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# RIGHTS FOR WORKERS

## Efforts are being made to enable all migrant workers to enjoy labour rights within Thailand's legal framework: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

A massive crowd swelled under the rain in Mahachai, an area in Samut Sahkon, south-west of Bangkok. Only 500 migrant represetatives were given the oppurtunity to enter and hear State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi's speech. Some were given the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding workers' rights and proof of identification.

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi told the workers that the government is making efforts to enable migrant workers to enjoy legal rights that they deserve within Thailand's legal framework.

"The government is working to enable workers to receive a Certificate of Identity," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, disclosing the government's plan for issuing passports to migrant workers in Thailand. Also requesting that migrants to try to understand and respect the labour laws in Thailand.

Together with the State Counsellor, the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, the Union Minister for Planning and Finance U Kyaw Win, the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin and departmental officials left for Thailand yesterday morning.

During the first day visit, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi urged Myanmar diplomats in Thailand to pay visits to factories where Myanmar migrant labourers are working in order to solve labour issues there. See page 3 >>

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at Suvannabhumi airport in Bangkok, Thailand. PHOTO: REUTERS

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## France to power Myanmar with environmentally friendly electricity from river currents in rurals

FRANCE is to provide technical assistance with sourcing an electricity supply from river currents for distribution to rural regions of Myanmar, according to the Sein Lan Ami-Myay Development Organisation.

"The French will provide the technical support for electricity from natural river currents. It won't damage the environment. It'll also help fulfill to satisfy electricity demands," said U Win Myo, chair of the Sein Lan Ami-Myay Development Organisation.

He added, "There is a need for amending government policy towards distribution of electricity. Myanmar is full of potential locations , with work already underway in Bilin township."

Green Lotus, a French environmental conservation group, has attempted to raise awareness of electricity production from water currents that could potentially supply over a thousand families in Myanmar's rural regions with electricity.

"We can fulfill Myanmar's public electricity requirements. We also welcome procedures that do not have negative impact on the environment.

The production of electricity from natural water currents has been successful in France.

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Ms Yanghee Lee meets with local people during her visit to Rakhine State. PHOTO: MNA

# UN special rapporteur visits Sittwe

UNITED Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in Myanmar Ms Yanghee Lee visited a relief camp in Mingan ward, Sittwe, Rakhine State yesterday.

The UN's special rapporteur met with local Rakhine people who reported on their needs in regard to health and education. The rapporteur then viewed the relief camp.

Next, Ms Yanghee Lee and party held talks with a Muslim community at the Madrasa Islamia school in Aung Mingala ward and visited a basic education school in the ward.

During her stay in Sittwe, the UN's special rapporteur also held talks with local Rakhine people, U Maung Maung Ohn, chair of Rakhine State Hluttaw Ethnic Affairs Study Committee and Sittwe-based international organisations at the Sittwe Hotel.

In the evening, Ms Yanghee Lee and party met with officials of UN agencies at the UNDP Office in Sittwe.

She left Sittwe and arrived in Yangon at 7.25 pm. —*Myanmar News Agency*

# Programme aims to improve lives of street kids

MANDALAY Region authorities will implement a programme to help improve lives of street children around the city within 100 days. The new plan aims to reduce the number of children living on the streets of Mandalay Region, said a member of the Social Welfare Department.

A survey on street families was conducted last month by the Social Welfare Department together with local and international NGOs and civil society working for child development.

During the study, data collectors met with 120 street children living in six townships in Mandalay District—Chanayethazan, Aungmyethazan, Mahaaungmye, Chanmyathazi, Pyigyidagun and Amarapura—to inquire about their lives.

According to the study, 62% of street kids have dropped out before completing primary level and 7% of have no access to education.

75% were found to be using illegal substances; begging and collecting plastic bottles is the main source of income.

Implementation of the new child development scheme was widely discussed at a recent workshop held between the regional authorities and partner organisations.

A member of a local NGO said, "Educating children is not easy work as they are more interested in making money than school," adding that only five out of 50 children are encouragemed by their parents to pursue an education, with only one attending a monastic education school.

"We have to support their parents indirectly in addition to street children, but the task of working with parents is an uphill battle,"

"Almost all parents have no desire to assist their children's development because of their financial constraints."—*YCDC*

## Correction

"The Central Committee for Supervising and Taking Care of Citizens" is actually known as "The Central Committee for Supervising and Taking Care of Foreigners." The error was in the news story "President's Office announces formation of four committees" on page-2, 23 June Issue of the Global New Light of Myanmar.— *Editor*

Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint welcomes Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi. PHOTO: MNA

# Deputy Attorney-General meets with Japanese Ambassador

DEPUTY Attorney-General U Win Myint received Japanese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Tateshi Higuchi and party at the former's office in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday.

During the call the two representatives held talks on further cooperation between the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Office of the Attorney-General of the Union and exchanged views on development of the country's legal system, the rule of law and judicial reforms.— *Myanmar News Agency*

# Border Affairs Ministry welcomes ethnic excursion groups

EXCURSION to Nay Pyi Taw by ethnic people from border areas is the sixth of nine work programmes of the ministry's 100-day plan, said Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung in meeting with members of the excursion comprising Kayin, Palaung and Danu yesterday.

In his address the Union minister highlighted the importance of the educational trip for the implementation of undertakings in their own regions with the use of knowledge gained during the excursion.

The excursion programme also has the purpose of strengthening Union spirit and ensuring national solidarity, said the Union minister, adding that the excursion program is organised annually.

The Union minister presented commemorative gifts to the excursion members, and a member of the Palaung people, one of the members, spoke words of thanks on the occasion.

Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut presented cash awards to a national race cultural troupe who performed traditional dances at the ceremony. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Ethnic people from border areas are attending a welcoming party by Ministry of Border Affairs. PHOTO: MNA

# France to power Myanmar with . . .

>> From page 1

A French company will assist with natural hydro-power technology and machinery education," said Jean Marc, director of Green Lotus.

French technical assistance will employ a system of hydrokinetic turbine farms featuring two Hydro-Quest River machines which will be able to produce electricity – dependent upon the state of river currents – from water depths of 6 and 12 feet, according to the French Technology Company, a producer of natural electricity.

The availability of electricity will fluctuate depending on the seasons, but access to electricity for those rural regions of the country will reportedly support livestock and agricultural activities, together with small-scale rice mill enterprises.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

# President U Htin Kyaw inspects Upper Paung Laung Hydropower Project

President U Htin Kyaw visits Upper Paung Laung Hydropower Project in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw visited the Upper Paung Laung Hydropower Project, 26 miles east of Nay Pyi Taw Pyinmana Township yesterday.

Accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Dr Aung Thu and U Pe Zin Tun and Nay Pyi Taw Council Chairman Dr Myo Aung and officials the President heard reports on the project and viewed the hydropower plant.

Union Minister U Pe Zin Tun and officials reported to the President on progress of the project and works to be done including the generation capacity of the Upper Paung Laung hydropower plant and ongoing hydropower projects.

During his visit to the plant, the President met with the staff and spoke words of encouragement.

The Upper Paung Laung hydropower project began implementation during the 2004-2005 FY with the process being completed in November 2014.

The hydropower plant has an installed capacity of 140MW and an annual production of about 454 million kwh, delivering electricity to the national grid.

According to sources, works are underway to implement the Middle Paung Laung hydropower project which is expected to generate 100MW of electricity.

A total of K31.534 billion was spent on the relocation of villages lying within the project area and 8,297 acres of farmland were reclaimed, said sources, adding that the Ministry of Home Affairs developed the new village into a town.

A total of 10 hydropower projects are being implemented across Sittaung Valley Including Upper Paung Laung hydropower project.

According to statistics of the 2015-2016 FY, electricity has been brought to 3.8 million of 10.8 million households in Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*

# Efforts are being made to enable all migrant workers to enjoy labour rights within Thailand's legal framework: Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

>> From page 1

Daw Aung San Suu Kyi clarified that the high profile trip to Thailand is aimed at strengthening further understanding and friendship between Thailand and Myanmar.

"As the South-East Asian region comprises medium and small countries, the unity and understanding among them is very important to achieve equitable development in the region," said Daw Aung San Suu Kyi.

During her stay in Thailand Daw Aung San Suu Kyi will meet with the Thai Prime Minister, the Foreign Affairs Minister of Thailand, students and faculty members from Universities in Thailand, including Myanmar teachers and students from Assumption University.—*GNLM with Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi speaks during a meeting with migrant workers at the coastal fishery centre of Samut Sakhon, outside Bangkok, Thailand on 23 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

# U Hau Do Suan appointed as Permanent Representative of Myanmar to UN

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hau Do Suan, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Canada, as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations, New York.

*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
*Nay Pyi Taw*
*Dated. 24 June 2016*

# Union Information Minister receives local & foreign guests

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint held separate talks with Mr Keiichiro Nakazawa, Chief Representative of JICA Myanmar Office, Mr. Dennis Breckenridge, Director-CTO of Advanced Broadcast Solution (ABS) and U Lwin Moe, Chairman of MAZE Co., Ltd at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Dr Pe Myint spoke to Mr Keiichiro Nakazawa about capacity development, projects being implemented by MRTV, a cooperative endeavor with JICA. The talks with others also consisted of improving the countries broadcast technology and establishment of 100 cinemas within two years.

Also present at the calls were Permanent Secretary U Tint Swe and other Ministry of Information officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

# Defence Services release statement on Myitkyina shooting incident

THE defence services' true news information team released a statement in connection with a shooting incident that occurred between a group of young people and two defence personnel that resulted in the death of a civilian in Myitkyina.

Maung Win Myo Thant, Maung Si Sar Ye, Ma Nan Lay War and Ma Nway Sandi Zaw asked for help from the security troops stationed at Balaminhtin Bridge at 9pm on 20 June, as they were being disturbed by eight youths, the statement said.

Lance Corporal Nan Hee Khin Tan and Private Maung Maung were assigned to take the four young people home. On their return, the two defence personnel were attacked by a group of eight people. Maung Guan Sai Aung was killed during the brawl following an attempt to snatch away a firearm from Private Maung Maung. The rest ran away.

Regarding the incident, the Kachin State police force had a press briefing on 22 June in order to deter the occurrence of unwanted consequences. The victim was reported to have a police record for his involvement in robbery in 2013. The statement said that the defence services would handle the case in accord with its rules and regulations.—*Myanmar News Agency*

# Myanmar moves towards establishment of Civil Service Academy

**The consultation workshop on the establishment of a Civil Service Academy.** PHOTO: MNA

THE Union Civil Service Board (UCSB) held a consultation workshop on the establishment of a Civil Service Academy in Myanmar in cooperation with the Hanns Seidel Foundation in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

UCSB Chairman Dr Win Thein and Mr. Archim Munz, resident representative of the foundation, spoke on the occasion where UCSB members, departmental heads, local and foreign experts and 40 representatives from the ministries were present.

