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President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Thai Deputy PM and Defence Minister PAGE 3

Mutual trust is important to promotion of bilateral relations: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing PAGE 9

UN special rapporteur holds separate talks with Speakers, chairs of Hluttaw committees, commissions PAGE 2

TALKS WITH THAILAND

Border means sharing, not dividing: State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi

THE border between the two countries does not suggest a division. It should be regarded as sharing the developments, said State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi during her meeting with Thailand Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

During the meeting, she affirmed that she would co-operate with Thailand in order that the friendly relations between Myanmar and Thailand could become exemplary not only within the region but also in the international community.

The State Counsellor and the Thai deputy prime minister discussed matters relating to promoting the amity between the two peoples to brotherly ties, earliest holding of joint border committee meetings in Myanmar to be able to draw demarcation lines, protection of Myanmar workers according to the law and settlement of disputes and remedy of grievances, acceleration of Dawei special Economic Zone construction activities for mutual benefits, exchange of training programmes for the two police forces and sending of a Myanmar government delegation to scrutinize citizenship in order that those 196 Myanmar migrants wishing to return to Myanmar can be called back and resettling them.— *Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister Prawit Wongsuwan. PHOTO: MNA

Not place and land but political path important: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

IT is neither the place nor the land, that counts; what counts is for the ethnic armed organizations to tread upon the correct political path, said Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing during his meeting with Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) yesterday at Bayintnaung Yeiktha in Nay Pyi Taw.

Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing during a meeting with his Peace Process Steering Team (PPST) said that Tatmadaw adheres to Our Three Main Causes, that they will not deviate from the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement in the 21st Century Panglong Conference. Mutual trust matters most and that he believes that if all the ethnic armed organizations are united and make concerted effort for peace and development, success will be achieved in no time.

"Freedom, unity and justice are the dhammas that govern the world. Treading upon the path to peace and stability, we are required to trust one another," he said.

See page 3 >>

Vice-President U Myint Swe assists in preparing Waso robe offering ceremony

Vice President U Myint Swe chairs the leading committee for the holding of a Waso robe offering ceremony. Photo: MNA

THE LEADING committee for the holding of Waso robe offering ceremony held a coordination meeting in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Speaking at the meeting, Vice-President U Myint Swe, in his capacity as the patron of the committee, urged the members of the committee to systematically make arrangements for the ceremony, calling on the sub-committees to coordinate matters with each other to hold the ceremony successfully.

During the meeting, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, in his capacity as the chairman of the leading committee, reported on setting up of sub-committees and the progress of work for the ceremony.

Vice-President U Myint Swe discussed plans for holding the ceremony sector-wise. —*Myanmar News Agency*

US Ambassador calls on Constitutional Tribunal Chairman, Union Attorney-General and Union Minister for Border Affairs

US Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Scot Alan Marciel held separate talks with Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal of the Union U Myo Nyunt, Attorney-General of the Union U Tun Tun Oo and Union Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Functions of the Constitutional Tribunal, legislative matters, capacity-building courses and assistance to the Tribunal were discussed during the talks between the US Ambassador and the Constitutional Tribunal Chairman.

The US Ambassador held talks with the Attorney-General of the Union on cooperation in transformation of judicial sector and the rule of law and sharing of experiences in transnational crimes between the departments concerned of the two countries.

Likewise, the US Ambassador held discussions with Union Minister Lt-Gen Ye Aung on the development of border areas, human resources development programmes and job creation for ethnic minorities in border areas, humanitarian matters related to internally-displaced persons, ongoing peace process, implementation of peace and stability and development in Rakhine State, alternative crop farming, narcotics control measures, human rights matters and bilateral cooperation. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Meeting on plan for water supply, cleanliness and personal hygiene held by Rural Development Dept

THE Rural Development Department held a meeting to finalise the formulation of a strategic investment-based plan for the provision of potable water as well as providing education in cleanliness and personal hygiene to rural areas, schools and health care facilities yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

Director-General of the department U Khant Zaw made a speech which was followed by a presentation on the investment plan presented by by Mr. Prime Rodriguez. Sector-wise discussions of the plan and presentation made by those present were held.

