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A DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

New budget to focus on development, U Htin Kyaw



President U Htin Kyaw delivers an address at the meeting of Financial Commission in Nay Pyi Taw.
PHOTO: MNA

MYANMAR'S Financial Commission held its first meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with President U Htin Kyaw addressing the crowd and stressing the need for the new government to bring forward a constitution that focuses on national reconciliation, internal peace and democratic federalism, vowing to effectively spend the budgets on higher living standards and economic growth.

The meeting discussed the

2016-2017 budget approved by the previous government and an amendment of the '16-'17 budget to be submitted to the parliament for approval. The Pyidaungsu Hluttaw passed the Union Budget Law at its 33rd regular session last year, with the president saying that the previous government drew up its budget depending on its cabinet structure.

"Our new government, with its 22 ministries, needs to retune the budget for 2016-17 fiscal year

in line with changing trends," President U Htin Kyaw said. The Financial Commission has the responsibility to introduce a budget bill and send it to parliament for approval.

President U Htin Kyaw promised increased spending on education, health and social welfare to ensure more human resources, adding that development policies would be focused on the implementation of rural development, electrification, poverty alleviation

and infrastructural development.

A 5% commercial tax placed on mobile top cards has gathered K7.5 billion (US\$6.3m) revenue with the President saying that the tax will be spent on sectors that directly contribute to public interests.

"The country's revenues belong to the people. The responsibility of the government is just to manage it. How the budgets are allotted shows what is on the government's top agenda," said President U Htin Kyaw, he also pointed out the need for greater transparency in budget allocation and use calling for systematic supervision of the spending.

As Vice Chairman of the Financial Commission, Vice President U Myint Swe said that the new budget included expenditures for the Ministry of State Counsellor's Office and the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs with expenditures for the ministries being cut by 2%.

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Serve the interests of your country: Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to Ambassadors

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met with Myanmar ambassadors from the Asian region in her office yesterday urging them to serve the interests of the country and protect the interests of their fellow citizens

abroad. The Foreign Minister put an emphasis on developing international relations in Myanmar's neighborhood, urging ambassadors to work harder for the success in development tasks.

"Public support is central to

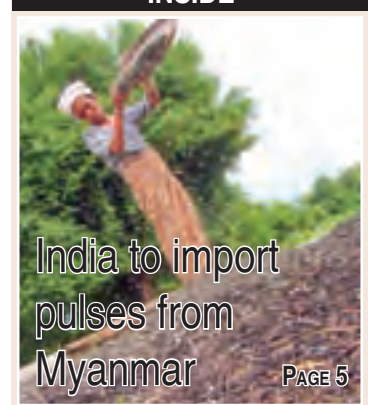
the success of the foreign policy, and the successful foreign policy will in turn contribute to public benefits," said the Foreign Minister.

18 Myanmar ambassadors were called to Myanmar from Sin-

gapore, Laos, Cambodia, Malaysia, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand, Brunei, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Bangladesh, China, India, Nepal, South Korea, Japan, South Africa and Israel.

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Labour, Immigration and Population Ministry, UNHCR cooperate for development in Rakhine State



Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe holding talks with resident representative of the UNHCR Mr Giuseppe Vincentiis. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe held talks with resident representative of the UNHCR in Yangon Mr Giuseppe de Vincentiis yesterday regarding efforts to bring about stabil-

ity and development in Rakhine State.

During the meeting at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw the two representatives also discussed measures being taken to secure a path to cit-

izenship for locals in the state and plans for opening training courses for labourers and cooperation between the ministry and the UNHCR in Rakhine State.— *Myanmar News Agency*

MoU on Economic Cooperation inked, Mongolia-Myanmar Business Council launched



Mongolian President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj and participants of CEO Conference Mongolia-Myanmar Business Council pose for documentary photos. PHOTO: MNA

MONGOLIA prefers an intimate relationship to a business-oriented relationship, said Mongolian President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj at the opening of the Mongolia-Myanmar CEO Conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his address, the President said that he visited Myanmar with the aim of strengthening bilateral ties and boosting economic cooperation, pledging to join hands with Myanmar businesspeople in trust.

Likewise, Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint stressed the need for the promotion of trade and investment between the two countries, say-

ing that Myanmar's challenges faced in technology and infrastructure development will give Mongolia an opportunity.

According to the Union minister, Myanmar exported textile worth US\$0.37 million to Mongolia last FY while medicines, tyres, soft drinks, computers and related accessories worth US\$0.002 million were imported over the 2015-2016 FY when the two countries began bilateral trade.

During the conference, those present held discussions on ways and means to attract more investment in the sectors of electricity and energy, communication, transport and oil

and gas.

Moreover, a paper reading session on banking, mining, communication, transport and investment sectors was held with the participation of experts and officials from ministries concerned and private sector representatives of the two countries.

Next, the establishment of the Mongolia-Myanmar Business Council was announced following the signing of an MoU on Economic Cooperation between Mongolia National Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Appointment of Ambassdor agreed on

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Dr. Israr Hussain as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Dr. Israr Hussain was born in 1964. He holds a Degree of MBBS. He joined Pakistan's Foreign Service in 1992. From 1994 to 2009, he served in various capacities in the titles and in Pakistan's Embassies in Saudi Arabia, Poland and Singapore. From 2009 to 2012, he served as a director in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Pakistan. He has been serving as Minister in the High Commission for Pakistan in London since January 2013. He is married.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw
Dated: 16th June 2016

Union Supreme Court, Federal Court of Australia ink MoU on Judicial Cooperation

THE Supreme Court of the Union signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Judicial Cooperation with the Federal Court of Australia in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the signing ceremony, Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo and Chief Justice of the Federal Court of Australia Mr. James Leslie Bain Allsop, AO of the Federal Court of Australia, inked the MoU.

In accordance with the

MoU the two sides have agreed to develop work programmes aimed at allowing for the successful implementation of Myanmar's Judiciary Strategic Plan to upgrade the services of courts across the country.

Next, a Seminar on Leadership and Change Management was held followed by discussions on yearly implementation of the work programmes in accordance with the MoU.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Four Defense Services Personnel Region/State Hluttaw representatives substituted

UNION Election Commission announced yesterday that four Defense Services Personnel Region/State Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services in the second multi-party general elections held on 8 November 2015 were substituted.

According to the UEC, Captain Hlwan Moe Aung (BC 36312) was substituted

with Captain Thein Htaik (BC 54385) in Sagaing Region Hluttaw, Major Kaung Thant Kyaw (BC 35906) with Major Aung Myat Min (BC 27919) and Major Aung Ko Myint (Air 2822) with Major Officiating Kyaw Aung (Air 2243) in Yangon Region Hluttaw, and Major Aung Naing Tun (BC 31258) with Major Khin Hla Win (BC 39322) in Shan State Hluttaw.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Two Defense Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives substituted

UNION Election Commission announced yesterday that two Defense Services Personnel Pyithu Hluttaw representatives nominated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Defense Services in the second multi-party general elections held on 8 November 2015 were substituted.

According to the UEC, Lt-Col Thein Tun Tin (BC 27105) was substituted with Lt-Col Myo Win Hlaing (BC 20784) and Major Ye Wint Htet (BC 34589) was substituted with Brig-Gen Win Ko Ko (BC16561).— *Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw welcomes Mongolian President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar, Mongolia hope for better relations through cultural exchange

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw held talks with Mongolian President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj on boosting bilateral relations and friendship between the nations through cultural exchanges yesterday.

The President received the Mongolian President and party on a working visit to Myanmar at the Credential Halls of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, the two Presidents also discussed further cooperation in the trade, mining, education, environmental conservation and tourism sectors.

The Mongolian President invited the President and the State

Counsellor to visit Mongolia and attend the 11th ASEM Summit.

Also present were Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Ohn Win and U Kyaw Win, the Mongolian Ambassador to Myanmar and delegation members and officials.

After the meeting, the two Presidents witnessed the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on cultural cooperation between the Myanmar's Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture and the Mongolian Ministry of Education, Culture and Science.

In the evening, President U Htin Kyaw and his wife Daw Su

Su Lwin hosted a dinner in honour of the delegation led by the Mongolian President at the Presidential Palace.

Also present at the dinner were State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Vice-Presidents U Myint Swe and U Henry Van Thio, the Union ministers, the Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar and officials.

The Mongolian President's second visit to Myanmar coincided with the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic ties between two countries and is his first visit to Myanmar since the new government took office. — Myanmar News Agency

New budget to focus on development, U Htin Kyaw

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U Myint Swe noted that most of the budget remains unchanged. Highlighting that the lustrous border fence budget remains untouched, with the Ministry of Home Affairs responsible for the construction project at the Myanmar-Bangladesh and Myanmar-India borders.

Vice President U Henry Van

Thio, also Vice Chairman of the Financial Commission, said that over K1.6bn (US\$1.4m) is allocated to states and regions in the upcoming 2016-17 fiscal year. President U Htin Kyaw suggested the publication of a Citizen's Budget journal after the amendment bill of the Union Budget Law 2016 won parliamentary approval. — Myanmar News Agency

Mongolian President invites State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to visit Mongolia



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mongolian President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with Mongolian President Mr. Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj on THE ongoing peace process and national reconciliation, the rule of law and democratic transition in Myanmar at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting the Mongolian President invited the State Counsellor to visit Mongolia for a second time (her first visit was in 2013) and attend the upcoming 11th Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) in his country.

The two representatives also discussed further cooperation in the sectors of natural resources and environmental conservation, mining, cultural heritage preservation and electric power in addition to the responsibilities and accountability of media in building democracy. Also present at the meeting were Union Ministers U Kyaw Tint Swe, Dr Pe Myint, Thura U Aung Ko, U Ohn Win and U Kyaw Win, the Mongolian Ambassador to Myanmar, delegation members and officials. — Myanmar News Agency



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks to ambassadors. PHOTO: MNA

Serve the interests of your country: Foreign Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to Ambassadors

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Political Affairs Department Director General U Kyaw Zeya described the meeting as productive, saying that the

ambassadors briefed the difficulties and requirements they encountered in the line of duty. U Kyaw Zeya expects a similar meeting with Myanmar

ambassadors from Europe, but gave no specific details as to when or where the meeting will occur. — Myanmar News Agency

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs attends Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting in China

MINISTER of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin attended the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Yuxi, Yunnan Province, China on 13-14 June.

The meeting was aimed at holding discussions on preparations for the 25th Anniversary for ASEAN-China Commemorative Summit in September and exchanging views on issues of mutual interest in the region.

The special meeting was co-chaired by Singaporean Minister

for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

Also present at the meeting were Ministers for Foreign Affairs from ASEAN countries and ASEAN Secretary-General Le Luong Minh.

During the meeting, they held talks on progress of ASEAN-China dialogue relations during the past 25 years and discussed future directions and cooperation in priority areas.

