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President U Htin Kyaw and Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong inspect the Guard of Honour at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U HTIN KYAW AND WIFE WELCOME SINGAPOREAN PM AND WIFE

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin rolled out the red carpet for Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong and his wife on the lawn of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

After the welcoming ceremony, the President and Singaporean Prime Minister held talks at the Credentials Hall.

During the meeting the two representatives held discussions on updating the avoidance of double taxation agreement signed between the two countries in 1999, investment enhancement, bilateral cooperation in the tour-

ism sector including more flights between Singapore and Myanmar's major cities and the opening of more training courses at the Myanmar-Singapore Vocational Training Institute.

The meeting was also attend-

ed by Union Ministers Dr Pe Myint, U Thant Sin Maung, Dr Myo Thein Gyi and U Ohn Maung, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Robert Chua and other officials.

In the evening, President U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su Su Lwin hosted a dinner in honour of the Singaporean Prime Minister and his wife at the Presidential Palace.

Also present were State

Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice-President U Myint Swe and his wife Daw Khin Thet Htay, Vice-President U Henry Van Thio and his wife Dr Shwe Lwam, Union ministers, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and officials.

The Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong is the first Head of State to visit Myanmar under the new government. His visit to Myanmar coincides with the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between Myanmar and Singapore.—Myanmar News Agency

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Myanmar citizens to be granted 30-day visa exemption for Singapore trips

MYANMAR and Singapore exchanged notes on a 30-day visa exemption plan for ordinary passport holders of the two countries on the first day of Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong's visit to Myanmar yesterday.

Under the visa exemption agreement, Myanmar citizens holding ordinary passports will no longer need to apply for a visa to visit Singapore and will be granted a visa exemption for a stay of maximum 30 days.

Singaporeans visiting Myanmar will be subject to the new rules as well. The 30-day visa exemption for citizens holding ordinary passports will be effective from 1 December this year.—Myanmar News Agency

Pyithu Hluttaw

Mangrove forest's establishments documented in Parliament

THE Pyithu Hluttaw recorded a motion calling for the establishment of mangrove forests in Dedaye Township, Ayeyawady Region during its session yesterday.

Altogether 11 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives seconded the motion, stressing the need to establish mangrove forests as a defence against cyclonic storms and to not plant the mangroves in a half-hearted manner.

In his reply, Union Minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation U Ohn Win said that works are underway to establish a 12.3-acre patch of

mangrove forest in the township during this year's rainy season.

There will be cooperation between the departments concerned and local people in regard to the conservation and restoration of mangrove forests, added the Union minister.

The motion was documented with no objection at the 40th day session of Pyithu Hluttaw.

Mangrove forests are found in abundance in the country's coastal areas of Rakhine State and Ayeyawady and Taninthayi Regions.

According to the 2010 World



U Ohn Win. PHOTO: MNA

Mangrove Atlas, Myanmar, with a total coastal line of 2,832km, has mangrove forests covering an area



Lt. Col Than Hlaing Win. PHOTO: MNA

of 5,029 square metres, accounting for 3.3 per cent of the total area in the world. Myanmar has the third



Dr Daw Khin Nyo. PHOTO: MNA

largest mangrove forest coverage in Asia and seventh in the world. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Action has been taken against squatters, arsonists: Deputy Home Affairs Minister

LEGAL action has been taken against squatters and those who committed arson against squatters in huts in Kyaikhto Township, Mon State, Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe told the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

U Bo Bo Aung and 10 others in one case and U Maung Shwe and three others in another have been charged for squatting on va-

cant land and disturbing tranquility, said the deputy minister.

He added that charges have also been filed against those who committed attacks of arson on 60 of 70 squatter huts that were burned down.

During the 37th day session of the Amyotha Hluttaw, the deputy minister also responded to a question about a plan to facilitate measures against transnational

organized crimes in connection with human trafficking. The deputy minister said that coordination and cooperation with Interpol is sought as well as with the police forces and embassies of the countries concerned through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the fight against transnational organized crimes in general and trafficking in persons in particular. —Myanmar News Agency



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

Property market still cool despite high expectations

THE domestic realty market remains cool despite realtors having harboured high expectations, it has been reported.

"Currently, the real estate market is stable and cool because businesspeople are carefully watching the activities of the new government. As the formation of the Myanmar Investment Commission is delayed, foreign investors cannot make any investments whatsoever in the realty market although they are interested and ready to invest," said a proprietor of a property agency.

"Both the renting and selling markets are cool. According to research data there are many people in Myanmar and overseas who wish to rent flats but due to prevailing circumstances the market remains fairly cool," said the leader of a survey team from a research company.

"The realty market will become active only when a large number of foreign direct investors enter the Myanmar housing market. We can do nothing but turn to renting. Still, there are not many clients to rent our flats and apartments," said Daw Myat Mo Mo, MD of Phoenix Lan, a real estate agency.



The real estate market in Yangon is stable and cool. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

The advanced purchase system has proved quite popular among constructors since it was introduced. However, buyers are nowadays very conscious

to buy flats under the advanced purchase system because it has been reported, many cases of fraud and theft have occurred. This being so, the advanced

purchase market is also rather cool with potential buyers coming with many requirements and offering low prices. —Soe Soe Yu

Outbound money transfer now available

OUTBOUND money transfer is available starting today, allowing customers to make international transfers to more than 500,000 agent locations of Western Union via its eight agent banks in Myanmar.

Economic growth and development of a certain country could be brought about by fast and reliable money transfers, said Patricia Riingen, Western Union's senior vice-president for South and East Asia and Oceania, adding that the service will be a boost to trade. Under the service that requires no bank account, a customer is allowed to send a maximum of \$3,000 a day and the price of each outbound service is fixed at US\$25. Western Union, which has been operating its service in Myanmar since 2013, has reached agreement nine private banks in the country, to provide its services at more than 790 places nationwide. —Ko Moe

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Singaporean PM

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with visiting Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at the Credentials Hall of the President's House in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting the two representatives discussed matters related to updating the avoidance of double taxation agreement inked in 1999, promoting investment, cooperation in the development of the tourism sector including direct flights to be operated from Singapore to major cities in Myanmar and increasing the availability of training courses at the Myanmar-Singapore Voca-

tional Training Institute.

The two also held discussions on taking an active leadership role in the international arena and cooperation by Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on behalf of the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

After the ceremony both representatives witnessed the exchange of notes between the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and Singaporean Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Robert Chua on the granting of a visa exemption to each other's citizens holding ordinary passports for a stay of 30 days. —Myanmar News Agency



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Mr. Lee Hsien Loong in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Workshop on media relations for ministerial spokespersons held

A WORKSHOP on media relations for ministerial spokespersons was held at the Ministry of Information in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint highlighted the importance of transparency and stressed the need

to be prepared to respond to every question.

The Union minister called on the ministerial spokespersons to be professional at work in order to get better at keeping in touch with the people through media.

During the workshop, Direc-

tor U Ye Naing Moe of the Yangon Journalism School held talks with those present on the writing of press releases, releasing news, answering media questions and sitting for interviews.

The workshop continues today.—Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint delivers a speech at a workshop on media relations for ministerial spokespersons. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar Property Awards to be held in Yangon

THE 2016 Myanmar Property Awards ceremony will be held at the Sule Shangrila Hotel on 30 June, during which 17 awards will be given to credible and recognised domestic real estate companies, according to Asia's leading online property group, Property Guru International.

"A total of 22 companies have been short-listed for the construction development and design awards. Such award ceremonies have been held before in other Southeast Asian countries as Thailand, Malaysia and Indo-

nesia, with awards given to the best property companies of that country," said Terry Blackburn, managing director of Property Guru International.

It is reported that over 30 local companies were originally monitored and analysed before a final 22 were nominated for the property awards.

"Nine international judges will be tasked with selecting the award-winning companies, with awards including development, planning and design being offered," said Mr Paul Ashburn, a

judge.

Awards will include Best Condo Development, Best Housing Development, Best Hotel Development and Best Residential Architectural Design.

Some of the short-listed companies for the 2016 Myanmar Property Awards include Crystal Residences by Shwe Taung Development, the Junction City Square Company, the Sedona Hotel Yangon Company and 68 Residence by United GP Development.—Myitmakha News Agency

ROK, Myanmar businesses meet to boost bilateral trade

EIGHTY companies from the Republic of Korea held business talks with Myanmar counterparts in order to boost bilateral trade at a meeting in Yangon yesterday.

The Korea-Myanmar business meeting was held with presentations on each nation's trade sectors, said Director U Aye Myint of the Myanmar Trade Promotion Team.

The meeting focused on aiding Korean companies looking to seek markets in the country and quality requirements that need to be met for Myanmar to export goods to the Republic of Korea, added the director.

He expressed his view that the Korea-Myanmar business meeting will act as a boost to bilateral trade between the two countries.

According to the business talks, Korean companies are interested in investing in Myanmar in the sectors of agriculture, industry and fisheries.

Myanmar's Ministry of Commerce said that the country's bilateral trade with the ROK stood at \$1.2 billion during last year although the two countries hit US\$1.6 billion in bilateral trade during the previous fiscal years from 2013-2014 to 2014-2015.—Ko Moe

Local administrators in Dawei to be issued bulletproof vests

WARD and village administrators from Dawei District, located in Myanmar's southern Taninthayi Region, are to be issued with bulletproof vests to protect them during criminal pursuits together with police units, according to the regional police department.

The initiative to issue the vests comes after many requests from local administrators for their added protection from gunfire when involved in making arrests within the district.

"Bulletproof vests will be bought and issued to local administrators, who must testify as witnesses in criminal cases, in order to protect them from life-threatening dangers," said Taninthayi Region Police Chief Nay Myo.

The fatal shooting of a police officer in April by a defendant involved in a narcotics case

prompted local administrators to question their own security, while they have also voiced the need for police officers involved in making arrests to be fully armed. "We're required to follow when an arrest against criminal activity is made in order to act as witnesses. The carrying of automatic weapons by defendants these days presents a real danger to one's life. We've also made our demands because of life-threatening dangers now posed to police officers, too," said the local administrator for Hsanyu Ward in Dawei.

Police Chief Nay Myo added that police officers are permitted to use automatic weapons while arresting suspects should the suspect resist by opening fire. There are also plans for police officers to be issued bulletproof vests.—Myitmakha News Agency

Tatmadaw flies passengers from Yangon to Coco Island



Passengers boarding the Aircraft. PHOTO: CNC' OFFICE

FOR the convenience of government servants as well as local staff and families of Tatmadawmen who are assigned to Coco Island, Myanmar, the Tatmadaw has been arranging for the transport of passengers and

goods with the use of military aircrafts and sea vessels.

