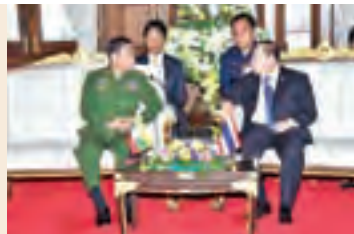


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LIMITED INCLUSION

NCA to guide 21st Century Panglong Conference

THE 21st Century Panglong conference will be convened based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi in her capacity as chairperson of the Union-level Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC), adding that the UPDJC will thus remain active during the peace process. She spoke at a UPDJC meeting yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The State Counsellor also said the UPDJC will be reformed, and discussions on the details of the reforms will continue during Saturday's meeting.

"The organisational structure of the UPDJC will have to be changed, and this will be discussed today and tomorrow. In this function, the changes are required to suit political changes and to meet future needs. Changes are believed to contribute to our peace process," she said.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that although she has not acted as a representative of the National League for Democracy during UPDJC meetings, she has held discussions with stakeholders in the peace process in her capacity as NLD chairperson.

"Our policies and attitudes will remain the same because we will not deviate from the NLD's policies and principles in the reformation of the organisational structure of the UPDJC or in changing certain terms and conditions as permitted by the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA)," she said.

"The main objective of this meeting is for the peace process to go on smoothly, to reform the



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi chairs Union-level Peace Dialogue Joint Committee (UPDJC) meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Peace Centre (MPC), and also to prepare for the Union Peace Conference. There are certain people who are asking if the Union Peace Conference and the 21st Century Panglong Conference are one and the same or two different fora. My answer is that they are one and the same. De-

spite using two different names, they are the same event, but both names are used as they both appeal to the taste of the people," the State Counsellor explained.

She continued to say the NLD will adhere to the same policies and principles concerning peace, and if changes are made,

they will be made as and where appropriate to be in accordance with existing principles and policies.

The attendees of the UPDJC meeting include members of ethnic minority groups, political organisations, civil society organisations and government offices,

she added.

"The people from government are new, but there are some old ones, depending upon their positions. Although the ministers are new, they represent the same ministries as before," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

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Dagon Fresh Lemon Sparkling, winner of 2016 Grand Gold in World Quality Control
Competitions held in Brussels, Belgium.

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Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than presiding over 31st day session. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw enters 31st-day session with Q&A session

THE Kyauktaw-MraukU railroad section will not be implemented because no agreement was reached between local people and the ministry, said Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung during the 31st-day session of Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

"The railroad section will only be built following the budget allocation for the 2017-2018 fiscal year if local people agree to do it," the Union minister added.

He also said the YoeTay-oke-Kyauktaw road section will be repaired at an estimated cost of K548 million, and the repair works are expected to begin during the dry season of this fiscal year after seeking funds from

the ministry's surplus fund.

In his response to a question, the Union minister said there is no plan to issue licences to vehicles imported illegally.

The Union minister pledged that the construction of a new jetty in Yathedaung Township, Rakhine State, would be added to the ministry's list of projects to be implemented in the next fiscal year.

Also that day, Upper House Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than announced that the Amyotha Hluttaw has received bills to revoke the People's Council Law and the State Council Law from Pyithu Hluttaw with no amendments.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw continues for 34th day with Q&A session

THE La Gun Pyin water supply project, aimed at supplying water to Yangon Region's South Dagon Township, is set to begin from July 2021, said Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Dr Tun Win yesterday.

The deputy minister told the Pyithu Hluttaw during its 34th day session that the tender process is underway for the water supply project being implemented by the Yangon City Development Committee with technical assistance and experts from the Japan International Cooperation Agency.

Construction of the project that will be implemented under Japanese ODA loan and is set to kick off in 2017 after its tender process, which began in January, is concluded. The project is expected to be completed by 2021, he added.

Regarding more loans to cotton growers, the deputy minister replied that there is no immediate plan to increase loans to farmers cultivating other crops as the government has prioritised loan availability to rice farmers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union SWRR Minister meets WB's Country Manager

UNION Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye received the World Bank's Country Manager Abdoulaye Seck at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting the two representatives discussed capacity building and training for the ministry's staff, the release of

post-disaster needs assessment reports on floods and landslides, country partnership framework, future cooperation between Myanmar and the World Bank, implementation of risk response strategies and ways and means to effectively attend to the needs of the ministry.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Mol discusses broadcasting media development with broadcasters

INFORMATION Union Minister Dr Pe Myint attended a seminar in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to seek ways to amend the Broadcasting Media Law.

In his speech, Dr Pe Myint said that the meeting was aimed at opening discussion on ways that could ensure fair play for existing and potential broadcasters alike.

According to the union minister, the law was passed in last August and is designed to enable

broadcasters to work in harmony.

The discussions attracted active participation from parliamentary representatives, representatives from the National League for Democracy and officials from foreign and local broadcasting media.

The meeting reached an agreement on the comprehensive inclusion of representatives from the ministry, bill committees of the Amyotha Hluttaw and the Pyithu Hluttaw and a team of media

experts.

A broadcast council will be established to handle necessary amendments to the Broadcasting Media Law and formulate its rules and regulations.

The meeting also agreed to allow potential broadcasters to use the infrastructure of Myanmar Radio and Television even during the amendment process, as part of giving incentive to new broadcasters.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint speaking at a seminar to amend the Broadcasting Media Law. PHOTO: MNA

Appointment of Director-General of Relief and Resettlement Department

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Permanent Secretary/Deputy Director-General Dr Ko Ko Naing of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Re-

settlement as the Director-General of Relief and Resettlement Department under the same ministry on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ministry borrows K1.7m from Central Bank for agriculture loans

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has borrowed K1.7million from the Central Bank of Myanmar to disburse loans to farmers this year, said Deputy Minister Dr Tun Win yesterday.

According to the deputy minister, K1.8 million is total amount needed for agriculture loans.

The deputy minister told the Pyithu Hluttaw that priority for loans will be given to rice farmers, and loans to other growers will in-

crease following the development of the country's export sector. Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Win Win of Minbu Constituency said farmers growing other crops such as sugarcane and beans should be given the same loan amounts as rice growers.

Paddy has been planted on 16 million acres of farmland in Myanmar, and other crops are grown on more than one million acres.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Union Attorney-General meets UNSG's special adviser on Myanmar

ATTORNEY-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo received Mr. Vijay Nambiar, Special Adviser to the United Nations Secretary-General on Myanmar, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two representatives held discussions on involvements of the Union Attorney-General's Office in the ongoing peace process, its efforts to ensure the rule of law and human rights protection in Myanmar and further cooperation with UN agencies.—*Myanmar News Agency*

No plan to issue licenses to illegally imported vehicles: Union Minister

THERE is no plan to issue licenses to vehicles illegally imported via border towns, according to Union Minister for Transport and Communication U Thant Sin Maung.

The ministry has no plan to allow those who owned illegally

imported vehicles to get licenses for their possessions of vehicles during this fiscal year, said the Union minister at a session of Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

The Union minister told the Amyotha Hluttaw that it is required for imported vehicle

owners to submit the necessary documents to the Road Transport Administration Department.

So far 659,648 vehicles have been given licenses during the five-year period from 2011 to 2016, said sources.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice President U Myint Swe receives outgoing Russian Ambassador

VICE President U Myint Swe received Russian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Vasily B Pospelov who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar at the President Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed issues related to bilateral friendship and cooperation between the two countries.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Myint Swe receives outgoing Russian Ambassador. PHOTO: MNA

VP pushes for resolution of land grabbing issues



Vice President U Henry Van Thio delivers an address at Central Review Committee on Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands. PHOTO: MNA

AS the chairman of the Central Review Committee on Confiscated Farmlands and Other Lands, Vice President U Henry Van Thio has called for the quick resolution of farmland confiscation issues and for the speedy hand-over of abandoned farmlands to their lawful owners.

The committee held its first coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with its chairman urging officials to set up task forces to deal with the return of seized land and with the economic impact land grabbing has had on farmers.

According to the vice president, private companies and government departments were granted permission to confiscate land, including farmland,

under the pretext of urbanisation and industrialisation. Land disputes resulted from lack of cooperation among land management bodies as well as from arguments between the government, landowners and investors over ownership and planning permissions.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio pledged that his government would take speedy measures to formulate comprehensible laws and procedures to return confiscated lands to their lawful owners after forming committees at different levels.

"These committees must be staffed with ministerial officials, local parliamentarians, town elders and farmers," he said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

NCA to guide 21st Century Panglong Conference

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"The three people from the NLD are old representatives. So are the people from the Union Solidarity and Development Party (USDP). There are also old representatives from other political parties. I'd like to say there will be changes concerning them; changes are made not just because of election results but also out of principle. Currently, there are over 90 political parties. We cannot reach an agreement as to whether they are all allowed to represent their parties at the peace conference,"

she said.

"We believe that the participation of the political parties should be based on their representation in the hluttaws. What I'd like to say is that not all political parties will be represented, but parties that have at least one representative in a hluttaw will be allowed to attend the peace conference. You may say this means the other political parties are not involved in the peace conference. No, they are also involved. How? There are CSOs. The role of CSOs in the peace process can be explained like this: they have

two-pronged role. One role is they are directly involved in the peace process. The other role is a parallel role—they serve as their own forum [in which political parties may participate]. We've chosen the second way," said the State Counsellor.

"There are many CSOs in our country. If they all attend the peace conference, there will be a substantial inflation. The main objective of the conference is to be able to effectively implement the peace process. That's why we've decided to hold a CSO forum. Today, our main task is the

reorganisation of UPDJC. In this regard, I would like to have the opinions of all current members of the UPDJC. We'll also present the views of the new members. We'll exchange views to make a final decision. We can't delay things. The UPDJC will have to be reorganised promptly. Only after reorganisation will we be able to prepare for the peace conference," she said.

The reorganisation of the UPDJC and the reformulation of the resolutions will be discussed in today's meeting.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Meeting on implementation of peace, stability and development of Rakhine State held

A WORK coordination meeting on implementation of peace, stability and development of Rakhine State was held at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, attended by State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

During the meeting, matters related to community peace and tranquility in Rakhine State, development undertakings and cit-

izenship verification processes were discussed. Also present were Union Ministers for Home Affairs, Border Affairs, Information, Religious Affairs and Culture and Labour, Immigration and Population, the Attorney-General of the Union, the Rakhine State Chief Minister, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi chairs meeting on implementation of peace, stability and development of Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

Failing to grab opportunities can lose: VP U Myint Swe

FAILING to grab opportunities that come together with the country's economic development can bring about lost opportunities, skills and employability challenges, said Vice President U Myint Swe at the opening of National Skills Development Forum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address the Vice President highlighted the importance of skills development for workers and engineers at factories and plants as there has been an increase regarding local and foreign investments in the country following its transition to a market economy.

He also stressed the need to build the capacity of employees to improve productivity, urging employers to arrange skills training for their workers.

In his speech, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe emphasised the importance of taking steps toward enabling Myanmar workers to obtain national-level skills certificates to be recognised as skilled workers at the time of ASEAN Economic Community-AEC 2015 that allows regional labor mobility.

