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CSOs TO PLAY PART IN PEACE PROCESS

Ye Khaung Nyunt

CIVIL Society Organisations finished a two-day forum yesterday that focused on measures to develop the new government's '21st Century Panglong Peace Conference' and the implementation of the previous government's Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement.

Ma Ran Jaw Gun, a member of the work committee for the Civil Society Organisation Forum, said that preparatory committees for the peace conference briefed their ongoing activities at the first day of the meeting.

On the second day, the Un-



Ma Ran Jaw Gun.

ion Level Joint Monitoring Committee explained the extent of respect by both sides of signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement. U Thwin Lin Aung of the Civil Society Forum of



U Yan Kyaw.

Peace (CSFOP), said they had to work against time as the Panglong Conference was expected to take place in August.

The political dialogue at the conference is reported to focus



U Thwin Lin Aung.

on five topics—politics, security, economy, social affairs, and land and environment. Civil Society Organisations will take part in the discussion of three topics, excluding politics and security.

PHOTOS: PHO HTAUNG

"We want peace tomorrow if possible. The sooner, the better. We're doing our utmost to attain peace. The national development needs political stability, which in turn requires ceasefire and freedom from conflicts. Without political stability, the country will never prosper. They are all connected. We've not met with the State Counsellor yet," said U Yan Kyaw from Myanmar Political Analyst.

The inclusion of civil society organisations in the conference is to encourage community-based seminars and develop closer co-operation among them.



UN Special Rapporteur to Myanmar Ms Yanghee Lee visits a school in Kyauktaw. PHOTO: MNA

UN special rapporteur visits Rakhine

UNITED Nations Special Rapporteur to Myanmar Ms Yanghee Lee visited Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu yesterday where they discussed regional development, stability and greater human rights.

U Nyi Pu said that the region would welcome international assistance for development for the second poorest state in the country. Yanghee Lee expressed her sorrow for the losses caused by the recent floods in the region.

"However, I am very happy with the news that State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has given priority to the region's development," she said. Yanghee Lee expressed delight at the local government's strenuous efforts to overcome obstacles in their undertaking.

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Small quake shakes Sagaing

Jaiden Coonan

A 4.7 Richter scale earthquake occurred 80km northwest of Monywa at 7:33pm, the quake occurred alongside the Chindwin river in Sagaing Region according to the United States Geological Survey.

Dr Myo Thant of the Myanmar Earthquake Society said that there have been no reported damages from the local area.

"Due to the depth of the earthquake at around 90km or

so it is highly unlikely that there would be any damages from the earthquake," Dr Myo Thant told *The Global New Light of Myanmar*.

On 13 April a 6.9 RS earthquake struck Myanmar 135km northwest of Mandalay in an isolated area at around a depth of 135km, there were no reports of damages from the quake. Yet the tremor was felt in India and Bangladesh.

The Sagaing faultline that

enters Myanmar in the Gulf of Mottama runs through the centre of the country past the capital of Naypyitaw and near Mandalay before exiting into the Himalayas.

Experts have warned that the faultline is currently active and that Myanmar should prepare for a large earthquake in the future. A quake in Shan State in 2011 registered 6.9 RS at a depth of 10km, 151 were reportedly killed and 212 injured in Myanmar and Thailand.



A map shows location where 4.7 Richter scale earthquake occurred.

President's Office announces formation of four committees

THE President's Office announced formation of four committees with the release of notifications yesterday.

According to the President's Office, the Central Committee for Supervising and Taking Care of Citizens, the National Water Resources Management Committee, Committee for the Development of National Transport Sector and Implementation of Projects were formed and the Central Committee for the Management of Va-

cant, Fallow and Virgin Lands was reformed.

The Central Committee for Supervising and Taking Care of Citizens chaired by the Vice-President 1 will be formed with 19 members, the National Water Resources Management Committee chaired by the Vice-President (2) will be comprised of 21 members and the Committee for Development of National Transport Sector and Implementation of Projects chaired by Union Minister

for Transport and Communication will be made up of 22 members. The Central Committee for Management of Vacant, Fallow and Virgin Lands chaired by Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation will be reformed with 18 members.

Formation of the committees and their duties and functions are available on the website of the President's Office www.president-office.gov.mm. —Myanmar News Agency



Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than holds talks with Senior Programme Lawyer Ms. Maluka Miti-Drummond and party of International Bar Association's Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI) at a hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw on 22 June.

PHOTO: MYANMAR NEWS AGENCY

Media relations workshop helps spokespersons to communicate effectively with the media

THE MINISTRY of Information organized a three-day workshop on media relations for the ministerial spokespersons in cooperation with the UNESCO and European Union at its office in Nay Pyi Taw.

The workshop participants have learnt about media relations, management on conflict-sensitive reporting, media interview, press briefing and press conference during the three-day event with the aim of possessing confidence in their relations with the media.

Director U Thein Shwe Win of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population said that the workshop helped participants work effectively with the media.

Col Aye Lwin from the Office of the Chief of Armed Forces Training also expressed his view on the workshop, saying that participants gained an understanding of how to prepare for and deal with the media.

Director U Aung San Win of the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture said that the workshop taught the participants how to communicate effectively with the media and do's and don'ts when working with the media.

Assistant Director U Htay Aung of the Supreme Court of

PHOTO: AYE THAN



Director U Thein Shwe Win.



Col Aye Lwin from the Office of the Chief of Training.



Assistant Director U Htay Aung of the Supreme Court of the Union.



Director U Aung San Win of the Ministry of Religious Affairs.

the Union expressed his belief that there would be better relations with the media as the workshop equipped the partic-

ipants with a thorough media relations guide in order to build a win-win relationship with the media.—Thant Zin Win

Kachin police holds press conference on shooting incident

THE police force in Kachin State held a press conference yesterday in connection with a shooting incident that occurred between a group of men and members of the Tatmadaw that resulted in the death of one civilian.

Police Col Tun Oo stated that four people spoke to security troops stationed at Balamhntin Bridge at 9:45pm on Monday to ask for help

as they were being disturbed by eight people. The police officer added that two soldiers accompanied them home.

"On the way, a group of eight attempted to snatch away the firearms of the two security servicemen and Guan Sai Aung was shot dead in the brawl due to accidental misfire during the struggle," he claimed.

An investigation is underway

to press charges against the seven youths at the scene with the police officer saying that the Tatmadaw will take action against the two soldiers.

The press conference attracted the Peace-talks Creation Group (PCG), the Student Union of Myitkyina University, the family of the deceased and news agencies. —Myawady

UN special rapporteur visits Rakhine

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She also went to Punngayun Township by a watercraft and met with local people at Thaetat

Village.

The UN human rights expert also went to Pannawa Village in Kyauktaw Township and greeted

children learning at a school and talked to IDPs.

The delegation arrived back Sittway at about 6.30 pm and stopped over there.—Myanmar News Agency

Civil society to draw up PWD policy guidelines

CIVIL society organisations (CSOs) working for persons with disabilities (PWD) have announced policy guidelines, relating to the affairs of disabled people within Myanmar, will be released in a bid to support demands made during the five-year tenure of the incumbent government. U Nay Lin Soe, director of the Myanmar Independent Living Initiative (MITI), says the CSO will take the lead with drawing up the policy guidelines which will prioritize the rights and entitlements of disabled persons.

"[The policy guidelines are being drawn up] to allow for precise information to be submitted to the government when working for the rights of disabled people. An archive of reports will also be submitted to the new government to enlighten them on the needs of disabled people that need to be fulfilled. The government departments concerned for carrying out certain aspects of the policy guidelines will also be referenced," he explained.

The requests to be included in the policy guidelines relating to the affairs of disabled persons will reportedly be based upon aspects of UN's International Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, while a draft of the aforementioned guidelines will allegedly be completed during

this coming July and forwarded to Hluttaw MPs and those government departments concerned.

The policy guidelines will reportedly be based around ten fundamental subject areas which will include the right of disabled persons to an education; the requirement to create job opportunities for people with disabilities; and the construction of disabled friendly access in public spaces.

"It's good that calls [to government] will be made with guidelines. It'll be more effective than just making demands without information to back them up, as was the case in the past. I'd like them to add the affairs of disabled females [to the policy guidelines]; I think they should also be included. It'd be the best if desired points from all organizations could be added to the policy guidelines," said Daw Khin Myo Naing, mother of an intellectually disabled child.

The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Law was enacted in Myanmar in July 2015, while the erstwhile Myanmar government also ratified the UN Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities in December 2011 which stipulated fifty rights relating to equality and fair treatment in society, together with entitlement to employment and education.—Myitmakha News Agency



The Wider Image: Myanmar's war veterans left behind Kyaw Min Naing, a former soldier who lost his leg after he stepped on a landmine during fighting against ethnic armed groups, closes his barbershop outside Yangon, Myanmar May 19, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

National Verification Cards issued in Sittwe, Maungdaw



Immigration officers are working to issue National Verification Cards to locals in Rakhine State.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

NATIONAL Verification Cards (NVC) were handed out to 164 people in Sittwe recently, NVCs are the current government's answer to identification cards, also known as 'green cards.' These cards are recognised under the Myanmar's 1982 Citizenship Law.

Cards were issued to 62 people from Aung Mingalar Ward and Thakkaypyin Village in Sittwe Township and 102 cards were issued to people from Khamaung-seik, Kyeinchaung, Ngakhuya and Ywetnyotaung villages in Maung-taw Township.

"NVCs are the first step to assisting people to become citizens; the next stage will be a scrutiny process of peoples citizenship," according to U Win Lwin, Director of the Immigration and National Registration Department. He added that the scrutinisa-

tion process is conducted within the framework of the 1982 Citizenship Law, that if a baby was born to parents who are recognized as citizens, the child of the two will be recognised as a citizen. If a baby was born to naturalised parents, they may not be eligible for citizenship.

Under the 1982 Citizenship Law, a person is granted citizenship at birth if:

"3. Nationals such as the Kachin, Kayah, Karen, Chin, Burman, Mon, Rakhine or Shan and ethnic groups as have settled in any of the territories included within the State as their permanent home from a period anterior to 1185 B.E., 1823 A.D. are Burma citizens." A naturalised citizen is a person who:

"42. Persons who have entered and resided in the State anterior to 4th January, 1948, and their offsprings born Within the State may, if they have not yet applied under the union Citizenship Act, 1948, apply for naturalised citizenship to the Central Body, furnishing conclusive evidence." — *Myanmar News Agency*

IRD sets deadline for tax invoices

MYANMAR'S Internal Revenue Department (IRD) has set 30 June as the deadline for tax payers to file their tax invoices, according to the department.

Daw Mya Mya Oo, Director at the Large Taxpayers Office in Yangon Region, said that "Serious action will be taken against taxpayers who fail to comply with rules and regulations. The office levies taxes based on a self-assessment system," which the director said would save time and expenditure and build mutual trust between the office and the taxpayers.

U Ye Min Aung, General Secretary of the Myanmar Rice Federation, expressed his view that the people had developed an awareness of the importance of taxes for the development of the country.

Tax collection in Myanmar is one the lowest in the world due to the country's poor governance over the years. In the last five years, the previous government attempted to remedy the situation by giving large companies and those in high earning tax brackets incentives to come forward with their tax invoices.

"Inflation rate is quite high in our country. An effective tax system is a remedy to this problem," said U Ye Min Aung, adding that the country's tax revenue was still lower than that of its neighbouring countries. — *Soe Soe Yu*

Mandalay-Kawlin RBE train to set off on maiden voyage 1 July

THREE RBE railway coaches will make a run on the Mandalay-Kawlin railroad section on 1 July, according to an official from Myanma Railways.

