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REFRAMING THE DISCUSSION

Political dialogue framework to be amended within NCA framework



Representatives sit down for discussions regarding the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference. PHOTO: MNA

A COORDINATION meeting was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday to discuss the organisation of the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference.

The meeting focused on how to amend the Framework for Political Dialogue within the frame-

work of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement to suit the coming Panglong conference.

Dr Tin Myo Win, chairman of the Second Subcommittee for Preparation of the 21st Century Panglong Conference, briefed those in attendance on what State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu

Kyi had instructed and the outcomes of the talks held in Chiang Mai earlier this month, saying that the talks focused on inviting non-signatories to the NCA to the conference.

First Subcommittee Secretary-1 Dr Salai Lian Hmung Sak-hong quoted the state counsellor

as suggesting separate agenda for the peace talk and a civil society forum.

The meeting drew seven representatives from eight ethnic armed groups which have signed the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. On the government side, eight delegates led by Lt-Gen Ya

Pyae joined the meeting.

According to Secretary U Hla Maung Shwe, the 21st Century Panglong Conference is expected to be held in late July or August and attract ethnic armed groups who are yet to sign the agreement.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Restoration of peace critical to constitutional amendment: Speaker U Win Myint

**Kyaw Thu Htet &
Thein Ko Lwin**

THE restoration of internal peace will greatly facilitate the government's efforts to amend the constitution, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint said yesterday in a meeting with correspondents.

The rule of law, national reconciliation and internal peace are

essential prerequisites for successful amendments to the constitution, the speaker said, stressing that relentless efforts would be exerted toward the realisation of constitutional amendments within the tenure of the current parliament.

"The success of reconciliation will further reinforce mutual trust, understanding and re-

spect and lead to the restoration of peace," he added, pointing to the need for active participation of the people in the processes of reconciliation and peace.

U Win Myint also responded to queries regarding the checks and balances between the government and parliament.

When asked whether the parliament was under the influ-

ence of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, the speaker described the state counsellor as a person of discipline, adding that she asks permission to enter parliament.

"She visits the parliament when she has my permission. If I refuse permission, she doesn't come."

According to the speaker,

the parliament has 20 committees to keep the system of checks and balances in effect, with each committee assigned to individual ministries.

"I always point out the weaknesses of ministries in their response to the queries raised at the parliament," U Win Myint told the media when asked about his relationship with the government.

Pyithu Hluttaw



Union Minister Dr. Myo Thein Gyi.
PHOTO: MNA

First regular session of the Pyithu Hluttaw concludes

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint expressed his thanks to parliamentarians for electing and approving the Speakers, the Deputy Speakers, the President, the Vice-Presidents, the Cabinet and Union-level organisations on behalf of the people in his appreciation speech on the final day of the first session of the Second Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday.

In his clarification on parliamentary activities the Speak-

er said that the Pyithu Hluttaw formed four standing committees and 15 Hluttaw affairs committees in order to emphasize the interests of the country and its people.

He called on parliamentarians to strive to ensure national reconciliation, internal peace, the democratic federal union and better living standard for the people.

He also stressed the need for making great strides in the

implementation of development undertakings while the Hluttaw is in recess.

The Second Pyithu Hluttaw's first regular session commenced on 1 February and ended yesterday. During the session, 83 starred questions and 103 unstarred questions were answered and 12 proposals were put forward to the Parliament. Of 16 Bills, nine were discussed and two bylaws were approved.
— Myanmar News Agency



U Htay Win Aung (or)
U Pyone Cho. PHOTO: MNA

Amyotha Hluttaw



Union Minister Dr. Win Myat Aye.
PHOTO: MNA



U Oakkar Min.
PHOTO: MNA

Draft national youth policy expected to be out by October end

WITH the formation of a central committee and drafting teams, the process of drafting the National Youth Policy is underway opening opportunities for youth to take part in the process, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye told the Amyotha Hluttaw that entered recess yesterday.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (SWRR) began developing the National Youth Policy as part of its 100-day plan on 21 April, said the Union minister, adding

that the draft policy is slated to be out by the end of this October.

According to the Union minister, youth of the age group (15-24) years make up 17.81 per cent of the country's total population based on the 2014 Myanmar Population and Housing Census.

Regarding the Myanmar Youth Forum scheduled to be held this weekend in Sagaing's Monywa Township, the Union minister replied that repre-

sentatives from the Ministry of SWRR, the Ministry of Health and Sports and the Ministry of Education are set to be present at the forum in order to collect the ideas of those present for drafting the policy.

Next, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than made a clarification on parliamentary activities during the first session of the Second Amyotha Hluttaw and announced that the session had come to an end.
— Myanmar News Agency

Nationwide matriculation exam results released

THE results of the 2016 matriculation examinations were released today with a pass rate of 29.92 per cent, bringing joy to the 190,388 students who passed.

Of the 636,237 students who took part in the exams at official centres in the country's regions and states as well as foreign examination centres in

March, 190,388, or 29.92 per cent, passed.

According to statistics, the number of students who passed with distinctions was 47,024. Of them, the number of students who received six distinctions was 893 while 29,258 students received distinction in one subject, 7,293 distinctions in two subjects, 4,650 distinctions in

three subjects, 3,116 distinctions in four subjects and 1,814 received distinctions in five subjects.

Of the 190,388 students who passed the list of outstanding students for the 2016 matriculation exam with a combination of subjects in science or the arts were announced separately.— Myanmar News Agency

Panda textile factory to be sued for breach of employment contract

THE Mandalay Region Labour Department is suing the Panda textile factory in Paleik, Mandalay for breaching an employment contract, said Staff Officer U Min Min Win of the department yesterday.

Sintgaing Township Court has allowed the department to sue the textile factory, added the staff officer.

Around 500 workers from the factory have staged a sit-in strike since 3 June and so, an agreement has not been made de-

spite efforts to settle the dispute by the department, said sources.

The employer accused of breaching the contract is to be sued for amending the contract without seeking the consent of the workers, said the staff officer, adding that the employer failed to inform the department of amendments to the contract.

"On whether or not there is a breach of contract, the judgment of the court will be final in the case." The employment contract was inked at the department on

9 March, 2015 and amending or revising the contract can only be made with the approval of the department, he added. According to rules and regulations of the 2013 Employment and Skill Development Law, anyone found guilty of breaching any provisions in the contract is liable to imprisonment of no more than three months or be subject to fine or both. Daw Tin Tin, manager of the textile factory, said that negotiations are ongoing. — Aung Thant Khaing



Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and wife Daw Lwin Lwin Hman are welcomed by Philippine Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Alex Garcia Chua at the reception to celebrate the 118th Anniversary of the Proclamation of Philippine Independence of the Republic of the Philippines and the 60th Anniversary of Myanmar-Philippines Diplomatic Relations yesterday. PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Human Rights Law available on third-year curriculum for law students as of 2016-17 academic year

HUMAN Rights Law will be featured on the curriculum of law student's third year of study as a core discipline starting from the 2016-2017 academic year, the Pyithu Hluttaw was told yesterday.

"As a core discipline, human rights law will be available on the third-year curriculum for law students as of the 2016-2017 aca-

demic year."

In his response to a question posed by U Pyone Cho of Dawbon Constituency, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi added that the LL.M degree course has allowed students to study human rights law as part of the Law-Module621B.
— Myanmar News Agency

Corrigendum

PLEASE read Tuesday instead of Monday in the story entitled 'Daw Su Su Lwin hosts a tea for wife of S'pore PM' which appeared on this daily issued on 9-6-2016. — Editor

Rice, foodstuff airlifted into Khaunglanphu, Kachin State

TATMADAW helicopters are transporting food donated by the regional government to the people of Khaunglanphu region in Putao district, Kachin State.

Altogether 80 bags of rice, 70

visses of onion (a viss is approximately 1.6 kilograms), five visses of garlic, 10 visses of dried fish, 10 visses of vermicelli, 21 visses of potato and 170 packets of salt were airlifted into the region via Putao on

7 June. 250 bags of rice carried by Tatmadaw vehicles to Magwayza village are being delivered to the region with the use of motorcycles and mules.—Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services



Members of the Tatmadaw loading a helicopter with rice bags to send to Kachin State. PHOTO: OFFICE OF COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES

Japan's weather news company reaches Yangon

A Japanese weather forecast company has opened its branch in Yangon, according to Nikkei, a Japanese news agency.

Japan's Weathernews, based in Chiba Prefecture, is a company that provides meteorological information for foreign shipping companies to ensure safe routes at sea.

The company collects the

weather information from all over the world and sends the forecasts for the safety of foreign shipping companies. It will also send the weather information of Myanmar like the companies from Japan, America, Denmark and the Philippines.

Weathernews will hire 20 outstanding graduates from the Myanmar Maritime University,

with plans to extend the number of recruits to forty next year.

The Japanese weather company described the university as a reliable source of its new recruitment, given the institution's high excellence of education.

A majority of sailors working with the shipping companies in the Philippines, India and Japan are from Myanmar.—Union Daily

Mongolian President to pay goodwill working visit to Myanmar

His Excellency Mr. Tsakhia Elbegdorj, President of Mongolia, will pay a goodwill working visit to the republic of the Union of Myanmar in the near future.—Myanmar news Agency

Healthcare centers to be built in rural areas

The Ministry of Health and Sports will build 78 health care centers in rural areas in partnership with a fund organization called 3MDG, with the aim of providing comprehensive health care to rural communities.

Rural health care still remains a challenge to the country's health sector, with Three Millennium Development Goals (3MDG) Fund coordinating the ministry's comprehensive healthcare across the country.

Long distances, poor transport infrastructure and high costs present rural people difficult access to health care. Near-

ly 70% of the country's population lives in rural areas. The country has 1,684 health care centers and 8,538 outlets with 18,195 health staffs.

According to the Ministry of Health and Sports, mobile teams provide health care to remote villages.

Denmark, the European Union, Australia, Sweden, Britain and the US support funds to the 3MDG organization, a body of the European Project Association. The ministry is planning to start its universal health coverage system across the country by 2030.—200

Floodwater inundates wards in Kawlin, Wuntho Townships

SIX wards in Kawlin Township, Sagaing Region were flooded as high as three feet and six feet due to torrential rains and the flow of torrents at about 6 am on Thursday.