According to the Union Minister, Myanmar has an estimated working population of 32 million while its population stands at 51.4 million.

At the press conference afterwards, Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung and officials answered questions about labor affairs raised by local and foreign correspondents.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor stresses justice delivery with compassion

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the need to deliver justice based on compassion in striking a balance between democratic rights of the people and the rule of law in a meeting with high-ranking officials in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met the chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw council and chief ministers of regions and states at the meeting hall of the President's Office yesterday morning.

At the meeting, the state counsellor stressed the importance of intergovernmental coordination in the delivery of the government's services as part of implementing ease and effectiveness within the administrative mechanism. The meeting attendees also discussed the handling of the return of seized land and farmland to the rightful landowners and increased awareness of the drug trade.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Attendees of youth forum being seen. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Mandalay brings together young people from 28 townships for three-day youth forum

MANDALAY Region organised a three-day youth forum bringing together young people from 28 townships in the region at Gangaw Chan Yeiktha in TadaU Township yesterday.

The forum is aimed at developing community-based youth leadership and bringing youth into the process of democracy building in Myanmar, it was reported.

The forum's purpose is to create a strong network for the young generation with a focus on benefiting communities, said Ko Si Thu, an event organiser.

The three-day forum is set to host discussions on the role of youth in the country's nation-building endeavors and democratisation, youth policies and creating a culture of diversity among youth.

In Myanmar, young people aged 15-25 account for 17.81 per cent of the country's total population.

Myanmar organised a national youth forum comprising delegates from states and regions in Yangon's Hmawby Township in December 2012.—Aung Thant Khaing

Crime NEWS

Yaba, heroin and raw opium confiscated

LOCAL police from Hsipaw police station seized 110 yaba pills from the home of one Ma Nang Oo Shwe and 210 yaba pills from

the home of one Ma Nang Htay Lu in Nam Pon Pan village, Hsipaw township on Wednesday.

On that same day police from

Kengtung township discovered 1,024 yaba pills and raw opium weighing 16 grams in the home of one Pe Oh at Kyaik Phaung village Kengtung township.

Similarly, authorities from Lashio police station seized 1,240 yaba pills from a restaurant owned by one Ma Aye Sein alias Nang Sein U near Kho Lon Junction, Hsipaw township.

Police from Myawady police station seized 148 yaba pills from a motorcycle being driven by one Naing Lin Aung alias Kayin Lay with Nyein Chan Aung on board in front of Kyauk Lon Gyi pagoda, ward 4, Myawady town. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— Myanmar Police Force



Ma Aye Sein alias Nang Sein U. PHOTO: MPF

Man kills step daughter in Taikkyi

A MAN has been charged with murder for allegedly killing his step-daughter in Shwe Myaing Tharyar village, Taikkyi township, Yangon on Tuesday, according to police.

According to an investigation, Ma Chaw Chaw Khet, 35, ran away with her daughter af-

ter a quarrel with her husband Kyaw Thu, 29, who pursued his step-daughter and assaulted her with a sword. The victim succumbed to her injuries on the way to Yangon General Hospital. Police have taken action against Kyaw Thu. — Tun Hlaing (Myaing)

Heroin seized in Kyaukme

LOCAL police from Shan State seized heroin and related items from a house in ward 8, Kyaukme town, Shan state on 22 May, according to the police.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched a house of one Aik Pyu alias Aung Myint Hlaing and discovered a syringe with heroin weighing 0.1 gram, another syringe with heroin

weighing 0.01grams and related items. Pho La Pyae alias Maung Pyae Win, Aik Tun, Kyaw Thet Paing Htoo, Aung Myo Oo, Tun Tun Oo and Aung Kyaw Moe were found together with the host.

Police have filed charges against him under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— District IPRD



The accused being seen with heroin. PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

Four men charged for robbery in Meiktila

POLICE have filed charges against four men on suspicion of a motorcycle robbery in front of Government Technical University in Meiktila town on 15 May, according to police report yesterday.

According to an investigation, four men approached two Government Technical University students when they were talking in front of the university. The two assaulted a male student and help up a female student with a knife. The pair took motorcycles and two mobile phones from them.

On 16 May, the police arrested one Lamin alias Win San Lat, 20, from Okkyin ward. When interrogated, Lamin admitted that he had committed the crime together with one Naing Tun alias



Motorbike robbers being seen. PHOTO: TIN HLAING (MEIKTILA)

Naing Tun Win, Nga Phone alias Phone Myint Naing and Mulaki alias Moe Myint Shein.

According to connected information, the police arrested Naing Tun alias Naing Tun Win, Nga Phone alias Phone Myint

Naing from Yan Myo Aung ward on 18 May. Mulaki escaped from the scene. Local police station is holding three man for charges while searching for the suspect, Mulaki who managed to escape.— Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

LOCAL Business

Swift car sales seen in Mon State with onset of income declaration policy

SALES within Mon State's automotive market have been brisk of late with the onset of new government policy, which comes into force from 1 June that states car buyers must declare their source of income in order to purchase a vehicle, according to the market.

"Commencing from next month, cars buyers will have to show their income originates from legal sources. As the inability to prove such sources will require [vehicle] taxes to be paid, trading has currently been higher than normal, which has, in turn, caused the value of auto-mobiles to increase with the influx in sales. Buyers are purchasing now as they're aware of forthcoming appreciations in the value of these vehicles. We've even

completely run out of all Probox related accessories," said U Wun-na Soe, owner of On the Road car sales centre in Mawlamyine.

The catalyst behind the recent swift trade in auto-mobiles is a new motor vehicle policy. If making a comparison with the previous month of April, when the value of an automotive has increased by approximately K800,000, the coming June will see increases, not only in the value of CIF, but also car taxes that must be paid. The result, the price of an automotive having potentially rising in price by K2 million, long term cars traders have analysed.

"There's only buyers in the Maylamyine car market; sellers of auto-mobiles are few and far between. The only people selling

their cars are those wanting to buy a better model," said U Nang Maung, a local Mawlamyine car trader.

The currently traded car models within the Mon State car market for commercial purposes are Hijet, Probox and Suced while the best sellers among cars for personal use are Toyota Wish, Honda Fit and Belta.

The market price of most car models steer over the K10 million mark, with the exception of the Hitjet model which fetches in the region of K7.5 million, while it is known that patrons of the Mon State car market include local residents together with those from neighbouring Kayin State and Tanintharyi Region.—Myitmakha News Agency



Cars seen in Mawlamyine. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Myanmar earns \$17m from watermelon exports

MYANMAR earned around US\$17 million from exports of watermelon through border trade camps during April, the first month of the 2016-2017 fiscal year, according to official data released by the Ministry of Commerce.

Over 16,000 tonnes of watermelon were exported via border trade camps along Myanmar's

borders with China and India in April. Some Chinese buyers purchased the crop directly from the growers, said U Thein, a trader from Lashio.

According to the Ministry of Commerce, Myanmar brought in nearly \$9 million from watermelon exports through the Muse border trade camp, over \$8 million from the Loigai trade camp and

\$244,000 million from the Kan-tepike trade camp.

Moreover, about \$18 million worth watermelons were exported to neighbouring countries through Myanmar-India border trade camps, including Tamu and Ri, this fiscal year.

Watermelons grown in Bago and Mandalay are normally sold in Muse.—200

Cultivation loan of K500 billion needs to be spent effectively

A CULTIVATION loan amounting to K500 billion from the Central Bank of Myanmar needs to be spent effectively because the loan might affect inflation, said a responsible person from the bank.

The loan will have direct impact upon money in circulation, thus having the potential to cause

inflation. The inflation can be reduced if farmers who receive the loan correctly and swiftly repay the loan upon lapse of the loan term. This being so, the loans need to be spent effectively, said Daw Khin Saw Oo, the vice governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar.

The Central Bank of My-

anmar will offer loans of K500 billion with low interest rates for farmers with a view to increasing agricultural production. The Central Bank of Myanmar lends the loan to the Union governments instead of paying direct to the farmers in order to be in accordance with the rules of the bank.—200

Rubber wood furniture manufacturer seeks new export partners

A WOODEN furniture manufacturer is seeking new export partners for its products, including US and EU.

Moe Mya Chail Co manufactures household furniture from rubber wood in a joint venture with two Japanese firms—Oji Forest and Products Co and Sumitomo Forestry Co.

The MOS Lumber Products Factory was established in Mawlamyine, Mon State, by the joint venture with a total investment of US\$4.5 million.

There are over 140,000 acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar; nearly 500,000 acres are in Mon State.

"It is not easy to directly export our products to those nations because the US maintains some sanctions on Myanmar," said Daw Thuzar Chail, the managing director of Moe Mya Chail Co. The company has been distributing its products to retail shops in US and EU through Thailand for about a year.—Chan Chan

Private company registration fees to be reduced by half

PRIVATE company registration fees will be reduced by half starting from 1 June as they are higher than those of the neighbouring countries and can cause difficulties for SME businesspeople who wish to establish companies, according to the Myanmar Investment Commission.

The company registration fees are set at K1million per private company. The fees will be reduced 50 per cent as part of the 100-day plan in order to

facilitate small and middle sized enterprises, said a responsible person from the Myanmar Investment Commission.

The company registration fees for a private company are US\$300 in Singapore, over US\$200 in Cambodia, around K300,000 in Viet Nam and only K60,000 in Laos.

Previously, company registration fees for both Private and Public companies were K1million.—MPPS/Union daily

Price of pan crabs doubles on Thai market

THE value of the pan species of crab has increased twofold in the wake of increased demand for the crustacean from neighbouring Thailand, according to pan crab exporters.

Pan crabs sold for between K3,000 and K4,000 per viss (1.6 kg) in the Thai market in 2014 and 2015, while current prices have risen to between K8,000 and K10,000 for the same quantity as of April this year.

"Despite getting a higher price [for our crabs], the volume of exports have decreased since last year due to a crab shortage. Last year saw us export around 1,000 viss of crabs per month, but the start of 2016 has seen these figures drop to a monthly average of between 500 and 700 viss," said U Khin Maung Aye, chair of the Fish and Shrimp Association in Rakhine State's Kyaukphyu Township.

Pan crabs are predominately caught from the sea along the Rakhine State coastline

in Kyaukphyu and Myaybon townships.

The crabs are then initially transported from Kyaukphu wholesalers to the Yangon market before being exported to Thailand, although there are some wholesalers who ply a direct export trade from Rakhine State.

"Appreciation in the price of pan crabs has brought about an increase in fisherman by the thousands. Some fishermen use high-value nets, which are prohibited under the Fisheries Law as they inadvertently pick up other marine life not suitable for consumption," said U Nyi Nyi, a pan crab catcher.

Thailand is currently the only foreign export market for Myanmar pan crabs. The introduction of the crabs into other foreign markets such as China, Japan and EU could see prices increase even further, say pan crab exporters.—Myitmakha News Agency

Rescue helicopter plucks Maria Strydom's body from Everest

KATHMANDU — A rescue helicopter brought the body of Australian climber Maria Strydom from Mount Everest to the Nepali capital of Kathmandu on Friday, a week after she died on the world's tallest mountain.

