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media to benefit nation says
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FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, UN human rights envoy hold talks on human rights matters

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Ms Yanghee Lee, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar held talks related to promotion and protection of human rights in Myanmar, focusing on the new government implementing them in its '100-day plan.'

During talks at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, they exchanged views on efforts to address the situation in Rakhine State, the ongoing peace process, human rights laws, freedom of assembly and freedom of association, economic and social rights, providing humanitarian aid, and developments on joining the remaining international core human rights treaties.

During the 12-day visit, at the invitation of the Government, the expert will also meet with various stakeholders, including political and community leaders and civil society representatives.

In line with her mandate from the UN Human Rights Council, Ms. Lee will monitor the situation of human rights and assess progress in implementation of her previous recommendations, including for the Government's first 100 days in office, and the year ahead.

She will also take into account the Government's own 100-day plans, according to the announcement of her office.

Finally, she will identify benchmarks for progress and priority areas for technical assistance and capacity building.

This is her fourth visit to the country and the first with the new NLD led government.—GNLM



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with Ms Yanghee Lee, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.
PHOTO: MNA



Vice President U Myint Swe.
PHOTO: MNA

Myanmar steps up efforts to integrate into global economy

MYANMAR is going all out to integrate the underdeveloped nation into the global economy, said Vice President U Myint Swe during the release of a report of a "multi-dimensional assessment on trade development by the Ministry of Commerce (MoC) and World Bank (WB)," in Nay

Pyi Taw yesterday.

"The government has focused on economic growth that could be brought about by improved trade, job creation, investment inflows and trade facilitation," said U Myint Swe, adding "The report finds that barriers, technical assistance and policies

are needed to be addressed and fulfilled in respective sectors to ensure the country's integration into the global economy is a smooth transition."

U Myint Swe focused on how there is a need to promote the country's trade sector in order for Myanmar to realise its geo-

graphical importance, the Vice President called for a quick integration of the country into the global economy.

Also emphasising the importance of further implementation of recommendations from international groups and

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Union Ministers attend CLMVT Forum 2016 in Thailand



Ministers from Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam and Thailand participate in CLMVT Forum 2016.

Union Ministers U Khin Maung Cho, Dr Than Myint and U Kyaw Win attended Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Viet Nam and Thailand (CLMVT) Forum 2016 held in Bangkok, Thailand on 16-17 June.

The event was held to discuss prospects for the region and

their global perspectives and potentials in order to promote cross border trade and investment opportunities.

Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win spoke of opportunities for Myanmar's partners as the country is look-

ing to change it's production and products and plans to privatise state-owned enterprises.

The two-day forum also focused on creating a vibrant business environment and supporting digital infrastructure in CLMVT.—*Myanmar News Agency*

ICT event to be held in Yangon this November

SIXTY exhibitors have signed up to Communi Cast to be held in Yangon this November, the event is designed to support Myanmar's developing ICT industry, mobile, broadband, satellite and broadcasting markets.

Last year saw 120 companies, 2,500 delegates and visitors visit the event.

"Myanmar is entering a new era of opportunity and it is a good time to engage with the new government to encourage the ICT economy to be at the forefront of their plans; education is key to the development of the economy and we are sure that ICT can assist in this prioritisation process,"

said Min Zeyar Hlaing, Vice President of the Myanmar Computer Industry Association.

"The ICT industry has only a handful of foreign companies competing in the country and this relatively low level of competition means this is a great opportunity for companies to enter the market early."

Myanmar has displayed that it's ICT market is developing at a rapid rate and is one of the fastest growing tech countries in the world, according to a Communi Cast press release. A total of 327 Myanmar visitors attended the CommunicAsia/ Broadcast Asia event in Singapore this year, dis-

playing it's prowess.

"We are very pleased to be returning to Yangon for the third straight year and with 60 exhibitors already signed up, the show is going from strength to strength," said Rupert Owen, Show Director for CommuniCast.

"With some of the biggest players in the mobile, satellite and wireless industries attending, the event is a great opportunity to make the connections that will make the industry grow."

The event is to be held at the Yangon International Convention hall and is the third time the event has been held in the country.—*GNLM*

Yangon celebrates Olympic Day with sports contests

ATHLETES in Yangon acknowledged Olympic Day 2016 in Yangon on 18-19 June, by holding competitions at the Na-

tional Swimming Pool bringing in 150 contestants.

Sailing events took place at Yangon Sailing Club with 70

participating contestants.

Officials presented prizes to winners after the events.—*A K Lin*



A swimmer participates in an event to mark Olympic Day 2016. PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALIN)

Applications for studying in Japan invited

THE Myanmar-Japan Association (MJA) is inviting applications for the MJA Outstanding Students Award Japanese Exchange Visit 2016. The association arranged a study tour to Japan (8 days, 7 nights) for 20 outstanding students from regions and states who passed the matriculation examination with high marks in 2014 and 2015.

Under the 2016 program, outstanding students of the 2015-2016 matriculation examination and students from Yangon University of Foreign Languages, majoring in Japanese language, will be selected to study in Japan. The selected students will be sent

to Japan this October.

A total of 110 students—25 high ranking science students, 25 high ranking science/arts students and outstanding 60 YUFL students who are tentatively selected, will be allowed to apply for the visit.

Applications are available at MJA at No 102, Central Tower on Anawrahta Street in Kyauktada Township. Applications are to be submitted to the association not later than 18 July. For further information, contact Dr Htay Lwin (ph: 09262772705) and U Nay Win Htet (ph: 09421162331).—*Myanmar News Agency*

Unlicensed cars seized at two separate places in Mandalay

UNLICENSED vehicles were found and seized in the compounds of two monasteries in Mandalay, said police yesterday. A combined team comprising the Sayadaws of Sangha Nayaka Committee, police members and township/ward administrators confiscated 36 unlicensed cars at two separate places in Mandalay.

27 unlicensed cars were found at Aung Myay Shwe Bon

monastery in Chanmya Thasi Township and nine at another monastery, said police. According to the police, the seized vehicles were found unregistered with the Road Transport Administration Department, known by its Myanmar initials Ka-Nya-Na. Cases have been filed at the police station and two men were found with the unlicensed cars, said police.—*Aung Thant Khaing*



Seized unlicensed cars are seen in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Senior citizens' Bill to be submitted soon

A Senior Citizens' Bill will be submitted to the Hluttaw to prevent senior citizens from being neglected physically and psychologically, said an official from the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

"Other countries have laws to prevent harm against their senior citizens.

The Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement has also drafted a bill to be presented to the Hluttaw. When the bill is passed, neglect and

harm against senior citizens can be prevented," said Daw San San Aye, deputy director of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Myanmar is a country that has a rapidly aging population like other countries in South East Asia. Myanmar's senior citizen population is four times higher than 60 years ago. The current population accounts for 9% of the total population in Myanmar, it is stated in an undisclosed report.—200

Informing the public via media to benefit nation says Union Information Minister

MINISTER for Information Dr Pe Myint said at a conference on media relations for ministerial spokespersons yesterday that the government can benefit from engaging with the media to inform the public on government policy.

“As the government is absolutely required to engage with the public, it is imperative to have better relations with the media which is striving to be the

fourth estate, conducting check and balance of the three pillars,” said Dr Pe Myint.

He stressed the need to be prepared to respond to the media questions, as spokespersons are responsible for engaging with the public through the media. Those present held discussions on the review of the workshop, human rights, freedom of press, issuing press release, responsibility and accountability.

Organised by the Ministry of Information in cooperation with the UNESCO and the European Union, the workshop is set to run from 19-22 June bringing together the selected 47 spokespersons from all ministerial departments to learn about media relations, managing conflict-sensitive reporting, manual of media interviews and how to conduct press conferences.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister Dr Pe Myint speaks at Media Relations Workshop for Spokespersons. PHOTO: MNA

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work programmes after addressing the country's weaknesses noted in the report, he acknowledges that the report will be of great benefit to the new government.

Union Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint broke

down the report developed by experts from the WB after holding talks with ministries concerned in connection with the trade sector and the private sector.

Dr Than Myint spoke of improving Myanmar's basic infrastructure, small-to-medium

enterprises, human resources and technologies for ensuring the quality of products and capacity-building in the country's financial sector.

Officials from the World Trade Organisation and the WB followed with speeches.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar to reduce tobacco use with control policies in cooperation with int'l organizations

Thein Ko Lwin

MYANMAR is looking to cut the number of smokers in the country by passing laws to curb consumption, it was revealed yesterday by the Union Minister for Health and Sports, Dr Myint Htwe. Myanmar is set to scale up efforts to reduce tobacco related deaths and other products in cooperation with international organisations.

Dr Myint Htwe said that there has been an increase in smoking and tobacco consumption in Myanmar

“The World Health Organization (WHO) has conducted training courses to control cigarettes and tobacco products in Myanmar commencing from 20 to 25 June,” said Dr Myint Htwe.

Attendees to the five-day workshop are set to meet with parliamentarians on the final day of the meeting to hold discussions on a national tobacco program.

According to WHO, tobacco kills approximately 6m people annually and secondhand smoke kills more than 600,000 people worldwide. Recent estimates show that there are about 246m smokers and 290m smokeless users in the region.

Myanmar became the 11th

signatory to the International Convention on Tobacco Control in 2003. The Union Government Office released a statement on 19 May this year calling for necessary measures to be taken to reduce chewing of betel quid and recklessly spitting betel juice in Myanmar.



Women make traditional cheroots in Bago. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

State Counsellor celebrates 71st birthday with staff from parliaments and president's office



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi celebrates her 71st Birthday in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi celebrated her birthday on 19 June in Naypyitaw inviting parliamentary and the President's office staff.

The staff wished her a

healthy and happy service for the interests of the country and the people and working towards a peaceful and modern federal democratic country.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar to install 65 seismometers to conduct research of tectonic plates



Equipment to be used for seismometers. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Aung Thant Khaing

SIXTY-FIVE seismometers will be setup in towns and villages near the Indian border and in Shan state in order to help monitor tectonic plates and the main fault line running through Myanmar known as, the Sagaing Fault-line.

In cooperation with the Institute of Geology & Geophysics of the Academy, Myanmar Earthquake Committee, Myanmar Geosciences Society and the Department of Geology of Mandalay University are set to conduct the research with the installation of seismometers in Mandalay, Sagaing and Magway Regions and Chin and Shan States, said secretary of the Myanmar Earthquake Committee, Dr Myo Thant.

“The Chinese Academy of Science under an agreement with the Union government is planning to fund the technology around the country,” said Dr Myo Thant, secretary of the committee.

Dr Myo Thant said that the installation of all seismometers is slated for completion in October to November and that 43 devices are to be installed this month

in Monywa, Gangaw, Kalay and Mandalay.