Moreover, ASEAN Foreign

Ministers exchanged views with the Chinese counterpart on full and effective implementation of the declaration on the conduct of parties in the South China Sea and early conclusion of a code of conduct based on consensus.

The meeting also focused on upgrading the ASEAN-China Free Trade Area with a view to reaching US\$ 1 trillion in bilateral trade and \$150 billion for investment between ASEAN and China by 2020. — Myanmar News Agency

Review of 2% tax payment on the fruit trucks requested

FRUITS Association requested U Kyaw Win, Minister for Planning and Finance to review 2% tax payment on the fruit trucks on 13 June.

"Income tax was paid by the farmers in the name of companies in border areas.

We want to request the minister to review the 2% tax payment on the fruit trucks because sometimes we carried just 50 tonnes even though they levied taxes on 70 tonnes, said U Kyaw Thu, Secretary of Fruits Association. Although fruits and flowers are tax free, every citizen must pay tax if he earns a monthly income of over Ks four lakh.

Farmers paid the money in the name of the companies. Ever year, the companies are laundering money in billion kyats.

But, the farmers do not have any document for tax payment. Some of the farmers were offered lower price on the fruits. Also, they have to pay the income tax. Also, they have to hire the trucks for carrying fruits, he added. Watermelon growers pay the tax to Customs Department when they export the fruits to Muse market.

Union minister answered to the media that some cases of tax can be reviewed whereas some cases of tax cannot be reviewed.

Currently, Muse depots export watermelons and mangoes to China. This year, they have already exported six-lakh tonnes of watermelons and fourty thousand tonnes of mangoes.—*Kay Zu*

Doakhtawady Bridge set to ease transport woes

A new bridge is to be constructed linking the two Mandalay Region towns of Kyaukse and Pyin U Lwin. The reinforced concrete bridge will be located in Patheingyi Township in Mandalay Region and is to stretch 660ft by 30ft.

After the project is complete in March 2017, locals can easily travel between the two towns passing over Doakhtawady River via 'No.2 district-to-district road.'

"The new bridge will help locals reduce their travelling time between the two towns," said an official from the project.

"Normally, Kyaukse residents visit Pyin U Lwin through Mandalay. After completion the bridge, we will directly go to the scenic hill town in a short period of



New Doakhtawady Bridge is being built. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

time." Construction works began 6 June at a cost of Ks2bn (US\$1.6m) funded by the Mandalay Region Government.

U Ye Hsint, who re-

sides in Shwesayan Village situated near the project area said, "We are facing a massive transportation barrier due to the lack of transport facilities."

He added, "We usually go over to the other side of the river by boat, but when we want to return at night it can be hard to rent one."—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Crime NEWS

Overheated breaker causes outbreak of fire



The scene of the outbreak of fire. PHOTO: PATHEIN-HLA KYI

A fire started from an overheated electric breaker on Kinnalin Kyun road, Patheingyi town on 14 June. The accident happened around 11:15am at the small cloth factory of U Arr Shin alias U Tin Maung Latt when his worker Maung Zaw, 36, switched on the breaker, which was overheated and caused electric short-circuiting. Then, the fire quickly got out of control and burned the cloth warehouse. The fire was brought under control around 11:55am by over 60 firemen with eleven fire engines. The police have taken action against Maung Zaw.—*Patheingyi-Hla Kyi*

Marijuana and weapons seized in Dagon Myothit (South)

A COMBINED investigation team comprising officers and staff from Dagon Myothit Seikkan township confiscated marijuana weighing 3 grams from the home of one U Taung Nyunt, 67, on Min Nandar road, ward 20, South Dagon on 12 June. Ko Kyaw Win, 25, and Tun Tun Oo, 31, were found together with the host. Police also seized an assortment of knives, swords and weapons from the home.

Police have filed charges against the suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Kyaw Soe Moe (Minglar Taung Nyunt)*



U Taung Nyunt, Ko Kyaw Win and Tun Tun Oo. PHOTO: KYAW SOE MOE (MINGALAR TAUNG NYUNT)

Yaba seized in Loikaw and Maisat

A COMBINED investigation team comprising officers and staff from Loikaw township seized yaba from a vehicle near Linphonelay village on Linphonelay- Loikaw road in Loikaw township on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, the police searched a vehicle being driven by one Saw Yan Naing Thein and found 12 yaba pills.

According to a connected investigation the police searched the home of one Angello in an industrial zone

ward, Loikaw township and confiscated 107 yaba pills. One Thomas Khun was found together with the host. Police further discovered 3,310 yaba pills on one Than Payae who came to Angello's house while the police were present.

On the same day, a combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from Maisat township discovered 7,580 yaba pills from the home of Kyak Tan in Ma Hone Leik village, Mai Sat township.—*Myanmar Police Force*



Yaba seized in Loikaw and Maisat. PHOTO: MPF

Over 140,000 yaba pills seized in Mai Sai, Thailand

THAI authorities confiscated over 140,000 yaba pills from six Myanmar people at the Thai- Myanmar Friendship Bridge, Mae Sai town, Thailand Northern part on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off, members of the Thai police searched a vehicle en route to Thailand from Myanmar being driven by one Kyaw Min Tun, 34,

with five passengers on board and seized 140,400 yaba pills hidden in the vehicle. Ma Nan Houn, 31, managed to escape from the scene while Thai police were searching the vehicle. Thai police have filed charges against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myint Moe (Tachilk)*

LOCAL Business



A farmer tosses peas into the win to remove sand and other impurities before transport. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

India to import pulses from Myanmar

A HIGH level decision from the Indian government has made plans to import more pulses from Myanmar and to release a buffer stock in order to open the market as food prices in India climb, according to the Economic Times.

India is the largest buyer of beans and pulses from Myanmar, around 70% of Myanmar's total exports went to India this financial year. However, demand from

China and Viet Nam is expected to surge past India soon. Myanmar generates around US\$1bn from exporting beans and pulses annually.

Myanmar is expected to ship over 10,000 tonnes of green gram to European markets this financial year, a spokesperson from the Myanmar Pulses, Beans and Sesame Seeds Merchants Association said.

It is estimated that the export of pulses is likely to increase in the future as the EU has officially accepted exports of pulses from Myanmar.

With reduced demand from Indian merchants, local pea merchants and pea growers are bracing for the difficulty as the local price has dropped to K300,000 (US\$250) a tonne last harvest.—GNLM

Scottish delegation eyes success in Myanmar

Jaiden Coonan

THE first Scottish oil and gas delegation met with international and local operators in Myanmar from 4 to 9 June led by Scottish Development International, the group plans to bring other delegations to Myanmar in the future.

The delegation also met with Myanmar's Minister of Electric Power and Energy, U Pe Zin Tun during last weeks visit. The delegation met with a number of the leading international oil & gas operators currently active in Myanmar including; Total, Statoil, ENI, Shell, BG Group as well as leading Myanmar company Parami Energy Group.

"Three Scottish companies - Wood Group, ASCO and Bibby Offshore are all actively seeking opportunities in the Myanmar market and last week's visit highlighted a number of potential opportunities for them," Neil McInnes told The Global New Light of Myanmar, head of Southeast Asia and Australasia at Scottish Development International. "The three Scottish companies - Wood Group, ASCO and Bibby Offshore are all actively seeking opportunities in the Myanmar market and last week's visit highlighted a number of potential opportunities for them," said Mr. McInnes

Adding, "They will continue to engage with the Ministry and with the Oil & Gas industry in Myanmar to identify how they can support activity in Myanmar, which we hope will lead to new investment in the future."

Scotland boasts over 2000 supply chain companies in the oil and gas sector. Scotland's Development International is working with the United Kingdom Trade and Investment and

the British Chamber of Commerce to find ways to work with Myanmar's oil and gas sector Mr. McInnes told The Global New Light of Myanmar.

During the visit the delegation met with education and training providers along with the Ministry of Education, eight of Myanmar's training providers are accredited by the Scottish Qualifications Authority.

"Edinburgh's Heriot Watt University is currently offering an online MBA program through a partnership with Myanmar company Strategy First. Given Scotland's strengths in vocational and university education, this is another sector we're keen to explore further collaboration," said Mr. McInnes. Leading the Myanmar delegation was Dr. Lena Wilson, chief executive of the Scottish Enterprises and Chair of Scotland's Energy Jobs Taskforce. Dr. Wilson also launched the Myanmar Professional Women's Business Network at an event attended by 50 of Myanmar's leading businesswomen, where Dr. Wilson highlighted the importance of full female participation in the global economy.

"Scotland and Myanmar have strong historic connections going right back to the 19th century when Scottish owned Burmah Oil Company became the first company to drill for oil in the country in 1886," said Dr. Wilson in a 1 June press release. Dr. Wilson also noted that, "Myanmar now stands at exciting phase of its own oil and gas development - much like Aberdeen did in the 1970s - with huge natural resources to capitalise on but to grow its local industry, it will need access to technology, skills and expertise across the whole supply chain from seismic surveying and engineering design right through to project management, health and safety and training and education."

CHDB to offer low-interest rate loans for affordable apartments

Construction and Housing Development Bank (CHDB) has been negotiating with Japan, South Korea and China concerning low interest rate loans to allow for those in the middle-class income bracket to purchase affordable apartments costing under Ks10million (\$US8,395), according to Myawady.

U Win Khaing, Union Minister for Construction said that low-cost housing blocks would contain over 8,000 apartments each costing below Ks10mil-

lion and that they will be built in as little as two years. CHDB is seeking guidance on loan procedures to help distribute 10,000 loans.

"The construction of housing will be implemented within the government's budget," said CHDB Director, U Win Zaw.

CHDB will give priority to those who do not own a house offering low interest rate loans. CHDB will also offer loans to those living in apartments that require renovation.—200

YGN Airport Customs duty earns over Ks100million in May

YANGON'S duty-free custom stores earned over Ks100m (US\$87,000) from passengers entering Yangon International Airport (YIA) during May, according to the Customs Department at YIA. Duty-free customs is up in May this year by Ks30m (US\$25,000) compared to this time last year. Ks70m (US\$58,000) was received from

duty-free in May 2015.

Currently, the passenger arrival at YIA is 37,000 compared to the average count last year, departures from YIA see roughly 30,000 passengers a week.

Myanmar has seen a record increase of tourists and domestic travellers since opening up to the world in 2011. International arrivals has increased from 816,319

in 2011 to 4,861,020 in 2015, according to the Ministry of Hotel and Tourism website. Yet, those in the industry contest the data provided from the MoHT.

Duty-free prices are levied on commodity prices in accordance with international rates, but airports vary due to the demand from the airport and the amount sold.—200

MH370 priority area search may end in August due to bad weather: JACC

CANBERRA — Unfavourable weather conditions are having severe impact on the search of the missing Malaysian Airline flight MH370 in the southern Indian Ocean, which may last till August instead of June as it was previously anticipated, the Joint Agency Coordination Centre for the Search of MH370 (JACC) said in its weekly report on Wednesday. “Recent poor weather conditions have severely impacted search operations,” the report said.