Strydom, 34, was nearing the 8,850-metre (29,035 foot) summit when she fell ill with altitude sickness and had to turn back. She died last Saturday.

"Her body has now been brought to Kathmandu from the mountain," said Phu Tenzi Sherpa of the Seven Summit Treks that organised her expedition.

Strydom's husband, Robert Gropel, who was in her team and also suffered altitude sickness, was airlifted to Kathmandu early this week. Arnold Coster, who led the expedition, said Seven Summit Treks was as prepared as any. The Dutch mountaineer said he had personally selected climbers, and Strydom and Gropel had

three experienced sherpas between them.

Gropel said the pair began their summit bid on Friday night in clear weather, departing from Camp 4, but at the South Summit at nearly 8,000 metres, Strydom slowed, stricken by altitude sickness.

Gropel also began to suffer from a lack of oxygen, hampering his thought processes. "It took a while for me to register that I had medication, and so as soon as I realised I gave her a dexamethasone injection," Gropel told the Australian Broadcasting Corp.

With the medication and more oxygen brought up by sherpas, Strydom improved and was making her way down. She then suddenly collapsed and could not be revived.

Coster responded to criticisms the group did not sleep at Camp 3, saying that can also weaken climbers. Sherpa climbers brought Strydom's body down the



A porter carries goods at camp four at Everest, on 20 May, 2016. PHOTO : REUTERS

mountain to Camp 2 (6,400 metres) on Wednesday, from where a rescue helicopter plucked it to Kathmandu on Friday.

On Thursday, rescuers brought down the body of 36-year-old Dutchman Eric Ary Arnold, who also died

while on descent from the summit last week.

Officials said sherpa climbers were searching in the vicinity of the Balcony, on the approaches to the summit of Everest, for two other Indian climbers who went missing last weekend

and are feared dead.

About 400 climbers have reached the top of Everest this month, the first time they were on the mountain after a 7.8 magnitude earthquake set off an avalanche that killed at least 18 people at Base Camp a year

ago. Everest has been climbed by over 7,300 people since 1953 when Sherpa Tenzing Norgay and New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary made their pioneering ascent. The deaths this month take the toll to at least 282.—Reuters

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Thai queen undergoes medical tests, palace says in rare statement



Thailand's Queen Sirikit (L) sits in a vehicle as she leaves Siriraj Hospital with King Bhumibol Adulyadej (not in picture) in Bangkok, Thailand, in May 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — Thailand's 83-year-old Queen Sirikit has undergone medical tests and has "insufficient

blood in the brain", the Royal Household Bureau said in a rare statement on her health.

Her husband, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, 88, is in failing health and is also being treated for various

ailments at a Bangkok hospital. "An x-ray showed that there is still a trace of a former illness of insufficient blood in the brain as per in 2012 but the check found no new abnormalities," the palace said in the statement on the queen.

Queen Sirikit, who has seldom been seen in public in recent years, went for a health check on Wednesday, it said. The Thai royal succession has prompted worries about instability in a country that has witnessed 19 coups or attempted coups and at least 19 constitutions since a constitutional monarchy replaced an absolute one in 1932.

The palace last released a statement on Queen Sirikit's health in 2014.—Reuters

Three tourists die, one still missing after speedboat capsizes near Koh Samui of Thailand

BANGKOK — Three tourists are confirmed dead and one is still missing after a speedboat packed with foreign tourists capsized on its way back to the tourist island of Koh Samui in Southern Thailand on Thursday.

Two of the three victims are respectively from

Britain and Germany, while a newly found female corpse remains to be confirmed whether she is the former reported missing Hong Kong tourist.

Local police are still looking for a missing British man. The speedboat, packed with 32 tourists, a guide and three crewmen,

capsized during its way back to Koh Samui after it was hit by strong waves.

Most people aboard were quickly rescued by another speedboat passing by while the remaining were picked up later by an official rescue boat, *Bangkok Post* reported. The British and German female tourists

died as they were trapped inside the capsized boat, while the Asian female body was found at about 11 a.m. local time.

Some passengers and crewmen sustained minor injuries, while three women and a man remained hospitalized Friday, *Bangkok Post* reported.—Xinhua

DPRK's patrol boat returns after crossing maritime border with South Korea

SEOUL — A patrol boat and a fishing boat from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) returned to the north after crossing the maritime border with South Korea as the South Korean military fired warning shots.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said on Friday that the DPRK patrol and fishing boats violated some 640 meters south of the Northern Limit Line (NLL) in

the west sea at about 7:30am local time.

The South Korean Navy fired five warning shots with 40-mm warship guns after issuing warning broadcasts, and then the DPRK boats returned to the north at 7:38am.

It marked the second time this year since 8 February that DPRK vessels have crossed the NLL illegally.—Xinhua

Five died, 92 injured in Mumbai chemical factory blast

MUMBAI — A powerful blast in a chemical factory located near a residential area in a Mumbai suburb killed five people and left 92 injured on Thursday, police officials said.

The factory building collapsed after the fire and residents living nearby complained of breathing problems from the smell of the gas that was released, police and residents said.

"First we thought it was an earthquake, the way our building was shaking," said Sumedh Joshi, who lives about a mile away from the factory. "Our window panes

shattered due to the blast and we quickly came out of our building."

Twenty fire brigades and 15 ambulances were sent for the rescue operation, one police official said.

"We are investigating the reason behind the explosion," local police official Ashutosh Dumbare told Reuters, adding that a disaster response team was trying to rescue several people trapped underneath the debris. "The rescue work will take time, maybe until tomorrow morning. So far five people are confirmed dead and nine people are seriously injured."—Reuters

After sea spat, China pledges deeper defence ties with Indonesia

BEIJING — China wants deeper military ties with Indonesia and will strengthen cooperation on bilateral and multilateral issues, China's defence minister told his Indonesian counterpart, after a recent diplomatic spat in the South China Sea.

In March, Indonesia attempted to detain a Chinese trawler it accused of fishing in its exclusive economic zone in the South China Sea, prompting the Chinese coastguard to intervene.

China has said its vessels were operating in "traditional fishing grounds".

Indonesia is not embroiled in the rival claims with China over the South China Sea and has instead seen itself as an "honest broker" in disputes between China and the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei.

Meeting on the sidelines of a regional defence ministers meeting in Lao capital Vientiane, Chinese Defence Minister Chang Wanquan said he hoped China and Indonesia would "deepen

pragmatic exchanges and cooperation" and promote military ties, the official Xinhua news agency reported on Friday.

"Being two large developing countries in Asia, China and Indonesia have aligned development strategies and broad prospects for cooperation," the report paraphrased Chang as telling Indonesian Defence Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu.

Chang also "made clear China's consistent stance" on the South China Sea issue, Xinhua added, without elaborating.

China's increasingly assertive military posture in the South China Sea, a strategic shipping corridor that is also rich in fish and natural gas, has rattled the United States and its allies in Southeast Asia.

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

G-7 shares 'strong sense of crisis' over global economy: Abe

ISE (Japan) — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Friday the Group of Seven leaders agreed to implement monetary, fiscal and structural policies as they shared a "strong sense of crisis" over the current global economy.

"There is a risk of falling into a crisis if we respond incorrectly," Abe told a press conference following the two-day G-7 summit in Mie Prefecture in central Japan.

"We agreed to cooperatively promote monetary, fiscal and structural policies."

"Japan will mobilise every possible policy, including a fiscal response," to further promote "Abenomics" — a policy mix comprising large-scale monetary easing and flexible fiscal spending, Abe told reporters.

"Japan is determined to take the lead in contributing to global economic growth," Abe added. In assessing the current economic climate, Abe repeatedly said it is at the lowest point since the "Lehman shock" in 2008, which triggered the global financial crisis.

"Last year, the world econ-



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe speaks at a press conference in the central Japan city of Shima on 27 May, 2016, following a two-day Group of Seven summit. Abe said the G-7 leaders agreed to implement monetary, fiscal and structural policies as they shared a "strong sense of crisis" over the current global economy.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

omy marked its lowest growth since the Lehman shock and the outlook for this year has also been cut," Abe said.

Abe's reference to the Lehman shock has fueled speculation that he will postpone the planned consumption tax increase of 2 percentage points to

10 per cent next April, as he said he would go on with the planned hike unless there was a major global economic downturn on the scale of the Lehman collapse or a major earthquake.

In the press conference, Abe said he would make his decision on the matter "before the House of Councillors election" expected in July.

Abe also said the G-7 leaders from Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United States and the European Union shared concerns about China's oversupply problem. "China's response has been insufficient," Abe said, adding some of the Chinese government's steps to support production activities risked "distorting the market."

Touching on the G-7 leaders' discussion on maritime safety, Abe called for a peaceful resolution of disputes as China's construction and militarisation of outposts in the contested waters of the South China Sea is escalating tension in the region.

"We shared concerns about the current situation" in the South China Sea, Abe said.—Kyodo News

Korean Air evacuates plane at Japan's Haneda Airport after engine fire

TOKYO — Korean Air Lines on Friday evacuated 319 passengers and crew from an aircraft preparing to take off from Japan's Haneda Airport in Tokyo after its left engine caught fire.

The incident prompted authorities to temporarily close down Japan's busiest aviation hub. Three of the airport's four runways were reopened later in

the day, but by 0630 GMT, 297 flights had been cancelled with 57 planes diverted elsewhere.

Haneda Airport, located on Tokyo Bay, handles around 550 flights a day, with around 75 million passengers passing through last year, making it one of the world's busiest airports.

An NHK broadcast showed images of the Boeing 777 on a runway being sprayed with

foam by fire trucks, with four of its emergency slides deployed.

The aircraft, due to fly to Seoul in South Korea, was powered by two Pratt & Whitney PW4000 engines.

No injuries were reported, although about 30 passengers said they felt unwell, the state-owned broadcaster said.—Reuters



Smokes rises from a plane of Korean Air Lines at Haneda airport in Tokyo, Japan, on 27 May.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

Understanding trumps memorising

Kyaw Thura

IN Myanmar, students get through their exams just by memorising facts in each grade. Today's schooling has been described as a system of learning without knowing, and the exam, as a way of answering without understanding. It is time that educators and students in this country learn that passing an exam is one thing, and being qualified to complete a grade is another.

Now that the government

has vowed to reform the education system, teachers and educators alike should prepare to swim with the tide. The time is ripe for our country to exert great effort to plant the seeds of a dramatic reform in education. As the lifeblood of development, education is central to the political, social, economic and cultural health of our country.

Nowadays, with the learner-centred approach coming to the fore in the

world of education, rote learning should become a thing of the past. The onus is on teachers to discourage students from monotonous recitation. In addition, they should encourage children to exercise their brains in order to fuel imagination and insight. Memorisation itself is harmless; but putting too much emphasis on memorisation can obstruct real learning.

Undoubtedly, knowledge

matters, especially in this age of information and technology. A teacher trainer once said a head full of facts, even memorised facts, is better than an empty one. However, it should be noted that the facts we memorise are not half as useful as those we understand. In fact, education means more than learning facts out of a textbook. It means analysing those facts and gaining the ability to incorporate them into our lives.