Similarly, three wards were swamped with more than four feet of water in Wuntho Township and a bridge crossing Daung My creek was damaged by devastating floodwater.

During the flash flood, floodwater entered nearby villages, said local sources, adding that floodwater began to recede in the villages about 10 am.

Tatmadawmen from North-West Command are responding to the disaster and providing flood victims with food and water in cooperation with local authorities.—Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services

Issuance of the Myanmar Judiciary (2011-2015) with Report on Implementation of Year One Strategic Action Plan

THE Supreme Court of the Union today issues a publication of the Myanmar Judiciary (2011-2015) with Report on Implementation of Year One Strategic Action Plan.

The book reveals the Vision, Missions and Values of the Court, the Courts and their jurisdictions formed by the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, 2008 and the Union Judiciary Law, 2010 and organizational structure of the Supreme Court of the Union which is the highest Court of the Union. It then highlights some innovation and significant effort of the Judiciary within its 5-year period including the implementation of Year One Strategic Action Plan.

In the Report on Implemen-

tation of Year One Strategic Action Plan, it mentions about the entire implementation of high priority measures in 2015 within a fixed time in cooperation with international partner institutions and with great efforts of all stakeholders, judges and staff and detailed implementation of the Action Plan is set out in Appendix.

The Report on Implementation of Year One Strategic Action Plan submitted by the Action Plan Implementation Committee makes an assist to raise public awareness on the Myanmar Judiciary bringing about "Advancing Justice Together". The Report is available on the official website <http://www.unionsupremecourt.gov.mm>.—Myanmar News Agency

MoU inked between Myanmar, GOPA Consultants

A MEMORANDUM of understanding was signed between the Ministry of Planning and Finance and GOPA Consultants, a leading German development consulting firm, on Friday to implement the Institutional Strengthening and Policy Dialogue Support Project.

U Tun Tun Naing, director-general of the Foreign Economic Relations Department, and Mr Patrick Krause, director of GOPA Consultants inked the MoU for the new project which will be implemented with financial support provided by the European Union.

The new project will help promote the socio-economic status of Myanmar citizens by drawing project plans to fulfill their needs as well as promoting the skills of policymakers from both government and non-government organisations.

Present at the signing cere-



A signing ceremony between Ministry of Planning and Finance and GOPA Consultants in progress in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

mony were the country's deputy attorney-general, permanent secretaries, directors-general and deputy directors-general from the relevant ministries as well as a delegation from GOPA Consultants led by its

Director Mr Patrick Krause.

Established in 1965, GOPA Consultants is a leading German development consulting firm. The body is one of the strongest consulting groups in Europe.—Myanmar News Agency

Two million job opportunities will be created by 2020

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism is planning to create job opportunities for 2 million Myanmar workers by 2020.

“According to the Myanmar Tourism Federation, there are currently over 1million Myanmar workers employed in the tourism industry either directly or indirectly. Tourism is a part of business,” said U Htein Aung Naing, Director of Taunggyi Hotels and Tourism Department.

Up to 4.5 million tourists had visited Myanmar by the end of 2015. The department has a target of 7 million tourists by 2020.

The first part of strategic five-year tourism plan of ASEAN countries was implemented from 2011-2015 whereas the second 10-year project will run from 2016 to 2025.

The World Tourism Organisation (WTO) announced that tourism will be the best business in the world by 2020. New hotels are being constructed and many travel agencies have emerged over the last tourism season. As a result, new airlines, restaurants, souvenir and gift shops, and transportation companies have created job opportunities for locals.—200

Lifestyle of Salon tribe will be showcased

THE Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation is preparing to showcase the lifestyle of the Salon tribe who are on the brink of extinction at the National Races village located in Thaketa Township, Yangon.

The ministry is set to build a Salon house furnished to display the lifestyle of Salons within the village. The ministry will build a miniature building in which documents and photographs will be shown. There will be a traditional curved wooden boat on display.

“The theme of the Salon home is the idea of Dr. Aung Thu of the Ministries for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation. He visited the National Races village on 24 April.” said an official from National Races village.—200



Visitors seen at the National Races village. PHOTO: 200

Crime NEWS

Yaba, ice, marijuana seized in Tamu

A COMBINED investigation team comprising officers and staff from Tamu township seized yaba pills from a motorcycle driver at Kanan village entrance gate, Khan Pat town on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off, police searched Paung Kho Hsay and Gin Kho Hsay and discovered 500 yaba pills.

On the same day, police in Yangon West District discovered 230 yaba pills on one Ma Tin Zar Lwin at the corner of Suhtoopan and Mani Sithu roads in Dagon Myothit (South) township. Further investigation prompted the police to search the home of one Ma Tin Zar Lwin on Minglar road, ward 21, Dagon Myothit (South) township, and seized 10 yaba pills and marijuana weighing 22 grams. One Aung Kyaw was found together with the host.

Similarly, police from



Paung Kho Hsay and Gin Kho Hsay. PHOTO: MPF

Tachilek police station searched a vehicle being driven by one Aik Kyain with Ma Jin Mi and Sai Hlyoe on board. Police found and confiscated ice weighing 170

grams and a firearm. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

Seven people arrested for car vandalism

SEVEN people were arrested for vandalising the windshield of a vehicle during a police patrol around Mandalay on Wednesday.

An investigation revealed that three men drove away at the sight of a police patrol approaching them. The police stopped Walar Kyi Lwin, 17, Waiyan Maung, 15, and Win Min Tun, 16, at the corner of 26 and 90 roads in Mandalay. They were taken to the local police station.

When interrogated the trio admitted that they had destroyed the windshield of a car parked on 62 road in Chanmyathasi township. They also admitted that their accomplices were Aung Phyo Thu alias Paung Paung, 17, Arkar Kyaw alias Chit Htway, 18, Ma Nge Nge Htet, 18 and Min Htet Maung, 15, from Aungmyaythazan township. The local police have charged the group with vandalism. — Tin Maung

Corpse found in sugarcane field

AN administrator from Inn Daung village-tract found a male body inside the hut of a sugarcane field located near Kyo Khone village on Wednesday.

Local police rushed to the scene where the body was found. The corpse was later later identified as one Maung Zaw, 42, from Inn Daung village-tract. The murder is currently under investigation by local police.—U Ye (Katha)

Illegal timber seized in Monywa

LOCAL police discovered a three-wheeled vehicle with illegal timber on board on the corner of Kyauk Kar and Moe Kau pagoda roads in Myawady ward, Monywa town, Sagaing region, on Wednesday.

A combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from Monywa police sta-

tion confiscated the teak planks which were found to weigh 0.7 tonnes with an approximate street value of K62,880. The illegal timber was reported to belong to one Zaw Min Latt from the Soe Brother timber shop. Police have filed charges against the driver and the owner of the timber.—200

Vehicle accident injures three people in Meiktila



Damaged truck seen at the accident. PHOTO: TIN HLAING (MEIKKILA)

A PASSENGER vehicle being driven by one Paing Soe Thu, 26, with Tayoutpu, 43, and Mya Moe Oo, 22, on board crashed into road-dividing barriers after the driver lost control of the car near milepost 306/6 on the Yan-

gon — Mandalay highway in Meiktila township, on Tuesday.

Three people sustained minor injuries in the accident. The police have filed charges against the driver.—Tin Hlaing (Meiktila)

LOCAL Business

Price of beans, pulses high in domestic market

THE price of beans and pulses have become a high in the local market due to increased demands from India, said U Min Ko Oo, secretary of Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame seeds Merchants Association.

Since the beginning of monsoon season, local merchants have received high demand from the neighbouring countries for pulses especially mung bean and pigeon pea.

Local merchants received a low demand for beans from foreign trade partners last month.

India is the largest buyer for Myanmar. Nearly 80 per cent of export pulses normally go to the vast South Asian country.

Myanmar currently exports around 200,000 tonnes of beans and pulses. That number is significantly less compared to the same period last financial year. The country exported 1.2 million tonnes of beans and pulses last FY.

The price of mung bean and pigeon pea have increased to around K40,000 per tonne. Mung bean are being sold for K1.73 million per tonne and pigeon pea for over K1.5 million in the current market.—*Chan Chan*



Visitors are seen at the real estate expo in Yangon's Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall. PHOTO: SOE WIN (NLM)

Property expo crowded with visitors

A REAL estate expo, which was launched on Friday in Yangon's Tatmadaw Exhibition Hall, is being crowded with visitors.

This is the third time iMyanmarhouse.com, a popular property website in the country, has organised the event, with plans to host the 4th expo in December

of this year. The last event was held in December 2015.

The organiser said flats and condominium apartments worth a total of K25 billion were sold during the last expos in May and December. The event organiser expects to sell at least 12 billion in real estate projects during the

current expo.

Over 50 construction companies are participating in the event to display their flats and condo apartments for sale, pricing between K30 million and K70 million for flats and between over K60 million and K150 million for condo apartments.

Items have been sold through both installment plans and full settlement plans, said U Nay Min Thu, director of the property website. Knowledge about real estate will be shared by 15 experts through public seminars during the three-day event.—*Soe Win (NLM)*

New buses to be added to BRT routes this month

NEW public transport buses will be added along the routes of Bus Rapid Transfer (BRT) by the Public Bus Company, its spokesperson said.

With the aim of fulfilling the demands of Yangon commuters, the company has decided to increase their fleet to 20 buses this month. The numbers of daily commuters along BRT routes has increased three fold.

Customers may buy pre-paid cards at ticket centres which have been opened in Botahtaung, Myanigon, Hledan, Wirelet Market, eight-mile, Htaukkyant, Thamine and Kokkai between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. daily.

Currently, the company operates a fleet of 45 buses imported from foreign countries along



A BRT bus seen plying. PHOTO KHIN MAUNG WIN

its routes within the municipal area.

On 7 February, with a fleet of 18 buses imported from China, the company launched its services along the first route of Bus Rapid Transfer (BRT), which has 23 stops running from Htaukkyant to Pyay Road and Bogyoke Aung San Road to 8-mile junction via Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road.

The second route has 27 stops running Pyay Road, Kaba-Aye Pagoda Road, Bogyoke Aung San Road, Botahtaung Pagoda Road and Strand Road.