“The research will enable us to know possible earthquakes in the future and the conditions of tectonic plates in the western part of the country and ensure earthquake preparedness and response,” said Dr Myo Thant.

Myanmar experienced a 7.5 magnitude earthquakes in Innwa in 1839, a 7.5 magnitude earthquake in Sagaing in 1965, a 6.8 magnitude earthquake in Turlay in 2011 and a 6.8 magnitude earthquake in Thabeikkyin in 2012 respectively.



A technician prepares to set up a seismometer. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Campaign aims to promote awareness of food safety



Unsafe foodstuff being destroyed.

THE Public Health Department (Yangon Region) will conduct a new campaign to raise food safety-related awareness amongst small-and-medium-scale manufacturers (SMEs), said its spokesperson.

Dr Win Lwin, head of the department, said, "This is part of our effort to promote public health. We will soon launch our knowledge sharing programme for industrial entrepreneurs."

"In cooperation with partner departments, the programme is believed to help promote food

quality and produce safety."

Currently, the health department is collecting the exact numbers of SME's for the programme.

The National Foodstuff Law is being amended by the Ministry of Health and Sports in co-operation with both locals and international experts. The first draft of the law was recently finalised.

According to a survey, there are more than 120,000 registered SMEs in Myanmar. —Chan Chan

Rhododendron (Taungzalal) to be added to list of protected trees

THE Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation plans to add the symbolic Chin tree, Rhododendron (locally called Taungzalal), to the list of protected trees stated in the current Forestry Law said U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin, deputy director-general of the forest department.

"The Rhododendron can grow in high altitude areas. It is not included in the national list of endangered and threatened

species. However, it is very difficult to grow. This is one of the reasons why the local authorities are putting more efforts to amend the law to add it to the list of protected trees," he added.

"The ministry will soon announce the trees that have been listed."

The regional authorities will grow over 1,000 Rhododendron plants this year, with plans to grow over 5,000 plants

in the coming years, U Kyaw Kyaw Lwin said.

"We will grow Rhododendron and cherry plants across Chin State this monsoon season."

Located in the north-west of Myanmar, Chin State is one of the country's off the beaten-track tourist attractions. Haka and the Nat Ma Taung commonly known as Mt. Victoria National Park are located in Chin State.—Chan Chan

New garbage trucks for Sagaing Region

SAGAING'S Regional government plans to add garbage trucks to its fleet this fiscal year to improve the current waste collection system in municipal areas.

The value of each truck is Ks16m (US\$13,500). Local authorities plan to buy 50 trucks at a cost of Ks800m (US\$675,400).

The Sagaing Regional Development Committee and partner organisations are promoting their participation in buying new garbage trucks as the region has insufficient number of waste treatment facilities.

"The ten vehicles recently arrived; they were delivered to the regional development committee, Monywa, Shwebo

and Sagaing townships," said a member of Sagaing Region Development Committee.

"The rest will be distributed to the remaining townships located in municipal areas."

There are 37 township development committees and seven sub-township development committees. The region has only 113 vehicles.—200

Crime NEWS

Police uncover five drug trafficking cases within a day



Tin Maung Win from Lashio seen with yaba pills.

LOCAL anti-drug trafficking police have exposed five drug smuggling cases within a day in different locations arresting seven traffickers, according to a report by police.

Lashio-based police confiscated over 1,520 yaba pills from Tin Maung Win who carried them on his person while riding his motorbike on 18 June.

In another case in Kyaukme Township in Shan State, police acting on a tip-off with local police searched San Yu Maw on a passenger express bus. She was carrying 600 yaba pills at the time.

Police forces from Yamethin Station in Mandalay Region arrested Han Tin Soe who was arrested for possession of about 400 yaba pills.

Police arrested Ar Ku in Tachilek after 266 yaba pills were discovered in his home.

A total of 170 stimulant tablets were seized from Saw Chit Myaing, Aung Myint and Kyaw Du in Hpa-an Township in Kayin State.

All people involved in the cases have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law. — Myanmar News Agency

Police charge 29 under National Drug Law

TWENTY-NINE have been arrested and charged in criminal investigations for violating the National Drug Law over the past five months.

In cooperation with Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Department, police uncovered

29 cases between January and May, police say.

Last year, 51 cases led to charges against people for breaching the National Drug Law.

To promote public health and reduce drug-related crimes,

relevant authorities are putting more of an effort to prosecute those who violate the National Drug Law. The FDA is promoting the inspection of pharmacies where officials search for expired medicines, unregistered and low-quality drugs. —200

Illegally harvested teak, hardwood seized in Seikphyu

ILLEGAL logs estimated worth about Ks600,000 (US\$506) was seized in Seikphyu Township, Magwe Region on Sunday morning.

A team comprising police and members of the forestry de-

partment found the abandoned logs weighing nearly three tonnes in the village's southern monastery in Chintaunggyi Village, Seikphyu Township.

They collected roughly two tonnes of illegally harvested

teak and over a tonne of hardwood timber from the area.

Police are still investigating the case in an effort to arrest the owner, who will then be charged under the forest law.—200

None injured in Kyaukme bomb blast

A BOMB blast on Saturday night in the Northern Shan State town, Kyaukme, caused no injuries.

After the explosion, police and members of military unit inspected the scene where they found a piece of battery, wires and pieces of PVC pipe under the Kyatsu trees planted to left of Kyaukme-Maingaw Rd near homes.

A local battalion collected all of the objects on the scene.

According to the police investigation it is believed that the explosion was caused by a homemade time bomb. Police are still investigating the case



A piece of battery, wires and pieces of PVC pipe.

after they increased the security level in the town.

A senior police officer said they have upgraded the security level across northern Shan State and have searched for

mines and bombs in designated areas after they received intel that disruptive elements were plotting to set explosives in the region starting on 15 June. —Zarni Aung (Lashio)

LOCAL Business



The fare rate for circular trains will be set depending on the miles travelled. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

New fares for Yangon circular line

Soe Soe Yu

NEW fares for Yangon's circular train will be implemented within a month, according to a recent press conference held by Myanmar Railways on 16 June.

The fare rate on Yangon circular trains will be Ks100 for the first 15 miles and Ks200 for over 15 miles. A survey has been conducted on the new pricing system for a week at the stations and over 80% passengers were happy with the change.

"The fare rate will be set depending on the miles travelled. Currently, the fare is Ks50 for the ordinary class whereas it is Ks200 for the upper class. Sometimes passengers take the wrong class. This project will be implemented within a month," said U Kyaw Soe Lin, divisional traffic manager of Myanmar Railways.

"We don't need to choose the trains depending on prices," said Ko Ye Yint Aung.

"Sometimes I have difficulty choosing between ordinary and upper classes as I am illiterate. We have to find the ordinary class by asking people what is ordinary and what is upper class."

The passengers without tickets will be fined 10 times the fare of the ticket as usual. Tickets will be checked by a total of 54 examiners to ensure all passengers buy tickets.

"In case of passengers going in the wrong car the fines have increased and apparently the new fare system has received high percentage of approval," said U Htein Win, a ticket examiner.

There are 38 circular train stations and 17 suburban stations and 23 trains with a total of 125

turns a day. Roughly 72,500 passengers are reported to take the circular trains a day.

"We have already informed passengers about new fares and a survey has been conducted to check if the passengers are satisfied," said U Nyi Nyi Lwin, the assistant divisional traffic manager.

"The Ks50 fare makes change difficult, but it will cost a passenger from Hlawga only Ks100 for under 15 miles instead of paying Ks200 for RBE railway."

Currently, there are 10 normal trains and 9 RBE trains and 14 trains that are driven with diesel engine. There are a total of 73,000 passengers in the warmer seasons and 69,000 in the monsoon season. 20 passengers were caught riding trains without a ticket this year.

Tax revenues quadruple from restaurant tax

TAX revenues earned from imposed on visitors to restaurants have quadrupled after the new system of collection was introduced. Under the new system, the revenue stamps are affixed to the receipts, said an official from Internal Revenue Department.

After issuing an official announcement as to affixation of stamps to the restaurant receipts, the department has been penalising the owners of the restaurants

that fail to fix stamps to receipts starting from May 2015.

According to the commercial tax law restaurants that fail to place stickers on receipts are to be fined Ks200,000 (US\$168) for the first time, Ks500,000 (US\$421) for a second time, Ks700,000 (US\$590) for the third time and Ks1m (US\$843) for the fourth time and more.

Over Ks7.9m (US\$6,667) was collected in fines.

Inspections will continue as

some restaurants are still evading commercial taxes. If there are complaints about restaurants failing to comply, 10% of the fine will be awarded to the complainants.

The restaurants are required to follow the rules. If the authorities concerned find them guilty for not following the rules, legal action will be taken under Commercial Tax Law, officials posing as customers are carrying out surprise checks—200

Individual Trading Cards to trade Ks10lakh more per day

INDIVIDUAL Trading Cards (ITCs) were previously permitted to export goods worth Ks20lakh (US\$1,687) a day but the cards are now permitted to export Ks10lakh (US\$847) more a day, said the Ministry of Trade (MoT) in Mandalay.

"You could export up to Ks100lakh (US\$8,439) over five days previously. However, you can now export trade up to Ks150lakh (US\$12,658) over five days as part of the '100-day plan' that involves relaxation of certain rules," said U Aye Min

Tun, an official of the MoT Mandalay. The MoT has given entrepreneurs in Sagaing Region, Mandalay Region and Shan State the ITC cards.

ITCs were distributed to traders on 1 April 2014. The cards are being used in border trade zones except in Maungdaw and Sittwe border zones.

Border trade zones account for over 20% of border crossings in Myanmar, ITCs are given to small and medium entrepreneurs to ensure a smooth flow of trading.—200

Jetstar prepares to increase the number of flights

THE budget Singapore-Myanmar airline, Jetstar, is preparing to increase the number of flights in and out of the country after the announcement of Myanmar-Singapore visa free agreement.

Jetstar will extend their flights from 10 to 13 destinations per week when the visa exemption between Singapore and Myanmar comes into effect in December this year. One-way flights will sell for Ks47,369 (US\$40).

"Visa exemptions between

the two countries will develop Myanmar's tourism industry and also facilitate passengers who travel for non-business purposes. We expect the number of passengers will rise," said Bara Pasupathi from Jetstar.

Currently, Singapore Airlines (SIA) and Tiger Air have no plans to extend their flights. Visa exemption will be effective commencing on 1 December, allowing citizens holding ordinary passport to stay 30 days in either country.—200



A red taxi seen near a flyover bridge in Yangon. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Black numbers cannot be turned into red ones

CARS with red number plates are in high demand in Myanmar in order to use them as taxis; cars that are given black number plates are unable to convert.