South China Sea Territorial Dispute News analysis II

U KHIN MAUNG (A retired diplomat)

IN today's world, South China Sea territorial dispute has been the top news item for quite a time. The dispute draws the attention of the entire world. And it also keeps the world waiting and seeing with worries and deep anxieties over how will this dispute be settled, peacefully, diplomatically, and according to international law or by threat or use of force. The entire world is now on pins and needles or on tenterhooks, awaiting the final result. This particular news item is also the entire world's concern, if I may say. Why? Simply because the world's two largest economies or the two super-powers, in the post cold-war era, the United States of America, and China are involved.

Brief background

Giving the reason that the South China Sea is the one which China has discovered first and foremost China claims almost all of its territorial waters. Through this South China Sea waters, over United States dollars 5 trillion worth of world trade is shipped every year. The four member-states of ASEAN, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Viet Nam, and the self-ruled territory, Taiwan have rival claims or overlapping claims to the area. However, China claims almost the entire South China Sea, which is believed to have huge deposits of oil and gas. And China is also building islands on reefs to bolster its claim. Beijing has now rattled nerves with its military and construction activities on islands it occupies in the South China Sea, though it asserts that most of what it is building is for civilian purposes.

International reactions

With regard to the international reactions over this dispute, I would like to mention that of Singapore, a small nation and a member-state of Asean. In a speech to the Parliament, the foreign minister of Singapore, Mr. Vivian Balakishnan told the Parliament that "Singapore cannot accept that might is right", and as a small nation, it has vital interest in seeing territorial disputes in South China Sea settled peacefully. And on his state visit to China, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has also urged China to push for open markets and rule of law. While avoiding politically sensitive issues in a speech to Chinese and Australian business leaders in Shanghai, Mr. Turnbull told them that China's assertive posture in the South China Sea could risk harming China's international ties. It was so mentioned in the StraitsTimes newspaper. In this connection, Beijing university Professor Mr. Niu Jun said he did not expect the South China Sea issue to hurt economic ties: The Professor also said "it was not possible for China to allow economic ties to be affected with all countries it had such dispute with. The South China Sea issue has also been going on for some years and economic exchanges have not stopped."

Group of 7's concerns

The group of seven industrialized countries: the United States of America, Great Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy and Japan said in a joint statement at the end of a two-day meeting held in Japan, Hiroshima. It reads as follows:

we express our strong opposition to any intimidating, coercing or provocative unilateral actions that could alter the status quo and increase tensions and urge all states to restrain from such actions as land reclamations including large scale ones, building of outposts as well as their use for military purposes. In an apparent reference to China's territorial spat with the Philippines, G.7 also called on countries to observe international maritime laws and implement any binding judgements delivered by courts and tribunals. Manila has asked the International Court of Arbitration in the Hague to decide on its dispute with Beijing. But Beijing has said it does not recognize the case. The court ruling is expected by June.

In this article, I think some relevant provisions of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea should be mentioned. The United Nations Convention allows the coastal states certain rights and obligations in regard to their territorial waters and exclusive economic zone areas. May I present to you only in brief as follows:

The sovereignty of a coastal state extends, beyond its land territory and internal waters and, in the case of an archipelagic state, its archipelagic waters, to an adjacent belt of sea, described as the territorial sea.

Every coastal state has the right to establish the breadth of its territorial sea up to a limit not exceeding 12 nautical miles, measured from baselines determined in accordance with this convention. Beyond the territorial sea, which extends to 12 nautical miles, the convention allows the coastal state the creation of

an exclusive economic zone of up to 200 nautical miles.

Traditionally, all areas beyond the territorial waters comprised the high seas. In order for the coastal states to gain economic benefit from areas further off their shores, the convention allows the coastal states certain rights in the exclusive economic zone for the purpose of economic advantage, notably rights over fishing and exploitation of non-living resources. At the same time, however, neighbouring land-locked and geographically disadvantaged states must be allowed access to those resources of the zone that the coastal does not exploit. And, further, the traditional freedoms of the high seas are to be maintained in this area.

Analysis

All states involving in this dispute, except Taiwan, are parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. The convention obliges the parties to settle their disputes peacefully. The convention provides a selection of methods for doing so, in the event that they are otherwise unable to reach agreement even with third party intervention. In my own view and opinion, I think the parties to this South China Sea territorial dispute should follow and abide by the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, concerning peaceful settlement of disputes, in particular, to the letter and the spirit.

Conclusion

I have no idea about the length and breadth, or the total nautical miles of the South China Sea territorial waters. A coastal state has absolute sovereign rights only in its territorial sea extending twelve nautical miles,

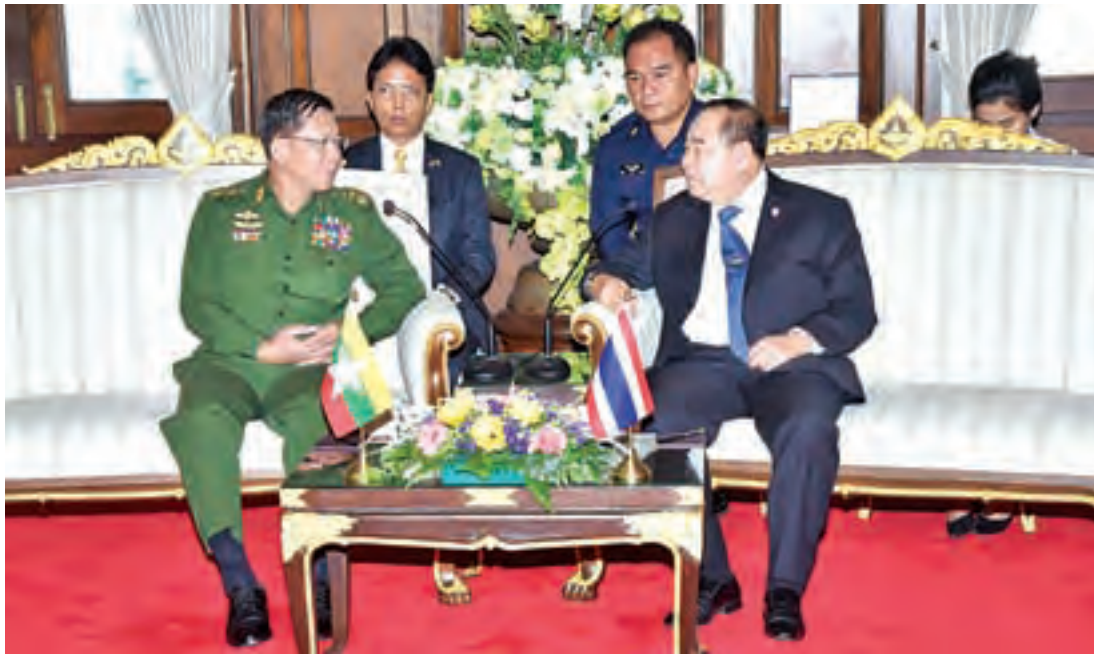
measured from baselines determined in accordance with the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, but in its exclusive economic zone and contiguous zone, the coastal state has only certain sovereign rights but not absolute sovereign rights. Even in the territorial sea, and the exclusive economic zone, the coastal state has to provide the right of innocent passage to all other states. Beyond the area of the territorial waters and also the coastal state's exclusive economic zone and contiguous zone, the whole area is international waters. And all the natural resources lying under the sea-bed of these High seas, for example, the Indian Ocean, Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean and so on, are the common heritage of mankind.

Every now and then, the tensions over the South China Sea territorial dispute go rise and fall, or mounting and dismounting. With this view in mind, the international community is hoping and expecting that this dispute be settled peacefully, diplomatically and according to international law, particularly according to the United Nations Convention on the Law the Sea. In essence, the international community wishes that "rule of law" shall prevail in this dispute. Needless to say, threat or use of force should never be resorted to in any dispute. It is all our great expectations.

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C-in-C of Defence Services meets Thailand's Defence Minister



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meeting Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan. PHOTO: MYAWADY

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing held talks with Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan yesterday on domestic peace,

drug trafficking, armed smuggling.

After the meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visited Armed Forces Development Command which is based in Bangkok and

assisting the peoples in their agriculture, livestock breeding and transportation and natural disaster preparedness.

The Senior General and party arrived Nay Pyi Taw yesterday evening by air.—Myawady

Union Minister for Border Affairs, UN envoy discuss IDPs, peace issues



Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung receiving UN Special Adviser Mr Vijay Nambiar.

PHOTO: MYAWADY

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung held talks with Mr Vijay Nambiar, the Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar,

on aid to and the resettlement of internally displaced persons in Rakhine and Kachin states.

During the meeting in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday, they also discussed further cooperation with UN in internal peace process in the country.—Myanmar News Agency

Cartoon exhibition aims to promote legal awareness

THE Mandalay City Development Committee (MCDC) will hold a cartoon exhibition along the Mandalay Moat next month to promote legal awareness among the public, according to a committee member.

“With the aim of ensuring the enforcement of rules and regulations related to traffic and the illegal dumping of garbage,

MCDC has scheduled the event between 7 and 11 June,” said U Thet Naing Tun, joint secretary of MCDC.

Around 130 works by 30 local cartoonists in Mandalay who are currently working for local newspapers and journals will be displayed at the event.

The committee allows each cartoonist to display between

three and five works during the five-day event.

Cartoonist Lay Yu said the goal of creating a cartoon is to point out irresponsible and undisciplined acts in a humorous way. The event organisers expect the event to help promote public participation in law enforcement and to curb illegal activities.—Aung Thant Khaing

C-in-C (Army) receives UN envoy

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win held talk with Mr Vijay Nambiar, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General on Myanmar, yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting the two

representatives discussed matters related to current implementation of national reconciliation and peace process in Myanmar and UN's peace keeping activities.

Also present at the call were Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo of the Commander-in-Chief (Army)'s office.—Myawady



Vice Senior General Soe Win meets Mr Vijay Nambiar, Special Adviser to the UN Secretary-General. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Plans underway to establish General Aung San memorial park

A LOCAL organisation in Mandalay has submitted a proposal to the regional government to build a Bogyoke Aung San statue and a commemorative park, said U Thein Tan, member of the organising committee.

The committee asked for a vacant plot for its project from the local authorities at a meeting with the regional government on Thursday.

A scale model of the park has already been created by the committee. According to the current design, the park will include five entries, which are meant to recall the five stars

on the flag of the Union of Burma. The committee has requested a 10 to 12-acre plot for the park.

The committee also plans to build a new marble statue of Bogyoke Aung San, which will be 12 feet tall.

Since its founding in November 2015, the committee has put more effort to implementing its plan to establish a memorial park for Myanmar's founding father. The committee also plans to hold future meetings with the regional government to discuss the implementation of the project.—Aung Thant Khaing

Entrepreneurs seek to reverse construction moratorium

THE Myanmar Construction Entrepreneurs Association will submit a proposal to the Yangon Region parliament to revise an order issued by regional authorities to pause the construction of over 400 high-rise buildings in Yangon, according to association member U Mya Han.

“Due to the order, construction workers are finding it difficult to survive. According to unofficial data, there are around 100,000 workers in the construc-

tion industry,” he added.

Local authorities issued the order with the aim of regulating all construction projects after founding a coordination body that will include members from the Yangon City Development Committee, the Ministry of Construction, regional MPs and experts.

