

President receives
new ambassadors'
credentials

PAGE 3



Vice Senior General
Soe Win meets
Singaporean Director of
Military Intelligence

PAGE 2



Agriculture remains
the mainstay of
national economic
growth

PAGE 8



Lawmakers attending
a parliamentary
meeting. PHOTO: MNA

Rights Group Calls to repeal acts in Ward or Village Tract Administration Law

FORTIFY Rights is urging the Myanmar lawmakers to repeal certain acts in The Ward or Village Tract Administration Law, that requires residents to submit overnight guest lists and allows authorities to raid the houses of citizens who do not obey the law.

"Guest registration and unwarranted searches have no place in a rights-respecting democracy," said Matthew Smith, Executive Director of Fortify Rights in yesterday's release.

"These provisions infringe on basic human rights, making Myanmar less secure. Parliament

should repeal these provisions once and for all."

The release also stated;

"The guest registration requirement of the 2012 Ward or Village Tract Administration Act and its enforcement by local government officials in Myanmar violate fundamental rights and freedoms under international law, including the rights to privacy and freedom of movement, residency, and association."

The last discussion regarding the 2012 law took place on 25 May with Col Hla Win Aung, Defense Services personnel and Hluttaw representative said that

sections 13(g) and 17 should remain in the law to ensure "the rule of law, peace, tranquility and public safety."

Yet, the parliamentary majority, National League for Democracy, CSO groups and yesterday's press release disagree due to the laws' history of stifling the privacy of Myanmar citizens and democratic movements.

Myanmar Parliament should repeal sections 13(g)-(h), 13(n), 17, and 33 of the Ward and Village Tract Administration Law of 2012, said Fortify Rights in its release.

"Sections 13(g)-(h) empow-

er ward administrators to register guests coming into his or her ward or village tract, inspect guest lists. Section 13(n) grants vague and sweeping discretionary authority to ward and village tract administrators to conduct household inspections.

"Section 17 requires any resident to report to their respective ward or village tract administrator if someone from another ward or village intends to stay overnight. According to the law, the resident must also notify the administrator when the guest departs," says Fortify Rights. —GNLM

Yangon Region govt plans to build more reservoirs

THE Yangon Region government is planning to establish reservoirs to ensure a reliable drinking water supply in the future.

In response to a question at the Yangon Region parliament yesterday, U Maung Maung Soe, the Yangon Region Development Affairs Minister, said the government unveiled a long-term plan to supply drinking water to Yangon residents in the future while upgrading current reservoirs such as Ngamoeyeik and Gyogyu.

"Despite heavy rainfall in Myanmar, we are facing losses of water. We cannot store rain water as it flows into the river. To solve possible future drinking water problems, we are planning to build new reservoirs that would be as big as Inya Lake," said U Maung Maung Soe.

Plans have also been made to bring greening around the water facilities to improve the watershed areas, he added.

Yangon Region, which comprises 45 townships, has a population of more than 7.3 million.

Water from the Hlawga, Ngamoeyeik, Gyobu and Phugyi reservoirs is piped to the population of the city, according to the Yangon City Development Committee.

Meanwhile, a project to purify river water from the Kokuwa River is underway to supply 240 million gallons of water per day to Yangon.—Ko Moe

Ousted USDP members call for emergency conference

Thein Ko Lwin

SEVERAL recently ousted top members of the Union Solidarity and Development Party called for an emergency conference to be held in accordance with the party's basic principles at a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

U Zaw Myint Pe, one of ousted USDP members, said the call for an emergency meeting from more than half of the party's central committee (CC) members is in accordance with the party's basic principles.

The expelled member, who is also a former Amyotha Hluttaw representative, stressed the need for current party leaders to adhere to the party's principles, as the USDP is a democratic party.

"Under the party's principles, the party chairman must hold a conference demanded by 136 of the party's 219 Central Committee members elected in the 2012 party conference, which accounts for 62.1 per cent of the total CC members, in a letter bearing their signatures," he added.

U Saw Hla Tun, an incumbent

CC member, said the amendments to the party's basic principles should be ratified at the party's conference.

The sacked USDP members include former Union Parliament Speaker and party vice chairperson Thura U Shwe Mann and several members of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.

The ousted members said the purge violated party's charter, and current party leaders behaved like authoritarians.

"That's why I am still a CC

member," said U Zaw Myint Pe.

The USDP's second party conference is scheduled to be held in August, said party spokesperson U Khin Yi at a meeting between Chairman U Thein Sein and party members in Yangon Region recently.

Although four press conferences calling for investigations into the legality of their ousters from the party were held, the USDP did not respond to questions about the purge against Thura U Shwe Mann and his allies, said U Zaw Myint Pe at the press conference.

Falam landslide victims to be relocated

LANDSLIDE victims from four villages in Falam Township will be relocated to proposed residential areas that do not overlap with proposed location for a 16-acre sports complex or with a site chosen for the construction of a high school, said Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye in yesterday's Amyotha Hluttaw session.

Landslides caused by heavy rains struck the four villages in July and August last year.

A new phase will be added to the Falam Myothit (Lonpi) urban development project after demarcation of the boundaries of villages that will be included in the satellite town in accordance with the decision of three committees in the township,

added the Union minister.

Also during its 32nd-day session, the Amyotha Hluttaw approved the fourth version of the bill to revise the Pyithu Hluttaw Election Law, the Amyotha Hluttaw Election Law and the Region/State Election Law, which were sent back from the Pyithu Hluttaw with amendments.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Vice Senior General Soe Win meets Singaporean Director of Military Intelligence

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services and Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win received Brigadier General Ong Tze-

Ch'in, Director of Military Intelligence of Singapore, at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, the two

held comprehensive discussions on bilateral relations between the two defence services and on further cooperation in regional security and technology.—*Myawady*



Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win receives Brigadier General Ong Tze-Ch'in, Director of Military Intelligence of Singapore at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Factories now eligible to open SSB medical clinics

FACTORIES that contribute to the Social Security Board (SSB) are now eligible to apply to the organisation for the establishment of medical facilities on their premises.

There are currently a total of 49 large department clinics that have been opened within factories in Myanmar. Factories desiring medical facilities will be granted permission to open

clinics within their grounds and receive support with medical supplies after their applications have been scrutinised by the SSB.

"It's up to the factories to employ the doctors and nurses, while the SSB will take care of providing medicines needed for treatment," said Dr Htun Htun, director the of the SSB for Naypyidaw.

He added that the establishment of clinics within factory grounds will not only save time needed to travel to SSB clinics but also render the need to take leave from work for treatment redundant.

The SSB currently operates three hospitals in Yangon, Mandalay and Htantabin, together with 94 social security clinics.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Tour guides to be educated about areas off-limits to foreign travellers

THE Department of Hotels and Tourism has stated that it will ramp up efforts to educate tour guides on regions of the country off-limits to foreign travellers.

The initiative was prompted after a foreign female traveller was injured on 26 April in the northern Shan State township of Kyaukme when she ventured into a restricted area. The ministry aims to prevent future injuries and muggings.

"Their guide took them into a restricted area in Kyaukme in

April. Hotels in this region know [of areas that are off-limits], and roads have been demarcated. They travelled around the outskirts of the town, but [foreign travellers] are only permitted to wander within the town itself," said U Myint Htway, director of the Department of Hotels and Tourism.

It is known that a Committee for the Smooth Entrance of Foreign Visitors was established by the government on 4 May to allow foreign tourists travel more easily in Myanmar.

Police officers stationed in rural areas and respective offices of the Department of Hotels and Tourism will cooperate, with instructions members of the aforementioned committee, will inquire into whether foreign travellers are entering restricted areas or are displaying unsuitable behaviour within cultural zones by corresponding with travel companies and educating them on rules and regulations.

Police will take legal action against violators.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss proposal to plant mangrove forests

THE Pyithu Hluttaw agreed to discuss a proposal calling on the Union government to launch mangrove plantations in Dedaye Township, Ayeyawady Region, at yesterday's parliament session.

Dr Daw Khin Nyo of Dedaye Constituency submitted the proposal to establish mangrove forests to ensure coastal defence and ecological restoration in Ayeyawady Region at the 35th-day session of the Pyithu Hluttaw.

During a Q&A session, Union Election Commission member U Hla Tint vow to improve the accuracy of the country's voter lists in preparation for the next election by conduction door-to-door surveys across the country.

In his reply, the UEC member said a nationwide process of compiling voters' lists will be conducted in cooperation with political parties, CSOs and inter-

national organisations based on the 2015 voters' lists.

Likewise, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win vowed to cancel the designation of farmlands, community land, religious property and private property as forest reserves in Mansi Township, Kachin State, after the decision was found to conflict with rules and regulations.

Also during the session, Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe said the issuance of citizenship cards is being conducted free of charge in nine townships in Kayin State at least once a month.

So far, 9,678 residents from 2,300 households in Hpa-an Township have been given citizenship cards, added the Union minister.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Renovation of alleged tomb of Thai king in Mandalay temporarily suspended

RENOVATION work on the memorial ground in the Linzin Hill graveyard in Amarapura Township, Mandalay Region, which has been said to be the resting place of the King Udumbara of Siam, is set to be temporarily suspended today following reports of some experts who said there is not strong enough historical evidence that the site is the tomb of the king.

"There will be a temporary suspension of restoration works while a team has been formed to assess whether the tomb of King Udumbara of Thailand was built more than 230 years ago," said U Ye Mon, a member of the Mandalay City Development Committee.

As some experts have rejected the view that the site is the resting place of the Thai monarch, a report will be sub-

mitted to the regional government after assessments are made.

The team's evaluation of the tomb will be carried out based on three points that include the use of modern technology to investigate the tomb and measures to assess whether renovation works are in accordance with the rules and regulations and whether the works should be allowed as an avenue to improve Thailand-Myanmar relations.

"We returned to renovate the site as the Sitagu Sayadaw requested that we resume the renovation works as a token of friendly bilateral relations, and the King of Thailand allowed the renovation project," said Tampawady U Win Maung, who is working on the site.—*Aung Thant Khaing*



Renovation of Tomb of Thai king in the Linzin Hill graveyard is suspended temporarily. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

President receives new ambassadors' credentials

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar U Htin Kyaw accepted credentials from the newly-accredited Ambassador of Republic of Fiji to Myanmar Mr Filimone Kau and Ambassador of Democratic People's Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr Jong Ho Bom separately at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present were Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Director-General U Ko Ko Naing of the Protocol Department.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Information minister courts cooperation with film promotion NGO

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint held talks with Ms Séverine Wemaere, co-managing director of MEMORY! Cinema, yesterday about cooperation in developing Myanmar's film sector. During the meeting in Nay Pyi Taw, the two also discussed plans for the MEMORY! International Heritage Film Festival and sought ways to cooperate in improving the film sector in Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Appointment of Director-General of Civil Service Affairs Department

PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Permanent Secretary/Deputy Director-General U Khin Maung Win of the Office of the Chairman of Union Civil Service Board as the Director-General of Civil Service Affairs Department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar to launch door-to-door voter list survey

PLANS are underway to register voters nationwide through door-to-door visits in order to ensure accuracy in future elections, the Union Election Commission (UEC) announced in the Pyithu Hluttw yesterday.

“Based on the voters’ list compiled before the 2015 general election, election officials and ward or village-tract authorities will go door-to-door to register eligible voters across the country,” said U Hla Tint, a member of the UEC.

“Renewing the voter lists is aimed at improving their accuracy in the next election,” added the UEC member in his response to a comment from Pyithu Hluttaw representative U Nay Myo Htet of Kyauktada Constituency, who said new voter lists should be compiled because there were incorrect voter lists ahead of the 2015 general election.

“Inaccurate voter lists

were compiled in my township,” said the MP, stressing the need to guarantee the rights of eligible voters by renewing voter lists across the country.