The RBE train is aimed at ensuring convenience for passengers who have to rely on Myitkyina train as there is no special train between Mandalay and Kawlin, said Manager U Tint Wai.

The train will take six hours to run the entire route, departing

Mandalay at 3.30 pm and arriving at Kawlin station at 9.20 pm and leaving Kawlin at 10.50 pm and arriving Mandalay at 4.50 am.

The train fare is not set yet, said the manager, adding that tickets will be on sale daily and in advance.

Ko Kyi Soe, a local trader, welcomed the train service, saying that it can facilitate smooth travel for the passengers from Kawlin. — *Aung Thant Khaing*



RBE train is seen in Gotteik Viaduct in Shan State. PHOTO: ATK

Rice consumption per capita in Myanmar stands at 17 kg a day

RICE consumption in Myanmar stands at an average of 17 kilograms per capita per day, according to the Myanmar Rice and Paddy Traders Association based on a survey developed by the Myanmar Rice Federation, the association and the Yezin University of Agriculture.

The survey estimated declining rice consumption in the country as the annual consumption of rice by the entire people has dropped from around 11 million tonnes to about 9 million tonnes, said U Aung Than Oo, chairman of the association. Myanmar has the potential to boost rice exports if statistics revealed in the survey are correct, he added. The survey, using K45 million in funding, was conducted in 4000 areas in total— 1750 urban and 2250 rural— beginning

the fourth week of this month. It is the country's first rice consumption per capita survey in more than 20 years.

The survey will help the country's rice industry to avoid possible losses in its rice production and suggestions can be made on the formulation of rice policies by the government, said the MRPTA chairman. According to the Ministry of Commerce, the country imported 1.47 million tonnes of rice for the 2015-2016 fiscal year.

The MRF said that the country, with 19 million areas of arable land, produces 11.5 million tonnes of rice a year. According to FAO, Myanmar is one of the highest rice consuming countries in the world and the country consumes 10 to 10.5 million tonnes of rice annually. — *Ko Moe*

Villagers demand an end to brick wall construction on expressway

11 VILLAGES near the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway's mile post No. 192 demanded an end to the setting up of brick walls along the road section by the Ministry of Construction yesterday.

Villagers called on the ministry to cease building the wall as it will cause chaos for villagers wishing to travel to nearby towns, said U Thiha Kyaw Swa Tun, Ya Bein village administrator, on behalf of the 11 villages.

"All the 11 villages will be blocked off if the brick walls are built along the road," added the administrator, suggesting that measures to ensure the easy travel of the villagers should be tak-

en before fencing.

U Kyaw Swe Latt, one of villagers from Ya Bein village, called for an end to fencing which is blocking a village road leading to mile post No.192 of the expressway, saying that the road is the only available passage for the 11 villages.

"If the road is blocked by the brick wall, we cannot go to Lewe Township," he said, adding that two bridges should be built before the walls are installed in order to make it easier for villages to travel.

A letter demanding an end to the construction of the brick walls will be sent to the Construction Ministry via the Lewe

Township administrator, said locals, pointing out that school-children from the 11 villages will face difficulties in getting to school due to construction of the walls.

"We need an alternative way of traveling without using the expressway," said U Khaing Min, a local farmer.

According to locals, an engineering team of the ministry halted the wall construction and left the workplace in the afternoon due to the collective demand of the villages. Regarding the villagers' demand, a responsible person of the ministry replied that they were working toward a solution.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Vision Zero Fund to be supported by Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population

THE Vision Zero Fund which has been brought about due to the efforts of seven industrial countries (G7) will be supported so it may improve workplace safety and implement health reforms in Myanmar, according to U Win Shein, Director-General of the Factories and General Labour

Laws Inspection Department under the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

Officials from the fund discussed how they will provide services in each sector concerning workplace safety in Myanmar.

"We will work hard to promote social dialogue and to allow

all partners to be able to cooperate effectively. Our department has already achieved progress concerning workplace safety and health law which will enable the formation of a national-level workplace safety organisation" he added.

The conference at which workplace safety and health reforms were discussed was attended by officials from the Vision Zero Fund, the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the German Federal Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the the European Commission, the U.S. Department of Labor and the International Labour Organisation

The conference was also attended by Yangon Region Minister for Rakhine Ethnic Affairs U Zaw Aye Maung, Permanent Secretary U Myo Aung from the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, ambassadors and officials from labour organisations. — Myint Maung Soe



The meeting to discuss workplace safety and health reform in progress. PHOTO: TIN SOE (MYANMA ALINN)

MWEA delegation attends Manufacturing Expo 2016 in Thailand

A 10-member delegation from Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Association left for Thailand yesterday to attend the Manufacturing Expo 2016.

The expo is scheduled to be held in Bangkok, Thailand from

22 to 24 June.

The delegation led by General Secretary Daw Hninn Wai was seen off at Yangon International Airport by responsible persons of the association. — MWC



MWEA delegation seen before departure. PHOTO: MWC

Crime NEWS

Police arrest two women for murder in Thingangyun

A SCHOOL teacher and her adopted daughter were arrested for the murder of a woman in Thingangyun township, Yangon on Monday.

According to an investigation, Khin Mya Win, 53, was found dead with laceration wounds in the bathroom of her home by her son, Kyaw Ye Naing, when he came home from work. Police interrogated neighbours, one of whom claimed that they had heard the victim screaming, "Don't do it, teacher!".

The victim's son said that his mother has been in contact with a school teacher named Daw Aye Aye Maw since 2007. Police visited Aye Aye Maw's home in Kyeipwaryay ward, Thingangyun and found her adopted daughter, Kyawt Kay Khine alias Chit Pu and her son-in-law Nyi Nyi Lin. Police noticed that Chit Pu has recently sustained cuts on her hands.

When interrogated, Kyawt Kay Khine and Nyi Nyi Lin claimed that Aye Aye Maw was staying at a guesthouse in South Okkalapa township. Police found Aye Aye Maw alias Ingyin Khine staying at the guest house together with one Kyaw Kyaw.

When interrogated, Aye Aye Maw, Kyawt Kay Khine and Nyi Nyi Lwin claimed that they went to the victim's home to demand the repayment of three million Kyats borrowed by the victim. Aye Aye Maw forcibly took the victim into the bathroom



Daw Aye Aye Maw (a) Ingyin Khine and Kyawt Kay Khine (a) Chit Pu. PHOTO: MYANMAR ALINN

and slashed her face and neck with a knife. Aye Aye Maw and her daughter then put a pillow across the victim's face until she stopped breathing. They then stole the victim's gold necklace and three bracelets. The police have filed charges against all suspects. — Myanamar Alinn

Yaba seized in Katha

AN anti-drug squad in Sagaing seized Yaba tablets from a motorbike near Langwa village entrance gate on 19 June. Acting on a tip-off, the police searched a mo-

torbike driven by Aung San Oo alias Motetseik from Sin Photo village with Ma Kaw Taung from Mai Naung village on board the motorbike and discovered 3,750

Yaba pills from a motorbike toolbox. Police have filed charges against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Lu Aung (Katha)

Police seize counterfeit notes in Mandalay

POLICE have filed a lawsuit against two men on suspicion of using counterfeit notes in Mandalay on 20 June.

According to the investigation, the police found Win Min Hein alias Ko Hein, 26, and Jin Hein alias Jame, 23, buying cheeroots with counterfeit notes at a store while patrolling. When interrogated, Ko Hein and Jame admitted that they have printed counterfeit notes at their home.

The police searched their house and discovered a computer and other materials which are used in producing K 10,000 counterfeit notes.

The police said that most of the counterfeit notes are similar to the central bank notes but the width of the counterfeit notes is smaller than the real notes. The local police have filed a lawsuit against both of them.—Min Htet Aung

Yaba and marijuana seized in Yangon

LOCAL police from Bayintnaung seized yaba and marijuana at a house on U Yegai road in ward 2, Mayangon township, on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off police searched the home of one U Saw Ronnie, 58, and confiscated 17 yaba pills and marijuana weighing 14 grams. U Saw Arrow, 59, Zin Htet Aung

alias Par Gyi, 29, Khon Than Win Shwe alias Gatun, 25, and Khant Kyaw alias Ko Khant, 23, were found together with the host.

Police further discovered marijuana weighing 168 grams. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Soe Win



Criminals seen together with yaba and marijuana seized. PHOTO: SOE WIN

LOCAL Business

Myanmar's construction industry worth US\$13.5bn by 2020

A report by Timetric Construction Intelligence Center (CIC) has found that that over the next five years Myanmar's construction industry is to grow at a rate of 10.37% over five years. In 2015 the industry's value was worth Ks9 trillion (US\$8.2bn) and is expected to climb to Ks15 trillion (US\$13.5bn) in 2020, according to the press release.

The improvement of the country's economic conditions depends on government investments in residential, energy and utilities, and public infrastructure projects, as well as a rise in foreign investments, according to the report.

Danny Richards, Lead Economist at Timetric's CIC said in the release, "Government flagship programs such as the National Transport Master Plan, National Export Strategy (NES), and National Electrification Plan will promote industry growth over the next five years, adding, "However, the underdeveloped regulatory and financing environment and a lack of transparency in the tendering process



Myanmar's construction industry is expected to see boom over five years. PHOTO: SAW THEIN WIN

will prevent the construction industry from expanding at a faster pace."

Residential construction was the largest market in Myanmar's construction industry over

the last five years, accounting for 49.9% of the industry value in 2015. The market rose from (US\$3.6 bn) in 2011 to value

(US\$5bn) in 2015.

The growth was driven by government investments in affordable housing programs that are being undertaken around the

country as apart of the governments second National Development Program.

During the next couple of years the market is forecast to remain the largest in the industry, to value Ks11 trillion (US\$9.7 bn) in 2020.

Infrastructure construction was the second-largest market in the construction industry during the review period, accounting for 19.4% of the industry's total value in 2015. The market rose from Ks 2 trillion (US\$1.3 bn) in 2011 to Ks3 trillion (US\$1.9 bn) in 2015.

Over the forecast period, infrastructure construction is expected to maintain its position, supported by the ongoing government efforts to improve this segment.

The government will invest Ks28 trillion (US\$26.8 bn) under the National Transport Master Plan, allocating funds to road, rail, water and air transportation projects until 2030. Consequently, infrastructure construction is expected to reach Ks6 trillion (US\$4.2 bn) in 2020. —GNLM

Singapore companies main investors in Thilawa SEZ

SINGAPOREAN companies have invested Ks343.08bn (US\$289.15m) in Myanmar's Thilawa Special Economic Zone. The total investment in the SEZ from 14 different countries, including Myanmar, has reached over Ks800bn (US\$700m), according to the Directorate of Investment & Company Administration (DICA).

Japan is following Singapore with Ks278bn (US\$235m), Ks46bn (US\$38.65m) from Hong Kong, Ks39bn (US\$33.21m) from Thailand, Ks33bn (US\$28m) from My-

anmar, Ks17bn (US\$15.16m) from the UAE, Ks16bn (US\$13.91m) from Panama, Ks14bn (US\$12m) from China and Ks11bn (US\$9m) from Malaysia.

South Korea has invested Ks10bn (US\$8.3m), Australia with Ks9bn (US\$7m), Viet Nam with Ks8bn (US\$5.93m), Brunei with Ks7bn (US\$5m) and Taipei with Ks6bn (US\$4m).