Over 200 high-rise buildings were approved by the government, and around 120 are under construction.—Chan Chan

Trump, Sanders explore staging unusual presidential debate

BISMARCK, (N.D.) — Republican Donald Trump and Democrat Bernie Sanders on Thursday explored staging an unconventional US presidential debate that would sideline Democratic front-runner Hillary Clinton and create a television spectacle that could attract huge ratings.

The two men — a billionaire and a democratic socialist — expressed interest in a one-on-one encounter in California even though Republican and Democratic presidential candidates traditionally do not debate each other until the parties have selected their nominees.

“I’d love to debate Bernie,” Trump told reporters in North Dakota, after he secured enough delegates to clinch the Republican presidential nomination. “I think it would get very high ratings. It would be in a big arena.”

Basking in his newly sealed nomination at a later campaign rally in Billings, Montana, Trump said he expected to put 15 states in play in the general election, compared with three or four for a traditional Republican. He named California, Washington and Michigan among others.

Trump spokeswoman Hope Hicks said in an email there were no formal plans yet for a debate. But Sanders campaign manager Jeff Weaver told CNN there had been “a few discussions” between the campaigns about the details.

“We hope that he will not chicken out,” Weaver said. “We hope Donald Trump has the cour-



Presumptive Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks at a news conference in Bismarck, North Dakota US on 26 May 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

age to get on stage now that he said he would.”

Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, is running far behind Clinton in the race for the Democratic nomination for the 8 November presidential election.

But a nationally televised debate with the presumptive Republican nominee would be a big boost to his chances in the California primary on 7 June, when Clinton is likely to clinch the nomination.

Trump said a debate with Sanders could raise up to \$15 million for charity. “I’d love to debate Bernie, but they’ll have to pay a lot of money for it,” he said.

The idea was hatched during an appearance by Trump on ABC’s “Jimmy Kimmel Live”

late on Wednesday. Kimmel said he asked Trump about the debate at the suggestion of Sanders.

“Game on,” Sanders tweeted. “I look forward to debating Donald Trump in California before the 7 June primary.”

Sanders himself appeared on Thursday night on the talk show, where he said Kimmel made it possible for a “very interesting debate” between “two guys who look at the world very, very differently.”

Sanders added that the goal would be to have the debate in a stadium in California. He then had a warning for Trump. If I become the Democratic presidential nomination, he said, “we’re going to beat him and beat him bad.”—Reuters

Obama mourns dead in Hiroshima, calls for world without nuclear arms

HIROSHIMA, (Japan) — Barack Obama on Friday became the first incumbent US president to visit Hiroshima, site of the world’s first atomic bombing, in a gesture Tokyo and Washington hope will showcase their alliance and reinvigorate efforts to rid the world of nuclear arms.

Even before it occurred, the visit stirred debate, with critics accusing both sides of having selective memories, and pointing to paradoxes in policies relying on nuclear deterrence while calling for an end to atomic weapons.

The two governments hope Obama’s visit to Hiroshima, where a US atomic bomb killed thousands instantly on 6 August, 1945, and some 140,000 by the year’s end, underscores a new level of reconciliation and tighter ties between the former enemies.

“We come to ponder the terrible force unleashed in the not so distant past,” Obama said after laying a wreath at a Hiroshima peace memorial.

“We come to mourn the dead, including over 100,000 Japanese men, women and children, thousands of Koreans and a dozen Americans held prisoner. Their souls speak to us.”

Before laying the wreath, Obama visited a museum where haunting displays include photographs of badly burnt victims, the tattered and stained clothes they wore and statues depicting people with flesh melting from their limbs.

“We have known the agony of war,” he wrote in the guest book. “Let us now find the courage, together, to spread peace, and pursue a world without nuclear weapons.”

After speaking, Obama shook hands and chatted briefly with two atomic bomb survivors. Obama and Sunao Tsuboi, 91, smiled as they exchanged words; Shigeaki Mori, 79, cried and was embraced by the president.

The city of Nagasaki was hit by a second nuclear bomb on 9

August, 1945, and Japan surrendered six days later. A majority of Americans see the bombings as having been necessary to end the war and save lives, although some historians question that view. Most Japanese believe they were unjustified.

The White House had debated whether the time was right for Obama to break a taboo on presidential visits to Hiroshima, especially in an election year.

But Obama’s aides defused most negative reaction from military veterans’ groups by insisting he would not second-guess the decision to drop the bombs.

Obama’s main goal in Hiroshima was to showcase his nuclear disarmament agenda, for which he won the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize.

“Amongst those nations like my own that own nuclear stockpiles, we must have the courage to escape the logic of fear and pursue a world without them,” he said.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Six Malaysians, eight Chinese arrested in A\$200 million Australian meth bust

SYDNEY — Australian police said on Friday that they had arrested 14 people, including six Malaysian and eight Chinese nationals, in connection with the importation of approximately 200 kilograms (440.92 lb) of methamphetamine into the country.

An organised crime taskforce launched an investigation after a ship carrying the eight Chinese nationals was detained in early May 185 kilometres (114.95 miles) off the coast of Western Australia state after it began acting suspiciously, police said.

Raids on properties following the detention of the crew led to the arrest of the Malaysian nationals, and the seizure of 150 kg and 50 kg of meth in two separate locations. “As a result of the investigations and successful search warrants, six Malaysian nationals, all males aged between 24 and 54 years old, were charged,” Detective Constable Gary Dreiberg told reporters.—Reuters

French vessel containing black box probes arrives to EgyptAir search zone

PARIS — A French vessel carrying specialist probes designed to detect black box pinger signals has arrived to the search area where an EgyptAir jet is believed to have crashed last week, sources on the investigation committee said on Friday.

A week after the Airbus A320 crashed with 66 people on board, including 30 Egyptians and 15 from France, investigators have no clear picture of its final moments. ALSEAMAR, a subsidiary of French industrial group Alcen, is providing equipment that includes three of its DETECTOR-6000 systems, designed to pick up black-box pinger signals over long distances up to 5 km (3 miles), according to the company’s website.—Reuters

Six Bangladeshis charged with financing terrorism in Singapore

SINGAPORE — Six Bangladeshis were charged with financing terrorism in Singapore on Friday, the first to be prosecuted under the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act (TSOFA) in the city state.

According to a statement from the Singapore Police, these six radicalized Bangladeshi nationals — Rahman Mizanur, Mamun Leakot Ali, Miah Rubel, Zzaman Daulat, Md Jabath Kysar Haje Norul Islam Sowdagar, and Sohail Hawlader Ismail Hawlader — were among the group of eight Bangladeshi nationals detained under the Internal Security Act in April 2016.

The group, which called itself Islamic State in Bangladesh, was set up by 31-year-old Rahman Mizanur in March this year. Following investigations, six of them were charged in court on Friday for providing and/or collecting property for terrorist purposes under the Terrorism (Suppression of Financing) Act. Of these six, two will also be charged for possession of property for terrorist purposes.—Xinhua

Ivory Coast arrests man suspected of link to Grand Bassam hotel attack

GRAND BASSAM, (Côte d’Ivoire) — Ivory Coast authorities arrested a man on Thursday suspected of transporting weapons for an attack that killed 19 people at the beach resort of Grand Bassam in March, according to national television.

“The driver who transported the weapons was arrested Thursday. He is currently being interrogated in the police station,” said a presenter on national television. No other details were given. Reuters could not immediately verify the statement and the police were not available for comment. Gunmen shot swimmers and sunbathers before storming into several hotels in Grand Bassam, 40 km (25 miles) from the commercial capital, Abidjan, on 13 March. Al Qaeda claimed responsibility for the attack.—Reuters

Russian aircraft deliver 40 tons of UN aid to besieged Syrian city

MOSCOW — Russian aircraft have delivered about 40 tons of UN food products to Syria’s eastern city of Deir ez-Zor besieged by IS militants, said the Russian Centre for Reconciliation of Opposing Sides in Syria Thursday.

The centre said the aid was delivered via parachutes, and a few tons of humanitarian aid have also been delivered to the Al-Kabu area in the central province of Homs and the Azizia area in the northern province of Aleppo. In addition, medical assistance has been provided to 52 citizens, including 24 children in Syria, the centre said.—Xinhua

Falluja refugees report cases of starvation — Norway aid group

BAGHDAD — Civilians who managed to flee besieged Falluja have reported cases of starvation in the Iraqi city that government forces are trying to recapture from Islamic State militants, the Norwegian Refugee Council said on Thursday.

“If they stay in Falluja they face possible starvation, if they try to escape they risk being killed getting out,” NRC media coordinator Becky Bakr Abdulla said in a report, citing refugee accounts.

The Iraqi army launched an offensive on Monday to dislodge the ultra-hardline Sunni militants from Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad. Falluja was the first Iraqi city to fall under IS control, in January 2014, and has been under a tight siege for about six months.

The NRC, which assists refugees at a camp south of Falluja, said the fighting made it difficult to assess the full extent of “the dire situation in the city”.

One woman told the NRC her family had lived on dry dates and drank from the Euphrates River before escaping Falluja.

About 50,000 are trapped in a city that now lacks drinking water, electricity and fuel, according to the NRC. About 40 families managed to flee in the past 36 hours, one of them saying they hid in a drainage pipe.

Aid agencies have become alarmed about civilian suffering and the United Nations has urged combatants to assure safe passage to inhabitants trying to escape the fighting.

The offensive to retake

Falluja is part of Baghdad’s campaign to reverse IS’s capture of wide tracts of northern and western Iraq. Government forces retook the Anbar provincial capital Ramadi, near Falluja, in December.

Four civilians were killed and 19 wounded in artillery fire on Falluja’s centre on Thursday, a source in the city’s main hospital said via the internet.

The death toll since the start of the military operation on Monday reached 47 — 30 civilians and 17 militants, he said.

The army has not yet reached the city and is battling the militants in surrounding villages, according to military statements that reported progress on several fronts, with the backing of a Sunni tribal force and Shi’ite militias.—Reuters

Cameron says Britain must support Libya to thwart threat

ISE (Japan) — Prime Minister David Cameron said on Friday that Britain must support the Libyan government to help it to gain control over a country which in its present state “is a danger to us all”.

Speaking at a summit of the G7 industrial powers, Cameron said Britain, like other countries, was threatened by the flow of migrants through Libya, by the increasing number of people-smuggling gangs

and the rise of Islamic State in the country.

“It is clearly in our interest to do what we can to support the new fledgling Libyan government ... because of the state it’s in is a danger to all of us,” he told a news conference. “We have an interest in doing what we can to support the new government to help it to grow, to help it have the ability to control that country.”—Reuters



A road sign shows the direction of Libya near the border crossing at Dhiba, Tunisia on 11 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Middle East refugees help Europe prosecute war crimes

THE HAGUE — European authorities are seeking testimony from some of the hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing Middle East violence as they try to build war crimes cases linked to the conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

As witnesses to atrocities, they are invaluable to prosecutors preparing trials in European courts that will offer a way round the United Nations impasse that has prevented the setting up of an international court for Syria.