On the morning of 6 June, 12 passengers, foodstuff and consumer goods were sent from the Headquarters of Mingaladon Air Force Base in Yangon

to Coco Island by a Myanmar Air Force aircraft.

Later that day, 13 passengers were flown from Coco Island to Yangon.—Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

More than 1,700 to donate blood in June in BFM's 2nd donation

THE Kanbawza Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation-BFM launched its second collective blood donation drive yesterday

Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of the foundation and other members donated blood in Yangon yesterday to mark the second donation in which more than 1700 employees of the KBZ group of com-

panies including its nationwide KBZ bank branches will give blood this month.

The foundation's first donation was held in Yangon and Mandalay in November and December last year, with more than 900 participants including members of the foundation and employees of KBZ bank branches in the two cities. —GNLM



The chairperson and members of Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donate blood in Yangon on 7th June, 2016. PHOTO: KBZ

Crime NEWS

Aircraft bomb found in Kawlin

AN aircraft bomb measuring 21 inches in length and 13 inches in diameter was found on the sand bank of Sin Lin creek in Chaung Kway village, Thabyay Ai village-tract, Kawlin Township, Katha District, Sagaing Region.

U Phoe Paw, 40, living in Chaung Kway village discovered the explosive while digging sand on the bank of the creek. Than Min Htwe, Inspector of police, Kawlin Police Station and members of police temporarily kept the device at the home of the head of Chaung Kway sub-village.—U Ye (Katha)



Motorcycle accident injures four men in Pathein

A MOTORCYCLE accident occurred near milepost 23/3 on Pathein- Ngwe Hsaung road, Pathein Township, Ayarwady region on Monday, leaving four men injured.

According to an investigation, the motorcycle, heading for Ngwe Hsaung from Pathein, was being driven by one Nay

Lin Tun, 34, with Ma Moe Myint Thu, 37, Ti Kyi Khant and Kyaw Naing Oo on board when it ran off the road after the driver lost control.

Three men sustained minor injuries while one man was seriously injured in the accident. The driver has been charged by police.—200

Man charged with motorcycle theft

POLICE have filed charges against a man on suspicion of motorcycle theft between 58 Street and Kyansithar road in Pyigyidagun township, Mandalay region on 5 June.

Than Oo alias Ar Ti, 23, from 59 Street, Chanmyathasi

township, was stopped and interrogated at the Pyigyidagun police station. He admitted to police that he had stolen a motorcycle from a house on Kyansithar road. Local police have filed charges against him.—Myanmar Police Force

Passenger vehicle disappears on Namkham-Lashio Road

A PASSENGER vehicle disappeared on 5 June en route to Lashio together with five passengers.

The vehicle was being driven by one Sai Yee Hsai Main, 29, living in Namtee village. The vehicle disappeared between Namkham and Namphatka, failing to arrive to Namphatka, Kutkai, Hsenwi or Lashio gate, said the head of Namti village to Namkham police. The Toyota Fielder No. FF/9723 and the driver with five passengers on board are missing on the Namkham-Namphatka mountain road. —118



A section of Namkham-Lashio Road. PHOTO: 118

Yaba seized in Kalaw, Lashio, Kawthaung and Ye

AN anti-narcotic police squad in Taunggyi searched a Mark-II being driven by one Zin Ko Ko Latt near Kal-



Zin Ko Ko Latt. PHOTO: MPF

aw on 5 June and discovered marijuana weighing 5 kilograms and 6 yaba pills.

On that same day, members of the police from Lashio seized 1950 yaba pills while searching a motorcycle being driven by one Aik Mein at the entrance to Nar Pha village on the Lashio-Maing Yaw road.

Similarly, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Kawthaung police station searched one Yan Nain Myo and discovered 214 yaba pills on Pan Yeik Myaing Street, Aye Yeik Nyein Ward, Kawthaung.

Likewise, police from Ye Township searched the home of Ma Tin Yee in Ywar Kalay village, Arr Yu Taung village-tract and seized 169 yaba pills. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law—Myanmar Police Force

LOCAL Business

Thai electronics company to establish factory in Myanmar

BANGKOK Sheet Metal, Thailand's leading producer of wide-range cable ducts, is preparing to establish a factory in Myanmar, according to Thai newspaper The Nation.

The company aims to gain an advantage by building the plant in Myanmar by allowing raw materials to be bought more cheaply. Besides, wages in Myanmar are lower than in Thailand. Bangkok Sheet Metal is seeking a joint venture with a partner company in Myanmar to manufacture electrical prod-

ucts and wire lines, said Tira-wat Amornthatri, the managing director of the company.

Bangkok Sheet Metal hatched plans to build its Myanmar plant this year and aims to have the plant operational within three years. The factory will manufacture wires, switchboards and control panels.

The company will hire Myanmar migrants in Thailand who have come back to Myanmar as labourers because they have skills and experience in the industry.—NG/Union Daily

Business licences only to be granted after construction permits

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism will grant business licences only after entrepreneurs have sought construction permits from the ministry, according to the Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Law. Security cameras and mine detectors will also be allowed to be installed in hotels if entrepreneurs want them, according to a decision made at the meeting of the management committee of the ministry on 23 May.

Section 8 of Chapter 6 of

the Myanmar Hotels and Tourism Law requires hoteliers to seek prior permission before beginning construction on new hotels, though this has been ignored in the past.

Previously, the ministry granted business licences only if security cameras and walk-through mine detectors were installed at new hotels. Now, the ministry has relaxed this rule, and these installations are no longer compulsory. —ML/Union Daily

Singkhon to become permanent trade camp

U Tun Tun Win, vice chairperson of the Myeik Chamber of Commerce and Industry, and other members of the chamber negotiated with Thai entrepreneurs to transform the Singkhon border gate into permanent trade camp, according to Pataya Daily News.

Entrepreneurs from Thailand and Myanmar participated in the meeting to boost the border trade between the two countries. The business meeting was held at Had Thong Hotel in Prachuap Khiri Khan and was attended by Tawee Narissirikul, the governor of the province. The meeting aimed to bolster trade and develop cooperation between Prachuap Khiri Khan Province and Myeik District.

A total of 60 businessmen

from Myeik were reported to have attended the meeting. The businessmen are engaged in various industries, including the fishery business, construction tools manufacturing and Ceylon mango farming. The attendees negotiated with Thai entrepreneurs to strengthen business relations between the two countries and encourage mutual investments.

U Tun Tun Win said the construction of the road that connects Moo Dong Village and Myeik is 70 per cent completed. He said he expects the road to facilitate better trade between the two areas upon completion. Aside from trade and investment, the road will play an important role in the development of the travel and tours sector.—PPN/Union Daily



Workers at a garment factory in Hlaingthaya Industrial Zone, Yangon. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Myanmar garment industry expects to earn over US\$2billion through exports

THE export value of the Myanmar garment industry is expected to reach over US\$2billion according to the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association.

Entrepreneurs from member nations of the European Union have aims to invest in companies belonging to the MGEA, it has been learned.

Garment factories in the country are required to maintain worker's rights and stable workplace industrial relations. Garment products are currently being exported to South Korea and Ja-

pan. It would be better if the market could reach Europe, said Daw Khaing Khaing Nwe, secretary of the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association (MGEA).

European entrepreneurs have agreed to initiate investment using the CMP system.

There are a total of 380 member companies under the Myanmar Garment Entrepreneurs Association. Around 300 companies are exporting their products to foreign markets.

Previously, garment products were exported only to the

United States of America (USA) and the European Union (EU). Over 50 per cent of Myanmar garments were exported to the USA while 40 per cent went to EU market circa 2000. As of late the Myanmar garment industry has turned its export interests toward South Korea and Japan after Myanmar had economic sanctions lifted, said U Phone Naing, a garment entrepreneur.

Currently, there are a total of 240 garment factories in Yangon with a total labour force of 220,000, according to the association.—200

Infrastructure of Muse Central Economic Zone stands at 80 per cent completion

THE infrastructural construction project for the Muse Central Economic Zone Project is 80 per cent complete with the Muse Central Economic Zone reported to be opening soon in segments.

The zone is being jointly established by the Shan State government and New Starlight Company. The construction of the zone has been slated for total completion by 2018. Trade zones, condominiums, high-rise branch offices, a

finished jade products market, 300 high standard houses, three hotels, super markets, police stations, fire stations and one ethnic village will be included in the project.

The first phase of the zone will be opened soon at a cost of K93.8 billion with a total of 192 shops. Over 80 per cent of trade by road transportation to China is conducted through the Muse trade gate.

The project is expected to be completed some time during

the 2017 FY with a fund of over US\$51million. The renovation of shops along Mingalar Muse Road is nearing completion while the jade market is 70 per cent complete and hotel construction sits at around 48 per cent completion.

The project is being implemented on 294.789 acres of land on the river's edge near Muse town. It is reported that 38.4 per cent of the area is slated for a park and Playgrounds.—200

Nawarat Patanakarn to establish cement plant in Myanmar

THE Thai based Nawarat Patanakarn Company has been preparing to establish a cement plant in Myanmar, manufacturing ready-to-use concrete products, according to The Nation.

The Nawarat Patanakarn Company and a partner compa-

ny, already based in Myanmar, recently reached an agreement to join hands to manufacture ready-to-use concrete products in Myanmar, said Polpat Karnasuta, chairman of the Nawarat Patanakarn Company.

The Nawarat Patanakarn

Company has been gearing up to begin investing in ASEAN countries, with an investment value of 500 million Bahts. The company has planned to put the majority of this investment mainly in concrete manufacturing, based in Myanmar.—200

In Indonesia, 'national defence' training against perceived threats

BOGOR, (Indonesia) — Yakobus Mebri stepped in front of his classmates at a training centre in Indonesia's West Java Province and, at the top of his voice, demanded if their hearts burned to defend the nation.

"It does! It does! It does!" the recruits thundered back, breaking into what appeared like a war dance.

Their instructor, Major General Hartind Asrin, then asked them to sit down: the Bela Negara — "defend the nation" — class was starting.

"We have to be more vigilant of potential threats in their infancy," he said as students diligently took notes.

The sprawling training centre in Bogor, about 60 km (35 miles) south of the capital, Jakarta, is at the heart of a movement spearheaded by officials from the ministry of defence and military against perceived threats such as communism, drugs and homosexuality.

The concept of defending the nation in this way has



A female participant of the Bela Negara - 'defend the nation' - programme applies camouflage face paint on another participant's face at a training centre in Rumpin, Bogor, West Java, Indonesia on 2 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

existed since before Indonesia's independence in 1945, officials say, but they now see a need to shore up protection against "influences" that deviate from the founding principles and norms of the country with the world's

largest Muslim population.

Over the last few months, the movement has gained momentum, partly in a reaction to support from President Joko Widodo for an investigation into an anti-communist purge in 1965.