The Public Bus Company began its business with K10 billion worth of shares owned by the government and K15 billion worth of shares owned by public companies.—*MKP/Union Daily*

Fingerlings production to be boosted by Mon State Fisheries Department

THE local fisheries department in Mon State plans to produce 1.6 million fingerlings under the government's 100-day plan, its spokesperson said.

"Thirty per cent of new products will be distributed to local farmers through various canals free of charge and the rest will be sold to local fish breeders at a reasonable price," said U Than Chaung, director of the department.

At present, over one million

marketable fingerlings including sturgeon, a variety of carp, barbus fish, large carp and Tilapia have been bred at the Mon State Fish Breeding Camp (Thaton).

Last year, the fish breeding camp in Thanton Township produced 3.8 million fingerlings and reportedly plans to boost its production this year. The state's fisheries department is currently implementing a project to construct ponds in cooperation with local farmers.—*Thet Oo (Thaton)*



Fish are caught to be bred at a farm in Yangon. PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

North Korea proposes inter-Korean talks on 15 August, South Korea refuses

BEIJING — North Korea has proposed holding talks with South Korea on 15 August to discuss the reunification of the Korean Peninsula, the North's official media reported on Friday.

But South Korea turned down the proposal, with a spokesman for the Unification Ministry saying Friday that the North must first move toward abandoning its nuclear ambitions.

The North Korean government, political parties and other organisations held a joint meeting in Pyongyang on Thursday and adopted an "appeal to all Koreans," according to a Korean Central News Agency report.

In the appeal, the North Koreans proposed holding inter-Korean talks

"for reunification on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of Korea's liberation" from Japan's 1910-1945 colonial rule.

"Now is the crucial time for all Koreans to turn out as one and dynamically advance to pull down the barrier of hostility and confrontation and bring earlier the bright day of reunification," the plea said.

The move was adopted as part of efforts to realise a united Korean Peninsula under a policy underlined at a congress of the Workers' Party of Korea held in Pyongyang last month for the first time since 1980.

Following the latest party congress, North Korea has been calling for inter-Korean talks, but South Korea has rejected such proposals.—*Kyodo News*



An aerial photo taken on 25 September, 2015 from a seaplane of Hainan Maritime Safety Administration shows cruise vessel Haixun 1103 heading to the Yacheng 13-1 drilling rig during a patrol in south China Sea. PHOTO: XINHUA

China, ASEAN nations vow to effectively implement DoC on South China Sea

HANOI — Senior officials from China and the ASEAN nations vowed on Thursday to fully and effectively implement the Declaration on Conducts of the Parties in the South China Sea (DoC).

The 12th Senior Officials' Meeting on the Implementation of the DoC, co-chaired by Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin and Singapore's Permanent Secretary of Foreign Ministry Chee Wee Kiong, was held in

Viet Nam's northern Halong City. All parties vowed to continue to fully and effectively implement the DoC, deepen practical maritime cooperation and jointly safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea.

The officials discussed the proposal that foreign ministers of China and the ASEAN nations issue a joint statement on the full and effective implementation of the DoC, and agreed to strive to

reach a consensus at an early date. On the consultations of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (CoC), the 11 parties promised to implement relevant early harvest measures as soon as possible and speed up the formulation of a guideline for the Hotline Platform among senior officials of ministries of foreign affairs between China and ASEAN nations in response to maritime emergencies.

They also discussed the better use of the Code for Unplanned Encounters at Sea in the South China Sea.

All parties reaffirmed their aspirations for an early conclusion of the CoC on the basis of consensus, and vowed to boost maritime cooperation, enhance mutual trust, and jointly safeguard peace and stability in the South China Sea as well as prosperity and development in the region.—*Xinhua*

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi

ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye

ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe

dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Proof Reader & Translator - Ye Myint

Expatriate Consultant Editors

Jacob Goldberg

counslantanteditor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Alec Wilmot

counslantanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Jaidan Coonan

Chief Translator & Editor

Kyaw Thura,

editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor

Ye Htut Tin (Local News)

editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International Editors

Tun Tun Naing (Editor)

intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators

Khaing Thanda Lwin,

reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Hay Mar Tin Win,

translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Ei Myat Mon, Tin Nwe Lynn

Chief Reporter

Tun Aung Kyaw, reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Reporters

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

Khin Mg Win (Mandalay Bureau)

Computer Team

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

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

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

Circulation & Advertising

San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:

subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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1st subsidized egg freezing in Japan conducted at Chiba hospital

CHIBA, (Japan) — Under the first such programme in Japan subsidized by a local government to address the nation's low birthrate, a hospital in Chiba Prefecture has begun freezing the eggs of women to preserve them for future pregnancy, sources close to the matter said on Thursday.

The ethics committee of the Juntendo University Urayasu Hospital in March approved freezing eggs from four women, and the Urayasu municipal govern-

ment and the hospital are expected to hold a press conference soon to announce the project, the sources said.

The city government and the hospital jointly launched the project last July with the aim of investigating how ova freezing would work, and how it could address the nation's low birthrate. Urayasu city plans to spend 90 million yen (\$844,000) on subsidies over the three years to March 2018 to help female

residents preserve their eggs for use in producing children in the future.

The subsidies are available to women aged 20 to 34 living in the city, with the frozen eggs to be used for pregnancy by the time they are 45 years old in principle.

A woman would typically pay 500,000 to 600,000 yen to have her eggs collected, frozen and preserved. The subsidy lowers the amount a woman has to pay out of pocket to

around 100,000 yen, including the costs of injections and medication, according to the city.

More than 40 women have attended the hospital's sessions to explain the project. Egg freezing began as a way to help women who may become sterile due to cancer treatment or for other reasons. But healthy women too began hoping to have their ova preserved while they are young for use when they get older.

—*Kyodo News*

Hindu hacked to death in latest attack on Bangladesh minorities

DHAKA — Suspected Islamist militants hacked a Hindu to death in Bangladesh on Friday, police said, the latest in a series of attacks on minority groups in the south Asian nation.

Nitya Ranjan Pandey, 60, who had worked at a

temple as a volunteer for 40 years, was taking an early morning walk in the northwestern district of Pabna when he was attacked, police said.

The killing came days after an elderly Hindu priest and a Christian were hacked to death in attacks

claimed by Islamic State.

Militants have killed more than 30 people in Bangladesh, including members of religious minorities, liberal bloggers and academics, since February last year.

Islamic State and al Qaeda have claimed re-

sponsibility for most of the killings, but the government denies either group has a presence in Bangladesh and says domestic militants are responsible.

Hindus and Christians make up about 10 per cent of Bangladesh's 160 million population.—*Reuters*

Venezuela opposition attacked as they seek progress on Maduro recall

CARACAS — A group of Venezuelan opposition lawmakers said on Thursday government supporters attacked them as they tried to enter the electoral board headquarters to press their demand for a recall referendum against unpopular socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

National Assembly majority leader Julio Borges said 10 lawmakers had been allowed to enter the premises to demand the agency speed up verification of signatures for the referendum, but that a National Guard general then ordered they be pushed towards militant pro-government groups called “colectivos.”

The Information Ministry did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The Supreme Court has blocked protests near the board, citing security concerns following violent demonstrations.

Tension is rising in Venezuela as a severe economic crisis fuels protests over chronic food shortages and marches to demand Maduro’s departure.

A video tweeted by opposition lawmaker Marialbert Barrios showed a group trying to enter the building by crossing a barricade of security forces, who pushed them back using what appeared to be pepper spray.

A photo taken by French wire service AFP appeared to show a man hitting Borges with a pipe.

“The colectivos acted with



Demonstrators clash with riot police officers during a protest called by university students against Venezuela’s government in Caracas, Venezuela, on 9 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

total impunity — they had pipes, motorbike helmets, rocks, explosive artifacts, and they used them against us,” Borges told journalists as blood dripped from his nose and mouth onto his shirt and jacket.

Hundreds of students protested in Caracas on Thursday, with some throwing stones and Molotov cocktails at security forces.

“We’re not here for any political party; we’re here for the Venezuelan people. People are

hungry, people are angry,” said Rafael Torres, 19, an economics student.

Venezuela’s opposition, riding the wave of public ire over the crisis, won control of the National Assembly in a December election but says the election board is under the sway of the government and is dragging its feet on the referendum.

Government officials have said there is no time this year to organise the vote. If Maduro lost a referendum in 2016, a new

presidential election would be held, but if he departed in 2017, his vice president would take over.

Maduro, 53, says the opposition is seeking a coup with help from the United States, but opposition leaders scoff, saying it is the government, the military and grassroots militants which are turning increasingly violent.

In a recent protest, a security official pepper-sprayed opposition leader Henrique Capriles in the face.—Reuters

After deadly Tel Aviv attack, Israel suspends Palestinian permits

JERUSALEM — The Israeli military on Thursday revoked permits for 83,000 Palestinians to visit Israel and said it would send hundreds more troops to the occupied West Bank after a Palestinian gun attack that killed four Israelis in Tel Aviv.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the assault by two gunmen on Wednesday in a trendy shopping and dining market near Israel’s Defence Ministry, but Hamas and other Palestinian militant groups were quick to praise it.

The assailants came from near Hebron, in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. They dressed in suits and ties and posed as customers at a restaurant, ordering a drink and a chocolate brownie before pulling out automatic weapons and opening fire, sending diners fleeing in panic.

Two women and two men were killed and six others were wounded. The attack followed a lull in recent weeks after what had been near-daily stabbings and shootings on Israeli streets. It was the deadliest single incident since an attack on a Jerusalem synagogue in November 2014 that killed five.

The Tel Aviv gunmen, cousins in their 20s who, security experts said, appeared to have entered Israel without permits, were quickly apprehended. One of them was shot and wounded.—Reuters

Libyan forces fight Islamic State in Sirte, predict city to fall soon

TRIPOLI — Forces aligned with Libya’s unity government battled Islamic State on Thursday in the militant group’s stronghold of Sirte, but faced resistance from snipers as they edged towards the city centre.

Brigades mainly composed of fighters from the western city of Misrata have advanced rapidly, driving the militants back along the coastal road west of Sirte before seizing strategic points on the edge of the city.

A separate militia that controls terminals in Libya’s oil crescent, the Petroleum Facilities Guard (PFG), said it had advanced further from the east to reach the town of Harawa, about 70 km (44 miles) east of Sirte. If the advances are sustained, they could dislodge IS from its most important base outside the Middle East and provide a boost to the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA).