The workshop is aimed at facilitating discussion on the Civil Service Academy's courses which are scheduled to be opened at the Central Institutes of Civil Service under the UCSB as well as ways and means for the development of curricula for postgraduate courses and a master's degree program.

The new curriculum is set to offer a set of subjects that include Management, Political Science, Economics, Social Science, Law, English and ICT, said Deputy Director U Moe Zaw Win, adding that some foreign experts have suggested conducting the courses in Nay Pyi Taw as well.

The workshop continues today. — *Myanmar News Agency*

# Around 300,000 Myanmar people travelling abroad every year

THERE are around 300,000 Myanmar people travelling abroad every year, it it has been learned from an official of the Myanmar Tourism Federation.

"Outbound Tourism is essential to the tourism industry to widen the scope of knowledge. Mostly, countries have a balance between inbound and outbound tours. So, Myanmar people also need to go abroad,"- said U Hnaung Hnaung Han.

Myanmar people travel mostly to Thailand, Singapore and Malaysia. Thailand is the country to which Myanmars go the most whereas Singapore and Malaysia are second and third respectively. There are between 35,000 and 50,000 Myanmar outbound tourists who travel to Bodh Gaya yearly.—*200*

# Bus conductors to cease collecting fares

"THERE will not be bus conductors any longer according to a new system under which bus tickets will be sold only at bus stops," said U Phyo Min Thein, the Chief Minister of Yangon Region.

The conductors will not be without a job, though, (following the introduction of the system) because officials have planned to create other jobs for them, said Dr Maung Aung, chairperson of the Yangon Bus Public Company (YBPC).

"The bus conductors are still needed as bus tickets will be sold only at bus stops. This arrangement is meant to avoid overcharging. The government will create job opportunities for them like selling the tickets at bus stops," added Dr Maung Aung.

All passengers' routes will be controlled from a monitoring centre only. There are over 300 routes for passengers in Yangon, but only 50 routes will remain in September and under the new system traffic lights and bus stops will be shifted in August, it has been learned.—*200*

## Crime NEWS

# Illegal sawn timber seized from overturned vehicle

ILLEGAL sawn timber was seized from an overturned vehicle in Mong Phyat, Shan State (East) on Tuesday.

According to an investigation, a RTC Hino vehicle being driven by one Thein Soe, 24, with a bus conductor called Tin Ngwe Tun, 24, onboard overturned between mileposts 719 and 720 when the driver lost control. The police rushed to the scene of the accident and found eight illegal timber planks on the vehicle covered with cardboard. The police have opened a case and filed charges against the driver and conductor.— *Myint Moh (Tachilek)*

**Illegal sawn timber and the overturned car.** PHOTO: MYINT MOH (TACHILEK)

# Heroin confiscated in Pinlebu

A LOCAL police squad in Pinlebu confiscated heroin from one Zaw Lin and Tint Wai between Pint Thar village and Mandaing village on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, the police searched Zaw Lin, 37, with Tint Wai, 20, and discovered heroin weighing 55 grams.

When interrogated, Zaw Linn said that the heroin was bought from one Daw Win Kyi. Police have filed charges against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*U Ye (Katha)*

# Man found dead in taxi

A MAN was found dead in a taxi on Pyay road, Mingaladon township, Yangon region on 19 June, according to local police.

Local police found the man in the driver's seat with knife injuries to his chest and his mouth closed with tape.

Police have identified the dead man as one U Myint Hswe, 54, from Kamayut township. The police sent the body to Insein general hospital. The case is still under investigation.— *Than Htet/ Htein Paw Win*

# Yaba seized in Nawnghkio and Sintgaing

A LOCAL police squad in Lashio seized yaba from a passenger near the Oriental toll gate, Nawnghkio entrance gate, on Tuesday. Acting on a tip-off, police searched a vehicle belonging to the Yadanar Soe bus line and discovered 1,950 yaba pills on passenger Sai Aye Htwe.

Similarly, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Amarapura township found yaba and drug related items at a house in Kin Lat village, Sintgaing township on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, the police searched the home of one Aung Khin and discovered 1,150 yaba pills and related items. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*

**Aung Khin.** PHOTO: MPF

# Heroin and Yaba seized in Tachilek

**Hein Ko Ko Myint.** PHOTO: KO YE

A combined team comprising officers and staff from Tachilek police station discovered Yaba from a motorbike at Lwe Taw Kham combined checkpoint in Tachilek on 20 June. Acting on a tip-off, the police searched a motorbike driven by Shar Mwe Hla and found 3,995 Yaba tablets from the motorbike.

Similarly, a combined team comprising officers and staff from Mandalay (North) police searched a house of Hein Ko Ko Myint from Maha Aung Myay township and discovered 44 Yaba pills form his house.—Ko Ye

# LOCAL Business

## Organic certificates to be issued to Myanmar farmers

ORGANIC guaranteed certificates will be issued to those who fit the prescribed regulations, said an official from Myanmar Organic Food Growers and Producers' Association.

Those receiving certification will only be engaged in Nyaungnapin agricultural zone, coffee cultivations in YwarNgan, Shwebo Paw San Mway rice variety and mushroom cultivation in Yangon so that they can legally export their agro-products to countries in the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS).

Myanmar's Organic Food Growers and Producers' Association will issue organic guarantee certificates with assistance from the International Federation of Organic Agriculture Movements (IFOAM).

"Locals from these four places can seek guarantee and training courses. Training courses focusing on required rules and regulations will be offered," said Dr Than Than Sein from Myanmar Organic Food Growers and Producers' Association.

This association will organise trainees to engaged in the organic agro-industry. —*200*

A female farmer harvesting eggplants in an organic farm in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE-MIN SOE

## Car sale centre to be built near junction of North-South Dagon

A CAR sale centre will be constructed soon near the junction of Dagon North and Dagon South following the closing of current car sale centres, it has been learned from the Myanmar Motor Car Marketing Association (Yangon).

Seventeen small-scale car sale centres in Yangon Region will be closed and replaced with a new car sale centre which will be constructed on 25 acres of land. The selling and buying of cars will be allowed only at that location following the completion of the centre.

"All the small centres will be closed soon. A new car sale centre will be built but the exact place is not known yet. The chief minister of Yangon Region has already granted 25 acres of land. There will not be showrooms" said U Aung Than Win, the chairman of Myanmar Motor car Marketing Association (Yangon).

The Yangon government is handling the new construction after meeting with representatives from 17 small scale car sale centres across Yangon Region in order to seek their opinions and agreement, it has been reported.

Representatives from all small centres came together for a meeting on 15 May and discussions were held for a month. The Regional government will have toilets and recreation areas constructed at the sales centre. The construction will begin after this rainy season, added U Aung Than Win.

The Regional government and the car sale representatives will cooperate to manage the construction of the centre and action will be taken if dealers are found to be selling cars in other locations.

"It is very good for customers to be able to find all cars under one roof. Another advantage is that there will not be a gap in the prices of the same car models. But, it is rather far from downtown. Anyway, downtown congestion can be reduced", said an agent of car selling and buying named Ko Phyo Min.

During the period of the previous government, the car sale centre in Han Thar Wati was closed and sale centres there were moved to Min Yae Kyawsawr, Hlaing and Thiri Mingalar new market car sale centres respectively, it is reported by an official.—*200*

## Five new bus-stops for BRT bus route

FIVE new bus-stops for the public BRT bus line will be installed this month, according to the Yangon Bus Line Public Company Limited.

"We will create five new bus-stops to meet passenger demand. We also added five more bus-stops last month," said an official from the Yangon Bus Line Public Company Limited.

The BRT bus line is running with a total of 30 buses starting from Htaukkyant- Hlawga junction to Pyay Road and then turning to Bogyoke AungSan Road to Kabar Aye Pagoda Rd and up to 8 mile Junction to reach Pyay Road again. Five more bus-stops are near 7 mile, near Sanpya cinema, near Myaynigone bus-stop, near Yawmingyi Road.

"BRT buses are modern comfortable modes of transport, but are less frequent then the private bus lines. We are faced with difficulty to go to these bus-stops to travel with BRT. It will be convenient for passengers if there are more bus-stops," said Ma ChawSu, a BRT bus passenger from Hlaing Township.

BRT bus lines started opertaing in early February with a total of 23 bus stops but there are now 33 bus stops for the BRT.—*200*

## EU to examine 20 local cold storage factories

THE European Union (EU) has said that it plans to examine cold storage facilities that house seafood products intended for export to the EU are to be examined at the end of November to December this year.

EU has requested the Union Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation to assist the fisheries department in order to cooperate with the EU delegation's inspections.Owners of the cold storage facilities are concerned of the standards that the EU inspectors may have, as construction takes place near the storages as well as mixing of cement.

There are 11 cold storage facilities located in west Gyogon ward, Insein Township.—*200*

# Indonesian president sails to South China Sea islands in message to Beijing

JAKARTA — Indonesia's president visited the Natuna Islands aboard a warship on Thursday, making a bold move to assert sovereignty over the area in the southern reaches of the South China Sea after Beijing stated its "over-lapping claim" on nearby waters.

President Joko Widodo's visit along with his chief security minister and foreign minister was described by Indonesian officials as the strongest message that has been given to China over the issue.

A presidential palace statement said Widodo intended to hold a cabinet meeting aboard the warship.

"In the course of our history, we've never been this stern (with China). This is also to demonstrate that the president is not taking the issue lightly," Chief Security Minister Luhut Pandjaitan told *The Jakarta Post* newspaper.

Beijing said on Monday that while China does not dispute Indonesia's sovereignty over the Natuna Islands, "some waters of the South China Sea" were subject to "overlapping claims on maritime rights and interests".

Indonesia's Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi on Wednesday rejected China's stance, saying the waters around Natuna are in Indonesian territory.

There have been a series of face-offs between Indonesian and Chinese vessels in the area but both sides have denied that the matter is a territorial or diplomatic dispute. —*Reuters*

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# North Korea leader says missile launch shows ability to attack US in Pacific

SEOUL — North Korea leader Kim Jong Un said after supervising the test launch of an intermediate-range missile that the country now has the capability to attack US interests in the Pacific, official media reported on Thursday.

South Korean and US military officials have said the North launched what appeared to be two intermediate-range missiles dubbed Musudan on Wednesday. The first of the two was considered a failure.

The second reached a high altitude in the direction of Japan before plunging into the sea about 400 km (250 miles) away, they said.