Historians say at least 500,000 people died in the violence that followed when suspected communists killed six generals in an attempted coup against then-president Sukarno.

Successive govern-

ments have refused to apologise or accept that death toll, and Widodo's move has outraged many among the military's elite.

Defence minister and retired general Ryamizard Ryacudu, who told Reuters recently that communists may now be seeking revenge, last week drew a comparison with the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945 to justify the massacre of half a century ago.

"This was an uprising, they deserved to die," he told a conference of retired officers and nationalist groups from which a reporter said she was ejected because some there accused her of being a lackey of the Communist Party of Indonesia (PKI).

More than 2,000 members of "Bela Negara" and Islamic groups marched from a mosque to the presidential palace in Jakarta on Friday to protest against what they see as a resurgence of communism, burning hammer-and-sickle flags

in the streets.

Many in the march said they feared a revival of the PKI, which was one of the largest communist parties in the world before it was outlawed in 1966.

Like other protesters Reuters asked, 40-year-old Ilyas from Jakarta had never met a communist. But he had seen signs of their return: "Many features of communism have appeared, from the perspective of culture and clothing and other areas," he said.

Under the authoritarian General Suharto who took over from Sukarno, the PKI was dissolved and leftist symbols were banned.

Critics believe the recent whipping-up of a "red scare" — along with condemnations of gays and other "foreign influences" — is an attempt by the army to re-militarise Indonesian society following its loss of influence in civil and political affairs with Suharto's fall from power in 1998. —Reuters

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China tells US to play constructive South China Sea role

BEIJING — China told the United States on Tuesday that it should play a constructive role in safeguarding peace in the disputed South China Sea, as US Secretary of State John Kerry called for talks and a peaceful resolution.

China claims most of the South China Sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year. The Philippines, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims, as well as close military ties with the United States.

China has been angered by what it views as provocative US military patrols close to islands China controls in the South China Sea. The United States says the patrols are to protect freedom of navigation.

Speaking at the end of high-level Sino-US talks in Beijing, State Councillor Yang Jiechi, China's top diplomat who outranks the foreign minister, said China had the right to safeguard its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights.

"China respects and protects the right that all countries enjoy under international law to freedom of



US Secretary of State John Kerry and Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong attend the US — China High Level Consultation on People to People Exchange at the National Museum in Beijing, on 7 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

navigation and overflight," Yang told reporters.

Disputes should be resolved by the parties involved through consultation, he said.

"China hopes the US will scrupulously abide by its promise to not take sides in relevant territorial disputes and play a constructive role in safeguarding

peace and stability in the South China Sea," Yang said. Kerry said the United States did not take a position on the sovereignty of any land features in the South China Sea but thought all claimants should exercise restraint.

"We reiterated America's fundamental support for negotiations and a

peaceful resolution based on the rule of law as well as our concern about any unilateral steps by any party ... to alter the status quo," Kerry said.

Kerry added that he and Yang reaffirmed their governments' commitment to upholding the freedom of navigation and overflight.—Reuters

Australian PM diverts election tour to visit storm-ravaged voters

CANBERRA — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull suspended his election campaign tour on Tuesday to visit areas of the country ravaged by a powerful storm that has battered the country's east coast for several days.

Giant waves, cyclone-strength winds and torrential rain swept three people to their deaths on Monday after the storm forced hundreds to flee their homes.

Turnbull had been due to visit the southern state of Tasmania on Tuesday to continue campaigning for a 2 July election but changed his plans as the island state grapples widespread flood-

ing.

Turnbull will instead meet flood victims in New South Wales state, while his challenger Bill Shorten is diverting his own campaign to Sydney to inspect damage.

The Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) has issued major flood warnings over parts of Tasmania, after a high pressure system to the state's east combined with a trough over eastern Australia resulted in heavy rainfall.

The three people who died were all believed to be drivers caught in floodwaters.

Emergency services were due to resume a search early Tuesday for a swimmer who



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull speaks to the media during a news conference at Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, 8 May, 2016 after asking Australia's Governor-General Peter Cosgrove to dissolve both Houses of Parliament to call a double dissolution election for 2 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

went missing at Sydney's Bondi Beach on Monday afternoon. In Tasmania, police planned to resume the search for two elderly people swept away by floodwaters, the Australian Broadcasting Corp reported.

Waves up to five metres (17.5 feet) pounded much of the

east coast at the weekend, leading to widespread property damage. (Full Story) Insurers received more than 11,150 claims with estimated insured losses of A\$38 million, the Insurance Council of Australia said. It expects the number of claims to rise further over the coming days.—Reuters

Japan-Mongolia accord for trade promotion takes effect

TOKYO — Japan's bilateral accord with Mongolia aimed at promoting trade and investment took effect Tuesday, making about half of exports to Mongolia tariff-free.

Under the newly launched economic partnership pact, the portion of Japan's exports exempt from tariffs will increase from below one percent currently. Mongolia will remove its tariffs on 96 per cent of Japanese imports within 10 years.

Japan will also scrap tariffs on almost all products, including cashmere goods, from Mongolia in 10 years, while duties on some processed beef products will remain. "Access to Mongolia will significantly improve, especially for automobiles," Motoo Hayashi, the Japanese minister of economy, trade and industry, said at a press conference.

Automobiles are among Japan's main exports to Mongolia, with 5 per cent tariffs on vehicles with engine displacement of 4,500 cc or smaller immediately eliminated.

Resource-poor Japan also aims to secure a stable supply of rare metals and coal under the deal, while strengthening its partnership with Mongolia at a time when China is boosting its influence on the country. For Mongolia, the treaty is its first free trade accord. The country has been reeling from a drop in natural resources prices.—Kyodo News

India may halt diesel imports, deal with private refiners— sources



A vehicle waits to be filled up with diesel at a petrol station in New Delhi, India, on 5 January, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW DELHI — India's state refiners may halt diesel imports after working out a temporary mechanism to resume buying the fuel from private processors if

global diesel prices remain at current levels, two refinery sources said.

State refiners stepped up imports in recent months after pri-

vate refiners refused to continue absorbing sales tax and coastal freight costs, making the domestic fuel more expensive.

Indian imports were a factor behind the stronger Asian gasoil crack, which has been holding near \$12 a barrel for the fifth straight session on Monday, after almost doubling to \$11.74 on 2 June from this year's low on 6 April.

Under the latest arrangement, private refiners will pay the central sales tax and state-run marketing firms will pay coastal freight costs for interstate cargoes shipped from plants in western Gujarat state, the sources said.

India's diesel use is rising along with an economy that grew by 7.6 per cent in the financial

year to 31 March. In the last fiscal year India's diesel demand grew 7.5 per cent, its fastest pace in four years.

To meet this soaring demand, the three state-owned firms last year bought some 12 million tonnes of diesel from the private oil processors.

State-owned Indian Oil Corp, Hindustan Petroleum Corp and Bharat Petroleum Corp sell the bulk of diesel consumed in India.

Diesel is used as a transport fuel but also for power generators and in irrigation systems and heavy equipment, including those for farming.

The approaching Monsoon in parts of India could reduce the need for power generators as the weather cools.—Reuters

Nuclear group to consider Pakistan, India bids for membership

ISLAMABAD — The Nuclear Suppliers Group, which supervises international trade in nuclear technology and related materials, is expected to consider the formal requests made last month by India and Pakistan to join the body, according to officials.

The two South Asian nuclear states have long lobbied to become members of the multinational club of nuclear supplier countries that voluntarily implements guidelines for nuclear-related exports to help prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons.

The group is set to meet in Vienna on 9-10 June and in Seoul on 24 June, the officials said.

Established in the 1970s, the

group has banned the export of dual-use nuclear technology to Pakistan and India, which have not signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty that binds its signatories not to pursue nuclear weapons programmes.

Both Pakistan and India have active nuclear weapons programmes and missile development programmes to deliver atomic bombs.

On 12 May, India applied for formal membership to the Nuclear Suppliers Group, and Pakistan followed suit a week later. Pakistan is urging the body to allow countries that have not signed the NPT to become members.—Kyodo News

US provides over 2m USD for unexploded bomb survey, clearance project in Laos

VIENTIANE — Seek and destroy efforts for decades-old bombs and explosive munitions strewn across landlocked Laos since the Viet Nam War era will get a boost of 2,178,865 US dollars in funding from the United States, local media reported on Monday.

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed in Vientiane on Friday to launch the project, state-run media *Vientiane Times* reported. The funding via the US State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement will see the Mine Action Group and National Regulatory Authority for the UXO/Mine Action Sector in the Lao PDR (NRA) focusing on survey and clearance in three districts of Xieng Khouan Province, among the country's most heavily-bombed regions during a nine-year period from 1964.

According to the United Nations and based on US military flight data, US bombers released more than two million tonnes of ordnance upon Laos including more than 270 million anti-personnel cluster sub-munitions of which some 80 million failed to detonate upon impact.

According to the NRA and UN figures, some 55,000 hectares had been cleared between 1996 and end of 2015 of the estimated 8.7 million hectares affected, or some 6.3 per cent.

In 2008, Laos' National UXO Survey indicated some 50,136 casualties from bombs and UXO from 1964 to 2008, with the bulk of victims aged between 15 and 35 years old.

As recently as 2008, some 300 casualties were recorded in a year.

The five-year period from

2011-2015 saw UXO-related accidents in Laos result in an additional 522 casualties, including 131 deaths, according to official figures published by the United Nations Development Program in February. The majority were children.

Education and clearance efforts have helped foment a reduction in the rate of new incidents, allowing Laos to meet its 2015 United Nation's Millennium Development Goals target of reducing new casualties to 75 annually by 2015, a goal surpassed with 30 fewer deaths recorded in 2014.

This announcement comes before the scheduled visit of US President Barack Obama to Laos in September for the East Asia Summit when further US support to Lao to bolster UXO survey and clearance is expected to be announced.—Xinhua

Opinion

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

Bridging the gap between politics and the media

Alec Wilmot

WITH the internet at our fingertips there has never been a better time to take critical appraisal of politics and its players and sidestep the spin of media. Politicians and members of the media in nations all over the world maintain a 'special relationship' that works to a mutual benefit. Friendly press cover can engender closer working relationships with politicians and their staff who in turn preference certain journalists or institutions with exclusive interviews and insider knowledge. On the macro level this inevitable rubbing of shoulders can have profound effects. Don't trust everything you read, the

old saying goes, and this holds true for media consumption. Personal research to enrich one's own understanding of issues can bridge the gap between what politicians say or profess to believe in, the way in which it is reported on by the media and something closer to the reality of a given situation. Media institutions really are the gate keepers to much of our knowledge of the modern world – such wide-reaching and impactful authority calls for scrutiny and objective reasoning, or better yet, increased personal agency. The internet is a tool that can be harnessed to get to the bottom of issues, be challenged on them and by them and so help

one become not simply a passive consumer of information but a seeker of it. As with any tool, there is a level of skill required to use the internet effectively but an objective mindset and a healthy scepticism of information sources and knowledge of what biases might be at play will put one on the right track to broadening their knowledge base and developing an understanding of how issues interconnect, how they are tailored and presented by both politicians and the media and how, increasingly through social media, news consumption is 'bubbled' to re-enforce certain points of view. The business sense in this far-reaching phe-

nomenon is obvious – feed social media users what they like and identify with. Make their use of the service enjoyable and conflict free. Social media will create for the user a re-enforcement bubble, an echo chamber for oneself all the people one likes and agrees with. Good for business and warm feelings, bad for critical thought. Researching all credible information on a topic, seeking out divergent opinions and learning topical history to reach a better understanding of political currents and policy will absolutely improve one's ability to read and understand what is being propagated through the prism of the information feeding tube.