Mohamed al-Gasri, a military spokesman based in Misrata, said fighting was underway on Thursday near the Ouagadougou conference hall, where IS holds religious instruction sessions.



A vehicle burns as forces aligned with Libya’s new unity government advance on the eastern and southern outskirts of the Islamic State stronghold of Sirte, in this still image taken from video on 9 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

“We think that Sirte will be liberated within days, not weeks,” Gasri said. “The Daesh (Islamic State) snipers are a concern to us because they shoot from long distances and that has hindered us in the battle inside the city.”

The media office for the brigades said in a statement that Libyan air force jets had carried out strikes near the Ouagadougou hall.

The brigades had already claimed control over a number of strategic sites on Sirte’s outskirts

including an air base, several military camps and a roundabout where IS had previously hung the bodies of executed enemies.

Dozens of brigade members have been killed and hundreds wounded in the past month of fighting. On Wednesday alone, 15 men were killed and 95 injured, a Misrata hospital spokesman said.

The main hospital in Misrata is overflowing and some fighters have been flown to Turkey or Italy for treatment. On Thursday the

GNA appealed in a statement for further international medical aid “for our heroes at the front lines”.

Islamic State established a presence in several Libyan cities from late 2014, taking full control of Sirte, hometown of veteran ruler Muammar Gaddafi, the following year. It also seized about 250 km (155 miles) of Mediterranean coastline either side of Sirte.

But the group has struggled to win support or retain territory elsewhere in Libya, suffering recent setbacks in both the east and west of the country. The GNA is designed to replace two rival governments that have competed for power from Tripoli and from the east since 2014, backed by complex alliances of armed groups.

Both the PFG and key armed groups from Misrata have pledged to support it. Western powers see the new government as the best chance of ending the turmoil plaguing Libya since Gaddafi was forced from power in an uprising five years ago.

At the Pentagon, spokesman Peter Cook said the United States was encouraged by the progress on

the ground but said no decisions had been made regarding greater US military involvement in Libya, where teams of US special operations forces have been rotating in and out of the country for months to get to know local fighters on the ground.

“We haven’t made any additional decisions about US action at this point. We’re obviously watching it very closely and (are) very encouraged by what we see,” Cook told a news briefing.

Since arriving in Tripoli in March the GNA has sought to meld some of Libya’s key armed factions into a unified security force, even as it continues to face resistance from political and military hardliners in the east.

These include eastern military commander Khalifa Haftar, who has been conducting a campaign against Islamists and other opponents in Benghazi for the past two years. Heavy fighting and air strikes have continued there over the past two days, with at least eight of Haftar’s forces killed, medical and security officials said.—Reuters

Opinion

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

Third generation rights

Khin Maung Aye

IN recent years, the debate over citizenship rights has broadened to include recognition of a variety of other rights usually termed as the third generation of rights, supplementing the first generation of civil and political rights and the second generation of social rights. Those third generation rights are group rights and the environmental rights.

First, there are certain group rights i. e. the rights of such groups struggling for

the rights such as women, ethnic, cultural and linguistic minorities, rights of children etc. The environmental citizenship is related to the quality of life. Like social citizenship, it is not easy to define exactly what the right in this sphere should be or to legislate for their protection. Nevertheless, it is a fact that the coordination of a pleasing, supportive and justly enjoyable environment is being denied to some people and are under threat globally.

On the other hand, there

is an inherent contradiction in placing environment rights in the citizenship rights. The world economy and earth's ecology are driving in different direction; the former being a capitalist economy whereas the latter being to protect the environment. Apart from these rights, there are other social rights of housing, rights concerning health care, food, water and social security.

The list is familiar such as air, water and noise pollution, meteorological perils

such as erosion of ozone layer and global warming, and resource depletion caused by climate change, industrialization and increase in pollution. Such rights are also expanding the very concept of citizenship beyond its traditional boundaries because many of the forces of environmental degradation cannot possibly be constrained.

This being so, it is necessary to strike a proper balance between environmental rights and citizenship rights.

Myanmar has set a Path to a Bright Energy Future by 2030

KYAW SAN has trouble studying at night. The student from Yangon Division's Buu Tar Suu Village finds it especially difficult during the rainy season when his old solar-powered lamps cannot be charged, forcing him to study by candlelight.

Win Win Nwe, a grade 5 student, also often prepares for exams by candlelight. Her family can't always afford to buy candles, adding another obstacle to an activity many take for granted. "If we can afford candles, we buy them. If we can't, we don't. We struggle and do our best," said her father Kyi Htwe.

Today, two-thirds of Myanmar's population is not connected to the national electricity grid and 84 percent of rural households lack access to electricity. No power means no light, no refrigerators, no recharging phones and batteries. Small businesses can't stay open in the evenings, and clinics cannot refrigerate medicines. Access to reliable and affordable energy is essential for a country's development, job creation, poverty reduction and shared prosperity goals.

The Government of Myanmar has developed a National Electrification Plan (NEP) to bring electricity to every community in Myanmar by 2030 – 7.2 million new household and business connections. The plan aims to achieve 50 percent electricity access by 2020, 75 percent by 2025, and universal access by 2030 through the extension of the national grid as well as off-grid solar home sys-

tems and mini-grids in rural communities. By joining the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All (SEFA) initiative and adopting the NEP, Myanmar has a path to securing a bright energy future. But there is

'Increase efficiency through corporatization and commercialization of Myanmar's electricity utilities. An important recent achievement is the restructuring and corporatization'

much work to do; over the next 15 years, building the grid will cost about \$10 billion. Mobilizing this finance will be one of Myanmar's biggest challenges and will need a financially viable power sector and sound policies.

Three priority policies could speed Myanmar's achievement of universal access by 2030:

Improve transparency and competition in the electricity market in order to mobilize more private sector investment. Now that the National Electrification Executive Committee (NEEC) has been established, putting the right policies in place and building institutional capacity are important next steps. Universal access to electricity by 2030 will not be achieved with public resources alone; increasing private sector participation is essential. Research across many countries shows that attracting private in-

vestment involves stable, transparent, and enforced rules. An electrification initiative of the scope of Myanmar's will be sustainable in the long term only if the costs are covered by a transparent combination of revenues

and well targeted subsidies.

In many countries, one of the greatest threats to long-term sustainability – not just of the energy sector, but to inclusive economic growth generally – is the artificially low pricing of electricity and poorly targeted energy subsidies. Tariffs that are heavily subsidized can undermine the financial viability of the power sector and eventually fail to protect the poor if the subsidies are not fiscally affordable. Balancing the need for cost-reflective energy pricing and protections for poorer households is an important part of expanding and modernizing Myanmar's energy sector.

Increase efficiency through corporatization and commercialization of Myanmar's electricity utilities. An important recent achievement is the restructuring and corporatization that have been initiated in the power dis-

tribution sector. To improve performance and overall efficiency in power distribution, the Government of Myanmar is corporatizing the Yangon Electricity Supply Board and created the Mandalay Electricity Supply Corporation through the restructuring of the Electricity Supply Enterprise. As a result, distribution losses were reduced from around 23 percent to 14 percent in Mandalay and 16 percent in Yangon. This is an impressive achievement; to take this action a step further and continue the loss reduction program could involve substantial investments in the expansion and modernization of overloaded and outdated distribution networks. In Latin America, regulation was accompanied by the privatization of electric utilities. This contributed to helping expand capacity and system efficiency (with some countries in Latin America reducing system losses to less than 10 percent).

Create an independent electricity regulatory agency. A stable regulatory framework is essential for private sector participation, protection of consumers, and management of boundaries between grid and off-grid options for rural electrification. Many countries around the world, including Thailand and Vietnam, have established independent energy regulators to design tariffs and subsidy schemes that secure the financial viability of service providers and affordability for consumers. A new policy and regulatory framework would enable a transparent and efficient electricity market, particularly relat-

ed to competitive bidding for new power generation. An efficient electricity market will entail transparent pricing policies consistent with the principles of full cost recovery and the establishment of an independent Electricity Regulatory Commission, as planned under Myanmar's 2014 Electricity Law. In 1995, fewer than 10 developing countries had established electricity regulators but by 2008 about 60 had developed regulatory capacity. Recent studies show that regulatory agencies are significantly associated with higher capacity and higher productivity.

At the World Bank Group we are proud to partner with Myanmar in implementing the NEP. We support a long-term approach to improving the regulation of the electricity market and to developing a framework for increasing access to electricity and tracking results. We will look beyond individual projects in helping Myanmar to meet the goal of universal access to affordable, reliable and sustainable energy by 2030.

This blog is based on the World Bank Group's policy note "Energizing Myanmar." The authors are senior specialists in the Energy and Extractives Global Practice at the World Bank Group.

By Dejan Ostojic, Rome Chavapracha, Xiaoping Wang, Myoe Myint, Alan David Lee, and Heather Worley

Police hold workshop on combating wildlife and forest crimes



Workshop on combating wildlife and forest crimes in progress. PHOTO: MPF

THE Myanmar Police Force and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) organised a national-level workshop on the prevention and combating of wildlife and forest crimes at the Park Royal Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on Tuesday, 7 June.

At the meeting, the Deputy Police Chief of Myanmar Police Force delivered an opening

speech, and Mr Giovanni Brousard, the Regional Coordinator of the UNODC Global Programme on Combatting Wildlife and Forest crimes in South-east Asia, and representatives of government departments elaborated on the progress of their work on the prevention and combating against wildlife and forest crimes, law enactment and future plans.

Also present at the workshop were officers from Office of the Supreme Court of the Union, the Union Attorney General's Office, the Department of Forestry, the Environmental Conservation Department, the Customs Department, the Anti-corruption Commission and the Forest Police.—*Myanmar Police Force*

The 2nd International Day of Yoga on 19 June 2016 in Yangon



International Day of Yoga. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY INDIA EMBASSY

The 2nd International Day of Yoga is scheduled to be celebrated on 19 June 2016 from 8 AM to 10 AM at the Yangon University Diamond Jubilee Hall.

The Embassy is aware that Yoga is practiced in different forms and there are number of Yoga Schools and practitioners in Myanmar. Last Year Embassy of India organized 1st International Day of Yoga at Thuwunna National Indoor Stadium, Yangon on June 21st, 2016 from 8

AM to 10 AM. But, this year, we are organizing 2nd International Day of Yoga on Sunday, June 19th, 2016, so that on a holiday, maximum number of people can be reached, either at venue or at their home via various television channels that will be covering the main event that includes exercises that will help rejuvenate the urban and rural people alike.