The search for evidence takes a variety of forms. Dutch and German immigration services hand out leaflets to arriving migrants, inviting them to testify. In Norway, police screen arrivals’ mobile phones for evidence of possible involvement in war crimes.

“Over the next five years you’ll see a lot of prosecutions,” said Matevz Pezdirc of the European Union’s Genocide Network, a forum that brings together police and prosecutors twice a year in The Hague to swap information about war crimes.

Some alleged perpetrators may be European citizens who have joined Islamic State; others may be militants who have travelled to Europe from Syria or Iraq, blending in with the more than 1 million migrants and refugees who streamed into the continent last year.

“You may have lots of victims or witnesses in one place, but you can’t move with a prosecution until you have a perpetrator in your jurisdiction,” Pezdirc said.

Most European countries have legislation allowing them to prosecute international crimes

like genocide regardless of where in the world they happen. About 15 have units dedicated to investigating and prosecuting them.

Over the past decade, authorities in Europe have launched 1,607 international war crimes cases in domestic jurisdictions, while another 1,339 are ongoing, according to EU judicial cooperation agency Eurojust.

German police have compiled testimony from hundreds of potential witnesses to the Syria conflict, and war crimes prosecutors in Karlsruhe have questioned a few dozen of them in greater depth.

But gathering evidence is a painstaking process. Traumatized witnesses, fresh from harrowing

journeys on foot and by sea, need time before they are ready to testify, and can often face only short periods of questioning each day.

“The refugees usually need time to rest and calm down before they decide to cooperate with law enforcement,” Pezdirc said.

Investigators have interviewed Yazidi Kurd refugees in Germany for evidence of alleged genocide against the ethnic and religious minority. A German citizen thought to be in Syria is the subject of a sealed arrest warrant on separate war crimes charges.

They are preparing further cases against two other suspects, one accused of torture and another of kidnapping a US legal adviser near Damascus.

viser near Damascus.

In France, genocide and war crimes prosecutors have a handful of investigations open into Syrian nationals, including a former Syrian colonel, once a doctor in a military hospital, who has sought asylum.

More than 4,000 European citizens are estimated to have left to fight in Syria, of whom around a third have since returned home, a Dutch think tank said earlier this year.

With both witnesses and perpetrators on their territory, European prosecutors have already brought some cases. A German citizen is on trial for war crimes after Facebook posts showed him posing alongside decapitated

heads.

Last year, Swedish courts convicted a Syrian on the basis of a video showing him torturing a fellow combatant. Crimes being investigated around the continent include torture, murder, rape, crimes against humanity and genocide.

With more than 400,000 people killed in Syria since 2011, there have been calls for perpetrators of massacres to face trials in a UN court, like those that followed the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s.

But division among the five veto-wielding permanent members of the UN Security Council — who include Syria’s ally, Russia — has stymied attempts to refer such cases to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, or set up a special tribunal.

So rights campaigners are pinning their hopes on national prosecutions, and Syria and Iraq have come to dominate the agenda of the Genocide Network, which has been operating since 2004.

“If there’s going to be justice in Syria, it’s going to be in the courts of third states,” said Stephen Rapp, a US diplomat who led the prosecution of former Liberian President Charles Taylor, at a meeting of law enforcement officials in The Hague this week.

Successful trials could help to influence the wider course of the war and the migrant crisis, he said.

“If we do more to show there’s justice, that there’s hope, if we can show that this way of fighting the conflict is going to have consequences, we can reduce the refugee flow.”—Reuters



Birds fly over a damaged neighbourhood, in the rebel-controlled area of Maaret al-Numan town in Idlib Province, Syria, on 23 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Italy says migrant boat capsized, second in two days

ROME — A migrant boat capsized in the Mediterranean on Thursday and while about 100 passengers were rescued, an unknown number are feared dead, officials said.

All told, the Italian coastguard said it had helped save 4,000 migrants today, in 22 operations. That brings the total number Italy has helped rescue since Monday to more than 10,000 — a sign that Europe's immigration crisis is far from over.

Separately, Libya's coastguard said it had stopped six boats carrying more than 750 migrants off the country's western coast, and had recovered four bodies.

Thursday's shipwreck was the second in two days as sea crossings accelerate amid good weather. Five people were confirmed to have died when a large fishing boat flipped over in the sea on Wednesday.

Europe's worst immigration crisis since World



Migrants are seen on a partially submerged boat before to be rescued by Spanish frigate Reina Sofia (unseen) taking part in the European Union military operation in the Southern Central Mediterranean (EUNAVFOR MED) off the coast of Libya in this handout picture courtesy of the EUNAVFOR MED released on 28 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

War II has led to more than 8,000 deaths in 2 1/2 years, the International Organisation for Migration estimates.

Boat arrivals in Italy have risen sharply this week

with warm weather and calm seas, and about 20 rescue operations are currently under way, a coastguard spokesman said.

Based on initial pictures

from the aircraft that spotted the boat that overturned on Thursday, 20 to 30 people are feared to have died in the shipwreck, a spokesman for European Union's Sophia

naval mission said.

Italy's coastguard declined to estimate how many may have died. "We don't know how many people were on board," the coastguard spokesman said.

The non-profit organisation Sea-Watch, which has a rescue ship in the area, said it was about to recover one body from the sea following a shipwreck and that it had picked up 115 migrants from a rubber boat.

"Aboard the boats are many Syrian and Iraqi people," Sea-Watch said on Facebook. A European Union agreement to send migrants back to Turkey from Greece is forcing refugees to travel from North Africa to Europe, the group said.

So far, migrants from the Middle East have mostly travelled through Turkey to Greece. Most migrants who came to Italy by boat came from Africa.

Libya's coastguard has blocked more than 2,000 migrants trying to leave Libyan

waters for Europe this week.

On Thursday, it intercepted four boats early in the morning carrying about 550 people near the western port of Sabratha, Tripoli coastguard spokesman Ayoub Qassem said.

Hours later, another 216 migrants were picked up from two boats off Zuwara, and the bodies of four migrants were found in the area, he said.

Through Tuesday, total sea arrivals in Italy had fallen by 9 per cent this year to 37,743, according to the Interior Ministry. The country's migrant shelters are under pressure to house 115,507 migrants, about twice as many as two years ago.

Some 650 migrants and the five dead bodies picked up by the Italian navy arrived at the Sicilian city of Porto Empedocle, where the migrants will get food and clothing. Officials will try to identify them before sending them to shelters.—Reuters

US military bans alcohol consumption outside bases in Okinawa

NAHA (Japan) — The US military in Okinawa is prohibiting service members living on its bases in the southern island prefecture from drinking alcohol off base for around four weeks from Friday, military officials

said. The move comes amid calls for greater discipline among US service members and other personnel linked to US bases after Kenneth Franklin Shinzato, a former Marine and a worker at the US Air Force's Kadena Air

Base, was arrested last week on suspicion of dumping the body of a local woman.

The US military is also encouraging workers on its bases in Okinawa to adhere to the ban, effective until 24 June, which the military has

termed a "period of unity and mourning."

Under the policy, those living off base can drink alcohol only while they are on base or inside their homes.

Lt. Gen. Lawrence Nicholson, the top command-

er of US military forces in Okinawa, is expected to explain the implementation of the measure at a press conference Saturday. The crime has fueled anti-US base sentiment among people of the prefecture,

which hosts the bulk of US military facilities in the country. Investigative sources have said the suspect has admitted to killing the 20-year-old victim after sexually assaulting her.—Kyodo News



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'Honeymoon over', rules for UN climate pact may take two years

BONN, (Germany) — A first United Nations meeting on implementing a 2015 global agreement to combat climate change showed it could take two years to work out a detailed rule book for a sweeping shift from fossil fuels, delegates said.

The 16-26 May talks marked a return to technical work and the end of a "honeymoon period" since the Paris Agreement was worked out by almost 200 nations in December to cut greenhouse gas emissions and limit rising temperatures.

"My bet is 2018, everything will be done (in) a maximum two years," Laurence Tubiana, France's climate ambassador, told Reuters when asked how long it would take to negotiate a set of rules. Several other delegates gave similar estimates.

Tubiana said the Bonn talks had not exposed big, unexpected problems with the Paris text that could mean an even longer haul. "There was no shouting, no crying,"

she said. Details left vague by the 31-page Paris Agreement include how countries will report and monitor their domestic pledges to curb greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to changes such as more floods, storms, desertification and rising seas.

Under the Paris deal, most countries' goals for combating climate change are for the years from 2020-2030.

Tosi Mpanu-Mpanu, chair of the 48-nation group of least developed countries at the talks, said the Paris Agreement had many ambiguities. "When you go home, you do your homework and ... find that what you have created is a kind of monster from a legal point of view because it is open to many interpretations," he said. Elina Bardram, head of the European Commission delegation, said the talks were a positive start "to fill in the details ... but we have a lot of work ahead of us."

Many nations said that the Bonn talks marked an end to euphoria after Paris.

"You get married, you have a honeymoon but you have to continue with your life. That is happening," Amjad Abdulla of the Maldives, chief negotiator for the Alliance of Small Island States. He said there was an urgent need to fix the rules because of mounting impact of climate change such as more powerful storms, droughts and rising seas. Last year was the warmest on record and recent months have all set monthly heat records.

Many countries say that the Paris Agreement, already signed by 177 nations, could enter into force this year or

next. It first has to be formally ratified by at least 55 nations representing 55 per cent of global emissions.

Many nations are uneasy because US Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has said he will renegotiate the deal if elected. Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton is a supporter. Separately, developing nations said they would push at the next meeting in November in Morocco for donors to widen a \$10 billion renewable energy plan for Africa, agreed last year, to include all poor nations.—Reuters



Men fish next to cracked ground as the Atibainha dam lake dries up due to a prolonged drought in Nazare Paulista, Sao Paulo state, in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Timber smugglers could make Senegal's last forests disappear soon

DAKAR (Senegal) — Forests in Senegal's lush Casamance region risk disappearing within two years because of illegal timber smuggling, one of the West African country's foremost environmentalists said on Thursday.

Casamance in southern Senegal contains the country's last remaining forests, an area of 30,000 hectares (74,000 acres) that could be depleted by 2018 as smugglers feed the demand for rosewood furniture in China, said former environment minister Haidar El Ali.

Exporting timber from Senegal is illegal, so traffickers smuggle it to neighbouring Gambia for shipping to China.

"This unacceptable trafficking is devastating for our forests and it has to stop," Haidar told a news conference.

Much of northern Senegal bordering on the Sahara Desert has succumbed to desertification, a process where land becomes increasingly arid due to drought and climate shifts, making forests unsustainable. Now what is

left of the West African country's greenery is fading fast, according to Haidar. Traffickers have chopped down 1 million trees, or 10,000 hectares, since 2010, he said. Meanwhile, Gambian exports of rosewood to China totaled \$238.5 million between 2010-2015, the second highest in West Africa after Nigeria, he said. Gambia has only 4,000 hectares of forests.

The spokesman for Senegal's Ministry of the Environment was not available for comment.—Reuters



Stocks of smuggled timber and the Gambian trucks that transported them are confiscated at a forestry depot in Digante, Senegal, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan to cut emphasis on nuclear in next energy plan

TOKYO — Japan will cut reliance on nuclear power when it releases an updated energy plan as early as next year, reflecting public opposition and a recognition that current policy is unrealistic, three sources familiar with official thinking told Reuters.