“It is now anticipated it may take until around August to complete the 120,000 square kilometres, but this will be influenced by weather conditions over the coming months, which may worsen.”

JACC said winter weather conditions continued to bring rough seas and strong winds to the search area, severely impacting

search operations.

For the three vessels conducting the underwater search, Fugro Discovery is conducting underwater search operations as weather permits. Fugro Equator departed for Fremantle on 11 June, and arrived in port Wednesday to conduct resupply.

It is anticipated the vessel will depart for the return voyage to the search area Thursday. Weather conditions allowed the Dong Hai Jiu 101 to recommence underwater search operations on 13 June. In response to the latest discoveries of suspected MH370 debris in Madagascar off the east coast of Africa and Kangaroo Island off the coast of South Australia, the JACC report confirmed that “arrangements are being made for this debris to be examined to establish if it is related to MH370”.—Xinhua

ASEAN countries retract statement expressing concerns on South China Sea

KUALA LUMPUR — Southeast Asian countries withdrew a statement that expressed the region’s deep concerns over rising tensions in the disputed South China Sea, where China has been involved in territorial disputes.

The strongly-worded statement by the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), released by the Malaysian foreign ministry, did not name China directly but warned against raising tensions in the contested waters, where Beijing has been building artificial islands and increasing its military presence.

“We expressed our serious concerns over recent and ongoing developments, which have eroded trust and confidence, increased tensions and which may have the potential to undermine peace, security and stability in the South China Sea,” said the statement, which was issued following a meeting in the Chinese city of Kunming between ASEAN and China’s foreign ministers.

But just hours later, a Malaysian ministry spokeswoman recalled the statement, saying “urgent amendments” needed to be made and an updated version would be distributed.

However, no updated joint statement was later issued and the spokeswoman said countries would now issue individual statements.

China lays historical claim to most of the South China Sea, with its Nine Dash line stretching deep into the maritime heart of Southeast Asia, covering



Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (6th R) and other participants pose for a group picture ahead of the Special ASEAN-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Yuxi, southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 14 June, 2016. Wang and Singapore's Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan co-chaired the meeting here Tuesday. Singapore serves as the country coordinator for China-ASEAN relations. PHOTO: XINHUA

hundreds disputed islands and reefs, rich fishing grounds and oil and gas deposits. The Philippines, Viet Nam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei have overlapping claims over the region, through which trillions of dollars in ship-borne trade passes every year.

Ian Storey, an analyst at Singapore's ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute, said the retraction of the initial statement showed the lack of unity between ASEAN members on the South China Sea disputes.

“The initial statement repeated ASEAN’s existing concerns over China’s artificial island building and the militarization of the dispute, but also countered China’s position that the dispute should be settled by the parties directly concerned and that it is not an issue between ASEAN and China.”

“Perhaps this proved too much for some of the member states and the state-

ment was withdrawn,” Storey said.

The ASEAN-China meeting was held ahead of a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague on a case brought by the Philippines contesting Beijing’s claims in the South China Sea.

China has refused to recognise the case and says all disputes should be resolved through bilateral talks. The case has become the center of an international diplomatic arm wrestle, with the United States and its allies insisting on international law be obeyed and China saying it has widespread support for its position, including from some ASEAN members. Viet Nam’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in a statement on the Kunming meeting, made no reference to the earlier ASEAN statement but echoed its concerns over increased military build-up in the South China Sea, “especially the

large-scale accretion and embellishment and construction of the reefs, the militarization of the artificial islands and actions of sovereignty claims that are not based on international law.”

Singapore and Indonesia, meanwhile, took a softer tone calling on ASEAN and China to “continue working together to maintain the peace and stability of the South China Sea.”

An Indonesian foreign ministry spokesman said the initial statement was a “media guideline” which had been prepared for a planned press conference for the conclusion of the meeting.

“However because of the meeting dynamics where the meeting extended a few hours past schedule, the press conference was canceled and a number of ASEAN FM had to leave immediately,” Armanatha Nasir, told Reuters by text message.—Reuters

Indonesia detains hundreds of Papuans ahead of minister’s visit

JAKARTA — Indonesia on Wednesday briefly detained more than 1,000 pro-independence demonstrators in its eastern province of Papua, ahead of a visit by a top security official to look into claims of human rights violations.

Papua has been gripped by a long-running and often violent separatist conflict since it was incorporated into Indonesia after a widely-criticised UN-backed referendum in 1969. Dutch colonial rule ended in 1963.

Security forces still

maintain a strong presence and are often seen as taking a heavy-handed approach to peaceful demonstrations, activists say.

The protesters took to the streets in Sentani, near Papua’s provincial capital, to demand that an independent body conduct human rights investigations rather than the Indonesian government. They were detained for protesting without a permit.

“We localised them so their movements were limited,” said Papua police

spokesman Patridge Renwarin. “We did not arrest anyone.”

The police action was backed by Atmadji Sumardijo, an aide of Chief Security Minister Luhut Pandjaitan, who is set to visit the province on Thursday.

Asked about the police response at a time when President Joko Widodo wants to reduce tension in the region, Sumardijo said, “It doesn’t mean you can do anything you want. Rallies need police permits.”

The protesters also

called for an internationally monitored referendum for independence.

Widodo faces an uphill battle in attaining his key goal of easing the tension in Papua, aimed at through measures such as stepping up investment, freeing political prisoners, and resolving cases of human rights violations.

Although there were no reports of violence, activists fear growing numbers of detentions over the last six weeks could change the picture.—Reuters

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Tokyo Gov Masuzoe submits resignation over political funds scandal



Tokyo Gov. Yoichi Masuzoe arrives at the metropolitan government building on 15 June 2016. Masuzoe has decided to step down over his alleged misuse of political funds, a ruling Liberal Democratic Party source said the same day.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

TOKYO — Tokyo Gov. Yoichi Masuzoe on Wednesday submitted his resignation over a political funds scandal amid mounting pressure from assembly members, an assembly source said.

The move came as the Tokyo assembly was set to pass a no-confidence motion against Masuzoe filed by all major assembly groups later Wednesday.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party, which supported Masuzoe in the gubernatorial election in February 2014, joined other groups in proposing the motion at a meeting of the assembly's steering committee,

apparently prompting the governor to decide to step down.

The Tokyo Metropolitan Electoral Management Committee said it is arranging to hold an election to pick Masuzoe's successor on 31 July or 7 August. It is supposed to take place within 50 days after the assembly chairman notifies the committee of the governor's resignation, which is likely to take place next Tuesday.

The 67-year-old governor has been under fire for costly business trips and for using political funds for purposes which an investigation, requested by Masuzoe, found "improper" but not illegal.

Assembly members have stepped up pressure on Masuzoe to leave the post, with many deeming the governor's explanations in an intensive question-and-answer session earlier this week unsatisfactory. But the former welfare minister Tuesday requested the steering committee grant him a "moratorium" to allow him to stay in the post at least until the Rio de Janeiro Olympics in August, citing a possible negative impact on the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

Masuzoe assumed the post after his predecessor, Naoki Inose, resigned in December 2013 for inappropriately receiving money from a hospital chain operator. The former LDP lawmaker's main rival was Morihiro Hosokawa, a former prime minister.—*Kyodo News*

China jails son of former domestic security boss for 18 years over graft

BEIJING — A Chinese court on Wednesday jailed the son of former domestic security tsar Zhou Yongkang for 18 years on corruption charges, the official news agency Xinhua said.

The report on Zhou Bin, who had business interests in the energy sector, came hours after a

court jailed Zhou's wife, former state television journalist Jia Xiaoye, for nine years, also for graft.

Once one of China's most powerful officials, the elder Zhou was at the centre of the biggest corruption scandals in more than six decades.—*Reuters*

Family of slain hostage say they back Canada ransom policy

OTTAWA — The family of a Canadian hostage who was executed by an Islamist militant group in the Philippines said on Tuesday they supported the Canadian government's policy of not paying ransom in kidnapping cases.

The Philippines on Tuesday confirmed the death of Robert Hall, who had been held hostage by al Qaeda-linked Abu Sayyaf on a remote southern island with three other people since September 2015. Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on Monday condemned the killing, but also said the Canadian government cannot and will not pay ransom in such cases because it could encourage additional kidnappings.

"Our family, even in our darkest hour, agrees wholeheartedly with Canada's policy of not paying ransom," the Hall family said in a statement. "We stand with the ideals that built this country; strength of character, resilience of spirit, and refusal to succumb to the demands of the wretched."

Hall was taken captive by the militants with three others from an upscale resort on Samal island, hundreds of miles (km) east of Jolo. Another Canadian who was held captive, former mining executive John Ridsdel, was executed by the group in April. A Norwegian man and a Filipina are still being held.—*Reuters*

Australian casino firm Crown may split assets as cushion against Macau slump

SYDNEY — Australian casino firm Crown Resorts Ltd may split most of its domestic assets off into a new listed company, seeking to cushion those operations from the slide in business at Asian gambling hub Macau which has hammered its shares.

In a statement on Wednesday, Australia's No.1 casino company said it's considering setting up a new listed property trust for its Melbourne and Perth hotels, while demerging its international investments into a separate listed firm. It didn't say how much the businesses might be worth.

The move comes after months of speculation about majority-owner James Packer's plans for the company after Australia's third-richest man stepped down as chairman in August. As the firm suffered in the Macau downturn and invested away from its core gaming business, shares tumbled 17 per cent in that time, squeezing the firm's market value to A\$8.2 billion (\$6 billion).

"We believe that Crown Resorts' extremely high-quality Australian resorts are not being

fully valued and the Crown Resorts share price has been highly correlated to the performance of its investment in Macau," Crown chairman Robert Rankin said in the statement.

In February, Crown reported a 35 per cent slump in first-half profit due to a drop in Chinese high-rollers at its Macau casinos.

The Macau venture — Melco Crown — accounted for more than 30 per cent of the company's total net profit for the year-ended June 2015.

In May this year Crown Resorts lowered its stake in Melco Crown to about 27 per cent from 34 per cent previously. On Wednesday, Crown Resorts said that stake was worth A\$2.7 billion, and said it continued to have "great faith in the long-term development of the Macau market".

The company said it planned to hold a news conference on its plans at 08.30 local time on Thursday (21.30 GMT Wednesday). In a move likely to be welcomed by investors, Crown Resorts also revised its dividend policy to boost cash returns to shareholders, offering to pay 100 per cent of net profit effective im-

mediately. The new dividend policy will not alter its intention to maintain a strong balance sheet and credit profile, it added. Crown Resorts is currently rated two levels above junk grade by the three major credit ratings firms. Investors have grown concerned about the company's move away from non-gaming assets, including last October's \$100 million purchase of 20 per cent of the Nobu restaurant chain part-owned by movie star Robert De Niro.