A Review on the Film Zootopia (2016)

U Aye Kywe

AS "Zootopia" is the first animation film I have ever seen in 2016, it became one of the entries in my All Time Favourite Films List at once.

This new Disney film is, at a first glance, a film with lovely and cute animal characters with an aim to make the children happy and amused. However, beyond the curtain of pure entertainment lie the subtle and meaningful message conveyed by this excellent movie.

Summarized Plot

The plot of the film can be summarized as follows:

There are no human beings but the animals in the world. Animals are basically classified as Predator and Prey. Animals like Lion, Tiger and Fox are members of the Predator Group and other animals like Sheep, Deer, and Rabbit are included in Prey Group. Contrary to common tradition, Preys need not be afraid of Predators and they lived in peaceful co-existence. Long time ago in history, Predators were cruel wild animals that fought and killed the Preys. But in the present age, all animals live together in a friendly and peaceful atmosphere.

A female rabbit named Judy Hopps lives in a small town. She has a big dream since childhood. She wants to be a police officer at the modern sophisticated metropolis Zootopia which is systemati-

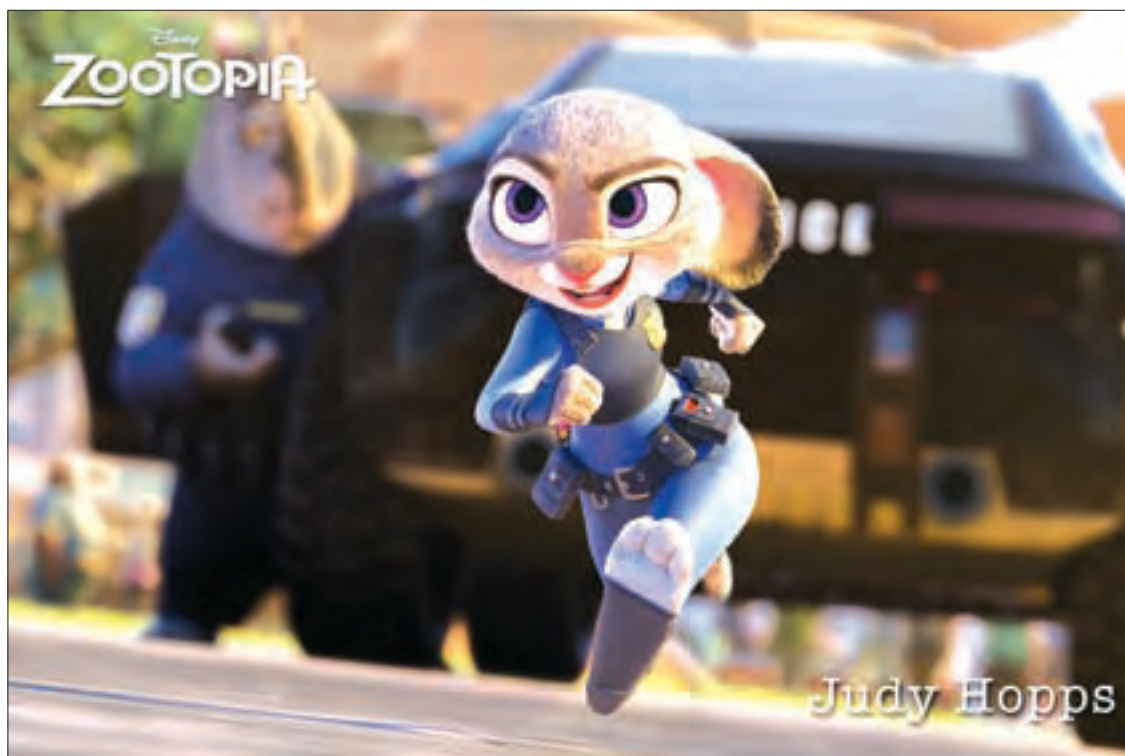
cally functioning smoothly. So, she managed to graduate as a police officer from Zootopia Police Academy. Normally, it is impossible to appoint a small and timid rabbit to the police officer position. But her alertness and sharp intelligence pave the way for the appointment of a first ever female rabbit police officer in town.

However, Police Superintendent Bogo did not count on Judy. Her first assignment is Car Parking Watch Duty. Pasting of fine notice onto the cars which are parked off the time limit is not a worthwhile duty for Judy whose ambition is centered on the investigation of big cases. Anyway, she did her best and could manage to search and paste fine notice onto even 200 guilty cars before noon on her first day of duty.

At the workplace, Judy helped a fox named Nick Wilde. But close investigation revealed the truth that the fox just played a trick on her. Judy was filled with anger and frustration. She put the blame on herself for her careless trust in the inherent incredible nature of a fox.

One day, Superintendent Bogo sought her assistance in a case of lost animals. Judy gladly accepted to investigate. She got 2-day schedule from Bogo for investigation. If she fails to solve the case in two days' time, she will be fired from her post.

While searching for clues, Judy came to realize that Nick Wilde the Fox could give her an assistance to solve the mystery of lost animals. Deeper investigation indicates that the disappear-



ance of 14 animals is much more complex than an ordinary case. When Judy is aware of this crime on the peaceful co-existence of all animals in Zootopia.....

Messages from Zootopia

"We must configure by ourselves which type of persons we are. Other people may have their own views about us. But these are their personal views only. Shall we allow their views to influence our lives? Or, shall we create our destinations by ourselves? It is a point to ponder."

This is what I think about the message given by Zootopia. Tradition depicts a fox as cunning

and wicked animal. But it is a real fox's duty to formulate his own identity. It is wrong thinking for a fox to be cunning because of traditional norms. Likewise, sheep cannot be judged as simple and honest because of tradition. Rabbits need not be timid and fearful based on common belief.

Animal characters in Zootopia shed a new light on our social misconduct to judge our surrounding and people in everyday life just by superficial appearance.

We should think in retrospect now.

Only if we can judge a person by his own behavior and

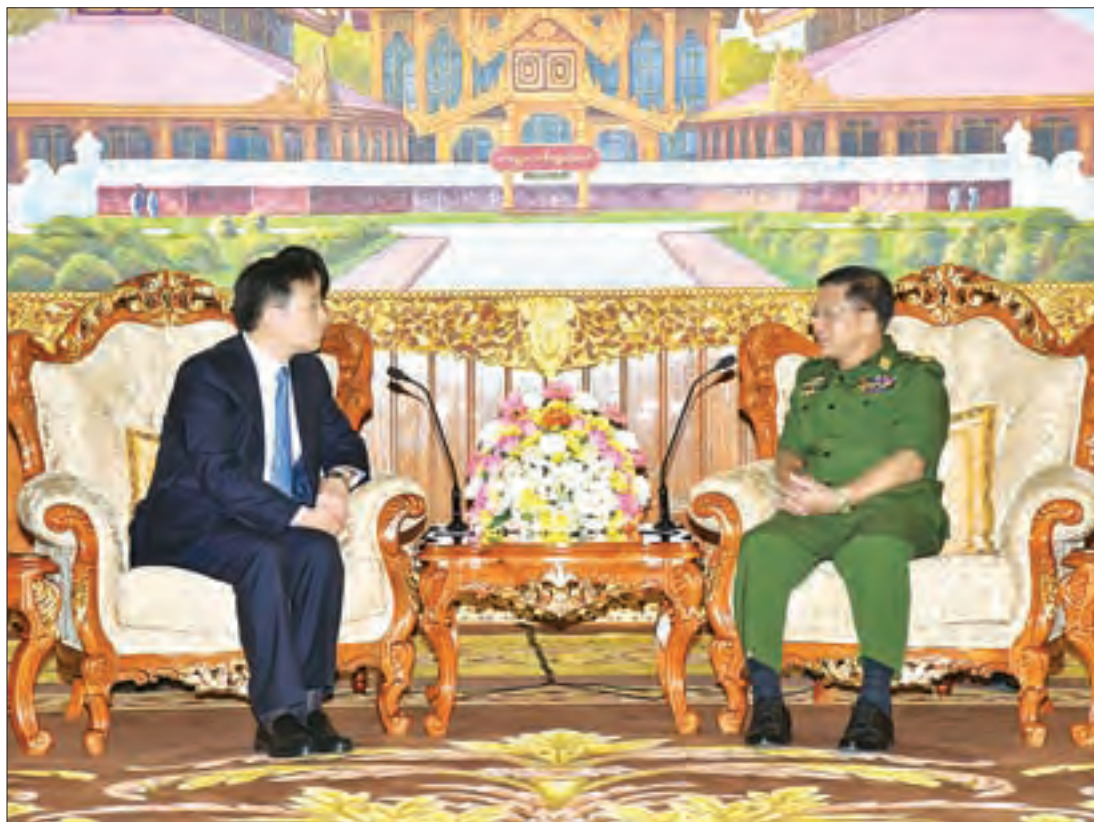
apart from race, religion, place and family.....

Only if every person behaves according to his/her own identity regardless of common norms and tradition.....

Zootopia is quite interesting from the beginning to the end. Every scene is able to captivate the audience's attention. Lovely behavior of various animals is blended with humour. Zootopia is a film not to be missed in 2016.

I would like to recommend it as a humorous film packed with thought provoking lessons. In short, it pays back for your time spent on it.

C-in-C of Defense Services receives Chinese Ambassador



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing receives Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Ambassador of China to Myanmar Mr Hong Liang at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday.

During the meeting the two representatives discussed issues related to managing border areas and ending armed conflicts to achieve further im-

provement in bilateral relations and the creation of a better environment for job opportunities in bilateral cooperation and in gaining the trust of local peoples.— MNA

Chat Thin Wildlife Sanctuary focussing on preservation to attract tourists

THE Chat Thin Wildlife Sanctuary in Kantbalu Township, Sagaing Region will preserve with great care golden deer and other native animals to attract tourists beginning from the second week of June due to an apparent drop in the number of tourist visitors over the past three years as well as to preserve and nurture local wildlife, it has been learned.