The Embassy of India will also be organizing a number of Yoga Demonstration events by

various Yoga Schools in Yangon on 11th & 12th June as curtain raiser events before our main event at various venues like, Inya Lake, Kandawgyi Lake, People's Park, Maha Bando-la Park, Mya Kyun Thar Park near Sedona Hotel, Kyaik Ka San Stadium, Botahtaung Phaya, Junction Square & St. Mary's Service Convent from 07:00 AM to 10:00 AM, all of you are welcome to join us as per your choice of venue.—*GNLM*

People's Forum

Letter to the Editor

Dear Sir

THIS is in regard to your article published on 20th April 2016, "Let's work together to reform the education system." Truly it is the need of the hour and we too are planning and focusing on the same much needed ground. We are the Salesians of Don Bosco and our society is present in 132 countries, essentially focusing on Technical Education, through vocational training in various trades for the youth (boys/girls). We are presently in the course of developing a Technical Education Project, through which the youth of Myanmar can be trained in various trades. On completion of the training a trainee could either be employed in the growing industries in Myanmar or opt for self entrepreneurship. Primarily, we would like to set up the training center in Don Bosco, Yangon and later spread out to different areas like Mandalay, Myitkyina, Kalay, Thibaw, as per need basis. These different training centers will all be centralized and affiliated to the center in Yangon. We are also seeking to get affiliation from the government for the syllabus and certificate of recognition for the various trades. Along with these we are also planning to have a network for young women who could be trained to set up self help groups.

We are very much looking forward to your support and assistance regarding the above mentioned project. It would be helpful if you could assist and direct us to the different government offices to be approached for the affiliation as well as to set up the Technical Education training center. We would highly appreciate your valuable suggestions and look forward to meeting you in regard to this needed subject.

*Bernard Aye Maung
Project Coordinator*

Disasters prevention pamphlets to be issued in ethnic languages

AS PART of its efforts to raise of natural disaster prevention and management, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement will issue pamphlets written in ethnic languages with plans to distribute them nationwide.

The programme is high on the ministry's list of priorities under the government's 100-day plan, said U Win Htut Oo, one of deputy directors from the ministry. "We distributed disaster prevention pamphlets written only in Myanmar language over the past years."

He added, "The new pamphlets are likely to be pressed before the end of the month, we are planning to distribute them to members of the public living mainly in regions

with the most present danger of natural disasters. This will be completed in conjunction with local government departments.

The ministry is providing disaster prevention and management trainings to locals in Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State through person-centred practices.

Severe flooding in Myanmar occurred between July and September last year over wide parts of the country, destroying 689,200 acres of farmland and inundating 1.29 million acres with water. The majority of casualties were reported in the Ayeyawady Delta area. Over 15,000 houses were destroyed during the disaster.—*NZMS/Union Daily*

Dance and theatre play workshops to come this month

A WELL-known Japanese stage director will soon come to Myanmar to present a dance and theatre play titled "Restaurant of Many Orders".

The event is scheduled to be held on 23 June at the national Theatre in Yangon.

Japanese Stage Director Mr Hiroshi Koike will also conduct workshops in both Yangon and Mandalay over this month.

The main theme of the work-

shop is "recognising one's own body". It will start with a slow movement workshop to teach people to recognise how one's own body moves and then to awake his or her sleeping sensibilities.

Enthusiasts with no background in dance, acting or stage performance may join the event. Interested parties may send their application forms to info.cul@yn.mofa.go.jp.—*GNLM*

Members of South Korea army, maritime policemen and the United Nations Command take part in a joint operation to keep Chinese fishing vessels from operating illegally off the west coast, South Korea, in this picture provided by South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff and released by Yonhap on 10 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



South Korea, UN Command join patrols to halt illegal Chinese fishing

SEOUL — South Korea and the UN Command, which oversees the Korean War armistice, said on Friday they had begun a joint operation to keep Chinese fishing vessels from operating illegally off the west coast.

The move comes after South Korean fishermen, frustrated with incursions by Chinese fishing boats in defiance of coast guard warnings, used rope to impound two Chinese trawlers this

month and handed them over to authorities.

South Korea's navy and coast guard joined with the UN Command to patrol the approximately 60 km (40 mile) stretch of waters in the Han River estuary that runs between the coasts of the rival Koreas, a Defence Ministry official told Reuters.

"Our navy, coast guard and UN Command set up a military police to enter into an operation

to expel Chinese fishing vessels," said the official.

North Korea had been notified of the team's operation as a safety precaution, an official at the Joint Chiefs of Staff said separately.

North and South Korea are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in the armistice, not a peace treaty.

There were more than 10 Chinese boats fishing in the estu-

ary on Friday but they fled to areas near North Korea's shore after the South Korean-UN operation began, the Joint Chiefs of Staff official said.

There was no immediate comment from the Chinese Foreign Ministry when contacted by phone.

The waters are near the Northern Limit Line, the maritime border disputed by the North which has been the scene of deadly naval

clashes between the rival Koreas and violent confrontation between South Korea's coast guard and Chinese fishing vessels.

South Korea has repeated its complaint to China about illegal fishing by Chinese trawlers since the capture of the two vessels. South Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman Cho Joon-hyuk urged Beijing on Thursday to help come up with a permanent solution.—Reuters

For India's surging economy, small is beautiful

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI — For Rohan Sharma, business has never been better. Sales at his autoparts company in Gujarat are booming and the order book has almost doubled in the past year.

His Bhagirath Coach & Metal Fabricators has just invested nearly \$120,000 in new machinery and plans to spend up to \$1.2 million this year to expand capacity.

That's an encouraging sign for Asia's third-largest economy, where stressed balance sheets at big firms and heavy reliance on bank credit, which has dried up following a surge in troubled loans, have stymied efforts to revive private investment.

Sharma does not face such constraints. He says his firm is debt-free and relies mainly on internal resources to fund capacity expansion.

A survey from the Reserve Bank of India shows he is not alone. The annual study of nearly 240,000 unlisted small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) found they are saving their way to growth, helping transform India into the world's fastest-growing large economy in the past two years.

India has more than 45 million SMEs, accounting for nearly 40 per cent of gross domestic product. Most are unlisted, and their earnings growth has outpaced listed companies for the past three years.

"We never allowed exuberance to get the better of hard business logic," Sharma said.

Sales at smaller private firms grew 12 per cent in 2014/15, the central bank survey showed. Sales at listed big companies rose 1.4 per cent over the same period.

Operating profit of the unlisted firms grew an annual 16.6 per cent in the year, three times the pace at listed companies, and they increased their gross savings.

While higher expenses halved net profit growth at private firms, they still grew at double-digit pace. In contrast, listed companies struggled with shrinking profits. Debt-laden big listed firms, meanwhile, are still reluctant to undertake new investments, and foreign firms can find India's labyrinthine regulations overwhelming.

Also, infrastructure and re-

sources needed for complex manufacturing, like roads, skilled labour and consistent power supply, is often lacking.

That led to a contraction in capital spending in the January-March quarter. Despite that, strong consumer spending helped power economic growth of 7.9 per cent, the fastest rate among the world's major economies.

"Being a small-scale company has helped us in getting more orders," said Pramod Patel, managing partner at Reliable Paints.

Patel's company, which supplies industrial paint to the metals, chemical, auto and defence sectors, saw 25 per cent growth in its order book in the fiscal year ending in March.

"We can customise different paint shades for clients, unlike big paint companies which can only provide specific paint shades," he said. Capacity utilisation at his Gujarat-based factory shot up to 80 per cent from 50 per cent in 2014/15. Now, Patel is buying new machines, hiring workers and spending more on marketing.—Reuters

ADB gives green light to road project for Pakistan, first co-financing with AIIB

MANILA — The Asian Development Bank (ADB) approved on Friday a 100-million-US-dollar loan for a highway project in Pakistan, marking its first co-financing with China-led Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB).

In a statement, the Manila-based lending agency said AIIB will extend a 100-million-US-dollar loan subject to its board approval later this month.

The United Kingdom's Department for International Development (DFID) has also committed a 34-million-US-dollar grant for the project.

ADB as the lead financier will administer both the AIIB loan and the DFID grant.

"This is a historic milestone for ADB and AIIB as we jointly aim to meet the pressing infrastructure needs in Asia and the Pacific region," said ADB President Takehiko Nakao.

"The project has strategic value to Pakistan as it supports north-south connectivity, new trade, and

business opportunities, which will boost jobs and cut poverty."

The project is also an integral part of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) corridors.

ADB and AIIB have been preparing projects for co-financing since last year. A memorandum of understanding for collaboration was signed by Nakao and AIIB President Jin Liqun at the time of ADB's annual meeting in Frankfurt, Germany in early May.

ADB said this project will fund the remaining 64-kilometre(km) long four-lane section of the M-4 National Motorway connecting Shorkot and Khanewal in Punjab Province. The project constitutes a key part of a 1,800 km CAREC transport corridor linking the port city of Karachi in the south, to major primary production and population centres including Lahore, Faisalabad, Islamabad and Peshawar, and on to Torkham on the northern border with Afghanistan.—Xinhua

Obama is 'fired up' for Clinton as Democrats seek to unify party

WASHINGTON — US President Barack Obama formally endorsed Hillary Clinton's White House bid on Thursday and called for Democrats to unite behind her after a protracted battle with Bernie Sanders for the party nomination.

US Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts also backed Clinton on Thursday, telling MSNBC's "The Rachel Maddow Show" that presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump was "a genuine threat to the country."

Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee, said it "means the world" to her that Obama had her back in a bruising campaign for the 8 November election.

Clinton also said she had the "highest regard" for Warren, a fiery critic of Wall Street, and was "really pleased to have her good ideas and support."

Vice President Joe Biden also waded into the campaign on Thursday. "Whoever the next president is, and God willing in my view it will be Secretary Clinton," Biden said in a speech at the American Constitution Society in Washington.

The Obama endorsement increases pressure on Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, to bow out of the race and lend his support to Clinton so that the party can focus on defeating Trump.