The investments are to support the industrial manufacturing sector, service sectors, real estate, trade sector.—200

AYA plans to open 600 ATMs nationwide

AYEYAWADY Bank (AYA) will operate between 505 and 600 ATMs nationwide soon. The bank currently has more than 100 branches nationwide, it plans to sprawl to be completed by the beginning of the 2017 fiscal year with intentions of opening an international branch.

Currently, AYA offers MPU credit cards, having a total of 2,000 users. AYA has already introduced the exclusive 4 in 1 Services: AYA Savings Passbook, AYA MPU Debit Card, AYA iBanking and AYA mBanking.

"We will open more bank branches across Myanmar, including in towns that currently don't have a AYA branch," said U Min Wint Oo, deputy-managing director from the IT&Banking Operations.

"Sometimes, we are faced with difficulties in withdrawing money on payday. We expect AYA to facilitate this problem," said Ko Phone Nay Lin, an AYA card user. There are a total of 159 AYA branches in 63 towns in Myanmar, including the central AYA office in Yangon.—Zarni

LPG Bottling Plant to be established in Mon State

TOYO-THAI Corporation Public Limited (TTCL) is to construct an LPG bottling plant in Mon State now that TTCL has received approval from the Mon State government. The project is aimed to reduce the amount of fire wood used, and to create employment opportunities.

70% of the population in Mon State uses fire wood, according to the 2014 Nationwide Census report, TTCL claim the bottling plant will contribute to regional development.

"The Mon State government will give recommendations when TTCL seeks approval from Myanmar Investment Commission," said Daw San Wint Khaing,

Minister for Pa-o ethnic affairs, a member of the Mon State government.

TTCL has met the State government to discuss a site where the bottling plant will be established, the required amount of land, the volume of LPG that the plant will manufacture and to organise an environmental impact assessment.

However, the problem is that the TTCL has received approval from the Myanmar Investment Commission to establish a coal-fired power plant. Therefore, this project has been suspended due to the objections of some locals who are concerned that TTCL might attempt to generate coal-fired

power instead of manufacturing LPG Bottles.

"This project aims only to establish a LPG Bottling Plant. We understand concerns from local people," said Dr Min Kyi Win, the regional minister for Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

Four acres of land are required to implement the project and TTCL expect to set up a plant near Mudon Township so that the foreign ships can access the plant.

The plant is expected to refill imported LPG in 5, 15, 20 and 48 gram gas bottles to distribute LPG. About Ks11bn (US\$10mn) is needed to be invested in this project.—301

ATR mechanic to open at Yangon International Airport

ATR, a French-Italian aircraft manufacturer, is planning on opening an aircraft mechanic at the Yangon International Airport. In 2014 Myanmar National Airlines and ATR signed an MoU that saw six new aircrafts arrive in Myanmar, this is yet another step closer to a relationship between the two groups.

There is currently no major

aircraft mechanic operating in Myanmar and the industry also lacks expert engineers and mechanics, ground support materials, a quality aerodome, special inspection equipment, so this means that all aircrafts have to visit Singapore or Malaysia to be repaired.

After launching ATR aircraft major repair plant, repair

service will be offered for both local and foreign ATR aircrafts. ATR 72 500 XY-AJN owned by MNA was checked from 21 April - 19 June for its 8-year-check up.

Major repairs are more expensive overseas costing Ks593m (US\$500,000). Yet, having local facilities will see costs drop down to Ks118m (US\$100,000).—200

Laos mulls checkpoints to halt illicit cross-border timber trade

VIENTIANE — Laos is considering setting up timber truck inspection points near its frontiers to catch suspect smugglers and curb illegal timber felling in the country. The move comes as authorities in southern Attapeu province have seized 9,000 cubic metres of unfinished logs since the end of 2015, according to local media Wednesday.

The haul is in addition to the 10,000 cubic metres seized in southern Salavan province over a similar period as reported Monday.

Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith issued an order in May, prohibiting removal and collection of felled logs from the country's forests while strengthening measures against export of undocumented and unfinished timber.

Farmers would suffer from drought and hydroe-

lectric power plants would have no enough water to operate if the current illegal deforestation could not be stopped, he warned.

"Local people have been protecting their forests for generations and they have expressed their trauma in seeing so many huge trees cut," the prime minister said. "Our officials, especially those retired who have devoted their time to rescuing our nation, said they were moved to tears when seeing trucks loaded with enormous amount of logs emerging from the forests," he added.

Demand for wood products remains high across the region, which poses a challenge to the country as it seeks to halt and reverse deforestation and make the country covered with 70 per cent of forest by 2020.—Xinhua

Indonesia says has no overlapping South China Sea claims with China

JAKARTA — Indonesia's foreign minister on Wednesday rejected China's stance that the two Asian nations have overlapping claims in the South China Sea, where there has been a run of skirmishes between Indonesian navy ships and Chinese vessels.

China's foreign ministry on Monday said the two nations do not have any territorial disputes but there were some overlapping claims on "maritime rights and interests".

"Our position is clear that claims can only be made on the basis of international law. For Indonesia, we don't have overlapping claims in any form in Indonesian waters with China," Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi told reporters when asked for reaction to China's statement.

Indonesia is not part of



Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi makes a statement at the Foreign Ministry in Jakarta, Indonesia on 21 March, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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 waters around the Indone-

sian-ruled Natuna Islands within a "nine-dash line" Beijing marks on maps to show its claim on the body of water.

China's Foreign Ministry said over the weekend that an Indonesian naval vessel fired on a Chinese

fishing boat near the chain of islands on Friday, injuring one person.

Indonesia's navy responded that it had fired warning shots at several boats with Chinese flags it accused of fishing illegally but there were no injuries.

It was the third reported confrontation near the Natuna Islands this year and comes amid rising regional tensions over China's assertiveness in the South China Sea.

Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla told Reuters on Monday the Southeast Asian nation would be more assertive in protecting its exclusive right to the waters around the Natuna Islands.

Despite this more assertive stance, Retno said relations between the two countries remained good.

"This is a matter of law enforcement, not politics," she said.—Reuters

GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Chief Executive Officer - Nakagawa Kiyoshi
ceo@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Editor - Khin Maung Aye
ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Deputy Chief Editor - Aye Min Soe
dce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Chief Proof Reader & Translator - Ye Myint
Expatriate Consultant Editors

Alec Wilmot
cousultanteditor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Jaidan Coonan

Chief Translator & Editor
Kyaw Thura,
editor2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Editor
Ye Htut Tin (Local News)
editor1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

International Editors
Tun Tun Naing (Editor)
intlnews@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Nwe Nwe Tun (Sub-editor)

Translators
Khaing Thanda Lwin,
reporter1@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Hay Mar Tin Win,
translator@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Ei Myat Mon, Tin Nwe Lynn

Chief Reporter
Tun Aung Kyaw, reporter2@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

Reporters
Soe Soe Yu, Thein Ko Lwin (Nay Pyi Taw Bureau),
Khin Mg Win (Mandalay Bureau)

Computer Team
Tun Zaw (Chief of Computer Team), Thein Ngwe,
Zaw Zaw Aung, Ye Naing Soe, Nyi Zaw Moe,
Hnin Pwint, Kay Khaing Win, Sanda Hnin, Zu Zin Hnin

Circulation & Advertising
San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532

Ads and subscription enquiries:
subscription@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com

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Singapore decried for barring foreign sponsorship of gay rally



Participants dressed in pink embrace as they enjoy a picnic before taking part in the forming of a giant pink dot at the Speakers' Corner in Hong Lim Park in Singapore on 28 June, 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

SINGAPORE — Singapore should repeal its ban on foreign companies sponsoring the annual Pink Dot gay-pride event, Human Rights Watch said, complaining that it infringed freedom of expression in the city state.

Singapore announced this month that foreign firms would no longer be allowed to sponsor or participate in the rally, after this year's event drew record numbers of people and a record nine corporate sponsors, including

Twitter, Google and Facebook.

The announcement came after this year's event on 4 June.

"The ministry's 7 June statement sends a discriminatory message to Pink Dot's corporate sponsors that their support for the festival is contrary to government policy," Human Rights Watch said in a letter to Home Minister K. Shanmugam.

"This infringes on rights to freedom of expression, which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights guarantees to 'everyone', and pressures corporations to act in contravention of their responsibilities under the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights."

The ministry said it

had no immediate comment.

The event has been celebrated since 2009 under conservative Singapore's stringent public assembly laws at the "Speakers' Corner" near the city's downtown area.

Under Singapore law, sex between men is punishable by up to two years in jail, though prosecutions are rare. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said last year the country was not ready for same-sex marriage, while a "Wear White" movement started by religious groups to counter Pink Dot has entered its second year.

Singapore organisers of the musical "Les Misérables" last week cut a scene in which two male actors kiss after complaints from the public.—Reuters

Rough seas, high winds delay search for Flight MH370

BEIJING — Rough seas and strong winds have delayed the search for Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 in the Indian Ocean, prolonging the search until August in one of the world's greatest aviation mysteries, investigators said on Wednesday.

The search had been scheduled to be completed by mid-year.

Australian officials, who are leading the investigation, said in a statement that more than 105,000 sq km (40,540 sq miles) had been covered in the 120,000 sq km search zone.

Seas as high as 18 metres and strong winds battered the search vessels and slowed their progress, Australia's Transport Safe-

ty Bureau (ATSB) said.

Flight MH370 disappeared in March 2014 with 239 passengers and crew on board shortly after taking off from Kuala Lumpur bound for Beijing.

Investigators believe someone may have deliberately switched off the plane's transponder before diverting it thousands of miles off course over the

Indian Ocean.

Australia, China and Malaysia had agreed the search area would not be expanded beyond 120,000 sq km, the ATSB said in a statement.

A piece of the Boeing 777, a wing part known as a flaperon, washed up on the French Indian Ocean island of Reunion in July last year.—Reuters

North Korea launches 2 ballistic missiles, one reaches 1,000 km altitude

SEOUL/TOKYO — North Korea launched what appeared to be two Musudan intermediate-range ballistic missiles from its east coast Wednesday morning in violation of UN resolutions, and both were believed to have fallen into the Sea of Japan.

The second missile, launched shortly after 8am, flew about 400 kilometres and reached an altitude of over 1,000 km, showing that it can function to a certain degree as an IRBM, Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani said.

"This poses serious concern to our country's security," Nakatani told reporters in Tokyo, while adding that there is no "immediate" danger as there are no signs that either of the missiles reached Japanese territory.

The first missile was launched eastward from near Wonsan just before 6am, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. It reportedly flew about 150 km before breaking up mid-air.

The South Korean and US militaries indicated that the first launch was presumed to be unsuccessful, but it was not immediately known whether or not the second launch was considered successful.

If determined to be a success, it would mean a further heightening of threats posed by the North Korean military.

A South Korean military source said the second missile appeared to incorporate performance improvements.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watched both launches.

US Strategic Command



Japanese Defence Minister Gen Nakatani meets with reporters at his ministry in Tokyo on 22 June, 2016, after North Korea tried to launch what appears to be a Musudan missile, an attempt that appeared to have ended in failure. Nakatani expressed "extreme regret" about the launch, calling it a "grave provocative act" in light of international security. Photo: KYODO NEWS

said its systems detected both launches and tracked the missiles over the Sea of Japan, "where initial indications are they fell."

The North American Aerospace Defence Command determined the missile launches from North Korea did not pose a threat to North America.

The launches came after Japan had detected signs of North Korea preparing to launch an intermediate-range ballistic missile and on Tuesday ordered its Self-Defence Forces to shoot down any projectile heading toward its territory.