According to the UEC member, a pilot project to improve the list of voters will be conducted in Yangon Region’s Kyauktada Township this June, and the process of compiling nationwide voters’ lists will be carried out in co-operation with political parties, civil society organisations and international organisations.

The UEC plans to launch a poster campaign and voter education programmes for radio and television in order to encourage participation in the nationwide voter-list compilation process.

There were more than 23 million eligible voters included in the voters’ list compiled ahead of the previous general election.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Announcement of Revised Registration Fees for Company Registration and Other Company related matters

Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has encouraged the promotion of local and foreign investment and establishments and expansions of businesses. Series of liberalization processes have been initiated with the view to facilitate the Business Entities and Small and Medium Enterprises to register as a company at the initial stage of their businesses and to scrutinize the Public Companies which intend to do actual business operations.

In this regard, the following Fees for Company Registration and other Company Related Matters will be applied, starting on 1st June, 2016: -

SR.	PARTICULARS	OLD RATE (MMK)	NEW RATE (MMK)
1	Company Registration Fees (a) Private Limited Company (b) Public Company	1,000,000 1,000,000	500,000 2,500,000
2	Company Registration Extension Fees	500,000	300,000
3	Form VI, Form XXVI, Form E, Change of Address, Share Transfer, True Copy Issuance of Documents	2,500	25,000
4	True Copy Issuance of Company Registration Card	5,000	50,000
5	Addition of Business Objectives, Change of Company Name, Increase Authorized Capital	7,500	75,000
6	Amendment of MOA, AOA	50,000	300,000

Directorate of Investment and Company Administration

SSA splinter group forcibly conscripts, extorts locals

THE Ywet Sid splinter group of the Shan State Army is forcibly conscripting and extorting locals, forcing families from Namngin and Wanmaikonhsa villages in Tarkaw village-tract to leave their homes on 29 May for Koemaing Village in Mongpyin Township, eastern Shan State.

When asked why they have migrated, they said the Ywet Sid was conscripting local youths between the ages of 18 and 19 from their villages in April 2016 and that if a family could not contribute a recruit, it would have to pay K40,000 to the militia or leave the village immediately.

A total of 21 people from five households arrived at Hamngin Village, and 11 people from two households moved into Wankonhsa Village.

The Triangle Com-



mand headquarters presented three bags of rice, six vises of oil and food-stuffs to the refugees.

Similarly, the Mongpyin Township General Administration Department donated seven bags of rice and 21 sets of school uniforms to the refugees' children.

This month, the Ywet Sid splinter group has extorted guest houses, restaurants and shops in the villages of Hsinmaung Village-tract, Mongpyin Township.

The Triangle Command Headquarters sent for the person in charge of the liaison office of the Ywet Sid in Kengtung and told him that demanding of extortion and coercive conscription could be tantamount to violating their ceasefire agreement with the government.— *Myawady*

Service counters to be installed at 200-bed hospitals

THE Ministry of Health and Sports plans to establish service counters at hospitals with 200 beds or more across the nation to provide better services to locals, a spokesperson said. "The service counters will be opened in 70 hospitals nationwide. The counters will help inform people of medical services provided by the hospital and help them locate the appropriate wards," Dr Myat Wunna Soe said.

Under the new project, 12 social workers will be appointed at each hospital.

The ministry is currently implementing the project at Yangon General Hospital. According to the ministry's data, there are over 10,000 station hospitals and dispensaries plus 70 hospitals with 200 or more beds nationwide, which provide public healthcare with the help of 15,000 doctors and 25,000 nurses.—200



Soldiers, locals clear blocked motorway in Chin State

PERSONNEL from of the Northwest Command teamed up with local people to clear obstructions from the 150-foot Dun-Rapel Self-Reliance Village-to-Village Motorway on Wednesday, 25 May.

The motorway has been reopened. A landslide caused by heavy rain blocked the motorway near Longle Village in Htantalan Township, Chin State, forcing transportation to come to a halt in the second quarter of May. —Office of the Commander of Defence Services

Crime NEWS

Passenger train derails near Nabar Railway Station

A PASSENGER train running on the Mandalay-Myitkyina route derailed near Nabar Station on Friday evening, though no one was injured, police say.

The wheels of backmost passenger carriage of train No DD 962, driven by U Thant Zae and coachman U Saw Myint Oo, derailed near Indaw Township,

Sagaing Region.

No casualties were reported, and no one was injured in the incident, investigators said.

The railroad has been repaired by local authorities, and station master U San Tint is working to open the section as soon as possible. —Maung Chit Lin



The train seen after derailing.

Taxi driver robbed by passengers

A TAXI driver was robbed at knife-point by passengers on Sunday afternoon in Sanchaung Township, western Yangon.

Driver Ye Lin Ko said three men between the ages of 20 and 25 demanded money from him on the way to Khatta Street in Thirikhayma Ward, Sanchaung Township, from Kyimyin-

daing Night Bazaar. They took K13,000 and a mobile handset from the driver.

The victim was assaulted and sustained minor stab wounds to his neck.

Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the three suspects. —Ko Gyi Tin

Motorcyclist killed in three-way collision

A MOTORCYCLIST died in a head-on collision involving three vehicles on the road between Yangon and Mandalay near Yedashe Township, Bago Region, on Saturday evening.

A 12-wheel cargo truck collided head-on with a motorbike driven by Soe Min Naing with another person on board when the truck driver lost control of the vehicle. The truck also crashed into a Suzuki car driven by Soe Lwin, 32, with an eight-year-old boy on board.

The 40-year-old motorcyclist died in Yedashe Hospital, while three others sustained injuries.

Truck driver Aung San Nyi Nyi was found guilty of reckless driving by local police. —Ko Lwin



Soe Min Naing, 40, was killed when this hit struck his motorbike.

Two guns seized from drug smugglers

TWO guns were found by police on Friday in the possession of drug dealers in Kawthaung, Taninthayi Region.

After receiving a tip-off, local police searched the house of Zaw Lwin Oo (aka Armin) in Tanyonpada Village, Semile Village-tract. They discovered a cache of 40 yaba pills, drug-related equipment and two guns in the home, in which two other people were also residing.

According to the police investigation, between 10 and 20 motorbikes visited the house daily to buy and sell illegal drugs.

All the people involved in the case will be charged by local police.—Kyaw Soe



Drug dealers pose with their contraband.

Duterte, Robredo proclaimed as Philippine president, VP

MANILA — The Philippine Congress on Monday proclaimed Rodrigo Duterte and Leni Robredo as the country's new president and vice president, formalizing the result of the 9 May elections.

Having performed their function as the national canvassing body, lawmakers of

the Senate and the House of Representatives approved a joint committee report which declared the two as the duly-elected president and vice president of the Philippines.

Duterte and Robredo will replace outgoing President Benigno Aquino III and Vice President Jejomar

Binay on 30 June for a new six-year term.

Duterte, the feisty longtime mayor of the city of Davao on the southern Philippine region of Mindanao, won the five-way presidential race with more than 16.6 million votes, constituting over a third of the total votes cast for the

position.

Robredo, a first-time congresswoman, won with 14.4 million votes, besting six other candidates in the vice presidential race, including Sen. Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos, Jr., the scion of a former dictator who ruled the country for 20 years.

Ramon Casiple, executive director of the Manila-based Institute for Political and Electoral Reforms, described the pairing of the two new leaders as something out of the ordinary, noting that neither come from the usual prominent and known political clans in the country.

Casiple told Kyodo News that Duterte and Robredo, who belong to different political parties, are expected to change the political landscape in the Philippine government and that it would be up to them to create the synergy in leading the Philippines.—*Kyodo News*

New photo of Japanese hostage appears with message pleading for help



Japanese journalist Jumpei Yasuda, who is seen in this photo sent by e-mail to a Kyodo News photographer on 23 June, 2015 before Yasuda's departure to Syria, with the message reading, "I will smuggle myself into Syria from now", is seen in this undated photo released by Kyodo on 24 December, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — The Japanese government said on Monday it was doing all it could to secure the release of a Japanese journalist being held hostage by an al Qaeda affiliate in Syria, after an apparent photograph of the man was posted on the internet.

The photograph, apparently uploaded to the Internet late on Sunday, showed a bearded man dressed in orange holding a hand-written sign in Japanese. "Please help me. This is my last chance," said the sign, written in shaky characters and signed "Jumpei Yasuda."

Yasuda's plight came to attention in March, when a video surfaced showing him reading a message to his country and his family. Japanese media said he was captured by a group called Nusra Front after entering Syria from Turkey last June.

Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said the government was analysing the new photo and believed it was Yasuda, while Chief Cabinet Spokesman Yoshihide Suga said the government was doing what it could.

"Since preserving the safety of Japanese citizens is

our most important duty, we are making use of a broad net of information and doing everything we can to respond," Suga told a news conference.

Asked if this meant contacting the Nusra Front, Suga said "that sort of thing was included" but declined to give further details.

Early in 2015, the Islamic State militant group beheaded two Japanese nationals — a self-styled security consultant and a veteran war reporter. The gruesome executions captured the attention of Japan but the gov-

ernment said at the time it would not negotiate with the militants for their release.

Yasuda, a freelance journalist since 2003, was held in Baghdad in 2004 and drew criticism for drawing the Japanese government into negotiations for his release. In December, media freedom organisation Reporters Without Borders retracted and apologised for a report it had issued that said Yasuda had been threatened with execution in Syria.

The government said at the time it was seeking information.—*Reuters*

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi

ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye

ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Proof Reader & Translator - Ye Myint

Expatriate Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg

counslantanteditor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Alec Wilmot

counslantanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Jaidan Coonan

Chief Translator & Editor

Kyaw Thura,

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor

Ye Htut Tin (Local News)

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon, Tin Nwe Lynn

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw, reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Reporters

Soe Soe Yu, Thein Ko Lwin (Nay Pyi Taw Bureau),

Khin Mg Win (Mandalay Bureau)

Computer Team

Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,

Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,

Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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

Thai junta lifts ban on overseas travel by politicians

BANGKOK — Thailand will lift a ban this week on overseas travel by some politicians, the defence minister said on Monday, more than two years after the measure was imposed.

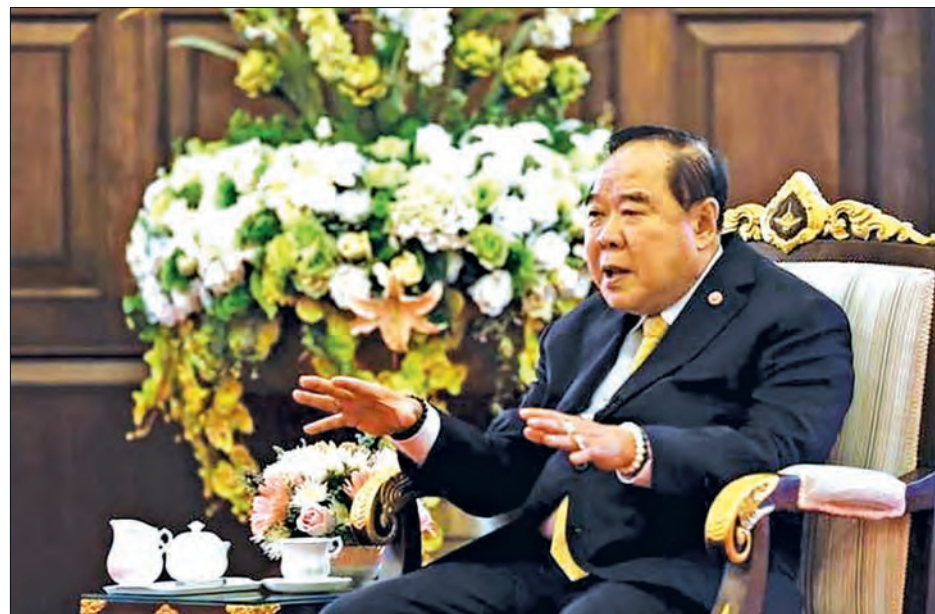
Over the last few months, Thailand's military government, which took power in a May 2014 coup, has begun easing some of its strict restrictions on political activity, in the runup to an August referendum on a draft constitution.