In May, Australian fund manager Colonial First State exited its investment in Crown Resorts citing concerns about governance and board independence, as well as the investment in Nobu.

"I suspect some shareholders would be concerned to understand the strategy of the company, now that it seems to be diverting capital to things that bear no relationship to what it has done previously," said David Green, a consultant at Macau and Australia based Newpage Consulting, speaking to Reuters before Wednesday's announcement.—*Reuters*

Indonesian president nominates antiterrorism chief to head national police

JAKARTA — President Joko Widodo has nominated Indonesia's anti-terrorism agency chief to lead the country's police force, House of Representatives speaker said on Wednesday.

"I received a letter from the president saying that Tito Karnavian is his sole choice to replace Badrodin Haiti," Ade Komarudin told reporters in Jakarta.

Three months ago, Commissioner General Tito Karnavian was promoted to head

the National Counter terrorism Agency (BNPT) just a couple of months after a suicide bombing and gun attack claimed by the Syria-based Islamic State terrorist network took place in Jakarta.

The three-star general has an established background in the security forces, especially in the antiterrorism division, including the chief role at the Jakarta police and the National Police's counter-terrorism unit Densus 88.

Indonesia, which has the

world's largest Muslim population, has witnessed numerous radicalism bombings in the past 15 years, including the 2002 Bali attacks that murdered 202 people.

Combating terrorist cells across the archipelago has been among President Joko's main security and defence agenda.

Pending House's approval, Tito is expected to succeed General Badrodin Haiti who will retire in July.—*Xinhua*



Hostages Canadian national Robert Hall (R) and Norwegian national Kjartan Sekkingstad (L) are seen in this undated picture released to local media, in Jolo island in southern Philippines. PHOTO: 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.

Putting the student centered approach to work

Kyaw Thura

AS a nascent democracy, Myanmar is in desperate need of people who are energetic, resourceful and dynamic. Decades of poor management has left the country's education system in tatters. Let bygones be bygones. This situation is not without a cure.

For our education system to move forward and keep abreast of international standards, all stakeholders

must come together to play an active role in creating an education environment where teachers teach and train as students learn and practice. In other words, schools should offer a challenging and stimulating environment in which learning is interesting and teaching is gripping.

No doubt, teachers at different levels have been familiar with the widespread use of the student-centred ap-

proach. Simply put, this approach is designed to stimulate active learning and to engage students. Still, some teachers are reluctant to adapt themselves to this trend. They might consider teaching as asking questions, correcting mistakes and grading exams. In fact, teaching is engaging students in the learning process.

It should be noted that no student will be able to devel-

op study skills without being offered the chance to learn and practise. Therefore, teachers need to train students and help them develop these skills so as to evaluate, assess and analyse what they are learning. In fact, the learner-centred approach provides teachers and students with the missing link that encourages teamwork and enriches educational experience.

State Owned Public Buses

San ShweAung

ONE of the most debated subjects among the public in Yangon is the bad services of public buses plying in the streets of the city. Public transport in the big cities around the world is essential for tens of thousands of commuters who go to work or travel for personal, social, religious & business matters daily. City authorities plan and operate the public transport services as smooth as possible. In many countries public bus services & routes have been increased and upgraded using advanced technology to satisfy the increased number of users and demand for quality and comfort in traveling from point A to point B. In many cities particularly in tropical countries, public buses are upgraded in better seats, convenient ergonomic steps, flooring, hand rails which are also children & disabled persons friendly. Number of air conditioned buses have increased dramatically. To maximize the space of the roads, double decker buses are also put into service. In some cities such as in Beijing in China the double or triple extended coaches are used to increase the capacity of the bus. The latter however is appropriate for wide roads and less traffic since it is very long, perhaps about 20 to 25 meters, and difficult to turn at the intersections.

In our country public buses in the big cities particularly in Yangon and Mandalay are in services for many years. But the commuters or customers of the public buses are not satisfied and even frustrated for many problems concerning the public bus



Triple coach extended bus.

service. As an ordinary citizen like many public bus users, I have been thinking, as many people do, how to improve the public bus services in our country. I am not a transportation engineer or an expert in public transport planning. However, I have been prompted to contemplate few common solutions though some experts or authorities might not agree for several reasons.

Quality of Buses (hardware): As all know the public buses being used in Yangon roads are very old such as crudely modified Hino -BM buses of 1960s, second or third hand, used city buses of various makes imported from Japan & South Korea and recently imported new buses from China. There is no standardized "make" of the public buses for example Hino or Isuzu or Volvo or Scania or Hyundai. We see all "makes" of buses from several countries on the road which make difficult in maintenance & repair due to needs for various spare parts and expertise. Most of the current buses are not maintained regularly since they are owned by indi-

vidual businessmen who main priority is to squeeze money out of his investment as much as possible. They run the buses non-stop without giving days-off for maintenance, cleaning & repairs. It is known among bus owners circles as.....(ခိုင်စီးတယ်). Regular servicing and maintenance are the last priority of the bus owners. Therefore we have seen daily several public buses out of order & lying idle on the road making traffic congestion worse. The buses in Yangon are very dirty inside as well as on outside body. They will not wash and clean the buses for many days or even weeks. Thanks to the Ministry of Industry who few years back has successfully modified the original diesel engines into CNG run engines. Our country has abundant natural gases and the conversion of diesel engines into Compressed Natural Gas engines is one of the most successful technical breakthrough. In addition CNG engines produce less carbon dioxide & carbon monoxide. As a result our city air quality is not as bad as in other cities where diesel engine buses are primarily

employed.

Public bus time table: Public bus services are generally based on regular operation of transit buses along a route calling at agreed bus stops according to a published public transport timetable. That is not existent in our country. In our country there are no time tables on the bus stops showing which number of the bus is arriving at what time. In many cities at each and every bus stop there is a time table upon which you can check the bus which you are expecting is coming to the bus stop. In advanced countries there is a daily standard practice for the commuters to catch the same bus to go to work at the same time & at the same bus stop nearby one's home. However in a big city like Yangon with now notorious traffic congestion, planning bus time table will have very big challenges. To increase the number of buses on the routes during rush hours may be one clear solution to reduce the waiting time for the commuters.

No conductor and best services: Very unpopular & at

times rude behavior of Yangon bus conductors are the subjects of debates & interest of cartoonists to create satire, complaining article writers in media and public speakers in radio & television in our country for many years now. It has been said that workshops and training were conducted to change for better behavior for the bus spares (conductors are commonly called "spares" in Myanmar). Yet the general public face the same rude communication from most of the bus conductors. Here we need to think for a most effective solution leaping wide stride that "what if we have public buses without "spares" or conductors in Yangon?" Oh is it possible? Yes technologically it is possible. In Singapore there are more than 95% of the public buses without conductors. And it works perfectly.

State owned public buses: What has been mentioned above are few key issues and obstacles in improving public bus service to give satisfaction and peace of mind of the general public.

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Vice Senior General Soe Win visits Eurosatory 2016 in Paris

DEPUTY Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Command-in-Chief (Army) Vice-Senior General Soe Win, who is currently in France attended the opening of Eurosatory 2016 exhibition in Paris on 13 June.

Before the opening ceremony, Vice Senior General Soe Win visited the booth of Nexter Group and A600.

Eurosatory 2016, which is slated from 13 to 17 June, was opened with the opening address by Mr Collet Billon, on behalf of

France Defence Minister Jean-Yves Drian.

After the opening ceremony, the Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services visited booths of CNIM Group, DCI Group, Air Bus Company.— *Myawady*

Girl without arms passes matriculation examination



Eastern Command Commander presenting cash to the girl student. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

NAY DAR KHUE, a school girl in Kaya State is reported to have sat for and passed this school year's matriculation examination using her feet to take the test alongside able bodied

students.

Earlier this week the commander and officers of Tatmadaw Eastern Command honoured and encouraged the student, presenting her with cash and

gifts on Monday. The young girl is the daughter of a corporal stationed at Loikaw station in Kaya State. —*Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

Dengue fever survey to be conducted

MYANMAR'S Public Health Department under the Ministry of Health and Sports (MoHS) will perform a survey of those diagnosed with dengue fever (DF) at general hospitals across Yangon, a MoHS spokesperson said.

The outbreak of dengue fever in Myanmar is common in the monsoon season. In order reduce DF infections control measures against the disease have are taken across parts of the country.

DF has infected 284 people since January and May this

year, with four deaths reported, according to the Department of Health.

Last year a total of 32,000 people were believed to have been infected by DF, 3,000 cases occurring in Yangon with over ten deaths reported.

DF, a mosquito-borne viral infection, is the leading cause of hospitalisation and death among children and adults in some regions of Asian and Latin American countries. Currently, there is no vaccine to protect against dengue fever.

If infected with DF many times adults are likely to develop Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever (DHF) that can lead to internal bleeding and eventually, death. Like DF, DHF has no vaccination and treatment requires rehydration, rest and paracetamol.

According to the MoHS a total of 13,086 cases were reported in 2014 and 20,255 in 2013.

The World Health Organisation's study indicates that 3m people, around the world, were infected with DF in 2013 alone, 12,500 of whom died.—*Zar Zar*

Sagaing Police seize more than K 2 billion drug haul

THE Sagaing Region Police Force seized more than K 2 billion worth narcotic drugs in a number of raids after the seizure of 61.5 kilograms of pseudoephedrine during a routine vehicle check at Kantalu Tollgate in the region on Tuesday.

According to further investigations, the police raided the homes of suspects in Aungmyay Thasan and Pyigy Tagun Township in Mandalay Region and seized a record haul of narcotic drugs worth

more than K2 billion.

Police Major Nyan Thaung said that Sagaing Region Police Force's 100-days has seen several seizures of narcotic drugs.

According to the police, a seizure of drugs with an estimated value of K36.9 billion at a home in Pyigy Tagun Township, Mandalay on 6 March was connected with the country's largest drug seizure in Yangon last year.— *Aung Thant Khaing*

Campaign aims to keep kids healthy

A local NGO has launched its yearly campaign to remove and destroy unsafe food being sold near basic education schools in Taungdwingyi, a town located in Magwe Region, this academic year.

"In cooperation with local teachers, the team has carried out food safety management procedures in government schools starting this academic year," said Dr. Kyaw Swe, a dentist from the team.

During its inspection tours to schools, the team found that many dyed food, expired food and food covered with fungi.

Dr. Kyaw Swe added, "The majority of snacks at schools are illegally imported from China and some local snacks are produced with the use of cheap chemical dyes."

"We bought all of unsafe food from the sellers at a whole price. We then destroyed them."