“Tourists are especially interested in golden deer. There are still more than 200 golden

deer in the wildlife sanctuary. We will, therefore, preserve golden deer under a project to protect them and other wildlife animals,” said an official of the department of Chat Thin Wildlife Sanctuary.

There are 301 species of trees, 224 species of birds, 57 species of butterfly, 37 species of terrestrial animals and 21 species of mammals in the sanctuary, it is noted in a survey.

The preservation of Chat Thin will be undertaken under

a long-term project to eradicate poaching. Action will be taken against hunters found inside the sanctuary, it has been learned from an official of the sanctuary. Chatthin Wildlife Sanctuary (CWS) in Myanmar (Burma) protects the largest population of the endangered Eld’s deer left in the world. It also represents one of the largest remaining patches of dipterocarp forest—a dry forest that is one of the most threatened and least protected forest types globally.—200

Japanese CPAs to lecture in Yangon

JAPANESE Certified Public Accountants are slated to begin running lectures under an arrangement made between the Myanmar Auditor-General’s Office, Daiway Securities and the Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

“Daiwa Securities and the Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accounts (CPA) will co-

operate with the Myanmar Auditor-General’s Office to produce better qualified accountants. The Auditor-General’s Office signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Japanese Institute of CPA. Japanese CPAs will give lectures beginning this summer. They will also review accounting systems and procedures” said an official of the Au-

ditor-General’s Office.

With the emergence of the Yangon Stock Exchange, one of the first investment centers in Myanmar, The Japanese CPA will provide monetary assistance to Myanmar to produce highly qualified accountants, it is stated in an announcement of the Japanese Institute of Certified Public Accounts. —200

Specialists provide healthcare services to remote areas

TO promote the health of people who live in remote and difficult-to-access areas specialists and medical assistants of the Tatmadaw have volunteered to work in hospitals in some remote areas of Sagaing Region, Chin State and Naga Self-Administrative Region.

Since mid March, specialists and medical assistants have been carrying out healthcare duties for the local peoples of those areas.

The group have provided medical treatment to 4,185 peo-

ple residing in the villages of the Naga Region, and 4,761 people from the villages of Khamti, Lahe and Layshi townships in Sagaing Region. 5,302 people in the villages of Hakha, Tunzan, Htantalan and Kyikhar townships and 3,826 people residing in the villages of Matupi and Mindat townships, Chin State. The specialists and medical assistants will continue to provide healthcare services for local people in those areas.— C-in-C’s Office



A patient receives medical care provided by a military specialist. PHOTO: C-IN-C’S OFFICE

Centre aims to showcase species of native bamboos

A centre is projected to be established in Mudon Township of Mon State by Myanmar Bamboo Lovers Network with the aim of showcasing a wide range of native species of bamboos, its members say. In cooperation with Shwe Zanaka Agribusiness Group and Myanmar Rattan and Bamboo Association, the project will be implemented on about 30,000-acre of land, planning to open the centre for public observation before this year.

The project also aims to dis-

tribute bamboo-related technology by conducting trainings at the centre, planning to seek new market for local bamboos.

Several discussions have been made between Shwe Zanaka Co and the Myanmar Bamboo Lovers Network to discuss matters relating to establishment of the centre, said its chairwoman. Mon State is suitable for bamboo planting than other destinations. This is the reason why the network chose the state to implement its project.—200



Bamboo saplings being seen at a nursery. PHOTO: SOE WIN

France's rail chief is hopeful strike will end before Euro soccer



Passengers walk past striking employees of Roissy airport during a demonstration against the labour reforms law at the Charles de Gaulle International Airport in Roissy, near Paris, France, on 7 June.

PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — The head of France's state railway said on Tuesday he was hopeful a week-long strike would end before the Euro 2016 soccer tournament starts on Friday after a new deal was put to the hardline CGT and other unions.

Three days before the championships open, the CGT, which has separately spearheaded walkouts in other industries against a draft law which would make it easier to hire and fire workers, was under pressure to sign a new agreement on working conditions with signs the protest movement was losing momentum. Guillaume Pepy said the strike had cost the SNCF more than 300 million euros (\$341 million) up to now and the draft agreement now with the unions went as far as possible toward meeting demands on matters like shift time and rest periods.

"There's no reason whatsoever now to continue the strike," Pepy said, anticipating an end

to the strike on Wednesday or Thursday.

The CGT said only that it would consult members on Tuesday. President Francois Hollande, who has refused to give in to strikes in the transport and energy sectors as well as waves of street protests, urged an agreement. "Nobody is going to understand why a strike should continue to impinge on a state enterprise's finances, the smooth running of the Euros and, above all, people's daily commute to work," Hollande told a regional newspaper, La Voix du Nord.

The SNCF forecast a "significant improvement" in service on Tuesday as fewer employees heeded the strike call at a time public support for the CGT's stance fades.

It said two in three TGV high-speed trains would run and four in ten of the slower intercity trains, more than in recent days.

The government intervened last week when it pressed SNCF

management to protect train drivers' rest times, averting wider backing for the strike. Managers had said the concession could make the heavily indebted company uncompetitive when it has to open up to private competition in 2020 under EU rules.

An end to the rail strike would relieve pressure on the government which still faces walkouts in parts of the energy industry over national proposals to loosen rigid labour regulations.

The labour law reform has sparked wave after wave of street protest, marred by fringe violence, over the past three months, but despite widespread public concern over the reform plan, the CGT has been left fighting an increasingly lonely battle.

Pepy said 2,000 rail workers had been working 24 hours a day to repair flood damage on the network despite the strikes and that normal traffic could be restored before the Euro soccer.—Reuters

British support for remaining in the EU narrowly ahead — polls

LONDON — Britons narrowly favour remaining in the European Union according to two polls published in Tuesday's newspapers, in contrast to surveys released on Monday which showed the campaign for Brexit ahead.

Support for remaining in the EU had a one-point lead in both an online YouGov survey published for *The Times* newspaper and an ORB telephone poll of those definite to vote conducted for *The Daily Telegraph*.

Britons will vote on 23 June on whether to remain part of the EU, a choice with far-reaching

consequences for politics, the economy, defence and diplomacy but divergent polls have made it difficult to predict the outcome.

The 'Remain' campaign rose by 2 percentage points to 43 per cent in the YouGov survey, overtaking the 'Leave' side which fell to 42 per cent in a poll of 2,001 adults conducted on 5 and 6 June.

In an ORB telephone poll released on Monday, support for remaining in the bloc fell but held a one-point lead over those wishing to leave the EU, smaller than the five-point difference

in the pollster's previous survey published on 30 May.

Telephone polls have generally shown "remain" ahead by a comfortable margin whilst online polls have pointed to a tighter race that "leave" could win making it difficult to predict the outcome of the referendum.

Two online polls published on Monday by pollsters YouGov and ICM showed a swing towards "Out" as both campaigns seek to win over undecided voters with warnings over the economy and immigration.—Reuters

Brexit could scupper Swiss-EU immigration talks — Swiss government

GENEVA — Switzerland's bid to persuade European Union partners to let it curb immigration from the EU could be doomed should Britons vote this month to leave the bloc, Foreign Minister Didier Burkhalter said. Switzerland has until February 2017 to implement a 2014 binding referendum demanding limits on the influx of foreigners to a country whose population is already a quarter foreign.

It is seeking to negotiate a compromise with Brussels, which has insisted it cannot brook any impediments to the free movement of people enshrined in bilateral accords. Talks have been on hold until the 23 June Brexit vote.—Reuters

Oil tanker fire seriously injures one in east Thailand

BANGKOK — An oil tanker Monday caught fire near the Laem Chabang port in east Thailand, seriously injuring one, local media reported.

The accident occurred at around 3:40 pm local time when the 20,000-ton oil tanker was pulling in to shore. One 24-year-old Thai worker was seriously injured, suffering from a burn covering 80 percent of his body. He was hospitalized.

Police has cordoned off the area. Four fire fighters were sent to put out the fire. Water and firefighter foam were used to handle with the blaze.

The fire is extinguished now. The cause of the fire is still being investigated.

Laem Chabang is home to Thailand's largest port, about 25 kilometres north of eastern Thailand's famous tourism destination Pattaya. The port occupies 2,572 acres and is capable of handling huge vessels.—Xinhua

Samdech Techo Hun Sen vows to maintain hard-won peace, stability in Cambodia

PREAH SIHANOUK, (Cambodia) — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen on Tuesday vowed to maintain the country's hard-won peace and political stability.

"In my capacity as the president of the Cambodian People's Party (CPP), the prime minister and the candidate of prime minister post in next elections, I vow to protect peace and political stability and boost further development," he said at an inauguration ceremony of the 100th factory in the Sihanoukville Special Economic Zone here.

The prime minister called on people to continue supporting him to uphold peace and urged them to avoid any activities that could cause social chaos.—Xinhua

Spanish police arrest Moroccan man accused of recruiting for Islamic State

MADRID — Spanish police arrested a Moroccan man in Valencia on Tuesday accused of recruiting for Islamic State and promoting the militant group on social media, the Interior Ministry said in a statement.

The man had been communicating with a large number of IS militants, some of them well-known individuals operating in conflict zones in Syria and Iraq, the ministry said.

Including Tuesday's arrest, Spain has detained 25 people so far this year with suspected links to Islamist militancy.—Reuters

Hindu priest killed by suspected militants in Bangladesh

DHAKA — A Hindu priest was killed in a suspected militant attack in Bangladesh Jhenidah district, some 178 km west of capital Dhaka, on Tuesday, police said.

Gopinath Kanjilal, the district's assistant superintendent of police, told journalists that three assailants riding a motorcycle committed the murder.

"The assailants armed with sharp weapons slit throat of Ananda Kumar Ganguly, 66, on Tuesday morning while he was going to the temple for offering puja (worship)," he said.

He said doctors declared him dead while he was rushed to a local hospital. The motive behind the killing has not been known.

Unidentified attackers earlier on 30 April also hacked a minority Hindu person to death in Bangladesh's central Tangail district, some 97 km away from capital Dhaka.—Xinhua

Car bomb targeting police in Istanbul kills 11, wounds 36

ISTANBUL — A car bomb ripped through a police bus in central Istanbul during the morning rush hour on Tuesday, killing 11 people and wounding 36 near the main tourist district, a major university and the mayor's office.

The car was detonated as police buses passed, Istanbul Governor Vasip Sahin told reporters, in the fourth major bombing in Turkey's biggest city this year. There was no immediate claim of responsibility but Kurdish militants have staged similar attacks, including one last month in Istanbul.

"A car-bomb attack was made against vehicles carrying our rapid-response police and passing by on the road, resulting in seven police and four civilians losing their lives," Sahin said.