The test-fire was successful without putting the security of neighbouring countries at risk, the North's KCNA news agency said, referring to the missile as a "Hwasong-10." Hwasong is Korean for Mars.

"We have the sure capability to attack in an overall and practical way the Americans in the Pacific operation theatre," KCNA quoted Kim as saying.

The missile, which is fired from mobile launchers, has a design range of more than 3,000 km (1,860 miles), meaning all of Japan and the US territory of Guam are potentially within reach.

**North Korea leader Kim Jong Un visits the remodeled Pyongyang Cornstarch Factory in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 16 June 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

A spokesman for South Korea's military, Jeon Ha-gyu, said the second launch demonstrated "technical progress in terms of its engine capacity". However, Jeon said it would not be meaningful to discuss whether it was a success because it was not a normal flight.

Japan and South Korea said the missile flew to a height of 1,000 km (620 miles). Experts said it appeared North Korea had deliberately raised the angle of the launch to avoid hitting any territory of Japan.

South Korea and the United States condemned the launch as an unacceptable violation of UN Security Council resolutions.

Japan's Defence Minister Gen Nakatani said the launch was an indication that North Korea's threat to Japan was intensifying.

The United Nations Security Council, which in March imposed new sanctions on the North following its fourth nuclear test in January and a long-range rocket launch in February, met at the request of the United States and Japan.

"All expressed a strong concern as well as their opposition (to) these launches," Alexis Lamek, Deputy UN Ambassador of France, which holds the Security Council presidency for June, told reporters. He said he hoped a statement condemning the move could be agreed on soon.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon described North Korea's latest ballistic missile launches as a "brazen and irresponsible act".

North Korea had failed in at least five previous attempts to launch the intermediate-range missiles. The North is believed to have up to 30 Musudan missiles, according to South Korean media, which officials said were first deployed around 2007, although the North had never attempted to test-fire them until this year.

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

The North regularly threatens to destroy Japan, South Korea and the United States, South Korea's main ally.—*Reuters*

# As election looms, far right targets small town Australia

BATHURST (Australia) — Kirralie Smith, the political activist helping drive Australia's newest and arguably best organised far right party, addresses the small crowd with her hands open, arms extended over the lectern, as if reaching out for converts.

Australia, she said, must get out of the "irrelevant" United Nations refugee convention. Every industry in Australia is dominated by "left-wing socialist agendas". Islamist ideas are being "shoved down your throats".

After almost two decades of political silence in Australia, the far right is making itself heard again.

Smith, a mother-of-three and one of the most visible Australian Liberty Alliance (ALA) candidates, is one of several anti-Islam, overtly patriotic political hopefuls trying to secure a place in the country's next parliament at the 2 July national election.

**Kirralie Smith, New South Wales (NSW) Senate candidate for the Australian Liberty Alliance Australia, speaks during a public campaign rally at the Bathurst city community centre located in the central NSW town of Bathurst, Australia, on 16 June 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

The rise of the ALA and other far right parties in Australia echoes what has been seen in Europe, where centrist governments are being challenged and the United Kingdom has been pressured to hold a referendum on its European Union membership.

The ALA, inspired and launched last year by popular far-right Dutch MP Geert Wilders, called for a 10-year moratorium on Muslim immigration well before US presidential candidate Donald Trump proposed a similar policy.

The broader movement has waged campaigns against issues such as foreign aid, halal food labelling and mosque-building along with more mainstream topics such as sales of farmland to foreigners.—*Reuters*

# Japan probes suspected North Korean rocket nose cone amid growing missile concerns

**An object, suspected to be half of a nose cone from a North Korean rocket launched in February, that washed up on a Japanese beach, is shown to the media at the Defence Ministry in Tokyo, Japan on 23 June, 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — Japan on Thursday began to examine the suspected nose cone of a North Korean rocket that washed up on a Japanese beach hoping to glean information on the reclusive state's ballistic missile programme a day after it test-launched two more missiles.

The red, white and blue item, believed to be half of the nose cone designed to protect the rocket's payload, was found on a beach in western Japan last Thursday and is suspected to come from a long-range, three-stage rocket fired by North Korea on 7 February that flew over Japan's southwest Okinawa island chain.

South Korean authorities recovered the other half.

"We will analyse the materials and the level of technology used," a Japanese Ministry of Defence official said after the part was delivered by truck to the ministry.

The pockmarked 75 kg (165 lb) part, almost two metres wide and over a metre wide, lay on a blanket and blue tarpaulin in a forecourt at the ministry.

The February launch, which North Korea said put a satellite into orbit hundreds of kilometres above Earth, came just weeks after Pyongyang carried out a nuclear bomb test, both in defiance of UN resolutions and sanctions.

Concern that North Korea is getting closer to perfecting its ballistic missile technology heightened on Wednesday after it fired what appeared to be two intermediate range ballistic missiles.

While the first was deemed a failure, the second rocket climbed to more than 1,000 km before plunging into the Sea of Japan 400 km down range from the launch sight.

"For Japan, it raises deep concern over our national security," Japan's top military commander, Admiral Katsutoshi Kawano, said on Thursday in Tokyo.

The next step for Pyongyang could be to miniaturise its nuclear bomb technology into a warhead that fits on the missile.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un said after supervising Wednesday's launches that the country now had the capability to attack US interests in the Pacific, official media reported.—*Reuters*

# Tata patriarch's aviation ambitions a step closer as India opens up

NEW DELHI — Officially at least, Ratan Tata, patriarch of one of India's wealthiest business families, retired in late 2012. In reality, he has been a driving force behind Tata's bet on airlines and a rare public campaign to open up the booming aviation sector.

The $100 billion Tata group conglomerate is a major beneficiary of the decision last week to open up aviation in India, making it easier for start-ups to fly overseas sooner.

The decision is no panacea for Tata, whose airlines — Vistara and AirAsia India — have had a slow start in a competitive market dominated by IndiGo, owned by InterGlobe Aviation (INGL.NS), and Etihad-backed Jet Airways (JET.NS), both of which opposed the rule change.

But it marks a victory for 78-year-old Ratan Tata, and ends more than two years of airlines lobbying, of Twitter rows and of frequent public statements from the usually circumspect steel-to-salt group.

"This was a David-and-Goliath kind of situation," said a source close to Tata group. "There was huge lobbying from the other side."

Ultimately, sources familiar with the talks said, it was Ratan Tata, a trained pilot, who was key to sealing the deal, capitalising on his clout.

In a message earlier this year, he called for "a new open market economy" and said airlines lobbying against a rule change was "reminiscent of protectionist and monopolistic pressures by vested interests' entities who seem to fear competition."

A spokesman for Tata Sons, which promotes the group, denied Ratan Tata was directly involved, saying he had "nothing to do with operations or management of either of the airlines" after his retirement, and that views he expressed were personal.

Not that either of Tata's two airline ventures — a low-cost carrier owned with Malaysia's AirAsia Bhd (AIRA.KL) and Vistara, a full-service carrier run with Singapore Airlines (SIAL.SI) — is yet ready to fly overseas. Both have had turbulent starts.

Vistara initially focused on domestic business travellers, but had to reconfigure its aircraft after a year, to replace pricier seats with cheaper ones.

AirAsia underwent a management shake-up earlier this year. Vistara's share of India's passenger air market is rising but is still just 2.5 per cent after nearly 18 months in business. AirAsia's share after two years has stagnated at about 2 per cent, government data showed, compared with IndiGo, which has a 39 per cent share, and Jet Airways with 19 per cent.—*Reuters*

**A Vistara Airbus A320 passenger aircraft taxis on the tarmac after landing at Chhatrapati Shivaji International airport in Mumbai, India, on 17 June 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

# Bangladesh unlikely to extend FireEye contract for heist probe

DHAKA — Bangladesh's central bank is unlikely to extend the contract of US cyber security firm FireEye (FEYE.O) to investigate the electronic theft of $81 million of its money, sources at the bank said on Wednesday, citing high costs as one of the factors.

The move comes as law enforcement in Bangladesh and the United States have reported little progress in identifying the criminals more than four months after one of the biggest cyber heists to date.

FireEye's Mandiant forensics division was hired by Bangladesh Bank weeks after the cyber heist in early February. It said in an interim report that hackers took control of the bank's network, stole credentials for sending messages on the SWIFT transactions system and used "sophisticated" malicious software to attack the computers the bank uses to process and authorise transactions.

Mandiant has said it needs 570 hours of more work to complete its investigations, a director on the board of Bangladesh Bank told Reuters. The bank has already paid about $280,000 to the company at an hourly rate of $400, he and other officials said on condition of anonymity.

Another official familiar with the computer security systems at the bank said it did not want to extend Mandiant's contract because board members were not sure what tangible results could come from further investigation.

FireEye said in a statement that it would seek to help with the investigation even after completing its assignment for Bangladesh Bank.

"We have uncovered and provided Bangladesh Bank and the global financial community extensive data about this unprecedented financial attack and how to prepare for the future, and will continue to support law enforcement and the industry past the close of our engagement," the statement said.

The bank director said Bangladesh Bank planned to seek external help in the investigation, but only after drawing up new terms of reference on the basis of its own internal investigation, a police inquiry and a government-appointed probe.

Cost was a factor in the Mandiant decision, the director said.

"Its charges are so high," the director said, adding a formal meeting of the board on Thursday was scheduled to formally end the contract. —*Reuters*

# Opinion

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# The interface between unemployment and incapacity

**Kyaw Thura**

**IT is safe to assume that an epoch of massive migration has started in our country over the past 25 years. Since the 1990s, internal migration has grown dramatically, with a large number of young people migrating from rural to urban areas in search of work and some to foreign countries. Their main destinations include Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, South Korea, Japan and some countries like Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.**

**Leaving the country in search of better job opportunities in an alien place is not an easy decision to make.**

**In addition, migration is not without reasons and risks. Migration agents and labour brokers organise the recruitment of migrant workers, most of whom belong to an unskilled workforce.**

**The news of smuggling and trafficking of people frequently hit the headlines.**

**Despite their plan for temporary migration, most people end up in a long stay for various reasons. No doubt, highly skilled workers will be among them. Nevertheless, this brain drain can be interpreted as a serious loss of human capital for our country, thereby triggering a major obstacle to national development. Nobody in their right minds would ever think of leaving a country where a quality of life with job security is guaranteed.**

**More often than not, lack of job opportunity is blamed for unemployment. On the other hand, it is often found that young people out of work lack the skills the employers are looking for. It will be better if the government pays undivided attention to the effort to close the gap between unemployment and incapacity.**

# Have We Overcome the Severest El Nino?

**Khin Maung Myint**

THE monsoon has come. It is a great relief, as the temperatures have noticeably decreased and the rains had brought water to many places, relieving the water shortage problems. However, the El Nino is still here. The first cyclone of the year had brought along heavy rains, causing flooding that causes deaths and destructions in many places. This unusual disasters, right at the beginning of the monsoon, which affected many regions are unprecedented, as far as I can remember.

