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A FOCUS ON POLICING

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits 'model' Yamethin Police School



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visits No (1) Police Training School (Yamethin) in Mandalay Region. PHOTO: MNA



Khin Yadana

SOME difficulties may arise in developing police trainees into professionals unless requirements and expectations are met, said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on her tour of No (1) Police Training School (Yamethin) in Mandalay Region yesterday.

The State Counsellor vowed

to fulfill the basic needs of the community following the formation of a committee at No (1) Police Training School (Yamethin). The training school reportedly aims to become a leading centre for progressive and in-depth police training.

In meeting with trainees, the State Counsellor asked about questions concerning the diffi-

culties and challenges faced by the group during the training programme and held talks on the skills and abilities that a female member of the police force should be possessed with.

She called on the trainees and trainers to offer suggestions in regard to developing the Myanmar Police Force.

Expressing her willingness

to make police training more effective, the State Counsellor vowed to upgrade the school into a top police academy which will meet the standards of an international police training institution.

"It is impossible to achieve success overnight. The school will be upgraded within the country's financial capacity." She said.

During her tour of the police training school, the State Counsellor was accompanied by Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win and officials.

The State Counsellor also visited hostels and staff quarters where she greeted th families of police members.

Citizenship IDs to be issued in Rakhine State in accordance with Citizenship Law

Min Min Zaw (Kalay)

MEASURES are being taken to enable those living in Rakhine State to apply for a type of citizenship card according to the 1982 Citizenship Law, said U Win Lwin, Director of the Immigration and National Registration Department in an exclusive interview.

Asked about the scrutiny of

citizenship, U Win Lwin said the national verification certificates (NVCs) have been issued to 57 men and 69 women in Myebon and 41 men and 51 women in Kyaukpyu. In the case of Ponnagyun Township, coordination is still being made as the cards do not mention race and religion. No one has been issued with NVCs thus far. The scrutiny body will be reformed only after coordination

with townselders and religious leaders. This being so, NVCs will only be issued to applicants from Myebon and Kyaukpyu.

Asked to further clarify on the Ponnagyun situation, U Win Lwin said their location is not an IDP camp but merely an isolated, small village.

According to U Win Lwin, Immigration staff are helping locals fill out forms while the

Kyaukpyu General Administration Department is providing assistance in the taking of ID photographs and their development. In Myebon, however, the taking and developing of ID photographs is being handled under local arrangements.

When asked about the process of citizenship scrutiny, the Immigration director explained that as the first step, NVCs are

issued to applicants, and that the second step is to start the process of scrutinisation of their citizenship. He added that the scrutinisation process is conducted within the framework of the 1982 Citizenship Law, that if a baby was born to citizen parents, they will be a citizen, and that if a baby was born to naturalised parents, they may not be eligible to become a citizen.

Pyithu Hluttaw



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

Botahtaung jetty project terminated over environmental impact

THE construction of a multi-purpose jetty on Botahtaung Pagoda road in Yangon will be terminated due to its negative impacts on the environment, Transportation and Communications Union Minister U Thant Sin Maung said yesterday at the Pyithu Hluttaw.

The parliament was unanimous in accepting the proposal calling for an end to the project, with representatives raising concerns over potential navigational hazards and possible formation of sandbanks due to accumulated silt and sediment.

The project, intended to be implemented on 20 acres of land near the Bo Aung Kyaw bridge had won approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission, the union minister said, adding that its disadvantages outweigh the advantages.

The parliament overruled the commission's giving of permission for the project, calling it unfit and risky, with U Aung Kyaw Kyaw Oo of the Hlaing constituency fretting that similar incidents in the future would cause potential investors to lose trust in

the commission's reliability.

"If investors find the commission unreliable, that will harm national interests," he said.

The Kaung Myanmar Aung Shipping Company secured the deal for the jetty construction from the Myanmar Investment Commission under the previous government.

Recently, the parliament terminated the commission's go-ahead for the construction of a private hospital on land near Yangon General Hospital. —Myanmar News Agency

Efforts stepped up for improvement of socio economy in Rakhine State

IMMIGRATION and National Verification Work Committee formed along with a central committee and three other work committees, is implementing a plan to conduct national verification process in accord with the 1982 Citizenship Law.

Issuance of Identify Cards for National Verification-NVCs is ongoing in Kyaukpyu, Myebon and Ponnagyun Townships.

The issuance of the NVC that comes in celestial blue colour is the first step towards citizenship and national verification will be conducted in the second step.

U Win Lwin, director of Rakhine State Immigration and Na-

tional Registration Department, said that the card will prevent unlawful entries into our country, adding that race and religion are not mentioned on the cards.

Under the national verification process, NVCs will be issued to those aged above 10 in a household and citizenship verification on the card holders will be conducted by township and state-level committees in accord with the 1982 Citizenship Law.

The issuance of NVC is set to cover Rakhine State and regions and states sharing borders with it as well. So far 390 men and women were given NVCs on 7 July when issuance of NVC began in

Myebon and Kyaukpyu Townships and yesterday.

But, the process of distributing cards to residents in Ponnagyun Township is not implemented yet following misunderstanding.

The director said that those who refused to take part in the process as the card does not mention race and religion have been given a week to reply. According to the director, his department conducted field visits to elaborate the process before the card issuance. It is hard to calculate how much time it will take to finish the process depending on the number of residents who will be given the card.

—Kyemon

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw debates land handover and amendments to Anti-Corruption Law



Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than. PHOTO: MNA

THE Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday debated the question of whether an administrative office in Sinphyukyun township could be built on the unused land owned by the Department of Industrial Crops Development.

The query was brought before the parliament by U Win Maung of the Magway Region constituency. Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation Deputy Min-

ister Dr Tun Win responded that the department would return the 0.49-acre land to the State and that the township officials should apply for the plot from the department concerned. The parliament also agreed on three of the four amendments proposed by the Pyithu Hluttaw in connection with the second amendment bill to the Anti-Corruption Law. —Myanmar News Agency

Hluttaw Speakers meet Singaporean PM



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint receives Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint met with Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at the hall of the Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two representatives discussed matters related to measures intended to boost the investment sector between the two countries, cooperation in

parliamentary activities and the promotion of the education and health sectors.

Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than also met with Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at the hall of Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two rep-

resentatives held discussions on the promotion of bilateral relations between the two countries and the two parliaments.

Also present were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung, secretaries of parliamentary committees and officials of the Amyotha Hluttaw Office. —Myanmar News Agency

President signs Laws amending Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region/State Hluttaw Election Laws

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw signed the fourth revised Laws enacted by the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw to amend the Pyithu Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region/State Hluttaw Laws yesterday.

Section 89 (a) of the Pyithu

Hluttaw, Amyotha Hluttaw and Region/State Hluttaw was replaced with a revised Section 89 (a) of the Laws signed by the President in accordance with the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. —Myanmar News Agency

Mrs Ho Ching, wife of Singaporean PM, tours Nay Pyi Taw

MRS Ho Ching, wife of the Singaporean Prime Minister, and party visited the National Museum in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the visit to the museum, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture Dr Daw Nandar Hmun and Director U Ye Myat Aung conducted the group around the booths of the museum.

The wife of the Singaporean Prime Minister and party then visited Junction Shopping Centre. — Myanmar News Agency



Mrs Ho Ching, wife of the Singaporean Prime Minister, visits the National Museum. PHOTO: MNA

Ambassador U Myint Soe presents his Credentials to Cambodian King

U MYINT SOE, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Kingdom of Cambodia, presented his Credentials to His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia, on 7 July, 2016 in Phnom Penh. — Myanmar News Agency

Myanmar Investment Commission reconstituted

THE Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC) was reshuffled on Tuesday with the appointment of U Kyaw Win, Union Minister for National Planning and Finance as chairman and U Than Myint, Union Minister for Commerce as vice chairman.

The reformed commission includes 11 new members, while U Aung Naing Oo, former Secretary of the MIC, has been selected again for a similar position, according to an announcement from the President's Office yesterday.

Other members are U Tun Tun Oo, Union Attorney General as well as three permanent secretaries of the Ministries of Resources and Environmental Conservation, Commerce and National Planning and Finance.

In addition, two retired deputy directors-general of the Investment and Companies Administration Department and a retired director of the General Administration Department were added.

U Aye Lwin, Joint Secretary-General of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry-UMFCCI is also included as a member in the new line-up of the MIC.

Investment proposals for both foreign and local projects have been awaiting approval since April due to the stalling of the MIC.—GNLM

Union Information Minister, Country Director of Internews, discuss cooperation

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received Country Director U Michael Pan of Internews and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they

discussed matters relating to cooperation in the media sector.

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

Daw Su Su Lwin hosts wife of Singapore PM for tea

DAW Su Su Lwin, wife of the President of the Republic of Myanmar, met with Mrs. Ho Chin, wife of the Prime Minister of Singapore, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

During the call the First Lady hosted a tea party for the wife of the Singaporean Prime Minister. —Myanmar News Agency



Daw Su Su Lwin receives Mrs. Ho Chin, wife of the Prime Minister of Singapore in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Visa exemption between Myanmar, Singapore to take effect on 1st December

A MUTUAL visa exemption agreement that will facilitate the travel of citizens between Myanmar and Singapore will come into effect on 1 December this year, according to a press release of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday.

The press release said that the two countries, guided by the ASEAN Framework Agreement on Visa Exemption signed in Kuala Lumpur on 25 July, 2006, have exchanged notes on the mutual exemption of visas for ordinary passport

holders with a duration of thirty days.