Three of the 36 wounded were in critical condition, he added.

The blast hit the Vezneciler District, between the headquarters of the local municipality and the campus of Istanbul University, not far from the city's historic



Fire engines stand beside a Turkish oplice bus which awas targeted in a bomb attack in a central Istanbul district, Turkey, on 7 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

heart. It shattered shop windows and scattered rubble over nearby streets.

"There was a loud bang, we thought it was lightning but

right at that second the windows of the shop came down. It was extremely scary," said Cevher, a shopkeeper who declined to give his surname. The blast was

strong enough to topple all the goods from the shelves of his store.

The police bus that appeared to have borne the brunt of

the blast was tipped onto its roof on the side of the road. A second police bus was also damaged. The charred wreckage of several other vehicles lined the street.

Gunshots were heard in the area after the blast, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Turkey has suffered a spate of bombings this year, including two suicide attacks in tourist areas of Istanbul blamed on Islamic State, and two car bombings in the capital, Ankara, which were claimed by a Kurdish militant group.

The outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) claimed responsibility for a 12 May car bomb attack in Istanbul that wounded seven people. In that attack, a parked car was also blown up as a bus carrying security force personnel passed by.

The PKK, which has waged an armed insurgency against the Turkish state since 1984, frequently targets passing police and military vehicles with remote-controlled car bombs in its attacks in the largely Kurdish southeast.—Reuters

Presidents and billionaires drive battle against Africa's deadliest creature

ARUSHA, (Tanzania) — Jakaya Kikwete, the former president of Tanzania, recalled arriving at his cousin's house to find the family arguing about taking their feverish teenage daughter to hospital.

"They were saying: 'No, no, no, it's not malaria'," he said, describing how the family had sought advice from a traditional medicine man who said a jinni, or spirit, had invaded her body.

"They said: 'If you take this girl to the hospital, if she gets an injection, then that jinni (spirit)... will... suck all her blood'," Kikwete said.

Ignoring their protests, he took the girl to hospital but it was too late. She died from malaria.

Kikwete, who also lost his brother to malaria as a child, is committed to eradicating the disease, which killed an estimated 438,000 people globally in 2015 — making the mosquito, which transmits it, the world's deadliest creature.

He and his wife even appear in television adverts, urging Tanzanians to prepare their bednets before they sleep.

"We are looking at 2040 as the most probable date for a malaria-free Africa," Kikwete, who stepped down as president in November, told reporters at a recent dinner in Dar es Salaam.

"If we continue with the interventions that we have been doing here relentlessly, we should



A doctor tests a child for malaria at the Ithani-Asheri Hospital in Arusha, Tanzania, on 11 May. PHOTO: REUTERS

be able to get there."

Global plans to eliminate malaria were abandoned in 1969 as the goal was seen as prohibitively complicated and expensive, despite success in eradicating the disease in the 1950s in parts of Europe, North America and the Caribbean.

The "e-word" has been revived in recent years, with support from the world's richest couple Bill and Melinda Gates and US President Barack Obama, who called malaria a "moral outrage".

Bill Gates, who Kikwete describes as a "good friend", aims to eradicate malaria by 2040 and has called for a doubling of fund-

ing by 2025.

His goal of permanently ending transmission of the disease between humans and mosquitoes is more ambitious than the Sustainable Development Goal of ending epidemic levels of malaria by 2030.

Spending on malaria, mostly by the United States, surged to \$2.7 billion (1.8 billion pounds) in 2015 from \$130 million in 2000, while death rates in Africa have fallen by 66 per cent, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The most important investment was the roll out of one billion free bednets. Some 68 per cent of malaria cases prevented

since 2000 were stopped by these bednets, according to a study by the University of Oxford.

Money was also poured into improved diagnostic tests, better drugs, indoor spraying with insecticide and educating the public to use these tools — rather than blaming witchcraft or buying medication blindly over the counter every time they got a fever.

In the Tanzanian town of Arusha, overlooked by the dormant volcano Mount Meru, donor-funded bednets and free tests and medicines have made a significant impact.

In a country with a powerful faith in witchcraft and traditional medicine, health officials have worked hard to persuade people to adopt proven methods of preventing and treating the disease.

"There are very few cases of malaria nowadays," said Pius Dallos, the officer in charge of Kijenge Dispensary, where women sat on wooden benches, cradling their babies.

"Previously... if you didn't have money, you could die from malaria. But nowadays, everything is free."

But donors' ability to maintain — and increase — funding is by no means certain given sluggish global growth and uncertainties over US funding under a new administration.—Reuters

US fighter jets bomb 16 more IS targets in Syria, Iraq - US admiral

ON THE BOARD OF USS HARRY S. TRUMAN — US Navy fighter jets flying from an aircraft carrier in the eastern Mediterranean Sea bombed 16 new Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria on Monday. Now in their fourth day, the strikes from the Mediterranean have opened a new front in the US air campaign against the militant group. "We're getting the job done," Rear Admiral Bret Batchelder, commander of the USS Harry S. Truman strike group, told reporters on the ship as the strikes were being conducted.

He said carrier-based F/A-18 fighter jets had released 10 to 20 naval munitions on targets in Iraq and Syria since Friday, when the Truman moved to the Mediterranean from the Persian Gulf to resume bombing militant targets in both countries. Navy officials gave no details about what targets were hit and destroyed, but said they were largely the same as in previous strikes from the Gulf, with a focus on destroying and eroding Islamic State's financial base. Shifting the Truman to the Mediterranean was intended to demonstrate that the US Navy is ready to respond to threats and hit targets from anywhere in the world, Batchelder said.—Reuters

Mexican security forces committed crimes against humanity

MEXICO CITY — Mexican security forces have committed crimes against humanity, with mass disappearances and extrajudicial killings rife during the country's decade-long drug war, according to a report released by rights groups on Monday.

The 232-page report, published by the Open Society Justice Initiative and five other human rights organizations, warned that the International Criminal Court could eventually take up a case against Mexico's security forces unless crimes were prosecuted domestically.

"We have concluded that there are reasonable grounds to believe there are both state and non-state actors who have committed crimes against humanity in Mexico," the report said.

Mexico's drug war has resulted in the most violent period in the country's modern history, with more than 150,000 people killed since 2006.

Consistent human rights abuses — including those committed by members of the Zetas drug car-



Relatives hold posters with images of some of the 43 missing students of Ayotzinapa College Raul Isidro Burgos as they protest to demand justice for the missing students, outside the Attorney General's Office (PGR) headquarters in Mexico City, during a march to mark the 20-month anniversary of their disappearance on 26 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tel— satisfied the definition of crimes against humanity, the report said.

The authors recommended that Mexico accept an international commission to investigate human rights abuses.

A series of shootings of suspected drug cartel mem-

bers by security forces, with unusually high and one-sided casualty rates, have tarnished Mexico's human rights record.

"Resorting to criminal actions in the fight against crime continues to be a contradiction, one that tragically undermines the rule of law,"

the report stated.

The unresolved 2014 kidnapping and apparent killing of 43 students from the Ayotzinapa teacher-training college was one of the most high-profile cases to have damaged Mexico's reputation.

The report was based

on documents and interviews over a nine-year period from 2006 to 2015.

It cited mass graves and thousands of disappearances, in addition to killings such as the shooting by the army of 22 suspected gang members in Tlatlaya in central Mexico, and similar inci-

dents, as evidence of criminality in the government's war against the country's drug cartels.

Eric Witte, one of the report's authors, recommended that the government look at the U.N. Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG) as an example for inviting an international investigative commission to bring cases in Mexican courts.

Evidence gathered by CICIG against former Guatemalan President Otto Perez played a key role in his resignation and eventual arrest last year.

The report criticised Mexico's weak justice system. If atrocities continued without measures being taken to end impunity, the International Criminal Court could step in, said Witte, a former advisor at the Hague-based court.

"Unfortunately, Mexico might be one atrocity away from an international commission becoming politically viable," Witte, who leads national trials of grave crimes for the Open Society Justice Initiative, told Reuters.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV GSS YANGON VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV GSS YANGON VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV TOVE MAERSK VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Plutonium shipment from Japan arrives in US

WASHINGTON — A shipment of plutonium and highly enriched uranium from Japan has arrived at nuclear facilities in South Carolina and Tennessee, the National Nuclear Security Administration said on Monday.

Two transport vessels carrying the nuclear materials including the 331 kilograms of plutonium left a port in Tokaimura northeast of Tokyo in March in line with a 2014 Japan-US agreement to send them to the United States to prevent them from falling into the hands of criminals or terrorists. The materials were provided to Japan by Britain, France and the United States during the Cold War for research purposes.

"The removal of the materials from Japan represents a significant accomplishment in our broader global nuclear security efforts to secure highly enriched uranium and plutonium worldwide," US Department of Energy Undersecretary for Nuclear Security and NNSA Administrator Lt. Gen. Frank Klotz said in a statement.

The plutonium material recovered from Japan



File photo taken in March 2016 shows the Pacific Egret transport vessel leaving a port in Tokaimura, northeast of Tokyo, for the United States with large amounts of plutonium and other nuclear materials aboard. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

will be diluted and packaged at the Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina, to meet acceptance criteria and regulatory requirements and will be transported to the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant near Carlsbad, New Mexico, for eventual disposal. The enriched uranium will be placed into secure storage at the Y-12 National Security Complex near Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and will be processed into low enriched uranium.—Kyodo News

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (145)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGKACHAI VOY NO (145) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of S.P.W-6 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S WONGSAMUT OCEAN
SHIPPING CO LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

Palm plantations shaken by the green body they helped create

KUALA LUMPUR -- In 2004, Malaysian palm oil producer IOI Group became a founding member of the Roundtable on Sustainable Palm Oil (RSPO) and later an executive board member in what seemed like a cosy arrangement.

Twelve years later, IOI attempted to take legal action against RSPO over an environmental ruling that has cost the company sales in the United States and Europe.

In March, the RSPO withdrew its “sustainability certification” from IOI, based on a decision to uphold a complaint from Amsterdam-based group Aidenvironment.

The complaint alleged that IOI had illegally chopped down rainforests in the Indonesian province of West Kalimantan and planted oil palms on peatlands, which are drained and then highly flammable. Fires across Indonesia in recent years have led to a massive haze of dangerous pollution across large parts of South-east Asia.

Certification of environmentally sound behavior is now required by some major palm oil buyers in the West, including major food

and candy makers. The suspension of IOI’s green credentials caused Nestle, Unilever, Mars and Kellogg to drop IOI Group as a supplier.

In response, IOI filed a lawsuit against the RSPO in Zurich, where RSPO is based, saying the move had “caused significant disruption” to its business in Europe and America. IOI withdrew the suit on Monday in the face of a barrage of criticism from its customers and activists, and announced it was voluntarily adopting a more stringent certification system the RSPO is putting in place by the end of the year.