Informative talks were held at schools in the regions for merchants to understand the implications of unsafe food and the health benefits of

healthy, unprocessed foods.

The first step is to destroy expired foodstuff unfit for consumption and then alert merchants to signs and information like certain ingredients and urging them to choose food that provides complete nutritional information for consumers in Myanmar language.

This is the fourth year the team has carried out the programme in Taungdwingyi said entrepreneur U Aung Kyaw Kyaw, who currently serves as a head of the campaign.

The group also is hoping that Myanmar food manufacturers include their address and phone numbers, production and expiry dates on the package, as well as supplying ingredients and chemical ingredients on ready-made food packaging.

"We have put more effort to take action against producers who do not provide necessary information to consumers under the existing law," said U Aung Kyaw Kyaw.—*Soe Soe Yu*

State Owned Public Buses

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The last and most crucial issue is, to me, that currently the buses and routes are owned by the private businessmen who are grouped under the well-known authority Ma HtaTha and other bodies to provide the bus transport services in the city. The transport authorities must have

had very clear, rigid and standard rules & regulations for the public bus transport operation, for sure. But the bus drivers and spares (conductors) are not following to the rules, regulations and standards for their narrow minded gains & benefits which are clearly enforced by the owners of the buses. They have only one inter-

est, to make as much money and profit as possible. In the process they race with speed dangerously with other bus, shout at the customers/commuters at their will, charge more fare than the fixed one, push down the people alighting from the bus and pull up the passengers (including young capable girls & women deliberate-

ly), stop the bus in the middle of the road and anywhere they please, contributing to worse traffic jams, so on and on. The solution will be that all public buses will be totally owned by only one authority, for example in Yangon, Ma Hta Tha fully backed by Yangon Region Government and Ministry of Transport & Communication and the current bus owners (private businessmen) can become the shareholders of the *state owned public*

company limited Ma HtaTha. State owned public company limited Ma HtaTha's shares can then be definitely put on sales at Yangon Stock Exchange in near future to raise the required capital to improve quality of buses & services. Ma Hta Tha will then be capable of providing best international standard buses without conductors to the general public. That is the only solution to solve Yangon public bus transportation woes.

Clinton wins DC primary, has 'positive' meeting with Sanders



Democratic US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton (L) listens to Senator Bernie Sanders speak during a Democratic debate hosted by CNN and New York One at the Brooklyn Navy Yard in New York on 14 April, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — Hillary Clinton formally concluded the US Democratic presidential race on Tuesday with a win in the District of Columbia primary, then turned her focus to uniting the party during a 90-minute private meeting with defeated rival Bernie Sanders.

Clinton, who secured enough delegates to clinch the nomination last week, met with Sanders in a downtown Washington hotel as the sometimes bitter primary combatants searched for common ground ahead of the 8 November election against presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump.

Sanders has resisted pressure to bow out and endorse Clinton in a show of party unity, choosing to continue his campaign as leverage to win concessions from Clinton on his policy agenda and reforms to the Democratic Party nominating process.

Both camps described the meeting as “positive” and said the two noted their shared commitment to stopping Trump and pursuing issues such as raising the minimum wage, eliminating undisclosed money in politics, making college affordable and making healthcare coverage more accessible.

Sanders spokesman Michael Briggs said the meeting was “a positive discussion about how best to bring more people into the political process and about the dangerous threat that Donald Trump poses to our nation.”

Also attending were Sand-

ers’ wife Jane, Clinton campaign chairman John Podesta and the two campaign managers, Jeff Weaver for Sanders and Robby Mook for Clinton.

Sanders had promised to stay in the Democratic race until the final vote was cast in the Washington, DC, primary, although in the past week he has stopped talking about capturing the party’s nomination and instead focused on ways to advance his policy goals.

He scheduled a national video address to supporters on Thursday night, telling them in an email message that “the political revolution continues.”

At a news conference before the Washington meeting, Sanders said he would also demand changes to make the Democratic nominating process more equitable, including replacing the Democratic National Committee leadership, letting independents take part in the voting and eliminating superdelegates, who are unelected and are free to support any candidate.

“The time is long overdue for a fundamental transformation of the Democratic Party,” Sanders said.

Clinton easily beat Sanders in the District of Columbia, winning 79 per cent to his 21 per cent in a primary that closed the more than four-month, state-by-state battle for the Democratic nomination that began on 1 February in Iowa.

During a visit to Capitol Hill earlier on Tuesday, Sanders told Democratic senators he would

take his message of progressive values and party reform to the convention.

“I’m open to that, I think we should all be open to that,” Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois told reporters afterward. “It’s not a surprise that the American people are skeptical of all of us in political life. And we ought to step back and reassess why, and what we can do about it.”

Top Democrats have taken steps in the last week to begin rallying behind Clinton and ease Sanders out of the race without alienating his supporters.

President Barack Obama endorsed Clinton on Thursday, hours after meeting with Sanders at the White House. Clinton also secured the endorsement of Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a leader of the party’s progressive wing.

Clinton already has turned her attention on the campaign trail to the race with Trump, rejecting the New York businessman’s renewed calls for a ban of the entry of foreign-born Muslims into the United States after the mass shooting at a gay club in Orlando, Florida, by an American man who claimed allegiance with Islamic State militants.

“I have clearly said that we faced terrorist enemies who use a perverted version of Islam to justify slaughtering innocent people. We have to stop them, and we will,” Clinton said in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, on Tuesday. “But I will not demonize and declare war on an entire religion.”—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

France will see further terror attacks: PM

PARIS — France is doing all it can to prevent terrorist attacks but there will be more of them, Prime Minister Manuel Valls said on Wednesday following this week’s murder of a policeman and his wife by a Frenchman who pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

Valls said the intelligence and police services had foiled 15 attacks since 2013 and were waging a non-stop battle to track down would be terrorists. “We need to tighten the net and give police and intelligence services all the means they need, but we will witness further attacks,” he said on France Inter radio.

“More innocents will lose their lives,” he said.—Reuters

Brexit campaign sends flotilla along the River Thames

LONDON — Brexit campaigners sent a flotilla of fishing boats up the River Thames on Wednesday decked in colourful flags and anti-EU banners, in an eye-catching effort to galvanise support a week before Britons vote in a referendum on EU membership.

“Let’s put the Great back into Britain. Vote Out and be Great Britain again,” read a sign on one of the boats which were passing some of London’s most historic sights including Tower Bridge and the Houses of Parliament.

Other boats in the flotilla flew the British and English flags with signs bearing messages such as “Save Our Country” as polls show growing support for the campaign to quit the EU ahead of the 23 June vote. The leader of the anti-EU UKIP party Nigel Farage joined one boat, highlighting what the Brexit campaign argue is the damage being done to Britain’s fishing industry by European Union quotas.

But in a sign of the passions surrounding the impending vote, musician Bob Geldof joined a rival boat of “Remain” supporters who held up pro-EU banners in protest at the flotilla while others draped “In” banners from Tower Bridge and the riverbank.—Reuters

Belgian police alerted to IS fighters en route to Europe

BRUSSELS — Belgian police have received an anti-terror alert warning that a group of Islamic State fighters recently left Syria en route for Europe planning attacks in Belgium and France, a security source said on Wednesday.

The Belgian crisis centre in charge of coordinating security responses said that an alert had been circulated to all police forces in the country but there were no immediate plans to raise the security level to the maximum that would indicate an imminent threat of an attack. Newspaper *DH* quoted the alert from Belgium’s anti-terror cell as saying the group “left Syria about a week and a half ago to reach Europe via Turkey and Greece by boat without passports”, without giving an exact departure date.—Reuters

NATO says Ukraine ceasefire barely holding, scolds Russia

BRUSSELS—An internationally-agreed ceasefire in Ukraine is being violated by Russia “again and again”, NATO’s chief said on Wednesday.

NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg also criticised new Russian snap military checks on combat readiness, saying they undermined stability.

“The ceasefire is violated again and again, and this is of great concern,” Stoltenberg told a news conference following a meeting about Ukraine with NATO defence ministers. “Russia supports the separatists ... with equipment, with weapons. They also mass troops along the Ukrainian border,” he said.

European Union leaders must decide this month whether to extend sanctions on Russia over the crisis. —Reuters

China defends its naval ship’s entrance into Japanese waters

BEIJING — China on Wednesday defended its naval vessel’s entrance into Japanese territorial waters, saying it was an “innocent passage” in line with international conventions.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang made the comment during a regular press briefing and warned Japan not to play up the situation.

Japanese patrol aircraft spotted the Chinese spy vessel sailing in the territorial waters off an island in the southwestern prefecture of Kagoshima around 3:30am Wednesday, officials said, adding that it left the waters after about 90 minutes.—Kyodo News

Pakistan fires heavy artillery at Afghan forces on Khyber Pass border

PESHAWAR, (Pakistan) — Pakistani troops fired heavy artillery at Afghan forces at their main Khyber Pass border crossing on Wednesday, the Pakistani military said, an escalation after days of clashes that have killed four people and stranded thousands on both sides.

Relations between the US allies have never been close but have been strained over the past 15 years by Afghan accusations that Pakistan supports the Taliban who are fighting to unseat the US-backed government in Kabul. Pakistan denies that.

The countries have blamed

each other for the fighting that broke out on Sunday at the main crossing point between them over the construction of a new border post on the Pakistani side.

“When our people began construction work on the gate on Wednesday, Afghan forces again opened fire at our troops and construction workers,” said a Pakistani security official who declined to be identified.

He said Pakistan had retaliated with long-range artillery and mortars. There was no word on any casualties.

The Pakistani military spokesman’s office confirmed the

Wednesday fighting.

Afghan officials, however, denied any fighting on Wednesday, but said an Afghan border guard was killed and five were wounded overnight on Tuesday. It was not immediately clear if the officials were talking about the same incident.

Pakistan’s Foreign Office summoned the Afghan ambassador to demand that Afghanistan put an end to the “unprovoked firing” and to protest against the death of a Pakistani army major, shot on the border in a clash this week.

The US State Department on

Tuesday urged “a calm resolution to the tension”.

Pakistan says the border gate it is building is well on its side of the border and it will help stop militants from crossing and help fight drug trafficking.

Pakistan’s foreign policy chief, Sartaj Aziz, expressed concern over what he called the Afghan army’s attempts to “disrupt border management efforts” by Pakistan.

Afghanistan objects to all Pakistani construction on a 2,200-km (1,370-mile) border it says was unfairly imposed by British colonialists in the 19th

century and which it has never recognised.

Relations between Pakistan and Afghanistan have been particularly strained in recent months over Afghan anger with what it sees as insincere efforts by Pakistan to help with peace talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban.