The 30-day-visa-free travel agreement is aimed at strengthening friendly relations between governments and peoples, added the press release. — Myanmar News Agency

Appointment of Malawi Ambassador to Myanmar agreed on

GOVERNMENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Dr. Mbuya Isaac Munlo as first Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Malawi to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi.

Dr. Mbuya Isaac Munlo was born on 12 March 1958 in Chiradsulu, Malawi. He received his M.A (Distinction) System Thinking in 1994 and a Ph.D Management Systems and Science in 1997 from University of Hull, Kingston upon Hull, United Kingdom. He was a lecturer of Critical System Thinking at University of Humberside and Lincolnshire, United Kingdom from 1997 to 1998. He was an adviser of Programme of Community Empowerment at Ibis Denmark (DANIDA Framework Funding) from 1998 to 2000. In addition, he also served as a development and planning adviser in Ireland Aid-Government of Mozambique Cooperation, a programme coordinator of Food Security and Sustainable Livelihoods Programme

and a national programme coordinator of the Micro Projects Programme in National Authorising Officer (EU-Malawi Government Cooperation) and Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the African Union of the Economic Commission for Africa and to 20 African Countries from 2000 to 2013.

Moreover, he has been serving as consultant in Partnerships and Development, sub-regional focal person of Renewed Partnership to End Hunger in FAO, Sub-regional Office for Eastern Africa from 2013 August to present. In addition, he has been serving as a High Commissioner to India on residential basis and to six other countries on non residential basis from 2015 October until now. He speaks English, Nyanja, French and Portuguese. He is married and has four children.

Dr. Mbuya Isaac Munlo will serve as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Malawi to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in New Delhi. — Myanmar News Agency

Plans underway to rebuild hundreds of dams



Pyuchaung Dam commissioned into service on 8 January 2015. PHOTO: MNA

AS PART of its preparations for next summer, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation plans to reconstruct over 500 dams this financial year, its spokesperson said.

U Wai Lin, head of the township irrigation department, said the dams cannot store enough fresh water for the summer and are all in danger of col-

lapse.

"That is why the ministry has decided to stop the construction of new dams and to repair the old dams," he said.

If the growers who plant sesame, rice and beans in the Ayeyawady Delta receive enough water from rivers and creeks through the dams, their cultivation of agriculture prod-

ucts will increase threefold in the future, U Wai Lin said.

A plan is also underway to collect underground water in dry zones, including Kyaukse, in Mandalay and in Sagaing.

The ministry will promote collaboration with the private sector to modify seeds of some crops to boost their production rates.—Zar Zar

Construction Ministry to build low-cost housing units in Yangon satellite towns

THE Ministry of Construction will build low-cost housing units in Yangon's populated satellite townships of Hlaingthaya and Dagon Myothit, according to a recent announcement.

The projects will be implemented during the term of the current government, and each apartment will be sold for less than K10 million through both installment plans and full settlement plans, said the ministry's permanent secretary U Kyaw Linn.

The ministry will officially put the new projects out to tender through state-owned

newspapers in September, the permanent secretary said at a press conference on 7 June.

"After the project is completed, we will announce that will be entitled to buy apartments," said U Kyaw Linn.

With the aim of providing affordable housing to the public, the new projects will be developed on 100 acres of government-owned land. The project will include over 8,000 flats.

Building designs for the project are now being finalised by the ministry. Construction will begin this year, after monsoon season.—Thein Ko Lwin

Crime NEWS

Vehicle accident kills one man in Sagaing

A VEHICLE accident occurred near milepost 46/2 on Monywa-Yar Gyi- Kalaywa road on Monday, leaving one man dead.

According to an investigation, a ten-wheel vehicle being driven by one Mae Gyi alias Myo Min Aung, 28, crashed into a mountain wall and overturned en route to Monywa town.

Mae Gyi alias Myo Min Aung fell from the vehicle and died on the spot. The driver has been charged by police.—Tun Ko Ko (Yinmabin)



A car being overturned after crashing into a mountain wall.

PHOTO: TUN KO KO (YINMABIN)

Yaba and heroin seized

A COMBINED investigation team comprising officers and staff from Myawady seized 500 yaba pills from motorcycle driver Nyo Win in ward 3, Myawady town on Monday. According to a connected investigation, the police searched the home of the suspect near Shwe Myawady new market and found a further 18,000 yaba pills.

On the same day, police from Lashio township discovered 8,190 yaba pills on one Bo Chaw in ward 1, Lashio township. Similarly, police from

Moemeik township searched the home of one Zesi in Nam Ohnmar village and discovered 800 yaba pills. One Ma Yan Ma Lay was found together with the host.

A combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from Katha township seized heroin weighing 22 grams and 1,700 yaba pills from motorcycle driver Pho Lone with one Yae Shar on board at Lan Kha village gate, Katha-Inndaw road.—Myanmar Police Force

Overheated rice cooker causes home fire

A FIRE broke out due to an overheated rice cooker in Muse town, Shan State (North) on Tuesday. The accident occurred when the tenant was cooking rice. The rice cooker overheated and caused electric short-circuiting. The fire

quickly got out of control and destroyed the room. The fire was brought under control by firemen with eleven fire engines. The police have taken action against the home owner and three tenants.—Eh Soe (IPRD)



Firefighter extinguishing the fire. PHOTO: EH SOE (IPRD)

Truck collides with motorcycle, killing two

A 12-wheel vehicle collided head on with a motorcycle between mileposts 110/1 and 110/2, on Yangon- Mandalay highway on 6 June.

The 12-wheel vehicle collided with the motorcycle when the 12-wheel driver lost control.

The accident killed the two motorcycle riders on the spot. The 12-wheel vehicle driver and conductor fled the vehicle, leaving it at the scene. The police have opened a case against the absconded driver.—Khin Ko (Kyauktaga)



Nyo Win. PHOTO: MPF

Fire destroys three houses in Magwe

A FIRE destroyed a house in Phongyikan village, Myaing town, Magwe region, on 5 June. The incident occurred around 2:30 AM. The fire broke out in the home of Daw Khin San, 76, who left a mosquito repellent unextinguished. The fire

quickly got out of control and burned two other houses. The fire was brought under control by firemen with the help of neighbours. Action is being taken against Daw Khin San, who will be charged under the law.—Myanmar Police Force

LOCAL Business

Bangladeshi demand for Myanmar fish growing

HISLA fish and rohu are being exported to Bangladesh via the Maung Taw trade point to meet the growing demand in Bangladesh for Myanmar fish, according to the Kyimyindine Sanpya fish market.

Hilsa fish and rohu are sent from Yangon market to the Maung Taw border trade camp before being exported to Bangladesh. Fish merchants from border areas initially exported 33 tonnes of hilsa fish and 18 tonnes of rohu to Bangladesh. Recently, however, exports have reached an average of 100 containers of fish per day that need to be exported to Bangladesh to meet market demand.

The Maung Taw border trade camp is reported to see less exporting and importing overall when compared to other border trade camps. The export of hilsa and rohu via the Maung Taw border trade camp has raised around US\$80,000 from the beginning of April to the end of the May.—200



Rohu fish are seen at Kyimyindine Sanpya fish market in Yangon, in February 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Foreign businesspeople dominate local timber enterprise

FOREIGN businesses owners dominate the local timber enterprise because these individuals can afford more investment than local businesspeople, said Dr. Sein Win of the Myanmar Forest Products Merchants Association (FPMF).

“If we look at who the owners of the timber businesses are, they turn out to be the foreign businessmen. They store the timber with a large capital investment and we have to repurchase the product from them,” he added.

Local timber merchants have requested that the Myanmar Timber Enterprise, in order to level the playing field, make sure timber transactions are conducted in Kyat, not in US dollars.—PTK/Union daily

Myanmar and Korean entrepreneurs negotiate to bolster trade

ENTREPRENEURS from Myanmar and Korean held coordination meetings at the Sule Shangri La Hotel concerning efforts to boost the export volume of Myanmar fishery and agricultural products to Korea yesterday, said U Win Myint, the director of the Department of Trade Promotion of the Ministry of Commerce.

The coordinating meeting was jointly held by the Myanmar Trade Promotion Organisation and the Korea Importers Association. The event was attended by a total of 115 businesspeople from the two countries.

“Korea is the eighth listed country maintaining trade relations with Myanmar. We discussed ways in which we can export fishery products and rubber to Korea,” the director said.

“We sat for bilateral talks relating to their requirements and terms and some of the restrictions on the part of Myanmar entrepreneurs. There will be trade between ASEAN and Korea. The reason why we want to export rubber to Korea is that Korea is a country which manufactures cars,” he added.

The total bilateral trade value reached over US\$600 million over the last fiscal year (2015-2016). Myanmar exported various pulses and fishery products.

With Myanmar developing its export capacity, Korea is interested in working with the Myanmar agricultural sector. We discussed taxation rates, said Mr. Myoung Jin, chairman of the Korea Importers Association.—MPPS/WWP Union daily

Demand for squid rises in Yangon

WITH local consumption behaviors changing, the demand for squid by barbeque restaurants has risen in Yangon, said a sea food restaurateur.

The price of squid sent from Ayeyawady and Taninthayi regions and Rakhine State is K10,000 to K14,000 per viss (a viss is approximately 1.6 kilograms) after cleaning while

the original squid price sits at K6,000 to K8,000 per viss. The squid sent to Yangon typically range in size from 6 inches to 8 inches.

The squid demand from Yangon restaurants began to rise beginning in early June, according to the sea food selling depot in Taungupt which distributes squid to the Yangon market.—200

Myanmar requires more cow breeding for dairy products, says MMC

COW farming for milk requires further development in Myanmar in order for farmers to be able to fulfill the needs of the local consumption of dairy products. Currently, dairy products worth about US\$100 million are imported from foreign countries each year, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Myanmar imported 44,000 tonnes of condensed milk at a value

of US\$59million, 11,000 tonnes of milk powder at US\$39million and 53 tonnes of beef at US\$0.35million in 2005 because of the low rate of cow farming.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation has model milk cow farms in Nay Pyi Taw, Yangon, Mandalay and Ayeyawadi regions and Kaya State to help develop the farming.

The ministry has also been

conducting training courses and freely providing semen for artificial insemination, liquefied nitrogen and pedigree animals and 80 dairy manufacturing machines to townships from 51 districts. The ministry has purchased milk from dairy farms under a public-private partnership system, said Dr Ye Tun Win, director-general of the Livestock Breeding and Veterinary Department (LBVD).—Phoe Thant



PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Thailand purchases Pan Crabs from Rakhine

FISHERY merchants from Rakhine State are reporting that sales of Pan crabs to Thailand is on the rise this month following a recent spike in demand.

The market price of a Pan

crab is about K4000 per viss (a viss is approximately 1.6 kilograms). The crab species dwells under sandbanks and are mostly found on Ngamanye Island and in Kyaukprou, Wet Kyun and Pauktaw

Townships in Rakhine State. Thai fish market businesses are showing high demand for the crab because of the rise in consumption of tourists who are staying at hotels in Thailand, it was reported.—200

Japan, ASEAN to hold defence ministers' meeting in Laos in Nov

CHONBURI (Thailand) — Defence chiefs from Japan and the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations will meet in Laos in November, Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani said Wednesday.

At the second such meeting since November 2011, Japan and the bloc will aim to enhance defence cooperation, at a time when China is pushing ahead with the construction outposts in disputed waters in the South China Sea.

"Cooperation with ASEAN is crucial in maintaining the region's peace and stability. We need to strengthen defence cooperation," Nakatani told reporters in Thailand after a military unit inspection.

At the multilateral meeting, Japan will seek to win ASEAN countries' support for its call for com-

pliance with international law and opposition to attempts to change the status quo by force, in a veiled criticism of Beijing's action in the South China Sea.

Tokyo also plans to offer its Self-Defence Forces' cooperation in enhancing the capabilities of ASEAN countries in the areas of disaster relief and maritime security, and to exchange views on the holding of joint drills, the officials said.

ASEAN comprises Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Of the bloc, Brunei, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam are involved in territorial disputes with China in the resource-rich South China Sea. —Kyodo News

In boost to Paris climate pact, India says it aims to join this year



US President Barack Obama extends a hand to shake with India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi after their remarks to reporters following a meeting in the Oval Office at the White House in Washington, US on 7 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — India has agreed to work toward joining the Paris Agreement on climate change this year, India and the United States said on Tuesday, giving a jolt of momentum to the international fight to curb global warming.

At a time of heightened tensions in Asia over China's assertive pursuit of territory, the two countries also pledged to expand military cooperation and outlined principles for cooperation on cyber issues.

President Barack Obama welcomed Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the White House for their seventh meeting since Modi took office in 2014, underscoring the warm relationship between the leaders and the world's two largest democracies. Modi is to address the US Congress on Wednesday.

"We discussed how we can, as quickly as possible, bring the Paris Agreement

into force," Obama told reporters. Climate change is a legacy issue for the US president who leaves office in January.

India's potential entrance into the agreement this year would help accelerate its enactment, perhaps years ahead of schedule. India is the world's third-largest greenhouse gas emitter after China and the United States.

The two countries also welcomed preparations that could lead to the building of six nuclear reactors in India by US-based Westinghouse, in what would be the culmination of some 10 years of work to resolve civil-nuclear issues.

The joint statement said India and the US Export-Import Bank were working to complete a financing package for the project and that the Nuclear Power Corporation of India and Westinghouse had confirmed engineering and site

design work would begin immediately. It said Westinghouse and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India would work toward finalizing the contract by June 2017 — a year later than Westinghouse's chief executive, Daniel Roderick, said he hoped for in an interview with Reuters in late March.

Modi told an event organised by the US India Business Council that relations between India and the United States were "closer than ever." He said the planned reactor purchases would mark new era in nuclear and scientific cooperation. Modi's address to a joint session of Congress will be a significant personal step. Although this has become a tradition for Indian prime ministers, he was once banned from the United States over massacres of Muslims. More than 1,000 people, mostly Muslims, were killed in sectarian ri-

ots in Gujarat in 2002 when Modi had just become the state's chief minister. Modi has denied any wrongdoing, and India's Supreme Court in 2010 ruled there was no case.

In the joint statement, the United States said it now recognised India as a "Major Defense Partner" and would work on technology sharing "to a level commensurate with that of its closest allies and partners."

The text of a logistics agreement, which will allow the countries' militaries to use each other's land, air and naval bases, would be signed soon, a US official said.

Tensions between the United States and Pakistan as well as regional concerns about China have served as a backdrop to increased security cooperation.

Senator John McCain, chairman of the US Senate Armed Services Committee, said the address to Congress was "entirely appropriate" given the new partnership.

"There's no doubt there are significant tensions and challenges in the region, which argues for closer coordination between our militaries," he said.

While Modi is generally popular with US lawmakers, they criticise what they see as lingering unfriendliness to US firms and a stifling bureaucracy, in spite of Modi's pro-business image. They also question New Delhi's record on human rights. Modi got a boost on Tuesday when Amazon Inc AMZN.O Chief Executive Jeff Bezos said his company would invest an additional \$3 billion in India, boosting its committed investment in the country to over \$5 billion. —Reuters

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Four Malaysians held hostage in the Philippines freed, army says

MANILA / KUALA LUMPUR — Four Malaysian sailors kidnapped by Filipino gunmen in April were freed on the southern Philippine island of Jolo on Wednesday, a Philippine army spokesman said.

The sailors, part of the crew of a tugboat travelling between Malaysia and the Philippines, were abducted by members of the Abu Sayyaf militant group off the eastern Malaysian state of Sabah on 1 April.

It was not immediately clear if a ransom had been paid. The Philippines rarely publicizes such payments, but it is widely believed no captives are released without them.

Canadian John Ridsdel, 68, a former mining executive, was executed in April by Abu Sayyaf who captured him and three others in 2015 while they were on vacation on a Philippine island.

Philippine Major File-

mon Tan told reporters the Malaysians were released on Jolo, Abu Sayyaf's stronghold in the southern Philippines.

The sailors were then sent by speedboat to Sabah.

"We have yet to confirm whether ransom money was paid in exchange for the safe release of the victims," Tan said, adding that the kidnapping was led by Abu Sayyaf leader Madjan Sahidjuan, also

known as Apuh Mike.

Malaysian authorities have yet to confirm the sailors' release.

Abu Sayyaf, a group linked to the Islamic State, have become notorious for kidnapping, earning millions of dollars in ransom.

Last month, 14 Indonesians kidnapped by the group were released but several people, including Norwegian, Canadian and Japanese citizens are still being held. —Reuters

China says the Philippines is ignoring a maritime talks proposal

BEIJING — China said on Wednesday the Philippines has ignored a proposal for a regular talks mechanism over maritime issues, as it repeated that its door was always open to bilateral talks with Manila on the South China Sea.

China claims most of the waters, 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.

The Philippines has brought a case at an international tribunal in The Hague contesting China's claims, a case rejected by China which wants to solve the issue bilaterally.

In a statement released in both Chinese and English, China's Foreign Ministry said the two countries had agreed in 1995 to settle disputes in the South China Sea "in a peaceful and friendly manner through consultations on the basis of equity and mutual respect".

China and the Philippines have held many rounds of talks on the proper management of maritime disputes, though have had



An aerial photo taken through a glass window of a Philippine military plane shows the alleged on-going land reclamation by China on Mischief Reef in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, west of Palawan, Philippines, on 11 May 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

no negotiations designed to settle the actual disputes in the South China Sea, the ministry said.

"China has on a number of occasions proposed with the Philippines the establishment of a China-Philippines regular consultation mechanism on maritime issues; however, to date, there has never been any response from the Philippine side."

The Philippines For-

eign Ministry declined to comment.

A ministry official familiar with the arbitration case said that as Manila is expecting the tribunal to hand down a ruling this month it would rather remain quiet until then.

A former Philippine foreign minister and a US security expert said on Tuesday Philippine President-elect Rodrigo Duterte

should not hold unconditional bilateral talks with China to try to resolve their South China Sea dispute.

Duterte has said he would not go to war against China and may hold bilateral talks.

China's ministry repeated that it would not accept any dispute settlement being imposed on it, but the door of China-Philippines bilateral negotiations was

always open.

"China urges the Philippines to immediately cease its wrongful conduct of pushing forward the arbitral proceedings, and return to the right path of settling the relevant disputes in the South China Sea through bilateral negotiation with China," it said.

The Philippines is contesting China's claim to an area shown on its maps as a

nine-dash line stretching deep into the maritime heart of Southeast Asia, covering hundreds of disputed islands and reefs.

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

Japan concerned by encounter of China, US planes over East China Sea

TOKYO — The Japanese government expressed concern Wednesday over reports Chinese jet fighters came unreasonably close to a US military aircraft over the East China Sea the day before.

"If (the incident) happened as reported, it is a dangerous act with the potential to cause unintended accidents or other emergency situations, and a cause for

concern," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a press conference.

The government is still verifying the nature of the encounter, the top government spokesman added.

According to the US-Pacific Command, two Chinese J-10 fighters intercepted an RC-135 patrol airplane Tuesday in international airspace over the sea, one of them at an excessive unsafe

speed. Neither Japan nor the United States have recognised an air defence identification zone that China declared over the sea in 2013. Defence Minister Gen Nakatani also condemned the incident Wednesday during a visit to Thailand's Chonburi Province.

Speaking to reporters, Nakatani called on China to "be conscious of itself as a superpower and not do

things unilaterally that could destabilise the region." Japan has stressed repeatedly in recent years the need to protect the freedom of maritime navigation through, and flight over, the East China Sea and South China Sea, and raised concern over the threat to regional stability from unforeseen incidents between countries operating in those areas.—Kyodo News

Philippine experts urge Duterte to start bilateral talks with China earlier

MANILA — Philippine experts on Wednesday urged incoming President Rodrigo Duterte to start bilateral talks with China earlier, saying the new administration need not wait for the decision of the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague before talking to China.

"You don't have to finish that arbitration. Nobody even knows when it will be finished," Alberto En-

comienda, former secretary-general of Maritime and Ocean Affairs Center at Department of Foreign Affairs, told Xinhua.

He added that the Philippines could even withdraw the case.

For her part, Aileen Baviera, professor at the University of the Philippines, said bilateral talks with China "can be an avenue for resuming the confidence-building process"

between the two countries.

"Bilateral talks can also assure China that there is no intention to use arbitration and everything else to harm China's security interests," said Baviera.

Duterte, who will be sworn into office on 30 June, has said he would wait for the final decision of the court, but said that he will pursue bilateral talks with China if current efforts do not progress. He even

said that he might seek possible joint exploration in the South China Sea.

Relations between China and the Philippines worsened during President Benigno Aquino's six-year rule over the South China Sea dispute. The Philippines unilaterally initiated an arbitration case against China in January 2013 over the issue with the Permanent Court of Arbitration at The Hague.—Xinhua

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အများသိစေရန် တောင်းပန်ခြင်း

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Opinion

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

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

Better in than out

Kyaw Thura

MASS demonstrations against continuing sporadic skirmishes between the army and ethnic armed groups that have not signed the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement seem to be heralding an end to Myanmar's internal armed conflicts, especially along the borders with China and Thailand. It is understandable that the nationwide ceasefire is an essential

step in the right direction to bring an end to 60 years of ethnic tensions.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has called for preparations for the 21st Century Panglong Conference, which is expected to be held in July, promising room for the remaining ethnic armed groups to join the ceasefire. Judging from her words, it is highly likely that the 21st Century Pan-

glong Conference will be more inclusive than the Union Peace Conference held in January 2016.

The army is expected to hold out an olive branch with generosity to the remaining ethnic armed groups, who in return should embrace the offer. It is better to talk than shoot. It is undeniable that all the ethnic communities are eager to enjoy the fruits of peace from the 21st

Century Panglong Conference, even if it is like expecting too much too soon. Given the chronic plight of the conflict victims suffering for actions that are not their own, all the stakeholders engaged in the peace process should first find some common ground with the adoption of short-term resolutions with the intention of addressing our country's long, drawn-out ethnic tensions.

The Mindset

Khin Maung Myint

THE term **mindset** has been frequently used in recent times than ever before. You can hear that word quite often these days from the politicians and ordinary citizens alike. The word can also be seen frequently in the printed media too. Even among my circle of friends, especially at the tea shop conversations, while discussing the current situations and issues, people readily used this word to express their displeasure at someone or an organization or a group. They would heap the blame on the **entrenched mindsets** or literally the "creased mindsets", in Myanmar sense, of those individuals or organizations or groups for something they had said or done that went wrong or thought to have gone wrong.

That trend intrigued me to find out what the term mindset actually meant. I decided to browse the Internet to learn about that term. Here I would like to say that just looking up for the meaning of a word in a dictionary, however concise it

may be, isn't enough to understand that word in in-depth. Internet is a treasure trove of knowledge, where you can find anything imaginable. However, one should use one's discretion and judgement in what should be accepted and what must be disregarded, because the Internet pages are loaded with undesirable information too. As for my search for the term mindset, I managed to turn up quite useful and knowledgeable information which I intend to share with others. I will share it as I understand or accept the concept of this term from my own perspective based on what I learned on the Internet and on my own experiences in life.

What is a Mindset?

As to what that term means, I would like to mention what the dictionary says. Different dictionaries defined the word differently and thus making it confusing. The most plausible meaning is that of the Oxford American Dictionary, which defines **mindset** as an established set of attitudes held by somebody". In fact that definition too, does not fully express the exact meaning of the word, because according to a

world-renowned professor of psychology, the attitudes need not be so set. As the meaning of the word **mindset** provided by different dictionaries vary from one another and also as they are not precise or agree with the psychologists' ideas of that phenomenon, I decided to ignore the dictionaries. Thus I relied on the psychologists' concepts of **mindset** in writing this article.

Here, I would like to point out that, the term does not correspond or apply only to the incumbent individuals, political party or those in positions of influence, but also to persons of every walks of life. However, most of the people used that word in connection with those in positions of power, which in my opinion is not proper. In fact, every sane person has a **mindset** of his or her own. The word **mindset** is synonymous to attitude, mentality and behavior. These traits are evolved in a person since childhood they can be guided either to go in the right and desirable direction or take the wrong and despicable direction. **Mindsets** would become entrenched over time and tend to be difficult to change. Thus an entrenched **mindset** is an undesirable characteristic in a person of any professional or social status. A proper **mindset** can be cultivated while young and it

should be reviewed and revised throughout one's lifetime to be agreeable with the prevailing situations. In other words, a **mindset** should not get entrenched, but remain flexible by always reviewing and revising. An **entrenched mindset** is what we Myanmarers referred to as the "**creased mindset**" (*Khauk yoe kyoe seik datt*).

A world-renowned professor of psychology at Stanford University, discovered the idea of the human **mindset** after decades of research on achievement and success. The discovery was made not very long ago, so this idea or concept of **mindset** is a new subject and is still undergoing research by other scholars of psychology. Thus, there are many ideas, opinions and concepts on this subject still emerging today.

The **mindset** of an individual depends on the thinking and outlook of that person and vice versa, that is, the mindset influences a person's thinking and outlook. A person with positive thinking and outlook has a positive attitude or mentality and hence a positive **mindset**, which will contribute to productivity or success. A positive mindset will breed positive thinking and outlooks, which will lead to right decisions and right actions that would produce progressive re-

sults. Some psychologists called the **mindset** a **mental inertia**.

The **mindset** reflects the character and the identity of a person, so it is very important for people in high positions in any professions---be it in education, sports, politics, business, military, government or any other societies should nurture positive **mindsets**. A person with a positive **mindset** would be respected and revered by others and is sure to succeed in whatever profession he indulges in. On the other hand, a person with negative **mindset** would be despised and will not go far in life.

Conclusion

Various psychologists have various ideas and concepts regarding the **mindset**. Some are similar, but there are many that do not agree with one another. When I studied them, I found that, though the ideas are differed from one another, most of them are acceptable and applicable to the study of **mindset**. For the purpose of this article, I will not be detailing those different ideas and concepts of various psychologists, as the researches are still ongoing and in the very early stages. Also, I do not want to confuse the readers with the scientific or academic explanations, which are somewhat complicated and abstract.

Protection of Physiotherapy profession and title

Tin Maung Aye (Kanbalu)

Iam shocked to know that there are a few bogus physiotherapy clinics, which are run by unqualified practitioners in Yangon. The photos of such fake clinics are recently posted on a Facebook page and physiotherapists felt indignant, hurt and abused by what they considered a gross injustice to their profession.

In general, these clinics provide massage, reflexology and acupressure for stress relief and physical healing, and definitely not physiotherapy assessment and treatment as they claim. Surprisingly, not a single qualified physiotherapist is working in those clinics either.

Physiotherapy is a health-care profession that assesses, diagnoses, treats, and works to prevent disease and disability through physical means. Physio-

therapists are experts in movement and function who work in partnership with their patients, assisting them to overcome movement disorders, which may have been present from birth, acquired through accident or injury, or are the result of ageing or life-changing events (Australian Physiotherapy Association).

Physiotherapy is an internationally recognized health profession, which should only be practiced by qualified physio-

therapists (World Confederation for Physical Therapy). On the other hand, we, as trained physiotherapists, are supposed to protect the public investigating these bogus clinics in Yangon and elsewhere. Physiotherapists are calling for prosecution against the clinics and persons for crimes of misleading the public and a crime against public health.

In this regard, the Secretary of Myanmar Physiotherapy As-

sociation (MPA) has made a complaint in writing about the misuse of profession with Ministry of Health, Myanmar Medical Council and Myanmar Medical Association.

Consumers have the right to know if they are receiving standard physiotherapy treatment provided by a qualified physiotherapist. The protection of professional title mainly protects the welfare of the general public by strictly limiting the use of its title to appropriately qualified persons such as medical doctors and physiotherapists.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing holds talks with Singaporean PM



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing shaking hand with Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at the Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw . PHOTO: MNA

COMMANDER-in-Chief of day.

Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong at the Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two representatives held discussions on cooperation in maintenance of regional and international peace and security, bilateral relations

between the two defence forces, the ongoing peace process as well as promoting the rule of law for the peace and stability of the country.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Visiting S'pore PM and wife arrives Yangon

VISITING Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong and his wife arrived Yangon.

The Singaporean delegation was welcomed at the Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, Yangon Mayor Dr Maung Maung Soe and regional ministers.

Singapore Myanmar Vocational Training Institute (SMVTI) in Yangon would be officially launched by Singaporean Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong today.

The SMVTI is a joint project between the Governments of Singapore and Myanmar proposed in April 2013 by President of Singapore Dr Tony Tan during his State visit to Myanmar



Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein welcomes Singapore Prime Minister. PHOTO: MNA

in response to request from the Government of Myanmar for assistance in skills training

to support its industrialization policy.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Over 1,000 died of rabies last year: Ministry of Health and Sports

OVER 60,000 dog bite cases were recorded in Myanmar last year, and over 1,000 people died of rabies, according to health experts from the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The deaths are directly associated with the high number of rabid, stray dogs in the country, which rose sharply last year, said Dr Soe Min, secretary of the Myanmar Veterinary Association.

According to the World Health Organisation, Myanmar is classified as a high rabies endemic country. Rabies can be found in dogs, bats and other mammals.

The country needs to accelerate rabies prevention activities by controlling stray dogs in every part of Yangon, said Dr Aung Myat, a veterinary physician.

To protect humans against

rabies infection, the various organisations have carried out immunisation programmes across the city. Under the scheme, around 200 dogs received rabies vaccines free of charge.

"The Myanmar Veterinary Association has also carried out prevention measures and treated animal-borne diseases to control the spread of infectious viruses to human," said Dr Aung Myat.—200

Singaporean PM meets with Former President U Thein Sein

SINGAPOREAN Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong held talks with Former President U Thein Sein, Chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Party, at the Parkroyal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The meeting was also attended by USDP Vice-Chairman Thura U Aye Myint, General Secretary U Tin Naing Thein, CEC members U Soe Naing and U Khin Yi and officials.— *Myanmar News Agency*



Singaporean Prime Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong meets with Former President U Thein Sein. PHOTO: MNA

Drilling at ShweU-Min Cave strikes water, cheers up locals

A SECOND well being drilled by a modern drilling machine of the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation in Pindaya, Shan State, struck water on Monday, the second drilling project to strike water using the machine.

The well, located at the foot of Shwe U Min Mountain, has produced 2000 gallons per hour at a depth of 500 ft, and is ready to provide drinking water to visitors of the Shwe U Min Cave and local people.

"We get drinking water piped from a spring located about six miles from here.

We have faced the problem of having insufficient drinking water as the number of visitors and the local population is increasing," said Ma Htwe Nge, a souvenir vendor at the cave, "Today, we are very delighted to see water gushing out of the well."

The well struck the water after three days of drilling.

So far, nine tube wells have been drilled by the BFM in Pindaya since October, 2014.

The foundation recently bought a Dando drilling machine, manufactured by the Dando Company in the UK, which is reportedly worth more than US\$1.5 million.

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

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BFM's new machine brings 2nd success in drilling tube well in Pindaya , Shan State, benefiting pilgrims and local people. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Clinton declares historic victory, turns fire on Trump in White House race



Democratic US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton waves as she stands onstage with her husband former President Bill Clinton (L) and her daughter Chelsea (R) after speaking during her California primary night rally held in the Brooklyn borough of New York, US, on 7 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SANTA MONICA, (Calif.) — Hillary Clinton celebrated her triumph as the first woman to lead a major party in a race for the White House, scoring big wins in California and New Jersey to cement her grip on the 2016 Democratic Party presidential nomination.

The former first lady, US senator and secretary of state spoke to supporters at a raucous event in Brooklyn, New York, and placed her achievement in the context of the long history of the women's rights movement.

"Thanks to you, we have reached a milestone," Clinton said in a speech. "We all owe so much to who came before."

Clinton, 68, appealed to supporters of party rival Bernie Sanders, 74, to join her campaign. She said Democrats had been bolstered by his campaign for eradicating income inequality, which has commanded huge crowds and galvanized younger voters. Not yet ready to concede, Sanders vowed to fight on.

Clinton also harshly attacked Donald Trump, 69, her presumptive Republican rival in the 8 November presidential election, for using divisive rhetoric that belittled women, Muslims and immigrants. She took specific aim at his condemnation of an Indiana-born judge of Mexican heritage.

"The stakes in this election are high and the choice is clear. Donald Trump is temperamentally unfit to be president and commander-in-chief," Clinton said.

"When Donald Trump says a distinguished judge born in Indiana can't do his job because of his Mexican heritage, or he mocks a reporter with disabilities, or calls women pigs, it goes against everything we stand for," she said.

A Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday showed Clinton leading Trump by 10 percentage points nationally as they launch their general election battle, little changed from a week earlier.

Clinton edged Sanders out in a rough-and-tumble battle that stretched over four months and 50 states. She won support, especially among older voters, with a more pragmatic campaign focused on building on the policies of her fellow Democrat, President Barack Obama.

Obama called both Clinton and Sanders on Tuesday. The White House said he congratulated her on securing the delegates necessary to clinch the nomination and would meet Sanders on Thursday at Sanders' request.

CNN and NBC projected Clinton would win in California. With about two-thirds of the votes counted, Clinton led Sanders 56 per cent to 43 per cent, avoiding what would have been an embarrassing loss in America's most populous state. The California win came on the heels of a decisive win in New Jersey and narrower victories in New Mexico and South Dakota in Tuesday's nominating contests. Sanders won Montana and North Dakota.

A defeat in California would have reinforced doubts about Clinton's candidacy. Now, she can turn her attention to healing her fractured party and drawing in Sanders' passionate supporters.

Clinton's credentials for office have not been a serious issue, but a scandal stemming from her use of a private email account while at the State Department hangs over her head as she enters the general election campaign.

She will also be running against the current of this election season, one that has favoured outsiders like Trump and Sanders. In Trump, she has an unpredictable opponent who shreds the standard campaign rule book on an almost daily basis.

For his part, Sanders seems to have few options left.

Democratic Party elites are lined up squarely behind Clinton, including most likely Obama, who may endorse his former secretary of state as early as this week. Pressure will mount on Sanders to exit gracefully and throw his support to Clinton.

Eight years ago in June 2008, Clinton did exactly that when she ended her bitter primary fight with Obama. At the time, it appeared unclear whether Obama would be able to garner the support of Clinton's most ardent backers, but that election drew the highest voter turnout in generations.

At a rally in Santa Monica on Tuesday, Sanders showed no interest in ending his upstart candidacy, telling cheering supporters he would go on campaigning through next Tuesday's primary in the District of Columbia and carry his political mission — although not necessarily his campaign — to the party convention in Philadelphia next month.

"We are going to fight hard to win the primary in Washington, DC," he said. "And then we take our fight for social, economic, racial and environmental justice to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania." Prominent Democrats say that unifying the party now is the highest priority, and that if Sanders maintains his challenge to Clinton through the party's 25-28 July convention, Trump will benefit.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

China urges US to stop reconnaissance flights near its territory

BEIJING — China urged the United States on Wednesday to stop reconnaissance flights near China, the Foreign Ministry said, after US defence officials said a Chinese fighter jet carried out an "unsafe" intercept of a US spy plane in international airspace over the East China Sea.

Ministry spokesman Hong Lei made the remarks at a regular briefing. —Reuters

South Korea concerned over North Korea's resumption of plutonium production

SEOUL — South Korea on Wednesday voiced concern over a report that North Korea has resumed production of plutonium for nuclear weapons at a plant north of Pyongyang.

"Our government is watching related activities (in North Korea) with serious concern," Jeong Joon Hee, spokesman for the Unification Ministry, which handles relations with North Korea, told reporters during a briefing.

He said it is "a well-known fact that North Korea has continued various reprocessing activities needed to secure plutonium."

His remarks were made after Reuters news agency reported earlier that North Korea has resumed production of plutonium for nuclear arms, citing a senior US State Department official.

Jeong declined to confirm the report, saying the matter pertains to intelligence.

The news report came a day after the International Atomic Energy Agency said there were indications that the plant near the North Korean capital has been reactivated for reprocessing spent fuel, indicating that the country is continuing to develop nuclear weapons in defiance of international sanctions.—Kyodo News

Kazakh leader says Aktobe attacks orchestrated from abroad

ASTANA — Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said on Wednesday that armed attacks in the city of Aktobe had been orchestrated from abroad and pledged to use the toughest measures to "suppress extremists and terrorists".

The attacks were a terrorist act organised by supporters of radical, pseudo-religious teachings who were instructed from abroad, Nazarbayev said in an address to the nation published by his press service.

Those actions bore the hallmarks of a "colour revolution", the popular uprisings that toppled entrenched leaders in ex-Soviet Georgia and Ukraine and replaced them with pro-Western governments, Nazarbayev said. —Reuters

Iraqi security forces kill 45 IS militants in clashes in Mosul

MOSUL, (Iraq) — Iraqi security forces repelled Islamic State (IS) militant attacks against military posts in villages south of the IS-held city of Mosul, a military spokesperson said.

Mosul is the capital of Iraq's northern province of Nineveh. The attacks left at least 45 IS militants killed, said the spokesperson. Dozens of IS militants, including suicide bombers and cars laden with bombs, attacked Iraqi army posts Tuesday in a cluster of villages near the militant-seized town of Qayyara, 50 km south of Mosul. However, security forces and allied paramilitary Sunni tribal units repelled the IS attacks, said Brigadier General Firas Sabri, spokesperson of Liberation of Nineveh Operations Command.—Xinhua

Woman caught driving car with bodies of 2 boys believed to be sons

FUKUOKA — Police found the bodies of two young boys Wednesday in a car they stopped in Yame, Fukuoka Prefecture, southwestern Japan.

Investigators believe the driver was the mother of the boys, who appear to be an elementary school pupil and a preschooler, according to police.

The family of the woman in her 30s had asked police in neighbouring Yamaguchi Prefecture early Wednesday to search for the three, they said.

The police in Yame stopped the car at around 6:30am after they saw it carried a plate from Yamaguchi Prefecture, they said.—Kyodo News

Twelve people killed, 50 kidnapped in Afghan highway attacks

GHAZNI, (Afghanistan) — Suspected Taliban insurgents in Afghanistan killed 12 people after stopping their vehicles on a road in the east of the country, while 50 people were kidnapped in the north, the latest in a spate of highway attacks, officials said on Wednesday.

The Taliban have made considerable gains in fighting in various parts of the country in recent months and the killing of their leader, Mullah Akhtar Mansour, in a US drone attack last month has had no discernable impact on the violence.

Attackers in the eastern province of Ghazni stopped two cars late on Tuesday and shot dead everyone they found. Several members of the security forces were among those killed, said Jawid Salangi a spokesman for the provincial governor.

“Taliban ordered the passengers out and brutally shot them dead,” Salangi said.

Villagers later found 12 bodies, he said.

Taliban spokesmen were not immediately available for comment.

On Wednesday, suspected Taliban stopped a bus and a car near the northern city of Kunduz and took all 50 people in the vehicles hostage, a police spokesman in the area, Mahfouzullah Akbari, told Reuters.

“We are putting all our efforts into freeing them as soon as we can,” he said. Travellers have faced a string of murders and kidnappings on roads in recent weeks.

Insurgents killed at least nine people and kidnapped 20 when they held up three buses in Kunduz late last month.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for that kidnapping.—Reuters



A man sits in front of a damaged shop near the scene of Tuesday's car bomb attack on a police bus, in Istanbul, Turkey, on 8 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Car bomb hits police station in southeast Turkey, many wounded

ISTANBUL — A car bomb attack hit a police station in the southeastern Turkish province of Mardin on Wednesday, wounding many people, security sources said, a day after 11 people were killed by a bomb targeting police in Istanbul.

The blast in the town of Midyat, in the mainly Kurdish southeast, destroyed the facade of a five-storey building, damaged other buildings, and sent a plume of thick black smoke rising over the area, footage from the Dogan news agency showed.

Clashes broke out between the members of the security forces and Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants after the explosion, the security sources said.

The PKK has waged a three-decade insurgency for Kurdish autonomy in the southeast and violence has spiralled since a ceasefire collapsed almost a year ago.

Ambulances rushed to the scene and reinforcements from the security forces were being sent to the area from around Mardin province, the security sources said.

There has been no claim of responsibility for Tuesday's attack in Istanbul, in which a car bomb ripped through a police bus during the morning rush hour. But Kurdish militants have staged similar attacks on the security forces in the recent past, including in Istanbul and the capital Ankara.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YOSSA BHUM VOY NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YOSSA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV PACAO VOY NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S YANG MING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV JIAN HE VOY NO (001)
Consignees of cargo carried on MV JIAN HE VOY NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV E.R. TURKU VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.I.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.
Damaged cargo will be surveyed daily from 8 am to 11:20 am and 12 noon to 4 pm to Claim's Day now declared as the third day after final discharge of cargo from the Vessel.
No claims against this vessel will be admitted after the Claims Day.
SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE
MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO ()
Consignees of cargo carried on MV IRRAWADDY STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.6.2016 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 CONTINENTAL SHIPPING LINE PTE LTD
Phone No: 2301185

Russia deploys troops westward as standoff with NATO deepens

KLINTSY — Russia is building an army base near its border with Ukraine, the latest in a chain of new military sites along what the Kremlin sees as its frontline in a growing confrontation with NATO.

While there have been no clashes between the former Cold War rivals, Russia is building up forces on its western frontiers at a time when the NATO alliance is staging major military exercises and increasing deployments on its eastern flank.

A Reuters reporter who visited the Russian town of Klinttsy, about 50 km (30 miles) from Ukraine, saw a makeshift army camp, large numbers of newly-arrived servicemen and military vehicles.

Two soldiers in camouflage gear who were manning a checkpoint in a forest turned the reporter away, saying they were guarding a “special military site”.

Last year, Reuters also reported on construction of two other bases further to the south on Russia’s border with Ukraine.

The defence ministry has not acknowledged the deployment of troops

to Klinttsy, which usually serves as a stop for truck drivers travelling between Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

However, a town council official said Klinttsy had been chosen as the site of a newly-formed division, and that so far about 240 soldiers had arrived. “What’s to hide? That they’ve come? They’ve arrived,” said council deputy chairman Oleg Kletny. “They’re going to be garrisoned here.”

When completed, the base will be the latest component in a build-up of forces along a line running from the Baltic Sea in the north to the Black Sea in the south.

On the western side of the line, NATO has been rotating troops and equipment in greater numbers to members states that were part of the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact during the Cold War.

The Western alliance, which says it’s responding to Russian military intervention in Ukraine, was this week staging one of its biggest exercises in eastern Europe since the end of the Cold War.

To the east, Russia is building up its own forces, saying it needs to protect it-



Russian servicemen walk near a military build-up in the town of Klinttsy in Bryansk region, Russia, on 6 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

self from NATO’s eastward advance.

Each side says it is only responding to steps taken by the other, but the build-up risks locking NATO and Russia into a spiral of measure and counter-measure from which it will be difficult to escape.

Russia and NATO member states share borders around the Baltic Sea, while

further south the two blocs are separated by Ukraine and Belarus.

But since Ukraine’s pro-Moscow president was ousted in a popular uprising two years ago and replaced with a Western-leaning administration, the perception in Moscow is that Ukraine has become, de facto, a NATO satellite.

Russia has pulled out

of the treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe, a post-Cold War pact that limits the deployment of troops in Europe, so it is free to move extra troops and hardware to its western border.

On Monday Klinttsy, normally a sleepy town, was a hive of military activity. The Reuters reporter saw about a dozen tents and the same number of mili-

tary vehicles in a temporary camp in a clearing in a forest where the troops will be billeted until their permanent base is ready.

Military trucks drove through the town, which lies in an area that is the closest point on Russian territory to the Ukrainian capital, Kiev, 280 km away.

About a dozen servicemen were at a gas station near the camp, buying food supplies. A road near the camp was blocked off by antitank obstacles and road spikes.

Last week, Russia’s Interfax news agency quoted an unnamed source familiar with the deployment to Klinttsy as saying it “can be seen as a response to the growing activity of the North Atlantic Alliance near Russia’s borders”.

The defence ministry did not reply to questions from Reuters about the base and its purpose.

Council deputy chairman Kletny said the troops, from a motorised infantry division, started arriving on 30 May. They came from a base in Yekaterinburg, in the Ural mountains region about 2,000 km to the east of Klinttsy.—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

UK voter registration website crashes before deadline for EU referendum

LONDON — Senior British politicians have called for voter registration for the 23 June referendum on EU membership to be reopened after a government website crashed shortly before the deadline on Tuesday night, hampering some people’s efforts to register.

The deadline passed at midnight, and half a million people registered online on the final day, according to a government website that provides data on the voter registration system.

But at 11:35pm, the Cabinet Office, the government department in charge of the issue, tweeted that it was aware of an issue with the website, which was due to unprecedented demand, and was working to resolve it. Minutes later, it tweeted an apology to those experiencing problems, urging them to keep trying as some people were still getting through.

Almost an hour af-



A web page on a voting registration site is seen on a laptop computer for the forthcoming British EU referendum, in London, Britain, on 8 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ter the official deadline, it tweeted that the issue had been fixed, without specifying whether any applications received after midnight would be valid.

Jeremy Corbyn, leader of the opposition Labour Party, said on Twitter: “I’m told (the official website) has crashed so people can’t register to vote for #EU-referendum. If so, deadline

has to be extended.”

He was one of several high-profile politicians making similar calls.

Asked whether some people had been unable to register on time, a Cabinet Office spokeswoman said: “We tried to resolve cases where people tried to register but were not able to.” She gave no further details.—Reuters

Chinese jets conduct 'unsafe' intercept of US spy plane

WASHINGTON/BEIJING — A Chinese fighter jet conducted an "unsafe" intercept of a US spy plane on Tuesday in international airspace over the East China Sea, the US military said, amid intensifying rivalry between the two major powers in the Asia-Pacific region.

Without specifying exactly when the incident took place or how close the aircraft came, the US Pacific Command said two Chinese J-10 fighters intercepted a US Air Force RC-135 re-

connaissance plane on a routine patrol over the sea, where China set up an air defence identification zone in 2013.

"One of the intercepting Chinese jets had an unsafe excessive rate of closure on the RC-135 aircraft," it said in a statement.

The Chinese jet flew within about 30 metres of the spy plane, CNN reported, quoting a US defence official.

The intercept, the second to be disclosed by the

United States in less than a month, coincided with the second and last day of this year's high-level security and economic talks between the two countries.

At the talks in Beijing, attended by US Secretary of State John Kerry and China's top diplomat Yang Jiechi, both sides could not narrow their differences over how best to ease tensions in the South China Sea.

The East China Sea is where the Japan-controlled China-claimed Senkaku Is-

lands are located, while China has fierce territorial disputes with a number of its Asian neighbours, including the Philippines and Viet Nam, in the South China Sea. The statement said the United States is addressing the issue with China "in appropriate diplomatic and military channels."

China's Foreign Ministry on Wednesday accused the United States of "deliberately hyping up" the situation.

"I want to say that Chinese military aircraft and

personnel have always acted in accordance with law, and what they are doing is responsible and professional," ministry spokesman Hong Lei told a daily press briefing.

Hong said close reconnaissance activities against China "severely undermine (its) maritime security and this is the crux of relevant problems."

He said China wants to urge the United States to immediately stop them.

In recent years, the US and Chinese militaries have

been holding talks to enhance mutual trust and find ways to prevent unintended incidents in and over the East China and South China seas.

However, US military officials also said last month that Chinese J-11 jet fighters came to a point only 15 metres away from an EP-3 patrol aircraft over the South China Sea.

China rejected the US claim, saying that the fighters were flying safely and far enough away from the US plane.—Kyodo News



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un looks from the balcony as he presides over a mass rally and parade in the capital's main ceremonial square in Pyongyang, North Korea, on 10 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

North Korea resumes plutonium production for nuclear weapons

WASHINGTON — North Korea has resumed production of plutonium for nuclear weapons at a plant north of Pyongyang, Reuters news agency reported Tuesday, citing a senior US State Department official.

The report came a day after the International Atomic Energy Agency said there were indications that the plant has been reactivated for reprocessing spent fuel, bolstering the view that the reclusive state is steadily working on developing nuclear weapons in defiance of international sanctions.

Reuters quoted the official as saying, "They take the spent fuel from the 5 megawatt reactor at Yongbyon and let it cool and then take it to the reprocessing facility, and that's where

they've obtained the plutonium for their previous nuclear tests. So they are repeating that process."

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the US government is concerned about the development, but provided no explicit indication as to any US response, according to Reuters. Neither did the official confirm whether the assessment was based on satellite imagery or intelligence sources, nor say how much plutonium Pyongyang could produce by the method.

In 2007, North Korea stopped the operation of a graphite-moderated reactor at Yongbyon, the nerve center of the country's nuclear programme, under an aid-for-disarmament deal with the United States and

other members engaged in multilateral talks over its nuclear ambitions. However, North Korea said in 2013 that it would reopen its nuclear reactor there.

Citing recent commercial satellite images, the US-Korea Institute of Johns Hopkins University said on its 38 North website last week that North Korea may be preparing or has already started reprocessing spent nuclear fuel to harvest plutonium for nuclear weapons.

A group of experts at the university estimated last year that North Korea had between 10 and 16 nuclear bombs at the time, and projected that the country's nuclear weapons stockpile could increase to as many as nearly 100 bombs within five years.—Kyodo News

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Date 9 June 2016

JK Rowling asks fans to keep Harry Potter play plot a secret

LONDON — Acclaimed author JK Rowling has sent out a plea to fans to keep the plot of the play “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” a secret.

Previews of the production began on 7 June at the Palace Theatre in London’s West End, before it officially opens on 30 June, reported Female First.

The 50-year-old shared a video and wrote, “Potter fans have always had each other’s backs. Today I’m asking you to keep the secrets of Cursed Child.”

“You’ve been amazing for years at keeping Harry Potter secrets so you didn’t spoil the books for readers who came after you,” Rowling said in the video message.—PTI

High-end designers didn’t want to work with my band: Beyonce

LONDON — R&B star Beyonce has claimed high-end designers snubbed her music group Destiny’s Child at the start of its career.

The 34-year-old star, who starred in the popular girl group alongside Kelly Rowland, LaTavia Roberson and LeToya Luckett, claimed the big fashion labels were not open to designing dresses for “four black, country, curvy, girls,” reported Female First.

“When we were starting out in Destiny’s Child, high-end labels, they didn’t really want to dress four black, country, curvy, girls,” she said.

“We couldn’t afford designer dresses and couture. My mother was rejected from every showroom in New York but like my grandmother, she used her talent and her creativity and to give her children their dreams.”—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

Jamie Lee Curtis turns Orc at ‘Warcraft’ premiere

LOS ANGELES — With her face painted green and feathers in her horned headpiece, actress Jamie Lee Curtis made quite a statement at the premiere of the film “Warcraft” on Monday, even though she is not even in the movie.

Sporting a long burgundy gown with a cape and cane, Lee Curtis said she was in the role of “a woman Orc shaman”, as she attended the premiere with her son, Thomas Guest, who was similarly dressed.

“Warcraft” is a fantasy film based on the “Warcraft” video game series, a multiplayer online role-playing game which features characters such as elves, dwarves, orcs and trolls.

It was not the first time Jamie Lee Curtis had donned a costume to match a gaming theme, as she showed up in a mask, claws and flesh-coloured top as Vega, a character from the “Street Fighter” games series at last year’s Evolution Championship Series (EVO) annual esports event.—Reuters



Actress Jamie Lee Curtis poses while wearing make-up and costume at the premiere of the movie “Warcraft” in Hollywood, California US, on 6 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Minnesota governor declares ‘Prince Day’ to honour late singer

NEW YORK — Purple reigned on Tuesday as Minnesota Governor Mark Dayton declared 7 June “Prince Day,” marking what would have been the late singer and Minnesota native’s 58th birthday.

The music superstar, known for songs including “Purple Rain” and “When Doves Cry,” died on 21 April of an accidental

overdose of the powerful painkiller fentanyl at his Paisley Park Studios compound in the Minneapolis suburb of Chanhassen.

“Prince, and his music, defined an era,” Dayton said in statement. “Minnesotans and our nation mourn the loss of a great artist.”

In a written proclamation of “Prince Day,” Dayton encour-

aged Minnesotans to wear purple “in honour of The Purple One’s enduring legacy.”

Social media was buzzing over the move, and #PrinceDay was the top-trending hashtag on Twitter in the United States, as numerous celebrities commemorated the singer, whose full name was Prince Rogers Nelson.—Reuters



A woman looks at a mural of David Bowie in London. PHOTO: REUTERS

Late rock star David Bowie honoured at NY fashion awards ceremony

NEW YORK — Fashion designers paid tribute to David Bowie, the late British rock star and style icon who died of cancer earlier this year, at an awards ceremony recognising people whose influence impacted the industry.

Actress Tilda Swinton accepted the Board of Director’s Tribute Award on behalf of Bowie’s widow, Iman, at the 2016 Council of Fashion Designers of America (CFDA) Awards on Monday night at the Hammerstein Ballroom in New York.

Michael C. Hall, one of the stars of “Lazarus,” the musical Bowie had worked before his

death in January at the age of 69, also performed.

“David Bowie was an influence on everything. He was a culture event — his music, everything he was and we miss him,” designer Diane von Furstenberg said on the red carpet.

Bowie won fame for hits such as “Space Oddity” and plaudits for trend-setting pop personas like “Ziggy Stardust” and pushed the boundaries of rock, fashion, art and drama for decades. Veteran designer Donna Karan received the Founder’s Award. Norma Kamali, Marc Jacobs and Thom Browne were also honoured.—Reuters

More to Jamaica than 'anti-gay Gestapos': Man Booker winner Marlon James

TREASURE BEACH (Jamaica) — Living as a closeted gay man in Jamaica drove novelist Marlon James to such despair that he once wrote he knew he had to leave “in a plane or a coffin.”

He left, on a plane for the United States, seemingly confirming Time magazine's 2006 headline that the Caribbean island was “The Most Homophobic Place on Earth.”

Back for the Calabash International Literary Festival, which features poets, novelists and writers from across the globe, the 2015 Man Booker Prize winner said his own story was actually more complicated.

“The thing about Jamaica, for such a small country, is that there are 10 different Jamaicas and the one you live in is not necessarily the one that everyone else lives in,” said James, 45.

He described his milieu as for the most part “uptown,” very different from the Jamaica that makes headlines as a place where gay people are beaten to death by mobs. International media painted a one-sided picture of his home country, James said.

“They have a narrative that Jamaica is a place where these anti-gay Gestapos are running around killing people that they are just so desperate to get that narrative.”

Rather than a fear of being



Marlon James, author of “A Brief History of Seven Killings”, poses for photographers after winning the Man Booker Prize for Fiction 2015 in London, Britain, on 13 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

killed, the “coffin” comment he wrote in a 2015 *New York Times* article referred to touching rock bottom and contemplating suicide as he struggled with his identity.

“I didn’t think I could live here as a gay man. But I didn’t need a beating to find that out,” he said.

The divide between the better off “uptown” and underprivileged “downtown” creates a con-

stant tension on the island, one addressed in “A Brief History of Seven Killings,” James’ novel about an assassination attempt on Bob Marley that catapulted the author to global fame.

The class divide is especially acute for gay people.

A poor gay Jamaican can face violence on the streets, but an “uptown” gay Jamaican can be tacitly accepted, or at least toler-

ated.

“It’s the one country in the world I have a right to be in. In the sense that I can step into Jamaica with a sense of entitlement because I am entitled to my country,” said James, who lives in Minneapolis and teaches at Macalester College.

“Which is not to say I’m kidding myself that everything is fine or that I could walk down the

street holding some guy’s hand or anything like that.”

“The reason that homophobia is so acute in Jamaica is because the church supports it,” said the former church-goer who underwent attempts to cure him of being gay.

But James also acknowledged churches as the “lifeblood” of many communities and a constructive force.

James has come back to Jamaica three times so far this year, and credits the Calabash Festival for the publication of his first novel. It was at a workshop at the bi-annual event that US author Kaylie Jones convinced James to resurrect the book after multiple rejections.

“This is also a place where I discovered so much of the world of literature. This is the place where my mind was first blown, in a way. It’s a sense of familiarity and family and also discovery. Also, it’s nice seeing a beach,” he said, sitting by the Caribbean Sea.

James said he was not ready to move back to a country he had left when he was 37, because of the opportunities for writers in the United States.

“There’s a literary community, there’s support, there’s infrastructure, there are grants. There are all these things in place to help the writer where I live that are just not here.”—Reuters

At Ramadan, migrants in Europe dream of family and comfort food

BERLIN/BASTAD — As Ramadan began in Germany on Monday, Syrian asylum seeker Khairallah Swaid said he would pray for a reunion with his wife, who is stranded at a camp in Greece, and crave his mother’s maktoubah, a meat and rice dish served during the fasting month.

The Muslim holy month that began this year on 6 June revolves around daily fasts from sunrise to sunset, and then favorite meals with family and friends during the night hours.

But for many of the hundreds of thousands of migrants who came to Europe last year — mainly Muslims escaping war, conflict and poverty in Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq and beyond — Ramadan this time around will be a much more subdued affair.

In Germany, most are still living in shelters where they have long complained that the food served by caterers contracted by local authorities is “inedible”. Their protest has grown raucous with the approach of the religious festival.

“You can’t have Ramadan without good food,” said 25-year-old Swaid, sitting next to his brother Hamza at Sham (Levant), a popular Syrian snack bar in Neukoelln, a poor district of Berlin with a large migrant population.

Swaid, who lives in a shelter north of the German capital, spends most of the 120 euros (\$136) he gets a month on food. He and other asylum seekers chip in for flatbread, rice and vegetables, which they cook using a kettle.

“I miss my wife, but during

Ramadan I will miss my mother’s food more,” joked Swaid a few days before Ramadan, eating pieces of flatbread stuffed with chicken shawarma and garlic paste.

Many shelters in Berlin are hosting Ramadan for the first time and some are trying to ensure a pleasant dining experience.

At Tempelhof, a former airport built by Hitler to showcase Nazi power and now home to some 5,000 migrants, a spokeswoman for a company running the shelter said guests would be offered dates

and water after fasting, in line with Muslim tradition.

In addition, the sunrise-to-sunset fast lasts longer in northern Europe now than in the Middle East. With the June sun rising earlier and setting later in Europe, it can be two to three hours longer for migrants than for those back home. As the sun set in a crimson blaze over the Oresund strait dividing Denmark and Sweden, the Muslim residents of Hemmeslovs Herrgard asylum camp waited impatiently in the cafeteria queue.—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(9-6-2016, Thursday)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 06 : 00 pm | 08 : 40 pm |
| • Weather Report | • International Movie Songs |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | 09 : 00 pm |
| 06 : 30 pm | • Moe Yun Gyi Wildlife Sanctuary |
| • MRTV Entertainment Music | 09 : 20 pm |
| 06 : 40 pm | • Music Programme |
| • Cartoon Programme “Barbie in the Pink Shoes” | 9 : 40 pm |
| 07 : 10 pm | • Taung Byone Nat Festival- (Episode -3) |
| • International Drama Series | 10 : 10 pm |
| 07 : 50 pm | • Myanmar Video |
| • International Drama Series | |

From 09-6-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm
To 10-6-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(9-6-2016 07:00am ~ 10-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:27 | Am | Myanmar Prehistory |
| 07:51 | Am | Sai Ye Kwan |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Aesthetic Chinlone |
| 08:51 | Am | Kyauk Phyu Township |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Products of Myanmar- Craft Blacksmithing |
| 09:51 | Am | Colourful Threads |
| 10:03 | Am | News |
| 10:26 | Am | Sayit-wyne Girls |

10:49 Am The 110th Anniversary of Yangon Zoological Garden

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

Prime Time

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|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Pm | News |
| 07:27 | Pm | The Most Prominent Resort And Residence - Ngapali |
| 07:51 | Pm | Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | Innovative Handiworks Based on The Art of Line Drawing |
| 08:45 | Pm | Local Tour Guide: Pho Khant |

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
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(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

US hammer Costa Rica, Colombia advance at Copa America

PASADENA — Colombia became the first side to book a spot in the Copa America Centenario quarter-finals on Tuesday after beating Paraguay in Pasadena, while the United States kept their hopes of advancing alive by thrashing Costa Rica 4-0.

Colombia's 2-1 win put them top of Group A on six points, with the United States on three and the other two teams on one point each.

After losing their opener 2-0 to Colombia, the United States were in clinical form against the Costa Ricans in Chicago and scored three times in the first half through Clint Dempsey, Jermaine Jones and Bobby Wood.

Substitute Graham Zusi added a fourth in the 86th minute to cap the win and improve the hosts' goal difference.

"It was important for us to get off to an early start," said Dempsey. "Once the second went in and the third we got into a bit of a rhythm." Dempsey got the first, his 50th international goal, from the penalty spot after Cristian Gamboa was adjudged to have pushed Wood in the box with six minutes gone.

Dempsey was involved in the Americans' second after 36 minutes when his run at the Costa Rica defence saw the ball fall to Jones, who struck a low shot from the edge of the box past the outstretched hand of goalkeeper Patrick Pemberton.



United States midfielder Jermaine Jones. PHOTO: REUTERS

Colombia midfielder James Rodriguez celebrates his goal scored against Paraguay during the group play stage of the 2016 Copa America Centenario at Rose Bowl Stadium, Pasadena, CA, USA, on 7 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The third goal came five minutes later and once again it was Dempsey who set it up. Wood won the ball in midfield and played a one-two with Dempsey before turning to strike home a low drive from 15 yards out.

Costa Rica, who reached the World Cup quarter-finals in 2014, improved in the second half with captain Bryan Ruiz playing a more influential role, but they were ineffective in the last third of the field.

Ruiz hit the post with a header midway through the second half but Costa Rica lost a fourth goal in the dying moments when Zusi stole the ball in midfield and strode forward before slotting the ball home from 15 yards.

In the second Group A game, played at the Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California, Colombia took a 2-0 lead in the first half but were pushed hard in the second.

Carlos Bacca scored the

opener in the 12th minute with a header before James Rodriguez doubled Colombia's lead with a left-foot strike on the half-hour mark.

Paraguay gradually played their way back into the match and hit the woodwork before half-time before forcing David Ospina into a world-class save in the 62nd minute, the Colombia goalkeeper diving full stretch to turn a header around the post.

Paraguay continued to dom-

inate the second half and were rewarded when midfielder Victor Ayala scored with a stunning 30-yard rocket in the 71st minute.

However, they could not force an equaliser and Colombia hung on to take all three points and claim a berth in the next round. Paraguay must now beat the United States on Saturday to have any chance of advancing to the quarters.—Reuters

Mourinho begins Man Utd rebuilding with signing of Bailly

LONDON — Jose Mourinho's rebuilding job at Manchester United began when Ivory Coast central defender Eric Bailly became his first signing on Wednesday, joining from Spanish side Villarreal.

The 22-year-old signed a four-year contract with an option for two more years, a club statement said.

No fee was disclosed although media reports said United had agreed a deal of about 25 million pounds (\$36.44 million) with the La Liga side.

"Eric is a young central defender with great natural talent.

He has progressed well to date and has the potential to become one of the best around," former Chelsea manager Mourinho, who replaced Dutchman Louis van Gaal last month, said.

"We look forward to working with him to help nurture that raw talent." Bailly has 15 caps for Ivory Coast and was part of their 2015 Africa Cup of Nations-winning squad.

He played 47 times for Villarreal after joining in 2015 from Espanyol, impressing in a back four that conceded only 35 goals in 38 La Liga matches last season and reached the

the Europa League semi-finals, losing to Liverpool.

"I want to progress to be the best that I can be and I believe working with Jose Mourinho will help me develop in the right way and at the right club," said Bailly, who will likely partner England's Chris Smalling in central defence next season.

The capture of Bailly marks the first of an expected flurry of signings by Mourinho as he seeks to restore the fortunes of the 20-times English champions who won the FA Cup last season but fin-

ished fifth in the Premier League.

United, who will play in the Europa league after missing out on Champions League place, are also favourites to sign Sweden striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic while Juventus midfielder Paul Pogba has also been linked with a move to Old Trafford.—Reuters



Eric Bailly. PHOTO: MANUTD.COM