"The old model vehicles are cool in the market because of a sales tax. However, taxis having personal or company entitlement are in high demand in the market. A car with entitlement sells for Ks120 lakh on average; there are even some that sell for over

Ks 130 lakh," said a person from Sales and Purchase Organisation (Yangon).

"The price of red numbers is high and they are sold quickly. The price for a Fielder has increased to Ks20 lakh. The red taxis with entitlement sell for over Ks 140 lakh in sales centers," said U Arkar San, an expert car dealer.

The red plate market is quite active at the selling and buying centers these days.—200

Bodies pile up as Filipino police show new boss they're tough on drugs

MANILA — Philippine police killed 11 suspected drug dealers during operations at the weekend, police said on Monday, adding to a surge of drugs-related killings since Rodrigo Duterte swept an election last month on promises to wipe out crime. Duterte's single-issue campaign of tackling illegal drugs and other crime within six months, and his staunch advocacy of extrajudicial killings, struck a chord with Filipino voters. However, rights groups have rebuked him over concerns that, as president, he would live up to his nickname of "the punisher". The more than 40 drug suspects killed since Duterte's 9 May election victory compares with the 39 deaths recorded in the four months before it, said National Police spokesman Wilben Mayor.

Duterte takes office on 30 June and has repeatedly reassured police they would have his full support if they killed criminals who resisted with violence. He has also warned that police found to



Members of the Philippine National Police Special Reaction Unit gather as part of a police visibility operation along a main road in Metro Manila, Philippines, on 4 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

be involved in the drug trade would suffer the same fate.

Speculation has been rife in Manila that some po-

lice involved in the drugs business were clearing the decks before Duterte takes office by eliminating crimi-

nals who could implicate them. However, incoming national police chief Ronald dela Rosa said drug peddlers

were killed in legitimate operations. "I would know if these people were killed in rub-outs," he said in a radio

interview. Philippines media reported on Monday that drug dealers were killed when they resisted arrest during operations in Manila, Laguna, Bulacan, Rizal, Bohol and Cebu at the weekend. Police said many of those killed in those raids and undercover stings had chosen not to go quietly.

"Our undercover agents killed two known drug peddlers in sting operations," Adriano Enong, police chief in Rizal province just to the east of Manila, told reporters. "There was a shootout between undercover police officers and drug peddlers when the men sensed they had sold 500 pesos (\$10.80) worth of drugs to policemen," he said. Manila Archbishop Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle gave special prayers on Sunday urging incoming state officials to avoid a culture of death and reprisal. Those prayers will be read each day before the new government takes office in the deeply religious, predominantly Catholic Philippines.—Reuters

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North Korea diplomat to attend forum in China

BEIJING — A North Korean diplomat who was part of "six-party talks" aimed at ending the country's nuclear programme arrived in China on Monday where she is expected to attend a forum in which the US nuclear envoy will take part, Japan's Kyodo news agency said.

If the diplomat does take part, it would be a rare gathering of experts from the six countries weeks after Chinese President Xi Jinping said he would like to see the six-party talks resume.

Isolated North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January and a long-

range rocket launch the following month in defiance of UN resolutions, prompting the UN Security Council to impose tough new sanctions.

China is reclusive North Korea's only major ally but has been angered by its nuclear and missile programmes. Xi said in April China wanted to see a resumption of the six-party talks, which have been stalled since 2008.

The North Korean diplomat, Choe Son Hui, is deputy director-general of the North Korean Foreign Ministry's US affairs bureau, according to South Korea. She was a delegate to the stop-

start six-party nuclear talks, hosted by China. Choe was expected to attend the closed-door Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue in Beijing hosted by the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation at the University of California, San Diego, Kyodo said. The annual dialogue is an informal multilateral conference attended by government officials and scholars from the United States, South Korea, Japan, Russia and China, the five countries that were involved in the six-party talks along with North Korea. The US State Department said last week that nuclear envoy

Sung Kim would attend the forum in Beijing. Kyodo said Japan may also send its top nuclear negotiator.

It was unclear if Choe would hold separate meetings with Kim or officials from other countries.

Choe attended the security conference in 2012 in China, but no representatives from North Korea have taken part since, according to the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation.

The visit comes after career diplomat Ri Su Yong, one of North Korea's highest-profile officials, visited China and held a rare meeting with Xi.—Reuters

Indonesian navy fires on Chinese boat, Beijing says one injured

BEIJING — An Indonesian naval vessel fired on a Chinese fishing boat on Friday, injuring one person, China's foreign ministry said, the countries' third reported confrontation this year near a chain of islands as regional tensions mount in the South China Sea.

Indonesia's navy said it had fired warning shots at several boats with Chinese flags that it accused of fishing illegally near the Natuna Islands — but a spokesman told Reuters there had been

no injuries. Indonesia is not part of a broader regional dispute over China's reclamation activities in the South China Sea and Beijing's claims on swathes of key waterways. But Jakarta has objected to China's inclusion of parts of the Indonesian-ruled Natuna Islands within a "nine-dash line" that Beijing marks on maps to show its claim on the body of water. China has said it does not dispute Indonesia's sovereignty over the Natuna Islands, although the state-

ment said the area where the incident occurred is subject to overlapping interests.

The Indonesian warship damaged one Chinese fishing boat and detained another with seven people on board, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hua Chunying said on the ministry website on Sunday.

Hua said the Chinese coast guard rescued the injured fisherman, who was transported to the southern Chinese island province of Hainan for treatment where

his injuries were under control. It was unclear from the statement whether Indonesia was still holding the vessel and those aboard.

Beijing had made official protests over the incident, the ministry said in its statement, and urged Indonesia not to take any more actions to complicate the situation. There have been two other encounters reported between Indonesian naval vessels and Chinese fishing boats near the islands this year.—Reuters

Indonesian VP says Trump's Muslim comments could spark retaliation

JAKARTA — Indonesia's vice president on Monday voiced concerns over US presidential candidate Donald Trump's comments on Muslims, saying "discrimination according to religion" could prompt retaliatory policies from other countries.

Jusuf Kalla told Reuters in an interview that the government was "not happy with Trump's opinions" — the first critical remarks from a top official in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation, which come as Trump called for more profiling in the US to battle crime.

"Any country, especially big countries, seen making policies about 'radicalism' or discrimina-

tion according to religion will be a bad issue," Kalla said in an interview with Reuters.

"There will be 'vice-versa' policies from other countries," he said, adding an impact would be felt on economy and trade.

Trump's inflammatory remarks on Muslims, including wanting to temporarily ban them from entering the United States, on foreign policy and on international trade ties have raised concerns in some Asian countries over a potentially "isolationist" United States.

In Indonesia, Southeast Asia's biggest economy, politicians and lawmakers are already thinking about restricting US

trade and investment if Trump becomes president. An online petition, urging a ban on the billionaire and his businesses from the country, has received nearly 47,000 signatures.

The real estate developer also has partnerships to operate luxury resorts on Bali and in Java, which Indonesian officials have said could be threatened by his rhetoric.

Trump Hotel Collection last year announced a partnership with Indonesia's PT Media Nusantara Citra to manage new luxury hotels on Bali and in West Java, the Trump unit's first foray into Asia.

"Of course there will be an



Indonesia's Vice President Jusuf Kalla looks on before an interview with Reuters in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 20 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

impact, not for Indonesia, but for his business," Kalla said, when asked about Trump's involvement in the resorts.

But the Indonesian government was in wait-and-see mode, Kalla said, adding Trump's com-

ments could be seen as posturing as part of his presidential campaign.

"We still see this as campaign strategy. Campaigning is one thing and realisation is another thing," he said.—Reuters



People stand in front of a flooded area in Kampung Sewu residential area in Solo, Central Java province, Indonesia, on 19 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nearly 50 die in Indonesia landslides, authorities warn of more rain

JAKARTA — Indonesian authorities raced on Monday to rescue victims of landslides and flash floods caused by torrential rain at the weekend that killed nearly 50 people and left many missing in the main island of Java.

Search and rescue teams used earth movers and bulldozers to clear debris in several locations in Central Java province after heavy rainfall damaged thousands of homes and forced residents to evacuate.

"Around 200 people...in joint teams from the military,

police, NGOs, and volunteers are continuing to search for victims" said Sutopo Nugroho, spokesman for the national disaster mitigation agency.

He added 47 people had died and 15 remained missing.

Authorities warned the area in Java, which is the most densely populated islands in the country, is particularly prone to landslides.

"The public is advised to remain on high alert for heavy rain and potential for floods and landslides," Nugroho said in a statement.—Reuters

Nuclear regulator OKs additional 20-yr operation for aging reactors

TOKYO — Japan's nuclear regulator on Monday approved an additional 20 years of operation for two aging reactors on the Sea of Japan coast that will become the first such reactors to resume operation under new rules introduced after the Fukushima nuclear meltdown.

The Nuclear Regulation Authority granted its approval of Kansai Electric Power Co.'s plan to continue the operation of its No.1 and No.2 reactors at the Takahama nuclear plant in Fukui Prefecture, both of which are over 40 years old.

The rules, tightened after the 2011 nuclear disaster at Tokyo Electric Power Co.'s Fukushima Daiichi plant, set the maximum length of operation for nuclear reactors at 40 years in principle

but also stipulate that their operations can be extended for an additional 20 years if the NRA allows.

Since December 2014, Kansai Electric has been checking on degradation of the two reactors in a stricter manner than regular checkups to obtain approval for extending their operations.

After confirming there were no abnormalities, the utility applied in April last year for an NRA screening.

In order for the reactors to resume operation, the company needed to complete three procedures by 7 July. The two reactors had already passed a test for compatibility with the new rules and received approval for a construction plan that detailed

equipment design. The only remaining test was for measures against the degradation of the reactors.

In the screening, preventing long electric cables from catching fire and covering the containment vessels with concrete were raised as issues to be addressed, and the company submitted a plan to complete such necessary measures by October 2019.

The reactors are therefore expected to resume operations after these steps have been completed.

The No.1 reactor began operating in November 1974, while the No. 2 reactor did so in November the following year. Both reactors have been suspended since regular checkups in 2011.—Kyodo News

Vietnamese crewmen held over killing of South Korea ship captain, engineer — coast guard

SEOUL — Two Vietnamese crewmen on a South Korean fishing vessel in the Indian Ocean have allegedly stabbed and killed the ship's captain and the engineer over a dispute, South Korea's coast guard said on Monday.

The two, both aged 32, have since been overpowered by other crew members and are locked up aboard the vessel as it sails to the Seychelles capital Victoria, a coast guard official in South Korea's southern city of Busan said.

The attack against the captain and the engineer took place early morning South Korean

time Monday and was reported to the coast guard by the vessel's owner located in Busan, coast guard official Kim In-ho said by telephone.