The move is expected to boost the country's use of renewable energy, but will also likely cement its drive towards cheaper coal-fired generation following

the 2011 Fukushima nuclear crisis and the shutdown of reactors.

Public resistance to nuclear has remained strong in Japan, and a target by the pro-nuclear industry ministry for nuclear to provide about a fifth of the country's electricity provoked widespread criticism when it was finalised in 2015.

At the same time, only two of the country's 42 reactors are currently operat-

ing following safety shutdowns, and the industry faces a raft of constraints including aging units and legal challenges.

A target of 10-15 per cent for nuclear by 2030 has been mooted, one of the sources said, down from 20-22 per cent under current policy.

Cutting nuclear will likely mean higher targets for renewable energy, said Tomas Kaberger, energy and environment professor at Chalmers University of Technology in Sweden, who as chairman of the Renewable Energy Institute in Tokyo is a regular visitor to Japan.

"There is a more realistic attitude toward nuclear power taking hold in Japan so it would not surprise me to see a significantly larger role for renewable energy in the next energy plan," Kaberger told Reuters while in Tokyo earlier this week.

The rethink on nuclear follows a recent court decision that forced the shutdown of one reactor.

But renewable ener-

gy's improved competitiveness and the increasing technical challenges of restarting aging and long idled reactors are likely to have been a factor, said Kaberger, who is also on the board of state-owned Swedish utility Vattenfall.

Prior to the deadly 2011 earthquake and tsunami that caused meltdowns at the Fukushima Daiichi plant, nuclear supplied about 30 per cent of Japan's electricity needs and an earlier energy plan envisaged increasing that to about 50 per cent.

An official involved in forming policy at the Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry said the timing or schedule for the next release of the basic energy plan or preferred energy mix had not been decided.

Asked if the ministry was considering lowering the target for nuclear, the official said there was no change in stance under current policy.

Reducing the target for nuclear is likely to support Japan's controversial push into coal for power

generation, with more than 40 new stations using the dirtiest fuel planned in the coming years, putting its emissions targets at risk.

It may also mean more reliance on liquefied natural gas (LNG) by the world's biggest importer of the fuel. LNG use surged in the aftermath of Fukushima and prices are expected to remain low for some time amid plentiful supplies, although it is still pricier than coal.

Japan has been inching back to nuclear energy, turning on its first reactor in mid-August after a two-year blackout, despite opinion polls showing consistent opposition.

Any reductions to nuclear targets are likely to be resisted by the powerful utilities, although some have already acted to close aging plants, with six units slated for decommissioning in the past year.

A Reuters analysis last year showed that of the reactors still in shutdown, just seven are likely to be turned on in the next few years.—Reuters

China-Australia media cooperation to increase cultural understanding

SYDNEY — Myths will be dispelled and cross-cultural understanding is set to grow as China-Australia media cooperation increases following the signing of six agreements in Sydney on Friday.

Highlighting the signing ceremony, China's Xinhua News Agency Vice Editor-in-Chief Zhou Zongmin and Director of the Australia-China Relations Institute Bob Carr signed a Memorandum of Understanding enabling greater information exchange.

"Australia has to get used to China," Carr, the former Australian foreign minister, told Xinhua after the signing ceremony in Sydney. Over the past decade, China-Australia relationship has progressed to areas not seen before, indicating both peoples are engaging on more sophisticated levels, creating a deeper harmonious relationship.—Xinhua



Members of the media and Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) employees wearing protective suits and masks walk down the steps of a fuel handling machine on the spent fuel pool inside the No.4 reactor building at the tsunami-crippled TEPCO's Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Fukushima prefecture on 7 November 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (04-2016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PHUONG NAM 68 VOY NO (04-2016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T-2 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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MV PACAO VOY NO ()

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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.

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ALLY VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 28.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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Justin Bieber performs a medley of songs at the 2016 Billboard Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 22 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Justin Bieber sued over riff in smash hit 'Sorry'

TORONTO — Canadian pop star Justin Bieber and the co-writers of his 2015 smash hit "Sorry" are being sued for allegedly stealing a vocal riff from another artist who said she used it on her own song a year earlier.

In a complaint made public on Thursday, Casey Dienel, an indie artist who performs under the name White Hinterland, accused Bieber of infringing her copyright to the song "Ring the Bell" by using a "virtually identical" riff without permission. Among the other defendants are the producer Skrillex and Vivendi's Universal Music Group. The lawsuit was filed in the US District Court in Nashville.

Spokespeople for Bieber, Skrillex and Universal had no immediate comment or did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Dienel said "Sorry," which appears on Bieber's album "Purpose" and has more than 1.42 billion YouTube views, adopted the "specific and unique characteristics of the female vocal riff" from her song, sampling it for the first eight seconds of "Sorry" and

several times thereafter.

She said even *The New York Times Magazine* noted the riff's distinctiveness, when it praised Bieber's song for its "cooing arpeggio that feels like a gentle breeze on your brain" in a 13 March article titled "25 Songs That Tell Us Where Music Is Going." Bieber's song ranked No.1.

Dienel also said she reached out to Bieber to discuss a resolution, but he "ignored" her claims and refused to talk.

The lawsuit seeks unspecified damages, including from profits generated by "Sorry." Dienenel's "Ring the Bell" appeared on White Hinterland's album "Baby."

It is common for well-known singers to be accused of stealing song ideas from other composers.

Kanye West was sued last week for allegedly taking part of his 2013 song "New Slaves" from a 1969 song by a Hungarian rock singer. Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant and Jimmy Page face a 14 June trial over whether they stole opening chords for their 1971 song "Stairway to Heaven" from a 1967 instrumental.—*Reuters*

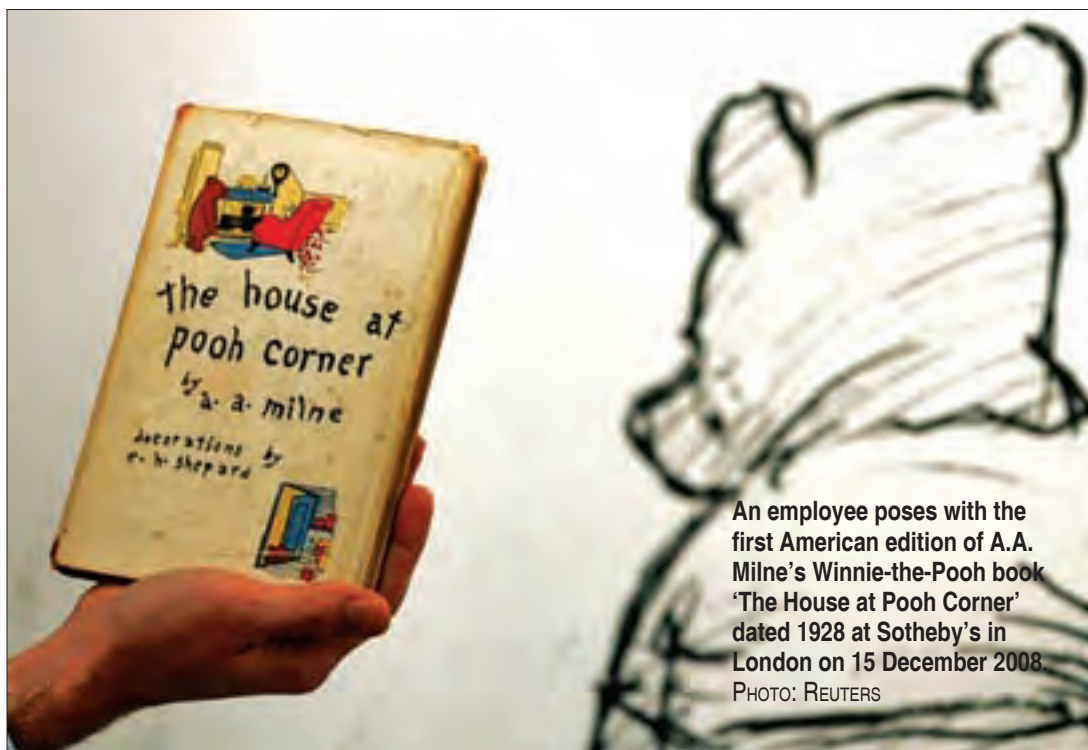
Ben Affleck gifts Jennifer Garner 11-carat diamond necklace?

LOS ANGELES — "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" actor Ben Affleck reportedly gave his estranged wife Jennifer Garner an 11-carat diamond set in a necklace as a pre-11th anniversary gift.

According to *National Enquirer*, 43-year-old Affleck "hand-delivered a massive, super sparkly pre-11th anniversary diamond to Garner, but not set in a ring", reported *Ace Showbiz*.

"Not-so-subtly popping his 'new vows' question, Ben presented Jen with a whopping 11-carat diamond, one carat for each year since their marriage. They'd split just a day short of their 10th anniversary last June amid allegations of his nanny cheating," a source said.

Affleck decided to give Garner, 44, a necklace instead of a ring because he didn't want to scare her.—*PTI*



An employee poses with the first American edition of A.A. Milne's Winnie-the-Pooh book 'The House at Pooh Corner' dated 1928 at Sotheby's in London on 15 December 2008. PHOTO: REUTERS

Turning 90, Winnie-the-Pooh meets Britain's queen in new story

LONDON — Winnie-the-Pooh turns 90 this year and the much-loved children's character returns for a new adventure in which he meets someone else celebrating the same significant birthday — Britain's Queen Elizabeth.

"Winnie-the-Pooh and the Royal Birthday" sees the popular bear from A.A. Milne's children's stories travel to London with friends Christopher Robin,

Piglet and Eeyore, where they take in the famous sites and arrive at Buckingham Palace.

The short illustrated and audio story, which can be downloaded for free, has been released to celebrate both birthdays. Elizabeth turned 90 last month while Milne's first Winnie-the-Pooh book came out in October 1926.

It was written by Jane Riordan and illustrated by Mark

Burgess in the style used by E.H. Shepard for Milne's stories.

"There's such a wit and a style to the stories that adults enjoy reading them to children," British actor Jim Broadbent, who narrates the audio story, said in a video release.

"... The children love them and they then love them and want to pass them on to the next generation and they carry on."—*Reuters*

Johnny Depp breaks silence after Amber Heard files for divorce

LOS ANGELES — Johnny Depp hopes the dissolution of his "short marriage" to Amber Heard will be resolved quickly, says the superstar's representative.

Heard, 30, filed for divorce earlier this week citing "irreconcilable differences" after the two were married for a little over a year.

"Given the brevity of this marriage and the most recent and tragic loss of his mother, Johnny will not respond to any of the salacious

false stories, gossip, misinformation and lies about his personal life. Hopefully the dissolution of this short marriage will be resolved quickly," said the Depp's representative in a statement.