The lifting of the ban showed the junta's trust in politicians, Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan said.

"Politicians who have no legal cases are able to travel," Prawit told reporters. "Whether they go abroad and then take part in political activities is up to them."

The lifting takes effect on Wednesday, the junta has said.

But it excludes politicians such as former Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra, ousted in the coup, who faces criminal charges over alleged corruption in her government's rice subsidy programme.



Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan gestures during an interview with Reuters at the Defence Ministry in Bangkok, Thailand, 18 February, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

After the army took power in a move it called necessary to restore order after years of political upheaval, the junta banned political activity and ramped up prosecutions under tough sedition and royal defamation laws.

The junta, known as the National Council for Peace and Order, summoned hundreds of politicians, activists, journalists and academics for so-called

"attitude adjustment" sessions, often at military bases.

Many were made to sign agreements not to travel abroad without permission and to halt political activity. They were later released.

But the junta has begun easing some curbs ahead of the August vote, which could precede elections in 2017. Hundreds of protesters marked the coup's sec-

ond anniversary with a march this month, despite a ban on gatherings.

Politicians of all stripes welcomed the decision to scrap the ban, but some said it should never have been introduced. "The junta should not have imposed restrictions from the start," Samart Kaewmeechai, a member of the Puea Thai Party that headed the government toppled in 2014, told Reuters.—*Reuters*

Missiles, copters, subs — Anil Ambani's ambitious defence plan

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI — Anil Ambani's Reliance Group has never made a military helicopter, missile system or submarine in its history but that isn't stopping the Indian tycoon from seeking to win contracts to manufacture all of that military hardware and more.

Known for taking some ambitious bets over the past decade, some of which have failed to deliver, Ambani's plans to turn Reliance into a major defence company may be one of his boldest yet. It has already bid for 840 billion Indian rupees (\$12.5 billion) in government contracts, senior executives said, though it hasn't yet won any of those.

The success of the strategy will depend partly on whether he can persuade government officials and international partners that he can build sophisticated equipment and partly on whether Prime Minister Narendra Modi can get India's notoriously slow procure-

ment process to work.

Modi has made defence a big part of his "Make in India" programme. As part of any defence contract, he is demanding foreign companies tie up with a local partner, transfer technology and move some manufacturing to India.

At stake is \$250 billion in defence contracts the government is expected to award over the next 10 years as it looks to upgrade the military's aging equipment. "We hope to have a significant share of this pie," said R K Dhingra, chief executive of Reliance Defence. He predicted the company will "emerge as a key player in the defence sector over the next few years."

Reliance's ambition is greeted with scepticism by many in the defence world. An military official involved in defence procurement said Reliance is overreaching in wanting to make everything from ships to planes. Some rivals



Anil Ambani, chairman of the Reliance Anil Dhirubhai Ambani Group, poses for a picture in the cockpit of an An-170 aircraft during a visit to Antonov aircraft plant in the village of Gostomel, outside Kiev, Ukraine, on 27 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

and potential partners for the contracts said Reliance will struggle to master the manufacture of such a wide range of sophisticated military hardware.

"There is no quick money in

this branch," said Jan Widerstrom, head of Saab India Technologies, a unit of Saab AB. "It requires a lot of experience, high tech culture, investments and a long-term business plan."

Still, Saab and Reliance are working together in developing the next generation Combat Management System for the Indian Navy and Coast Guard.

Recently, Reliance's lack of experience and questions about its ability to handle sensitive technology and intellectual property counted against it in its bid to partner with the Russians to build 200 Kamov helicopters, said a Russian diplomat in New Delhi, who declined to be identified in this story because they weren't speaking in an official capacity.

The contract, estimated to be worth a little over \$900 million went instead to Indian state-controlled company Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd.

Ambani should identify core areas and concentrate on them rather than "be an inch deep and a mile wide," said Nitin Gokhale, founder of defence website Bharat Shakti.—Reuters

Mass coral bleaching cast shadow over future of Great Barrier Reef

SYDNEY — Mass coral bleaching has destroyed at least 35 percent of the northern and central Great Barrier Reef, Australian scientists said on Monday, a major blow to the World Heritage Site that attracts about A\$5 billion (\$3.59 billion) in tourism each year.

Australian scientists said the coral mortality figure will likely rise as some of the remaining 65 per cent of coral in the northern and central reefs fails to recover from bleaching.

The report casts a shadow over the long-term prospects of the Great Barrier Reef against a backdrop of climate change and scientists said UNESCO may reconsider its decision not to put the World Heritage Site on its endangered list.

"Australia argued that the world heritage values were in tact because of the northern region

and now of course it has taken a huge hit," said Professor Terry Hughes, director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Coral Reef Studies at James Cook University in Queensland state.

UNESCO's World Heritage Committee last May stopped short of placing the Great Barrier Reef on an "in danger" list, but the ruling raised concern about its future.

Australian scientists said in March that just seven percent of the Great Barrier Reef had avoided any damage as a result of bleaching, and they held grave fears particularly for coral on the northern reef.

After further aerial surveys and dives to access the damage across 84 reefs in the region, Australian scientists said the impact of the bleaching is more severe than expected.

"This year is the third time in

18 years that the Great Barrier Reef has experienced mass bleaching due to global warming, and the current event is much more extreme than we've measured before," said Hughes.

The findings would have been worse had Cyclone Winston, which hit the reef in January, not brought cooler conditions across the central and southern reefs, the scientists said.

Bleaching occurs when the water is too warm, forcing coral to expel living algae and causing it to calcify and turn white. Mildly bleached coral can recover if the temperature drops, otherwise it may die. Although the impact has been exacerbated by one of the strongest El Niño weather systems in nearly 20 years, which raised sea temperatures in the western Pacific, scientists believe climate change is the underlying cause.—Reuters



A large piece of coral can be seen in the lagoon on Lady Elliot Island, on the Great Barrier Reef, northeast from Bundaberg town in Queensland, Australia, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan puts military on alert for possible North Korea missile launch



Japan Self-Defence Forces soldiers are seen near Patriot Advanced Capability-3 (PAC-3) missiles at the Defence Ministry in Tokyo, Japan, 30 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — Japan put its military on alert on Monday for a possible North Korean ballistic missile firing, while South Korea also said it had detected evidence of launch preparations, officials from Japan and South Korea said.

Tension in the region has been high since North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January and followed that with a satellite launch and test launches of various missiles.

Japan ordered naval destroyers and anti-ballistic missile Patriot batteries to be ready to shoot down any projectile heading for Japan, Japan's NHK state broadcaster said.

A Japanese official, who declined to be identified as he is not authorized to speak to the media, confirmed the order. A spokesman for Japan's defence ministry declined to comment.

A Patriot missile battery on the grounds of Japan's Ministry of Defence had its missile tubes elevated to a firing position.

The South Korean defence official declined to comment on what type of missile might be launched but South Korea's Yonhap News Agency said officials believe it would be an intermediate-range Musudan missile.

"We've detected a sign and are tracking that. We are fully prepared," said the South Korean official, who also declined to be identified.

North Korea tried unsuccessfully to test launch the Musudan three times in April, according to US and South Korean officials. Japan has put its anti-ballistic missile forces on alert at least twice this year after detecting signs of launches by North Korea.—Reuters

Rubio warms to Trump, but won't be his vice president

WASHINGTON — Former US Republican presidential candidate Marco Rubio on Sunday ruled out becoming Donald Trump's vice presidential running mate, but said he'd be "honoured" to play some kind of a role in helping him win the White House.

Rubio, who clashed bitterly with Trump in the brutal race for the Republican nomination, said his policy differences with the real estate mogul were too great for Rubio to join the ticket.

"I wouldn't be the right choice for him," Rubio said in an extensive interview with CNN's "State of the Union" programme. "Donald deserves to have a vice president — he's earned the nomination — and he deserves to have a running mate that more fully embraces some of the things he stands for."

Rubio, a US senator from Florida, ended his White House bid in March after an embarrassing loss in his home state.

Trump, who has practically ensured he will emerge as the nominee from the Republican convention in July, derided Rubio as a lightweight and dubbed him "Little Marco."

Rubio called the real estate mogul a con artist and quipped about his small hands, a charge that Trump took to mean as questioning the size of his manhood.

Rubio and Trump differed sharply on policy issues, with Trump eschewing the inter-



Former Republican presidential candidate Senator Marco Rubio passes by reporter's after voting on Capitol Hill in Washington on 17 March, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ventionist approach favoured by Rubio and Rubio criticizing Trump's call for temporarily banning the entry of Muslims into the United States.

Ahead of the 18-21 July Republican convention, Trump has sought to unify the party behind him and gain the backing of other prominent party figures.

Rubio said he expected to attend the convention and did not rule out a speaking role. He said he wanted to be helpful to Trump's presidential run because he wants to see likely Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton defeated in the 8 November US

election. "I don't want Hillary Clinton to be president. If there's something I can do to help that from happening and it's helpful to the cause I'd most certainly be honoured to be considered for that," Rubio said.

In another olive branch to Trump, Rubio said he regretted making the "small hands" remark about his former foe.

"I actually told Donald at one of the debates. I forget which one — I apologised to him for that," Rubio said. "I said 'I'm sorry that I said that.' It's not who I am. And I shouldn't have done it."—Reuters

Shooting rampage in Houston leaves two dead, six wounded

HOUSTON — Police in Houston killed a gunman on Sunday in a chaotic shootout that left one other person dead, six wounded — including two officers — and set off a fire at a nearby gas station when bullets struck a gas pump, authorities said.

Witnesses reported that a gunman approached a man who had just pulled up to an auto detail shop and opened fire with a pistol, police spokesman John Cannon said.

"It appears that it was a random, unprovoked attack," Cannon said. The victim, a male in his 50s, died, he said.

The gunman fired on the first officer to respond to the scene, riddling his car with bullets, including many that struck the windshield, Cannon said. At least five shots also struck a po-

lice helicopter, he said,

The officer escaped injury and called for help. A shootout ensued with arriving officers before a SWAT team member shot the suspect dead at about 11:10am, about an hour after police arrived at the scene, Cannon said. Two constables were wounded, not seriously, one struck in the hand and other in his bulletproof chest vest, he said.

A second person, still considered a possible suspect, was also shot, possibly by the primary shooter, Cannon said. He was interviewed at the hospital to give police his version of what happened, Cannon said.

Three other people, believed to be innocent victims, were also wounded but not seriously, officials said.

Bullets from the shootout struck a gas pump at a station next to the detail shop, triggering a fire that left the station building charred, Cannon said.

Police do not know the motives behind the shootings and are seeking the public's help.

"We are trying to piece all of this together," acting Houston Police Chief Martha Montalvo said. "It's still a very ongoing investigation."

The gunman had both a pistol and a rifle, police said.

"Obviously they had a high-powered rifle," Montalvo said. "We believe one of them had an AR-15." The shooting occurred in west Houston, adjacent to a residential area, just east of the Sam Houston Tollway, a major highway dissecting the Texas city.—Reuters

UN Secretary- General's — Message on World No Tobacco Day

31 May 2016

Cigarettes and other tobacco products kill almost 6 million people every year. Sustainable Development Goal 3 aims to "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages". As part of that approach, governments have committed to strengthen the implementation of the World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control in all countries to reduce the proportion of people who use tobacco.

On World No Tobacco Day 2016, the United Nations is lending its support to one simple measure with proven effectiveness in reducing demand: the plain packaging of tobacco products. As laid out in the UN tobacco control treaty, this entails restricting or prohibiting the use of logos, colours, brand images or any promotional information other than brand and product names displayed in a standard colour and font.

Tobacco use is one of the largest causes of preventable non communicable diseases, including cancers, heart and lung disease. It also diverts valuable household income. Plain packaging reduces the attractiveness of tobacco products, restricts tobacco advertising and promotion, limits misleading labeling, and increases the effectiveness of health warnings.

On this World No Tobacco Day, I call on governments around the world to get ready for plain packaging.—UNIC/Yangon

NEWS IN BRIEF

Nineteen people rescued from English Channel — coastguard

LONDON — Nineteen people have been rescued from the English Channel after an inflatable boat they were in started taking on water, the British coastguard said on Sunday.

Kent Online website described the 19 as migrants.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency said in a statement that a call was made close to midnight on Saturday and the inflatable boat was found in the early hours of the morning by a search and rescue helicopter, lifeboats and rescue teams off the coast of the county of Kent.

Hundreds of thousands of refugees and migrants have risked their lives to come to Europe in flimsy boats, fleeing war and poverty in the Middle East and Africa.—Reuters

Four injured in blast at Aisin Seiki unit plant

NAGOYA — Four people were injured in an explosion at an auto parts factory on Monday in central Japan, police said.

An emergency call was received around 12:15pm saying an explosion had occurred at a plant operated by Advics Co., a unit of Aisin Seiki Co., in the city of Kariya in Aichi Prefecture, the police said.

The blast occurred at a facility where painted parts are dried, the police said.

Advics said it was a gas explosion but that the cause and extent of damage were not immediately known.

The factory, located about a kilometer northeast of the Kariya railway station, produces brake systems for automakers including Toyota Motor Corp. and Nissan Motor Co.—Kyodo News

Boeing set to win 2-billion-pound contract from UK MoD

LONDON — Boeing Co is set to win a 2-billion-pound contract from the UK Ministry of Defence (MoD) for new Apache helicopters, the *Telegraph* reported.

The MoD has decided to give Boeing a 50-aircraft contract, including servicing, and the announcement could come as early as July, the newspaper said.

Italian aerospace manufacturer Leonardo Finmeccanica SpA had been a contender for the contract, the *Telegraph* said.

US planemaker Boeing is offering the helicopters at a lower price by tacking them on to the end of a larger Apache order from the US military, the paper added.

The British government has committed to NATO's defence spending pledge of 2 per cent of GDP for the next five years, but the MoD will be under pressure to opt for the most cost effective option as it juggles spending on a number of big projects.

Boeing and the MoD could not be immediately reached for comment.—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.

Agriculture remains the mainstay of national economic growth

Kyaw Thura

OUR country has a population of over 51 million, 70 per cent of whom lives in rural areas and is employed in the agriculture sector. The country is at a historic stage in its pursuit of a reform agenda that focuses on the welfare of the people by ensuring fundamental human rights. This pursuit must be conducted with the wellbeing of farmers in mind.

As Myanmar must chiefly rely on natural resources and agriculture for its economic

growth, the improvement of farming methods is of critical importance in fighting poverty and fostering rural development. As part of helping the farming community, the government has adopted a loan policy. The new policy enables farmers to take out low-interest loans from the Myanma Economic Bank and the Myanma Agricultural Development Bank this year. The annual interest rate is set at 8 per cent. Bank loans vary from K150,000 (US\$126) per

acre of paddy to K20,000 (US\$17) per acre for other crops.

Nonetheless, inadequate infrastructure, low technological know-how and limited access to electricity in rural areas still prove serious obstacles to the efforts of Myanmar's government, stifling the country's productivity.

Furthermore, instability resulting from armed conflict in border areas makes it hard for vulnerable residents, most of whom are members of ethnic

minority communities, to find a way to break out of the vicious cycle of poverty.

According to a report by the United Nations Development Programme, poverty in rural areas and border areas is twice as high as in other areas. The government must adopt a systematic approach to resolving all of these challenges farmers are faced with in order to maximise the country's economic growth and improve living standards of rural communities.

From Small Hut to Standard Hospital

Sayar Mya

(Continued from yesterday)

(9) Moving Forward

After fulfilling the first hurdle, Kyaswa Sayadaw tried the second hurdle. The first stage was set and fulfilled. Then Sayadaw moved for the second stage.

At that time, the Sagaing – Min Goon motor road had already been commissioned and the community is using smoothly. Due to the smooth functioning of the Sagaing – Min Goon Road, Dr. Lakkhana conceived the idea of saving lives of the critical patients in the remote hilly areas by accepting them as inpatients at Wacht Health Care Unit through the uses of motor road.

Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana wanted to upgrade the dispensary into a small hospital to accommodate critical patients as inpatients. Unfortunately, the then dispensary was not wide enough to accommodate inpatients. The health unit was to be enlarged and upgraded into hospital.

(10) Upgrading the health unit

One pleasant afternoon, Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana invited senior Directive-Owada Sayadaws and Executive Members Sayadaws to his Kyaswa religious resort chamber. He supplicated the idea of enlarging and upgrading the health unit into a standard hospital to enable to accept critical patients as inpatient from the surrounding villages.

The attendees such as senior Directive-Owada Sayadaws, Executive Member Sayadaws and the lay disciples had agreed the proposal unanimously as they had full



Italian surgeons and local Myanmar surgeons posed for a photo call. PHOTO: SAYAR MYA

faith in the ability of Dr. Lakkhana.

After a few weeks, the happy occasion had been realized on 20 October 1987 by initial ground breaking and stake driving ceremony for the 50-bed hospital. Next, small square pits to erect the foundation pillars were systematically dug. The task took a few months.

On Wednesday 2 March 1988, foundation laying ceremony was successfully held to shape a 50-bed hospital.

Day by day, the construction of Wacht Hospital came up into "Standard Hospital" structure.

This was a short chronicle on the theme "From Small Hut to Standard Hospital".

Round up for 2011 to 2015	
2010-2011:	Outpatients 22,283; Inpatients 3,710.
2011-2012:	Outpatients 22,958; Inpatients 4,339.
2012-2013:	Outpatients 53,278; Inpatients 14,358.
2013-2014:	Outpatients 83,727; Inpatients 9,078
2014-2015:	Outpatients 48,667; Inpatients 8,243.

Conclusion

The above narration and the chronological events and donations of well wishers are the clear mani-

festation of the amazing and remarkable achievements of the four storied 327 feet by 40 feet building of Wacht Jivatadana Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills.

Such achievements and successes that overwhelmed the Sangha Hospital have come a long way stretching for more than 25 long years.

Over the long extended 25 years, Kyaswa Resort Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana travelled extensively inside the country as well as abroad delivering sermons and guiding Vipassana Insight Meditation. At the same time, Dr. Lakkhana clarified the ongoing project of Wacht Sangha Hospital in Sagaing Hills.

When his disciples across the country and abroad came to know about the aim and objective of the hospital, their faith and generosity grew very fast and started to donate cash and kind for the hospital.

Over the years, foreign doctors and foreign donor agencies came to know the philanthropic activities of the Wacht Hospital. Offer of logistic assistances and expertise started to roll in from the foreign countries.

In the past years, motley assortment of medical treatment was



Australian Vitreoretinal Surgeon examining a nun. PHOTO: SAYAR MYA

offered by foreign doctors hand in hand with the local Myanmar physicians, surgeons and doctors with the assistance of the home trained technicians and nurses.

Each calendar year, treatment projects of foreign teams are filled up from January to December.

The year 2015 witnessed many foreign teams offered medical treatment to patients.

The first half of 2016 is also witnessing many foreign doctors at the hospital.

All the members of the Logistic and Supervisory Committees donated cash and kind by themselves, and also raised funds from the relatives and friends for the hospital.

Moreover, Members of the Health Care Professional Group also contributed the professional skills in the treatment of the patients in addition to their donation of cash and kind. They also inspired other friends in the medical profession to come together to donate and to offer treatment.

Well wishers, philanthropists and generous donors came forward and took part in the donation wholeheartedly. Moreover, they encouraged and motivated others

to involve in the humanitarian tasks of the Wacht Hospital.

At the guidance of the Kyaswa Sayadaw Dr. Lakkhana, the well wishers, good hearted people and professionals are always active and dynamic in the development task of the hospital. That was why the hospital turned up from "Small Hut to Standard Hospital".

However, it is to keep in mind those successes and achievements of the hospital should be maintained for the years to come. All well wishers concerned must keep up the momentum with much significance and consideration.

No one should take it lightly.

Therefore, in line with the guidance of Dr. Lakkhana, the well wishers, philanthropists and health care professionals must seriously keep in mind that they have the obligation to solicit funds from the donors in topping up the "Eternal Funds" of the hospital to keep the Wacht Jivatadana Sangha Hospital in motion.

All persons connected with the hospital, including foreign doctors and foreign donors, vow to work together in keeping the "Small Hut to Standard Hospital" moving ahead in full steam.

KBZ well strikes water, cheers up locals



US\$ 1 million worth water drilling machine. PHOTO: GNLM

A WELL being drilled by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation's modern drilling machine in Bawsai, Shan State, produced water on 28 May and has cheered up locals facing a scarcity of drinking water.

When the drilling reached a depth of 630 feet in the compound of a monastery, the water came out suddenly, and local people who previously were in need of fresh drinking water burst

into jubilation, according to a resident.

The success of the drilling was a first time for the new machine.

"We take pride in the success of the first drilling of the new machinery. It is very difficult to strike fresh water in this hilly region. It took about 20 days for us to get the water," said a volunteer.

The foundation has bought

a machine manufactured by the Dando Company in the UK, which is reportedly worth more than US\$1 million.

The new machine can drill down to a depth of 1,800 feet. The machines previously used by the foundation could only drill to a depth of 1,000 feet.

As part of its nationwide water supply project, BFM has successfully drilled 76 tube wells, dug and maintained 98 lakes and established 262 water distribution taps in water scarce areas in southern and eastern Shan State, Kayah State, Mandalay Region and Nay Pyi Taw.

The foundation has also supplied drinking water to 138,968 peoples in Shan State, 60 monasteries, 49 schools, 11 hospitals and 12 fire services centres.

It has spent more than K7.2 billion so far on the water supply project in order to help people overcome droughts induced by El Niño.

To combat water scarcity in arid areas across the country, the foundation implemented a water supply project on 11 March 2014 with the use of six heavy machines in Bawsai, Heho, Kalaw, Aungban, Pintaya, Taunggyi, Hopone and Namsam townships in Shan State, and Satsatyo Village in Myauk U District and Kyauktan Village in Chauk Township. So far, the foundation has drilled 109 tube wells.—GNLM

Traditional pottery industry attracts international visitors

INTERNATIONAL visitors are showing increasing interest in traditional pottery production in Myanmar.

Pottery, both glazed and unglazed, is commonly used in households around the country, especially in rural areas. Most pottery items are cooking pots, vases, drinking water pots and storage pots, which are used to

store water, oil, fish paste, salt and various pickled foods.

Located beside the road between Yesagyo and Pakokku, Thetkai village frequently receives flocks of tourists who come to observe the traditional culture and livelihoods of rural communities. Almost all of the villagers are involved in traditional pottery manufacturing, and

their family businesses have been in operation for the past century.

A group of nine tourists visited the village on Saturday to observe how to make earthenware using traditional techniques.

Most of the villagers prefer pottery kitchenware over metal ones as they believe food tastes better if it is cooked in an earthenware pot.—Pe Htun Zaw

Mosaic artworks in high demand

ART dealers are seeing an increase in demand for mosaics in the domestic market.

"Works featuring traditional culture are mostly sold to local buyers, who buy them as gifts for others," said U Htay Lwin, the owner of a handicraft shop.

However, mosaic makers mainly rely on international buyers, including those from China. The world's most populous country is a major buyer of Myanmar handmade products, especially paintings featuring dragons and peacocks.

In the past, foreigners used to buy artwork featuring natural



The interior of a mosaic shop. PHOTO: 200

scenes, though this has declined recently.

"We sell a mosaic works for between K6,000 and K400,000," said U Htay Lwin.

Local artists create mosa-

ics with the use of raw materials from Mandalay.

There are over 400 varieties of mosaic works in the country. About 200 designs are popular among buyers.—200

People's Forum

Letter to the Editor

Dear U Khin Maung Aye

My very deep appreciation of your Editorial on "Mete out deterrent punishment for corruption" published in your esteemed paper GNLM of 25th May, 2016.

This sort of article had been long overdue, as I understand, because of various reasons, but now, the whole world will come to know on the courage and fair report to our present new Government and people, on our corrupt situation which is earning about the top position event in International assessment.

I, as one of the victims of corruption, wrote on the same topic and had the honour of being published on page 9 of your esteemed paper of 17th December, 2015. Actually, it was in my Congratulatory note for U Khin Maung, regarding the expected qualities of Judges and Magistrates, partly also in connection with the reply of our Supreme Court to a query in Pyithu Hluttaw on wrong verdicts meted out by Judges and Magistrates.

Therefore, now my Prayers and Blessings for the action being taken by the representatives of the new Government towards Eradication of Corrupt Practices in many forms, to come into force, fast and uniform, with every Organization and responsible individuals striving with full effort toward their fulfillment of duty for a clean and developed country.

Further more, I would strongly urge for RETROSPECTIVE INVESTIGATIONS, followed by exemplary punishments, as wrongful verdicts have ruined not only individuals, but also innocent families who are still suffering till date, while the corrupt Judges and Magistrates, who regard themselves as UNTOUCHABLES, Legal Advisors, and influential persons or Organizations are still at large in full enjoyment of their illegal gains, many with modern luxury, and extra families for some.

Regards and Best of Luck,
Yours Truly,
(A Patriot)

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor

These days, the articles of how to combat bribery and corruption in Myanmar have been published in the state-run newspapers and private newspapers or journals. Some writers share the knowledge and highlighted anti-corruption laws promulgated in different countries. In theory, it sounds perfect in combating bribery and corruption, but in practice, there still prevails difficulty to probe the graft and corruption committed by previous public officials especially those who held topmost positions. Public were not impressed by the unfair judgments or actions against the accused concerned in the past. Undeniably, the world communities are witnessing that we are on the road to democratization. To my understanding, if we really want to eliminate the practice of bribery and corruption in Myanmar, there should not be biased agents or commission for anti-corruption. Even then, the trial and verdict must be impartial or unprejudiced. The vast majority of people wish our country to be totally free from that abhorrent practice of bribery and corruption. Punitive actions must be taken against whoever involved in such immoral sins effectively and impartially.

The persons who are the former officials of dictatorial regimes must not be selected as the anti-corruption commission members. The members should be selected by public or public government publicly. For the sake of public interests and country's prestige facing, judiciary or judges must punish the corrupt administrators or public officials impartially. I do believe if we all constantly combat the crime of corruption, we can eliminate it certainly. I am firmly convinced that we all citizens hate to hear bribery and corruption.

Truly
Hein Htet

Local golf tournament to come in June

THE Myanmar Golf Federation and Myanmar PGA will hold the second phase of its round-robin golf tournament from 8 to 11 June at the Hanthawady Golf Course in Bago Region.

The local contest will include two events—professional and amateur. All participants will compete in line with St Andrews golf rules and local golf rules.

Interested golfers may dial 09 421 134 111 or 09 421 002 259 to confirm their involvement in the event not later than the afternoon of 6 June. Each player must pay a fee of K30,000 for the professional event and K10,000 for the amateur event.

After registration, the golfers may play official practice rounds on 5 and 6 June.—Poe Thaw Zin

Syrian opposition negotiator quits after peace talks' failure

AMMAN — The chief peace negotiator of Syria's mainstream opposition said on Sunday he was resigning over the failure of the UN-backed Geneva peace talks to bring a political settlement and to ease the plight of Syrians living in besieged rebel-held areas.

Mohammed Alloush, who is also the representative of the powerful Jaish al Islam rebel faction in the Saudi-based High Negotiations Committee (HNC), said in a statement sent to Reuters that the peace talks had also failed to secure the release of thousands of detainees or to push Syria towards a political transition without President Bashar al Assad.

The UN-backed parties have not set a date for the resumption of the peace talks after the HNC suspended their participation until the situation on the ground has radically changed.

Alloush also said that without any of the opposition demands met, peace talks were a "waste of time", adding that he



Mohammad Alloush of the Jaish al Islam faction and member of the High Negotiations Committee (HNC) attends a news conference after a meeting with UN mediator Staffan de Mistura during Syria Peace talks at the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland, on 13 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

did not expect peace talks to resume so long as the Syrian government remained intransigent and not ready to enter "serious negotiations".

The Syrian government does not recognise the right of the

HNC to speak on behalf of the opposition and insists they were tools of foreign powers seeking to topple Assad and brand Alloush himself as a "terrorist".

The resignation was accepted in a meeting in the Saudi-

capital Riyadh headed by HNC's chief coordinator Riad Hijab that sought to assess the peace negotiations.

Separately, the Turkish based Syrian opposition affiliated to the HNC called on foreign backers to step up military support for the moderate Free Syria Army (FSA) rebel groups.

They said such backing would allow their fighters to wrest back the mainly Arab inhabited city of Raqqa, the defacto capital of Islamic State militants in Syria.

The opposition criticised the arming and training of the US backed Syria Democratic Forces (SDF), whose main component are the Kurdish YPG militia for pursuing a separatist agenda.

With the help of US special forces, they launched last week with allied Arab tribal groups an assault north of the city of Raqqa with the aim of capturing it. They had gained a string of villages around Ain Issa, a town about 60 km north west of Raqqa city.

Head of the main Syrian opposition delegation Asaad al-Zoubi also told al Hadath TV channel that he too wanted to be relieved of his post in the HNC but did not confirm he had taken a similar step.

A source in the opposition said Zoubi was replaced in a reshuffle of the HNC negotiating team that includes both military factions and political groupings.

Zoubi said no real peace talks had taken place four months since the latest rounds of Geneva peace talks were launched and opposition pleas to get the UN-backed process to pressure the Syrian authorities to allow humanitarian aid to besieged areas went unheeded.

The Syrian opposition suspended in April its formal participation in peace talks in protest at Syrian army offensives they said meant a ceasefire was effectively over. They were however under strong pressure not to quit altogether. —Reuters

Turkish shelling kills 28 Islamic State fighters north of Aleppo

ANKARA — Turkey's military killed at least 28 Islamic State fighters in shelling north of the Syrian city of Aleppo on Sunday in retaliation for the latest attacks against a Turkish border town, broadcaster CNN Turk said, citing a military statement.

The attack hit 58 Islamic State targets with artillery and rocket launchers, CNN Turk said on Monday.

The pro-government *Sabah* newspaper reported five people were injured on Friday when rockets fired from Islamic State-controlled territory in northern Syria hit the Turkish border province of Kilis, which is about 60 kilometres (37 miles) north of Aleppo.

Kilis has been hit by rockets from Islamic State-controlled territory more than 70 times since January, killing 21 people including children, in what security officials say has gone from accidental spillover to deliberate targeting.

The Turkish military usually responds with artillery barrages into northern Syria, but officials have said it is difficult to hit mobile Islamic State targets with howitzers. Turkish officials have said they need more help from Western allies in defending the border. Islamic State fighters captured territory from Syrian rebels in an area near the Turkish border on Friday, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported.—Reuters

Iraqi army storms to edge of Islamic State-held Falluja; fresh bombings hit Baghdad

SOUTHERN OUTSKIRTS OF FALLUJA, (Iraq) — The Iraqi army stormed to the southern edge of Falluja under US air support on Monday and captured a police station inside the city limits, launching a direct assault to retake one of the main strongholds of Islamic State militants.

A Reuters TV crew about a mile (about 1.5 km) from the city's edge said explosions and gunfire were ripping through Naimiya, a district of Falluja on its southern outskirts.

An elite military unit, the Rapid Response Team, seized the district's police station at midday, state television reported.

The battle for Falluja is shaping up to be one of the biggest ever fought against Islamic State, in the city where US forces waged the heaviest battles of their 2003-2011 occupation against the Sunni Muslim militant group's precursors.

Falluja is Islamic State's closest bastion to Baghdad, and believed to be the base from which the group has plotted an escalating campaign of suicide bombings against Shi'ite civilians and government targets inside the capital.

As government forces pressed their onslaught, suicide bombers driving a car and a motorcycle and another bomb planted in a car killed more than 20 people and injured more than 50 in three districts of Baghdad, police and medical sources said.

Separately, Kurdish secu-



Shi'ite fighters with Iraqi security forces fire artillery during clashes with Islamic State militants near Falluja, Iraq, on 29 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

rity forces announced advances against Islamic State in northern Iraq, capturing villages from militants outside Mosul, the biggest city under militant control.

The Iraqi army launched its operation to recover Falluja a week ago, first by tightening a six-month-old siege around the city 50 km (30 miles) west of Baghdad.

Falluja, in the heartland of Sunni Muslim tribes who resent the Shi'ite-led government in Baghdad, was the first Iraqi city to fall to Islamic State in January

2014. Months later, the group overran wide areas of the north and west of Iraq, declaring a caliphate including parts of neighbouring Syria.

On Monday, army units advanced to the city's southern entrance, "steadily advancing" under air cover from a US-led coalition helping to fight against the militants, according to a military statement read out on state TV.

A Shi'ite militia coalition known as Popular Mobilization, or Hashid Shaabi, was seeking to consolidate the siege by dislodg-

ing militants from Saqlawiya, a village just to the north of Falluja.

The militias, who took the lead in assaults against Islamic State in other parts of Iraq last year, have pledged not to take part in the assault on the mainly Sunni Muslim city itself to avoid aggravating sectarian strife.

Falluja has been a bastion of the Sunni insurgency that fought both the US occupation of Iraq and the Shi'ite-led Baghdad government that took over after the fall of dictator Saddam Hussein, a Sunni, in 2003.—Reuters

Asia shares slip, dollar firms after Yellen's hike hint

TOKYO — Asian shares edged down on Monday while the dollar marked fresh highs after Federal Reserve Chair Janet Yellen suggested that an interest rate hike in the United States could be around the corner.

The Fed should raise interest rates “in the coming months” if economic growth picks up and the labor market continues to improve, Yellen said on Friday.

Financial spreadbetters predicted Germany's DAX .GDAXI and France's CAC 40 .FCHI to each open up 0.7 per cent, after Friday's gains on Wall Street. Trading volumes are expected to be thin as London and New York markets will be closed for public holidays.

MSCI's broadest index of Asia-Pacific shares outside Japan .MIAPJ0000PUS was off session lows, but still down 0.1 per cent.

Japan's Nikkei stock index .N225 ended up 1.4 per cent, as the yen weakened and expectations rose that the government would delay a sales tax hike scheduled for April next year.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said he would delay the increase by 2-1/2 years, Masahiko Komura, vice president of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, told reporters on Monday, echoing what a government source told Reuters on Sunday.

One uncertainty, however, is how markets would react if a postponement of Japan's sales tax hike were to lead to a downgrade of Japan's sovereign rating.

“What would be scary is if there were to be a downgrade. I



Visitors look at an electronic board showing the Japan's Nikkei average at the Tokyo Stock Exchange (TSE) in Tokyo, Japan, on 9 February, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

think equities would fall if that happens. That remains a risk,” said Satoshi Okagawa, senior global markets analyst for Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation in Singapore.

On Friday, Wall Street posted daily and weekly gains ahead of a three-day weekend in the United States, due to Monday's Memorial Day holiday.

While higher US interest rates could sap global liquidity, Yellen's comments were taken in stride by Wall Street as they suggested the US economy was strong enough to weather another

rate increase, following from the December hike.

Her comments also were largely in tune with a chorus of other Fed officials who have indicated in recent weeks that policy-makers could resume raising rates as soon as next month.

St. Louis Fed President James Bullard was the latest voice, saying on Monday global markets appear to be “well-prepared” for a summer interest rate hike, although he did not specify a date for the policy move.

The probability of a rate increase at the Federal Open Mar-

ket Committee's 14-15 June meeting rose to 34 per cent from 30 per cent before Yellen's remarks, according to CME Group.

Market bets on a rate increase at the 26-27 July policy meeting edged up to 60 per cent, more than double the estimate from a month ago.

The dollar index scaled a fresh two-month high of 95.968, and was last up 0.4 per cent at 95.926 .DXY.

The dollar surged 0.9 per cent to 111.35 yen JPY= after notching a fresh one-month peak of 111.38 yen.

The greenback also got a lift from revised US gross domestic product data for the first quarter released on Friday, that showed that growth did not slow as much as first estimated.

Because of Yellen's emphasis on the labor market, the US nonfarm payrolls report on Friday will attract more than the usual attention.

Economists expect US employers to have added 170,000 jobs in May, slightly more than they did in April, and hourly wages to show a 0.2 per cent increase from the previous month.

The euro wallowed around 2-1/2 month lows, edging down 0.1 per cent to \$1.1108 EUR=.

The European Central Bank will meet on Thursday, and is expected to keep interest rates on hold and reaffirm its focus on implementing its stimulus package announced in March.

Crude oil futures remained just shy of the key \$50 per barrel level after marking weekly gains, feeling some pressure from the stronger US dollar that made it more expensive for holders of other currencies.

Brent crude LCOc1 slipped 0.5 percent to \$49.09 a barrel, after gaining 1 per cent last week. US crude CLc1 was down 0.2 per cent at \$49.21 after rising about 3 per cent for the week.

The dollar's strength took a toll on spot gold XAU=, which dropped 0.9 per cent to \$1,201 an ounce. It plumbed a low of \$1,199.60 earlier in the session, its lowest since late February. —Reuters

Euro zone economic sentiment rises more than expected in May

BRUSSELS — Euro zone economic sentiment improved more than expected in May and inflation expectations among companies and consumers rose, data from the European Commission showed on Monday.

Economic sentiment in the 19 countries sharing the euro rose to 104.7 this month from an upwardly revised 104.0 in April, beating market consensus of a rise to 104.4 points.

The improvement was due to more optimism among consumers and managers in the retail trade and construction sectors, while confidence remained stable in the industrial sector and decreased slightly in the services sector, the largest in the euro zone economy.

Separately, the Commission's business climate index, which points to the phase of the business cycle, improved to

0.26 in May from an upwardly revised 0.15 in April. The improvement was much higher than market forecasts of a rise to 0.16.

Consumer expectations of price trends over the next 12 months rose to 3.4 in May from 2.9 the previous month, confirming the positive trend recorded in April, but remained well below the long-term average of 19.2. Companies' expectations of developments in producer prices also rose to -0.7 from a revised -2.8 in April, reaching the highest point since July 2015, although still below the long-term average of 4.8.

The European Central Bank carefully watches inflation expectations in its monetary policy decisions. The bank aims for inflation in the euro zone to be below, but close to 2 per cent, over the medium term.—Reuters

Indian minister: discussing Apple's request for FDI rules waiver

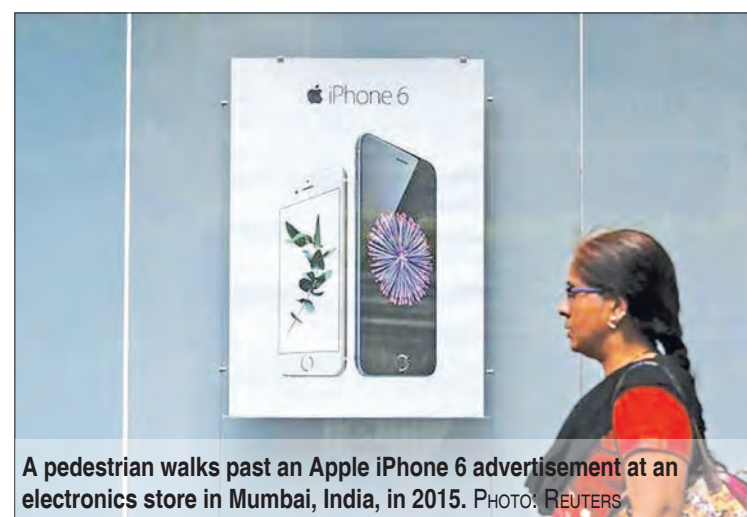
NEW DELHI — The Indian government on Monday said it was discussing Apple Inc's foreign direct investment application that seeks a waiver from a local sourcing rule.

Nirmala Sitharaman, commerce and industry minister in the federal cabinet, told reporters her ministry would discuss the issue with the finance ministry.

The finance ministry's foreign investment promotion board (FIPB), which clears foreign direct investment applications, has asked the iPhone maker to sell at least 30 per cent locally sourced goods if it wished to open shops in India.

Apple hopes to expand its retail presence in India, one of the world's fastest-growing smartphone markets, at a time when sales in the United States and China have slowed.

India last year exempted foreign retailers selling “state of the art” or “cutting edge technology” from the sourcing rule, which states that 30 per cent of the value of goods sold in a shop should be



A pedestrian walks past an Apple iPhone 6 advertisement at an electronics store in Mumbai, India, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

made in India. A panel set up by Sitharaman's ministry had favored waiving the sourcing requirement for the US-based phone-maker.

But a government official, with direct knowledge of the FIPB decision, said Apple's request was turned down as it failed to provide any material “on record” to back it.

“We took a line that we wouldn't mind waiving off the local sourcing norm for Apple's

high-end products,” said Sitharaman.

“(The) finance ministry has taken a different line. We will talk to them.” The FIPB decision is a setback for Apple, whose chief executive Tim Cook met Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi about a week ago. The trip was supposed to set the stage for the US-based company's expansion in India.—Reuters

Rio de Janeiro police search slums for suspects in gang-rape case

RIO DE JANEIRO — Rio de Janeiro police swarmed two slums on Sunday searching for suspects in the alleged gang rape of a 16-year-old Brazilian girl who said more than 30 men assaulted her, a case that shocked the nation set to host the Olympics in August.

More than 70 officers used helicopters, armored vehicles and dogs to enter the slums, but there was no word if any suspects had been captured in the operation.

In the five days since a video of the rape was posted by an alleged perpetrator on Twitter and set off a wave of outrage, police have brought in five people for questioning and made no arrests.

Police said there are indications the gang rape occurred on 21 May, but they could not confirm how many took part.

Over the weekend, women and men marched in several cities to demand justice and decry sexism in Brazilian culture. A woman who sits on the Supreme Court lashed out at a pervasive macho culture that permits such



Demonstrators attend a protest against rape and violence against women in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 27 May 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

barbaric acts.

"Each and every woman is a victim," Justice Carmen Lucia said in a written statement. "Our bodies are tormented, our souls are trashed. That is what these criminals think and do, and

they must quickly be held accountable."

The case added to concerns about security in Rio and the political breakdown in Brazil as the city and country prepare for South America's first Olympics

starting on 5 August.

Crime has fallen in recent years, but there has been an increase in homicides in recent months as Rio's police department had its budget slashed during an economic downturn.

The country's elected president, Dilma Rousseff, has been suspended on allegations she broke budget laws, and her impeachment trial in the Senate will likely play out as the Games are held. Brazil's worst econom-

ic crisis since the 1930s has compounded the political chaos.

In addition, an outbreak of the Zika virus has prompted health warnings and led top global health experts to advise that the Games be postponed or moved.

The reported rape came to light in a video of the nude, semi-conscious youth, with a few men brazenly insulting the girl, showing their faces, and one man heard saying: "More than 30 impregnated her!" The Twitter account where the video was posted has been suspended.

Both Rousseff, the first woman to be elected president in Brazil, and interim President Michel Temer condemned the act.

In an interview with Rio's O Globo newspaper, the alleged victim said she wanted to see justice done so that no other person would have to go through a brutal assault like the one she said she suffered.

"Today I feel like a piece of trash," she told the newspaper. "I hope that no other person ever feels this way." —Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VSG GLORY VOY NO (104)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VSG GLORY VOY NO (104) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of O.E.A where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S RK SHIPPING & TRADING
PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DAWEI STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DAWEI STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 29.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MERATUS GORONTALO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE**

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MANDALAY STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MANDALAY STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 31.5.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CONTINENTAL SHIPPING
LINE PTE LTD**

Phone No: 2301185

Drowned baby picture captures week of tragedy in Mediterranean



A German rescuer from the humanitarian organisation Sea-Watch holds a drowned migrant baby, off the Libyan coast on 27 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

ROME — A photograph of a drowned migrant baby in the arms of a German rescuer was distributed on Monday by a humanitarian organisation aiming to persuade European authorities to ensure safe passage to migrants, after hundreds are feared to have drowned in the Mediterranean last week.

The baby, who appears to be no more than a year old, was pulled from the sea on Friday after the capsizing of a wooden boat. Forty-five bodies arrived in the southern Italian port of Reggio Calabria on Sunday aboard an Italian navy ship, which picked up 135 survivors from the same incident. German humanitarian

organisation Sea-Watch, operating a rescue boat in the sea between Libya and Italy, distributed the picture taken by a media production company on board and which showed a rescuer cradling the child like a sleeping baby. In an email, the rescuer, who gave his name as Martin but did not want his family name published, said he had spotted the baby in the water "like a doll, arms outstretched".

"I took hold of the forearm of the baby and pulled the light body protectively into my arms at once, as if it were still alive ... It held out its arms with tiny fingers into the air, the sun shone into its bright, friendly but motionless eyes." —Reuters

‘Tourists go home’: Spain tourism surge brings backlash

PALMA DE MALLORCA, (Spain) — On the walls of the grand old houses of this Balearic port which attracts millions of foreigners every year, a new kind of graffiti has flourished: “Tourists go home”.

Although still a minority protest, it points to tensions in Palma de Mallorca and elsewhere in Spain over rising numbers of visitors who are propelling the economy but also disrupting the lives of locals and straining services from transport to water.

With tourism accounting for 12 per cent of economic output and 16 per cent of jobs, Spain can ill afford a backlash.

Long a popular beach destination, this year Spain is drawing record numbers of visitors who are shunning destinations where security is a concern, notably Tunisia, Egypt and Turkey.

The surge has helped the country recover from re-

cession and alleviate a jobs crisis. But, for many Spaniards, the jump in tourism has a downside.

“They want to turn us into a theme park, a place you close the doors on at night because no-one lives there,” said Luis Clar, who heads an association in the La Seu neighbourhood of Palma de Mallorca, home to its main monuments.

Here the city council has recently banned parking near the sandstone cathedral, where vehicles on its sea-facing esplanade were deemed an eyesore.

But losing that parking space has forced many families living in the area’s narrow alleys to park much further afield or spend hours circling, Clar said. Most streets are narrow and often filled with sightseers. One couple had recently left the area as a result, Clar said.

In the Balearics off Spain’s eastern Mediterranean coast, nearly a third of



People walk past a graffiti in Palma de Mallorca, in the Spanish island of Mallorca, on 23 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

employment depends on the sector. It accounts for nearly half the economic output, more than in any other region. The local economy has just recovered to its pre-crisis level after a five-year downturn.

Yet unease over the

boom is spreading among the population.

In drought-prone island Ibiza water reserves are getting tight and in rural Menorca fears are mounting that natural beauty-spots risk being spoiled.

On one day last Au-

gust, the population across the Balearics nearly doubled, reaching a record 2 million.

The latest data from March shows visitors to the archipelago were up nearly 50 per cent from 2015 in that month alone, swelled

by arrivals from Britain in particular. All-inclusive holidays for the peak summer months are selling out.

In Palma, residents know there are days to avoid the city centre, especially when cruise ships carrying thousands of passengers mass in the harbor, and some worry entire neighborhoods will turn into holiday lets.

Similar concerns led to angry protests in Barcelona two years ago, where residents in beachfront areas rallied against the rise in drunk and disorderly holidaymakers that coincided with a blossoming trade in tourist apartments.

For Gaspar Alomar, a temporary worker in a bookshop in one of Palma’s medieval quarters, the recent spate of anti-tourist graffiti in the city has at least appeared to stoke a debate over whether this type of growth is desirable.— Reuters

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OPERATION MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE
NOTICE FOR FURNISHING COMMERCIAL TAX ANNUAL
RETURNS FOR 2015-2016 FINANCIAL YEAR

- This is to notify that any persons chargeable under the Commercial Tax Law within the financial year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, including the economic enterprises of the Union Government, State-owned mills and factories, trading and service enterprises, development committees, cooperative societies, individuals, organizations or associations formed by individuals, companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, carrying out the following economic activities are required to furnish their annual returns of production or services, properly filled in, signed in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the returns to the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office (1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by the respective offices in the case of returns being filed in person.
 - Domestic Production
 - Import
 - Trading
 - Service
- The total proceeds of sale or the total receipts from service, which are not chargeable to commercial tax, of goods and services in the Cooperative and Private Sectors, other than exempted goods and services under the Union Taxes Law, 2015, are as follows;
 - The total sale proceeds of Kyat 20,000,000 for the domestic production of goods in a financial year.
 - The total receipt from service of Kyat 20,000,000 for the rendering of services in a financial year.
 - The total sale proceeds of Kyat 20,000,000 for the trading business in a financial year.
- Deadline for furnishing of returns -**
30th June 2016 (Thursday.)
- Penalty for late filing and non-filing of returns -**
A penalty of 10 % on the tax due shall be charged if there is a failure to furnish the return without a sufficient cause within the stipulated time.
- How to get return forms -**
The forms are available free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or on the IRD website <http://www.irdmyanmar.gov.mm>.
- Enquiries**
Enquiries may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or Tax Service Unit, No. 59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon or the Tax Service Unit, 65th Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets Mandalay.

Director
Operation Management Directorate

MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND FINANCE
INTERNAL REVENUE DEPARTMENT
OPERATION MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE
NOTICE FOR FILING RETURN OF INCOME

- All taxpayers chargeable under the Income Tax Law within the financial year from 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, including companies, partnerships and joint-ventures, cooperative societies, association of collective farming, individuals (excluding salary-earners), associations formed by individuals, organizations or associations registered and formed under any existing law, are required to file their returns of income, properly filled in and signed in accordance with the instructions mentioned in the returns, to the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) in person or by registered mail. A receipt will be issued by the respective offices in the case of returns being filed in person.
- Those large taxpayers registered with the Large Taxpayer Office are required to make their own tax assessments and file a return of income to the Large Taxpayer Office in person or by registered mail. In filing a return of income, instructions mentioned in the return should be carefully followed and there is no need for filing annual financial statements.
- Those taxpayers who earned income from “Salary” within the income year are not required to file a return of income. However, their employers are required to file the Annual Salary Statement to the respective Township Revenue Office.
- Requirement For Attachment :**
Taxpayers are also required to submit, together with the return, a financial report prepared in connection with taxpayers’ books of account kept in accordance with the Income Tax Regulations for the relevant income year.
- Deadline for Filing of Returns-**
30th June 2016, (Thursday.)
- Penalty for late filing and non-filing of returns of income**
A penalty not exceeding 10 % of the tax due may be charged if there is a failure to file a return of income.
- Where to get return forms-**
The forms are available free of charge at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or on the IRD website <http://www.ird.myanmar.gov.mm>.
- Enquiries**
Enquiries may be made at the respective Township Revenue Offices or Medium Taxpayer Office(1),(2) and (3) or Large Taxpayer Office or the Tax Service Unit, No. 59/61, Ground Floor, Pansodan Street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon or the Tax Service Unit, 65th Street, between 22nd and 23rd Streets, Mandalay.

Director
Operation Management Directorate

Box Office: 'X-Men: Apocalypse' Hits \$65 Million, 'Alice Through the Looking Glass' Flops

LOS ANGELES — Fox's "X-Men: Apocalypse" and Disney's "Alice Through the Looking Glass" squared off over Memorial Day weekend, but both blockbuster hopefuls emerged bruised from this box office clash of the titans.

The latest X-Men adventure easily topped the weekend, earning an estimated \$65 million. It is on pace to pull in over \$76 million over the four-day spell. That's a solid start, but a significant drop off from the \$110.5 million that the previous film, "X-Men: Days of Future Past," racked up over the 2014 Memorial Day holiday.

Things were much bleaker for "Alice Through the Looking Glass." The follow-up to 2010's "Alice in Wonderland," which racked up more than \$1

billion during its run, stumbled out of the gate, bombing with \$28.1 million and a projected \$35 over the four-day period. That's a disastrous start for a film with an \$170 million production budget.

The fantasy adventure will try to staunch the bleeding overseas, where "Alice Through the Looking Glass" grossed an estimated \$65 million from such major territories as Italy, Russia, the United Kingdom, Australia, and Brazil. The film has opened in 72% of the international market, with France (June 1), Japan (July 1), and South Korea (Sept. 8) still on deck.

"Alice's" opening is bad news for Johnny Depp, whose star has waned in recent years, its luster diminished by flops such as

"Mortdecai" and "Transcendence." The actor was in the headlines over the weekend after his wife Amber Heard filed for divorce, alleging abuse. Both new releases failed to hit tracking, with some analysts expecting "X-Men: Apocalypse" to debut to between \$80 million and \$100 million, and many box office sages projecting an "Alice" launch in the \$55 million range. The competition appeared to take a chunk out of both film's ticket sales. Some analysts believe that the "Alice in Wonderland" sequel couldn't compete in the crowded summer season. The first film debuted in the spring, when there were fewer major studio releases vying for attention.

"X-Men' destroyed Alice, no question," said Jeff Bock, an analyst with Exhibitor Relations. "That's what happens when a spring fling attempts to go full-tilt summer blockbuster. We've seen this happen in the past and it usually doesn't work out." —Reuters



Cast members (L-R) Sacha Baron Cohen, Mia Wasikowska, Anne Hathaway and Johnny Depp pose at the premiere of 'Alice Through the Looking Glass' at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, US, on 23 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Akira animator Makiko Futaki dies at 57

LOS ANGELES — Prolific Japanese animator Makiko Futaki, known for her work on films like "Akira" and 2002 Oscar-winner "Spirited Away", has died. She was 57.

Futaki passed away on May 13 in a Tokyo hospital from an unspecified illness, said The Hollywood Reporter.

She worked for Studio Ghibli

for three decades and was an animator for all of legendary Japanese director Hayao Miyazaki's productions including "Howl's Moving Castle", "Princess Mononoke" and 2013's "The Wind Rises". Her final film credit was Hiromasa Yonebayashi's critically acclaimed "When Marnie Was There".

Futaki also worked as a key

animator on "Akira", the iconic 1988 Japanese feature adaptation of Katsuhiro Otomo's comic series, which the author directed.

A Hollywood adaptation of "Akira" has been at various stages of development for years.

—PTI

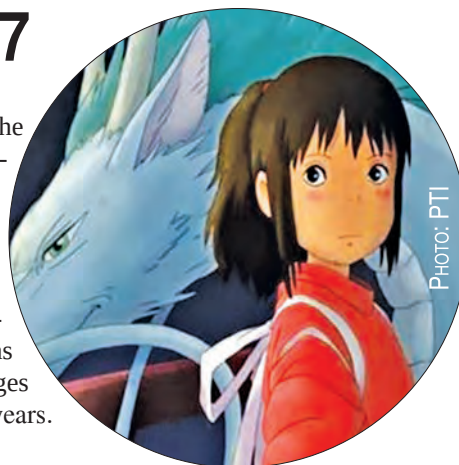


PHOTO: PTI

Big B proud to host girl child segment at govt's gala

MUMBAI — Bollywood megastar Amitabh Bachchan says he will always cherish the experience of hosting the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' segment at the government's second anniversary gala.

The 73-year-old National Award-winning actor spoke about the campaign at a function "Ek Nayi Subah", held at India Gate, New Delhi, on 28 May.

Sharing his thoughts on the segment, Bachchan wrote on his blog, "The Saturday of the 'beti bachao beti padhao' campaign at India Gate... an experience to cherish and be proud of..." At the event, the "Piku" star had stressed on the importance of protecting and nurturing the girl child. Earlier, Bachchan had faced criticism when his name started doing the rounds as the host of the government's planned cultural function but the actor had clarified he was only hosting a small segment for 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao', as he is attached to the campaign. —PTI

Pope gives awards to Richard Gere, George Clooney and Salma Hayek



PHOTO: REUTERS

VATICAN — Pope Francis on Sunday awarded medals to American actors Richard Gere and George Clooney and actress Salma Hayek at an event held at the Vatican to promote the work of a foundation inspired by the pontiff, Scholas Occurrentes.

Clooney attended the event with his wife Amal, a lawyer.

The foundation, whose name means "schools that meet" in Spanish, links technology with the arts, aiming at social integra-

tion and a cultural of peace.

Francis had created a similar organisation when he was Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, but Scholas has now become an international foundation working out of the Vatican.

"Important values can be transmitted by celebrities," said one of the organizers, Lorena Bianchetti, adding that the actors had agreed to be ambassadors for one of the foundation's arts projects. —Reuters

DAW MEHER BANO, (AGED – 92)
BORN : 27-02-1925 / DIED : 25-05-2016

Wife of (Late) Mirza Nasrullah Sherazee.

Grand daughter of (Aga Mahmood Sherazee & Zahra Bi Bi).

Youngest daughter of (Haji Mohammad Hashim Ispahany and Khatija Bi Bi).

Youngest sister of (Shahar Banoo Khanum Ispahany-Mirza Cassim Mishkee), (Mohammad Kazim Ispahany-Bilquis Khanum Behbahany), (Shereen Khanum Ispahany-Mohammad Ali Khorasane), (Khursheed Khanum Ispahany-Mohammad Ameen Khorasane), (Aga Mahmood Ispahany)-Zahra Khanum Sherazee, (Mohammad Jaffar Ispahany-Zeevar Khanum Sherazee).

Mother of Khawer Sultana Sherazee-Wajid Ali Shakir (Bangalore, India), Nusrath Sultana Sherazee-Asad Agha Sherazee (Karachi, Pakistan), Nizam Sherazee-Razia Razavi(a)Aye Aye Nyunt, Zareen Sultana Sherazee-Hashim Ispahany (Karachi, Pakistan), & (Saleem Sherazee)-Rukiya(a)Ma Thein Mya.

Grand Mother of Feroz Shakir, Hassan Sherazee, Talat Zahra Sherazee-Mustafa Siraj, Rafi Sherazee, Tanveer Sultana Sherazee(a)Aye Thiri Zar-Md.Reza Khorasane(a)Ye Thu, Parveen Sultana Sherazee(a) San Thidar Aye-Gulam Mohammad(a)Myo Yarzar, Mehreen Sultana Sherazee(a)Aye Myat Thuzar, Nabeela Ispahany, Elia Ispahany-Hussain Shafiq, Imran Sherazee(a)Kyaw Thein, Bilal Sherazee(a)Aung Moe & Tahera Sultana Sherazee(a)Thazin Win.

Great Grand Mother of Farjad Khorasane(a)Myat Bhone Myint, Mohammad Farzan(a)Yarzar Hein Thant & Zain Mustafa.

Buried at Mogul Shiah Muslim Burial Ground at 2:30 pm., on 26-05-2016.

Bereaved Family.

Visitors to Hiroshima A-bomb museum double after Obama's tour

HIROSHIMA — The number of visitors to the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum during the last weekend of May, following the historic visit by US President Barack Obama, more than doubled from a year earlier to 13,389, the museum said Monday.

Obama on Friday toured the western Japanese city, which was devastated by a US atomic bombing on 6 August, 1945, in World War II, as the first sitting US head of state to do so.

Before delivering a speech at the Peace Memorial Park near ground zero, Obama stopped at the museum in the park, which

displays artifacts of the victims and other exhibitions related to the nuclear attack 71 years ago.

The number of visitors to the museum stood at 6,673 Saturday and 6,716 Sunday, respectively. That for the final Saturday and Sunday in May last year totaled 6,609, according to the museum.

The museum received dozens of inquiries about Obama's message in the guest book and paper cranes offered to the museum.

They were not displayed for visitors, but the museum is considering exhibiting them in the future.—Kyodo News

7-year-old boy missing after left behind in forest as punishment

HAKODATE, (Japan)

— About 130 police officers and firefighters were searching for a 7-year-old boy in mountain forests in northern Japan on Monday, two days after he went missing after being left behind by his parents as punishment for misbehaving.

The police said they will study whether it is possible to file neglect charges against the boy's parents.

Yamato Tanooka was last seen around 5pm Saturday on a mountain forest path in Nanae on the northernmost Japanese main island of Hokkaido, when the parents told him to get out of the car.

According to police, his parents initially told investigators that the son disappeared when the family of four, including the boy's sister, was collecting edible wild plants.

But they later told the police that was untrue, and their son actually went missing after being left alone for about five minutes on their way home from a park.

His 44-year-old father told reporters Sunday that



People ride horses in the town of Nanae on the northernmost Japanese main island of Hokkaido on 30 May, 2016, searching for a 7-year-old boy who went missing two days earlier. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

he dropped Yamato off from the car "to scare him a little bit" as punishment for throwing stones at people and cars.

The boy previously had used a stone to scar a car, so the father said he decided to show him "the father's authority." From the park, the father drove to a forest path to leave the boy behind there for a short while as punishment.

After being told to get out, Yamato started to

chase the car crying, so the parents soon allowed him back into the car.

However, they dropped him off again after driving about 500 meters, according to the father. But when the father pulled off the road and walked about five minutes to the spot where the boy had been left, he was not there.

The family searched for the boy for about a half hour before contacting the police when they could not

find him.

The police, who have been searching for Yamato since Saturday night, used a helicopter Monday to fly over the mountain and search for him, while firefighters rode horses along forest paths while calling out the boy's name.

Yamato was wearing a black jacket, navy-blue pants and red sneakers when he disappeared, according to the police.—Kyodo News

South Korean cram school tutors deny wrongdoing in SAT leak case

SEOUL — Tutors at South Korean test preparation schools denied criminal wrongdoing during a court hearing on Monday involving leaked information that led to the cancellation of the US SAT college entrance exam in South Korea in 2013.

Nine of 22 defendants, including tutors and owners of private "test-prep" schools, appeared in a Seoul court for their

first hearing, charged with illegally obtaining SAT college entrance exam test papers and offering them to pupils.

Their lawyers have said their clients are not guilty of copyright infringement. The trial began after the test's administrator, the Educational Testing Service (ETS), provided documents to the court in March following Reuters inquiries to the company about what

South Korean authorities said was a lack of cooperation.

Defence lawyers said on Monday their clients had used publicly available tests for their prep courses and their actions did not constitute copyright infringement because they had no intention of making a profit or violating fair use rules.

"Without any intent to infringe copyright, some materials were copied and

used when students did not have their textbooks. It is not considered as profit-making," Oh Seung-hyun, a lawyer representing five of the defendants, told the court. Another defendant, charged with obstruction of the test administrator's business by hiring people to take SAT tests to memorize questions, did not reconstruct and distribute what his part-timers learned, Oh said.—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(31- 5-2016, Tuesday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

6:30 pm

- Cartoon Programme "Aladdin" (Part-III)

6:50 pm

- Music Programme

7:00 pm

- International Drama Series

7:50 pm

- International Drama Series

8:40 pm

- International Movie Songs

8:50 pm

- Myanmar Masterclass: Performance Art

9:00 pm

- Music Programme

9:20 pm

- Myanmar Movie

From 30-5-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm
 To 31-5-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(31-5-2016 07:00am ~ 1-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1)
		Mingalar Buuha
07:52	Am	Lines and Wash Painting
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	The Legend of An ambulatory Surgeon (EP-1)
08:50	Am	Myanmar's Export: Mango
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	International Dances in Myanmar
09:44	Am	Tea
09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: Nutrition or Contamination
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Eel Business

10:41 Am Yatana Theinga City and Shwe Bon Yatanamingalar Palace

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (Ep-3)
07:50	Pm	Next Weekend
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Discovering Tribes "Gaybar Kayin"
08:47	Pm	Entrepreneur: Chaw Khin Khin

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

Hamilton victory also a boost for his mechanics



Mercedes F1 driver Lewis Hamilton celebrates on the podium after winning the Monaco Grand Prix in Monaco on 29 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

MONACO — Winning the Monaco Grand Prix transformed Lewis Hamilton's Formula One season and also

provided a timely boost for those working on the triple world champion's side of the Mercedes garage.

with the Briton now assisting his German team mate Nico Rosberg.

With Rosberg winning the first four races of the season to build a substantial lead in the championship, Mercedes have already had to deny conspiracy theories and the pressure was building.

Sunday's race, with Hamilton making the right strategy call and clearly faster than Rosberg, who was asked to move aside after struggling to get the tyres up to temperature, was the Briton's first success of the season.

"Hopefully it will be a boost for my mechanics who have been nervous all year," Hamilton told reporters. "It's not easy coming from one side of the garage (Rosberg's) to the world champion's car. "Because of the issues we've had, they probably felt like 'we're not delivering' but they have been delivering. Today must be a great relief for them and I am grateful for them for sticking through it,

sticking with me. "Hopefully today will give them the confidence to know that I am just as strong as I've always been and I will be for the rest of the year."

Hamilton had been 43 points behind Rosberg before Monaco, the showcase race that every driver wants to win, but ended the weekend only 24 adrift and with everything to play for.

With 25 points for a win, and 15 rounds remaining, the Briton now heads to one of his favourite races in Canada with high hopes of reducing the deficit further.

Despite Sunday's unexpected bonus, Hamilton said Mercedes were under more pressure than ever. Red Bull triumphed in Spain, 18-year-old Dutch driver Max Verstappen becoming the sport's youngest winner, and were favourites to win again in Monaco before a calamitous pitstop cost Australian Daniel Ricciardo first place.—*Reuters*

Rodriguez prepared to fight for his place at Real

MADRID — Colombian international James Rodriguez sees his future at the Bernabeu stadium despite getting a lot less game time for Real Madrid in his second season.

The 24-year-old attacking midfielder scored 17 goals and contributed 17 assists in 43 starts in the 2014-15 campaign after joining Real from Monaco but he made just 21 starts in all competitions in his second year.

Reports in Spain have linked Rodriguez with Manchester United and Paris St Germain.

"In football you never know but I want to continue here and my idea is to have many more years with the club," he told Marca.

"I am happy here. All the people close to me are happy too. It's the ideal club and I want to be here."

Rodriguez watched Saturday's Champions League final triumph over Atletico Madrid from the bench and admitted the season had been "a bit strange".

"I would have liked to play but I did contribute to the team's

success," he said. "When you have bad times you also learn from them and each day I learn more." Rodriguez, who is under contract with Real until 2020, was the leading scorer in the 2014 World Cup in Brazil.

He will captain Colombia in next month's Copa America.—*Reuters*

'Gabigol' scores on debut as Brazil beat Panama 2-0

DENVER — Teenage striker Gabriel lived up to his nickname 'Gabigol' on Sunday when he came off the bench to score on his debut in Brazil's 2-0 win over Panama.

The 19-year-old replaced Jonas after 62 minutes of the friendly match in Colorado and slotted home Brazil's second with his left foot 10 minutes later. Jonas had opened the scoring in the second minute for a compact and solid Brazil.

"I am very happy with the debut and the goal," Gabriel said in a televised interview after Brazil's final warmup ahead of next week's Centenary Copa America in the United States.

"It was a dream come true for me to play alongside players like Kaka and Dani Alves."

Brazil open their Copa America campaign against Ecuador and also face Haiti and Peru in Group B of the 16-team tournament.

In another friendly on Sunday, Colombia beat

Haiti 3-1. Colombia were without Radamel Falcao, who will miss the Copa America through injury, and James Rodriguez, who was with Real Madrid for Saturday's Champions League win over Atletico.

Coach Jose Pekerman looked to youth for the game in Miami, handing a start to 19-year-old Marlos Moreno and introduced Roger Martinez, 21, as a second-half substitute.

Dayro Moreno put Colombia ahead after 14 minutes with an acrobatic volley but Haiti leveled 20 minutes later when Wilde-Donald Guerrier bulleted home a header.—*Reuters*

Wawrinka and Murray into last eight, plus a Spanish lefty

PARIS — Perennial grand slam title contenders Stan Wawrinka and Andy Murray were joined in the French Open quarter-finals by

two unfamiliar faces on Sunday as the Parisian clay continued to turn up unexpected plot lines.

It was no surprise to see Swiss title holder Wawrinka beat Viktor Troicki although it took a while for the third seed to subdue the Serb 7-6(5), 6-7(7), 6-3, 6-2.

Murray's 7-6(9) 6-4 6-3 defeat of John Isner was entirely predictable, even if the second seed had to save three set points in the opener before extending his career record over the towering American to 6-0 in clinical fashion.

Three-times semi-finalist Murray will play Richard Gasquet, the sole surviving French singles player, who had the crowd in raptures on Court Philippe Chatrier with a scintillating 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 win over Japanese fifth seed Kei Nishikori.

Ninth-seeded Gasquet, 29, collapsed joyously on his back after sealing victory and a long-overdue place in the last eight of his home grand slam for the first time in 13 attempts.

"The crowd put the pressure on him," Gasquet said on court as the crowd chanted 'Richard, Richard'. "It was probably not easy for him to play with that crowd."

He will need them in full voice again against Murray.

"Obviously, the atmosphere (against Gasquet) will be tough, but I don't mind that," said Murray. "I played a number of times against French players here in difficult atmospheres and I managed okay."

Two other players advanced to the second week of a grand slam for the first time.

Who would have thought a left-hander named Albert Ramos-Vinolas, rather than nine-times French Open champion Rafael Nadal, would be leading the Spanish men's challenge.

But that is the reality after Nadal pulled out with a damaged left wrist on Friday and Ramos-Vinolas, a first-round loser for the last four years, crushed eighth-seeded Canadian Milos Raonic 6-2, 6-4, 6-4 on a damp, murky day in the capital.

Fifty-fifth ranked Ramos-Vinola's reward for his endeavour is a last-eight clash with Wawrinka.—*Reuters*



Brazil Gabriel. PHOTO: REUTERS