The Vietnamese crew members were believed to be drunk at the time of the incident, Kim said. "They are said to have been unhappy with the orders given by Korean bosses," he said, adding their exact motive will have to be investigated.

South Korean maritime police will dispatch a team of investigators to the island state on Tuesday, and the suspects will be brought back to South Korea, Kim said.—Reuters

Opinion

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Governance cannot be understood in isolation

Khin Maung Aye

In this age of democratisation as well as of globalisation, the agencies of state are increasingly pressured to overcome the challenges posed by the new world order or new international system or the process of globalisation. The term 'governance' has become popular among the people be they politicians or public officials, activists or academics, scholars or researchers.

In this regard, there arises a question as to what makes this concept of governance important and the reason why governance is considered to be the best approach to management of the

complicated socio-political realities. Not being a very famous notion before late 1980s, the word governance has a connotation of the changing role of the state. To certain scholars, governance refers to withdrawal of the state role, and to other scholars, the term suggests increasing need of state action in collaboration with variegated non-state actors and social agencies.

The argument concerning the state's role is a wide-range discussion of the basic definitions of governance endorsed by academics from world famous leading institutions. In fact, all definitions of

the word governance converge on how power is exercised. (Fukuda-Parr and Richard Ponzio 2002; p-2)

According to the World Bank, there are three aspects: the form of political regime; the process by which authority is exercised; and the capacity of governments to design, formulate, and implement the policies and discharge functions.

In the view of UNDP, governance comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their interests, exercise their legal right, meet their obligations

and mediate their differences.

From the perspective of OECD, the concept of governance encompasses the role of public authorities in establishment of an environment in which economic operators function as well as in determination of the distribution of benefits as well as the nature of the relation between the ruler and the ruled.

Such being the case, the notion of governance cannot be understood in isolation. We, therefore, are required to reflect upon the political development which occurred and the historical context.

How We Can Help in the Combat

Aye Phyu

THOSE who have visited the elegant "Drug Elimination Museum" in Yangon, inaugurated on the 26th of June 2001, would easily realize the extent of the concerted effort Myanmar has taken in her endeavors to combat narcotic drug abuse and illicit trafficking throughout her long history. The Museum also offers great benefits to the school children and the youth by making them fully aware of the pernicious effects and the adverse consequences of narcotic drug abuse. It gives them a valuable lifelong lesson to abstain from narcotic drugs, to value themselves and make healthy choices in life.

We all know that many developing nations in today's world are scarred by a variety of damaging legacies of colonization. A common one was the introduction of the narcotic drug 'opium' --- the cultivation, the production and the consumption of which ultimately led to the so-called 'virtual destruction' of the social system and the national spirit of the people of the colonized nation. In our country especially in the remote and the border regions, poppy cultivation and production somehow got deeply rooted with the national races in those areas having fallen victims to the fatal scourge.

Many operations under special names were carried out in the past in our effort to eradicate narcotic drugs, sacrificing a lot of lives and sweat in combat. Ours is a Union of different ethnic groups. What happened in one group or in one area is always the concern of everyone in the Union. As brethren living together in our golden land, all of us strive toward the betterment of all the groups. Accordingly, our government has been taking

systematic actions in combating drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. In

1999, a 15 year Narcotic Elimination Plan was launched in three phases up to the year 2014, the implementation of which is being carried out vigorously since then. The tasks under this plan include cultivation of alternate crops, livestock breeding, and building of infrastructure for improvement in communication, energy, trade/commerce, health and education sectors. The main objective here is to change the mindset and attitude of the people in those regions and at the same time to uplift their morality through the development of their social and economic status.

In addition, our government has been participating in the joint effort and cooperation with neighboring countries and other International Agencies in the combat against narcotic drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking. (The necessary data and detailed information regarding these activities can be provided by those people and departments actually engaged in the field.)

From a layman's point of view, the two issues of narcotic drug abuse and illicit trafficking pose as ever-threatening scourges to mankind and they will continue to avail themselves so long as there are buyers and sellers, consumers and producers. Many nations have been, to certain degrees, engaged in activities to fight against these two scourges at different levels and in different ways. Local law enforcement agencies have stepped up in their movements with more search and destroy efforts enhanced to get more seizures, stricter and more severe punishment and confiscation sentences passed for traffickers, so on and so forth. The question is what we, the public, can do to help in this combat.

First and foremost, we must realize that the main responsibility in drug abuse lies with the individual. Everyone must know that narcotics are harmful drugs that can cause addiction. He must say NO! to any offer of it from anyone. Self-control and determination is crucial especially among the youths where peer influence plays a significant role. He must, by all means, value himself and make a healthy choice, strongly refusing and resisting the temptation to give it a trial.

Next, parents, teachers, and adults in the community should keep their eyes open to detect any irregularities in the behavior of the kids in their circle. They should remember the old proverb "The Devil finds work for idle hands," which sound true for all ages regardless of sex and social status. It is always advisable and appropriate to keep the youth occupied with something worthwhile; so much the better, if they can be lured or urged to do volunteer jobs in community projects in their free time.

Research has shown that parental guidance and counseling with adults can bring about significant improvements in the attitude and behavior of the young people. Proper care and development in childhood can also contribute a great deal in combating against drug abuse. More critical are in the years of adolescence since these are the years teenagers tend to have more problems and difficulties by nature and by age, like sibling rivalry, permissiveness, emotional insecurity and many others due to over or inadequate or sometimes lack of parental protection.

Besides, ignorance can be a great enemy in our fight against drug abuse. Educative talks should be frequently given to the public so that they get the correct and useful information on the danger of drug

abuse. More public awareness can be achieved through posters, pamphlets, newsletter, etc. Publication of them on a regular basis will definitely minimize the problems we are facing.

Even more important is educating young school children on drug abuse. If we can instill the danger in their little heads in an early stage, then their generation will have a better chance of a drug-free society. Preschoolers and primary kids in schools should be made aware of the danger of drug abuse in ways appropriate to their ages and levels of understanding.

Some people say that smoking leads to narcotic drug abuse especially that of "number-4 or heroin." It is very common to find adult smokers in household asking kids to light the cigars or the cigarettes. Most children get the smoking habit in this way. Adults should be role models as nonsmokers in the families. With more awareness of the health issues connected with smoking, smokers are expected to quit their harmful practices. As bad habits are hard to drop, it will take some time to have all tobacco free zones in the country. In the meantime, the least the smokers can do is to avoid non-smoking areas and public places and never to ask the children to light for them. Once the kid picks up the smoking habit, he may run a greater risk of becoming a drug abuser.

The next area to looking into is the street kids from the lowest poverty group. Having missed the chance of proper care and education, those poor children usually take up the only way of getting easy money --- selling the narcotic drugs or transporting it from the distributors to the users. The root cause of the problem here is poverty. The whole world today is concerned with this problem and finding ways and means to alleviate the

intensity as the solutions are not yet found for the total eradication of poverty. The rich can make a lot of contribution in helping those poor children and taking them away from drug dealings. As good citizens, they should try to offer more humanitarian assistance in the combat against narcotic drug abuse.

Drug abuse issue cannot be complete without concern for the rehabilitation of the addicted youth. There are several rehabilitation schools for the youth. Generally, society tends to ignore him, putting all the blame on him for a wrong choice he had made at one time in his life. To help those addicted people, it is necessary that we must all change our attitude towards them, have sympathy for them and their families and try to make life easier for them after rehabilitation.

With regard to illicit trafficking, the major attraction to the traffickers seems to be the tremendous amount of profit from the deal. 'Greed' also blinded them from seeing the negative impact of their activities on the society as a whole. History has revealed great men who have brought positive changes and benefits to the society as well as those evil men who did only wrongs, bringing destruction. The mixture of the good and the bad will continue from generation to generation.

The only course open for us is to reinforce the responsible forces locally and to join hands internationally for tracking down across-border traffickers. In this age of open globalization and advanced technology, nothing is impossible. "Crime does not pay" and with a will, there must be a way to crush those bad people who are indirectly trying to destroy mankind by illicit trafficking of narcotics drugs.

Myanmar: How IDA Can Help Countries Reduce Poverty and Build Shared Prosperity

Victoria Kwakwa and Axel van Trotsenburg

THIS week, more than fifty donor governments and representatives of borrowing member countries are gathering in Nay Pyi Taw to discuss how the World Bank's International Development Association (IDA) can continue to help the world's poorest countries.

IDA financing helps the world's 77 poorest countries address big development issues. With IDA's help, hundreds of millions of people have escaped poverty. This has been done through the creation of jobs, access to clean water, schools, roads, nutrition, electricity and more. During the past five years, IDA funding helped immunize 205 million children globally, provided access to better water sources for 50 million and access to health services for 413 million people.

IDA is replenished every three years with financial contributions from developed and emerging countries. The meeting in Myanmar – the second of four replenishment meetings taking place in 2016 – marks a critical

moment for IDA, amid growing challenges for the poorest and most vulnerable around the world.

In Myanmar, donors will discuss innovative policy changes to address climate change, gender inequality, governance, fragility, and to help create jobs and promote economic transformation. For the first time, the World Bank aims to leverage IDA's equity by blending donor contributions with funds raised through debt markets, in order to provide clients with billions of dollars in additional resources.

The innovative IDA financing package would stretch donor contributions like never before. It would mean every dollar in partner contributions would be leveraged by a factor of three in financing capacity – up from a factor of two in the last cycle. The groundbreaking proposals can help change the development financing trajectory for needy countries.

Donors in Myanmar will also discuss transition support for countries including Bolivia, Viet



Nam and Sri Lanka, which are graduating to less concessional financing from the World Bank Group. The challenge is to ensure they can continue to sustain and deepen gains in poverty reduction and shared prosperity.

Myanmar is a showcase of how a low-income country saddled by decades of conflict and isolation, with support from IDA and other development partners, can make strides to overcome legacies and challenges, seize opportunities, and begin to realize its development potential.

Since Myanmar embarked on bold reforms a few years ago, IDA has been there, lending a hand as the country began its



transition to an open market economy and a more peaceful society. IDA has provided a total of \$1.9 billion in new financing since 2013, when the World Bank re-engaged with Myanmar.

For example, IDA supports the National Community-Driven Development Project, which empowers villages to choose, plan and build small infrastructure projects that they need the most including bridges, roads, health clinics, and schools. More than 3 million people have benefitted from this project in 27 townships.

Another IDA credit supports the Ministry of Education's nationwide school grants program. More than 39,000 students re-

ceived cash payment in the 2014-15 school year to stay in school through a program to prevent at-risk students from dropping out.

Last September, the World Bank approved a \$400 million IDA credit to support Myanmar's first National Electrification Plan, with the goal of achieving universal electricity access by 2030. As a result, 23,000 public facilities, including health clinics, schools, religious and other community buildings and 151,000 public street lights will be connected, benefitting about 6.2 million people.