The couple wed in February, 2015, after meeting on the set of 2011's "The Rum Diary". They have no children together, but the actor has two kids from a previous relationship with his girlfriend of 14 years, Vanessa Paradis.—*PTI*



Cast member Johnny Depp poses at the premiere of "Alice Through the Looking Glass" at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, US, on 23 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fans bid farewell to Japan's oldest elephant 'Hanako'

TOKYO — Fans of Japan's oldest elephant "Hanako," who died Thursday at the age of 69, gathered Friday at Inokashira Park Zoo in western Tokyo to mourn the popular animal.

The zoo set up a stand for mourners to place flowers and other offerings including the female elephant's favourite fruits in front of a facility where she spent her last days.

"I took time off work to come today," said a 37-year-old university employee from Mitaka in Tokyo who came to the park on a rainy morning. "She was a kind elephant and just looking at her always cheered me up," she said, adding she had been visiting Hanako every week for the last 30 years.

A woman in her 60s from Tokyo's Kodaira said in a voice broken with emotion, "When I was looking at her by myself on

Tuesday, she extended her trunk toward me and kept staring at me for about 30 minutes. I think that was her last bow."

The Asian elephant, who was born in Thailand in 1947, was sent to Japan by Thai businessman Somwang Sarasas to encourage children after the country's defeat in World War II. She had been living in the park at Musashino since 1954. Zookeepers found Hanako lying on the floor of the facility Thursday morning. She gradually stopped responding to them and died shortly after 3pm.

The elephant was loved by generations of Japanese for more than half a century and her story was made into children's books. The Thai Embassy in Tokyo issued a statement Thursday, saying Hanako's death has "saddened the people of Thailand and the people of Japan very much."—Kyodo News



A visitor to Inokashira Park Zoo in western Tokyo offers flowers on 27 May 2016, to mourn Japan's oldest elephant "Hanako," who died there the previous day at the age of 69. The female elephant was born in Thailand in 1947 and sent to Japan as a gift in 1949. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Spellers from Texas, NY state battle to tie in US Spelling Bee



Co-champions Nihar Saireddy Janga (L) and Jairam Jagadeesh Hathwar hold their trophy upon completion of the final round of Scripps National Spelling Bee at National Harbour in Maryland, US, on 26 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NATIONAL HARBOUR (Md.) — Nihar Janga, a fifth-grader from Austin, Texas, and Jairam Hathwar, a seventh-grader from Painted Post, New York, were named co-champions of the US Scripps National Spelling Bee on Thursday after battling 25 rounds head to head.

The late-night duel twice

saw Nihar, 11, fail to capitalise on mistakes by Jairam, 13, and claim the title outright.

They ended co-winners when Jairam nailed "feldenkrais," a method of education, and Nihar aced "gesellschaft," a type of social relationship.

"I'm just speechless," Jairam told reporters after the

contest that was televised on cable network ESPN and repeatedly saw the audience in a hotel ballroom burst into cheers.

Nihar, the youngest champion since 2002, thanked his mother and added: "I can't say anything. I'm just in fifth grade."

Jairam and Nihar will each receive a \$40,000 cash prize. The tie is the third in a row in the Bee, a US institution since 1925. The contest had instituted a 25-round spell-off to try and avoid just such a deadlock.

Nihar dazzled the audience by his grasp of words. When given "binou," he asked pronouncer Jacques Bailly, "Is that a Breton bagpipe?" then whizzed through it with head down, hands at side and shifting slightly foot to foot.

Given "taoiseach," he said, "Is that an Irish word for prime minister?" and nailed it, bringing cheers from the crowd.

Jairam created an opening for Nihar when he stumbled on "draathaar," a king of dog, wincing when he realised his mistake. Nihar then bobbled

"ayacohuite," a Mexican tree, giving Jairam new life.

"Hello again," Jairam said to Bailly when he stepped up to the microphone. Even as the boys battled head to head, they gave each other encouraging hand slaps as they returned from the microphone.

After several more rounds, Jairam misspelled "mischsprache," a fused language. Nihar failed again to knock him out by missing on "tetradrahm," a kind of coin.

One more round, and Bailly said, "This is a beautiful moment. If you both spell the next word correctly, you will be declared co-champions." They did, and the room erupted in confetti and cheers.

Jairam and Nihar are the ninth consecutive spellers of South Asian ancestry, and the 12th in 16 years, to win the Bee. Jairam's brother Sriram was the 2014 co-champion.

The finalists were winnowed from more than 280 spelling whizzes after two days of written and oral tests in a Washington suburb.—Reuters

For world records, Indian man removes teeth and gets over 500 tattoos

NEW DELHI — An Indian man obsessed with setting Guinness world records got 366 flags tattooed on his body and had all his teeth removed so he could put nearly 500 drinking straws and more than 50 burning candles in his mouth.

Har Parkash Rishi, who claims to have set more than 20 records, now calls himself Guinness Rishi.

Born in 1942 in a cinema hall in the capital, New Delhi, Rishi first got into the Guinness Book of World Records in 1990 when, with two friends, he rode a scooter for 1,001 hours.

The passion to get his name in the record book led him to perform some bizarre acts, including delivering a pizza from New Delhi to San Francisco and gulping a bottle of tomato ketchup in less than four minutes.—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(28- 5-2016, Saturday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- A Street Vendor "Spreading Knowledge"

6:40 pm

- Music Programme

7:00 pm

- Cassette Recordings

8:30 pm

- Music Programme

9:00 pm

- The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo (Part - I)

9:20 pm

- Travelogue: "Anyar Myay" or Upcountry (Part- I)

9:40 pm

- Myanmar Movie

From 28-5-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 Pm
To 29-5-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(28-5-2016 07:00am ~ 29-5-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon- The Religious Insignias of pagodas In Myanmar
07:44	Am	Visiting A Serene Village In The Northwest of Myanmar
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Clay Toy Pots Festival
08:43	Am	A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-2)
08:53	Am	Made in Myanmar "Mixxo"
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	"Myanmar's Traditions and Culture"
09:49	Am	Myanmar's Secret Beautifier Products of Myanmar — Kachin Traditional Knife

10:03	Am	News
10:27	Am	"Myanmar's Beauty and Nature" Beach
10:52	Am	Writer

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	My Travel In This Exceptional Place, Inle Lake
07:47	Pm	Today Myanmar "An impact of El Niño weather event: Water Storage"
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Bogalay Tint Aung: A Man of Versatility (Part-2)
08:54	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Still Life (Glass)

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

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



Jose Mourinho signs a Manchester United soccer shirt held out by a fan as he leaves his house in London, Britain, on 27 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Man-U appoint Mourinho as manager

LONDON — Manchester United have appointed Jose Mourinho as manager on a three-year contract with an option to stay on until at least 2020, the Premier League club said on Friday.

The 53-year-old Portuguese replaces Dutchman Louis van Gaal whose two-year reign at Old Trafford ended on Monday when he was sacked two days after United won the FA Cup.

“Jose is quite simply the best manager in the game today. He has won trophies and inspired players in countries across Europe and, of course, he knows the Premier League very well, having won three

titles here,” United executive vice-chairman Ed Woodward said in a statement.

“I’d like to take this opportunity to welcome him to Manchester United. His track record of success is ideal to take the club forward.”

Mourinho, sacked by Chelsea in December, had been widely expected to succeed Van Gaal and his agent Jorge Mendes met United officials on Tuesday to discuss personal terms.

The talks with the former Porto, Inter Milan and Real Madrid manager became protracted, however, when it emerged that Chelsea, who sacked Mourinho in December, still owned

his name as a trademark.

Now the stage is set for the marriage of two of world soccer’s biggest names — Mourinho, the manager who collects trophies wherever he goes, and Manchester United, England’s most successful club and a global giant.

“To become Manchester United manager is a special honour in the game,” Mourinho said in the statement.

“It is a club known and admired throughout the world. There is a mystique and a romance about it which no other club can match.”

“I have always felt an affinity with Old Trafford; it has

hosted some important memories for me in my career and I have always enjoyed a rapport with the United fans.”

“I’m looking forward to being their manager and enjoying their magnificent support in the coming years.”

In two spells at Chelsea, the Portuguese won the Premier League three times — including their first league title for 50 years — and both the FA Cup and League Cup.

He also won league championships in his first seasons at Porto and Inter Milan before helping Real Madrid to their first La Liga crown in four years.—Reuters

Mourinho and Guardiola set for first faceoff in Beijing

LONDON — The new managers of Manchester United and Manchester City will face an early confrontation when the teams meet in a friendly in Beijing on 25 July.

Jose Mourinho, officially confirmed as United boss on Friday, and old adversary Pep Guardiola, who is replacing Manuel Pellegrini at City, will renew hostilities in the pre-season International Champions Cup.

There was little love lost between the pair when Mourinho was in charge at Real Madrid and Guardiola led Barcelona.

The rivalry is likely to be just as fierce when United attempt to make up ground on their neighbours, who have finished above them in the Premier League for the past three seasons.

This term City were only ahead on goal difference but pipping United to fourth position meant they took the final Champions League qualifying place.

United won the FA Cup last weekend but the final proved to be manager Louis van Gaal’s swansong, his dismissal coming two days later.

The first game of their pre-season tour to China is against Borussia Dortmund in Shanghai on 22 July.

United, as FA Cup holders, take on Premier League champions Leicester City in the annual Community Shield game at Wembley on 7 August.

Before that Mourinho will have an early date in the Old Trafford dugout when he takes charge of an England XI in a charity game for Soccer Aid against a Rest of the World XI on 5 June.—Reuters

Nadal and Djokovic roll on, symmetry for Williams sisters

PARIS — A dominant Rafa Nadal reached one career milestone on Thursday but the nature of the Spaniard’s passage through the early rounds of the French Open suggests his eyes are fixed firmly on another more significant landmark.

The world number five, seeded four at the tournament he once owned, destroyed Argentina’s Facundo Bagnis 6-3, 6-0, 6-3 to reach the third round with the loss of only nine games, chalking up a 200th match victory in grand slams.

“That’s only another number and that’s it,” Nadal, who would become the only man to win the same grand slam 10 times in the professional era if he triumphs this year, told reporters.

“I know I have to play at

a very high level in order to go deep. That’s my sole objective, my only reality.”

It was his first appearance on Court Philippe Chatrier, where he has sunk his teeth into La Coupe des Mousquetaires nine times, since being humbled by Novak Djokovic in a one-sided quarter-final last year.

World number one Djokovic, who dispatched Belgian qualifier Steve Darcis 7-5, 6-3, 6-4, will be a formidable obstacle again.

Djokovic, who has a burning desire to claim the only grand slam title to elude him, was, however, critical of his performance against a player nicknamed The Shark.

“There were things that I definitely didn’t like in my game

today. Too many unforced errors,” Djokovic, who next plays Slovenian-born Briton Aljaz Bedene, told reporters.

Defending women’s champions Serena Williams was joined by sister Venus in the third round, the American siblings posting symmetrical victories on Court Suzanne Lenglen.

Serena beat Brazil’s Teliana Pereira 6-2, 6-1 before ninth seed Venus produced the same result against fellow American Louisa Chirico to reach the third round for the first time since 2010.

With Maria Sharapova suspended, pending the outcome of a doping hearing, and several leading seeds knocked out early, Serena looms as the overwhelming favourite to claim a fourth title in the French capital.—Reuters



Nadal returns the ball during French Open at Paris, France, on 26 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS