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A PLACE AT THE TABLE

Govt invites non-signatories of NCA to join political dialogue framework meeting

Ye Khaung Nyunt

THE ruling National League for Democracy (NLD) government has opened the door to all stakeholders in the peace dialogue process, inviting non-signatory ethnic armed groups to participate in the upcoming political dialogue framework meeting.

During the first meeting with the United Nationalities Federal Council's (UNFC) Delegation for Political Negotiation (DPN) in Chiangmai, Thailand, yesterday, the government's peace negotiator Dr Tin Myo Win, in his capacity as the chairman of the Union Peace Conference— 21st century Panglong conference preparatory sub-committee 2, has officially invited leaders from the non-signatory groups to join the political dialogue framework meeting, which is scheduled to be held next week.

"For the sake of peace, we will build mutual trust and understanding. Beyond the stage of confidence building, we'll build a peaceful, affluent, democratic federal union," said Dr Tin Myo Win.

"We're all brothers living in the same country. Why were we elected to become the government? Our basic tasks is to effectuate national development, to win the trust of the people and to fulfil food, clothing and shelter needs. How can we achieve these tasks without the restoration of peace? Naturally, there are times when brothers and sisters are not on good terms with one another. This is our assignment. My belief is the deed we've performed in



The government peace delegation, led by chief negotiator Dr. Tin Myo Win, and the Delegation for Political Negotiation met on Friday in Chiang Mai, Thailand. PHOTO: THE IRRRAWADDY

our previous lives. And because of this deed or Kamma, we're meeting in this life. Be frank and feel free to tell me what you have got to say. We'll also tell you what we have to say," he added.

The Chiangmai meeting was held to enable the indigenous armed groups that have not signed the nation-wide ceasefire agreement-NCA to participate in the 21st century Panglong conference.

"We hope to be well informed of what we'd like to know. Up to now, we've to make our reviews and analyses based on the meeting minutes and the information we have got from the news media. We also would like

to know the objectives of the conference under the name of Panglong," said Gwan Maw, a Major General from the ethnic armed organisations' delegation.

During the meeting, the non-signatories to the NCA discussed matters concerning participation in the peace conference and the terms and conditions which will enable them to participate.

They also said they would review the political framework.

"Today, we've met UNFC members that haven't signed the NCA yet. They wanted to know whether the terms and conditions were for them to be able to participate in the peace conference. We've explained to

them as much as we can. We'll meet again with the indigenous groups before the conference. They said they welcome the new civilian government's sending of our delegation to them, who haven't signed the NCA," said U Hla Maung Shwe, secretary of 21st Century Peace conference Preparatory Sub-Committee 2, which was formed on Tuesday to continue to find solutions with the non-signatory ethnic armed organisations in order for them to participate in the peace conference.

The sub-committee 2 arrived to Chiangmai on Thursday and met separately with the Shan State Rehabilitation Party (RCSS/SSA).

MNHRC appeals to Thai HRC over Ranong murder

THE Myanmar National Human Rights Commission (MNHRC) has appealed to the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand in connection with four Myanmar migrant workers indicted for the murder of a Thai student which occurred in Ranong province, Thailand, on 28 September last year.

Thailand's police reportedly forced a confession out of them with the use of torture. On the day of the murder, Moe Zin Aung, one of the four accused, was said to be at his work, the Myanmar Human Rights Commission said, referring to CCTV records. It added that the Thailand's police took them and claimed that the CCTV recordings did not work.

The MNHRC's appeal stressed that the four migrant workers would have found it easy to return to the country to escape arrest if they had actually committed the crime. The four migrant workers remained in Thailand and were arrested for murder.

"Their continuous stay at work will somehow prove their innocence," the appeal said.

The commission has sent two emails, one on 25 October 2015 and the other on 2 Thursday, requesting the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand to assist them in their goal to make sure the accused have access to a fair trial and proper healthcare.

Meanwhile, a Thai-based NGO is planning to make a submission to Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population on 15 July

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw to discuss proposed suspension of jetty construction in Yangon



Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung. PHOTO: MNA



U Tin Maung Win of Seikkan Constituency. PHOTO: MNA

THE Pyithu Hluttaw agreed to discuss a motion to suspend construction works on a 20-acre land plot situated between Botahtaung Pagoda Road and Bo Aung Kyaw Terminal in Yangon yesterday.

U Tin Maung Win of Seikkan Constituency who submitted the proposal told the Pyithu Hluttaw that sandbanks will form in the river along Strand Road in Botahtaung Township, thereby blocking the waterway for vessels if construction works continues.

Strand Road will be clogged with container vehicles, added the MP, raising concern that construction might harm

Botahtaung Pagoda.

U Nay Phu Ba Swe who seconded the motion pointed out that the government will use a larger budget for dredging operations annually when the river has a narrower waterway due to the jetty extension.

Kaung Myanmar Aung Shipping Co Ltd is carrying out construction works on the plot of land owned by the Myanmar Port Authority under permission from the Myanmar Investment Commission.

During the 39th day Pyithu Hluttaw session, Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung responded to questions regarding the licensing process for illegal

motorcycles and action against smuggled vehicles in addition to a compensation plan for farmers whose farmlands were seized for Kyangin-Pakokku railroad construction.

On illegal motorcycles, seizure actions will be taken when a plan to relax licensing rule on illegal motorcycles is completed, said the Union minister.

On the compensation plan for 4,000 acres of seized farmland, compensations will be given to the remaining farmers following necessary arrangements, said the Union minister, adding that compensations have been paid for 1,018 acres.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw approves Ward and Village-tract Administration Bill removing guest registration requirement

THE Amyotha Hluttaw approved a Ward and Village-tract Administration Bill that removed the guest registration requirement from the 2012 Law yesterday.

Despite criticism from Defence Services personnel Hluttaw representatives who stressed the need to maintain the law, a majority of members of parliament approved the proposal to remove the sections that require residents to report overnight guests of the Ward and Village-tract Administration Law of 2012.

U Aung Kyi Nyunt, member of Amyotha Hluttaw Bill Committee, said that the colonial-era legislation that empowers authorities to detain suspects should be

removed in order to bring it in line with the current situations.

A Defence Service Hluttaw representative pointed out that the provisions of guest registration should be kept in the law for security reasons, adding that it is required to uncover arms trafficking cases and arrest fugitives.

Supporting the removal of the guest registration requirement from the law, Advocate U Kyee Myint expressed his view that these provisions are causing people to live in a climate of fear.

Removing the guest registration requirement will require more police members and local authorities to keep a watchful eye on bad people in wards and



Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw. PHOTO: MNA

villages, said Administrator Daw Wai Wai Myint of Aung Chantha ward in Sangyaung Township, Yangon.

The ward administrator stressed the need to be much

more cautious about strangers to ensure security, suggesting that residents should inform ten-household heads and hundred-household heads of the entry of strangers into their own

wards or villages.

According to sources, the bill approved in the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday will be sent to the Pyithu Hluttaw.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Gov't to take further actions against smuggled vehicles

THE government is set to increase its efforts to stop illegal vehicles including motorcycles being smuggled into the country through further action, Union Minister for Transport and Communication U Thant Sin Maung told the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

Surprise checks and seizure actions will be taken against vehicle smuggling through the combined efforts of the Myanmar Police Force and regional authorities, said the Union minister, adding that the relaxation of licensing rules was allowed for nine illegal motorcycles.

According to the Union minister, licenses were issued to 3,284,917 motorcycles under

one-stop service between 1999 and 2014.

Strict bans will be placed on the illegal entry of vehicles into the country and punitive action will be taken against those who deliberately violate the law, said the Union minister at Parliament.

It is required that we take action against illegal vehicles as criminal cases involving smuggled vehicles are difficult to investigate, said Chit Ko Ko, head of the Hlinethaya Township Police Station.

Automobile brokers in Yangon expressed their views that the auto market will see a rise in the price of cars when action against smuggled vehicles comes into force.

Former union minister denies embezzlement allegations

U SOE Thane, former union minister at the President's Office, has denied embezzling 500,000 Euros from the fund of the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association.

The former union minister, now an Amyotha Hluttaw representative, told the media after the parliamentary session on Thursday that he would accept the death sentence if found guilty of the fund swindle.

"I have a clear conscience. It is just an elaborate hoax. A political slander," he said.

Some members of the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association have brought the 90 million Euros

fraud case to the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw's Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission.

They filed a complaint with the Commission, accusing that former president U Thein Sein and several of his former union ministers misappropriated over 90 million Euros from the association's fund through its chairman.

"We want to seek clarification of where all the money has gone," said U Kyaw Kyaw Oo, executive member of the Myanmar Gems and Jewellery Entrepreneurs Association.

In connection with the case, two press briefings took place in

two separate places on Wednesday.

Former mines union minister Dr Myint Aung gave a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw, while the association briefed the correspondents on the issue in Yangon.

Twenty-one people, including the association's vice chairman, secretary and executive members, lodged a complaint regarding the alleged embezzlement, accusing former president U Thein Sein in concert with several of his ex-union ministers and senior officials of being engaged in the embezzlement of the gems fund.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

President receives outgoing Brazilian Ambassador

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received Ambassador of Brazil to Myanmar H.E Mr Alcides G R Prates, who has completed his tour of duty, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the call were Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint and other officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw receives Ambassador of Brazil to Myanmar H.E Mr Alcides G R Prates. PHOTO: MNA

Retaining walls to be installed along Twante Canal

Ko Moe

TO protect against the erosion of the banks of the Twante Canal, a retaining wall will be constructed by local authorities once a budget is allotted by the President's Office.

The total cost of the project is estimated to sit at around K900 million, said Daw Nila Kyaw,

Yangon Region Minister for Electricity, Industry and Transportation.

Connecting the Ayeyawady River and the Yangon River, the 35 km long Twante Canal has become silted and narrow over the years due to lack of regular maintenance.

A canal bank landslide occurred in Hlwasin and Bay-

intnaung streets in West Ohbo Ward in Twante Township last December and again in April this year, destroying twelve houses. Victims are now being accommodated at the houses of relatives, warehouses and places provided by well-wishers.

A government offer of state owned land for housing was rejected by the affected locals who

argued that their income sources would be cut off should they move away from their community.

Retaining walls were built by the Water Resources Department near Aungzayti Pagoda in the township in 2014-2015 financial year. The construction work on Twante Canal began in 1881 during British colonial rule. The canal was opened in May 1883.

Union Information Minister meets foreign ambassadors

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received the Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pisanu Suwanajata and Norwegian Ambassador to Myanmar Ms. Ann Ollestad separately at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the calls the representatives held discussions on the development of the media sector in Myanmar.

Also present were Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

JPN to provide financial injection for paddy in Ayeyawady

PLANS are in place for the Japanese company, Mandaku, to partner with the Department of Agriculture in planting and cultivating good quality paddy on 1,300 acres of land in Ayeyawady Region during this rainy season.

The Department of Agri-

culture has announced it plans to work together with local farmers to plant quality paddy grains of Paw Hsan Yin, Hsin Thwe Lat and Hsin Thukha on 50 acres of land per township in the region.

U Htun Aung Kyaw, head of the Ayeyawady Region Depart-

ment of Agriculture, says the Japanese will assist with a K260 million interest-free loan for the initiative, equivalent to K200,000 per acre.

"Our department will provide technical assistance with cultivation so that farmers are in a position whereby they can distribute a sufficient quantity of quality paddy, while the Japanese will provide support in a financial capacity," he said.

The Department of Agriculture anticipates one acre of paddy to yield 81.2 bushels. If estimates are correct, farmers will be able to distribute over 104,400 bushels of paddy come next year's monsoon paddy season.

It is reported that farmers will only be required to provide farmland and labour for the planting of paddy, with the Mandaku company incurring all financial expenses from the time of plant-

ing monsoon paddy through to its harvest.

But, U Sein Maung Myit, head of the Patheingyi District Department of Agriculture, explains that once farmers have harvested their paddy, they must sell half of their yield back to the Department of Agriculture, who will pay a higher price for it than outside buyers. The interest-free credit lent by the Mandaku company will then be repaid.

"The Department of Agriculture doesn't distribute out quality paddy grain in our region. We must rely on our own efforts to cultivate a quality paddy," said U Oo Than Htun, a farmer from Yekyi township. According to the records of the Department of Agriculture, the Ayeyawady Region boasts of 3.6 million acres of monsoon paddy and 1.2 million acres of summer paddy.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



A farmer harvesting rice in Ayeyawady Delta. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Singaporean PM and wife to visit Myanmar in near future

AT the invitation of President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin, Mr. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, and Mrs. Lee Hsien Loong will pay an official visit to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future, it has been learned.—*Myanmar News Agency*

UN cuts IDP food rations by half

AS of the end of last month, the World Food Programme (WFP) has reduced food supplies for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) within northern Shan State, according to IDP camps.

Food supplies for IDPs between 18-50 years old have been cut in half, as it has been argued they have the capacity to work and earn an income by themselves.

"We used to receive K6,000

a month to buy oil, salt and beans but that's now been halved to just K3,000. My husband and I are both 49 years old," said Nan Laing, an IDP who took refuge at Kutkai IDP camp.

Daw Myint Myint Htway, project coordinator of the Gayana social group, says that food supplies to IDPs have been reduced because of the longevity such support services have been given, since the IDP camps were

first established.

"The IDPs have been supported with food supplies for a long time now. Other sectors need help too. As a plan is in place for support to be received exclusively from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the WFP of the United Nations has decreased its supplies of rice, oil and sand by fifty per cent," she said.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

MNHRC appeals to Thai . . .

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regarding the Myanmar migrant workers involved in the Ranong murder case which took place in neighbouring Thailand, according to the Thailand-based Education and Development Foundation.

"(The submission) will include the Ranong issue. Before making our submission to the ministry, we'll hold discussion (within our organisation) on the need to protect the human rights, (employ-

ment) opportunities, education and health of other Myanmar migrant workers living in Thailand," said U Htoo Chit, executive director of the organisation. Four Myanmar migrant workers were arrested, and are still under investigation for the murder of a sixteen-year-old girl to a Thai father and Myanmar mother in the southern Thailand – Myanmar border town of Ranong in September of last year.—*GNLM with Myanmar News Agency*

Gems traders prepare for exhibition

THE 53rd Gems and Jewelry exhibition will be launched in the Mani Yadana Jade Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. The event will run from 24 June until 6 July. At the auction, foreign and local traders as well as buyers from companies wishing to purchase jade lots must pay a deposit of 10,000 Euros. Buyers are entitled to purchase only 20 times their deposit.

Management Work Committee branch offices will be open in Yangon, Mandalay, Mongkok and Sagaing until 10 June for traders to be able to prepare.

“Deposits must be paid on time. If traders want to buy more jewelry, they have to pay another 5% of the value of the items they would like to buy as a deposit. The central commit-

tee does not sell jewelry and does not receive the deposit if buyers do not follow rules and regulations,” said U Myint Han, Chairman of the Mandalay Jewelry Association.

Foreign and local traders must pay 10,000 Euros as a deposit to buy gems and foreign traders must pay at least 20,000 Euros to buy jade.

There are two kinds of jewelry lots on offer: gems lots and jade lots. Despite the difference in required deposit buyers can purchase gems which are worth only 20 times their deposit. Locals have to pay a smaller deposit, he added. If a trader wants to attend the auction, locals have to pay K60,000 and foreigners have to pay \$100 US as an entrance fee. — *Aung Thant Khine*

Immunisation of farm animals to be continued in Shan State



A dog being immunized. PHOTO: YIN WIN (IPRD)

THE vaccination of livestock animals is being carried out in eastern Shan State under the government's 100-day plan.

The programme is scheduled to be carried out from last Tuesday up until 13 June. A wide range of vaccines will be

administered to protect farm animals from infectious diseases.

During the immunisation programme, veterinarians will inject vaccines against common communicable diseases including anthrax and foot and mouth disease into cattle.

Thanks to the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department in Mongsat Township, around 500 dogs and cats received rabies vaccines in four villages and wards in the township on Tuesday.—*Yin Win (IPRD)*

Crime NEWS

Passenger vehicle overturns on Yangon- Mandalay highway



A Kyai Sin Hein passenger bus seen overturned. PHOTO: THAN OO (LAY MYIET HNAR)

A PASSENGER vehicle belonging to the Kyai Sin Hein Group en route to Nay Pyi Taw from Yangon and being driven by one U Htoo Htoo Han overturned between mileposts 199/4 and 199/5 on the Yangon- Mandalay highway on Thursday leaving 13 pas-

sengers injured.

The passenger vehicle, which was carrying 22 passengers in total, crashed into road-dividing barriers in the middle of the road and overturned when the driver became drowsy and lost control. The vehicle was badly

damaged with 13 passengers out of 22 seriously injured. The injured were rushed to the Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed General Hospital. Police have opened a case and have filed charges against the careless driver.— *Than Oo (Lay Myiet Hnar)*

Seven passengers injured in vehicle accident

A PASSENGER bus overturned near Ma Yin Gyi village on the Yangon- Mandalay highway in Zeyathiri township on Thursday.

The passenger bus, headed for Tatkon from Nay Pyi Taw, was being driven by one Soe Htay Aung with passengers on board when it ran off the road and overturned when the driver lost control between mileposts 262/7 and 263/0.

The passenger bus overturned when the vehicle tried to avoid a motorcycle according to the passengers. The injured passengers are undergoing medical treatment at the 1000-bed general hospital in Nay Pyi Taw and a 300-bed general hospital in Pobbathiri. Police are currently searching for the reckless car driver who had fled the scene.— *Ko Myo (Shwe Paukkan)*



The passenger bus seen overturned. PHOTO: KO MYO (SHWE PAUKKAN)



Wild elephant attacked with poisoned arrows

A WILD elephant was shot with poisoned arrows inside the Bago Yoma Baidar forest reserve between milepost 77/2 on the Yangon – Nay Pyi Taw highway, Kyaukdaga Township, Bago region on Thursday.

A combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from the Forestry Department found the elephant with a poisoned arrow

stuck in its hip. The elephant was found to be suffering some non-life threatening effects due to the poison. An elephant medical team from the Yangon Forestry Department is providing medical care to save the injured wild elephant. Forestry staff are still investigating the case, believed to be the work of local poachers.— *Khin Ko (Kyaukdaga)*

LOCAL Business

Apartments, condominiums to be sold in 12-year instalments

THE Myanmar real property exhibition will be held from 10 to 12 June at Tamadaw Hall in Yangon. There is a 12-year instalment plan for apartments and the condominiums, said U Nay Min Thu, the managing director of iMyanmarHouse.com.

"Apartments and condominiums worth over K25 billion (US\$21,043,771) have been sold in the previous two expos held in March and May 2015. A portion of the profit earned from this expo has been donated to flood victims, people who cannot afford medical treatment or education and internally displaced people affected by armed conflicts," he added.

"Five to 20 per cent of the prices will be reduced during the expo. People can come to observe the real estate market in one place. There will also be educational talks by professionals at the expo. Over 50 real estate and construction companies will be represented at the exhibition," the managing director said.

Members of the public can visit the exhibition free of charge. There will be lucky draw events offering Samsung phones, tablets and other gifts valued at K5 million at the event.—*WO/ Union Daily*



Pearl condominium in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Emergency rice to be distributed

THE Ministry of Commerce and the Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) have agreed to negotiate the distribution of emergency rice within 24 hours in case of possible natural disasters, according to the MRF.

"Only about 5,000 or 6,000 tonnes of emergency rice will be stored at the MRF head office, and the rest will be stored in places

from which it can be transported quickly to Rakhine, Chin, and Kachin states. Emergency rice will be packed in 50, 25, 10, five and two-kilogram bags so they can be airdropped. Buying and selling of rice should be conducted transparently using an open tender system. The warehouses owned by the government should be systematically organised,

and the government should manage this," the MRF announced. "Afterward, the emergency rice should be left only for emergencies and natural disasters as a crisis management measure to ensure food security in disaster-affected areas. We should prepare for distribution and immediate response action within the first 24 hours, 48 hours and 72

hours [of a natural disaster]. Aside from the emergency rice plan, the government must intervene in the paddy market to keep prices stable in accordance with the Law of Protection of Farmer's Rights and the Enhancement of their Benefits because paddy prices are usually low at the time of harvests," the MRF announced.—*WWP/ Union Daily*

Deloitte preparing to boost services in Myanmar

DELOITTE has announced that it is gearing up to offer more financial service in Myanmar.

Deloitte has offered services in Myanmar through Deloitte Touche Myanmar

Vigour Advisory Ltd and its affiliates for the last three years. The firm, based in New York, has decided to boost its services in Myanmar following the country's rapid economic develop-

ment. "We are preparing for extended services following clients' rising requests. We are interested in Myanmar market because our partner businesses are entering the Myanmar market," said

Chaly Max, the chief executive officer of the Deloitte Southeast Asia. Deloitte will offer services related to accounting, finance and consultancy to entrepreneurs.—*PPN/ Union Daily*

Microsoft introduces SQL Server 2016

MICROSOFT introduced the latest SQL Server 2016 at Yangon's Sedona Hotel on 31 May in order to boost the ICT industry of the Asia-Pacific region.

With the development of infrastructure, trade and banking services in Myanmar, data processing and data retrieval play a vital role in many businesses.

This is the first product Microsoft has introduced in Myanmar.

Microsoft aims to offer services to those who are engaged in the digital economy in order to be able to recognise possible problems in advance through in-database advanced analytics.

The SQL Server

2016 will help Myanmar businesses ensure that data processing gets safe results, said Ms Rena Chai, the Marketing and Operation Lead for Microsoft SEA New Markets.

The SQL Server 2016 is expected to be a boon for Myanmar databases and can provide on-line transaction processing (OLTP) and protect databases. Microsoft's Database Management Platform can transform complicated data and information into ready-for-use ones.

Microsoft has been offering licences free of charge to conduct SQL server migration as an SQL update.—*PTK/ Union*

ADB to fund tourism development in Mon State

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) has announced that it will provide a fund of US\$3 million to carry out tourism development programmes in Mon State.

The ADB signed MoUs with the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Ministry of Planning and Finance on 17 May in Nay Pyi Taw. According to these MoUs, the ADB will provide monetary assistance for Mon State tourism development.

"We will grant financial aid for projects for the development of small enterprises. We expect the funding will help to

create economic opportunities for poor and jobless people. This management aims to provide for women in the Chaungson, Kyaikhtiyo, Mawlamyine and Mudon areas who are engaged in selling handicrafts or local foods to tourists," said Winfriend Wicklein, the manager of the ADB to Myanmar.

The projects implemented through this fund will include training courses related to business management, finance and technical skills. Travel and tour professionals said Mon State has a good foundation for ecotourism development.—*PTK/ Union daily*

Chevrolet to introduce new Suburban SUV model this month

CHEVROLET showrooms will introduce a new model of Suburban with a 5.3L V8 EcoTec3 engine this month, according to the Pacific Alpine Company.

A six-speed automatic transmission will be in-

stalled in the new Suburban model. It will be sold for around US\$169,000 in Myanmar. There are Chevrolet showrooms in Yangon and Mandalay, which sell HighCountry, Spark and Colorado models.—*MLT/Union Daily*

China confirms its warships to join major US-hosted naval drills

BEIJING — China's navy will send five ships to join a major US-hosted naval drill this summer, even as tension mounts between the world's two largest economies over the South China Sea.

The Rim of the Pacific exercise, or RIMPAC, billed as the world's largest international maritime exercise, is held every two years in Hawaii in June and July.

Critics of the Obama administration, including US Senator John McCain, have said the United States should bar China from the drills to show US disapproval of its military actions.

The United States and its allies have expressed growing concern over the Asian giant's military build-up, as well as its increasingly assertive posture in the South China Sea. China's Defence Ministry, in a short



More than 40 ships and submarines representing 15 international partner nations travel in formation in the Pacific Ocean during the Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2014 exercise in this US Navy photo taken on 25 July 2014, and released on 31 July 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

statement late on Thursday, said its flotilla, including two warships and a hospital ship, would participate in live fire, anti-piracy, search and rescue and other drills. Despite China's anger at US military patrols close to islands China controls in the South China Sea, and

US criticism of China's military build-up, both countries have been trying to improve defence ties and ensure regular communications.

Past participants in RIMPAC have included nations, such as Russia, that are not treaty allies of

the United States.

China took part in the RIMPAC exercises in 2014 with more than 20 countries, but defence officials have said its participation was limited to areas such as humanitarian relief and search and rescue operations.—Reuters

Cambodian court issues fresh summons to opposition leader

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian court has issued a fresh summons to deputy opposition leader Kem Sokha for his failure to appear twice at the court.

According to the summons, a copy of which was seen on Friday, Than Leng, investigating judge of Phnom Penh Municipal Court, issued the order for Kem Sokha to appear on 14 June.

A court official who asked not to be named said Friday that the investigating judge may ask related authorities to bring Kem Sokha to the court if he fails to attend. In recent weeks, Cambodian politics has been mired in a battle between ruling and opposition lawmakers over Kem Sokha's private life.

Late last month, armed police failed in an attempt to arrest Kem Sokha, who is the acting president of the

Cambodia National Rescue Party, after he failed to appear at the Phnom Penh Municipal Court after being summoned twice in May to give testimony over a sex scandal. The CNRP says it is a "political move" by the ruling Cambodian People's Party to oppress the opposition party ahead of communal elections in 2017 and a general election in 2018.

However, Phay Siphon, spokesman of the Office of the Council of Ministers, said the motion aims only to apply the rule of law. On 30 May, the CNRP announced that it had received nearly 200,000 signatures protesting any attempt to arrest Kem Sokha. Later the same day, a group of opposition lawmakers joined a march to the Royal Palace to submit that petition of protest to King Norodom Sihamoni and seek his intervention.—Kyodo News

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South Korean, US missile defence talks continue, but not at Asian forum

SINGAPORE — South Korea said on Friday the deployment of an advanced US missile defence system to counter the growing threat from North Korea would not be discussed when defence chiefs meet at an Asian security forum at the weekend.

The United States and South Korea began talks on deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system after North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January and launched a long-range rocket a month later.

US Defence Secretary Ash Carter said en route to the Shangri-La Dialogue, a three-day Asian security meeting being held in Singapore from Friday, that recent North Korean missile tests showed the need for improved missile defences, even though the latest test launch on Tuesday was a failure.

"There is no plan for discussions on THAAD at the Shangri-La Dialogue," a South Korean defence ministry official said. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said separate talks on the missile defence system were con-



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) interceptor is launched during a successful intercept test, in this undated handout photo provided by the US Department of Defence, Missile Defence Agency. PHOTO: REUTERS

tinuing between South Korea and the United States.

"When the issues are coordinated, there will be an announcement," the official said, without indicating when that might be.

A senior US defence official said earlier there were still "a lot of technical issues to get through" but a public announcement would be made "soon."

China and Russia oppose the deployment of THAAD, which operates powerful radar capable of penetrating deep into their territories. South Korea and the United States say it is

needed in response to the heightened missile threat from North Korea.

Carter waved aside concerns expressed by China that deployment of the THAAD system's radars on the Korean peninsula could upset the balance of power by reducing the strategic deterrence of China's ballistic missile system.

"The implementation will be a series of decisions that we take together and it's for our own protection against North Korea. Everybody should understand that," Carter said.

North Korea's attempt

to fire an intermediate-range missile on Tuesday failed, South Korea and the United States said, following three earlier failures to launch a Musudan missile, which has a design range of more than 3,000 km (1,800 miles).

In February, a North Korean rocket launch put an object into space but that was seen as a cover for intercontinental ballistic missile development.

The North has conducted a series of tests since then, claiming to have made progress on missile technology.—Reuters

India's Modi goes to Washington as US partner, but not yet full ally

NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON — Two years ago there were questions over whether Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi could get a visa to enter the United States. Next week he visits Washington as one of President Barack Obama's closest international partners.

Obama invited Modi for one of the last big visits by a world leader before his term ends in January. Although the trip won't feature a lavish state dinner, the Indian leader will address both houses of Congress, considered a rare honour.

This will be their seventh meeting since Modi became prime minister in May 2014, an impressive tally for a US president and a leader who is not a formal ally, said Ashley Tellis at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace in Washington.

"The personal relationship between the president and the prime minister ... is really one of the unanticipated surprises of the past two years," said Tellis, an expert on India.

The developing relationship is seen as an Obama foreign policy success. Washington views India as an important part of its rebalance to Asia and as a counterweight to China.

The two countries are finalising agreements that would make it possible for their militaries to cooperate more closely, and for US defence manufacturers to both sell and make high-tech weaponry in India.

A deal on logistics would govern issues such as how the two countries account for costs of military exercises. Another involves encrypted communica-



US President Barack Obama and India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi talk as they have coffee and tea together in the gardens of Hyderabad House in New Delhi, on 25 January 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

tions and geospatial data transfer.

A history of colonial rule followed by decades of non-alignment has, however, made New Delhi wary of an embrace by the more powerful United States, which has overtaken Russia as India's top arms supplier.

"It is neither a strategic partnership nor an alliance," said Nitin Gokhale, founder of defence portal Bharat Shakti. "It can be a long-term arrangement, but to call it a strategic partnership would be premature."

There are frustrations, too, on the US side.

The two countries reached a civil nuclear agreement in 2005, but it has yet to yield any contracts for US-based companies.

Only now is Westinghouse, a unit of Japan's Toshiba, approaching the finish line on a deal to build six reactors in India.

The visit gives Modi a chance to network with US lawmakers who may feature in a Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton administration but, as it coincides with the California primary, he is not expected to meet either.

Modi is generally popular with US lawmakers, who extended his invitation to address Congress. But they criticise what they see as lingering unfriendliness to US firms and a stifling bureaucracy, and question New Delhi's record on human rights.

"The economic engagement between our two countries should increase and it should be more

accessible for US companies," Senator Bob Corker, the Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said in a telephone interview.

Obama and Modi are expected to discuss India's desire to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), a 48-member club of nuclear trading nations.

India was shut out for decades because of its weapons programme, and the civil nuclear agreement with the United States gave it access to foreign suppliers without giving up its arms.

Obama administration officials have said they backed India's desire to join the group, but the idea faces resistance among some on Capitol Hill, as well as from China, an ally of India's

arch-rival Pakistan.

"Existing NSG guidelines were established to guard against nuclear proliferation, and we should not create exceptions for particular countries," Corker said.

There is lingering concern in Washington over Modi's handling of communal riots in 2002 that killed at least 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, in Gujarat.

Modi was chief minister of the state at the time and, though a court-ordered inquiry found insufficient evidence to prosecute him, the issue prevented him from getting a US visa for years.

Ben Cardin, the ranking Democrat on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, raised human rights on a visit to New Delhi this week, saying the two largest democracies had "special obligations" to set the highest standards.

Congress' Tom Lantos Human Rights Commission has scheduled a hearing on India for 7 June, the day Modi arrives in Washington and the day before his address to the combined House of Representatives and Senate. He leaves the United States on 8 June.

Corker promised to ask Modi about India's record on human trafficking, which he brought up recently in an emotional Senate hearing with Obama administration officials.

"The country we believe has 12-14 million slaves, which is close to half the number we believe exists worldwide," Corker said. "It's obviously a very significant issue and when he's here, it's one I certainly plan to raise."—Reuters

Gunfire erupts as police clash with squatters in Indian park, 22 killed

NEW DELHI — At least 22 people were killed when police clashed with squatters in north India, officials said on Friday, the violence erupting after protesters killed two police officers during an operation to clear thousands of people from a public park.

Police began the operation to clear the park in Mathura, 140 km (85 miles) southeast of the capital New Delhi, on Thursday after a court ordered about 3,000 people to vacate the area.

Officials said they were investigating why the squatters had gathered in the park, and were looking into reports the group belonged to a local cult. The court had directed authorities to clear the land after the squatters refused to comply with earlier orders to leave.

Debashish Panda, the principal home secretary in Uttar

Pradesh state, told Reuters police had initially responded to gunshots with tear gas and rubber bullets but then returned fire when the two police officers were killed.

Other officials said it was not immediately clear how the squatters died. The chief minister of Uttar Pradesh state, where Mathura is located, has ordered an inquiry.

Around 200 members of the squatters' group were also arrested.

Uttar Pradesh police chief Javeed Ahmed told reporters at the scene on Friday the group had set fire to their tents before abandoning the camp after the clashes. "Subsequent searches by the police revealed that the activists of the group ... had stored firearms and other weapons, including grenades, in the camp," he said.—Reuters

Gov't draws up Okinawa crime prevention plan after woman's death

TOKYO — The Japanese government on Friday decided on a package of measures to deter crime in Okinawa Prefecture in response to a civilian US base worker's alleged involvement in the violent death of a local woman.

The plan, unveiled by a government panel at the day's meeting, provides for a boost to the local police force and the establishment of neighbourhood patrols.

The panel of officials, including the government's top spokesman and the minister tasked with Okinawa affairs, was established 26 May to address public safety in the island prefecture after the incident.

"We will work to complete the supplementation of 100 police officers and 20 patrol cars during the current fiscal year (ending March 2017)," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said.

The measures also include

the installation of additional security cameras and extra streetlights across the prefecture.

Aiko Shimajiri, minister in charge of Okinawa affairs, told reporters after the panel's meeting that local people's input is crucial in deciding how to implement the plan. "(The government should) thoroughly collaborate with local people, and particularly local authorities, in order to make sure the measures are effective," Shimajiri said.

Okinawa hosts the bulk of the US military facilities in Japan, and a history of crimes committed by US service members and other base personnel has fomented a sense of resentment among local people.

Former US Marine Kenneth Franklin Shinzato, 32, worked in a civilian capacity at the US Air Force's Kadena Air Base before his arrest last month in connection with the 20-year-old woman's death.

Shinzato, under arrest on suspicion of abandoning the victim's body, is alleged to have confessed to sexually assaulting and killing her.

While the new measures address general crime prevention in the prefecture, the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement continues to govern the management of military and civilian personnel at US bases in Japan, including when they are implicated in crimes.

Shimajiri was among members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party who petitioned party executives Tuesday to pursue a review of the SOFA, which has remained unchanged since its signing in 1960.

While the Japanese government has shown reluctance toward revising the agreement, it plans to ask Washington to improve the way it is applied, according to Japanese government sources.—Kyodo News

Opinion

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It takes concerted efforts to drive development

Kyaw Thura

IT is undeniable that the development of ethnic communities has always been an ambitious agenda for the successive governments to implement. Despite this, these areas have lagged far behind in terms of infrastructural development. The key culprit of the ethnic regions remaining underdeveloped for over five decades is largely due to lack of regional stability.

Again, the first democrat-

ically elected civilian government is not an exception. It has vowed to pay priority to the development of ethnic communities. This time it seems like a dream come true. The government is expected to realise its development plan in Rakhine State. The region boasts of a great wealth of mineral and forest resources, but these favourable conditions are yet to force the pace of development in the

region, given its ethnic diversity.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has called for mutual respect and understanding among ethnic communities for the sake of national reconciliation. It is absolutely vital to develop a strong sense of community spirit and foster relations among different regions and states. It is a strong sense of community spirit that will no

doubt dissipate racial divisions and bridge the development gap left by the conflict and misunderstanding.

No government is capable of bringing instant affluence to a region with a chant of mantras. Local communities themselves must be ready to lend a helping hand to the government's development initiatives. It takes concerted efforts to drive development after all.

Myanmar, Nature's choicest gift

Maha Saddhamma Jotika daja
Sithu Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt

REPORT of lizards caught stuck in ambers of Myanmar on front page of the esteemed Daily The global New Light of Myanmar 7-3-2016 with clean photographs printed on the page, prompted the writer to write this article.

The researchers at the museum of Natural History in Florida recently announced the discovery of lizards fossils in ambers of Myanmar. The discovery was the oldest specimen of its kind and a missing link for reptile research. Edward Stanley, one of the researchers, says "It was incredibly exciting to see these animals for the first time" locked up in ambers. "It is startling, actually, how well they were preserved. They were entrapped in a gush of sticky resin, while darting through a tropical forest in what is now Myanmar in South East Asia. The other reptiles trapped in the amber were gecko, and arctic lizard. That discovery will help researchers learn more about the lost ecosystem, the lost world.

Being a historian, the writer has to trace, survey and research the past, present and future of history. He finds no beginning of the past and no ending of the Future. In his endless academic journey, he has to contact many related art and science disciples such as Paleontology, geology, anthropology, geography, archeology and proto history, religions and visual and performing arts.

From paleontology he had learnt about Pondaung Primate fossils, chance find in Pondaung area in Myanmar proving that evolution of man had reached Anthropithicus Erectus, walking on two legs upright and two front legs as hands. It was the consensus of the scientists of the world that in

their scientific dating of Pondaung fossils that Pondaung man was 40 million years senior to the hitherto earliest man of the Nile valley in Egypt.

In his college years he learnt about "Anyathian culture" termed by Dr. Movius and Dr. de Terra, two geologists who during their search for oil and gas around Yenangyaung and Minbu in Upper Myanmar chance discovered some stone implements washed ashore by the Ayeyawady River. They sent them to the laboratories of famous Universities for identifying and dating. The results revealed that they were stone tools used by Palaeolithic Age men. Because these stones were found in Upper Myanmar which Myanmar people call Anya detha, these stones were regarded as evidence of Anyathian Culture.

Later, human settlements of Mesolithic Age and Neolithic Age were discovered across the country. Padalin caves in the Southern Shan State are the settlements of cave-dwellers of Neolithic Age. Later, excavations by Myanmar geologists and archaeologists unearthed many artifacts of different categories. Especially mural paintings in the Padalin caves highlight not only a high standard of civilization of Myanmar Neolithic Age cave dwellers but also their painting technique, style and the use of natural pigments. They used high walls and ceilings that were safer places from destruction. Their technique was linear art -- line arts. Pigments were extracted from vegetables, animals and minerals that are long-lasting. Some vague concepts of religion or occult science could be gleaned from sketches of human hands and palms and scenes of Sun rise and Sun set viewed from the caves.

Many artifacts were dug up at the excavations of the entrance and surroundings of the caves including paint brushes and natural pigments. The caves deserve a place in the UNESCO world Cultural Heritage List.

Later, evidences of Bronze Age and Early Iron Age, either chance find or excavations found in Nyaungyan near Monywa, Waddy and three Pyu city kingdoms of Peithano (Vishnu) Sre Kestra (Pyay) and Hanlin. They were already enlisted in the UNESCO world cultural Heritage Sites. Almost every week printed media to-day carry news of paleontological archaeological findings.

The writer himself is teaching Under-water Archaeology in Ph.D. Prelim class and cultural history, Myanmar in History (Diploma) class. He keeps himself abreast with time. Myanmar produces a variety of metals, precious and semi-precious stones of world renown. Rubies, Sapphires, Jade, garnet star stones, peridots, Lapi Lazuli, Turquoise, Crystal-quartz, amethyst, and very lately popular tree Jade (Polarified stone or Ingyin Kyauk) and industrial diamond etc, etc Myanmar kings were addressed or referred to as "Lord possessor of gold, silver mines, Ruby, Sapphires, Amber and Lapi Lasuli etc (ရွှေတွင်း၊ ငွေတွင်း၊ ယယင်း၊ ခုတ္တာ၊ ပိုင်စိုးသောအရှင် မင်းကြီး)။

Amber, like pearl coral and shell, is not stone. Just as pearl, coral and shell are the products of sea, so also amber is the product of forests. Amber is the solidified fossilized form of resin from some trees. To-day in Nahtogyi township there emerges a booming tree -- Jade extraction. Ingyin Kyauk or fossilized Ingyin tree has become a semi-precious stone on high demand across the world especially in China, Kara and Japan.

Regarding Amber H.L. Chhibber in his book Mineral Resources of Burma 1934 gave the

following account:

"Burmese amber, or "burmite," as it is called, has been known to the Chinese from a very early date most probably from the beginning of the Christian era. The amber mines, whence almost the whole of the Hukawng Valley amber is derived occur near Maingwan in the unadministered territory and about three miles south-west of the village of Shingban....."

"Burmite is distinguished from many other amber like resins by its superior hardness and greater toughness, which render it suitable for curving and turning. It varies in colour from pale-yellow to dull-brown. Fourteen varieties of amber are recognized locally, depending mostly on colour and shade of the mineral. For instance, amber of the colour of flame, honey, sessamum, horse-hoof, light-red, like Sicilian variety, simetite, possesses a strong fluorescence, particularly in ultra-violet light; but even in day light a strong bluish tinge appears when viewed at under a certain angle. ... Its hardness varies from 2-5-3 and specific gravity from 1.034 to 1.095. By friction it becomes electrified and retains its electricity for some time."

The author goes on to describe amber cutting and amber trade. He mentioned that "amber buyers are Shans, Kachins, Shan-Chinese, Nagas, Lushais and certain tribes from Assam. Of these the Nagas purchase most the amber mines: Maing Wan, Kamaing, Mogaung, Mandalay and the Naga country in Assam are the important centres of amber trade. A little amber naturally finds its way into European and American markets". [PP. 85-93]

The author next gave other localities of amber such as Shwebo district. Pakokku district and Thayetmyo District But these ambers are of inferior quality."

The writer himself had inher-

ited from his grand mother an amber rosary in which he noticed tiny insect trapped inside. In Russia and China ambers with such insects -- ant, grass hopper or butterfly, bee or wasps are highly valued. They are made into jewellery. The writer remembers a huge amber Buddha Statue with some insects trapped inside at a great house of his friend of upper wealthy class in Yangon, some years ago.

Dr. Saw Lwin, an authority on Orchids, especially Myanmar orchids used to make his field trips to the Hu-Kaung Valley in quest of new species or new varieties. He told the writer that he came across lumps and lumps of raw amber of different hues in the forests. Some have insects entrapped inside. He invited the writer to join his trip and collect raw ambers. But the writer in his lake octogenarian age, with chronic back pain, could not take the opportunity he offered.

The report referred to at the opening paragraph of this article that they are Myanmar ambers. [quite possibly from the Hu Kaung Valley] in which a big creature like lizard appeared entrapped and preserved. Laboratory tests gave the age of entrapped lizard "some 75 million years older than the previous record holder.

National pride rises in the heart of the writer so much so that he did not feel hungry for Lunch though his better half -- wife Daw Hla Hla Khin was yelling at him to take late lunch. He was dreaming of a Natural History museum of Myanmar.

This Nature's choicest gift -- Myanmar Shwe Myanmar [Suvanna Bhumi] where all natural resources on ground, under ground, on water and under water are boundless to exploit wisely for the prosperity and welfare of its inhabitants. What is lacking is unity, wisdom and technology know-how. So let's work together.

Mon State Hluttaw inspects MCL cement plant



MCL cement plant is said to be run by coal. Photo: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

MEMBERS of the Mon State Hluttaw have carried out inspections of the MCL cement plant in Kyaukmaraw Township after complaints were lodged at the parliament over the use of coal to run the plant.

The inspection team carried out its field study on 1 June. The team consisted of State Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation Dr Win Kyi Win, Deputy Speaker of the Mon State Hluttaw Dr Aung Naing Oo as well as other Mon State Hluttaw MPs and the members of staff from the Hluttaw Affairs Committee.

“The Mon State Hluttaw carried out a study on the MCL plant on 1 June in response to a complaint lodged by local residents. The hluttaw has yet to make any decision based on this visit. However, the case is still under review,” said Dr Aung Naing Oo.

Fearing for the side effects the use of coal to power the cement plant would have on the

surrounding environment, local residents from nine villages in the vicinity of the plant dispatched an official letter of complaint to the Mon State Hluttaw Affairs Committees, the Mon State government and union-level departments on 25 April.

“We accept whatever projects come to our region. But since both recent projects that have come our way utilise coal to generate electricity, there’s absolutely no way we could accept such a project that would send us quickly into the jaws of death. We’ll vehemently protest our objections to these projects,” said local resident Naing Shwe Win.

Initial field studies for the construction of the plant were conducted in 2011 and 2012, and construction began in 2014 after consultation with local residents. The plant is due to start running this July.

MCL managing director Wijit Terasarun said negotiations were conducted during the term

of office of the previous government to provide the 40 megawatts of electricity required to run the plant, which will be supplied in the form of natural gas from the Minister of Electric Power. However, due to complications, a request was granted by the Myanmar Investment Commission in 2013 for the factory to utilise coal to generate the power instead.

“Our factory requires a round-the-clock supply of electricity—a supply that’s not erratic or that fluctuates, which is why we’ll use coal. That said, we’ll conduct our operations within the framework of Myanmar’s enacted natural environmental law to mitigate damage to the environment,” he said. A total of US\$400 million has been invested into the production of cement from the Mon State MCL plant, while it has been reported that approximately 40,000 tonnes of coal are being stored within the facility’s grounds ready to act as fuel to generate electricity.—Myitmakha News Agency

Mandalay to build housings with 428 units for gov’t employees

MANDALAY REGION Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development is set to establish a staff housing project, spending K6.7 billion on it, according to an official yesterday.

U Aung Kyaw Oo, director of the department, said that the K6.7 billion-staff housing project that includes construction of 34 buildings with 428 units is scheduled for completion this year, adding that the project will kick off following an announcement of tender winners.

According to the director, selection of preferred bidders will be made under a scoring method as more than 1,000 tender applications were received after a tender invitation made on

1 June.

“Tender evaluation and contract award will be made in a transparent way,” said the director. According to the department, three-storey and four-storey buildings that contain four apartments on each floor will be built in the region’s townships — three buildings in Aungmyay Thasan, one in Chanmya Thasi, four in Kyaukse, two in Myingyan, two in Taungtha, two in Ngahtogyi, two in Meiktila, two in Wundwin, two in Mahlaing, two in Thasi, three in Yamethin, two in Kyaukpadaung, three in PyinOoLwin, two in Moegok and two in Thabeikyin.

Regarding the sites chosen for staff housing construction, the director said that the depart-

ment submitted a request to the General Administration Department to allow land plots for the project.

“I would like the GAD to allow suitable places to live in with goodwill as old graveyards and squatters they allowed will be inconvenient for construction of staff housings.” According to sources, the project will be of great benefit to staff in Mandalay Region as staff officers and other ranks pay only 5 per cent and 3 per cent of their salary for renting an apartment at the staff housings. A teacher who moved to Mandalay as a new place of posting welcomed the project, saying that the cost of renting a place to live in has risen in Mandalay.—Aung Thant Khaing

Japan grants more than US\$28 million for four development projects

THE Japanese government has granted US\$28.16 million for four aid projects.

H.E. Mr. Tateshi HIGUCHI, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to Myanmar, and U Tun Tun Naing, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Planning and Finance of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar signed documents regarding the three projects which will provide assistance in the way of scholarships in Japan, control of foot-and mouth disease, and the procurement of disaster relief machinery.

With the US\$5.45 million grant, the Project for Human Resource Development Scholarship will assist young Myanmar leaders to obtain Master’s Degrees or PhD degrees in Japan with an aim at contributing to the resolution of Myanmar’s various development challenges.

The Project for the Improvement of Foot-and-Mouth Disease Control, which is being

provided a US\$13 million grant, is aimed at providing facilities and machines to aid in the diagnosis of and the production of vaccines against Foot-and-Mouth Disease of bovine and swine to the National Foot-and-Mouth Disease Research Institute in Yangon and to reinforce the capability of the Institute in foot-and-mouth disease control.

The Project for the Economic and Social Development Programme which will be injected with US\$8.67 million will provide machines for infrastructure and aims to improve the capability of the Myanmar Government to cope with natural disasters, assisting the improvement of economic and social development in Myanmar.

Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and Mr. Toily Kurbanov, Country Director of UNDP Myanmar, signed together the US\$1.04 million Project for Improving Rule of Law in Myanmar on Thursday.—GNLM

South East Asia National Human Rights Institution Forum, Technical Working Group Meeting convened

THE South East Asia National Human Rights Institution Forum, Technical Working Group Meeting (2/2016) was held at the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission on Thursday and yesterday and was attended by the National Human Rights Institutions of Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Timor Leste.

At the opening session, U Win Mra, Chairman of the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission which is current Chair of the SEANF made opening remarks. At the meeting, the representatives discussed the

establishment of the Permanent Secretariat of SEANF, Developments in GANHRI by SEANF Members, Sustainable Development Goals, the rights of older persons and the ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, among others.

The Special Meeting of SEANF also examined the initial draft of the SEANF Strategic Plan 2017-2022 on Wednesday back to back with the SEANF-TWG Meeting (2/2016). The 13th Annual Meeting of SEANF will be held in September 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, it has been learned.—GNLM



More than 50 trainees are participating in the coaches course conducted by International Volleyball Federation (FIVB). The five-day course was opened on 1st June at Myanmar Volleyball Federation at Aung San Stadium in Yangon and Mr David Hynt Smith of FIVB is giving lectures to the trainees. PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALIN)

Cameron says would join EU if Britain was not a member, but not euro

LONDON — Prime Minister David Cameron said on Thursday he would take Britain into the European Union under the “special status” it now enjoys if it was not already a member, pressing his campaign to remain in the bloc in a live television performance.

Fielding questions from a sometimes hostile audience on subjects ranging from immigration to security, Cameron said he often became frustrated with the 28-member bloc. But he stressed that a vote to exit in a 23 June referendum would be a “self-inflicted wound” for Britain’s economy.

With the vote only three weeks away, both sides are stepping up their campaigns to try to win over undecided voters and break the deadlock in opinion polls which suggest that Britons are almost equally split over which way to vote.

“I would never want us to join the euro, but if we were offered British terms, what we have now ... the special status we

have now, I would join,” Cameron told Sky News television.

“Are there things about Europe that frustrate you? Yes, but I am a prime minister who sits round the table with 27 other heads of government and state and sometimes this organisation drives me crazy. But do I sit there and think Britain would be better off if we left? ... Absolutely not.”

Cameron, who is leading the “In” campaign, was keen to stick to what he called the risks to the economy if Britain were to vote to leave, but was pressed on high levels of migration and its impact on public services such as health provision.

The “Out” campaign, led by two one-time allies of the prime minister, says Britain cannot control migration while being a member of the European Union, which holds up free movement of people as one of its founding principles.

Taken to task over a 2010 promise to keep net migration to the “tens of thousands”, Cameron said he stood by his pledge

but could not offer up a firm date after net figures last month put net migration at 330,000 in 2015. Of those, a net 184,000 came from the EU.

“And yes we do need to do things to control migration like restricting in-work welfare (payments) but it would be madness to try to do that by trashing our economy and pulling out of the single market,” Cameron said.

“Leaving the single market would be an act of economic self-harm for Britain and we absolutely shouldn’t do it.”

He also sought to allay fears among some in the audience that more migrants could enter Britain if Turkey were to join the bloc, saying “at this rate they’ll join in the year 3000”.

“There is no prospect of Turkey joining the EU in decades. They applied in 1987, they have to complete 35 chapters, one has been completed so far,” he said. “Turkey’s not going to join the EU anytime soon, every country, every parliament has a veto.”—Reuters

Major powers meet to revive moribund Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking

PARIS — France convenes foreign ministers from major powers on Friday to put Israel-Palestinian peacemaking back on the international agenda and find enough common ground to bring the two sides back to the table by the end of the year.

With US efforts to broker a deal on a Palestinian state on Israel-occupied land in deep freeze for two years and Washington focussed on its November presidential election, France has lobbied key players to hold a conference that would aim to break the apathy over the impasse and stir new diplomatic momentum.

France has grown frustrated

over the absence of movement towards a “two-state solution” since the collapse of the last round of talks in April 2014, arguing that letting the status quo prevail is like “waiting for a powder keg to explode”.

“We know that we aren’t going to get the Israelis and Palestinians to make peace immediately, but we want to create the right conditions to get the two around the negotiating table,” said a senior French diplomat.

The gathering of ministers in Paris includes the Middle East Quartet — which comprises the United States, Russia, the European Union and United Nations

— as well as the Arab League, the UN Security Council and about 20 countries.

Neither Israel nor the Palestinians have been invited.

The meeting, the first international conference on the issue since Annapolis in the United States in 2007, will not touch on any of the chronic core differences between the two sides.

Its initial focus is to reaffirm existing international texts and resolutions that are based on achieving a Palestinian State in the West Bank and Gaza Strip co-existing with Israel, an outcome some say is becoming unrealistic.—Reuters



A demonstrator holds a sign with a Palestinian and Israeli flag during a demonstration by Palestinian and Israeli activists calling for a better future for both people, in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, on 5 February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

All workers evacuated to safety from fire at Siberian mine

MOSCOW — All miners working at a coal mine in Russia’s southern Siberian region of Kemerovo were led to the surface after a fire broke out there on Friday, Russian news agencies quoted local officials as saying.

A total of 103 miners were working in the Zarechnaya mine when the fire broke out.—Reuters

Greek coastguard rescues migrants in sinking off Crete

ATHEN — More than 200 migrants were rescued in the south Aegean Sea off the island of Crete after their boat sank, Greece’s coastguard said on Friday.

“So far about 250 people have been rescued, based on the first data,” coastguard spokesman Nikos Lagkadianos told Skai TV, adding that weather conditions were good.

He said it was not clear how many were aboard the vessel but that based on a first assessment it was unlikely to have carried many more than those rescued so far.

Fleeing war, thousands of mainly Syrian refugees have braved rough seas this year to make the short but precarious journey from Turkey to Greece’s islands, from which most continue to mainland Greece and northward into wealthier western Europe.

However, Crete, Greece’s southernmost island, lies north of Libya and Egypt. A group of 113 mostly Afghan migrants has landed on the island on Wednesday, the first big arrival on the island since the migrant crisis began.—Reuters

GFK poll shows Peru presidency virtually tied before Sunday vote

LIMA — Peruvian presidential candidates Keiko Fujimori and Pedro Pablo Kuczynski are virtually tied ahead of Sunday’s election, according to a GFK poll seen by Reuters late on Thursday.

Fujimori won 50.3 per cent of valid votes in a mock voting exercise conducted on Wednesday and Thursday, compared to Kuczynski’s 49.7 per cent. The survey had a 2.3 point margin of error, up or down.—Reuters

British Airways flight searched in US after threat

NEW YORK — Air safety teams searched a British Airways jetliner upon landing at Newark Liberty International Airport on Thursday due to what officials called an unspecified security threat to a flight from London.

Police dogs swept the plane and found no explosives, and US Customs officers were inspecting the luggage, said Joseph Pentangelo, a spokesman for the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey.

“There was no disruption to travel, or to airport operations, and no arrests,” Pentangelo said. The plane had 206 passengers and 13 crew, Pentangelo said.—Reuters

India joins global regime to control ballistic missile proliferation

NEW DELHI — India has joined a voluntary global regime to control proliferation of ballistic missiles, a move it said would not have any impact on its national missile programme.

Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup said that the country joined the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) against Ballistic Missile Proliferation on Thursday.

“India has joined the Hague Code of Conduct (HCoC) against Ballistic Missile Proliferation by notifying the HCoC Central Contact in Vienna through diplomatic channels,” he told the media.

He added: “India’s joining the Code signals our readiness to further strengthen global non-proliferation objectives.”

Though the move is apparently aimed at winning support for the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) membership, Swarup said that it would not impact the country’s missile programme.

“Our national security interest will not be impacted in any manner, whatsoever, by joining HCoC,” he said in the national capital.

The HCoC is a voluntary, legally non-binding international confidence building and transparency measure that aims at preventing the proliferation of ballistic missiles.—Xinhua

US-backed fighters advance to cut off Islamic State, win tacit Turkish support

NEAR THE EUPHRATES RIVER, (northern Syria) — US-backed Syrian fighters in a major new offensive against Islamic State vowed on Thursday to cut off the last remaining access route to the outside world for the self-proclaimed caliphate, and won vital, if tacit, backing from Turkey.

The assault around the Syrian city of Manbij, backed by US-led coalition air strikes and a contingent of American special forces, aims to cut off Islamic State's last 80 km stretch of the Syrian-Turkish frontier by seizing territory in northern Syria west of the Euphrates River.

If successful, that would achieve a long-standing aim of Washington and amount to one of the biggest strategic defeats inflicted on Islamic State since it proclaimed its rule over all Muslims from territory in Iraq and Syria

two years ago.

"We confirm that this campaign will continue until the liberation of the last inch of the land of Manbij and its rural areas," said a statement read out on the banks of the Euphrates by Adnan Abu Amjad, a commander of a group called the Manbij Military Council, allied to the US-backed Syria Democratic Forces.

"Oh brave people of Manbij, our forces are coming to liberate you from the shackles of the Daesh terrorist torturers," said the statement, using an acronym for Islamic State also known as ISIS or ISIL.

Washington has been leading an international campaign of air strikes against Islamic State for two years in both Syria and Iraq. It has long been in search of reliable allies on the ground in Syria, where it also opposes the government of



A fighter of the Syria Democratic Forces mans an anti-aircraft weapon in the southern rural area of Manbij, in Aleppo Governorate, Syria, on 31 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

President Bashar al-Assad in a multi-sided civil war that has ground on for five years.

The SDF, set up last year, includes a powerful Syrian Kurdish militia and

what Washington says are growing numbers of Arab forces that have been persuaded to join it. It has swept into villages west of the Euphrates since launching its

offensive on Tuesday.

That advance comes as Iraqi army forces have separately begun an assault on the Iraqi city of Falluja, 750 km down the Euphrates at

the opposite end of Islamic State's sprawling caliphate.

The Iraqi troops held their positions without advancing for a third straight day on Thursday, after pouring into the besieged city's southern outskirts on Monday. A Reuters reporting team in Saqlawiya, a village near Falluja, saw Iraqi Shi'ite militia fighters in control of a complex of well-fortified trenches and tunnels captured from Islamic State.

In other separate campaigns, Iraqi Kurds have also been advancing in villages near the northern Iraqi city of Mosul, and Russian-backed forces of the Syrian government have fought Islamic State in other parts of Syria. The fighting amounts to some of the biggest pushes against the militants by their disparate enemies across a variety of fronts.—Reuters

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Notification

Ophir Myanmar (Block AD-3) Ltd. (Ophir) Ophir Myanmar proposes to drill an exploration well in Block AD-3, offshore Rakhine State, which will be located over 100 km (60 miles) from the mainland in water depths of up to 2,400m (7,500 ft.). Under the Environmental Conservation Law and Environmental Conservation Rules of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Ophir is required to undertake an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) to obtain an Environmental Compliance Certificate (ECC) for the proposed activity.

Environmental Resources Management (ERM) and E Guard Environmental Services (E Guard), on behalf of Ophir, are currently undertaking an EIA Study, which includes public consultations and associated stakeholder engagement. The EIA is being conducted in compliance with the Myanmar EIA Procedure (2015).

For further information on the proposed activities and opportunities for public consultation, please visit www.ophir-energy.com or contact Steve Merritt, Group Head of HSE at steve.merritt@ophir-energy.com

Ophir Myanmar (Block AD-3) Limited (Ophir Myanmar)

Dangerous migrant smuggling routes flourish in lawless Libya

TRIPOLI — After a flurry of boat departures that sent hundreds of migrants to their deaths in the Mediterranean, survivors told police they had been kept for weeks on one meal a day in holding houses near the Libyan shore.

Then they boarded the rubber or wooden vessels, but only those co-opted to run or drive the boats were given life-jackets, according to accounts given to Italian police.

As calmer summer weather begins, European officials who struck a deal with Turkey to block crossings to Greece have been scrambling for ways to shut down flows on the other major sea route into the EU from Libya.

They hope a UN-sponsored government that arrived in Tripoli in March

will bring stability, and the EU last week agreed to help to train Libya's coastguard.

But Libyan officials describe themselves as under-resourced and helpless against powerful smugglers who go about their trade with impunity, adapting swiftly to new conditions.

At least 880 migrants and refugees died trying to cross the Mediterranean last week, the UN refugee agency said. The route between North Africa and Italy was "dramatically more dangerous" than the one to Greece, it said, with the chance of perishing estimated at one in 23.

The new government faces a complex challenge asserting its authority,

while efforts to counter people trafficking were thrown into disarray by the conflict that followed Libya's 2011 uprising, and the coastguard feels abandoned.

"The only assistance we have been offered so far is promises," said Colonel Abdulssamad Massoud of the coastguard in Tripoli.

Italy says arrivals so far in 2016 are down two per cent on last year at about 40,000 landings, mostly of people from African countries like Nigeria, Eritrea, Gambia and Somalia. There is little sign of a return of Syrian refugees, tens of thousands of whom were travelling through Libya until they switched to the Turkey-Greece crossing in 2015.—Reuters



A member of the Libyan coast guard conducts a daily routine check on one of the patrol boats in Tripoli, Libya, on 19 April 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

French government urges end to strikes a week from Euro soccer

PARIS — France's government, scrambling to end a wave of protests that could disrupt the Euro 2016 soccer championship, called on Friday for an end to the national rail strike and told Air France pilots their plans to stop work were "irresponsible".

The calls came as an open-ended stoppage at the railways entered its third day, reducing train services by about half, a week before the 10 June opening of the soccer tournament which should draw some 2.5 million fans, many of them from abroad.

Transport Minister Alain Vidalies said the government had satisfied union demands to protect rest periods for rail workers and help with the 50 billion euro (\$55.76 billion) debt of the SNCF rail company, saying the militant CGT union should call off its action.

"It's time to acknowledge the progress that's been made and to get back to work," the minister told RTL radio.

The Socialist govern-



Passengers carry their bags before getting in a train at Gare de Lyon railway station in Paris, France, during a national railway strike by French railway unions workers from the France's rail-operator SNCF, on 2 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ment has intervened in internal talks on reorganisation of the SNCF to try to defuse tensions, and made concessions to avert an air

traffic controllers' strike. But it now faces a walkout by pilots at flag carrier Air France next week.

"This is irresponsible,"

the minister said, adding that the nobody would understand why a stoppage over planned pay curbs was timed to start one day

into the month-long soccer event. Two unions representing the bulk of Air France pilots have given notice of a strike from 11 to

14 June and said they may schedule further stoppages.

The militant CGT union is spearheading strikes at the state rail company and at refineries and nuclear power stations in a bid to force the government to withdraw a contested reform of labour laws that would make hiring and firing easier.

The core protest has coincided with sectoral issues such as difficult reorganisation negotiations to prepare the SNCF for Europe-wide liberalisation of train traffic in 2020 and, at Air France, efforts to reduce costs.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls has said the CGT union, one of the two large unions in France, was waging an increasingly lonely war now that most other unions had dropped their grievances.

"If we gave into the CGT, a union which is in the minority even if I respect its history and struggle, it would no longer be possible to reform France," he told l'Est Republicain.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BLUE SAPPHIRE VOY NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BLUE SAPPHIRE VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-4 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD
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Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

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 4.6.2016 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.

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'We want food!', Venezuelans cry at protest near presidency

CARACAS — Venezuelan security forces fired teargas at protesters chanting "We want food!" near Caracas' presidential palace on Thursday, the latest street violence in the crisis-hit OPEC nation.

Hundreds of angry Venezuelans heading towards Miraflores palace in downtown Caracas were met by National Guard troops and police who blocked a major road.

President Nicolas Maduro, under intense pressure over a worsening economic crisis in the South American nation of 30 million, had been scheduled to address a rally of indigenous groups nearby around the same time. The protest spilt out

of long lines at shops in the area, witnesses said, after some people tried to hijack a food lorry.

"I've been here since eight in the morning. There's no more food in the shops and supermarkets," one woman told pro-opposition broadcaster Vivoplay.

"We're hungry and tired." The government accused opposition politicians of inciting the chaos but said security forces had the situation under control.

Despite their country having the world's biggest oil reserves, Venezuelans are suffering severe shortages of consumer goods ranging from milk to flour, soaring prices and a shrinking economy.—Reuters



People shout at Venezuelan National Guards (not pictured) during riots for food in Caracas, Venezuela, on 2 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Michigan will still give water to Flint after emergency ends

FLINT (Michigan) — Michigan will give supplies of water to Flint residents even after a federal emergency declaration over lead in drinking water expires on 14 August, a state official said on Thursday.

Michigan State Police Capt. Chris Kelenske said

in a statement that the state would provide bottled water, water filters, replacement cartridges and water-testing kits until Flint’s water meets quality standards.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has been providing aid under a 75 per cent federal

and 25 per cent state cost-sharing agreement. The state will take on all costs when the declaration ends. Flint was under control of a state-appointed emergency manager in April 2014 when it switched its source of water from Detroit’s municipal system to the Flint River

to save money. The river water was more corrosive than Detroit system’s and caused more lead to leach from its aging pipes. Lead can be toxic and children are especially vulnerable. The city switched back in October after blood tests found lead in some children.—Reuters

UCLA murder-suicide gunman had planned third killing — police

LOS ANGELES — A former University of California, Los Angeles, student shot dead a woman at her home in Minnesota before he drove almost 2,000 miles (3,200 km) to the school and killed a professor but failed to find a third intended victim, police said on Thursday.

Mainak Sarkar, 38, had intended to kill a second professor besides shooting engineering professor William Klug, 39, at a small office on the campus, police said. He shot himself dead after the killing, police said. The shootings prompted a two-hour long lockdown on Wednesday.

Los Angeles Police Chief Charlie Beck told reporters on Thursday that a search of Sarkar’s St. Paul, Minnesota, home turned up a “kill list” that included the name of the woman found dead nearby, Klug — who was Sarkar’s professor at UCLA — and the name of

another professor at the school, who was not harmed.

Officials would not release the name of the woman, whose body police said they found at a house in the 2400 block of Pearson Parkway in Brooklyn Park near Minneapolis.

A marriage license application obtained by Reuters lists a residence on that block as the home of Ashley Erin Hasti and Sarkar, who married in Minnesota in 2011.

Neighbours also said Hasti lived at the home. Records do not show whether the couple, who appeared to have been living separately, were divorced.

An active Facebook page belonging to a Minneapolis-area woman named Ashley Hasti shows pictures of Sarkar, but not more recently than May of 2011, about two weeks before their marriage.—Reuters

Auto Telephone numbers will be changed to update exchanges Lashio and Taunggyi in Shan State

Yangon, Myanmar, 01 June, 2016 – Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT), announced today that they need to change the auto telephone numbers to update exchanges in order to give better and upgraded services to customers as follows.

Area	Existing Auto Telephone Number	New Auto Telephone Number	Date
Lashio (Northern Shan State)	082-22xxx 082-23xxx 082-24xxx	082-2202xxx 082-2203xxx 082-2204xxx	June 10, 2016
Taunggyi (Southern Shan State)	081-20xxxxx	081-213xxxx	June 17, 2016

During this transitional period, MPT will provide a Call Forwarding Service free of charge for its customers’ convenience for their incoming calls till the end of December 2016.

Myanma Post and Telecommunications

Eisenberg makes 'nerve-racking' UK stage debut with 'The Spoils'

LONDON — Oscar-nominated actor Jesse Eisenberg brings his self-penned play "The Spoils" to London audiences, making "a nerve-racking" stage debut in Britain which he regards as a theater mecca.

The tragicomedy, in which Eisenberg also stars, showed off-Broadway last year and the production has transferred to the West End for a limited season.

The 32-year old actor, known for "The Social Network" and more recently "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice", plays Ben, a callous wannabe filmmaker, living in a comfortable apartment bought by his father.

Staying with him is his friend Kalyan, a hard-working, earnest Nepalese immigrant studying business at New York University, who is played by "The Big Bang Theory" actor Kunal Nayyar.

When Ben's former school crush Sarah comes over for dinner with her partner Ted, tensions soon arise in the flat with Kalyan watching as his friend sets off on a path of self-destruction.

"What the play does discuss is kind of generational strife. My character is third generation American and I think he feels the



Cast member Jesse Eisenberg attends a news conference for the film "Cafe Society" out of competition before the opening of the 69th Cannes Film Festival in Cannes, France, on 11 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

kind of laziness of assimilation," Eisenberg told Reuters in an interview.

"Kunal's character is a new immigrant from Nepal and struggling to make it in an exclusive world of ... privilege that he is not a part of. The play discusses those themes and how my character, in a way, has lost his meaning because he doesn't have to struggle."

Although no stranger to

theater — this is the third play the actor has written — Eisenberg said he was worried about performing in the British capital.

"It is ... nerve-racking. I, very much, am in awe of the theater that's performed in London and actually all around the UK. It's really a kind of a mecca for theater, I would say more so than New York," he said. "The Spoils" runs at Trafalgar Studios till 13 August.—Reuters

Singer Prince died of accidental painkiller overdose: medical examiner



Prince performs during his 'Diamonds and Pearls Tour' at the Earl's Court Arena in London, Britain, on 15 June, 1992. PHOTO: REUTERS

CHICAGO — Music superstar Prince, who was found dead in his home in a Minneapolis suburb in late April, died of an accidental, self-administered overdose of an opioid painkiller, the county medical examiner said in a death report on Thursday.

The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office in Anoka County, Minnesota, had been investigating the 57-year-old singer's death since he was discovered in an elevator in his home and studio on 21 April.

"The decedent self-administered fentanyl," the medical examiner's report said, listing cause of death as "fentanyl toxicity" and noting it was accidental.

The investigation into Prince's death has centred on painkillers after prescription opioid medication was found at the scene and after reports he had been struggling with an addiction and had been scheduled to meet with a doctor who specialises in treating dependency.

Fentanyl is a highly addictive opiate that is more powerful than morphine and is used to treat patients with severe pain, often after surgeries. It took weeks for officials to release the cause of death because they were waiting for the results of toxicity tests.

The Minneapolis Star Tribune said it was not clear whether fentanyl had been prescribed to Prince and if so, which doctor prescribed it.

Fentanyl is often sold illegally and the US Centres for Disease Control has said that rising drug overdose deaths in the United States are linked to increased use of illicitly manufactured fentanyl.

The local prosecutor, Carver County Attorney Mark Metz, said the county sheriff's office continues to investigate Prince's death, assisted by federal authorities, but at this point has not handed over the results of the probe to prosecutors.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Madonna prevails in copyright lawsuit over 'Vogue' song

NEW YORK — Pop singer Madonna prevailed on Thursday in a copyright lawsuit over her song "Vogue" that alleged one of her producers copied a fraction-of-a-second segment of horns from a song he had also worked on.

In a 2-1 vote, the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in Pasadena, California ruled that a general audience would not recognise the 0.23-second snippet in "Vogue" as originating from the song "Love Break."

Shep Pettibone, a producer of "Vogue," also recorded "Love Break" in the early 1980's, according to the court ruling.

The plaintiff, VMG Salsoul LLC, owns the copyright to "Love Break" and alleged Pettibone sampled the "horn hit" from the earlier work and added it to "Vogue."

But the appeals court ruled in favor of Madonna, Pettibone and other defendants including Warner Bros Records.

"Defendants copied, at most, a quarter-note single horn hit and a full measure containing rests and a double horn hit," Circuit Judge Susan Graber wrote for the majority. "A reasonable jury could not conclude that an average audience would recognise an appropriation

of the 'Love Break' composition."

The dissenting judge, Barry Silverman, said even a small sample of music, used without a license, should be a copyright violation. "In any other context, this would be called theft," Silverman wrote.

Robert Besser, a lawyer for VMG Salsoul, said in a phone interview: "I agree with the dissent because it should be an infringement for copying any piece of any sound recording." He said his client would review its legal options.

A lawyer for Madonna could not immediately be reached for comment.—Reuters

Justin Bieber announces line of emojis

LONDON — Pop singer Justin Bieber is the newest celebrity to launch his own line of emojis following the footsteps of Kim Kardashian West and Amber Rose.

The 22-year-old "Sorry" hitmaker posted a sneak peek

into the app to tease his fans.

"Friday App Store," he captioned the picture shared on Instagram. The cartoon-like Bieber image is muscular, has tattoos and is holding up a sign that declares "no photos". The app is titled "justmojis".—PTI



Justin Bieber accepts the award for Top Male Artist at the 2016 Billboard Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 22 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Missing 7-year-old boy found alive in facility in forest after 6 days

HAKODATE (Japan) — A 7-year-old boy who was missing for six days in mountain forests in northern Japan after being left there alone by his parents for misbehaving was found safe Friday.

Yamato Tanooka was last seen around 5pm Saturday on a forest path in Nanae in Hokkaido, where his parents had left him before briefly driving away, according to police. He had scratches on his legs and arms but no major external injuries.

The boy was found at around 7:50am by Self-Defence Forces personnel when they were doing training in an exercise area in the town of Shikabe in Hokkaido, 5 kilometres away from the town of Nanae where he had been left behind by his parents.

He had been staying in a shelter used by troops when it rains, and was able to sleep on mattresses there. The SDF personnel stopped by at the shelter because it was raining at the time. The boy told the police that he



Takayuki Tanooka (R), father of 7-year-old boy Yamato Tanooka who went missing on 28 May 2016 after being left behind by his parents, was found alive, speaks to the media in Hakodate on the northernmost Japanese main island of Hokkaido, Japan, in this photo taken by Kyodo on 3 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

walked through the forest alone and had been staying in the exercise area since Saturday night. The SDF said the boy had not been seen when the area was checked Monday morning.

There was no food at the shelter and he lived on water. He looked hungry and ate well when he was offered rice balls by one of the SDF personnel, according to the SDF. The police

are questioning the boy to ascertain further details.

The boy was taken to a hospital in Hakodate where he was later reunited with his parents and sister.

A doctor at the hospi-

tal told a press conference the boy is receiving a drip infusion because his body temperature is low and that he is dehydrated. There are scratches on both his hands and legs, he added.

When informed about Yamato's safety, search troops erupted into applause, while at his elementary school in the town of Hokuto, Hokkaido, fellow pupils shouted in joy when the news was given to an assembly of all the around 900 children.

Yamato's principal and class teacher headed to the hospital to visit him. Yoshitaka Sawada, the school's vice-principal, said, "I want to tell him that he did a great job, and was brave."

About 130 to 200 police officers and firefighters, as well as SDF personnel, had been searching for the boy. The police used a helicopter Monday to search for him, while firefighters rode horses along forest paths calling out the boy's name.

The boy's father told reporters: "I feel very sorry

for the boy as I came down hard on him." He said he had told his son of his feelings after they were reunited and also apologised to the public for causing trouble because of his "excessive behaviour."

Yamato's parents had initially told investigators that their son disappeared when the family of four was collecting edible wild plants, according to the police. But they later told the police that the story was untrue and that their son 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 he told Yamato to get out of the car and then drove off "to scare him a little bit" as punishment for throwing stones at people and cars. But when he returned about five minutes later, the boy was not there.

The family searched for the boy for about half an hour before contacting the police when they could not find him.—Kyodo News

Art, furniture and more from the Reagans' home to be auctioned

NEW YORK — Furniture, artwork, jewelry and collectible objects that once graced the Los Angeles home of President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy, are headed for the auction block, Christie's said on Thursday.

The landmark sale, a series of live and online auctions scheduled for September, also encompasses decorative pieces of art, books, ephemera, sculpture, drawings and prints from the Reagans' home in the affluent Bel Air neighbourhood of Los Angeles.

Christie's said it expects the sale of some 700 lots to

take in more than \$2 million.

But estimates are based on the items' market value, and the possessions of celebrated figures offered at auction typically have soared to many times their estimates.

Proceeds will benefit the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation and Institute, in line with the Reagans' wishes. "This prestigious collection offers unprecedented insight into the private lives of President and Mrs. Ronald Reagan," said Brook Hazelton, president of Christie's Americas. "Each object offers a 'through-the-keyhole' experience revealing as-yet-

untold stories of two of the 20th century's most celebrated public figures."

Reagan, a former Hollywood actor and California governor, was elected the 40th US president in 1980. He died in 2004. Nancy Reagan died earlier this year at age 94.

The couple presided over a glamorous White House, where bold-faced names from the Reagans' years before the cameras as actors injected a glitzy element into Washington's traditionally staid social scene. Details on the auction items will be announced in coming weeks.—Reuters

Sumo wrestler Osunaarashi to promote tourism to his native Egypt

CAIRO — Egypt's Osunaarashi, the first sumo wrestler from Africa to turn pro in Japan, became a tourism ambassador for his native country Thursday, in a campaign to encourage Japanese to visit the destination avoided by many travellers following political upheaval.

"I want to contribute in various ways for the sake of Egypt," the 24-year-old wrestler, whose real name is Abdelrahman Ahmed Shaalan, said at a press

conference in Cairo.

He recalled a meeting with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi during the latter's visit to Japan earlier this year, saying the president had at that time invited him to expand his contributions beyond the world of sports.

The so-called "Arab Spring" democracy movement that started in Tunisia and swept into Egypt in 2011 led to violent clashes in Cairo and the eventual ouster of 30-year ruler Hosni

Mubarak.

Fear of public disorder and terrorist attacks have drastically reduced the flow of travellers from Japan and elsewhere into the country, dealing a major blow to its vital tourist trade.

Osunaarashi's current trip marks his first return to Egypt in about three years.

"Next time I come back to Egypt, I would like to make the trip together with a group of Japanese travellers," he said.—Kyodo News



Entertainment Channel

(4-6-2016, Saturday)

6:00 pm

- Weather Report
- Those Who Never Give Up (Ep-1) - Aung Thamar Di Gold Shop

6:30 pm

- Music Programme

6:40 pm

- Well-Trained Elephant

6:50 pm

- Music Programme

7:00 pm

- Cassette Recordings

8:10 pm

- Music Programme

8:40 pm

- Come Beat Eggs For Fun & Reward

9:00 pm

- International Movie Songs

9:10 pm

- Myanmar Childhood Games (Episode-2)

9:20 pm

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

9:40 pm

- Music Programme

10:00 pm

- The Strokes of Myanmar

10:20 pm

- Myanmar Movie

From 4-6-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 Pm

To 5-6-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(4-6-2016 07:00am ~ 5-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Great Shwedagon- The Architectural Heritage
07:52	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Family"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Waso Charity Feast
08:44	Am	Pet Fish Biz
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	A Trip To The City Of Rakkhita, Rakhine
09:45	Am	Myanmar Agarwood
10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	19 Hours

10:49 Am Amazing: Sayargyi Nyein Chan Aung
(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture
07:44	Pm	Today Myanmar: Nutrition or Contamination
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Stories Of The Great Souls (Mar Mar Aye) (Ep-1)

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

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

Smalling smiling after England sink Portugal

LONDON — England defender Chris Smalling headed the only goal with five minutes left as they beat 10-man Portugal 1-0 in a turgid Euro 2016 warm-up match at Wembley on Thursday.

The Manchester United centre half nodded the ball home from substitute Raheem Sterling's left-wing cross after the visitors failed to adequately clear a free kick by Kyle Walker.

The game offered precious little entertainment and even less goalmouth incident until Smalling struck.

Portugal, who rested talismanic striker Cristiano Ronaldo, had centre half Bruno Alves sent off for a reckless aerial challenge on Harry Kane in the 35th minute.

"It's never easy to play against 10 men," manager Roy Hodgson told ITV Sport after England collected their third friendly victory in 12 days.

"I thought in the second half we played some very good football and I thought especially in the last 30 minutes, after we made changes and brought on some fresh legs, that we looked good."

The crowd, which included newly-appointed Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho, had to wait until the 23rd minute for the first effort on goal, a tame header from England captain Wayne Rooney easily saved by Rui Patricio.

Twelve minutes later Alves received a straight red card after catching Kane with a dangerous blow on the side of the head from



England's Chris Smalling scores their first goal during International Friendly at Wembley Stadium on 2 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

his flying boot.

There was no sign England were playing with a one-man advantage as Portugal completely dominated possession at the start of the second half.

Equally frustrating for the home fans was the sight of chief goal threat Kane taking the corners and set pieces until he was

substituted in the 78th minute.

"Our composure throughout the game was good," added Hodgson as he accentuated the positives. "As a preparatory game it would have been better if we had played against 10 men but I'm pleased we kept a clean sheet and never looked like conceding a goal."

Portugal defender Jose Fonte said his team would benefit from their Wembley outing.

"We are disappointed obviously but we will come out of this stronger," said the Southampton centre half. "I thought we were compact and defended well."

"They didn't create many

chances in the second half and we actually had two good chances to nick a goal."

England have been drawn in Euro 2016 Group B along with Wales, Russia and Slovakia while Portugal will meet Iceland, Hungary and Austria in Group F.

The Euros in France start on 10 June.—Reuters

McEnroe believes Murray has best chance of Paris win

PARIS — Britain's Andy Murray has his best chance of winning the French Open this year, according to American great John McEnroe.

The second seed, who beat world number one Novak Djokovic to claim the Italian Open on clay in Rome last month, faces defending champion Stan Wawrinka in the semi-finals at Roland

Garros later on Friday.

The 29-year-old Scot will be hoping to advance to the final for a first time after tasting semi-final defeat three times previously and with nine-times French Open champion Rafa Nadal out through injury, Murray's chances have greatly improved.

"Maybe Andy's best chance to win the French ever could

be this year," said seven-times major winner McEnroe, who is working as a commentator in Paris.

"I don't know if he's going to be able to keep this up, so to me he has got his best shot ever."

"He has arguably been coming up against the three greatest guys who ever lived. So he has gotten a lot better and he can take pride in that. He can still add on a couple of majors.

"I think he is doing everything he can. I don't know him that well, certainly not enough to see his day-to-day. But Andy's had an incredibly consistent record in the slams."

Murray has won eight of his 15 encounters against Switzerland's Wawrinka.

Serbia's Djokovic, who like Murray has never won the French Open, takes on Austrian Dominic Thiem in the other semi-final on Friday.—Reuters



Andy Murray of Britain.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Barca confident Neymar will commit to long-term deal

BARCELONA — Barcelona are convinced Brazil captain Neymar will commit his long-term future to the Nou Camp as protracted negotiations between the Spanish champions and the striker continue over an extension to his current deal, which expires in June 2018.

The 24-year-old forward, who just completed his third season at Barca, has attracted the attention of several leading European clubs but his present employers are keen to play down talk that Neymar could soon be

plying his trade elsewhere.

"Neymar will stay," Barca sporting director Robert Fernandez said on the club's official website (www.fcbarcelona.com).

"He will reach an agreement with Barca and he will be here for a long time," he added. "The club will make it public when the extension is to be made."

Neymar scored 31 goals in 48 appearances last season to help the club win a domestic league and cup double.—Reuters

AYA BANK CUP 2016 (Myanmar)

3 June 2016

Match -1

VIET NAM 2-2 HONG KONG
Viet Nam won 6-5 in penalty.

Match -2

MYANMAR 0-1 SINGAPORE