“Since the filing of the challenge proceeding, IOI has engaged with many of our stakeholders such as customers, NGOs and RSPO to resolve this matter,” IOI said in a statement.

How the plantation firm and its overseer got into this situation may hold lessons for other companies in sensitive industries that are working with environmentalists to prevent deforestation and an increase in greenhouse gases, which most scientists say contribute to global warming.

“This is a call to all indus-



A worker unloads palm oil fruits from a lorry inside a palm oil factory in Salak Tinggi, outside Kuala Lumpur on 4 August, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

tries also to clean their operation and supply chain from deforestation,” said Annisa Rahmawati, Greenpeace Indonesia’s forest campaigner. “There will be no market for companies that are still destroying our people’s life and planet.”

IOI is not the only plantation under pressure.

Malaysia’s government-linked Felda Global Ventures, the world’s third-largest plantations company, voluntarily with-

drew RSPO certifications from all of its 58 processing mills after what happened to IOI.

Felda said it needed to clean up its supply chain before seeking certification again.

The plantation industry appeared to get outmaneuvered on the RSPO, whose membership had evolved from 47 entities largely from the industry itself to 1,346 voting members, including 33 environmental and social

activist groups and 612 consumer goods manufacturers, according to interviews with company executives, government officials, traders and activists.

Palm oil is the most widely used edible oil in the world, found in everything from margarine to cookies and from soap to soups. One of the cheapest edible oils on the market, it is extracted from the pulp of the palm fruit that drops from trees in tropical plantations, most of

them in Malaysia and Indonesia.

Between 1990 and 2010, up to 3.5 million hectares of forests were cut down for palm oil plantations in Indonesia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea, according to the World Wildlife Fund (WWF). That’s a land area the size of Germany.

The fastest and cheapest way to clear new land for plantations is by burning. Every year, hundreds of thousands of hectares go up in smoke before monsoon rains begin to fall, choking people as a haze spreads over the region.

Palm oil plantations operating in remote rainforests have come under unprecedented scrutiny the past few years, not only from the mounting influence of activists, but from their customers as well.

“The market itself said it was not good enough,” said Eric Wakker, senior consultant at Jakarta-based Aidenvironment Asia which first brought the complaint against IOI to the roundtable six years ago. “The big manufacturers like Unilever had overtaken RSPO itself when it came to deforestation.”—Reuters

Prosecutor seeks 10-year sentence for brother of Paris attacker



The Eiffel Tower lit with the blue, white and red colours of the French flag is reflected in the Trocadero fountains in Paris, France, on 23 November 2015, a week after a series of deadly attacks in the French capital. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — A French prosecutor on Monday demanded the maximum 10-year jail sentence for the brother of one of the Paris attackers, who is accused of traveling to Syria to train as a militant fighter.

Karim and Foued Mohamed-Aggad were among a group that traveled to Syria in December 2013. Karim came back to France in early 2014; his brother returned later, then joined the three-man team that killed 90 people at the Bataclan concert

hall during the coordinated attacks in Paris in November. Two of the three Bataclan attackers, one of them Foued, killed themselves by exploding their suicide vests. The third was shot dead by police.

Now Karim and six others, aged from 24 to 27, are standing trial in Paris on charges of taking part in an Islamist recruitment network and receiving training from Islamic State. Four face up to 10 years in prison if found guilty. The prosecutor called

for eight-year sentences for the other three.

“These are heavy sentences that are called for, I am aware of that,” prosecutor Nicolas Le Bris told the court, calling the facts before the court extremely grave. “We have people here, and this comes from wiretaps, who were on the front line.” Earlier in the trial, Karim Mohamed-Aggad urged a fair hearing. “You choose your friends, not your family,” he said.

Some of defendants told investigators they had believed they were going to Syria on a humanitarian mission. Others said they left to fight Syrian President Bashar al-Assad’s forces but not to become Islamist militants. But Le Bris dismissed the explanation. Citing evidence gathered from wiretaps and from “jihad” documents found in the computers and mobile phones of the suspects, Le Bris said each of the seven was determined to join a jihadi group and once in Syria “fitted in perfectly.”—Reuters

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(8 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-010(16-17)	Spare for Deepending Accessories (Drill Collar & Substitute) (11) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-011(16-17)	Spares for A-1700 PT Triplex Pump Ex USS Oil Well Drilling Rig (27) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-012(16-17)	Spares for FA-1600 Triplex Pump Ex EMSCO Drilling Rig (19) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-013(16-17)	Spares for National Power Slash Pump K 700 A Ex National 55 Drilling Rig (27) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-014(16-17)	Spares for National Drive Group (13) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-015(16-17)	Spares for Mack Truck (11) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-016(16-17)	4" ERW API 5L Grade X-46 MS 3 Layer PE Coated Steel Line Pipe (PSL-2) (8050) MTR	US\$
(8)	IFB-017(16-17)	Electrical Spares for USS Oil Well Rig (9) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-018(16-17)	5 1/2" Bridge Plug and Adapter Kit (2) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-019(16-17)	Liquid Sperse (200) Can	US\$
(11)	IFB-020(16-17)	Spares for CAT HEAD Ex EMSCO Drilling Rig (8) Items	US\$
(12)	DMP/L-008(16-17)	14.00 x 25, 24 PLY Tyre with Tube & Flap (30) Nos	Ks
(13)	DMP/L-009(16-17)	1 1/4" Manila Rope (100) Coils & 1 1/2" Manila Rope (20) Coils	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 30-6-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 6TH June, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

Streaming activity keeps Drake on top of Billboard 200 chart



Drake celebrates after the Raptors scored a basket in their 105-99 win over the Cleveland Cavaliers in game four.
PHOTO: REUTERS

LOS ANGELES — Canadian R&B artist Drake continued his reign atop the weekly U.S. Billboard 200 album chart on Monday for a third consecutive week on the strength of streaming activity, holding off country singer Dierks Bentley and R&B singer Beyonce.

Drake's "Views" sold 152,000 units for the week ending 2 June, comprising album and song sales and 137 million streams, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Drake's fourth studio album has been topping the Billboard 200 chart on the strength of streaming activity on platforms

such as Spotify and Apple Inc's Apple Music. It has soared past 100 million streams each week since its release.

Bentley's latest album, "Black," debuted at No. 2 with 101,000 units sold, including 5 million streams. Beyonce's "Lemonade" album climbed one spot to No. 3 with 79,000 units sold including nearly 9 million streams.

Other new entries in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart included pop group Fifth Harmony at No. 4 with "7/27," and electronic dance music producer Flume's "Skin" at No. 8.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online single sales, Justin Timberlake's upbeat "Can't Stop The Feeling!" held the top spot for the third week running, with 155,000 copies sold.—Reuters



PHOTO: PTI

Selena Gomez seizes fan's concert video call

LONDON — "Wizards of Waverly Place" actress Selena Gomez shocked everybody by hacking onto one of the fan's cell phone to interrupt their video call during the concert.

In the video footage, Gomez is seen reaching out for the phone which the crowd member happily hands over. The songstress shows the callers the view of the audience before she started asking them about their absence, reported Contactmusic.

"Did you guys not buy a ticket or," she teased. "It's fine!"

Gomez then hands back the device to the thrilled audience member as other attendees cheer in excitement.

The 23-year-old pop star is no stranger to crowd interaction at her shows. Last month, while onstage in California, Gomez called on a girl holding up a poster reading, "Marry Justin Please", to hand over the piece of paper, which referenced her past relationship with fellow pop superstar Justin Bieber.—PTI

Meadow presents Paul Walker Ocean Leadership Award to Grenier

LOS ANGELES — Daughter of Fast & Furious star Paul Walker, Meadow, took forward his legacy by presenting actor Adrian Grenier with the 2016 Paul Walker Ocean Leadership Award.

Meadow honoured the 39-year-old The Devil Wears Prada actor in the ceremony held at the Monterey Bay Aquarium on Saturday.

Grenier was lauded with the award for his work with The Lonely Whale organisation which aims at bringing people closer to world's oceans through education and awareness, inspiring empathy and action for ocean health and the well being of marine wildlife, reported People.

"It's an honour to receive the

Paul Walker Ocean Leadership Award.

I share Paul's inquisitiveness for the mystery of the ocean and the great potential it holds for new discoveries that will enrich the lives and inspire the curiosities of the next several generations. "I also share Paul's passion for ocean health and recognize that we have an opportunity to create real and lasting change that will benefit our marine environment and ultimately ourselves," he said. The Paul Walker Ocean Leadership Award was started in 2014 to recognize individuals, who use their public stature to advance ocean causes and support philanthropic ventures.—PTI

Backstreet Boys, Spice Girls joint tour not happening

LOS ANGELES — Boy band Backstreet Boys have shut down the rumours claiming that they and Spice Girls are planning a joint tour.

According to the band things were in the works but plans "kind of fizzled out," reported ET online.

"From what I've heard, they want to do their own tour. I think it's their 20th anniversary, were back in the studio making a brand new album, so everyone's doing their own thing," band member AJ McLean said.

Other bandmates including Nick Carter, Brian Littrell, Howie Dorough and Kevin Richardson, tried to backtrack from shutting down the idea entirely, but it was clear the team-up isn't in the cards any time soon.

However, McLead, 38, did leave the open, adding, "God willing, down the road, maybe it could happen.

But as of right now it's not happening.

They're doing their thing, we're focusing on our thing. But I think it would be something awesome if it did happen.—PTI

Bieber jokes he becomes father to baby girl

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Justin Bieber uploaded a photo of himself carrying a cute baby girl and joked that she's his daughter.

In the adorable black-and-white photo, the "What Do You Mean" singer looked at the girl's eyes while she's staring at the camera, reported Ace Showbiz.

The Bieber was seen wearing a white T-shirt under a baseball outer which he left open.

"My daughter.... Just kidding," he captioned the snap.

It's not clear who the girl is, but it looks like it's their first encounter. One fan noticed that Bieber mistakenly thought that the baby's a boy. He initially called the baby "my son" before he corrected it. "He wrote first 'my son...jk' and then changed to 'my daughter..jk,'" one fan commented in the comment section. Some other fans wondered how it would be if Bieber becomes a father someday.—PTI



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

7-year-old Hokkaido boy who went missing discharged from hospital

HAKODATE — A 7-year-old boy who was found safe last week after going missing for six days in northern Japan was discharged from a hospital Tuesday afternoon.

Yamato Tanooka, who was admitted to a hospital soon after he was found on Friday, is steadily recovering from dehydration and scratches that he had sustained to his hands and legs while he was walking in a forest in Hokkaido.