Afghan officials say Pakistan backs the Taliban as a tool to limit the influence of its old rival, India, in Afghanistan. Pakistan says it is trying to encourage the Taliban to talk to the Kabul government but has limited sway over the militants.—*Reuters*



Smoke rises from Manbij city, Aleppo province, Syria on 8 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Damascus says German special forces in Syria, Germany denies

BEIRUT — The Syrian government said on Wednesday that German special forces were present, alongside French and American military personnel, in northern Syria, an accusation denied by Germany.

Syrian state media said the government strongly condemned the presence of French and German forces in Ain al-Arab, also known as Kobani, and Manbij.

“Syria ... considers it explicit and unjustified aggression towards (Syria’s) sovereignty and independence,” state news agency SANA quoted the foreign ministry as saying.

The US-backed Syria Democratic Forces (SDF) are staging an offensive against Islamic State near Manbij, while Kobani is under the control of the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia, part of the SDF.

Germany’s defence ministry said repeated claims by the Syrian government that German special forces were in northern Syria were not and had never been true.

“There are no German special forces in Syria. The accusation is false,” a ministry spokesman said.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights,

which monitors the Syrian civil war now in its sixth year, said French special forces were building a base for themselves near Kobani.

France’s defence minister said last week that there were special forces operating in Syria helping the SDF advance towards Manbij.

The Observatory also said German, French and American military advisers, and French and American special forces, were assisting the SDF in its fight against Islamic State but had so far remained in a support role and not fought on front lines. —*Reuters*

Ten IS militants killed by Turkey shelling in northern Syria

ANKARA — Ten Islamic State (IS) militants were killed on Tuesday in shelling in northern Syria by the Turkish army and air operations from the US-led coalition, security sources told Anadolu Agency on Wednesday.

Turkish artillery units shelled on Tuesday 17 IS targets as coalition warplanes conduct-

ed air operations in the region, security sources said.

Reports showed that 10 IS militants were killed, with Katyusha rockets and mortar guns belonging to IS destroyed.

Since mid-January, the IS has been targeting towns and cities in southern Turkey with rocket fire, killing and injuring many civilians.—*Xinhua*

Iran’s top leader threatens to ‘burn’ nuclear deal if US reneges

TEHRAN — Iran’s Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Tuesday threatened to “burn” the nuclear deal reached last year with world powers if the United States reneges on it, as presumptive Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump has vowed to do if he wins next November’s election.

Khamenei, speaking in a meeting with high-ranking government officials and military brass on the occasion of the holy month of Ramadan, said the Iran side will not be the first to violate the landmark deal reached last year with six major world powers — France, Britain, Russia, Germany, China and the United States — to limit its nuclear activities in return for the lifting of sanctions.

“But if the opposite side violates it, as the US presidential candidates are threatening to rip it apart, we will burn it,” he was quoted as saying by official media and on his website.

He did not name any particular candidate but said he does not see any difference between Democrats and Republicans.

Trump has stated on the campaign trail that if elected, his “number one priority” as president would be to “dismantle the

disastrous deal with Iran.”

By contrast, Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton supports the landmark deal, saying in a foreign policy speech last Thursday that the West is “safer now than we were before this agreement.”

In any case, she warned, “the United States will act decisively if necessary, including with military action, to stop Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.”

Khamenei challenged moderate President Rouhani’s policy of detente and compromise with the West, saying, “Some think that we can get along with the US and solve problems...This is an unrealistic idea and an illusion.” The United States severed diplomatic relations with Iran in 1980 after revolutionary students took over the US Embassy in Tehran and held diplomats as hostages for 444 days.

Khamenei accused the United States of not fulfilling its obligations under the nuclear deal to lift crippling economic sanctions against Iran.

“They have not kept their word about lifting sanctions and sanctions are not lifted practically. Also the money we have in other countries has not returned yet,” he said.—*Kyodo News*

Wife of Orlando shooter knew of attack, could soon be charged

ORLANDO (Fla.) / WASHINGTON — The wife of the gunman who killed 49 people at an Orlando gay nightclub knew of his plans for the attack and could soon be charged in connection with the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history, a law enforcement source said on Tuesday.

The source told Reuters that a federal grand jury had been convened and could charge Omar Mateen's wife, Noor Salman, as early as Wednesday.

"It appears she had some knowledge of what was going on," said US Senator Angus King, a member of the Senate Intelligence Committee, which received a briefing on the attack on Tuesday.

"She definitely is, I guess you would say, a person of interest right now and appears to be cooperating and can provide us with some important information," King told CNN.

Mateen, who was shot dead by police after a three-hour standoff at the Pulse club early on Sunday, called 911 during his shooting spree to profess allegiance to various militant Islamist groups.

Federal investigators have said he was likely self-radicalised and there was no evidence that he received any instructions or aid from outside groups such as Islamic State. Mateen, 29, was a US citizen, born in New York of Afghan immigrant parents.

"He appears to have been an angry, disturbed, unstable young man who became radicalised," President Barack Obama told reporters.

Mateen, who was a security guard, was systematic during his rampage, working his way

through the packed club shooting people who were already down. He apparently wanted to ensure they were dead, said Angel Colon, a wounded survivor.

"I look over and he shoots the girl next to me and I was just there laying down and thinking: 'I'm next, I'm dead,'" he said.

Mateen shot him twice more, one bullet apparently aimed for Colon's head striking his hand, and another hitting his hip, Colon said at Orlando Regional Medical Center, where he is one of 27 survivors being treated.

FoxNews.com, citing an FBI source, said prosecutors were seeking to charge Mateen's wife as an accessory to 49 counts of murder and 53 counts of attempted murder and failure to notify law enforcement about the pending attack and lying to federal agents.

NBC News said Salman told federal agents she tried to talk her husband out of carrying out the attack. But she also told the FBI she once drove him to the Pulse nightclub because he wanted to scope it out, the network said.

Salman's mother, Ekbal Zahi Salman, lives in a middle-class neighbourhood of the suburban town of Rodeo, California. A neighbour said Noor Salman only visited her mother once after she married Mateen.

Noor Salman's mother "didn't like him very much. He didn't allow her (Noor) to come here," said neighbour Rajinder Chahal. He said he had spoken to Noor Salman's mother after the Orlando attack. "She was crying, weeping."

Obama denounced Donald Trump for his proposed ban on Muslims entering the United



A sign is pictured in front of a house across the street from Omar Mateen's home in Port Saint Lucie, Florida, US, on 14 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

States, joining fellow Democrat Hillary Clinton in portraying the Republican presidential candidate as unfit for the White House.

Since the shooting, Trump criticised Obama for not using the term "radical Islamic terrorism" to describe violent Islamist militants.

"What exactly would using this label accomplish, what exactly would it change?" Obama replied. "Someone seriously thinks we don't know who we're fighting? ... There's no magic to the phrase 'radical Islam.' It's a political talking point. It is not a strategy."

Mateen made 911 calls from the club in which he pledged loyalty to the leader of Islamic State, Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, whose organisation controls parts of Iraq and Syria.

He also claimed solidarity with the ethnic Chechen brothers who carried out the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing and with a Palestinian-American who became a suicide bomber in Syria for al Qaeda offshoot the Nusra

Front, authorities said.

"We could hear him talking to 911 saying that the reason why he's doing this is because he wants America to stop bombing his country. From that conversation from 911 he pledges allegiance to ISIS," said Patience Carter, 20, who was trapped in a bathroom stall at the nightclub as Mateen prowled outside.

Carter, from Philadelphia, read a poem to the media that she said she wrote to help her heal.

"Looking at the blood and debris covered on everyone's faces. Looking at the gunman's feet under the stall as he paces. The guilt of feeling lucky to be alive is heavy," the poem read.

US officials were investigating media reports that Mateen may have been gay but not openly so, and questioning whether that could have driven his attack, according to two people who have been briefed on the investigation and requested anonymity to discuss it.

A former wife of Mateen, Sitara Yusufi, said her ex-husband

had facets of his life that he did not share with his family, such as drinking and going to night clubs.

"He did have a different side to him that he could not open up to his father about," Yusufi told CNN.

She has previously said he was mentally unstable and beat her and that she fled their home after four months of marriage.

The owner of Pulse, speaking through a representative, denied reports that Mateen had been a regular patron.

"Untrue and totally ridiculous," Sara Brady, a spokeswoman for club owner Barbara Poma, said in an email when asked about the claim.

Mateen's father, Seddique Mateen, indicated soon after the attack that his son had harbored strong anti-gay feelings and on Tuesday he told reporters his son had never mentioned being homosexual.

"I don't believe he was a whatever you call it," he said.—Reuters

French killer's Facebook broadcast underscores live video challenges

SAN FRANCISCO — After Larossi Abballa killed a French police commander and the commander's partner on Tuesday, he took to Facebook Live to encourage viewers in a 12-minute video to follow his example: Kill prison staff, police officials, journalists, lawmakers.

The incident underscores the immense challenges companies such as Facebook Inc, Twitter Inc and Google's YouTube face as they push live video streaming to hundreds of millions of people.

Facebook in recent months has made its Live feature — which allows anyone to broadcast a video in real time — a central component of its strategy.

Twitter, similarly, is focused on live content, and online video

leader YouTube is also moving into live streaming.

All the companies have protocols in place to remove content that violates their terms of service, mainly by asking users to report offending material for review. But the companies generally promise a turnaround time of 24 hours on such reports, while live videos would have to be reviewed and removed in minutes to prevent wide dissemination.

"We do understand and recognise that there are unique challenges when it comes to content and safety for Live videos," a Facebook spokeswoman said. "We're deeply committed to improving the effectiveness of how we handle reports of live content that violates our Community Standards."

Facebook is not the first company to grapple with abuse of live video. In April, an 18-year-old woman was charged after she livestreamed her friend's rape on Twitter's Periscope. In May, a young woman in France recorded herself on Periscope as she threw herself under a train.

"Making these decisions for live video broadcasts is even more challenging," said Aaron Altschuler, a lawyer at ZwillGen and former associate general counsel for global law enforcement and security at Yahoo. "Companies already face difficult content takedown decisions related to other types of user-generated content."

Twitter did not respond to requests for comment.

YouTube said it has teams

around the world that review reported videos 24 hours a day, adding that it will terminate an account when it has reasonable belief that the person behind it is part of group that the US government has identified as a "foreign terrorist organisation."

Facebook, which receives millions of reports a week of standards violations, said it reviews the vast majority within 24 hours. It said it is expanding a team dedicated to reviewing live content and staffing it 24 hours a day. Facebook can interrupt and remove broadcasts that violate policy.

The company said it is also testing the monitoring of broadcasts that go viral or are trending even before they are reported. That could give Facebook a

way to stop offending broadcasts quickly, just as a television network might.

But as of yet there are no automated tools that can identify live videos that should be taken down, people familiar with the technology said.

Abballa, 25, told police negotiators he had answered an appeal by Islamic State chief Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi "to kill infidels at home with their families," Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said at a news conference.