A Musudan missile has an estimated range of between 2,500 and 4,000 kilometres, which would cover not only any target in South Korea or Japan, but also potentially US military facilities on the Pacific island of Guam.

In April and May, North Korea launched a total of four projectiles suspected to be Musudan missiles, amid escalating tensions over its aggressive pursuit of nuclear and missile technologies, but failed in every attempt.

North Korea is banned from conducting launches using ballistic missile technology under multiple UN Security Council resolutions.

The country has been ratcheting up tensions, especially since the Security Council's endorsement on 2 March of tougher sanctions against it.

They were imposed over North Korea's fourth nuclear test on 6 January, which also breached resolutions, and its launch about a month later of a long-range rocket using banned missile technology. —Kyodo News

South Korea president denounces North's 'reckless provocation'

SEOUL — South Korean President Park Geun-hye said on Wednesday that North Korea was heading towards self-destruction with its continued missile and nuclear tests.

"The North Korean regime should realise that complete isolation and self-destruction await at the end of reckless provocation," Park said.

Her remarks come after North Korea launched what appeared to be a second intermediate-range Musudan missile on Wednesday that flew about 400 km (250 miles). —Reuters



South Korean President Park Geun-hye delivers her speech during the inaugural session of the 20th National Assembly in Seoul, South Korea, on 13 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

China's top paper lambasts US aircraft carrier deployment

BEIJING — China's top newspaper strongly criticised the United States on Wednesday after it deployed two aircraft carriers on a training mission in East Asia where military tensions have risen amid China's growing assertiveness.

The US carriers John C. Stennis and Ronald Reagan began joint operations in seas east of the Philippines at the weekend in a show of strength ahead of an international court ruling expected soon on China's expansive territorial claims in the contested South China Sea.

"The US picked the wrong target in playing this trick on China," the *People's Daily*, the official newspaper of the ruling Communist Party, said in a commentary. It was published under the

pen name "Zhong Sheng," a Chinese-language homonym for the phrase "voice of China" that is often used to express the paper's views on foreign policy.

"Behind this misjudgment is Washington's anxiety and arrogance, and it is the true expression of its hegemonic nature," the paper added.

The US Navy chief said on Monday the deployment was a signal of the US commitment to regional security, adding that he hoped it would deter any attempts to destabilise the region.

The US Pacific Command (PACOM) said the carriers started their dual operations on Saturday, including air defence drills, sea surveillance, defensive air combat training and long-range strikes. —Reuters

Japan, Russia hold talks on postwar peace treaty

TOKYO — Senior Japanese and Russian officials held talks Wednesday on a post-World War II peace treaty, with the two countries yet to formally end hostilities due to a territorial dispute over Russian-held, Japanese-claimed islands.

The treaty talks are the first since Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed in May in the Russian Black Sea resort of Sochi to adopt a "new approach" to move forward the peace treaty negotiations.

"I hope we will have constructive and forward-looking talks," said Chikahito Harada, the Japanese government representative and ambassador in charge of Japan-Russia relations, at the outset of the meeting with Russian Deputy

Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov, which was open to the media. Morgulov said he wants to have "constructive discussions based on the agreement between the leaders." The last peace treaty talks were held in Moscow last October.

Harada and Morgulov are expected to explore ways to advance talks on the issue before an Abe-Putin meeting proposed to be held in Vladivostok in September.

Japan has maintained the stance that ownership of the isles must be resolved before concluding a peace treaty, while Moscow says that territorial and peace treaty issues are not directly connected and that it took the islets legitimately as the result of World War II. The islets, off Japan's northernmost island prefecture of Hokkaido, are called the Southern Kurils

in Russia and the Northern Territories in Japan.

In Sochi, Abe said he agreed with Putin on taking a "new approach" to peace treaty negotiations but did not elaborate on the new path. In that meeting, Abe delivered to Putin an eight-point economic cooperation plan, including steps to spur development in the Russian Far East, fueling speculation that he is seeking to deepen economic ties with Russia to advance the territorial talks.

The officials' meeting is also expected to lay the groundwork for a visit by Putin to Japan. A visit was tentatively scheduled for 2014 but postponed after Moscow annexed Ukraine's Crimean peninsula region in March 2014, souring relations with Western countries and Japan. —Kyodo News



Chikahito Harada (R), the Japanese ambassador in charge of Japan-Russia relations, and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov shake hands before their meeting in Tokyo on 22 June, 2016. The two countries had negotiations for concluding a post-World War II peace treaty for the first time since October. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Opinion

Write for us

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

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

What ignites social mobility?

Kyaw Thura

IT is encouraging to witness that the government has vowed to initiative social mobility as a pragmatic concept in its 100-day plan. In this respect, it is absolutely vital to identify some key areas of change based on its empirical work on the ground.

The common factors attributed to change are institutional structure, leadership, knowledge and accountabili-

ty, with researchers arguing that these factors call for strategic government intervention to publicise the direction and purpose of its reform.

When it comes to institutional structure, the government should adopt policies to legislate, plan and manage activities in the delivery of effective services in concert with other decision-making bodies. The second driver of change is concerned with leadership. It

is often easy to misconstrue leadership as a position of authority. In reality, leadership is willingness to be in the vanguard of public welfare. The third point is knowledge, which should be seen as a property to be shared rather than fostered at individual levels. As the fourth factor, accountability promotes a result-based management culture through mutual and transparent interactions.

For the moment, one issue critical to the government's reform is rising unemployment among young people. Unemployment has the potential to lead young people astray, causing them to lose motivation and face social exclusion. If their career prospects look dim, so is the future of the country. The time is ripe for the government to take new measures to tackle this problem.

Role of Civil Service

U Khin Maung
(A retired diplomat)

Introduction:

AFTER we have gained back our sovereignty and independence from the British colonial rule, we have had good civil service, composed of highly-qualified, clean, effective and efficient personnel, recruited and selected from the best and the brightest candidates through the highly competitive examinations held by the Public Service Commission. Well, what is the civil service? The civil service is a branch of public services or a kind of public servants. And the Penal Code, in chapter II. "General explanation", stipulates under section 21, inter alia as follows:

"The words "public servants" denote a person falling under any of the descriptions here-in-after following namely _

First - Every covenanted servant of the government.

Second - Every commissioned officer in the Military, Naval, or Air Forces of the state.

Third - Every judge and so on ...

According to the explanations stipulated in the Penal Code, the civil service is certainly distinguished and different from the military, naval and air forces of the state. Civil service is a kind of public service, carrying out the prescribed duties by the civil servants for the public. I remember quite well that, in the early days of our independence, the political system our country adopted was parliamentary democracy system or multiparty democracy system. And the civil service machinery, the government adopted and adapted, in accordance with our own culture and tradition, was based on the British civil service system an impartial civil service serving, whoever was the elected government of the day. And it is worth remembering the fact that in those days, the government had created a good civil service, high quality clean, then effective and efficient, properly rewarded and paid. Ac-

cordingly, the university graduates were recruited and appointed through the highly competitive examinations, held by the then Public Service Commission. Those selected and appointed civil officers were called B.C.S, Burma Civil Service officers and when Burma was just part of the British colony India, they were called I.C.S India Civil Service officers.

As regards the principles and policies of recruiting, selecting and training of the civil service personnel, chairman of the Union Civil Services Selection Board of the democratically elected civil government, His Excellency, Dr. Win Thein has mentioned explicitly. And it was reported in the Myanmar Daily newspaper "The Minor Daily" dated 4th of June 2016. In this article may I present to you only the salient points in my own unofficial translation in English as follows:

"His Excellency Dr. Win Thein said that the Union Civil Services Selection Board's primary function is to recruit and select civil service personnel, through the highly competitive examinations and then also to give them training in order to become highly qualified, efficient, civil service personnel. As regards the definition of the term "civil service personnel". His Excellency, the chairman said "civil service personnel are those who shall have to do their duties for the public convenience and benefit, who shall have to render their services for the public requirements. In essence, civil service personnel" are public servants.

Role of civil service

According to Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, "the civil service is the government departments in a country, except the armed forces, and the people who work for them. A civil servant is a person who works in the civil service." So, the civil service of the executive branch of the elected government is not independent unlike the judiciary which is a different branch of the government. Under our own system of government, the civil service must serve

the elected government of the day. For this reason, the civil service must understand the political context and the thinking of the political leadership. However, it is a very important point that the civil servants shall have to be politically impartial. The civil servants should not be campaigning for or against any political party. The civil servants should not and must not misuse state resources, or power for partisan political purposes. And the civil servants should neither shy away from carrying out their duties without fear or favour, when a matter might prove to be politically controversial. Well, these are the reasons why key officers in the civil service are not allowed to be members of political parties.

How should we, the civil servants serve the people?

In essence, a civil servant must serve the people to the best of his or her abilities, even at the cost of his or her own life, if and when necessary. We can take the example of secretary U Ohn Maung (I.C.S) who paid his life together with our national hero, General Aung San and other martyrs on 19th July 1947.

The incumbent government is democratically elected government. Thus, we can call the incumbent government as the government of the people, by the people, for the people. That's why, I mention as "how should we, the civil servants, serve the people?"

To be able to serve the people to the best of our abilities taking the initiative and with a spirit of goodwill, we, the civil servants, must also update and upgrade ourselves through constant learning. Why?, simply because there is no end in a learning process. As a matter of fact, "no educative process is ever the end: it is always the beginning of more education, more learning, more living". And in this globalized world of ours, or in a sense, in this changing world, in this living world, we, the civil servants must keep ourselves abreast with the world of today.

For this purpose, we must have global literacy. I hope, you

may wish to ask me; what do you mean by global literacy? Well, let me mention it this way, "global literacy means the ability to access and converse with the rest of the world with "Information Technology Tools", such as computer, the internet and the mastery of English as the international lingua franca". So, to achieve global literacy and to keep ourselves up-to-date with the changing world and with the latest technology, we must go on learning.

The successive governments have been kind-heartedly and broad-mindedly made and ensured all kinds of public services to have security of tenure. But, on the other hand, there is a saying that "there is no future in any job. The future lies in the person who holds the job". In fact, our future lies not in our jobs, but in our hands, in our knowledge and intellectual capacity. Needless to say, therefore, we, the civil servants must go on learning. We must go on upgrading and updating ourselves. The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it from us. It is our future, our inexhaustible wealth; it is our own property" In fact, it is we, ourselves, who can make or mar our own careers.

In the civil service, specially the official, who is in authority, needs to be a good manager with new ideas and vision. A leader in the civil service must uphold the dignity and honour of his or her office. A good leader should not demand respect, he or she should earn respect from his or her colleagues, from his or her peers through his or her ability and integrity. And a good civil official should also try his or her best to be well appreciated by his or her peers and patrons as well, through his or her constant learning and perfect morality. Needles to say, therefore, a good civil official in authority must be totally free from corruption. In passing, may I present to you sir, about the concept of bribery and corruption. Corruption does not mean only bribe taking. Corruption also means mismanagement, i.e committing an act that ought not to be done and failing to do an act that ought to be done. In a sense, corruption also involves committing "four kinds of prejudice and bias." They are (1) pursuance of emotion-

al wishes irrespective of whether it is right or wrong (2) prejudice born of anger (3) bias, followed for fear of threat of personal danger (4) prejudice caused by ignorance and delusion.

I have already mentioned that a good civil servant especially with the rank of an officer, should be a good leader. Being civil servants, we should never give orders, or commands to our colleagues. In the civil service, there should be interactions, discussions and consultations. This is what leadership is all about, I think. Therefore, a good civil officer should have a love for learning, should always try to enhance his or her talents and skills by self-study and by taking regular training courses, so as to earn due respect and admiration from his or her peers and subordinates as well.

A western scholar has pointed out "that all normal human beings are born with a powerful urge to learn". In reality, our Myanmar's society was an education oriented society since the days of yore. And as the current era, knowledge era demands more of the quality of human resources, today, we, the civil service personnel are required to build our capacity from life-long learning, apart from formal education. If we, the civil service personnel do not develop our talent from constant learning process, we will miss the train of knowledge era, and we will be left behind forever.

Conclusion

In a democracy, government may come and government may go. However, we, the civil service personnel must go on learning forever, and thus, must update and upgrade ourselves, so as to serve the people and whichever party is the elected government of the day, to the best of our abilities. What do you say, sir? Thank you.

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Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Thai military delegation



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Thai military delegation posing for a group photo. PHOTO: MNA

NO major problems occurred and difficulties were addressed peacefully as the two armed forces of Myanmar and Thailand have been further cementing close relations, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing in meeting with a Thai military delegation yesterday.

The Senior General received Lt-Gen Somsak Nilbanjerdkul and his party who attended the 30th Myanmar-Thailand Regional Border Committee meeting hosted by Myanmar at the Zeyarhthiri Beikman Hall in Nay Pyi Taw. Cordial discussions were reportedly held on bilateral border issues.

Also present were the Myanmar Military Attaché to Thailand Brig-Gen Chit Swe and Thai Military Attaché Colonel Salawin Uttarak. The meeting took place in Kengtung, Shan State (East) on 21-22 June. Myanmar and Thailand share a 1100-mile border.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Magwe receives K100 million for disaster preparedness

MAGWE, which was the worst hit area by floods last year, was provided with a disaster preparedness and response fund by a philanthropic organisation yesterday.

KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation (BFM) donated K100 million to the Magwe Region Government yesterday to establish a fund for preparedness and for response to disasters.

The move comes after the foundation's establishment of such a fund in Rakhine and Chin states recently.

"BFM and other philanthropic groups carried out evacuation and relief in areas which were badly hit by floods and landslides

last year, but we faced delays in sending relief aid to some areas due to poor infrastructure. Learning from these situations, the foundation decided to establish this fund," said Daw Yu Par Win of BFM speaking at the ceremony to hand over the cash to the government through Chief Minister Dr Aung Moe Nyo.

Meanwhile, as part of efforts to brace for La Niña in the country, the BFM has arranged to provide 120,000 sets of warm clothing to people including internally displaced persons who are expected to experience serious cold weather this coming winter.— *GNLM*



Donation handing over ceremony in progress. PHOTO: KBZ

How to cope with traffic jams

Tin Maung Than

THE biggest problem in Yangon today is the mega traffic jams the whole commercial city is facing almost every day. Except on the Myanmar New Year Day (on which only the famous pagodas are crowded with a very large number of Buddhist pilgrims) and one or two days afterwards, Yangon streets have become driver-friendly and parking-friendly again as they were ten or more years ago. Traveling on these two or three days in the city is a dream both for drivers and passengers.

But nowadays we will have to concede that traffic jams have become the symbol or everyday life of Yangon. Taxi drivers charge more as these jumbo traffic jams eat up most of their previous money-making hours. As for city bus drivers and ticket collectors, it is an irritating situation making them rude and short tempered that commuters have to take these public transport vehicles at their mercy. Most of the commuters have become early birds riding these overcrowded slow-moving vehicles for long hours while exercising total restraint all along their journey from the start to the end. So, some jokingly say that taking the public transport enhances power of forbearance. In many cases passengers are pulled into and push out of the still moving vehicle by ticket collectors which make bus-riding

something like a theme-park adventure!

As for the private cars finding a place to park is the most difficult thing that is even harder than the work of driving on the congested thoroughfares where some cars, especially commuter buses and taxis practice racing, wrong lane driving or aggressive driving. Because of such acts and traffic violations to reach the destination fastest Yangon is prone to road accidents which make comprehensive motor vehicle insurance the most popular business of the insurance industry.

Surprisingly, Yangon has worse traffic snarl-ups than Tokyo or Seoul yet the number of registered cars in the Myanmar's commercial city is much fewer than those two mega metropolises of the Asian economic giants.

So what is happening in Yangon? What is the cause of these mega traffic jams of Yangon that is not a mega city yet?

One thing is that Yangon has not many or no specific parking areas or zones as the work of building special places for keeping cars has been in its planning stage. So, most of the cars have to park on the roadside platforms shrinking the area of traffic lanes of thoroughfares or leaving only a small area for cars rolling on the narrow streets. This expands the volume of traffic jams and lengthens their existence. Another problem is the lack of discipline among many drivers. Some even don't know the

traffic rules thoroughly although they are holding a driving license.

One main contributor towards these mammoth jams is the plummeting automobile prices that many in Yangon now can own a car despite the scarcity of parking places. Although authorities have built flyovers with the participation of private companies they are not the real answer to the problem. For example, Hledan junction is still crowded with cars despite the emergence of an overpass. In the past, we heard about some gigantic Yangon extension plans that might alleviate traffic jams. But what they were not clear might be the lack transparency. One possible reason was that the company con-

cerned might not want to release any information before the start of the project, for it was afraid of unnecessary information leak.

Some people dream of underground tubes that are reducing the number of cars on roads even in the cities like Bangkok notorious for their huge traffic congestions. As the cost of building a city subway system is very high and the work is much sophisticated we may need financial and technical assistance from international community to have one in Yangon city.

International financial bodies like World Bank, IMF, Asia Development Bank are working together with Myanmar on infrastructure development projects,

and a number of countries are offering help for the same purpose. But we still need more if we are going to launch a gigantic infrastructure project like a city subway system. The best is not yet come. But we can start with what is within our capacity.

For example, building multi-storey car parks, erecting double-decker roads instead of flyovers, improving the existing city circular railway system, strengthening the BRT force and operations, extending the roads where and when possible, enforcing traffic rules and completing the renovation works of underground conduits and cables that involve parts of roads in time can also do the job.



Traffic jam on the ThaMeinBaYan Road in Tamwe. PHOTO: YE HTUT TIN

Clinton's lead over Trump narrows to nine points — Reuters/Ipsos

NEW YORK — Democrat Hillary Clinton's lead over Republican rival Donald Trump has slipped by about five percentage points since mid-June, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday, bringing the race for the White House to within nine points.

The poll showed that 44.5 percent of likely voters supported former secretary of state Clinton while 35.5 per cent backed businessman Trump. That compares with 46.6 per cent support for Clinton and 32.3 per cent for Trump on 12 June, a date that marked her widest lead for the month.

Trump has focused much of his energy in recent days on the mass shooting in Orlando, Florida by a US-born gunman pledging allegiance to Islamic State militant group. Trump vowed to ban people from entering the United States from countries with links to terrorism against America or its allies. Hardline national security proposals have helped Trump win in-



Democratic US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at a campaign rally in Cleveland, Ohio on 13 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

creased support from voters in the past, including after the shootings in San Bernardino, California and Paris late last year.

Clinton responded to the Orlando attack by calling for increased intelligence gathering and air strikes on Islamic State forces, while warning against demonising

American Muslims. She has also criticised Trump's positions on foreign policy and the economy, saying a Trump presidency would be a "disaster".

The 17-21 June poll of 1,100 likely voters has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3.4 percentage points.—Reuters

French police bans planned Thursday demo against labour reform

PARIS — French police on Wednesday banned a planned demonstration this week against labour reforms, bringing to a head a stand-off between the government and trade unions which have been spearheading protests against the changes for months.

Violence on the fringes of protests has stretched a police force already challenged by the demands of a state of emergency in place since Islamist militant attacks on Paris last November.

On top of anti-terrorist duties, police are under pressure from fan violence at the Euro 2016 soccer tournament which France is hosting.

Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve this week proposed a static rally as a compromise to a march planned by the unions for Thursday. But unions said that was unacceptable and proposed an alternative route instead.

"After close examination, these alternative proposals address neither the security needs of people and property, nor the

demands on police resources given the terrorist threat," a police department statement said.

"Under these conditions the Prefect of Police believes he has no choice but to ban the demonstration."

In a joint statement, the hardline CGT and FO — two unions still opposed to the reforms even though others are backing them — demanded an immediate meeting with Cazeneuve.

A draft law, supported by the government, overhauls labour rules which would make hiring and firing easier.

The proposed labour reforms are designed to boost the economy. But they have split President Francois Hollande's governing Socialist Party and are decried by critics as an erosion of workers' rights that will cost jobs rather than create them.

French police broke strike picket lines and cleared roadblocks associated with strikes and protests in earlier stages.

But while these confronta-



A striking employee of Roissy airport holds a French CGT labour union flag during a demonstration against the labour reforms law at the Charles de Gaulle International Airport in Roissy, near Paris, France, on 7 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

tions have subsided, violence by groups of youths on the fringes of protest marches has continued.

During a 14 June protest, hundreds of rioters ransacked shop fronts, clashed with police, tore up street paving and smashed the windows of a children's hospital during running battles in Paris. Police responded with tear gas and water cannon with dozens of people hurt on both sides.—Reuters

Putin says Russia must strengthen as 'aggressive' NATO approaches

MOSCOW — Russia must boost its combat readiness at a time when NATO is expanding and moving its infrastructure towards Russia's borders, President Vladimir Putin said on

Wednesday.

"NATO is strengthening its aggressive rhetoric and its aggressive actions near our borders," Putin said in a speech in the lower house of

parliament.

"In these conditions, we are duty-bound to pay special attention to solving the task of strengthening the combat readiness of our country."—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Japan, China, South Korea, Russia, US agree to coordinate on North Korea

BEIJING — A senior Japanese diplomat on Wednesday met separately with his counterparts from China, South Korea, Russia and the United States and agreed to work closely over North Korean issues following its latest test-firing of ballistic missiles.

The meetings of Japan's top nuclear negotiator, Kenji Kanasugi, took place in Beijing on the sidelines of an informal security conference, which also involves a senior diplomat from North Korea.

Kanasugi lodged a strong protest over the missile launch early Wednesday with Choe Son Hui, deputy chief of the North Korean Foreign Ministry's North American affairs bureau, when he met with her bilaterally at the venue, according to the Japanese Foreign Ministry.—Kyodo News

NATO chief 'strongly condemns' North Korea missile launch

BRUSSELS — NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg condemned on Wednesday North Korea's launch of what appeared to be an intermediate-range missile fired towards Japan, and to stop more "provocative actions."

"I strongly condemn the launch by North Korea of two ballistic missiles," Stoltenberg said in a statement.

"These repeated provocative actions ... undermine international security and dialogue," he said, calling for North Korea to "fully comply with its obligations under international law, not to threaten with or conduct any launches using ballistic missile technology and to refrain from any further provocative actions."

The launch came about two hours after a similar test failed, South Korea's military said, and covered 400 km (250 miles), more than halfway towards the southwest coast of Japan's main island of Honshu.—Reuters

Channel Tunnel refugee pleads guilty in UK court to obstructing railway

LONDON — A Sudanese man who walked through the Channel Tunnel last year in an extreme example of the desperate measures some refugees are prepared to take to reach Britain, pleaded guilty in a British court on Wednesday to obstructing a railway.

Abdul Haroun, 40, who fled his home in the war-torn region of Darfur, was arrested by British police on 4 August as he exited the tunnel after walking 50 km (30 miles) from France in near total darkness as trains sped by.

He spent five months in jail until he was granted asylum on 24 December and released on bail the following month, but continued to face a criminal charge under the obscure Malicious Damage Act of 1861.—Reuters

Dutch-based easyJet pilots to hold day-long strike on Friday

AMSTERDAM — Dozens of easyJet pilots based in the Netherlands will hold a second strike on Friday lasting 24 hours after failing to secure better working hours, pensions and sick pay from the budget airline, the Dutch Airline Pilots Association said.

The easyJet pilots in the Netherlands are unhappy about their working hours, do not receive sick pay and want the company to make larger pension contributions.

An eight-hour strike last week had a limited effect on flights out of Amsterdam's Schiphol airport since the airline was able to bring in replacement crews from other airports. The union was unable to say if this strike would have more impact.—Reuters

Turkey will continue to meet with Hamas, Turkish foreign minister says

ANKARA — Turkey will continue to meet with Palestinian group Hamas in its efforts to promote a long-lasting peace in the region, Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Wednesday, adding the meetings were not an obstacle in the normalisation of ties with Israel. Turkey and Israel have said they are close to patching up a five-year-old political rift caused when Israeli commandoes killed 10 Turkish activists while storming the Mavi Marmara, a ship in a convoy seeking to break an Israeli naval blockade of the Palestinian territory of Gaza.—Reuters

Gains against Islamic State not yet enough, could backfire — US officials



Smoke rises from clashes with Islamic State militants in Falluja, Iraq, on 10 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama and some administration officials have hailed recent military gains against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, but other US officials and outside experts warn that the US-backed air and ground campaign is far from eradicating the radical Islamic group, and could even backfire. While Islamic State's defeats in Iraq and Syria have erased its image of invincibility, they threaten to give it greater legitimacy in the eyes of disaffected Sunni Muslims because Shi'ite and Kurdish fighters are a major part of the campaign, some US intelligence officials argue.

A second danger, some US officials said, is that as the group loses ground in the Iraqi city of Falluja and elsewhere,

it will turn increasingly to less conventional military tactics and to directing and inspiring more attacks against "soft" targets in Europe, the United States and elsewhere.

One US intelligence official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, warned that in response to losing Falluja and other cities the group likely would turn more to guerrilla tactics to disrupt efforts to restore government services.

"We can expect ISIL to harass local forces that are holding cities it previously controlled, thereby drawing out battles into protracted campaigns," he said.

The territory held by ISIL has enabled it to build up revenues through oil and taxes, provided it a base to launch attacks on Baghdad, and acted as a re-

cruiting tool for foreign fighters drawn to the self-proclaimed Islamic caliphate.

President Barack Obama said on 14 June — two days after a gunman pledging allegiance to Islamic State killed 49 people in Orlando — that the militant group was losing "the money that is its lifeblood" as it continues to lose territory.

Brett McGurk, the presidential envoy for the Global Coalition to Counter ISIL, told a White House briefing on 10 June that the group has lost half the territory it had seized in Iraq, about 20 per cent of its self-proclaimed caliphate in Syria, and at least 30 per cent of its oil production, which accounts for half its revenue.

But Islamic State fighters in Iraq are already showing signs

of adapting a guerrilla war-style strategy, Seth Jones, an analyst with the RAND Corp, told Reuters.

"It looks like the areas that the Islamic State has lost, they are generally abandoning, and that would mean preparing to fight another day," he said.

Despite the progress against ISIL on the battlefield and in the financial realm, CIA Director John Brennan told the Senate Intelligence Committee last week: "Our efforts have not reduced the group's terrorism capability and global reach."

"The resources needed for terrorism are very modest, and the group would have to suffer even heavier losses of territory, manpower, and money for its terrorist capacity to decline significantly," he said.—Reuters

Turkish jets strike PKK targets in northern Iraq, southeast Turkey

DIYARBAKIR — Turkish warplanes struck Kurdish militant targets in northern Iraq and southeastern Turkey overnight on Wednesday, and authorities imposed new curfews in rural areas as the army and police continue to battle insurgents, security sources said.

The fighting came a day after Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said operations in the mainly Kurdish southeast had ended, apparently referring to the months-long clashes in some urban centres, and added the government would focus on reconstruction.

The air strikes in Kurdish-run northern Iraq destroyed targets belonging to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), including shelters and weapon stores. The PKK leadership is mainly based in northern Iraq.

Baghdad and Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdish Regional Government frequently object to such air incursions.

The jets also hit sites near the Turkish towns of Lice, northeast of the regional capital of Diyarbakir, and Semdinli, further east near the Iraqi border, sources said.

Some 25 villages near Lice were put under a round-the-clock curfew on Tuesday after authorities determined PKK militants were sheltering and keeping weapons there, the Diyarbakir governor's office said.

The new curfews show a shift to rural areas away from cities, where much of the fighting since a ceasefire collapsed last July has taken place.

"The operations in the eastern and southeastern regions are finished," Yildirim told members of the ruling AK Party on Tuesday, apparently referring to fighting in cities like Diyarbakir, Cizre and Nusaybin that has killed thousands of militants and hundreds of soldiers and civilians since July 2015. Swaths of these towns have been destroyed.

The three-decade conflict with the PKK reignited last year after a two-year ceasefire collapsed, and fighting has been at its most intense since the peak of the insurgency in the 1990s.

On Wednesday, new curfews were imposed in villages in Mus and Bingol provinces and near the town of Beytussebap, where three police officers were hurt in a gunfight, security sources said.—Reuters

Islamic State suspects held in Turkey over transgender attack plot: Dogan

ANKARA — Three suspected Islamic State militants were arrested in Istanbul late on Tuesday after a tip-off they had planned an attack on a transgender march, Dogan News Agency said.

The suspects — one Turkish national and two from Russia's volatile Dagestan — were ordered held in custody pending formal charges by an Istanbul court, the agency added. There was no immediate comment from authorities.

The reported arrests came after police late last week confiscated suicide vests during

raids in two Istanbul suburbs. Officers said they had acted on intelligence reports the Sunni hardline group was plotting to attack the "Trans Pride" rally on 19 June.

Authorities banned that march, citing security concerns and riot police fired tear gas and rubber pellets to disperse around 50 people who turned up.

Istanbul's governor has also banned a gay pride march scheduled for this coming Sunday, but campaigners say they will press on with the parade.

Dogan cited counter-terrorism police as saying the three

suspects had travelled to war zones under Islamic State rule but did not specify where.

Islamic State has increasingly targeted NATO member Turkey, bordering Iraq and Syria where the group has seized large swathes of territory.

The group has been blamed for two suicide bombings in Istanbul this year and has carried out targeted killings in the southern cities of Gaziantep and Sanliurfa, both hubs for Syrian activists trying to document the war.

Istanbul has held gay pride parades since 2003, attracting

tens of thousands of marchers, but last year's was broken up by police. Unlike many other predominantly Muslim countries, homosexuality is not a crime in Turkey, but hostility towards gay people remains widespread.

Dagestan borders Chechnya, where Moscow fought two wars against Islamist separatists before regaining control of the region. A patchwork of ethnicities and languages, it has become a hub of militant Islam in the North Caucasus, and some militant groups have sworn allegiance to Islamic State.—Reuters

Cambodia crowned as World Best Tourist Destination by European council on tourism

PHNOM PENH — The European Council on Tourism and Trade (ECTT) on Wednesday formally awarded Cambodia as the World Best Tourist Destination for 2016, citing the country's cultural richness, natural beauty and safety.

Professor Anton Caragea, president of the Bucharest-headquartered ECTT, presented the illustrious award to Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen at a ceremony here.

Some 30 countries joined the competition for the award this year, according to a ECTT report. Cambodia was named the best destination thanks to its rich cultural and historical legacy and outstanding natural beauty as well as good safety.

"I'm confident that through this award, more

tourists will visit Cambodia," Hun Sen said. "Cambodia was previously famous for war and conflict, but now it is renowned for its cultural and eco-tourism."

He said the Southeast Asian country welcomed some 4.8 million foreign tourists in 2015, earning gross revenue of more than 3 billion US dollars.

Professor Anton Caragea said the award was also bestowed in recognition of Cambodia's efforts in protecting and preserving the country's historical and civilization patrimony and in fostering tourism and culture.

"This title must be regarded as a challenge to conquer new barriers, as we are expecting Cambodia's future contribution for the development of the world's culture and tourism," he said.—Xinhua

Sri Lanka busts int'l heroin smuggling operation

COLOMBO — The Sri Lankan police on Wednesday busted an international heroin smuggling operation following the arrest of three most wanted drug smugglers.

The police said that three drug smugglers were arrested in the capital Colombo during a pre-dawn operation.

The police said that the drug smugglers were arrested with 1 kg of heroin in their possession. Two vehicles used by the drug smugglers had also been seized.

The drug smugglers are believed to be linked to a notorious drugs dealer in Sri Lanka, Gampola Vidanage Samantha Kumara alias Wele Suda who is now in custody.

Initial investigations revealed that the drug smuggling operation is linked to an international drug smuggling network.

The police said that raids have been launched on the instructions of police Chief Pujith Jayasundara to crackdown on drug deals in the city.—Xinhua

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Date: 23 June 2016

Economy in focus as campaigning starts for 10 July upper house race

TOKYO — Leaders of Japan's major political parties kicked off their official House of Councillors election campaigns Wednesday with public speeches around the country, in which the ruling bloc and a united opposition each pushed their vision for the country's economy.

Half of the 242 seats in the upper house of the bicameral parliament are up for grabs in the 10 July 10 election through a mix of constituencies and proportional representation.

A total of 389 candidates are vying for the 121 seats, with 225 people having registered to run in constituencies in time for Wednesday's deadline, adding to 164 declared candidates under the proportional representation system.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and junior partner Komeito aim not just to maintain their majority in the chamber, but to together win at least half of the contested seats. That would signify voters' continued faith in Abe even after he recently postponed for a second time a planned increase in the national sales tax because the economy remains so fragile.

Speaking in southwestern Japan's Kumamoto Prefecture, still recovering from April's destructive earthquakes, Abe called economic policy "this election's biggest theme."

"(We have achieved) the highest wages since the turn of the century. We will firmly push Abenomics forward," the premier said.

Komeito leader Natsumi Yamaguchi pledged in Saitama, just north of the capital, to "properly share the fruits of increased tax revenue with those people who aren't yet benefiting



People gather for a stump speech by a candidate for the House of Councillors election on 22 June, 2016, the first day of its official campaigning, in Naha, the capital of the southernmost island prefecture of Okinawa. Views are growing that US military bases in Okinawa should be removed. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

from Abenomics."

The main opposition Democratic Party has looked past its policy differences with smaller opposition parties, including the Japanese Communist Party, to throw its weight behind united candidates in all 32 contested single-member electoral districts.

"Real economic policy means balancing growth with the distribution (of wealth)," Democratic Party leader Katsuya Okada said Wednesday, kicking off his campaign in Kofu, Yamanashi Prefecture.

"Abenomics seeks only to make the economy bigger — it's the wrong path," Okada said.

The Democratic Party was formed in March through the merger of the Democratic Party of Japan — which ruled from 2009 to 2012, briefly breaking the LDP's near constant post-World War II hold on the Diet — and the smaller Japan Innovation Party.

Although parties' manifestos on both sides lead with economic policy, the opposition is also going



Prime Minister Shinzo Abe tries to fire up voters after giving his first stump speech in official campaigning for the House of Councillors election. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

after the Abe administration's security policies and the LDP's long-standing ambition to reform the pacifist Japanese Constitution for the first time since the document's inception amid the ashes of WWII.

The Democratic Party and its allies have pledged to scrap controversial security legislation enabling the country's Self-Defence Forces to assist allies in overseas conflicts, and to protect Article 9 of the Constitution, under which

Japan forever renounces war and maintaining a military. In order to call a national plebiscite on altering the Constitution, Abe would need the support of two-thirds of both houses of the Diet.

The ruling parties have such a majority in the lower house and hope to clear, with the cooperation of some small parties, the two-thirds mark also in the upper house. The LDP-led coalition will reach that crucial mark if they and parties in favour of the constitutional amendment win a total of 78 seats.

JCP leader Kazuo Shii vowed in Tokyo Wednesday to "take back constitutionalism," while Social Democratic Party leader Tadamoto Yoshida called the election a fight to protect the Constitution and "put a stop to the runaway Abe government."

People's Life Party co-leader Taro Yamamoto called on voters in Tokyo to "remedy the injustice" brought about amid Abenomics, citing widening disparities in living standards.—Kyodo News

Two California men convicted of plotting to support Islamic State

LOS ANGELES — Two men from Anaheim, California, were found guilty on Tuesday of conspiring to provide material support to Islamic State militants, one of them going so far as to attempt to travel to the Middle East to join the extremist group, federal prosecutors said.

A US District Court

jury in Orange County, south of Los Angeles, returned the guilty verdicts against Nader Elhuzayel and Muhanad Badawi, both 25, after deliberating for just over an hour, according to the US Attorney's Office. The decision caps a two-week trial.

In addition to convictions on charges of plot-

ting to provide material support to a terrorist organisation, Elhuzayel was found guilty of actually attempting to provide such support and Badawi was found guilty of aiding and abetting those attempts.

Those counts stem from aborted arrangements the two men made for Elhuzayel to travel to Syria,

where he intended to enlist as a fighter for Islamic State, prosecutors said.

Moreover, the jury convicted Elhuzayel on 26 counts of bank fraud, and Badawi on a single count of financial aid fraud in connection with their conspiracy, according to US Attorney's Office statement.—Reuters

British lawmaker Cox was killed because of her political views — husband

LONDON — Lawmaker Jo Cox, who was shot and stabbed a week before Britain's referendum on European Union membership, died because of her political views and had been deeply troubled by the tone of the campaign, her husband said on Tuesday.

Prime Minister David Cameron appealed to voters across the generation gap to back staying in the EU, two days before a closely fought referendum that will shape the future of Europe. The campaign to leave the EU has echoes of populist movements across Europe and in the United States.

The murder of Cox, a 41-year-old mother of two young children who was an ardent supporter of EU membership, shocked the country and abruptly changed the tone of a caustic campaign that has polarised Britons.

"She had very strong political views and I believe she was killed because of those views," her husband Brendan Cox told broadcasters. "She died because of them and she would want to stand up for those in death as much as she did in life."

It was unclear how Brendan Cox's words might influence the EU vote that Cameron said was likely to be "very close".

Cox had been worried about Britain's political culture, including a coarsening of language and people taking more extreme positions, her husband said. She was also concerned about divisive politics globally.

"She worried about the tone of the debate" that focused increasingly on immigration and "about the tone



A supporter of the "Britain Stronger IN Europe" campaigns in the lead up to the EU referendum at Holborn in London, Britain on 20 June 20, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

of whipping up fears and whipping up hatred".

"I think the EU referendum has created a heightened environment for it but actually it also pre-existed that," he said.

Britons vote on Thursday on whether to quit the 28-nation bloc amid warnings from world leaders, investors and companies that a decision to leave would diminish Britain's influence and unleash turmoil on markets.

In an interview with the *Financial Times*, Cameron also predicted a "remain dividend" in the form of an investment surge if Britons voted to stay in the 28-nation bloc.

In an earlier address outside his Downing Street

office, Cameron hammered home his message that leaving the EU would jeopardise Britain's economy and its national security, with fewer jobs, fewer allies and higher prices.

"Brits don't quit," he said, using the official backdrop to make a direct pitch to older voters considered more eurosceptic and more likely to vote.

"It will just be you in that polling booth. Just you, taking a decision that will affect your future, your children's future, your grandchildren's future."

The Conservative prime minister's remarks came as an opinion poll showed very narrow support for staying in the EU. The Survation poll put the "Re-

main" camp just one percentage point ahead of the campaign for a so-called Brexit, well within the margin of error.

Opponents said Cameron's appearance suggested he was worried about the outcome.

As each side sought to play its last trump cards, the pro-EU "Britain Stronger in Europe" campaign issued a final poster of a door leading into a dark void with the slogan: "Leave and there's no going back."

If Britain votes to leave, Cameron would face pressure to resign, though he has said he will continue as leader.

Campaigning was suspended for three days after Cox's killing in northern

England last Thursday.

Some Leave campaigners accuse the Remain camp of exploiting her death.

After Cox's killing, opinion polls indicated sentiment had swung back to the Remain side after a shift towards Leave.

An earlier ORB survey for the Daily Telegraph put support for Remain at 53 percent, up 5 percentage points on the previous one, with Leave on 46 per cent, down three points.

Former England soccer captain David Beckham, a popular public figure, added his voice to Remain's list of celebrity supporters. "For our children and their children we should be facing the problems of the world together

and not alone," he said.

Leave campaigners stepped up their focus on what they call uncontrolled immigration, saying Cameron had been warned four years ago his goal of reducing net arrivals was impossible due to EU rules.

The anti-EU UK Independence Party issued a poster showing a traffic jam with the message "The school over-run" and saying nearly one in four of Britain's primary schools were full or oversubscribed.

The Leave camp says it is the anti-establishment choice, and its message that EU membership has handed political control to Brussels and fuelled mass immigration has struck a chord with many Britons.

Already shaken by differences over migration and the future of the euro zone, the EU would lose its second-largest economy, one of its top two military powers and by far its richest financial centre.

Britain's *Daily Mail* newspaper came out for the Leave campaign, while the Daily Mirror endorsed Remain. *The Sun*, Britain's biggest-selling newspaper, which came out for "Leave" last week, said in its Wednesday edition the queen asked guests at a private dinner: "Give me three good reasons why Britain should be part of Europe," suggesting she may favour Brexit.

"The Queen is above politics and acts on the advice of Her Government in political matters. The referendum is a matter for the British people to decide," Buckingham Palace said in a statement.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT
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Phone No: 2301185

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES
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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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'Hamilton' fans endure heat for hot tickets in Chicago

CHICAGO — Hundreds of "Hamilton" fans lined up in Chicago for as much as 24 hours in 90-degree heat to buy the year's hottest theater tickets, for the award-winning hip-hop musical about the United States' first Treasury secretary in its debut outside New York.

Cheers went up on the line snaking around the block in downtown Chicago as the box office at the PrivateBank Theatre opened at 10 am on Tuesday. Phone and on-line sales started at the same time.

Fans in line said their enthusiasm has not waned even though the revolutionary musical biography of Alexander Hamilton will be recast for its Chicago run.

Lin-Manuel Miranda, the composer and playwright who wrote and co-stars in "Hamilton," recently announced that 9 July will be his last performance as the title character in the Broadway production. Co-star Leslie Odom Jr., who plays Aaron Burr, leaves the cast the same day.

"Whoever gets cast will be



Lin-Manuel Miranda (center, L) from "Hamilton" performs with the cast during the American Theatre Wing's 70th annual Tony Awards in New York, US, on 12 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

amazing. (Miranda) will put the best person in place to do the role, someone just as talented as he is," said Cara Maas, 18, a college student who travelled from Grand

Rapids, Michigan and joined the ticket line on Monday evening.

"It's a dream come true," Maas said. "I love Alexander Hamilton, the man himself, and I love

the fact that there's a musical about him." Maas made new friends while camped out in the line. They sang along to their favourite songs from the show, which swept the

Tonys, taking 11 awards after getting a record 16 nominations.

The racially and ethnically diverse fans in line for tickets in Chicago said the show's diverse cast — with non-whites playing the white founding fathers — drew them to the show.

"Hamilton was an immigrant, and as the daughter of immigrants, the theme really stuck with me," said Rocio Valladares, 24, of Mount Prospect, Illinois, who was in line with Maas. "Hamilton" will run from 27 September through 19 March next year in Chicago.

Tickets for the New York show have been scarce, with resale prices in the hundreds of dollars and producers taking steps to keep resellers from buying tickets in bulk over the internet.

At 11 am (noon EDT), there were still \$117 tickets for sale on-line for the Chicago show. A half-hour later there were tickets offered at prices ranging from \$369 to \$8,000 on the StubHub ticket resale website.—Reuters

'Star Trek' actor's death prompts new calls for auto recall fix

WASHINGTON — "Star Trek" actor Anton Yelchin's fatal accident involving a recalled 2015 Jeep Grand Cherokee is renewing calls from safety advocates to fix flaws in the US recall system.

Yelchin was killed when his SUV rolled backward in the steep driveway of his Los Angeles home and pinned him against a brick wall and a fence. The accident is under investigation, and it is not known whether the specific recall defect, which can cause the vehicle to roll away after a driver

exits, led to Yelchin's death.

But consumer safety advocates say the incident shows an urgent need to improve how recalls are handled, with a record number of unrepaired US vehicles still on the road as drivers wait for fixes that can take many months to arrive.

Clarence Ditlow, executive director of the Centre for Auto Safety, said Yelchin's accident is touching a nerve in a way that traditional recalls have not. "Many consumers may think: 'If it could

happen to Chekov, it could happen to me,'" he said, referring to the Star Trek character portrayed by Yelchin.

Yelchin's SUV was one of 1.1 million vehicles recalled by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV in April over the potential to roll away. Forty-one injuries, as well as crashes and property damage, have been linked to the problem.

Los Angeles police and the automaker are separately investigating whether the recall defect caused the crash. The US Nation-

al Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) said it is in touch with both to hear their findings.

Fiat Chrysler told dealers last month that a fix would be ready no later than July or August after initially telling owners a fix wouldn't be ready until late this year. Owners still have not gotten official notice of their fix, but some dealers are now making appointments to repair some of the recalled vehicles, company spokesman Eric

Mayne said.

Citing Yelchin's death, Ditlow urged Fiat Chrysler Chief Executive Sergio Marchionne in a letter to notify owners not to drive such vehicles until they are repaired and to provide free loaner or rental cars in the interim.

"If there's any silver lining in this it will prompt more attention to recalls," Ditlow said. "There was no sense of urgency on Chrysler's part" to get the fix in place.—Reuters

Taylor Swift, Tom Hiddleston dance together at Gomez's concert

LOS ANGELES — Singer Taylor Swift and Tom Hiddleston were spotted having gala time dancing together at friend Selena Gomez's Nashville concert.

The new couple were on a date night accompanied by Swift's BFF Abigail and her boyfriend Matt, reported E! online.

"Taylor invited Tom to go. Tom always wants to please Taylor and show her that her friends matter. Taylor likes that about Tom," a source said.

The 26-year-old songstress feels the 35-year-old British actor could be "the one."

"She felt like she was a little

school girl with a huge crush. She loves the fact that Tom acts like such a mature man. She loves that he is older. She feels very safe and protected with him. The attraction is very strong."

"Tom wants to be with Taylor. The two some are already very attached and text all the time. Taylor said she thinks he is the one, as odd and new as it sounds," the source said.—PTI



Tom Hiddleston.
PHOTO: REUTERS



Taylor Swift.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Fewer Japanese seek marriage amid worries over income: poll

TOKYO — The proportion of Japanese men in their 20s who want to marry has slumped, with many citing their income not meeting women's expectations as a reason not to tie the knot, think tank research showed.

With a dip in the rate for women as well and it still being relatively rare for children to be born out of wedlock in Japan, the figures point to a potential obstacle for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's key policy of boosting the nation's low birth rate.

The survey showed 38.7 per cent of single Japanese men in their 20s who were polled said they wanted to marry as soon as possible or wanted to marry eventually, down from 67.1 per cent three years ago.

"More than half of single women want their spouses to earn at least 4 million yen (\$38,000) a year. Meanwhile, only 15.2 per cent of single men in their 20s earn 4 million yen or more," the report for a Meiji Yasuda Life In-

surance affiliate said.

"This gap seems to be one of the reasons for more people not marrying at all or marrying late."

The data comes as Abe campaigns for an election for the upper house on 10 July, playing up his economic policy and promising steps to raise the fertility rate.

Abe's government wants to raise the birth rate to 1.8 per woman from 1.4, which is still below 2.1 - the rate needed to prevent a population from shrinking.

For single women in their 20s, the rate fell to 59 per cent from 82.2 per cent over the same period, the survey said.

The rates of single Japanese men and women in their 30s who want to marry also fell by more than 10 percentage points to 40.3 per cent and 45.7 per cent, respectively, the data showed.

Japan's population is projected to fall around a third to 87 million in 2060, the National Institute of Population and Social Security Research says.—Reuters



A couple walk in the garden of the Hikawa shrine during their traditional Shinto wedding ceremony in Tokyo in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Executed British spy's sketch auctioned in New York

NEW YORK — A portrait sketched by British spy John Andre, who was executed for funneling messages to Revolutionary War turncoat Benedict Arnold, sold for \$47,500 on Tuesday, said the New York auction house that

sold it.

The pencil drawing on paper, dated sometime in 1776, portrays Abraham Cornelius Cuyler, mayor of Albany, New York, and his wife, Jannetje Jacobse Glen, who were strong British loyalists,

Swann Auction Galleries spokeswoman Alexandra Nelson said.

"A drawing like this, it enlivens the period," Nelson said. "It makes you feel like these are real people."

Andre, a British officer, stayed as a guest at the couple's home at the time of the drawing.

He was captured by American Continental Army officials and hanged on 2 October, 1780, after being convicted of spying for the British.

Andre was accused of relaying military information to Arnold, a Continental Army general who gained infamy among Americans for defecting to the British.

The artwork, believed to be the first by Andre to be auctioned, was passed down to his family members through the generations. Nelson said she could not immediately disclose who purchased the portrait.—Reuters



Sketches done in the late 1700s by John Andre, a British spy with ties to Benedict Arnold, are pictured in this undated handout photograph. The sketches sold at auction for \$47,500 on 21 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thousands gather at Stonehenge to watch summer solstice sunrise

SALISBURY PLAIN (England) — Thousands of people watched the sun rise at Stonehenge on Tuesday after gathering at the ancient monument site in southern England to mark summer solstice.

English Heritage, which seeks to protect historical sites, said some 12,000 people watched

the 04:52am (0352 GMT) sunrise at Stonehenge. "The weather was fine throughout and the highlight of the evening was a spectacular full, strawberry moon over the ancient stones," it said in a statement. "The morning saw a glorious sunrise...met with chanting and cheering from the crowd." —Reuters

Philippine skateboard enthusiasts ride for international festival

MANILA — Hundreds of Filipinos skated down a main avenue in Manila before executing flips and tricks at a newly opened skate park, as part of international "Go Skateboarding Day" on Tuesday.

The annual festival, started in 2004 by the International Association of Skateboard Companies in California, gives enthusiasts a chance to have fun, celebrate their passion and promote safe skating.—Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(23-6-2016, Thursday)

- | | |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 06 : 00 pm | 09 : 00 pm |
| • Weather Report | • Jade Pagoda |
| • Pyi Thu Ni Ti | 09 : 20 pm |
| 06 : 30 pm | • International Movie Songs |
| • Cartoon Programme | 09 : 40 pm |
| • "Planes" (Part-2) | • Myanmar Traditional |
| 07 : 10 pm | Thatched Roofs: |
| • International Drama Series | Thet Nge |
| 07 : 50 pm | 09 : 50 pm |
| • International Drama Series | • Music Programme |
| 08 : 50 pm | 10 : 00 pm |
| • MRTV Entertainment | • Myanmar Video |
| Music | |

From 23-6-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm
To 24-6-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm

mitv Myanmar International

(23-6-2016 07:00am ~ 24-6-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

- | | | |
|-------|----|---|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:26 | Am | Caves of Myanmar |
| 07:51 | Am | Egg Shell |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:26 | Am | Enchanting Rakhine Land |
| 08:44 | Am | Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) "Dobat" |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | Products of Myanmar — Stone of The Heavens |
| 09:51 | Am | Wet Markets of Yangon: Thirimingalar Market |
| 10:03 | Am | News |
| 10:26 | Am | Back To A Paradise (Episode-2) |

10:50 Am Sagaing: Guitars

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

Prime Time

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| 07:03 | Pm | News |
| 07:26 | Pm | A Tour in Korea (Part-7) |
| 07:36 | Pm | "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar's Secret Beautifier |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | Pride of Myanmar - Bagan arts and handicrafts |
| 08:40 | Pm | Independent Filmmaker |
| 08:47 | Pm | Chef Life: Thit Htoo |

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

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

Goal machine Messi leads Argentina to Copa final

HOUSTON — Lionel Messi scored his 55th international goal to become his country's all-time leading scorer as Argentina thrashed hosts the United States 4-0 to ease into the final of the Centenary Copa America on Tuesday.

Many of those in the 70,858 crowd in Houston had come to witness the Barcelona star etch his name in the history books and he did not disappoint, curling a sensational free kick past Brad Guzan after 32 minutes to put Argentina 2-0 ahead.

Messi had been chopped down by Chris Wondolowski 25 yards from goal as he burst forward and the ensuing strike moved him clear of previous record holder Gabriel Batistuta's 54 goal tally.

"I am happy to have surpassed Batistuta's record and I want to thank my team mates, it's theirs as well," Messi, who turns 29 on Friday, told reporters.

The win, meanwhile, advanced Argentina into Sunday's final against either Colombia or reigning champions Chile, who meet in Chicago on Wednesday.

"We needed to get back in a final but we can never get ahead of ourselves," Argentine coach



Argentina midfielder Lionel Messi (10) celebrates with teammates after scoring a goal during the first half against the United States in the semifinals of the 2016 Copa America Centenario soccer tournament at NRG Stadium, Houston, TX, USA, on 21 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Gerardo Martino assed. "We've always taken it one game at a time."

"We are pleased with our general production (so far)."

Martino started Ezequiel

Lavezzi up front in place of the injured Angel Di Maria and it took the China-based winger just three minutes to make his mark when he got on the end of a Messi chip to head over a stranded

Guzan.

Argentina dominated the first half and Messi's goal was just reward for their superiority but if the home side thought they could stage a second-half fight-

back, they were sadly mistaken.

US coach Jurgen Klinsmann made two changes at the break but Napoli striker Gonzalo Higuain scored a third goal four minutes into the second period when he beat Guzan at the second time of asking after the keeper had saved his initial shot.

The US enjoyed more possession as the match progressed but never managed a shot on goal for the entire game as Argentina exposed the gulf in class between the very best South American and North American sides.

Messi, who captained the side in his 112th international, almost grabbed a second eight minutes from time but Guzan turned his shot around the post for a corner.

However, the mercurial forward was on hand to have a say in the fourth goal, when his pinpoint pass set up Higuain to complete the rout with a simple tap in after 85 minutes.

The result means Argentina have scored 18 goals in five games and conceded just two as they power towards what they hope will be their 15th Copa America title, and first since 1993, to take them level with all-time leader Uruguay.—Reuters

Croatia win group by beating holders Spain

BORDEAUX, (France) — Holders Spain lost for the first time in 15 matches at the European Championship finals on Tuesday when Croatia beat them 2-1 to win Group D at Euro 2016.

Ivan Perisic scored the winner with three minutes left after Croatia keeper Danijel Subasic had saved a penalty from Spain captain Sergio Ramos with 20 minutes remaining.

Croatia's Nikola Kalinic had canceled out an early goal from Spain striker Alvaro Morata in the first half.

Spain meet Group E winners Italy in a heavyweight last-16 tie on Monday in Paris — a rematch of the 2012 final — while Croatia will play one of the third-placed teams in Lens on Saturday.

"Now we will face a more difficult rival than had we finished first in our group," Ramos said.

Spain's path suddenly looks more perilous. Not only do Italy stand in the champions' way in the round of 16. World champi-

ons Germany are then potential quarter-final opponents while hosts France and England also lie in wait as possible semi-final opposition.

"We are disappointed," conceded Spain coach Vicente del Bosque. "The path now might be seen as more difficult, but you never know where the danger is."

Kalinic's goal just before the break was the first goal conceded by Spain in 948 minutes of European Championship matches since October 2014.

Croatia's excellence and commitment in battling back from behind condemned a jaded Spain, going for a third straight title, to their first defeat in a European Championship finals since



Spain's Ariz Aduriz in action with Croatia's Tin Jedvaj during EURO 2016 at Stade de Bordeaux, Bordeaux, France on 21 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

they were beaten 1-0 by Portugal in the 2004 group stages.

"When you play against the world's best, you have to play like this," Ivan Rakitic said.

"We deserve it. We gave everything until the last minute."

Croatia overcame the disappointment of their second group match against the Czech Republic by starting confidently, seeking to set the tone with an intense press. However,

it was the Spanish who struck decisively in the seventh minute with a goal that encapsulated the technical prowess, the movement and the vision that sets them apart from the rest of this summer's contenders.

David Silva drove inside before sending a delicious reverse pass out to Cesc Fabregas, whose diagonal run across the box went unnoticed by everyone else.

His cross was met by Morata, arriving at the back post, and on the day that his move back to Real Madrid from Juventus was announced, the striker touched home for his third of the tournament, moving level with top scorer Gareth Bale.

Spain, unchanged and enjoying the cohesion

that familiarity breeds, could have doubled their lead when Nolito directed Silva's searching cross just wide, but Croatia held tight and steadily began to rediscover their early menace.

Ivan Rakitic sent an ambitious chip onto the bar with the goalkeeper stranded while Kalinic, picked ahead of goalless Mario Mandzukic, offered mobility and a tenacity that had previously been missing.

With Spain eyeing a second, it was Croatia who struck, as Perisic's cross found Kalinic, stealing in ahead of Ramos, who flicked the ball past De Gea with the outside of his foot.

It was hugely entertaining fare, thankfully unaffected by the crowd troubles that have accompanied Croatia's other matches this summer.

Croatia began the second half confidently and David De Gea was called into action to tip away Darijo Srna's cross before closing down Tin Jedvaj's follow up.

They were then left fuming at an unjust penalty in the 72nd minute when Silva, chasing a delicious lofted ball from Andres Iniesta, fell under imperceptible pressure from Sime Vrsaljko.

Captain Ramos sent a hesitant spot kick down the center of the goal and Subasic, advancing well off his line before the shot, was able to bat it away as justice was served.—Reuters