Myanmar now has the opportunity to deepen reforms to create a dynamic economy that delivers jobs, and income growth that will continue to reduce poverty and ensure that all citizens share in the nation's prosperity.

IDA works, and eventually allows countries to develop their economies so they are no longer reliant upon its support. Helping countries like Myanmar deepen reforms, build the institutions and capacities to help themselves and move forward on a path to fund their own development is a priority. And I am sure our donors and development partners will agree, too.

Painting and Photo exhibition marks the 71st birthday of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi



Mandalay Region Chief Minister U Zaw Myint Maung and regional ministers visit the photo and painting exhibition celebrating the 71st birthday of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: THIHA KO KO

A PHOTO and painting exhibition was opened in Mandalay on 19 June to mark the 71st birthday of State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi Thiri Arts Gallery in Mingalar Mandalay Street, Chanmyathazi Township.

Mandalay Region Chief

Minister, U Zaw Myint Maung, Mandalay Mayor Dr Ye Lwin and U Tin Htut Oo, chairman of the Mandalay Region National League for Democracy delivered speeches at the ribbon cutting ceremony.

A dance performance,

known as "Kutdaungkyai-phyu-Anyein," choreographed by female dances as well as songs and comedians entertained crowd. On 21 June the Music Mate band will entertain crowd.

The event runs from the 19 and 21 June.—Thiha Ko Ko

Chin State provided K1bn fund for disaster response

A FUND for disaster preparedness has been established in Chin State by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation yesterday, with Ks100m. It is aimed at the quick response to disasters in the largely rural area.

"The establishment of the fund comes after the foundation faced delays for sending relief aid to isolated areas because of poor infrastructure during last years disasters. We learnt from these situations," said the foun-

dation's chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham, who decided to establish this fund.

The foundation also established a disaster preparedness fund in Rakhine State.

When floods and landslides hit nationwide last year, KBZ worked on evacuating and sending relief aid to the disasters-hit areas as well as working with local volunteers and NGO groups. The foundation was established after Cyclonic Nargis hit the country in 2008.—Thiha Tun



Chin State Chief Minister Salai Lyan Lwe accepts K100 million presented by U Ye Thwe Oo of KBZ. PHOTO: SUPPLIED



Belgian soldiers patrol outside the central train station where a suspect package was found, in Brussels, Belgium, on 19 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brussels central station evacuated amid heightened security fears

BRUSSELS — Brussels central train station was evacuated for about an hour on Sunday because of a suspicious suitcase amid heightened security fears in the Belgian capital after a huge anti-terror operation led to three men being charged with terrorism offences.

The suitcase later turned out to be a false alarm but shows Belgium's high state of alert as the Euro 2016 soccer tournament is under way in neighbouring France, three months after Islamist bombers killed 32 people in Brussels. Investigators say the attackers had links to militants who carried out attacks in Paris in November.

Belgian police searched 40 houses and 152 garage lockups between Friday night and Saturday, arresting 12 people following reports of possible attacks targeting soccer fans watching the

matches in Brussels. They later released nine after questioning.

The three Belgian men charged with "having attempted to commit a terrorist murder and for participation in the activities of a terrorist group" were identified by prosecutors only as 27-year-old Samir C., 40-year-old Moustapha B., and 29-year-old Jawad B.

Belgian media reported they had links to the men prosecutors believe carried out the Brussels twin bombings in March, brothers Ibrahim ('Brahim') and Khalid El Bakraoui and Najim Laachraoui.

Without citing sources, RTBF said police listened to phone conversations between the three men in which they said they planned attacks in Brussels over the weekend.

Neither prosecutors nor Prime Minister Charles Michel confirmed reports of the arrested

suspects planning to attack soccer fans. The Belgian federal prosecutor's office said only that the investigation required immediate action.

Michel appealed to the country to stay calm after chairing a meeting of the government's security council on Saturday.

Investigators have found links between the Brussels attackers and Islamist militants who killed 130 people in a spate of shootings and suicide bombings in Paris in November.

On Friday police arrested and detained a 30-year-old man named as Youssef E.A., a Belgian national, on suspicion of taking part in terrorist activities in connection with the Brussels attacks.

The man worked at Brussels airport and had access to planes on the tarmac, said broadcaster RTBF and newspaper *Le Soir*, citing judiciary sources.—*Reuters*

Record 65.3 million people displaced, often face barriers — UNHCR

GENEVA — A record 65.3 million people were uprooted worldwide last year, many of them fleeing wars only to face walls, tougher laws and xenophobia as they reach borders, the United Nations refugee agency said on Monday.

The figure, which jumped from 59.5 million in 2014 and by 50 per cent in five years, means that 1 in every 113 people on the planet is now a refugee, asylum-seeker or internally displaced in a home country.

Fighting in Syria, Afghanistan, Burundi and South Sudan has driven the latest exodus, bringing the total number of refugees to 21.3 million, half of

them children, the UNHCR said in its "Global Trends" report marking World Refugee Day.

"The refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean and arriving on the shores of Europe, the message that they have carried is that if you don't solve problems, problems will come to you," UN High Commissioner for Refugees Filippo Grandi told a news briefing.

"It's painful that it has taken so long for people in the rich countries to understand that," he said. "We need action, political action to stop conflicts, that would be the most important prevention of refugee flows." A record 2 million new asylum

claims were lodged in industrialised countries in 2015, the report said. Nearly 100,000 were children unaccompanied or separated from their families, a three-fold rise on 2014 and a historic high.

Germany, where one in three applicants was Syrian, led with 441,900 claims, followed by the United States with 172,700, many of them fleeing gang and drug-related violence in Mexico and Central America.

Developing regions still host 86 per cent of the world's refugees, led by Turkey with 2.5 million Syrians, followed by Pakistan and Lebanon, the report said.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Austrian foreign minister calls for improving relationship with Moscow

VIENNA — Austria's foreign minister said on Sunday it was time for the European Union to make an effort to identify common ground with Russia.

"I believe that we should gradually come to a modus in which for every implementation of the Minsk Protocol, for every single step, sanctions will gradually be lifted in return," Sebastian Kurz said in a discussion at ORF TV.

It would be a very strong signal of accommodation towards Russia, if such a modus could be agreed on in the medium term.

"I hope that this would be received appropriately."

The European Union is due next week to extend its economic sanctions on Russia over the conflict in Ukraine for six months as it has linked sanctions relief to the full implementation of a peace plan for eastern Ukraine, which has been all but stalled for months.—*Reuters*

More than 10,000 protest against racism in several large German cities

BERLIN — Thousands of Germans formed human chains against racism in several large cities on Sunday after a surge in hate crimes against foreigners following a record influx of more than a million migrants last year.

Organisers said over 20,000 people joined protests in Berlin, Hamburg, Munich, Leipzig and Bochum while police counted more than 10,000 demonstrators.

The human chains were jointly organised by church groups, trade unions and human rights organisations under the motto "Hand in hand against racism — for human rights and diversity". Reiner Hoffmann, head of the DGB trade union confederation, said the turnout showed that many Germans still supported the "Willkommenskultur" (welcoming culture) that greeted arriving migrants last year. He urged the government to not only step up efforts to integrate migrants, but also implement reforms to support low-wage earners. "We must not play them off against each other," Hoffmann warned.—*Reuters*

Japan PM Abe's LDP in solid lead ahead of upper house vote — polls

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) will likely gain more than twice as many votes as the biggest opposition Democratic Party in the 10 July upper house election, newspaper surveys showed on Monday.

Abe has delayed a sales tax increase by 2-1/2 years to October 2019, and said the LDP, along with its junior coalition partner the Komeito party, aimed to win a majority of the 121 seats to seek a mandate for his decision.

The Democratic Party, however, said a constitutional revision should be a major issue for the election as Abe aspires to revise the US-drafted, pacifist constitution. In a poll by the *Asahi Shimbun* daily, 38 per cent of those surveyed said they wanted to vote for the LDP in the proportional representation seats, compared with 15 per cent for the Democratic Party.—*Reuters*

Train-bus collision kills eight in Turkey

ANKARA — Eight people were killed and one injured in a train-bus collision early Monday in Turkey's southeastern province of Elazig, Hurriyet News reported.

A train making its maiden voyage in Tatvan, a town in Elazig, crashed into a minibuss that stopped on the track, Hurriyet said.

Authorities are investigating the cause of the accident.—*Xinhua*

India says its 39 nationals abducted by IS group in Iraq are still alive

NEW DELHI — India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has said 39 Indians abducted by the Islamic State (IS) group in Iraq are still alive.

Swaraj dismissed reports about their killing at a press conference held in New Delhi on Sunday.

"When I am saying that they were alive, I have a huge responsibility to find them. I have been searching for them over the last two years," she said in response to a question.

"We got information about them being alive from two heads of state. It is my duty to search for them. And I will do so. So, it will be unjust on my part to say that the Indians held in Iraq are dead," she added.

The abductions were carried out in June 2014.—*Xinhua*

Separate bomb attacks kill at least 22 in Afghanistan

KABUL — More than 20 people were killed in separate bomb attacks in Afghanistan on Monday, including at least 14 when a suicide bomber struck a minibus carrying Nepalese security contractors in the Afghan capital, officials said.

In Kabul, a Reuters witness saw several apparently dead victims and at least two wounded being carried out of the twisted remains of a yellow bus after the suicide bomber struck the vehicle during the morning rush hour in the capital.

Hours later, a bomb planted in a motorbike killed at least eight civilians and wounded another 18 in a crowded market in the northern province of Badakhshan, said provincial government spokesman Naveed Frotan. The casualty count could rise, he said.

The attacks are the latest in a recent surge of violence that highlights the challenges faced by the Afghan government in Kabul and its Western backers as Washington slowly draws down its remaining troops despite a persistent insurgency.

Interior Ministry spokesman Sediq Sediqqi said on Twitter that 14 people had been killed and eight wounded in the attack in Kabul. Police were working to identify the victims, he said.

The casualties appeared to



Police and fire fighters are seen at the site of a blast in Kabul, on 20 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

include Afghan civilians and Nepalese security contractors, Kabul police chief Abdul Rahman Rahimi said after police and emergency vehicles surrounded the scene in the Banae district in the east of the city.

He said the suicide bomber had waited near a compound housing the security contractors

and struck as the vehicle moved through early morning traffic. As well as the bus passengers, several people in an adjacent market were also wounded in the attack, which occurred during Ramadan, Islam's holy month.

The Taliban claimed responsibility for the Kabul attack in a statement from the Islamist

group's main spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, on Twitter. There was no immediate indication of who carried out the attack in Badakhshan.

The Nepalese government was still working through its embassy in Pakistan, which also oversees Afghanistan, to verify reports that its citizens were

involved in the attack, Foreign Ministry spokesman Bharat Paudel said.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi sent his condolences to his two South Asian neighbours after the attack.

"We strongly condemn the horrible tragedy in Kabul. Our deep condolences to people & Govts of Afghanistan & Nepal on loss of innocent lives," Modi said on Twitter.

Another explosion in Kabul later on Monday morning wounded a provincial council member and at least three of his bodyguards, Kabul police spokesman Basir Mujahid said. It was thought a bomb had been attached to the lawmaker's car, he said.

The attacks underlined how serious the security threat facing Afghanistan remains since former Taliban leader Mullah Akhtar Mansour was killed in a US drone strike last month and was replaced by Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada.

The blasts follow a deadly suicide attack on a bus carrying justice ministry staff near Kabul last month and a separate attack on a court in the central city of Ghazni on 1 June. The Taliban claimed both those attacks in revenge for the execution of six Taliban prisoners.—Reuters

New Zealand extends deployment of troops training Iraqi army

WELLINGTON — New Zealand said on Monday it will extend the deployment of troops training Iraqi defence forces in their fight against Islamic State militants.

The troops, which currently number around 105, would remain in Iraq until November 2018, 18 months longer than previously planned, Defence Minister Gerry Brownlee said in a statement. "This is having a tangible effect on the Iraqi army's ability to take and hold ground from Daesh," said Brownlee, referring to Islamic State.

"It makes sense to continue doing something that adds value to the likelihood of Iraqi peace

and security in the future, and to amend our mission to meet the changing environment in Iraq."

The New Zealand Defence Force works with around 300 Australian troops providing training on basic weapons skills as well as medical support and logistics. The mission has trained around 7,000 members of the Iraqi security force since it began in 2015, according to the New Zealand government.

The government had also authorized troops to train other Iraqi forces such as the police, who were tasked with securing cities once they had been freed from Islamic State, the defence minister said.—Reuters



Iraqi army soldiers carry their weapons as they gather in the centre of Falluja, Iraq, on 17 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iran thwarts attacks in Tehran, other cities: intelligence ministry

TEHRAN — Iran has thwarted several planned bombings in Tehran and other cities, state news agency quoted the intelligence ministry as saying on Monday, in what it called a major plot by Sunni Muslim militants against the Shi'ite Islamic Republic.

Iranian authorities say Islamic State militants have been hatching "plots and conspiracies" against it from their de facto capital Raqqa in Syria.

"In a criminal plot of the anti-Islamic terrorist takfiri groups, a series of bombings had been

planned in several places of the country for the coming days ... the terrorists were arrested and some bombs and a huge amount of explosives were seized," the ministry said, referring to hardline Sunnis who see other Muslims as infidels, often to justify fighting them.

National Security Council secretary Ali Shamkhani was quoted by the semi-official ISNA news agency on Sunday as saying that Iranian security forces had arrested members of a network that was planning suicide bombings in Tehran during Ramadan.

He called Islamic State Iran's number one enemy.

Iran, which borders Iraq to its west, has sent regular and volunteer members of its armed forces to support Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's fight against rebels and Islamic State militants trying to oust him. Iranian security forces announced last month that they had arrested a dozen of Islamic State fighters in the east and west of the country, and also more than 50 sympathisers who were promoting the group's ideology on the Internet.—Reuters

Libyan unity government condemns attack near eastern oil terminals

BENGHAZI, (Libya) — Libya's UN-backed unity government condemned an attack by a newly-formed militia group on eastern military forces close to key oil facilities, as clashes resumed on Sunday for a second day.

Fighting erupted south of the coastal town of Ajdabiya on Saturday between military units loyal to Libya's eastern government and a group calling itself the Benghazi Defence Forces. At least three people were killed and 10 wounded, military spokesman Akram Bu

Haliqa said. The Benghazi Defence Forces is largely composed of fighters pushed back earlier this year by brigades loyal to the eastern government commander Khalifa Haftar. Haftar has been waging a campaign for two years in Benghazi against Islamists, including some loyal to Islamic State, and other opponents.

The condemnation by the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) is significant because some in the east suspect the GNA — whose leadership has it-

self been divided — of siding with Islamist-leaning militias.

The fighting near Ajdabiya, close to three oil terminals and north of major oil fields, risks opening a new front in the conflict between forces that backed competing governments set up in Tripoli and the east in 2014.

Since March, the GNA has been seeking to replace the rival parliaments and governments and integrate armed groups, including forces loyal to Haftar, into national security forces.—Reuters

Trump says US should mull more racial profiling after Orlando shooting

WASHINGTON — Republican Donald Trump said on Sunday the United States should consider more racial profiling, in response to a question about whether he supported greater law enforcement scrutiny of Muslim Americans after the Orlando mass shooting.

"I think profiling is something that we're going to have to start thinking about as a country," Trump told CBS' "Face the Nation."

"You look at Israel and you look at others, and they do it and they do it successfully. And you know, I hate the concept of profiling, but we have to start using common sense," he said when asked if he supported increased profiling of Muslims in America.

Trump made similar comments last December about profiling, the targeting of specific demographic groups for extra scrutiny, after a Muslim American and his wife killed 14 people

in San Bernardino, California.

Last week, Trump, the presumptive Republican presidential nominee for the 8 November election, sparked criticism from many in his party for his comments on American Muslims after the Orlando attack on Sunday, in which a US-born Muslim man killed 49 people at a gay nightclub.

In a speech on national security on Monday, Trump stood by his call for a temporary ban on Muslims entering the United States and proposed a suspension of immigration from countries with "a proven history of terrorism."

He also said the Muslim community had to "co-operate with law enforcement and turn in the people who they know are bad."

Hillary Clinton, the presumptive Democratic nominee, has said the comments show Trump is unfit to be president. The Florida gunman, Omar Mateen,



Republican US presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks during a campaign rally at the Treasure Island Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas, Nevada, on 18 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

was born in the United States to Afghan parents. During a three-hour siege at the club, he expressed support for Islamic State, but officials believe he was "self-radicalized."

In his interview on Sunday, Trump said there were "red flags" around Mateen, who had been investigated twice by the FBI but ultimately cleared.

Trump also reiterated his support for more scrutiny of mosques, saying that could resemble a controversial New York City surveillance programme that has been shut down.

"If you go to France right now, they're doing it in France. In fact, in some instances they're closing down mosques," he said.

Police in France closed some mosques shortly after

gunmen aligned with Islamic State militants killed 130 people in Paris in a series of attacks on 13 November.

House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan endorsed Trump but has said a Muslim ban is not in US interests. In excerpts of an NBC interview released on Friday, Ryan, the top elected US Republican, said Republicans weighing whether to vote for Trump should follow their "conscience."

Trump brushed off the criticism on Sunday and said he would put up his own money for his campaign if needed. "It would be nice if the Republicans stuck together," Trump said in an ABC interview. "I can win, one way or another."—Reuters

Malaysia, Australia, China meet on missing MH370

KUALA LUMPUR — Senior officials from Malaysia, Australia, and China began a two-day meeting on Monday to chart the next course of action in the search for Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 that has been missing for over two years.

Family members of those on board the ill-fated flight urged the authorities not to give up.

"(For) the families, whose lives have remained in limbo for over 800 days, giving up on the search is not an option," Voice370, a next-of-kin support group, said in a statement.

The Australian-led endeavor is expected to complete the scouring of a designated 120,000-square kilometre search zone soon.

Some officials have reportedly said previously that the operation will be halted if there is no credible evidence found, much to the alarm of the next-of-kin.

The tripartite meeting is taking place at the transport ministry in Putrajaya, Malaysia's federal administrative capital.

The official news agency Bernama quoted Malaysian Deputy Trans-

port Minister Aziz Kaprawi as saying Saturday that the meeting would study recent findings of plane fragments and inputs from aviation experts among others.

Thus far, several pieces of the plane have been discovered along the shores of Reunion Island, Madagascar, Mozambique, Mauritius, and South Africa. Authorities said the locations of the debris are consistent with the drift pattern analysis calculated by experts.

But those pieces failed to provide any answers as to what happened to the Boeing 777 and its 239 passengers and crew, which vanished from radar on 8 March, 2014.

MH370 was bound for Beijing from Kuala Lumpur when contact was lost while flying above the South China Sea. Over two-thirds of the 227 passengers were from China.

Voice370 in its statement questioned the accuracy of the experts' analysis on the possible resting place of the plane and called for a review.

It also appealed for more funding from "wealthy nations and corporations."—Kyodo News

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Date 21 June 2016

Six killed in Mexico during teachers' protest against police

MEXICO CITY — Six people were killed and 53 injured in Mexico on Sunday when clashes broke out between members of a teachers' trade union and police at a protest that police say had been infiltrated by armed individuals who shot at officers and threw petrol bombs.

The violence erupted as anti-riot police moved in to dislodge protesters blocking a highway in the southern state of Oaxaca. Television footage showed chaotic scenes of men running from police as gun fire rang out.

It was the worst incident in a spate of protests over the past several months against education reforms that the government pushed through three years ago.

Enrique Galindo, the head of Mexico's federal police, said masked individuals who were not affiliated to the union were behind much of the violence, lobbing Molotov cocktails and shooting at police and civilians.

"These kinds of radicalised protests generate violence," he told a news conference in the state cap-



Protesters from the National Coordination of Education Workers (CNTE) teachers' union clash with riot police officers during a protest against President Enrique Pena Nieto's education reform, in the town of Nochixtlan, northwest of the state capital, Oaxaca City, Mexico, on 19 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

ital of Oaxaca City. State Governor Gabino Cue gave the casualty figures, and said most of those who died were young people and only two had "links to the union."

The protest on Sunday near the town of Nochixtlan, about 50 miles (80 km) northwest of Oaxaca City was the latest of several in recent days that saw protesters blocking other highways with burning tires.

Earlier in the day, police escorted 120 tanker trucks carrying chemical waste from the nearby Salina Cruz

refinery, owned and operated by state-run oil company Pemex.

On Friday, Pemex warned it could be forced to shut operations at the refinery in "a few days" if the highway blockade persisted.

The unrest escalated after police arrested the leader of the local teachers' union during the previous weekend. Ruben Nunez, head of one of the most combative factions of Mexico's CNTE union, was detained on suspicion of corruption.—Reuters

Investigators examine damaged EgyptAir black boxes

CAIRO — Investigators have begun analysing the two severely damaged black boxes from EgyptAir flight MS804 as they seek to explain why the plane plunged into the sea, killing all 66 people on board.

It would require “lots of time and effort” to fix the two badly damaged black box recorders, sources on Egypt’s Aircraft Accident Investigation Committee told Reuters on Sunday.

The committee said it started the analysis of the devices, with representatives from France and the United States, which are crucial to explaining why the Airbus A320 crashed on 19 May en route from Paris to Cairo.

The memory units from

both the Cockpit Voice Recorder and the Flight Data Recorder were extracted from the devices and dried in a military facility for eight hours, the committee said in a statement. Investigators are now conducting electrical tests on the memory units, the final step before trying to extract data. If intact, the cockpit recorder should reveal pilot conversations and any cockpit alarms, as well as other clues such as engine noise. But crash experts say it may provide only limited insight into the reason for the crash.

With the data recorder, investigators have a greater chance of discovering the cause, provided its chip is still intact. Investigators

need to further analyse the memory units before deciding if they can be fixed locally or if they need to be sent abroad for repairs. Search teams retrieved the Cockpit Voice Recorder on Thursday which they said was damaged but had the memory unit intact. They found the Flight Data Recorder on Friday.

While no explanation for the disaster has been ruled out, current and former aviation officials increasingly believe the root of the crash lies in the aircraft’s technical systems, rather than deliberate sabotage.

There has been a series of airplane accidents at high altitude blamed on a cocktail of technical and pilot flaws.



A flight recorder retrieved from the crashed EgyptAir flight MS804 is seen in this undated picture issued on 17 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The crash is the third blow since October to Egypt’s travel industry, which is still suffering from the 2011 uprising that end-

ed Hosni Mubarak’s 30-year rule. A Russian plane crashed in the Sinai Peninsula in October, killing all 224 people on board in an attack

claimed by Islamic State. In March, an EgyptAir plane was hijacked by a man wearing a fake suicide belt. No one was hurt.—Reuters

Algeria blocks Facebook, Twitter to stop exam cheats: state media

ALGIERS — Algerian authorities have temporarily blocked access to Facebook, Twitter and other social media sites to try to stop cheats posting high school exam

papers online, state media reported on Sunday.

Tens of thousands of high school students were retaking part of their baccalaureate exams after details

were shared over social media. “The cut in social media is directly related to the partial baccalaureate exams that are taking place on Sunday,” an official source told the

APS state news agency.

“This is to protect students from the publication of false papers for these exams.” Access to the internet through the 3G mobile

network also appeared to be disrupted on Sunday.

Earlier this month, authorities said police arrested dozens of people, including officials working in national

education offices and printers, as part of an investigation into how parts of the 2016 high school exams were leaked onto social media.—Reuters

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Consignees of cargo carried on MV KUO HSIUNG VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 20.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CHUN AN SHIPPING PTE

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Actor Anton Yelchin of 'Star Trek' films dies in freak accident

LOS ANGELES — Actor Anton Yelchin, best known for playing the young Russian starship navigator Chekov in the rebooted series of "Star Trek" movies, was killed on Sunday when accidentally crushed by his own car against a driveway wall, police said.

The Russian-born Yelchin, 27, died shortly after 1 am after he apparently stepped out of his car in the steep driveway of his Los Angeles home and it rolled backwards, said Jenny Houser, spokeswoman for the Los Angeles Police Department.

"The car pinned him against a brick wall and a security fence, and that trauma led to his death," Houser said.

Yelchin was due at a rehearsal, and when he did not show up friends went to his house and

found him dead, Houser said. No foul play was suspected, but the accident was under investigation, she said.

A number of actors and others who worked with Yelchin took to social media with tributes and expressions of dismay.

"Still in shock. Rest in peace, Anton," Justin Lin, who directed Yelchin in his third "Star Trek" movie, wrote on Twitter. "Your passion and enthusiasm will live on with everyone that had the pleasure of knowing you."

Yelchin was best known for assuming the role of Pavel Chekov, the young navigator on the bridge of the starship Enterprise, for the 2009 re-launch of



Cast member Anton Yelchin poses during the photo call for the movie 'Burying the ex' at the 71st Venice Film Festival on 4 September, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

the "Star Trek" film franchise and two sequels - 2013's "Star Trek Into Darkness" and the upcoming "Star Trek Beyond," set to open on 22 July.

The Chekov character was originally played on television in the 1960s "Star Trek" series, and in the first seven big-screen adaptations of the show, by Walter Koenig, who died in 1994.

"I loved Anton Yelchin so much," wrote John Cho, who played fellow Enterprise crew member Sulu in the new "Star Trek" films. "He was a true artist - curious, beautiful, courageous. He was a great pal and a great son. I'm in ruins."

Yelchin was born in St. Pe-

tersburg, the son of two figure skaters, and emigrated to the United States as an infant.

He has appeared in numerous films and was in the TV series "Huff," starring Hank Azaria, who wrote on Twitter that he was devastated. "He was a very sweet kid. My heart goes out to his family."

Early in his career as a teenager, Yelchin gained wide attention appearing with Anthony Hopkins in the 2001 film "Hearts in Atlantis" and with Robin Williams in 2004's "House of D."

Yelchin played Jacob Clarke in the Steven Spielberg miniseries "Taken" and also appeared in the films "Terminator Salvation," "Charlie Bartlett," "Fright Night," "Like Crazy," and "Only Lovers Left Alive" between 2007 and 2013.—Reuters

'Finding Dory' Scores Record \$136.2 Million Opening

LOS ANGELES — Family audiences turned out in droves over the weekend, propelling "Finding Dory" to a massive \$136.2 million debut and establishing a new record for an animated film opening.

The sequel to 2003's "Finding Nemo" was bolstered by strong reviews and residual affection for the Oscar-winning first film. It's a return to form for Pixar after the animation studio behind "Toy Story" and "The Incredibles" suffered its first box office failure last year with "The Good Dinosaur." But its decades of excellence continue to be the brand's major selling points.

"It's amazing when you look at the longevity of this brand, the viability of it, and

the unfettered enthusiasm pretty much everyone has for Pixar," said Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst at comScore.

"Finding Dory" centers on a blue tang fish with short term memory loss (Ellen DeGeneres) and her quest to be reunited with her long-lost parents. Its opening weekend results sailed past the previous high-water mark for an animated film -- "Shrek the Third's" \$121.6 million launch in 2007 -- and ranks as the second-best June debut, behind "Jurassic World's" \$208.8 million bow. Overseas, "Finding Dory" added another \$50 million to its haul from 29 international markets, including Australia, Argentina, Russia and China, where its \$17.5 million

debut ranks as the biggest ever for a Pixar release.

The success of "Finding Dory" comes as Disney, Pixar's parent company, has dominated the movie business, fielding the year's three highest-grossing pictures globally in "Zootopia," "The Jungle Book" and "Captain America: Civil War." "Finding Dory" seems destined to join those films among 2016's top earners, partly because it is appealing to all age groups. Disney distribution chief Dave Hollis predicted that the film was gearing up for a "run for the ages," noting that it was playing well with both families (65% of ticket buyers) and older audiences, with adults comprising 26% of crowds.—Reuters



Taylor Swift and Calvin Harris. PHOTO: PTI

Taylor Swift dumped Calvin Harris over the phone?

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Taylor Swift reportedly dumped Calvin Harris over the phone.

The Bad Blood hitmaker split from the 32-year-old DJ around two weeks ago in the same way her ex-boyfriend Joe Jonas ended his relationship with her in October 2008, reported TMZ. According to sources, Swift called Harris to end their relationship at some point after he was injured in a car crash. She was said to be very vague, telling him she just needed space.

And the 26-year-old sing-

er previously slated Joe, 26, for ending their romance in just 27 seconds. She said in 2008: "It's all right - I'm cool. You know what, it's like, when I find that person that is right for me, he'll be wonderful. When I look at that person, I'm not even going to remember the boy who broke up with me over the phone in 27 seconds when I was 18."

"I'm sorry. I had to. (The split) was, like, a record, I think, for how quick. I looked at the call log - it was like 27 seconds. That's got to be a record."—PTI



A general view at the premiere of "Finding Dory" at El Capitan theatre in Hollywood, California US, on 8 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Fujiyama wins best actress prize at Shanghai film festival

TOKYO — Japanese actress Naomi Fujiyama has won the best actress award at the 19th Shanghai International Film Festival, according to the distributor of the film.

Fujiyama, 57, who starred in "The Projects" directed by Junji Sakamoto, is the first Japanese actress to win the award, the distributor Kino Films said, adding it received the news Sunday.

"I was able to win this

award because of the great work by the director. I'd be very happy if Mr. Sakamoto is happy," Fujiyama said in a written comment. "I would also like to extend my sincere gratitude to my costars," she added.

The comedy movie depicts the life of a married couple played by Fujiyama and Ittoku Kishibe, 69, who live in an old Japanese-style apartment block called "danchi," which is the title of the film.—Kyodo News

Daw Khin Myo Hla 85 years old

Daw Khin Myo Hla, 85, passed away peacefully on 19.6.2016, Sunday, 4:40 am at 2B2, Yankin Center, Yangon. She was a much loved daughter of (U Ohn Khin — Daw Saw Nyunt), niece of (Thakhin Chit Maung (Myan Aung) — Daw Mya Kyi), widow of (Wunna Kyaw Htin U Maung Maung Yi, Command Engineer, Construction, Kachin State), loving mother of Dr. Cho Win Maw (Managing Director, Retired, Foodstuff and Pharmaceutical Industries, Ministry of Industry)—Daw Cho Cho Wynn (Department of Economics, Yangon University of Economics, Retired), Dr. Aung Thu (Consultant Physician, Northwick Park Hospital, London), Dr. Hmwe Hmwe Thynn (Associate Specialist, Gwynedd Hospital, Banger, UK)—U Myo Tint (Lecturer, Menai College, Banger, UK), U Thant Sin (Managing Director, MPE and MPPE, Ministry of Electricity and Energy)—Daw Aye Aye Khine (Miraculous Fashion and Jewellery), Daw Aye Aye Thynn (Aye Ma), and grandmother of U Cho Zay (Q.H.S.E Manager, Heli-Union), Daw Aye Su Myat (Australia), U Htet Cho (Technical Sales Executive, Puma Energy Asia Sun), Daw Khine Cho Myat (Youth Consultant, U.N.F.P.A), Simon T Tint (Faenol School, Bangor, UK), Maung Zwe Zarni Min Thant @ John Walter (International School Yangon). The funeral service will be held on 23.6.2016, Thursday, 10 am at Yay Way Cemetery, Yangon. We will be leaving for the funeral service at 8:00 am.

Bereaved family

Less is more as Japanese minimalist movement grows

TOKYO — Fumio Sasaki's one-room Tokyo apartment is so stark friends liken it to an interrogation room. He owns three shirts, four pairs of trousers, four pairs of socks and a meagre scattering of various other items.

Money isn't the issue. The 36-year-old editor has made a conscious lifestyle choice, joining a growing number of Japanese deciding that less is more.

Influenced by the spare aesthetic of Japan's traditional Zen Buddhism, these minimalists buck the norm in a fervently consumerist society by dramatically paring back their possessions.

Sasaki, once a passionate collector of books, CDs and DVDs, became tired of keeping up with trends two years ago.

"I kept thinking about what I did not own, what was missing," he said. He spent the next year selling possessions or giving them to friends.

"Spending less time on cleaning or shopping means I have more time to spend with friends, go out, or travel on my days off. I have become a lot more active," he said. Others welcome the chance to own only things they truly like — a philosophy also applied by Mari Kondo, a consultant whose "KonMari" organisational methods have swept the United States. "It's not that I had more things than the average person, but that didn't mean that I valued or liked everything I owned," said Katsuya Toyoda, an online publication editor who has

only one table and one futon in his 22-square-metre apartment. "I became a minimalist so I could let things I truly liked surface in my life." Inspiration for Japan's minimalists came from the United States, where early adherents included Steve Jobs. Definitions vary, because the goal is not just decluttering but re-evaluating what possession mean, to gain something else - in Sasaki's case, time to travel.

Just how many there are is unclear, but Sasaki and others believe there are thousands of hard-core minimalists, with possibly thousands more interested.

Some say minimalism is actually not foreign but a natural outgrowth of Zen Buddhism and its stripped-down world view.

"In the west, making a space complete means placing something there," said Naoki Numahata, 41, a freelance writer. "But with tea ceremonies, or Zen, things are left incomplete on purpose to let the person's imagination make that space complete." Minimalists also argue that having fewer possessions is eminently practical in Japan, which is regularly shaken by earthquakes. In 2011, a 9.0 magnitude quake and tsunami killed nearly 20,000 people and led to many re-evaluating possessions, Sasaki said. "Thirty to 50 per cent of earthquake injuries occur through falling objects," he said, gesturing around his apartment. "But in this room, you don't have that concern."—Reuters

Out of fashion: how men could fall off the catwalk

MILAN — Men are in danger of falling off the catwalk in Europe. Menswear shows, traditionally held months before the women hit the runways later in the year, are being slowly air-brushed from the fashion industry's calendar and folded into the women's events, almost as an accessory.

In Milan, where male models are strutting their stuff in shows that began on Friday for men's fashion week, 10 designers have decided not to showcase their collections this year including Calvin Klein, Ermene-gildo Zegna and Kering's Brioni and Bottega Veneta.

Other brands, including Burberry, Gucci and Tom Ford, have announced in recent months that they plan to stage combined events in future. Most said this would allow them to show buyers and customers both collections at the same time, giving a more complete idea of their designs. But some industry insiders and analysts say separate men's fashion shows, which can cost up to hundreds of thousands of



A model presents a creation as part of the Giorgio Armani Fall/Winter 2010/11 Men's collection during Milan Fashion Week in Italy 19 January, 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

dollars each, are no longer worth the money for luxury brands, which have been hit by a global sales slowdown.

Menswear pulls in far less money than womenswear, in terms of sales, and men's shows generate a fraction of the global publicity of women's.

"They (brands) are focusing on what has the highest return on investment,"

said Bernstein analyst Mario Ortelli. The women's shows draw A-list celebrities such as George Clooney and Beyonce in their front rows, attract throngs of news photographers and broadcasters and trend wildly on social media. In contrast, men's catwalk don't turn as many heads with their low-key guest lists. Focusing even more heavily on women's

shows could further widen the gulf between global sales of womenswear and menswear. Annual designer menswear sales are expected to reach more than \$40 billion in 2020, up 6.8 per cent from 2015, according to Euromonitor International, while womenswear sales are expected to rise 7.7 per cent to about \$75 billion in the same period.—Reuters

Transgender employee in Japan to sue after being forced to come out

NAGOYA — A company employee who adopted a female name due to gender identity disorder is planning to sue an affiliate of Japanese beverage maker Yakult Honsha Co., claiming she was forced to divulge her condition at work, sources close to the matter said Sunday.

The woman will file a damages suit with the Nagoya District Court, demanding Aichi Yakult factory pay 3.3 million yen (\$31,700), the sources said.

The affiliate company told Kyodo News that the worker had consented to explaining her condition to her colleagues.

The worker claims she suffered depression as a result of her treatment in the factory, which produces some of Yakult's beverages.

According to the sources, the worker was

diagnosed with gender identity disorder in January 2014 and adopted a female name in May that year following approval by a family court.

The worker asked the company to change her health insurance card but wished to continue using the former male name in the office. The company, however, changed the worker's name tag to the female name without consultation.

When the worker urged the company to allow her to use the women's locker room, the company forced her to come out in front of her colleagues, the sources said.

The worker was forced to announce at a morning meeting at the factory that she had received treatment for gender identity disorder three times, according to the sources.—Kyodo News



**Entertainment
Channel**

(21- 6-2016, Tuesday)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 06 : 00 pm | 09 : 30 pm |
| • Weather Report | • International Movie Songs |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | 09 : 40 pm |
| 06 : 20 pm | • Amazing: May Phoo Han |
| • Cartoon Programme “Despicable Me” (Part-2) | 9 : 50 pm |
| 07 : 10 pm | • Music Programme |
| • International Drama Series | 10 : 00 pm |
| 08 : 50 pm | • Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Than Kywe |
| • MRTV Entertainment Music | 10 : 20 pm |
| 09 : 00 pm | • Myanmar Video |
| • Sayit-Wine Girls | Midnight |
| | • Close Down. |

From 21-6-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 Pm
To 22-6-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 Pm



**Myanmar
International**

(21-6-2016 07:00am ~ 22-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:26 | Am | Myanmar Game Changers (Episode- III) |
| 07:51 | Am | Next Weekend |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Myanmar Childhood Games (Episode-II) |
| 08:33 | Am | The World's Largest Book |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Culture Show: Abdication of King Thibaw |
| 09:43 | Am | Sagaing: Gold Leaf |
| 09:50 | Am | Today Myanmar: Drone & RC Plane Technology |
| 10:03 | Am | News |

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 10:26 | Am | Myanmar Betels |
| 10:41 | Am | Mrauk U, Treasure Trove of Rakhine Culture |

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Monday 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 |
| 07:27 | Pm | A Day Out With Sarah (EP-7) |
| 07:53 | Pm | Art Students: Theatrical Art |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | Discovering Tribes “MUUN (Episode - II)” |
| 08:49 | Pm | Kayin Child Boxer |

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

Turkey hope to seize last chance against Czechs

LILLE, (France) — Turkey have left it late to bid for a place in the knockout stage of Euro 2016 but defender Gokhan Gonul believes they still have a chance, if they can beat a buoyant Czech side in their final Group D game on Tuesday.

"There is a thing the Turkish national team always does, which is chasing the game until the last minute," the 31-year-old defender said.

"Again we have left it until the last game, maybe we don't have much of a chance this time, but we will still do our very best and hopefully, with the help of some luck, we can defeat the Czech Republic and go through."

The Czechs, though, are full of confidence after fighting back from two goals down to draw with Croatia on Friday.

Turkey, by contrast, were lacking in bite when they lost 1-0 to Croatia in their opening game before being given a footballing lesson in a 3-0 drubbing by reigning European champions Spain.

Aside from scoring their first goal of the tournament in Lens, Turkey would need other results to go their way even if they do win, while victory for the Czechs would put them on four points and in a good position to make the last 16.

Spain, who have already qualified for the knockout stages with two wins in their first two games, face a Croatia side look-



Turkey head coach Fatih Terim gestures towards Turkey's Gokhan Gonul as he takes a throw in against Spain during the EURO 2016 Group D match at Stade de Nice, Nice, France on 17 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing for the win that would guarantee their progression in the tournament.

The Czech Republic and Turkey claimed away victories against one another in a top-sy-turvy qualifying group that the Czechs won, with Iceland coming second and the Turks qualifying directly as the best third-placed

team, while a much-fancied Netherlands side missed out altogether.

"Turkey are a very strong side, they have a lot of good players who play for top teams," said Czech forward Tomas Necid.

"As a team, they have good link-up

play and plenty of flair."

The Czechs will be missing their flair player, Tomas Rosicky, who has been ruled out of the tournament with a thigh injury sustained in their remarkable comeback from two goals down to draw 2-2 with Croatia.

The Czechs

have two players, Tomas Sivok and David Limbersky, who risk suspension for the knockout stages if they get another yellow card, while the Turks have five — Burak Yilmaz, Cenk Tosun, Hakan Balta, Ozan Tufan and Volkan Sen — who will need to stay on the right side of Scottish referee William Collum.—Reuters

Murray impresses Lendl with fighting spirit at Queen's

LONDON — Andy Murray's renewed partnership with Ivan Lendl got off to a winning start on Sunday and the Briton said the American coach was impressed with his battling qualities as he rallied to lift the Queen's Club trophy for a record fifth time.

Murray, who this month reunited with the man who coached him to a pair of grand slam victories, came from a set and a break down to beat big-serving Canadian Milos Raonic 6-7(5), 6-4, 6-3 in the Aegon Championships final, a key Wimbledon warm-up event.

The Scot has not won a major title since parting company with Czech-born Lendl in March 2014 after two successful years together, during which he won the 2012 Olympic gold medal, the 2012 US Open and the 2013 Wimbledon titles.

"Mainly, actually we spoke about today's (Sunday's) match but more about next week and planning for Wimbledon, how I'm going to prepare for that, the things that we're going to be working on," Murray told British

media of the grass-court season.

"He was definitely happy with this week because of the way that I fought, the way that I played in the big moments and the preparation, getting five matches when I had literally zero preparation for this event. It's turned out to be a great week." Before Sunday's victory, Murray, who also won the trophy in 2009, 2011, 2013 and 2015, shared the record of four Queen's titles with seven other men, including Boris Becker, Roy Emerson and Raonic's new grasscourt coach John McEnroe.—Reuters



Great Britain's Andy Murray celebrates with the trophy after victory in the final during Aegon Championships at Queens Club, London, on 19 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

Eyes on troublesome fans as Croatia meet Spain

BORDEAUX, (France) — When Croatia meet Spain in their final Euro 2016 group match on Tuesday there will be as much scrutiny of developments in the stands as on the pitch.

The wilder element of the Croatian supporters have caused trouble at both of the country's games so far and European soccer's ruling body UEFA was expected to make an announcement on its probe into their behaviour later on Monday.

UEFA opened disciplinary proceedings after Croatia fans threw flares and ran on to the pitch during their opening Group D game, a 1-0 win against Turkey.

Then Friday's 2-2 draw with the Czech Republic was halted with four minutes to play when supporters again threw flares and fought among themselves. After the teams returned to the pitch, Croatia's players felt their concentration had been disturbed, which contributed to the Czechs scoring a late equaliser with a penalty.—Reuters