During the Facebook Live broadcast, Abballa spoke mostly in French and occasionally in Arabic. Although the video was quickly removed from Facebook, Islamic State shared an edited version through several of its channels.—Reuters

WHO statement on the third meeting of the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR(2005)) Emergency Committee on Zika virus and observed increase in neurological disorders and neonatal malformations

GENEVA — The third meeting of the Emergency Committee (EC) convened by the Director-General under the International Health Regulations (2005) (IHR 2005) regarding microcephaly, other neurological disorders and Zika virus was held by teleconference on 14 June 2016, from 13:00 to 17:15 Central European Time. In addition to providing views to the Director-General on whether the event continued to constitute a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC), the Committee was asked to consider the potential risks of Zika transmission for mass gatherings, including the Olympic and Paralympic Games scheduled for August and September 2016, respectively, in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The Committee was briefed on the implementation of the Temporary Recommendations issued by the Director-General on 8 March 2016 and updated on the epidemiology and association of Zika virus infection, microcephaly and Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS) since that time. The following States Parties provided information on microcephaly, GBS and other neurological disorders occurring in the presence of Zika virus transmission: Brazil, Cabo Verde, Colombia, France, and the United States of America. Advisors to the Committee provided further information on the potential risks of Zika virus transmission associated with mass gatherings and the upcoming Olympic and Paralympic

Games, and the Committee thoroughly reviewed the range of public perspectives, opinions and concerns that have recently been aired on this subject.

The Committee concurred with the international scientific consensus, reached since the Committee last met, that Zika virus is a cause of microcephaly and GBS, and, consequently, that Zika virus infection and its associated congenital and other neurological disorders is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The Committee restated the advice it provided to the Director-General in its 2nd meeting in the areas of public health research on microcephaly, other neurological disorders and Zika virus, surveillance, vector control, risk communications, clinical care, travel measures, and research and product development.

The Committee noted that mass gatherings, such as the Olympic and Paralympic Games, can bring together substantial numbers of susceptible individuals, and can pose a risk to the individuals themselves, can result in the amplification of transmission and can, potentially, contribute to the international spread of a communicable disease depending on its epidemiology, the risk factors present and the mitigation strategies that are in place. In the context of Zika virus, the Committee noted that the individual risks in areas of transmission are the same whether or not a mass gathering is conducted, and can be minimized by good pub-



lic health measures. The Committee reaffirmed and updated its advice to the Director-General on the prevention of infection in international travellers as follows:

Pregnant women should be advised not to travel to areas of ongoing Zika virus outbreaks; pregnant women whose sexual partners live in or travel to areas with Zika virus outbreaks should ensure safe sexual practices or abstain from sex for the duration of their pregnancy,

Travellers to areas with Zika virus outbreaks should be provided with up to date advice on potential risks and appropriate measures to reduce the possibility of exposure through mosquito bites and sexual transmission and, upon return, should take appropriate measures, including practicing safer sex, to reduce the risk of onward transmission,

The World Health Organisation should regularly update its guidance on travel with evolving information on the nature and duration of risks associated with

Zika virus infection.

Based on the existing evidence from the current Zika virus outbreak, it is known that this virus can spread internationally and establish new transmission chains in areas where the vector is present. Focusing on the potential risks associated with the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the Committee reviewed information provided by Brazil and Advisors specialising in arboviruses, the international spread of infectious diseases, travel medicine, mass gatherings and bioethics. The Committee concluded that there is a very low risk of further international spread of Zika virus as a result of the Olympic and Paralympic Games as Brazil will be hosting the Games during the Brazilian winter when the intensity of autochthonous transmission of arboviruses, such as dengue and Zika viruses, will be minimal and is intensifying vector-control measures in and around the venues for the Games which should further reduce the risk of transmission.

The Committee reaf-

firmed its previous advice that there should be no general restrictions on travel and trade with countries, areas and/or territories with Zika virus transmission, including the cities in Brazil that will be hosting the Olympic and Paralympic Games. The Committee provided additional advice to the Director-General on mass gatherings and the Olympic and Paralympic Games as follows:

Countries, communities and organisations that are convening mass gatherings in areas affected by Zika virus outbreaks should undertake a risk assessment prior to the event and increase measures to reduce the risk of exposure to Zika virus,

Brazil should continue its work to intensify vector control measures in and around the cities and venues hosting Olympic and Paralympic Games events, make the nature and impact of those measures publicly available, enhance surveillance for Zika virus circulation and the mosquito vector in the cities hosting the events and publish that in-

formation in a timely manner, and ensure the availability of sufficient insect repellent and condoms for athletes and visitors,

Countries with travellers to and from the Olympic and Paralympic Games should ensure that those travellers are fully informed on the risks of Zika virus infection, the personal protective measures that should be taken to reduce those risks, and the action that they should take if they suspect they have been infected.

Countries should also establish protocols for managing returning travellers with Zika virus infection based on WHO guidance,

Countries should act in accordance with guidance from the World Health Organisation on mass gatherings in the context of Zika virus outbreaks, which will be updated as further information becomes available on the risks associated with Zika virus infection and factors affecting national and international spread.

Based on this advice the Director-General declared the continuation of the Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The Director-General reissued the Temporary Recommendations from the 2nd meeting of the Committee, endorsed the additional advice from the Committee's 3rd meeting, and issued them as Temporary Recommendations under the IHR (2005). The Director-General thanked the Committee Members and Advisors for their advice. —World Health Organisation (WHO)

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MCC MERGUI VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AYSAN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AYSAN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 16.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING
LINE

Phone No: 2301185

Led Zeppelin goes on trial for 'Stairway to Heaven' in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES — A musical riff Led Zeppelin is accused of stealing from another band for its 1971 classic "Stairway to Heaven" was not unique, singer Robert Plant and guitarist Jimmy Page's attorney said at a civil trial on Tuesday.

"No one owns common musical elements," defence attorney Peter Anderson said in opening arguments for the copyright infringement trial in Los Angeles federal court.

The lawsuit, which alleges the British band stole the opening chords for "Stairway to Heaven" from the 1967 instrumental "Taurus" by the American band Spirit, was brought by Michael Skidmore, a trustee for the late Randy Wolfe, Spirit's guitarist and the composer of "Taurus."

"Stairway to Heaven" is considered one of the most widely heard compositions in rock history and is the signature song of Led Zeppelin, which broke up in 1980.

The case comes just over a year after a federal jury in Los Angeles found recording stars Robin Thicke and Pharrell Williams had plagiarized Motown great Marvin

Gaye in creating their hit single "Blurred Lines," and awarded Gaye's family \$7.4 million.

In the latest case, Plant, 67, and Page, 72, appeared in court on Tuesday sporting long gray hair and are expected to testify eventually in the closely watched trial.

Skidmore has said Page may have been inspired to write "Stairway" after hearing Spirit perform "Taurus" while the bands toured together in 1968 and 1969, but that Wolfe never received credit.

Wolfe, also known as Randy California, drowned in the Pacific Ocean in 1997.

US District Judge Gary Klausner said in April that a jury might find "substantial" similarity between the first two minutes of "Stairway" and "Taurus," and to let it decide whether Plant and Page were liable for copyright infringement.

Attorney Francis Alexander Malofiy, representing Skidmore, told a

jury in opening arguments the case centres



Led Zeppelin singer Robert Plant (L) and guitarist Jimmy Page are shown sitting in a lawsuit involving their rock classic song 'Stairway to Heaven' in this courtroom sketch in Los Angeles, California on 14 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

on an infringement by Led Zeppelin of copyright law, which protects artistic creation.

"It gives credit to creation but it does not give credit to copying," Malofiy said.

Anderson said his side will present evidence showing neither Skidmore nor Wolfe's trust own the copyright to "Taurus."

Testimony in the case began with Janet Wolfe, sister of Randy Wolfe, who said her brother had written "Taurus" for his wife,

Robin.

When asked if she and her brother had ever discussed "Stairway to Heaven," Janet Wolfe said yes.

"It was something that upset him for many, many years," she said.—Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Iggy Azalea postpones release of 'Digital Distortion' again

LOS ANGELES — Singer Iggy Azalea has one again delayed the release of her album "Digital Distortion".

The 26-year-old raptress told one of her Twitter followers that her album is no longer set for release on 24 June because she needs to be in Australia for her role as a judge of "The X-Factor Australia".

Azalea joins the singing competition as a judge to replace Dannii Minogue, Kylie Minogue's sister.

In another tweet to another fan, she revealed that she would only be a part of the show for five weeks. "I will be there for one week at the end of June and 4 weeks in November so in total this is just a 5week thing," she said.

The "Fancy" crooner had previously pushed back "Digital Distortion" to include a collaboration with Zedd.—PTI



Reese Witherspoon with Moonie. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fashion is storytelling: Reese Witherspoon

LONDON — Actor-Producer Reese Witherspoon says she wants to tell stories through her fashion brand.

The 40-year-old, who has her own lifestyle brand Draper James, feels very motivated to share stories that haven't been already told through her company, reported female first.

"The South is on fire right now. I'm a storyteller, and fashion is storytelling, too. This has put me in a new sphere of in-

fluence. I'm very motivated to tell stories which haven't been told," she said. The "Wild" star said she was initially nervous about starting her own business with no previous experience in retail or distribution.

"Starting a new business at the age of 39, not knowing anything about retail, distribution, e-commerce, net sales, I had a huge learning curve. It's all my own money, all my own time," she added.—PTI

Tate Modern mixes old with new with pyramid-like extension



A man stands outside the Switch House during the unveiling of the New Tate Modern in London.

PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Tate Modern made a show on Tuesday of its new pyramid-like extension, which significantly adds to the London gallery's space and allows it to exhibit more contemporary art from around the world.

Works on display in the revamped art museum, which includes the new 10-storey Switch House, include a room full of human hair and car bumpers by Indian artist Sheela Gowda and a tower of 800 radios by Brazil's Cildo Meireles.

The "new Tate Modern" extension increases the size of the gallery in a former power station on the River Thames by 60 per cent and will open to the public on Friday following a 260 million pound (\$367 million) revamp.

Tate Modern said its completely re-hung free collection features some 800 works by more than 300 artists, with half of the solo displays dedicated to women artists.

New acquisitions such as 1930s photography by Lionel

Wendt and 1960s sculpture by Lebanon's Saloua Raouda Choucair add to works by artists such as Pablo Picasso and Henri Matisse.

"We try to mix the familiar and the unfamiliar. We try to show that artists don't just think about their own generation or even about the previous generation," Tate director Nicholas Serota told Reuters.

"They look at people from 50, 100 years ago. They take inspiration from them, then they build it into their own work...that's what's exciting about the whole way we show the collection."

Like the main gallery, which opened in 2000 and attracts 5 million visitors a year, the 65-metre (213.25 ft) high extension was designed by Swiss architects Herzog & de Meuron.