"It is absolutely a joy and an honour that President Obama and I over the years have gone from fierce competitors to true friends," Clinton told Reuters in



US Democratic presidential nominee Senator Barack Obama (D-IL) and Senator Hillary Clinton (D-NY) wave at a campaign rally in Orlando, Florida, in 2008. PHOTO: REUTERS

an interview.

After an unexpectedly tough battle against Sanders' challenge from the left, former first lady Clinton made history when she reached the number of delegates needed to win the party nomination this week. That made her the first woman to lead a major US party as its White House candidate.

Obama, who enjoys rising approval ratings as he nears the end of eight years in office, will appear with Clinton on the campaign trail next week in Wisconsin.

The two were opponents in the 2008 Democratic presidential primary race, which Obama won, but they buried their rivalry and she served as his secretary of state for four years. Clinton is the 2016 candidate who the White House believes will

best safeguard Obama's legacy.

"I don't think there's ever been someone so qualified to hold this office," Obama said of Clinton in a video. "I'm with her. I am fired up, and I cannot wait to get out there and campaign for Hillary."

Trump assailed the endorsement on Twitter: "He wants four more years of Obama—but nobody else does!"

Clinton's campaign tweeted a brash response: "Delete your account."

Sanders, who galvanized young voters with his calls for more social equality and measures to rein in Wall Street, has been reluctant to concede the race, despite concerns among leading Democrats that continuing party divisions could hamper Clinton's efforts to beat Trump.—Reuters

Paris deploys private trash trucks to beat strike as Euro soccer starts

PARIS — The French authorities sent in private rubbish collection trucks to clear piles of rotting garbage from Paris streets on Friday and told striking public sector workers they would not be allowed to disrupt Europe's soccer championship.

The eyes of the continent are on France as the Euro 2016 tournament kicks off later in the day, with 1.5 million foreign fans expected to join at least one million French supporters for the month-long sports festival.

"All the rubbish will be cleared up, starting now, today," said Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, adding that about 50 trucks had been dispatched overnight and 30 more on Friday morning to rid the city of rubbish piling up as waste treatment workers strike.

"It will take a few days obviously."

Wary of damage to France's

international image, Transport Minister Alain Vidalies said train drivers would be forced to ensure public transport for fans if needed.

He and Hidalgo were speaking hours before the opening match of a tournament that was supposed to showcase the ability of a country still smarting from deadly militant attacks last November to handle a major international event smoothly.

"If requisitioning is required ... we will do it," said Vidalies. "There will be no more negotiating. There's no longer any reason to continue the strike if it's not for political reasons."

The disputes were sparked by government plans to make hiring and firing easier with a revamp of labour law, which Prime Minister Manuel Valls has repeatedly said he will not withdraw.

Public-sector waste treatment staff who have been on strike for

days have vowed to continue the protest into next week and workers at the state-owned SNCF railways were on strike for a tenth day on Friday.

Air France pilots are due to start a separate four-day stoppage on Saturday in protest at pay cuts. The airline said about 80 per cent of flights would go ahead.

Vidalies said the government would not tolerate any form of illicit protest such as occupation of railway tracks, a ploy used occasionally in recent days to bring transport to a halt.

One big concern was threats by some labour unions to disrupt train links between Paris and the suburban 80,000-capacity Stade de France stadium where France plays Romania in the tournament opener on Friday night. "This is an action against France and the French people," the minister told Europe 1 radio.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Power cut disrupts Brussels airport

BRUSSELS — A 90-minute power cut disrupted flights at Brussels Airport early on Friday, with passengers unable to check in and board planes.

Power went off around 6 am (0400 GMT) in a departure area that was fully restored to operation last week following a twin Islamic State suicide bombing on 22 March that killed 16 people. A further 16 were killed by a bomb on the Brussels metro.

Although power was restored after about 90 minutes, some flights were delayed as passengers were still in long queues waiting to check in, a spokeswoman said. The airport said it would take a few hours before normal operations resumed, with late departures but so far no cancellations. Brussels airport was also forced to delay a planned news conference to present its 2015 results. —Reuters

All parties should create positive conditions for Afghanistan reconciliation

BEIJING — All relevant parties should make joint efforts to create positive conditions for the reconciliation in Afghanistan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Thursday.

Pakistan's top civil and military leadership on Tuesday condemned a recent US drone strike in the country's southwestern Balochistan Province, saying that the action violated Pakistan's sovereignty, affected the trust between Pakistan and the United States, and compromised diplomatic efforts towards the reconciliation in Afghanistan.

"The Quadrilateral Coordination Group of Afghanistan, Pakistan, China and the United States is aiming at creating positive conditions for the reconciliation of Afghanistan, and all relevant parties should make joint efforts to achieve this goal," spokesman Hong Lei said. Hong said international community should recognise Pakistan's efforts in combating terrorism and supporting the reconciliation process of Afghanistan, and Pakistan's sovereignty and territorial integrity must be respected.—Xinhua

Japan weather bureau sees high possibility of La Niña

TOKYO — Japan's weather bureau said on Friday there was a high possibility that a La Niña weather pattern would emerge during the country's summer, which runs from around June to August, and continue through autumn.

The Japan Meteorological Agency also said the El Niño, which had emerged in summer 2014, has ended.

El Niño — a warming of sea-surface temperatures in the Pacific — can trigger drought in Southeast Asia and Australia and floods in South America, hitting production of key foods such as rice, wheat and sugar. While a La Niña can be less damaging than an El Niño, the weather event is linked to wetter conditions over much of Australia and Southeast Asia.—Reuters

Greek state workers block privatisation agency offices to protest ports selloffs

ATHENS — Dozens of demonstrators blocked the entrance to Greece's privatisation agency offices in central Athens on Friday and planned more protests during the day against the sale of the country's two biggest ports.

Privatisations have been a key plank of Greece's succession of bailouts since 2010 but have reaped poor revenues due to political resistance, union protests and bureaucracy. Greece has agreed the sale of a 67 per cent stake in Piraeus Port to COSCO for 368.5 million euros. Under its third international bailout, Athens also plans to sell a majority stake in its second largest port in the northern Greek city of Thessaloniki later this year.—Reuters

Russia: We will respond to entry of US naval vessel into Black Sea

MOSCOW — The Russian Foreign ministry said Moscow would respond to a US naval ship's entry into the Black Sea with unspecified measures, saying it and other deployments were designed to ratchet up tensions ahead of a NATO summit, the RIA news agency reported.

Russian state media reported that the USS Porter, a US naval destroyer, entered the Black Sea a few days ago on a routine deployment, a move it said raised hackles in Moscow because it had recently been fitted with a new missile system. US Navy officials told reporters on Wednesday the US military would also have two aircraft carriers in the Mediterranean this month ahead of a July NATO summit in Warsaw as Washington sought to balance Russian military activities.—Reuters

Cathedral service starts celebrations for British Queen's 90th birthday

LONDON — Britain holds a National Service of Thanksgiving in honour of Queen Elizabeth on Friday, kicking off a weekend of events to mark the official 90th birthday of the country's longest-reigning monarch.

The church service at London's St Paul's Cathedral, attended by a host of dignitaries including other members of the royal family and Prime Minister David Cameron, will be a double celebration for the queen with Prince Philip, her husband of 68-years, marking his 95th birthday.

"Most especially today do we give thanks for the length of years that has been granted to our most gracious Sovereign Lady, Queen Elizabeth: for her faithful devotion, dutiful commitment, loving leadership, gentle constancy, royal dignity and kindly humanity," David Ison, the Dean of St Paul's, will say.

The queen, who has been on the throne for 64 years and is by far the oldest monarch in British history, turned 90 in April but in keeping with tradition to ensure celebrations take place in the summer, she also has an official birthday usually in June.



This official photograph released by Buckingham Palace to mark her 90th birthday shows Britain's Queen Elizabeth with her husband, Prince Philip, and was taken at Windsor Castle, in Windsor, Britain just after Easter 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

To mark the occasion, the sixth and final portrait in the series of official birthday pictures taken by US photographer Annie Leibovitz was released, showing the monarch with her husband at her Windsor Castle home, west of London. Then on Saturday Elizabeth will at-

tend the traditional Trooping the Colour parade of soldiers in ceremonial uniforms in central London followed by a fly-past of Royal Air Force aircraft over Buckingham Palace.

To conclude the celebrations, the queen hosts "The Patrons Lunch" for

10,000 guests at the largest street party to be held on the Mall, the grand avenue that leads to Buckingham Palace, an event organised by her grandson, Peter Phillips.

The guests will hail from some of the more than 600 charities and other or-

ganisations of which she is patron with the festivities beamed to large screens in the capital's parks.

The government also said millions of Britons were expected to join in the occasion at local street parties being held across the country.—Reuters

Mexico, US, Canada to launch heroin fight at Three Amigos summit

MEXICO CITY — Mexico, the United States and Canada will unveil a plan to combat increased opium poppy cultivation and heroin use across North America at a summit later this month, a senior Mexican official said on Thursday.

Leaders of the three nations are due to meet in Ottawa on 29 June, amid growing concern about the rising North American death toll from opioids such as heroin and fentanyl, and a surge in poppy cultivation in Mexico by violent drug gangs. In a phone call last month, US President Barack Obama and his Mexican counterpart Enrique Pena Nieto agreed to intensify the fight against heroin production, and government officials say the problem has been under discussion for months.

Paulo Carreno, Mexican deputy foreign minister in charge of North America, said in an interview that Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was also committed to the plan due to be launched at the so-called Three Amigos summit later this month.

"This isn't just about destroying (plantations), it's about finding solutions for people forced to cultivate poppies, and there will be an important announcement in this context at the summit on a new cooperation plan between the three countries to deal with problems that obviously concerns us all," he said.

Carreno declined to offer details but said additional resources would be devoted to all parts of the problem.

"To combating it, to eradicating it, but also to reducing demand significantly and addressing the social aspect," he said.

Pena Nieto took office in December 2012 pledging to bring Mexico's drug cartels to heel, but sickening gang violence has been a blight on his administration and cultivation of opium poppies used to make heroin has surged.

Between 2012 and 2015, the area under poppy cultivation in Mexico, which officials say is the most important supplier of heroin to the United States, rose from 10,500 hectares to 28,000 hectares, according to figures published by the White House.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (551N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (551N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 11.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**

AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301185

Brazil police say Samarco ignored risk of dam collapse

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil's federal police accused on Thursday mining company Samarco, a joint venture between Vale SA and BHP Billiton, of wilful misconduct in relation to a deadly dam burst last November, saying the company had ignored clear signs the dam was at risk of collapsing.

Police said Samarco had skimmed on safety spending, focussing instead on increasing production despite obvious indications, such as cracks, that the dam was in danger of a breach.

As well as Samarco, police accused Vale because

it deposited its own mining waste in the dam, and VogBR, the service company that checked the safety of the dam. Eight executives were also accused, although their names were not disclosed by the police.

Samarco said in a statement it rejected any speculation that it was aware of an imminent risk of collapse at the dam, which held waste known as tailings from its iron ore mine.

"The dam was always declared stable," the company said, adding that increases to the dam's size were done in accordance with the

project's design.

The dam's height was below the size allowed by its licensing when it collapsed, Samarco said.

All of the accused, excluding one individual, were first informed by the police in January.

Although the police have not disclosed names, Vale said in a statement it "rejected forcefully the accusations against one employee," saying he was never responsible for the dam's management. VogBR did not immediately respond to requests for comment.—Reuters

TENDER NOTICE

The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Yangon (Myanmar) intends to purchase 1 x Car for official use with the following specification:-

Model Year	: 2016
Type of Vehicle	: 4-Door Saloon
Transmission	: Automatic Transmission

Sealed quotations are invited from all the interested parties within one week, for the supply of the above mentioned vehicle at the address "Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, A-4 Diplomatic Quarters Pyay Road, Dagon Township, Yangon or send through email at pakembyangon@gmail.com

Note. This tender as well as terms and conditions are also available on PPRA website www.ppra.org.pk.

Be it known to Mr. Suravath/ Jerry (Passport No. AA.4321494) and All

Under the assignment and direction of U Myo Min Thein residing in N. 271/273, 8th floor, Bo Aung Kyaw street, Kyauktada Township, Yangon Region, it is hereby declared as follows.

My friend, U Myo Min Thein, has been and official Managing Director of Professional Alliance Marketing (PAM) company.

The company is not in association with Mr. Suravath/ Jerry and PAM company absolutely and he has not been assigned duties by the company, it is declared to be known by all.

Action will be taken in due course of law against anyone performing of make damages and losses on the service and financial prestige of the company.

Assigner As per duty assigned
(Sr. 3821)

U Myo Min Thein	1. U Aung Kyaw Moe,
	2. Daw Win Win Thauang
	(Sr.8329) Advocate
	095130183, 0943181816

EU to tighten guns rules despite concern it will restrict hunters, collectors

VISNOVA, (Czech Republic)/LUXEMBOURG — European Union governments should agree tighter gun control laws on Friday in the wake of Islamist shooting attacks in France and Belgium, despite opposition from some states which say they will hurt only law-abiding enthusiasts.

The Czech Republic is among the loudest critics of rules that EU officials expect to secure comfortable majority backing when the 28 interior ministers meet in Luxembourg on Friday. It argues the measures will not prevent criminals acquiring weapons but will penalise hunters and collectors.

Since the attack on *Charlie Hebdo* magazine in January 2015 by men armed with Kalashnikov assault rifles apparently bought in central Europe, France has pushed for a crackdown. It redoubled its efforts after



A worker cleans a gun in the Ceska Zbrojovka weapons factory in Uhersky Brod, Czech Republic, on 27 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the attacks in Paris on 13 November.

Prague was among states seeking to water down the original proposals to ensure hunters, sports shooters, collectors and museums can hold weapons, including semi-automatics capable of firing many rounds per minute.

Switzerland, which is outside the EU but cooperates on such issues, along with Finland and others also sought exemptions for civilian national defence groups.

The Czech Republic has liberal gun regulation by European standards, with about 775,000 legal

guns and rifles in the country of 10.6 million people. Despite the fact that the original proposal was diluted, gun owners in the Czech Republic are still angry with the looming changes.

“People who stage attacks do not use legally held weapons, they use black market ones, primarily

from the Balkans,” said Jan Vurbs, 30, firing his two rifles at a forest shooting range near Visnova, 50 km south of Prague.

“We have to meet a number of rules on storing weapons, safe boxes, every weapon is registered and police know exactly what we have at home,” he said. “Bans for civilians and terrorist threats are two unconnected issues.”

The proposal, which would then go to the European Parliament, would for the first time introduce EU-wide rules on deactivated firearms which France argues are often too easy to restore to lethal functioning order or other types of guns, such as signal and starter’s pistols, that can be converted.

While the Brussels executive originally proposed a complete ban on civilian possession of semiautomatic firearms capable of firing high number of rounds,

multiple exceptions have since been included to also cover museums and target shooters.

The Visnova range outside of Prague allows people to fire legally held rifles such as those that Vurbs owns: a sporting version of a Czech military assault rifle, and one used by the British army in the 1960s and 1970s.

The rifles are semiautomatic, meaning they fire a single bullet per pull of the trigger and not a burst of bullets, but at least one of them would be banned under the new rules.

Czech Interior Minister Josef Chovanec said on Thursday the changes could affect 40,000 firearms in the Czech Republic.

“We do not have a problem with the directive as a whole, but we will want to rework it so it does not amount to disarming Czech citizens,” Chovanec said.—Reuters

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

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

Director
Operation Management Directorate

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

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

Director
Operation Management Directorate

Celine Dion launching lifestyle brand

LOS ANGELES — Singer Celine Dion is following in Gwyneth Paltrow and Reese Witherspoon's footsteps by launching a lifestyle brand.

The "My Heart Will Go On" singer is teaming up with bosses at licensing firm Epic Rights to create the line of home goods, active wear, beauty products, eyewear, travel products, and more.

The brand is yet to be named, but it will encompass the 48-year-old singer's passions for "family, music, entertainment and style", according to Billboard.

"In today's world, you need a coordinating and consistent branded approach to everything," CEO of Epic Rights, Dell Furano, said.

"On a global level, (artists) need to combine all areas — their music, performances, touring, website, social media — and launching a lifestyle brand was just a natural extension for Celine at this point in her career, particularly because it's all from her point of view."

The products will hit stores next autumn and will roll out over a three-year period.

Gwyneth launched her lifestyle brand Goop in 2008, while Reese created Draper James last year (15). Celine's new branding announcement comes five months after the death of her husband and longtime manager Rene Angelil in January. Shortly after his passing she returned to the stage at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas for a tribute to the late music mogul and to resume her longstanding residency there.—PTI

Billboard Icon Award recipient Celine Dion performs "The Show Must Go On" at the 2016 Billboard Awards in Las Vegas, Nevada, US, on 22 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Johnny Depp auctioning art collection amidst divorce

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood star Johnny Depp is auctioning off millions of dollars worth of paintings ahead of his potentially pricey divorce with Amber Heard.

The 53-year-old "Alice Through the Looking Glass" star is set to unload

his collection of paintings by famed artist Jean-Michel Basquiat, according to a press release by Christie's auction house, reported People magazine.

He will sell nine paintings in total, which he collected over the past 25 years. Most of the pieces were completed by Basquiat in 1981. "Nothing can replace the warmth and immediacy of Basquiat's poetry, or the absolute questions and

truths that he delivered," Depp said, according to Christie's.

"The beautiful and disturbing music of his paintings, the cacophony of his silence that attacks our senses, will live far beyond our breath."

Heard filed for divorce from Depp on 23 May citing irreconcilable differences. In the divorce petition, Heard, asked for spousal support from Depp.—PTI

Justin Bieber releases video of his song 'Company'

MUMBAI — Pop star Justin Bieber has released the much-awaited video for his song "Company", directed by the singer's personal videographer, Rory Kramer.

The 22-year-old singer gives his fans an inside view of some of the most rare and intimate scenes captured over last year during the the making of Bieber's last album "Purpose", and the launch of his "Purpose World Tour".

"Personally, I love this video because it's an honest look at my journey. The process of putting together this album and this tour surrounded by people I love to be with has really been special," Bieber said in a statement.

"I am proud of it, it's been a lot of fun and hard work, and I think that really shows in video. I hope my fans like it as much I do, because it's really all for you," he added.—PTI

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

DeGeneres happy about finally 'Finding Dory' after 13 years

LOS ANGELES — A beaming Ellen DeGeneres arrived for the Hollywood premiere of Disney Pixar's "Finding Dory" on Wednesday, a film speculated over for 13 years and which she thought would never be made.

Cast member Ellen DeGeneres squirts tequila during a gag for her television show at the premiere of 'Finding Dory' at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California US, on 8 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The US talk show host and comedian reprises her role as Dory, an absent-minded and chatty blue tang fish in the sequel to the Oscar-winning animated 2003 film "Finding Nemo".

"I'm just excited that it is finally here because I never thought it would happen. Honestly, it was a joke that I was talking about it so much that I kind of gave up," DeGeneres said of the film which opens in theaters on 17 June.—Reuters



Thailand's animal tourism under scrutiny after Tiger Temple raid

BANGKOK — From selfies with tigers to elephant rides and orangutan boxing, Thailand offers tourists an array of attractions that animal rights activists say are cruel and should be shut down.

Wildlife officials discovered scores of dead tiger cubs while rescuing 137 tigers from a Buddhist temple last week, raising fears that other tourist attractions could be fronts for animal trafficking.

The Tiger Temple was “just the tip of the iceberg”, said Jan Schmidt-Burbach, a Bangkok-based adviser at World Animal Protection.

“We see an increase in demand for wildlife entertainment, and there’s limited transparency on what goes on behind the scene and how those venues are profiting from the animals.”

During their week-long raid on the Tiger Temple west of Bangkok, wildlife officials found frozen tiger carcasses, skins and dead cubs in jars, as well as other protected species.

It is unclear why the Tiger Temple was storing dead tiger cubs and parts, although officials have said they might have been used for traditional Chinese medicine.

The authorities have filed complaints against 22 people, including six monks, whom police will investigate for illegal posses-



A tiger yawns next to a piglet at the Sriracha Tiger Zoo, in Chonburi province, Thailand, on 7 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

sion of wildlife and wildlife trafficking.

The temple denied the allegations at a press conference on Thursday.

Thailand has long been a hub for illicit trafficking of wildlife and forest products, and endangered animal species are often sold in its markets.

Thailand’s animal tourism fuels the illicit trade, said Steve Galster, executive director of Freeland, a Bangkok-based group

fighting human and wildlife trafficking.

“We know that some zoos and a lot of wildlife operators supply animals into the black market,” Galster said. “They breed the animals, have some there to make money from tourists, and sell the extra ones.”

The Department of National Parks said it plans to inspect other tiger attractions following the raid on the temple.

On Wednesday, the depart-

ment seized more than 100 animals, including two tigers and two elephants, from a zoo in the seaside town of Hua Hin.

It said it would also inspect the popular Sriracha Tiger Zoo in Chonburi, east of Bangkok, which came under scrutiny in 2004 after it shipped at least 100 tigers to a Chinese zoo.

“Sriracha was under the same kind of spotlight that the Tiger Temple is now,” said Galster. “But it was never shut down and the ti-

ger numbers are still high there.”

Like the Tiger Temple, Sriracha Tiger Zoo also charges tourists to feed or take selfies with cubs. Its main attraction is a circus in which seven tigers display what a ringmaster calls their “talents”: leaping through rings of fire and walking on their hind legs while the audience applauds.

The Sriracha Tiger Zoo’s management declined to comment.

Both the Tiger Temple and Sriracha Tiger Zoo are promoted on the website of the Tourism Authority of Thailand (TAT), a department of the Ministry of Tourism and Sports.

Tourism Minister Kobkarn Wattanavrangkul told Reuters she had “no knowledge” of the trafficking allegations against the temple and said it was not her ministry’s responsibility to look into them.

“But if they’re true, of course we will not condone it,” she said.

The TAT told Reuters the information on its website was “outdated” and was being updated.

Thailand introduced a new animal welfare act in 2015 to curb abuse, but activists say it is poorly enforced. Galster urged the government to spend more money on combating wildlife trafficking.

“The government has to put their money where their mouth is,” he said.—Reuters

Tourists in coastal areas warned to be alert as sea flooding damages hundreds houses in Java, Indonesia

JAKARTA — Holiday makers visiting coastal areas in Java island of Indonesia are warned to be cautious as sea flooding and tidal waves have damaged hundreds of houses and buildings, and triggered evacuation, disaster agency official said here on Thursday.

Coastal areas in southern Java Island severely suffered the impact of the flooding and waves on Wednesday, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, spokesman of national disaster management agency disclosed. “The flooding and tidal waves are still potential to happen in coming days. Tourists at beach must be alert and obey all prohibi-

tions and rules,” Mr. Sutopo told Xinhua via phone. The warning is also directed to the community living in the coastal areas and sailors are banned from fishing during huge waves occur, he added.

Nearly 1,300 people fled homes in Lumajang of East Java province and Pekalongan of Central Java Province, said Sutopo. The flooding and tidal waves struck most of Provinces in Java Island, Indonesia’s capital of Jakarta and the country’s second largest city of Surabaya in East Java province are among the hit-areas, according to him.—Xinhua

Clock festival held at shrine celebrating Japan’s 1st clock

OTSU, (Japan) — Women and men clad in ancient Japanese court dresses performed an annual clock festival on Friday at a Shinto shrine to a seventh-century emperor, said to be the founding father of the clock time system in Japan.

As musicians played flutes and drums, the participants, including representatives of the clock industry, offered the latest products of Japanese clockmakers to Omi Shrine to show its deity Emperor Tenji (626-672) how clocks have developed.

According to the shrine in Otsu, Shiga Prefecture in western Japan, Emperor Tenji introduced a

water clock known as “rokoku” in the then capital, the area where the shrine is now located, on 25 April, 671 based on his belief in the importance of clocks to the development of society.

The ringing of the bell of the first clock in Japan was recorded in the “Nihon Shoki” (The Chronicles of Japan), an ancient book of Japanese history.

On 25 April corresponds to 10 June in the solar calendar, and thus 10 June was designated as Time Day in 1920 in Japan. The shrine, built in 1940, started holding the festival every 10 June in 1941.—Kyodo News



Women clad in ancient Japanese court dresses proceed holding clocks during an annual clock festival on 10 June 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS



Entertainment Channel

(11-6-2016, Saturday)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>06 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weather Report Life In NightArt In Life (Episode -1) <p>06 : 40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRTV Entertainment Music <p>06 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Visiting A Serence Village In The Northwest of Myanmar <p>07 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cassette Recordings <p>08 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MRTV Entertainment Music | <p>08 : 30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Myanmar Music Icon” Ko Nay Win, Creator of Myanmar Own Tune Songs (Episode-2) <p>08 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Movie Songs <p>09 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Taung Byone Nat Festival (Episode -5) <p>09 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Music Programme <p>9 : 40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Myanmar Video |
|---|--|

From 11-6-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 Pm
To 12-6-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(11-6-2016 07:00am ~ 12-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:26 | Am | Great Shwedagon- The Sacred Hair Relics Hailing Pogodas |
| 07:53 | Am | TECH School |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Come Beat Eggs For Fun & Reward |
| 08:47 | Am | A Way of Life: Aikido |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Strolling Along A Memory Link- U Pein Bridge |
| 09:43 | Am | A Tea Business: Pankwan (Part-1) |
| 09:53 | Am | Traditional Snacks |

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 10:03 | Am | News |
| 10:26 | Am | Myanmar Outstanding Lady Thin Zar Phyo |
| 10:39 | Am | Marketable Goods (Straw painting) |

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

Prime Time

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Pm | News |
| 07:25 | Pm | To My Dream City (Part- 1) |
| 07:49 | Pm | Today Myanmar “The Dawn of Education Reform” |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | Creator of Imagination |
| 08:53 | Pm | Myanmar Masterclass: Conceptual Art |

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

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

Venezuela stun Uruguay to reach Copa quarters

PHILADELPHIA — Venezuela pulled off the shock of the Copa America so far by stunning Uruguay 1-0 to reach the quarter-finals, while Mexico also advanced with a 2-0 win over Jamaica.

A goal by Salomon Rondon after 36 minutes in Philadelphia was enough to give Venezuela the points and eliminate the team that leads South American qualifying for the 2018 World Cup.

Midfielder Alejandro 'Lobo' Guerra lobbed Fernando Muslera from more than 30 metres and although the Uruguayan goalkeeper got a finger tip to the ball, it bounced off the bar and fell to Rondon who tapped it into the net.

"It was incredible what 'Lobo' did, the wit he had to hit it," Rondon said.

"Luckily I had time to get there and finish."

The victory marked the first time Venezuela have notched two consecutive Copa America wins, while Rondon became the first Uruguay player to score in three Copa America tournaments.

"I am surprised. The majority of my players did not have a good game," disappointed Uruguay coach Oscar Tabarez told local radio.

"The Uruguay that we are saw today are a long way from the Uruguay we saw play not that long ago."

Venezuela and Mexico, who each have six points in Group C, will meet next week to decide who will win the group, while Jamaica were also eliminated with Uruguay, the most successful Copa America nation.

The Uruguayans, who won their 15th title in Argentina in



Venezuela midfielder Alexander Gonzalez (21) and Uruguay forward Diego Rolan (22) battle for the header during the second half of a group play stage of the 2016 Copa America Centenario at Lincoln Financial Field, Philadelphia, PA, USA, on 9 June 2016. Venezuela won 1-0. PHOTO: REUTERS

2011, pushed Venezuela back in the second half but lacked poise in front of goal and Muslera prevented them going further behind with a fine save from Adalberto Penaranda in the 68th minute.

Edinson Cavani came close to equalising in the dying moments but was wide with one chance and had another saved by Dani Hernandez.

There was to be no upset in

the other match, however, with Mexico taking the lead after 17 minutes in Pasadena through Javier 'Chicharito' Hernandez.

The diminutive striker rose unmarked to pinpoint a glancing header into the bottom corner of the net after Jesus Corona had crossed from the left.

Both sides had chances in an open and exciting game but Jamaica were let down by their finishing, particularly from Clay-

ton Donaldson, who missed four clear-cut chances.

At the other end, Jamaican keeper Andre Blake was in fine form and did well to keep the score down.

Mexico were the better side, however, and Oribe Peralta, who came on for Hernandez after 77 minutes, scored just three minutes later after a quick break.

The win was coach Juan Carlos Osorio's 10th consecutive

victory since taking over last year.

"We were convincing at all the right moments," goalkeeper Guillermo Ochoa told reporters after the game. "This team has personality and character."

"It's another step forward but we need to keep calm," he added. "Now we face Venezuela, which will be difficult. But we will work hard and prepare to keep moving forward."—Reuters

Nadal out of Wimbledon with wrist injury

PARIS — Twice former champion Rafael Nadal will not play at this year's Wimbledon due to the wrist injury that forced the Spaniard out of the French Open, he said on Thursday.

"I'm sad to announce that after talking to my doctors, and receiving the results of my last medical revision, I won't be able to play at Wimbledon this year," Nadal said on his Facebook page.

"As you can all imagine, it's a very tough decision, but the injury I suffered at Roland Garros needs

time to heal." Nadal's withdrawal is a blow for the championships at which the Spaniard has been such an attraction for more than a decade, especially with his victories in 2008 and 2010.

He also had to pull out before the 2009 edition of Wimbledon with a knee injury when he was defending champion, citing that as "one of the toughest decisions of my career."

Nadal was also badly missed at the last fortnight's French Open after pain in his left wrist flared

up and he was forced to withdraw following a landmark 200th grand slam win over Argentina's Facundo Bagnis in the second round.

The Spaniard had needed an injection before that match and broke the news the following day to reporters that he would be forced to abandon his assault on a 10th Roland Garros title. Wearing an arm brace and appearing close to tears, the 14-times grand slam winner had said in Paris that the press conference was the hardest he had ever given.—Reuters

Carrick extends contract at Manchester United

LONDON — Manchester United midfielder Michael Carrick has signed a new one-year contract extension, the Premier League club said on Thursday.

The 34-year-old has made more than 400 appearance for the club, winning five league titles, the Champions League and the FA Cup during his 10-year stay at Old Trafford.

"This great club has been

a part of my life for the past 10 years, so I am delighted that this incredible journey is continuing," vice-captain Carrick told the club's website (www.manutd.com). "It's great to have the opportunity to work under Jose Mourinho, who has achieved so much during his managerial career. I would like to thank the fans for their unwavering support."—Reuters