A few weeks ago, I was greatly surprised to read a piece of news, which a local magazine posted on the Facebook. It mentioned that the El Nino weather condition had ceased and had given way to La Nina already. The reason for my surprise was because, from the studies I had made, my understanding is, the present El Nino, which is the severest in its history, would persist until the end of 2016 or may even continue into the early 2017. Thus it is still too early to be assumed as being over.

My opinion is, the El Nino is just tapering off after reaching its peak, when the whole country and elsewhere in the world had to suffer the extreme high temperatures and the consequences of the droughts that causes water shortages and lost of lives of human and livestock due to extreme heat. There were also destructions of crops due to lack of enough water for the agricultural purposes. Not only the agricultural sector, but the fishery sector, too, was affected. Our country persevered and overcame the devastating effects of the most severe El Nino, for the time being. Thanks to the efforts of the departments concerned and the philanthropists, who donated water, the most essential commodity for the survival of human and livestocks and other necessary humanitarian assistances to be able to withstand the overwhelming weather conditions.

By now, most people are quite familiar with these terms: El Nino and La Nina. However, only a few are knowledgeable as to how they evolve and what their effects are. Many writers, including me, had written articles related to these weather phenomena. Still there are many who do not know what these weather conditions actually are and how they can affect us. There are many different theories related to these phenomena but, the weathermen and scientists would need to reach a consensus as to the most accurate description and method of forecasting of these weather phenomena. This fact is quite evident from the above statement that some are saying the El Nino had given way to La Nina, while some insist that would happen only at the end of the year.

Everything about El Nino and La Nina are not all about devastations and woes, but there are also brighter sides too. Because of the water in the Pacific flowed from east to the west during El Nino period and reversed in direction during the La Nina period, the fishery industries in those areas benefit from them. Also, recently there were news of some lakes and reservoirs in the United States, which were either dried up or the water levels had receded drastically, were filled up again. Thanks to the effects of the El Nino that caused high temperature rises, which melt the snow and ice on the high mountains and drained them into the lakes and reservoirs, filling them up, attracting tourists and vacationers again.

Unseasonal river rises are also common in the Ayarwady and some other major rivers in our country, though only those who live along or close to them know about this. Every hot season, especially during the period from the end of March through the month of April and early May, before the rains fall, the Ayarwady river rises about two to four feet. I had encountered such situation at Pyay many decades ago. That experience prompted me to find out what caused that river to rise. The locals called it the "Tagu Yay" or "Tagu Water", as it occured mostly during the Myanmar month of "Tagu", which coincides with April. The rise was due to the melting of snow and ice on the Himalayan ranges and our own snow-covered mountains to our north. However, this year, due to the severe El Nino conditions, the melting must have been more than the normal years. This is quite evident from the fact that the river rise this year during the hot season was significantly much higher than the other years. This unusual rise caused by the El Nino, plus the heavy rains brought on by the cyclone and the onset of monsoon caused the recent flooding in the upper parts and elsewhere in the country, resulting in deaths to people and destructions of properties and crops.

Weather experts are of the opinion that no two El Ninos or no two La Nina are alike. Based on that concept and on my own logic, I am of the opinion that it would be difficult to determine exactly when the El Nino ends and the La Nina begins. Thus, it would be safer to assume that the La Nina could set in anytime and the situations should be monitored closely and make necessary preparations. Here, I would like to point out that the extreme temperatures, droughts and water shortages are not the only adverse effects of El Nino, but they could also bring on stronger tropical revolving storms, such as cyclones in the Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal, or typhoons in the Pacific Ocean or hurricanes in the Atlantic Ocean. Along with these tropical storms heavy rains too would come along. These conditions could lead to extensive flooding. Last year's floods, which occured during the El Nino period, was a strong proof to my statement.

Although meteorology and hydrology is not my field of expertise, as I had once served in a profession that needed us to be well informed and be able to forecast the weather conditions and the rise and fall in river levels on our own, I am quite familiar with such matters. Besides that, as I am obsessed with the climate changes and the El Nino and La Nina phenomena, I had made some studies on my own. El Nino may be starting to wane, but we cannot expect the La Nina to set in immediately. According to some experts, there is a 50% possibility of the La Nina weather condition setting in during the later part of this year.

Finally, based on the aforementioned facts, I would like to suggest that we shouldn't take it for granted that the El Nino has ended just because the droughts are almost over. So, I assume that we had not yet fully overcome the severest El Nino in history, since its recognition in 1950. Also, with the coming of La Nina, temperatures would significantly decrease. Tropical storms would be more frequent and stronger, bringing on heavy rains and cause severe flooding. Thus, I would venture to predict that the flooding this year could be more severe than the one we faced last year. The reason is: because as it follows in the wake of the severest El Nino, this year's La Nina could also be the severest. So, not to be caught off-guard, well planned preparations should be in place by now to meet any exigencies in case of severe flooding to mitigate the woes of the people and prevent extensive destructions.

# River protection works along Ayeyawady, Chindwin

**Ayeyawady River being seen with the Sagaing Bridge.** PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

WITH the assistance of World Bank (WB) loans, the Ayeyawady and Chindwin Rivers will see the repair of jetties, improvement of water transportation and works to prevent erosion along the rivers, as the rivers have significant commercial use.

The ministry has signed an agreement with the WB to carry out maintenance of the segment of the Ayeyawady between Mandalay and Nyaung U. The project will be conducted at a cost of Ks44.9bn (US$38m) worth of loans.

"The Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems is putting more effort to implement the projects as quickly as possible," said U Aung Ye Tun, the ministry's assistant secretary.

14 major jetties line the Ayeyawady River, with two major commercial trading ports along Chindwin River. Over 400 jetties have been established along both rivers.

According to the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the commodity flow has decreased yearly, as the waterways of both rivers are unstable. Vessels normally face transportation problems as water levels vary depending on the season.

According to a survey conducted in the 1992-1993 FY, 33m people use both rivers for transport. The number has decreased to 11 million in 2015-2016 FY. The commodity flow and trading volume along the rivers have declined from 2.6m tonnes in 1992-1993 to 1.38m tonnes last FY.

The Ayeyawady, the country's largest river, is 1,394 kms long between Yangon and Bamo and the Chindwin river is over 700 kms long.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

# Myanmar's natural forests to be UNESCO listed by 2018

NATURAL forests located in northern Myanmar are to be nominated by the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to list them as world heritage, according to the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

To enter the world heritage list authorities will expand the areas, located southern part of Mount Hkakaborazi as natural territory and explore its natural quality in order to meet UNESCO standards.

The Norwegian Heritage Foundation intends to assist the application process, with plans to have forest listed by 2018, an officer of the forest department said.

The government also aims to nominate Hukaung Valley Wildlife Sanctuary, Indawgyi Lake Wildlife Sanctuary, Mount Victoria (Natmataung) National Park, Myeik Archipelago and related areas and Ayeyawady Delta to the UNESCO.—*200*

# 73 bridges of the India-Myanmar-Thailand highway to be renovated within 18 months

SEVENTY three bridges of the India-Myanmar-Thailand highway will be renovated within eighteen months, it has been learned from an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

The Asiahigh way is 1,400 kilometres long. India will lend resources to the renovate of the bridges, it is reported. Inspection field trips have already been made to conduct small and medium renovations.

Expatriate engineers have already inspected the sites to find the strain points of the bridges and how many tonnes each bridges can bear, added an official of the Ministry of Commerce.

Although these 73 bridges were constructed during the Second World War, they can still be used following some renovations. The bridges require either large or medium level renovations, it is noted.

India has pledged to fund the renovation of the bridges. Travel to all three countries will be allowed after the renovation. The India-Myanmar-Thailand highway starts in Moreh town of East India and runs via Tamu town of Myanmar and ends at MaeSot town of Tak district in Thailand. —*200*

# Sagaing receives K100m fund for disaster preparedness

KANBAWZA BANK'S Brighter Future Myanmar foundation (BFM) is at it again, donating Ks100m for Sagaing Region, one of the worst flooded regions in Myanmar last year. Sagaing Region Chief Minister Dr Myint Naing and regional ministers received the cash donation from KBZ's BFM yesterday.

"There were delays last year in delivering aid to areas due to poor infrastructure in the region last year, so the foundation's chairperson Daw Nang Land Kham arranged for the establishment of the BFM fund in order to better deliever aid in the future," said U Soe Tin Maung Zaw of BFM at the ceremony yesterday.

The foundation recently donated to Rakhine and Chin States, as well as Magwe Region recently.

Meanwhile, as part of efforts to brace for La Niña in the country, the foundation 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.— *Thiha Tun*

**K100m fund for disaster preparedness being handed over.** PHOTO:THIHA TUN

## Yangon Region Govt to provide Ks 4.8 billion to YESC

THE Yangon Region Government will provide K4.8 billion to the Yangon Electric Supply Corporation (YESC) to improve the regional electric power supply this fiscal year.

The fund will be spent on improving electric power distribution with the use of '103' transformers, the installation of new electric power lines, the installation of over 90 miles of 33 KV electric power cables for street lights, the installation of 22.85 miles of 11 KV electric power lines and the installation of over 93 miles of 400 volt electric power lines. The YESC is planning to spend K35 billion to ensure a regular power supply. Out of the fund amounting to K35 billion, K14 billion has been borrowed from the World Bank, the Asia Development Bank and JICA.

The consumption of electricity amounted to 600 megawatts in 2010 in Yangon region. However, consumption is expected to rise up to 1000 Megawatts this year. —*200*

## Retaining earth wall of drain repaired in Matupi

**Tatmadawmen repairing the earth retaining wall of drain in Matupi.** PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

RECENT heavy rain in Chin State caused the collapse of the retaining earth wall of a drain connected with the Bontala hydro power plant and Bontala water-fall in Matupi town, Chin State.

Tatmadaw members of North-West Command repaired and rebuilt the retaining earth wall of a drain in Matupi on Sunday which had collapsed due to heavy rain. –*Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

# Democrats take over US House with 'sit-in' over gun control

WASHINGTON — Chaos in the US House of Representatives stretched into Thursday after Republicans refused demands by Democrats, who staged a "sit-in", to bring up gun control legislation in the wake of the nation's worst mass shooting in modern history.

Scores of Democrats flooded the chamber for more than 14 hours, sitting on the floor and chanting in a "sit-in" protest, taking over the House even as the Republican leadership shut off television cameras and microphones as they tried to force lawmakers back to order.

Democrats vowed to continue their protest until Republican leaders allowed a vote on gun control legislation after the 12 June massacre in Orlando, Florida. Republicans called their move a publicity stunt.

"Mr. Speaker, this is not a publicity stunt. This is a wake-up call," Representative Mark Takano, a California Democrat, said on the House floor.

Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan refused Democrats' demands for action on gun control and instead forced a vote on an unrelated bill even as raucous scenes spilled across the legislative chamber.

Later, the House also voted to adjourn, closing out Wednesday's "legislative" day, but planned to return at 2:30am EST (0630 GMT) to hold more votes.

During the protest, several Republican representatives charged the chamber floor and yelled at Democrats, prompting a tense confrontation that nearly descended into fisticuffs. Oklahoma Republican Markwayne Mullin of Oklahoma, a former mixed martial arts fighter, made his way through an aisle thick with members in an apparent attempt to ease tensions.

**A photo shot and tweeted from the floor of the House by US House Rep. David Cicilline shows Democratic members of the US House of Representatives, including Rep. John Lewis (R) staging a sit-in on the House floor "to demand action on common sense gun legislation" on Capitol Hill in Washington, United States, on 22 June, 2016.**
PHOTO: REUTERS

It was a new low for the House, which in recent years has become mired in partisanship and legislative deadlock.

"This is not a great moment for the House of Representatives," Brad Sherman, another California Democrat, said amid the melee. "Order has broken down because we have a speaker who has not allowed us to vote."

Ryan called for decorum but could scarcely be heard over Democrats chanting "no bill, no break!" and insisting that the chamber remain in session despite a week-long break scheduled to start this weekend. The Democrats began their protest shortly before midday (1600 GMT) Wednesday, bringing other House business to a halt as they occupied the floor. Ryan entered the chamber about 10 hours later and announced an immediate vote on an unrelated investment advice bill.—*Reuters*

# Britain votes on EU membership after tight and bitter campaign

LONDON — Britons were voting on Thursday to decide the future of their country and Europe in a referendum on European Union membership that has divided the nation and is being nervously watched by financial markets and politicians across the world.

Opinion polls taken before the vote indicated the outcome is far too close to forecast.

Prime Minister David Cameron called the vote under pressure from his ruling Conservative Party and an increasingly powerful anti-EU party, hoping to put to rest decades of debate over Britain's place in Europe and its ties with Brussels.

Most polls put the "Leave" and "Remain" camps neck-and-neck at the end of a campaign that was dominated by immigration and the economy, and shaken by the murder of a pro-EU MP, though late on Wednesday two showed a swing to "Remain".

The "Leave" campaign says Britain's economy would benefit from a Brexit, or British exit from the EU. Cameron says it would cause financial chaos.

Traders, investors and companies are preparing for volatility on financial markets whatever the outcome of a vote that both reflects, and has fuelled, an anti-establishment mood also seen in the United States and elsewhere in Europe.

Finance leaders from the Group of Seven leading economies will issue a statement stressing their readiness to take all necessary steps to calm markets if Britain votes to leave, government officials with direct knowledge of the preparations said.

Britain's AAA credit rating could be swiftly downgraded by Standard and Poor's after a vote in favour of leaving the EU, S&P chief sovereign ratings officer Moritz Kraemer told German daily newspaper *Bild*.

Much will depend on turnout, with younger Britons seen as more supportive of the EU than their elders but less likely to vote.

"Go out and vote remain for a bigger, better Britain inside a reformed European Union," Cameron told "Remain" campaigners on Wednesday.

His main rival, former London mayor Boris Johnson, whose decision to support "Leave" galvanised its campaign, told voters this was the "last chance to sort this out".

Sterling rose to its highest so far this year against the US dollar late on Wednesday after one poll pointed to a clear lead for "Remain" and betting markets priced in an 80 per cent chance Britain would not leave. Polling stations for 382 local counting areas opened at 0600 GMT and close at 2100, with most of the results expected between around 0100 and 0300 on 24 June.—*Reuters*

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Death toll from Indonesia's landslides, flood rises to 56

JAKARTA — Landslides and floods in India's Central Java Province at the weekend had left 56 people dead and 9 missing, with 22 others injured, an official from the disaster management agency said on Thursday. As many as 395 villagers have taken shelters as the natural disasters damaged over 143 houses and scores of infrastructure facilities, spokesman for the National Disaster Management Agency Sutopo Purwo Nugroho said.

A rescue operation, involving soldiers, police, volunteers, and those from local search and rescue office, is underway, he said.

Heavy downpours triggered landslides and floods in the province on Saturday with the districts of Purworejo, Banjarnegara and Kebumen being the hardest-hit, the official said.

Indonesia is frequently hit by floods and landslides during heavy downpours. —*Xinhua*

### Lightning strikes kill 117 in India over 2 days

NEW DELHI— Lightning strikes across northern and eastern India on Tuesday and Wednesday killed 117 people, a local newspaper reported Thursday.

*The Times of India* said that 57 people died in the eastern state of Bihar alone and 37 others were injured.

The Indian meteorological agency called the death toll from the lightning strikes unprecedented and said it is launching an inquiry.

Lightning strikes are common during India's monsoon season, which runs from June to September.—*Kyodo News*

### Several human body parts found floating in Tokyo park pond

TOKYO — Police have launched an investigation after several human body parts were found floating in a pond in central Tokyo's Himonya Park on Thursday.

A passer-by made the discovery around 10:35am in the Meguro Ward park, the police said, adding that the body parts include a head and a leg.

The park is located in a residential area near Gakugei Daigaku station on the Tokyu Toyoko Line.—*Kyodo News*

### Railway service to Cao Bang in Viet Nam from south China resumed

NANNING — A railway passenger service between Baise in south China's Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region and Cao Bang in Viet Nam has resumed, local customs said on Thursday.

The first train of the resumed service left Sunday.

The six-hour service was launched on 18 July, 2013, but was canceled in December that year due to lack of passengers.

In recent years, however, demand for the service has grown due to increasing trade between China and Viet Nam, according to an official with the customs of Nanning, Guangxi's capital.

China has been Viet Nam's largest trading partner for 12 consecutive years. In 2015, Viet Nam became China's second largest ASEAN trading partner. Chinese tourist numbers have also soared, the official said.—*Xinhua*

### Debris found in Australia's Kangaroo Island does not belong to MH370

CANBERRA — Debris which earlier this month washed up on Kangaroo Island in south Australia did not come from the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370, the Australian government said on Wednesday. A statement released by the Australian Transport Safety Bureau (ATSB) said careful examination by Malaysian and Australian authorities, as well as the aircraft manufacturer, determined that the debris was not from the missing Boeing 777 aircraft which disappeared in March 2014. "The ATSB recovered the part and examined it, in conjunction with Malaysian authorities and the aircraft manufacturer, Boeing," the statement said.

"Information received from the manufacturer indicates that the item is not consistent with the manufacturing specifications of a Boeing commercial aircraft," said the statement.—*Xinhua*

# UN to send peacekeepers home over reaction to South Sudan violence

**United Nations peacekeepers guard a United Nations base in Malakal in 2014.** PHOTO: REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS — United Nations peacekeeping chief Herve Ladsous said on Wednesday troops would be sent home from a UN mission in South Sudan due to their response to deadly violence at a compound.

The United Nations said on Tuesday that an inquiry found that confusion over command and control and rules of engagement marred the response by peacekeepers to fighting in February at a UN compound in Malakal where nearly 50,000 civilians were sheltering.

During the two-day incident at least 30 civilians were killed and 123 people wounded. Aid group Medecins Sans Frontieres accused the UN peacekeeping mission, known as UNMISS, on Tuesday of taking up to 16 hours to act. "I will not name names at this point. But certainly there will be repatriation — in some cases a unit, in other cases of individual officers," Ladsous told reporters after briefing the UN Security Council on the incident.

Ladsous said he had already spoken with the UN ambassadors of the relevant troop contributing countries. A UN special investigation into the circumstances leading to the violence found that the immediate trigger for the fighting — which pitted Shilluk and Nuer people against Dinka and Darfuri people — was an attempt by two South Sudanese soldiers to smuggle ammunition into the UN compound.

The report, seen by Reuters, found that some armed elements in South Sudanese (SPLA) army uniforms took part in the destruction of Nuer and Shilluk accommodations in the compound. South Sudan spiralled into civil war at the end of 2013 after President Salva Kiir sacked his deputy Riek Machar. Thousands have been killed and millions driven from their homes during the conflict that began barely two years after the oil-rich state's independence from Sudan.—*Reuters*

# Colombia and FARC rebels reach historic ceasefire deal

BOGOTA/HAVANA — Colombia's government and leftist FARC rebels said on Wednesday they had agreed to end hostilities with a definitive ceasefire that leaves the two sides just a step away from resolving the longest-running conflict in the Western Hemisphere.

After more than three years of fraught talks in Havana, the agreement brings into sight an end to a conflict that began as a 1960s peasant revolt before exploding into a cocaine-fuelled war that has killed at least 220,000 people and displaced millions.

The accord will be signed on Thursday in Havana by President Juan Manuel Santos and Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, rebel leader Rodrigo Londono, better known by his nom de guerre Timochenko.

"Tomorrow will be a great day! We will work for a Colombia that is at peace, a dream starts to be reality," Santos said on his Twitter feed.

Cuban President Raul Castro, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and Chilean President Michelle Bachelet will attend, the two sides said. The ceremony is expected to be held at 1200 EDT (1600 GMT).

Santos said this week the government and the rebels will complete negotiations for a final deal by 20 July. The ceasefire, which includes terms for the FARC's demobilization, laying down of arms, and security for former fighters, does not begin until the final deal is signed.

Half-way through his second term and staking his legacy on peace, the 64-year-old president has said a deal would add as much as two percentage points annually to economic growth.

"The significance of the agreement that will be signed tomorrow cannot be underestimated," said Jason Marczak, director of the Latin America Economic Growth Initiative at the Atlantic Council.

"The peace deal will only further add to the sense that this is a completely new Colombia than the Colombia of 20 years ago."

Some analysts say security improvements over the last dozen years mean Colombia has already reaped the benefits of the so-called "peace dividend." Commercial bank Bancolombia said in a report a formal deal would add 0.3 per cent growth annually.

Santos has promised the final accord will be put to the Colombian people in a plebiscite, and must win over those sceptical of FARC promises to rejoin civil society, including supporters of hard-line former President Alvaro Uribe who claims a deal will grant guerrillas impunity for war crimes.—*Reuters*

**Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) negotiator Marcos Carratala reads a document next to Colombian government spokeswoman Marcela Duran in Havana, Cuba on 22 June 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

# US transfers Guantanamo detainee to Montenegro

WASHINGTON — A Yemeni man who had been held at the US military prison at Guantanamo for 14 years has been transferred to Montenegro, the Pentagon said on Wednesday, as President Barack Obama pushes to close the facility before leaving office in January.

The transfer of Abdel Malik Ahmed Abdel Wahab al-Rahabi leaves 79 detainees remaining at the US naval base in Guantanamo, Cuba, the Pentagon said in a statement. Al-Rahabi, 37, who was brought to Guantanamo in January 2002, had been accused of being a bodyguard for the late al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, according to Pentagon documents.

A US review board found in December 2014 that al-Rahabi was no longer a significant security threat to the United States and recommended his transfer, the Pentagon said. "The United States is grateful to the Government of Montenegro for its humanitarian gesture and willingness to support ongoing US efforts to close the Guantanamo Bay detention facility," the Pentagon said.

"The United States coordinated with the Government of Montenegro to ensure this transfer took place consistent with appropriate security and humane treatment measures," it said. Obama in February gave Congress a plan for shuttering the prison, but he faces stiff opposition from many Republican lawmakers, as well as some fellow Democrats. Obama's blueprint for closing Guantanamo prison calls for speeding up transfers and bringing several dozen remaining prisoners to maximum-security prisons in the United States. US law bars such transfers to the mainland, and Obama has not ruled out doing so by use of executive action.—*Reuters*

# New Zealand man jailed for spreading images of IS violence

AUCKLAND — A New Zealand man was jailed on Thursday for spreading images of Islamic State (IS) violence, the first person sentenced to prison for circulating and possessing objectionable material linked to extreme violence, local media reported.

Imran Patel, 26, was jailed for three years and nine months by an Auckland court after he admitted to making, distributing and possessing videos depicting cruel violence perpetuated by IS, according to news website stuff.co.nz.

The prison sentence was the first for someone on an objectionable material charge related to violence. To date, all such charges in New Zealand had related to indecent child images, said Auckland District Court Judge Russell Collins, according to the news site said.

Patel had sent text messages with a link to an IS beheading video to 52 people last year, after which police discovered a laptop containing 62 objectionable videos showing extreme violence or cruelty, stuff.co.nz reported.

Patel told police he wanted to provide information on what was happening in the Middle East, because he believed western media wasn't showing a balanced view, the news website said. —*Reuters*

# Venezuela opposition says has sufficient signatures for referendum

CARACAS — Venezuela's political opposition said on Wednesday it had collected the required number of valid signatures to begin a recall referendum against President Nicolas Maduro, amid the country's economic crisis.

The painstaking process of validating the signatures began earlier this week. The electoral council has required that those who signed for a recall vote against the 53-year-old president return to polling stations to verify their signatures through fingerprint detection.

"We've achieved the goal," said Carlos Ocariz, the opposition governor of a Caracas district. "We have more than 236,000 valid signatures."

The electoral council had rejected more than a quarter of the nearly 2 million signatures collected by the opposition. It requires 200,000 signatures to begin the process. Once validated, the opposition must obtain 3.9 million signatures in just three days.

If the electoral council considers the signatures valid, it must call a referendum within 90 days. In order to push Maduro out, more than 7.5 million must vote against him — the number that voted for him in 2013, after the death of his predecessor Hugo Chavez.

**People stand in line as they gather outside a validation centre during Venezuela's National Electoral Council (CNE) second phase of verifying signatures for a recall referendum against President Nicolas Maduro, in Caracas, Venezuela, on 21 June 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

Critics say the government is stalling the process at the behest of Maduro himself, who has said that the referendum will not take place this year.

The timing is important because if Maduro loses a referendum this year, the electoral council would call a new election which polls indicate he would likely lose. Losing a referendum after January, however, would mean Maduro would be replaced by his vice president, effectively leaving the Socialist Party in power.

The OPEC country is undergoing a severe economic and social crisis. Food riots and lootings are taking place daily amid shortages of basic foods and triple-digit inflation.

Maduro has struggled to maintain popularity amid the trouble caused by tight currency and price controls as well as Venezuela's heavy dependence on oil. The government blames the problems on an "economic war" waged by the opposition with a helping hand from Washington.—*Reuters*

# More than two dozen register to run for Haiti presidency

PORT-AU-PRINCE — More than two dozen people have signed up to run for Haiti's presidency, authorities said on Wednesday, including the four leading candidates from an earlier election aborted after a commission found widespread fraud.

Unless registrations rise significantly before a 0000 EDT (0500 BST) deadline, the number of presidential candidates will be about half those who contested the last ballot in Haiti, the hemisphere's poorest country.

Fewer candidates could make the election due on 9 October easier to organise, with several politicians who ran last time pledging support for Jude Celestin, who came second in the previous ballot.

"This joint effort is a choice for stability and democracy, against corruption and fraudulent election," Celestin told reporters.

Jovenel Moise, who came first last time, again registered to run, as did Jean-Charles Moise and Maryse Narcisse who came third and fourth last time. The registration of Moise removes uncertainty over whether his PHTK party would take part in the new election. The party's position had been that irregularities in the first round were not large enough to alter the outcome and that it would be better to hold a run-off vote between Celestin and Moise, a position supported by Washington and other donors.

"There is no question of abandoning the election process because we believe in democracy and the only way to access power in a democracy is through election," Rudy Heriveaux, a spokesman for Moise's PHTK party, said.—*Reuters*

# Seeking to regain ground, Trump calls Clinton corrupt and a liar

NEW YORK — Republican presidential hopeful Donald Trump staged a harsh attack on his Democratic rival Hillary Clinton on Wednesday, accusing her of corruption and dangerous incompetence as he tried to put his campaign back on track after recent setbacks.

In a speech in New York that Clinton's campaign called "nutty" and that was criticised by some Republicans, Trump argued that the former secretary of state is part of a political establishment that has cheated American workers through bad trade deals and endangered US national security.

Both candidates are seeking to overcome their high unfavourable ratings among voters at the 8 November election by painting the other as a villain who puts personal gain over the interests of less powerful Americans.

Even by the standards of modern presidential races, the sparring between Clinton, a former secretary of state and US senator, and brash businessman Trump has made for unusually acidic rhetoric.

"Hillary Clinton may be the most corrupt person ever to seek the presidency of the United States," Trump told a small crowd of supporters at a hotel he owns in Manhattan, accusing her of having run the State Department "like her own personal hedge fund."

Clinton's staff quickly dismissed that attack and others as "lies."

Trump read his speech from a teleprompter to curb his off-the-cuff comments but he pulled no punches. He said Clinton "has perfected the politics of personal profit and theft" and described her as "a world-class liar."—*Reuters*


## "NOTICE TO MEMBERS OF THE CITY GOLF RESORT FOR PAYMENT OF MONTHLY FEES"

1. It is found out that some members (Myanmars/Foreigners) of the City Golf Resort, Yangon City Development Committee, have failed to pay their monthly fees for various reasons.

2. According to paragraph (9) of the rules and regulations of the City Golf Resort, those members (Myanmars/Foreigners) who fail to pay their monthly fees for a period of one year and over shall cease to be a member of the Resort, and so they are intimated to come and clear their outstanding dues by (31-7-2016) at the latest.

General Manager
City Golf Resort


# Brazil speaker Cunha indicted for money laundering, currency dealing

BRASILIA — Brazil's Supreme Court on Wednesday indicted suspended speaker of the lower house Eduardo Cunha on charges of money laundering and illegal currency dealing, dragging the powerful politician further into the sweeping scandal involving state-oil company Petrobras.

"There is concrete evidence that deputy Eduardo Cunha received (illicit) funds," Teori Zavascki, the supreme court justice overseeing the case, said in the ruling.

It is the second time charges have been accepted against Cunha in the so-called Car Wash investigation, which centres on kickbacks paid to politicians by construction companies working with Petrobras.

The move could increase the chance of Cunha taking a plea deal, a scenario that concerns many in his Brazilian Democratic Movement Party (PMDB) party, to which interim President Michel Temer belongs.

Earlier this week, Cunha defiantly denied any criminal wrongdoing and said he would not resign despite the mounting charges against him.—*Reuters*

# Airport planned for Israel-Jordan border clouds neighbourly ties

JERUSALEM/AMMAN — A new airport planned by Israel near its border with Jordan is clouding the usually businesslike relationship the two neighbours have built since making peace in 1994.

Due to open next April, Ilan & Asaf Ramon Airport at Timna, in Israel's desert south, will be 10 km (6 miles) from Jordan's King Hussein International Airport. They will serve Eilat and Aqaba, the adjacent Israeli and Jordanian resort cities on the Red Sea.

Citing worry the proximity could spell dangerous disruptions to its air corridors, Amman last year complained to the UN International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO). Israel said Ramon would abide by ICAO regulations and pose no safety risk. The ICAO later said Israel and Jordan were addressing the matter directly "as one would expect from two countries with a peace treaty and a wide scope of cooperation in many fields".

Israeli Transport Minister Yisrael Katz played down the dispute with Jordan, one of two Arab states with full ties with Israel.

"There is no confrontation," he told Reuters in an interview. "There have been discussions (and) it was agreed that we will hold a professional-level meeting. The (Ramon) airport will open, and there will be coordination of air traffic."

Jordan sounds less upbeat, however. "We do not want to stand in the way of Israeli projects, but we have our concerns regarding our own airport, and there is also the matter of keeping the spirit of our peace agreement," said a Jordanian official who declined to be identified. The official was referring to a proposal, discussed in conjunction with the treaty, of building a joint Israeli-Jordanian airport. Katz said such a facility was an "option" that had gone unexercised. Opened in 1972, King Hussein underwent expansions after the 1994 peace accord to meet what the airport's website said was the rising demand of air traffic. Katz said Israel was therefore free to open Ramon on its side of the border.—*Reuters*

**A plane flies overhead as an Israeli soldier stands guard near the Israeli-Egyptian border in 2011.** PHOTO: REUTERS

# Some evacuation orders lifted in California wildfires

LOS ANGELES — Firefighters battled on Wednesday to gain control of two wildfires burning across drought-parched foothills northeast of Los Angeles, though authorities lifted some evacuation orders as crews created a buffer around previously threatened homes.

Residents of 534 homes in the city of Duarte, on the outskirts of Los Angeles, were beginning to return on Wednesday, according to US Forest Service spokesman Nathan Judy. A total of 858 homes were initially evacuated, according to fire information website InciWeb.

"The flames burned through all available vegetation and fire crews created a buffer zone behind those residences in those areas," Judy said.

The fire is one of two that make up the so-called San Gabriel Complex that has charred about 4,900 acres (1,983 hectares) in the foothills of the San Gabriel Mountains, the Forest Service said.

Just 15 per cent of the fires, which started a few miles apart early on Monday, have been contained, as the flames have been propelled by bone-dry chaparral and severe heat.

**A helicopter drops water on a wildfire in the San Gabriel mountains as it attacks the flames near Duarte, California, US June on 21 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

No property losses or serious injuries were reported. While the cause of the fires has not been determined, some 95 per cent of wildfires that burn through tangled, thorny chaparral vegetation in California are caused by humans, the Forest Service said.

On Wednesday, state fire officials said that more than 5,000 firefighters were battling four large wildfires across California.

"Extreme temperatures and low humidity continue to heighten the fire risk statewide," Cal Fire said in a statement.

To the south, firefighters managed to slow the spread of a massive fire near the Mexican border town of Potrero, prompting officials to lift some evacuation orders. Fire officials said some 200 structures remained under threat, down from about 1,000 earlier in the day.

That fire, about 50 miles (80 km) southeast of San Diego, has blackened more than 6,700 acres — growing by about 500 acres from Tuesday — and was 20 percent contained by Wednesday night, Cal Fire Captain Kendal Bortisser said. Still, Bortisser warned in a statement that the fire remained active and dynamic, adding that residents should be ready to evacuate again if necessary.—*Reuters*

# China remains biggest chemical fertilizer exporter to Nepal

KATHMANDU — China remains the largest supplier of chemical fertilizers to Nepal in the first 10 months of the current fiscal year, the central bank of Nepal said.

The Himalayan country's import from India, traditionally its biggest supplier, has been decreasing in recent years, according to the Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB).

The bank's data have shown that Nepal imported chemical fertilizers worth 120 million US dollars (13 billion Nepalese rupees) during the first 10 months of the current fiscal year 2015-16, which ends in mid-July.

The country imported fertilizers worth 13.65 million US dollars (1.48 billion Nepalese rupees) from India during the same period, and import from other markets stood at 5,537 US dollars. Although Indian fertilizers had a predominant presence in Nepal's fertilizer market until fiscal year 2013-14, China has emerged as the largest supplier in fiscal year 2014-15 and moved on to remain the largest supplier as of the first 10 months of the current fiscal year too, NRB said. Nepal's import of fertilizers from China has been on the rise since fiscal year 2012-13. Nepal does not produce chemical fertilizers and imports all the required fertilizers from abroad. Beside formal import, a significant part of the country's demand for fertilizers is fulfilled by smuggling from India through porous border between the two countries.

Nepal's annual demand for fertilizers is over 700,000 tonnes. Formally imported fertilizers fulfill around 30 per cent of the total fertilizer needs of the country, according to the Ministry of Agriculture Development. —*Xinhua*


## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (552N)**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAENAM 1 VOY NO (552N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: M/S WAN HAI LINES PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MATHU BHUM VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

**SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT**
**MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY**
**AGENT FOR: M/S MOL (S'PORE) PTE LTD**
Phone No: 2301185

## CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

**MV HONG YU VOY NO ( )**

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HONG YU VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P.L 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 HELIO INT'L SERVICES PTE LTD.**
Phone No: 2301928

**Expanded Disneyland California Adventure Park features a new attraction in Cars Land called Radiator Springs Racers, which gives guests a scenic tour of Ornament Valley in racing convertibles in Anaheim, California in 2012.** PHOTO: REUTERS

# Cars vs. Autobots: Disney sues China firms in copyright dispute

SHANGHAI — Walt Disney Co has taken three Chinese firms to court over concerns local animation "The Autobots" copied elements from Disney's own hit movie "Cars", as the US firm looks to protect its drive into the world's second-largest economy.

A court in Shanghai held a hearing on Tuesday, a Disney spokeswoman confirmed to Reuters. The dispute was over "copyright infringement" and "unfair competition", according to a notice on the Shanghai Pudong New Area People's Court website.

Disney is making a major push into China with the recent opening of a $5.5 billion theme park in Shanghai, its first on the mainland, while its animated movies including "Zootopia" and "Big Hero 6" have been big box office hits in the country.

The iconic US firm, however, faces tough competition in the market from local theme park developers, popular Chinese animations as well as counterfeits from merchandise to fake Disney hotels. Chinese authorities have promised to give Disney "special" trademark protection.

"The Autobots" drew ire from netizens in China when it was released last year, with some pointing out similarities with Disney's 2006 film "Cars" starring Owen Wilson and its sequel in 2011. "Cars 3" is penciled in to be released next year.

Zuo Jianlong, the director of "The Autobots" for production company Blue MTV, told Reuters in an interview on Wednesday he was "relaxed" about a potential ruling.

"Lots of people online have talked about plagiarism, but it seems from the legal side that the matter is quite clear — at root there is no plagiaristic behaviour," he said.

"If you put the two films side-by-side to compare them, then you will know they are completely different."

Disney declined to comment further on the case.

The Chinese film is about animated racing cars including main heroes K1 and K2, while Disney's offering follows the story of legendary racing car Lightning McQueen.

The three Chinese firms involved in the suit are production company Blue MTV, media company Beijing G-Point, and online content platform PPLive Inc.

An official for Beijing G-Point, who gave her name only as Ms Cheng, said the firms had hoped to reach a settlement, but Disney had been opposed to this. She added G-Point was not involved in production, but rather in the film's distribution.

Reuters could not immediately reach PPLive for comment.

China's box office hit around 45 billion yuan ($6.8 billion) last year, and is growing fast, a lure for overseas studios to tap into the market despite a cap on imported films, censorship concerns and a rising challenge from locally made movies.—*Reuters*

# Led Zeppelin owes millions in royalties to musician: plaintiff attorney

LOS ANGELES — Led Zeppelin may owe an American musician millions of dollars in royalties, a plaintiff's attorney said on Wednesday in closing arguments of a trial over whether the British band stole the opening riff for its 1971 hit "Stairway to Heaven."

Led Zeppelin guitarist Jimmy Page, in testimony earlier in the seven-day copyright infringement trial, said the riff was commonly used long before its appearance on American band Spirit's 1967 song "Taurus" and before "Stairway to Heaven."

Lawyer Francis Malofiy, who represents a trustee for late Spirit musician Randy Wolfe, also known as Randy California, told jurors in US District Court in Los Angeles that Page did not say how he was inspired to compose the opening chords of the chart-topping song, which has a place in the Grammy Hall of Fame.

"He didn't tell you where he got the idea," Malofiy said. "That's because the piece of music was lifted from 'Taurus' and Randy California."

Malofiy said he was seeking a one-third writing credit on "Stairway to Heaven" for Wolfe and presented various estimated valuations of damages ranging from $3 million to $30 million.

The federal trial has called into question the originality of the signature song of one of the top-selling rock acts of all time.

Peter Anderson, an attorney for the band, repeated to jurors his argument that the riff that opens "Stairway to Heaven," a chromatic descending arpeggiated line that misses the 'E' note, was in the public domain and had been widely used.

"Randy Wolfe did not create the descending chromatic scale," Anderson told jurors.—*Reuters*

# Spielberg brings Dahl's friendly giant to screens with 'The BFG'

LOS ANGELES — Hollywood director Steven Spielberg returns to making films through the eyes of children with "The BFG", a big screen adaptation of the much-loved story by British author Roald Dahl.

The tale follows young Sophie, played by Ruby Barnhill, who comes across a giant, portrayed by Oscar winner Mark Rylance — a Big Friendly Giant (BFG) who, unlike his peers, does not eat children.

Although Spielberg has made many family movies in his award-winning career, he has also directed more historical films such as "Saving Private Ryan" and "Lincoln".

"I haven't really swum in this wading pool in a long time," Spielberg told Reuters at the film's premiere in Los Angeles on Tuesday.

"It was really nice to be able to just let my imagination roam free without being kind of fettered by all the precepts of history and all the truths you need to tell when you do a historical subject. So all of us felt free and very happy to be returning to our childhoods to tell this story."

"The BFG", which first screened at the Cannes Film Festival in May, hits cinemas worldwide from 30 June.—*Reuters*

**Director Steven Spielberg, cast member Rebecca Hall and composer John Williams attend the premiere of 'The BFG' in Los Angeles, US, on 21 June 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

# Michelle Obama joins Snapchat as 'MichelleObama'

NEW YORK — Michelle Obama joined the popular messaging app Snapchat on Tuesday to promote her upcoming trip to Liberia, Morocco and Spain to encourage education for girls.

Her Snapchat account "MichelleObama" will be used to give "young people a fun way to follow her trip" with her teen daughters Malia and Sasha to promote girls' education, one of her signature issues as the first lady of the United States, the White House said. She begins her trip at the end of June.

Actress Meryl Streep and Slumdog Millionaire star Freida Pinto are also scheduled to join her in Africa.

Obama's first Snapchat post on Tuesday was a selfie with caption: "Oh hey! Look who just joined @Snapchat. Add: MichelleObama."

Obama already has 4.6 million followers on Twitter and 5 million followers on Instagram.

Snapchat, a mobile app where posts disappear within 24 hours, has more than 100 million active users, most under the age of 25.—*Reuters*

**US First Lady Michelle Obama and television presenter Oprah Winfrey participate in the White House's "United State of Women" summit in Washington, US, on 14 June 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

# Japanese man enters Guinness record book as oldest college graduate

TAKAMATSU (Japan) — A 96-year-old man in Kagawa Prefecture, western Japan, has entered the Guinness Book of World Records as the world's oldest university graduate.

Shigemi Hirata received a bachelor of arts degree in March aged 96 years and 200 days from the Kyoto University of Art and Design, having taken 11 years to complete its ceramic arts course.

"Simply, I am happy. This could not have happened unless I were healthy," said Hirata.

As an official of the predecessor of the Japan Organisation of Occupational Health and Safety, Hirata had been assigned to public hospitals across Japan. He lives in Kagawa, the last place he had worked for the entity.

Hirata developed interest in ceramic arts when he attended a local pottery class at around 70. He decided to study more about the arts and enrolled at the Kyoto-based university in 2005 — at age 85.

Hirata mostly studied the subject through a correspondence course. But he sometimes visited a campus in Kyoto to complete a course requiring pottery production. "At the campus, people thought I was a teacher," he laughed.

**Shigemi Hirata, a 96-year-old man from Takamatsu, western Japan, poses for a photo at his home on 3 June 2016, with a Guinness World Records certificate recognising him as the world's oldest graduate.** PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Hirata took 11 years to complete all the courses required for graduation due to illness. He earned an A for 80 per cent of the courses he took. At a commencement ceremony, Kazuo Oike, president of the university, praised Hirata, saying his "insatiable curiosity is encouraging to younger people." —*Kyodo News*

# Nose job: smells are smart sensors' last frontier

SINGAPORE — Phones or watches may be smart enough to detect sound, light, motion, touch, direction, acceleration and even the weather, but they can't smell.

That's created a technology bottleneck that companies have spent more than a decade trying to fill. Most have failed.

A powerful portable electronic nose, says Redg Snodgrass, a venture capitalist funding hardware start-ups, would open up new horizons for health, food, personal hygiene and even security.

Imagine, he says, being able to analyse what someone has eaten or drunk based on the chemicals they emit; detect disease early via an app; or smell the fear in a potential terrorist. "Smell," he says, "is an important piece" of the puzzle.

It's not through lack of trying. Aborted projects and failed companies litter the aroma-sensing landscape. But that's not stopping newcomers from trying.

Like Tristan Rousselle's Grenoble-based Aryballe Technologies, which recently showed off a prototype of NeOse, a hand-held device he says will initially detect up to 50 common odors. "It's a risky project. There are simpler things to do in life," he says candidly.

The problem, says David Edwards, a chemical engineer at Harvard University, is that unlike light and sound, scent is not energy, but mass. "It's a very different kind of signal," he says.

That means each smell requires a different kind of sensor, making devices bulky and limited in what they can do. The aroma of coffee, for example, consists of more than 600 components.

France's Alpha MOS was first to build electronic noses for limited industrial use, but its foray into developing a smaller model that would do more has run aground. Within a year of unveiling a prototype for a device that would allow smartphones to detect and analyse smells, the website of its US-based arm Boyd Sense has gone dark. Neither company responded to emails requesting comment.

The website of Adamant Technologies, which in 2013 promised a device that would wirelessly connect to smartphones and measure a user's health from their breath, has also gone quiet. Its founder didn't respond to emails seeking comment.

For now, start-ups focus on narrower goals or on industries that don't care about portability.

California-based Aromyx, for example, is working with major food companies to help them capture a digital profile for every odor, using its EssenceChip. Wave some food across the device and it captures a digital signature that can be manipulated as if it were a sound or image file.—*Reuters*

**Aryballe Technologies CEO Tristan Rousselle shows a prototype of NeOse, a universal portable odour detection device connected to a database on a mobile phone, in Paris, on 20 April 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

## MRTV Entertainment Channel

**(24- 6-2016, Friday)**

**06 : 00 pm**
- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

**06 : 20 pm**
- Cartoon Programme " Brave " (Part-1)

**07 : 10 pm**
- International Drama Series

**07 : 50 pm**
- International Drama Series

**08 : 50 pm**
- MRTV Entertainment Music

**09 : 00 pm**
- Gemstone Sculptor

**09 : 20 pm**
- International Movie Songs

**09 : 30 pm**
- Those Who Never Give Up(Ep-6)-In Pursuit of a dream

**10 : 00 pm**
- Music Programme

**10 : 20 pm**
- Myanmar Video

**From 24-6-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm**
**To 25-6-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 Pm**

## mitv Myanmar International

**(24-6-2016 07:00am ~ 25-6-2016 7:00am) MST**

**Today Fresh**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 07:03 | Am | News |
| 07:26 | Am | A Day Life of Kayan Padaung Tribe |
| 07:55 | Am | Myanmar Street Foods |
| 08:03 | Am | News |
| 08:25 | Am | The Man and The Elephant (Part-I) |
| 08:41 | Am | The Man and The Elephant (Part-II) |
| 08:55 | Am | [Doctor] [Painter] |
| 09:03 | Am | News |
| 09:26 | Am | A Bike Ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Episode-1) |
| 09:44 | Am | A Visit To Today's Along-Daw-Katthapha |
| 10:03 | Am | News |
| 10:26 | Am | A Real Dream of Accidental Gift |
| 10:51 | Am | Famous Pagodas of Sagaing |

**(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Thursday 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 | To The Land of Countless Temples - Bagan Trip (EP-1) |
| 07:51 | Pm | Products of Myanmar - Products Of The Loom |
| 08:03 | Pm | News |
| 08:26 | Pm | The Stories of The Great Souls (U Pyae Son) |

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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# Portugal and Hungary through after 3-3 thriller

LYON (France) — Hungary and Portugal reached the Euro 2016 knockout stages after a rip-roaring 3-3 draw in which Cristiano Ronaldo netted twice and became the first player to score in four European Championships on Wednesday.

Portugal came from behind three times as Ronaldo, who also set a tournament record of 17 appearances, finally rediscovered his touch to help them secure a third straight draw that left them third in Group F and set up a last-16 meeting with Croatia.

Hungary, appearing in a major tournament for the first time in 30 years, topped the group with seven points thanks in large part to their captain Balazs Dzsudzsak, who scored two deflected goals.

Iceland also qualified in second after a last-gasp goal in their 2-1 win over Austria dramatically changed the outcome of the group. Until then, Portugal had been heading for a last-16 tie against England.

Hungary will now play the Group E runners-up, which will be decided later on Wednesday between Belgium, Sweden and Ireland, while Iceland will face England.

After Zoltan Gera's early strike was cancelled out by Nani just before the break, Dzsudzsak had twice put his side ahead soon after the break only for Ronaldo to respond each time with touches of his true mastery.

"The most important thing was to make it through to the next stage but we wanted to do it as the group winners," said Portugal coach Fernando Santos.

"That's why we pressed on for a fourth goal although we knew we were taking risks. Three times we were out of the tournament and three times we came back; it shows character akin to only a few teams."

While Portugal regularly reach the knockout stages of big tournaments, this is Hungary's first since they made the last four of the European Championship in 1972 and the first time they have got through a group stage since the 1966 World Cup.

"I am not surprised by the performance or the result," said Hungary coach Bernd Storck.

"We had a very good history in the 1950s and 60s but this is a bygone era and I want to talk about this team.

"We know Ronaldo is a world-class player and he cannot be stopped every time. But I am very happy how we played, we improved with each game in this tournament and are delighted to be in the last 16."

As in their previous two matches against Iceland and Austria, Portugal enjoyed sterile possession in the early stages and it was Hungary who struck in the 19th minute as 37-year old Gera took a half-cleared corner into his stride and unleashed a fizzing low-half volley past Rui Patricio from 25 metres.

Ronaldo then released Nani with a defence-splitting pass and his strike partner beat Gabor Kiraly with a neat finish three minutes before the break.

The Hungarians were back in front in the 47th minute as Dzsudzsak beat Patricio with a free kick that took a big deflection. After throwing a reporter's microphone into a lake earlier in the day during a morning walkabout, Ronaldo, who had been struggling at Euro 2016, finally produced a touch of his finest work in the 50th, beating Kiraly with a clever back-heel after good work by Nani.

Hungary took the lead for the third time as Dzsudzsak seized a rebound in his stride on the edge of the area and fired a speculative shot which sailed past Patricio, again taking a deflection along the way.

Hungary's joy was short-lived, however, as Ronaldo levelled with a thumping header after a superb cross by substitute Ricardo Quaresma.

With the score ensuring both teams would progress, both then seemed happy to keep it at 3-3, although Iceland's winner did not delight the Portugal manager. "Croatia are one of the sharks and we've been trying to avoid them," said Santos. "But now they are standing in our way and we have to hunt them down."—*Reuters*

**Portugal's Cristiano Ronaldo in action during the EURO 2016.** PHOTO: REUTERS

# Murray re-hiring Lendl was no surprise, says wary Djokovic

LONDON — World number one Novak Djokovic's brow may have furrowed slightly when he heard Andy Murray had teamed up again with former coach Ivan Lendl but he certainly was not surprised.

Djokovic has dominated Murray since losing to him in the 2013 Wimbledon final, but with Lendl back in the mix the threat level posed by the Briton may have been raised a notch or two.

"I don't think it's a surprising decision from Andy," Djokovic, who is halfway to a calendar grand slam after beating Murray in the Australian and French Open finals, said at the Boodles exhibition at Stoke Park near London on Wednesday.

"When Ivan was his coach before, Andy won a couple of grand slams and an Olympic gold medal, some of the best results of his career so I think it was a logical move for him to take.

"They're a good team so it's going to be interesting."

With eight-times grand slam champion Lendl at his side Murray beat Djokovic in the semi-finals of the 2012 Olympics, then repeated the trick a few weeks later to claim his first grand slam title at the US Open. When Murray again beat Djokovic to end Britain's 77-year wait for a men's Wimbledon winner a year later it seemed the Scot had the measure of the Serbian warrior.

Murray and Lendl split in March 2014 though, since when Djokovic has won 13 of their 15 meetings, most recently in the French Open final when Murray, who split with Amelie Mauresmo this year, subsided after a good start.

A few days later Murray re-hired Lendl and rolled on to a fifth title at Queen's Club — marking him out as the man to end Djokovic's hunt for a rare calendar slam.—*Reuters*

**Great Britain's Andy Murray and coach Ivan Lendl.** PHOTO: REUTERS

# Chile beat Colombia 2-0 to set up final against Argentina

CHICAGO — Chile beat Colombia 2-0 in the Copa America semi-final on Wednesday and will face Argentina in Sunday's final after surviving a tumultuous match in Chicago that was halted for more than two hours due to a torrential rain storm.

Chile were already two goals up at half time but the second half was delayed as an electrical storm powered towards Soldier Field and drenched the stadium with rain.

The teams came back to a waterlogged pitch and Colombia, who had a man sent off early in the second period, could not reduce the deficit.

"We played well but Chile are a very strong side," Colombian midfielder Juan Cuadrado said after the final whistle.

"We thought a comeback was possible but sometimes things don't work out like you want."

The result takes Chile into a mouth-watering final against Argentina in New Jersey on Sunday. The game will be a repeat of last year's final in Santiago that the host nation won on penalties.

The reigning champions came into the game on a high after beating Mexico 7-0 and took only six minutes to make their mark again. Former Chelsea midfielder Cuadrado misdirected a header across his own goal straight to Charles Aranguiz and the Leverkusen midfielder had the straightforward task of side-footing past David Ospina.

Chile doubled their lead four minutes later after an Alexis Sanchez shot rebounded off the post into the path of Jose Pedro Fuenzalida.

With Ospina beaten, the Universidad Catolica full back scored one of the easiest goals of his career by sidefooting into the empty net.

Chile, who were already missing midfielders Arturo Vidal and Marcelo Diaz, lost Pedro Pablo Hernandez after half an hour when he limped off injured and the resulting reshuffle took the wind out of their sails. Colombia came back into the game, with James Rodriguez coming close with two shots and creating chances for Roger Martinez and Edwin Carmona. —*Reuters*

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