Clad in a lattice of 336,000 bricks in a nod to the original power station's brickwork, the tower has a public viewing level offering 360 degree panoramic views of the British capital. —Reuters

No. of foreign visitors to Japan tops 10 million in January-June

TOKYO — The number of foreign visitors to Japan has been increasing at a faster pace than record-breaking last year, with more than 10 million foreigners visiting the country in the first six months of this year, sources familiar with the matter said Tuesday.

It took about seven months to reach the 10 million threshold in 2015 when a record 19.74 million foreigners visited Japan in total. If the number increases at the current pace, it is likely the annual figure will top 20 million this year, the sources said.

A tourism boom has continued in Japan, with the monthly number of foreign visitors hitting a record 2.08 million in April on the back of the popularity of cherry-blossom viewing. Also encouraging tourism are increased airline routes to Japan, the relaxation of visa requirements for Southeast Asians and expanded tax breaks for tourists.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's government has placed sightseeing as one of the pillars of the nation's economic growth strategy, setting a target to boost the number of annual foreign tourists to 40 million in 2020 when Tokyo hosts the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Experts say foreign tourists may increase further in the upcoming summer holiday season but a slowdown of the Chinese economy and the yen's recent appreciation against other major currencies could put a brake on the trend.

Following powerful earthquakes in Kumamoto and its vicinity in April, the number of South Korean visitors to Kyushu, southwestern Japan, has fallen, although they have been among the most foreign travellers by nation in the southwestern Japan region partly due to geographical proximity.—Kyodo News

Stolen marble head of Rome's first emperor returns to Italy

ROME — A marble sculpture of the head of Rome's first emperor was welcomed back to the Italian capital on Tuesday, some 40 years after it was stolen and trafficked out of the country.

The portrayal of Augustus, one of the earliest known depictions of a man born more than 2,000 years ago, is the latest artifact from Italy's ancient sites to be repatriated after being illegally smuggled abroad.

The phenomenon became so widespread that Italy set up a police unit dedicated to tracing the pieces.

"Today we don't just have the retrieval," Deputy Foreign Minister Mario Giro said at a ceremony to mark the return of the artwork. "We are celebrating the importance the memories of these artifacts have for the future of humanity."

The 45 centimetre veiled

head, whose hairstyle shows it dates to the period before the young Octavius became emperor and took the name Augustus in around 27 B.C., had been on display in the Cinquantenaire Museum in Brussels.

The museum had bought it in good faith after it ended up in a private collection, Italy's Foreign Ministry said in a statement, without saying who might have committed the original theft.

As soon as art history experts established that it had been stolen from Nepi, near Rome, in the 1970s, the museum decided immediately to return it to Italy, the ministry said.

Visibly damaged by exposure to the elements and the passage of time, the head is believed to have formed part of a statue wearing a toga. Its likeness to another head in the Nepi



A marble head named the "Augusto di Nepi" and representing young emperor Augustus is seen during a ceremony for its restitution to Italy by Belgian authorities in Rome, Italy on 14 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

museum helped identify it, Nepi mayor Pietro Soldatelli said.

"After more than 40 years of exile in Europe, he's finally home. Welcome back Augustus," Soldatelli said.—Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(16-6-2016, Thursday)

06 : 00 pm

- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

06 : 20 pm

- Cartoon Programme "The Good Dinosaur" (Part-1)

07 : 10 pm

- International Drama Series

07 : 40 pm

- International Drama Series

08 : 30 pm

- MRTV Entertainment Music

08 : 50 pm

- Sai Htee Hseng or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Episode-3)

09 : 10 pm

- International Movie Songs

09 : 30 pm

- Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMADRUM)

10 : 10 pm

- Myanmar Video

9 : 50 pm

- Myanmar Video

* (19 : 30)pm Live: EURO 2016 "England Vs Wales"

From 16-6-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm
To 17-6-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm



Myanmar International

(16-6-2016 07:00am ~ 17-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Bago: A City of Famous Historic Pagoda
07:46	Am	Chinlone and the dreams of the player
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	News Extra: Australia-Myanmar Bilateral Ties
09:03	Am	News
09:27	Am	Elegant and Exquisite Myanmar Cotton Fabrics
09:39	Am	Cultural Shows: Theatrical Art
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Applied Myanmar Traditional Martial Art (Part-1)
10:50	Am	Wet Market in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Ep- II)
07:41	Pm	The Hills of Phowintaung And Shwebataung
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- Lacquer ware Making
08:51	Pm	Indian Footsteps

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

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



Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo heads at goal during EURO 2016 at Stade Geoffroy-Guichard, Saint-Étienne, France on 14 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ronaldo hits out at 'small time' Iceland in Euro draw

SAINT-ÉTIENNE — Portugal captain Cristiano Ronaldo has criticised Iceland's 'small mentality' while saying they were fortunate to earn a 1-1 draw against his team in their European Championship Group F opener in St Etienne on Tuesday.

Winger Birkir Bjarnason

cancelled out Nani's first-half opener for Portugal in Iceland's maiden appearance at a major tournament but Ronaldo, who equalled Luis Figo's record of 127 caps for his country, was dismissive of his opponent's tactics.

"Iceland didn't try anything. They were just defend, defend,

defend and playing on the counter-attack. It was a lucky night for them," Ronaldo told reporters in France. "We should have three points but we are okay. I thought they'd won the Euros the way they celebrated at the end."

"It was unbelievable. When they don't try to play and just de-

fend, defend, defend, this in my opinion shows a small mentality and they are not going to do anything in the competition."

Portugal next face Austria in Paris on Saturday and conclude their group stage campaign against Hungary in Lyon four days later.—Reuters

Sharapova appeals against two-year doping ban

LONDON — Five-times grand slam champion Maria Sharapova is seeking to have her two-year doping ban wiped out or reduced as she lodged an appeal with the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) on Tuesday.

The 29-year-old Russian was banned by the International Tennis Federation (ITF) earlier this month following a positive test for the banned drug meldonium during January's Australian Open.

"In her appeal to the CAS, Ms Sharapova seeks the annulment of the Tribunal's decision to sanction her with a two-year period of ineligibility further to an anti-doping rule violation," sport's highest tribunal said in a statement.

"Ms Sharapova submits that the period of ineligibility should be eliminated, or in the alternative, reduced."

The statement added that her case had been expedited and a ruling would be made by 18 July at the latest, which means Sharapova still harbours hopes of competing at the Rio Olympics in August provided her ban is reduced to time already served.

The former world number one was named in Russia's official entry list for the Olympics tennis tournament.—Reuters

Chile advance, Argentina win group

SEATTLE — Chile advanced to the Copa America quarter-finals on Tuesday after two goals in the first half from Eduardo Vargas and two in the second from Alexis Sanchez gave them a 4-2 win over Panama, while Argentina took top spot by beating Bolivia 3-0 in Group D.

Defending champions Chile will play Mexico in the next round on Saturday with Argentina facing Venezuela the same day.

"This was important for me and for the team," said Chile's Vargas. "It has boosted our confidence for the games to come."

"We are Copa America champions but we haven't played as well as we did in the last Copa America and this will give us confidence."

Chile went behind to an early goal but roared back thanks to outstanding performances from their front pair, who ran the Panamanian defence ragged.

Panama took the lead in the fourth minute after a mistake by Chilean goalkeeper Claudio Bravo, who let Miguel Camargo's shot from almost 30 yards squirm through his hands and into the net.

Chile fought back and were soon 2-1 up.

Artur Vidal and Sanchez worked a one-two in the box after 14 minutes and Sanchez's shot was only parried by Jaime Penedo and Vargas followed up to smash it home.

Three minutes before half time striker Vargas rose to glance home a header to put Chile ahead.

Sanchez was in captivating form and scored one of the goals of the tournament after 49 minutes.

Vargas was the provider this time, creating space for himself in the box before chipping to Sanchez, who volleyed home in spectacular fashion.

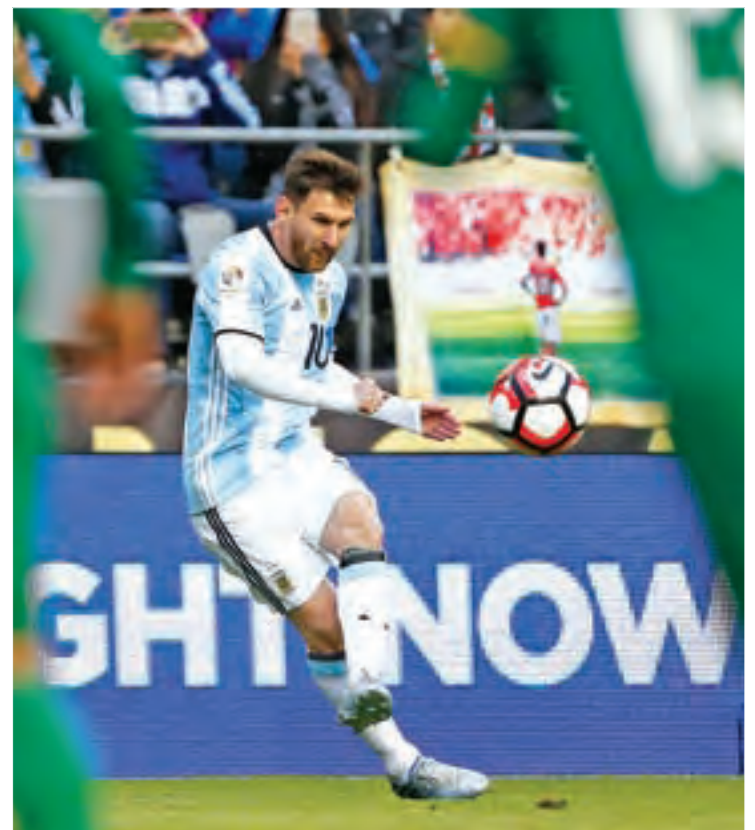
Panama kept fighting and pulled one back after 74 minutes and again Bravo was at fault, failing to stop Abdiel Arroyo's header from going in at his near post.

Sanchez had the last word, however, when he rose unmarked to head home a cross with two minutes left to make it 4-2.

In Seattle, few were expecting anything other than an Argentine win over already-eliminated Bolivia and most of the attention was focussed on whether Lionel Messi would surpass Gabriel Batistuta's record of 54 goals for his country.

Needing one to tie the mark, Messi came on as a second-half substitute with his team already 3-0 up through Erik Lamela, Ezequiel Lavezzi and Victor Cuesta.

The closest Messi came to scoring was from a free kick in the 61st minute but his curled effort sailed just wide.—Reuters



Argentina midfielder Lionel Messi (10) takes a free kick against Bolivia during the second half in the group play stage of the 2016 Copa America Centenario, Seattle, WA, USA, on 14 June 2016. Argentina won 3-0. PHOTO: REUTERS