester United's Wayne Rooney in action with West Ham's Mark Noble during Barclays Premier League at Upton Park on 10 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

West Ham later issued a statement condemning those responsible for the disorder.

“We are aware that there were some supporters outside the Boleyn Ground who didn't act in an appropriate way when the Manchester United team bus was damaged,” it said.

“That was not acceptable

and we will work with the police to identify those responsible and ban them for life.”

The Football Association also announced that it would launch a full investigation, including an incident where objects were thrown at United goalkeeper David de Gea during the game. “The FA strongly

condemns the unsavoury incidents this evening,” it said in a statement.

West Ham have played at the 35,000-capacity Boleyn Ground since 1904 but will begin next season in the 700 million pounds Olympic Stadium after agreeing a 99-year lease. — Reuters

La Liga chief Tebas renews feud with acting UEFA boss

BARCELONA — La Liga president Javier Tebas has renewed his old feud with Angel Maria Villar, saying he hopes the Spanish football federation (RFEF) chief becomes head of UEFA because it will mean him leaving his current position.

Villar has been acting president of European football's ruling body since Michel Platini was provisionally suspended in October. He is now expected to run for election as UEFA's permanent leader after Platini resigned when his ban was upheld by the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Monday.

Tebas has long been a critic of Villar, the RFEF's president since 1988, for his leadership of the organisation.

Their relationship was further strained last year when Villar supported a planned strike by players against a new law regulating the collective bargaining for the sale of television rights. Tebas lobbied for the new ruling.

“The president of the federation will have my total support to be president of UEFA. It could be very good if Angel Maria Villar would dedicate



UEFA Vice-President Angel Maria Villar Llona of Spain (L) gives the trophy to Giuliano Pisapia Mayor of Milano (C) and Carlo Tavecchio Chairman of the Italian Football Association after the draw of Champions League semi finals in Nyon, Switzerland, on 15 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

himself exclusively to Europe and someone else lead Spanish football,” Tebas told reporters on Tuesday.

“Leading Spanish football and UEFA are very different things and Spanish football needs clear reform. If the current president and his companions leave

then Spanish football will get the important change it needs to come out of the crisis engulfing it.”

The pair also clashed in 2014 over how to solve the problem of violence in Spanish football, Tebas criticising Villar's decision to not attend a crisis meeting after a fan was killed

before a game between Deportivo La Coruna and Atletico Madrid. La Liga's president denied, however, that their relationship affected the workings of the two organisations, saying his gripes were confined to Villar and his vice-president Juan Padron. —Reuters

Poland's Zawadka gets four-year doping ban

SYDNEY — Polish swimmer Michal Zawadka has been slapped with a four-year ban for flunking a dope test in Sydney last September, the Australian Sports Anti-Doping Authority (ASADA) said on Wednesday. Zawadka, whose sample tested positive for anabolic steroid clenbuterol and stimulant methylhexanamine during the New South Wales Short Course Championships, was banned by Swimming Australia which oversaw the tests. “Zawadka waived his right to a hearing and as a result, accepted the mandatory four year sanction,” the ASADA said, adding that the suspension will be backdated to 11 November 2015.

“This means he is ineligible to participate, as an athlete or support person, in any sports that have adopted a World Anti-Doping Agency compliant anti-doping policy until 12 November 2019.”

Zawadka was the Australian champion in the 50 metres short course breaststroke when he represented KRB Aquatics in the 2014 Australian Short Course Championships in Adelaide. —Reuters