At around 2 pm Tuesday, the boy appeared in front of reporters and waved. Asked about his condition and what he wants to do now, Yamato said he is in good shape and wants to play baseball. He also said he wants to go to school soon.

With support from his school counselor, Yamato will prepare to return to school at an early date.

Before getting lost, the boy was last seen around 5 pm on 28 May on a forest path in Nanae in Hokkaido, where his parents had left him as a punishment for misconduct, according to police.

The police believe the boy took a wrong road as he attempted



Yamato Tanooka, a Japanese boy who miraculously survived six days alone in a mountain forest, leaves hospital in the Hokkaido city of Hakodate on 7 June, 2016, accompanied by his father Takayuki (R).
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

to chase his parent's car. Then he walked on a road in the forest alone and reached a shelter used by the Ground Self-Defence Force on that same night.

He slept on mattresses in the shelter, and survived only on wa-

ter until he was found by GSDF members around 7:50am on Friday when they were training in an exercise area in the town of Shikabe in Hokkaido, 5 kilometres from the spot where he had been left by his parents.—Kyodo News

Cast of 'Now You See Me 2' return with bigger tricks and villain

NEW YORK — After pulling off a large-scale bank heist masked as a complex magic trick in 2013's "Now You See Me," the cast are back again with new tricks and sleight of hand, this time with a little "Harry Potter" magic.

"Now You See Me 2," out in US theaters on Friday, picks up three years after the 2013 film and shows the 'Four Horsemen' magicians use their illusions to try and stop a sinister tech tycoon and his unethical practices.

The cast, which includes Jesse Eisenberg, Woody Harrelson, Dave Franco, Mark Ruffalo and Lizzy Caplan, were put through 'magic camp' in order to learn sleight of hand and other tricks to perform on screen.

"It was literally like three card tables set up in a dirty production room covered with half eaten food," Ruffalo said.

"But the idea of 'magic camp' is like a great idea and I think that idea could be huge," Harrelson quipped.

Harrelson, who plays Horseman Merritt 'The Hermit' McKinney, showed off his magic skills at the film's New York press event by guessing the card a reporter picked out of a deck. Former "Harry Potter" star Daniel Radcliffe, who plays the villainous Walter Mabry, proudly demonstrated a card trick he learned during filming.

"We're not like a shoot-em-up (movie)," Radcliffe said. "There are some amazing sequences that involve the sleight of hand and the magic."

Radcliffe, who has eight films' worth of magic experience as boy wizard Harry Potter, fondly looked back on the franchise that catapulted him to fame.

"If I was getting angsty about being recognized as Potter, or being associated with Potter I think I would waste a ton of energy like worrying about that. People are always going to associate me with it and I'm very happy about that," he said.—Reuters

Two rescued Colombian circus lions die at South African refuge

JOHANNESBURG — Two lions rescued from circuses in Colombia and brought to a South African refuge in April have died, the organization that arranged the rescue and airlift operation said on its website.

Animal Defenders International (ADI) said the lions died from a botulism toxin to which most lions are resistant. Other cats in the group were also exposed to the toxin but responded positively to treatment.

"It is with great sadness that Emoya Big Cat Sanctuary and Animal Defenders International announce the passing away of Rapunzel and Kala, two of our 33 lions rescued from South American circuses," ADI said on its website.

The 33 lions were flown in to

the 5,000-hectare reserve on a private estate in April. Twenty-four of the animals were rescued from circuses in Peru, while nine were voluntarily surrendered by a Colombian circus.

ADI said both countries have banned the use of wild animals in circuses.

The lions would not survive in the African wild as many have been declawed or have had teeth smashed or removed. One is almost blind and another is missing an eye. Four of the rescued lions recently required treatment at a veterinary hospital after exhibiting symptoms of botulism, according to ADI. Two have recovered and have been returned to the sanctuary.—Reuters



Some of the 33 lions rescued from circuses in Peru and Columbia are seen as they fight after being released at their final destination at the Emoya Big Cat Sanctuary, outside Vaalwater in South Africa's northern Limpopo Province, on 1 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Entertainment Channel

(8- 6-2016, Wednesday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>06 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather Report Pyi Thu Ni Ti <p>06 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Choral Dance By Female Dancers <p>06 : 30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cartoon Programme "Paprika" (Part-3) <p>07 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Drama Series <p>07 : 40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Drama Series <p>08 : 40 pm</p> | <p>09 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Movie Songs <p>09 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ayeyawady Dolphin (Part- 2) <p>09 : 30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music Programme <p>9 : 40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taung Byone Nat Festival- (Episode -2) <p>10 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Myanmar Video |
|---|--|

From 08-6-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm
To 09-6-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(8-6-2016 07:00am ~ 9-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:27 | Am | Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-2) (Jivitadana Hospital) |
| 07:52 | Am | Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | National Literary Icon & Guiding Light of Myanmar Literature: Sayar Zaw Gyi (Episode-3) National Literary Icon in His Old Age |
| 08:53 | Am | Kyaikhteeyoe: Bamboo Guns |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | He can do it |
| 09:38 | Am | The Caves |

- | | | |
|-------|----|-------------------------------------|
| 09:53 | Am | Dengue Fever |
| 10:03 | Am | News |
| 10:26 | Am | Shrinking Footprints |
| 10:51 | Am | Cultural Shows: Composer Ma Mya Lay |

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

Prime Time

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Pm | News |
| 07:26 | Pm | Travelogue: "Anyar Myay" or Upcountry (Part- I) |
| 07:49 | Pm | Today Myanmar: Drone & RC Plane Technology |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | The Rising Glory Of Myanmar Arts |
| 08:54 | Pm | Trishaw Man |

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



Argentina midfielder Ever Banega (19) celebrates with midfielder Angel Di Maria (7) after scoring a goal against Chile during the group play stage of the 2016 Copa America Centenario at Levi's Stadium, Santa Clara, CA, USA on 6 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

Di Maria scores as Argentina beat Chile

SANTA CLARA (CA) — Argentina shrugged off the absence of Lionel Messi to beat Chile 2-1 in the Copa America on Monday, with an emotional Angel Di Maria scoring the opening goal and dedicating it to his grandmother, who passed away before the game.

With Messi watching from the sidelines due to a back injury, Di Maria put the 14-times champions ahead early in the second half before Ever Banega doubled their lead shortly after. Jose Pedro Fuenzalida pulled a goal back for Chile in injury time.

In the other Group D game, played earlier on Monday, Panama beat Bolivia 2-1.

Argentina posed a constant threat with fast sweeps forward and Di Maria capitalised on one such attack after 50 minutes, run-

ning on to a pass from Banega to slot home from eight yards.

"We've been doing things properly for years now and maybe this year it will come right," said Di Maria, who broke down in tears after dedicating his goal to his grandmother. Argentina doubled their lead eight minutes later in similar fashion, this time Di Maria feeding Banega in the same position on the left and his deflected drive beat Chile goalkeeper Claudio Bravo at his near post.

"If you make mistakes in these games you pay a high price and that is what happened today," Bravo said in a televised interview after the game in Santa Clara.

Second-half substitute Erik Lamela twice came close to adding to Argentina's lead but it was Chile who got the third goal of the game thanks to a mistake from

Sergio Romero. The Argentine goalkeeper, who had an otherwise excellent game, misjudged a free kick in the box and Fuenzalida nodded the ball into an empty net.

The result gives Argentina, who are seeking their first major title since lifting the Copa America in 1993, a measure of revenge for their defeat to Chile in last year's Copa America final.

Also in Group D, veteran striker Blas Perez scored twice as Panama beat Bolivia.

Perez scored his first after 10 minutes when he slid in to push home a cross from 10 yards out before Juan Carlos Arce tied the score eight minutes into the second half. Perez grabbed the winner three minutes from time.

Panama next play Argentina on Friday while Chile face Bolivia. —Reuters

Casillas hails healthy competition with de Gea

MADRID — Spain captain Iker Casillas believes David de Gea is "no longer a future prospect but a strong contender" to play in goal for the national team at Euro 2016.

Porto goalkeeper Casillas has been the country's first-choice keeper since 2002 but De Gea is considered favourite to start after a solid season for Manchester United.

"De Gea is no longer the future but a strong contender," Casillas told Cadena Cope radio.

"It's clear that all of us that are here, we think that we can play.

"We are 23 players that play as starters for important clubs and

we all believe that we can help the national team but deciding who starts is the coach's job."

Spain coach Vicente del Bosque will not make a decision of who will play between the posts until 13 June, when his team begins its European Championship campaign against the Czech Republic in Toulouse.

Del Bosque did confirm that de Gea will start against Georgia in Tuesday's friendly in Getafe. Casillas started against South Korea in last week's 6-1 triumph.

Asked if he thinks he will start at Euro 2016, Casillas said, "That is a question for Del Bosque." —Reuters



Spain's Iker Casillas. PHOTO: REUTERS

Serena passes suspended Sharapova as top woman earner

NEW YORK — Serena Williams may have been second best at the French Open on Saturday but the American has moved ahead of fellow tennis player Maria Sharapova to top the women's earnings list in sports, according to Forbes Magazine.

Williams ended the Russian's 11-year reign as the world number one women's money earner in sports by hauling in \$28.9 million in combined prize money and off-field earnings over the past 12 months, the magazine said on Monday.

Sharapova, who lost some

sponsorship money after announcing she had tested positive for the recently banned substance meldonium at the Australian Open in January and is provisionally suspended, holds second spot at \$21.9 million.

American mixed martial arts standout Ronda Rousey shot up to third on the list at \$14 million from eighth place and \$6.5 million, just ahead of compatriot and NASCAR driver Danica Patrick, who earned \$13.9 million, according to www.forbes.com. The rest of the women's top 10 were also tennis players. —Reuters



Serena Williams. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vardy's exit will be catastrophic for Leicester, says Taggart

LONDON — Losing striker Jamie Vardy to Arsenal could spark an exodus of players from Leicester City, former defender Gerry Taggart has said, adding that the move could be catastrophic for the Premier League champions.

Arsenal tabled a bid for Vardy before he left for the European Championship in France with the rest of England's squad on Monday, according to British media reports.

The 29-year-old was the joint second-highest scorer in the English top-flight last season and Arsenal's bid comes at an uncomfortable time for England, whose manager Roy Hodgson has banned players' agents from the team hotel in Chantilly to avoid his players being distracted.

"If Vardy goes then one or two others might want to leave as well," Taggart, who made over 100 appearances for Leicester, told the BBC. "For the good of the whole team and the club it is important Vardy stays."

Vardy scored 24 league goals last season as Leicester won the top-flight crown for the first time in their history, and was voted as the Footballer of the Year by the Football Writers' Association.

"The whole Leicester ethos over the last couple of seasons has been built around people like Vardy," Taggart added. —Reuters