The strategic plan, funded by the UNICEF, is set to be undertaken by the Rural Development Department, Public Health Department and Basic Education Department, according to the RDD. —*Than Oo (Laymyathnar)*

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

THE GOVERNMENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of His Excellency Mr. Antonio José Maria de Souza e Silva as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Federative Republic of Brazil to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Antonio José Maria de Souza e Silva was born in 1950. He holds a Degree of Law and Social Sciences. He joined the Foreign Service in 1975 and served various capacities in the titles. He served at the Consulate-General in New York, the United States of America and at the embassies in Asunción, the Republic of Paraguay, Buenos Aires, the Republic of Argentina and Prague, the Czech Republic. He served as Ambassador in Dili, the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste from 2004 to 2008 and in Maputo, the Republic of Mozambique from 2008 to 2012. Since 2015 he has been assigned at the Ministry of External Relations Regional Representation in Rio de Janeiro. He is married.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Appointment of ambassador agreed

THE GOVERNMENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Kreso Glavac as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Croatia to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Kuala Lumpur.

Mr. Kreso Glavac was born on January 18, 1976. He learnt Turkish language at TOMER Centre for Foreign Languages of the University of Ankara, Turkey in 1998. He graduated with a degree in Philosophy from Zagreb University, Croatia.

He served at Croatian embassies and consulates-general in Istanbul, Anakara, Sarajevo at various diplomatic and consular ranks from 2005 to 2012. From 2012 to 2013, he served as the Advisor to the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia. Then, from 2013 to 2016, he served as the Head of Cabinet of the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Republic of Croatia. Since 2016, he has been serving as the Ambassador of the Republic of Croatia in Malaysia.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Appointment of ambassador agreed

THE GOVERNMENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has agreed to the appointment of Mr. Nikolay Listopadov as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Russian Federation to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar with residence in Yangon.

Mr. Nikolay Listopadov was born on September 28, 1956. He graduated from Moscow Institute of International Relations of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the U.S.S.R. Mr. Nikolay Listopadov joined the Foreign Service in 1983 and served in various capacities at the embassies in Myanmar (1983-1986 and 1990-1994), in Nepal (1998-2002) and as the Consul-General of the Russian Federation in Chennai, India (2010-2014). Currently he is a Deputy Director of the Second Asian Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

Mr. Nikolay Listopadov is fluent in Myanmar, English and French.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

U Myo Aye appointed as ambassador to Hungary

THE PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Myo Aye, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of Serbia, concurrently as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to Hungary.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

UN special rapporteur holds separate talks with Speakers, chairs of Hluttaw committees, commissions

MS. YANGHEE LEE, the United Nations special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar, held separate talks with Hluttaw Speakers and chairs of committees and commissions in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Ms. Yanghee Lee called on Speaker of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than at a hall of Amyotha Hluttaw Building. The two representatives held discussions on legislative matters and functions of the Hluttaw committees.

Likewise, the UN special rapporteur held talks with Speaker of the Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint at a hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building.

Next, she met with Thura U Shwe Mann, chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission at the latter's office.

The UN special rapporteur also held separate talks with chairmen and members of Pyithu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw committees at the offices of the committees in Hluttaw Complex.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Ms Yanghee Lee holds talks with Thura U Shwe Mann, chairman of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission. PHOTO: MNA

Public Health Chief calls for practical implementation of research, survey in health care system

Thein Ko Lwin

DESPITE many surveys and research being conducted in the country's health care system, practical implementation is still weak in the public health sector, said Director-General Dr Soe Lwin Nyein of Public Health Department at a meeting jointly organised by the Ministry of Health and Sports and the UNFPA in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The director-general expressed his view in meeting with the media at the Data Review Meeting on Studies Done for Health System Strengthening for Reproductive Health Commodities Security and Services at the Mingala Thiri Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw.

Although surveys and research have indicated the requirements to be fulfilled in the sector, it is still hard to find the ways and means to achieve the public health care development, said the director-general who presented his views on the development of the system at the meeting.

According to the director-general, the ministry conducted service ability and readiness assessment (SARA) to generate reliable information on service delivery and availability and provide basic healthcare relating to family planning, maternity and child health services.

Recounting his inspection tours of rural health centres, the director-general called for the fulfillment of urgent needs at the centres including refresher training for health staff who have devoted a significant number of years in health care services.

He also stressed the need to educate health staff on how to effectively use the drugs provided by the government as expired drugs were found in some centers.

Union Minister for Information receives ambassadors

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint held talks with Italian and Singaporean ambassadors to Myanmar at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday separately.

During the meeting with the ambassador of Italy to Myanmar Mr Pier Giorgio Aliberti the two representatives discussed matters related to the role of the information sector, conservation of cultural heritage edifices, joining hands with UNESCO and the tourism sector in Myanmar.

During the meeting with the ambassador of Singapore to Myanmar Mr Robert Chua the two representatives discussed plans for holding a concert to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Myanmar-Singapore diplomatic relations, arrangements for bilateral cooperation and matters relating to the development of the media sector.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw holds talks with Thai Deputy PM and Defence Minister

President U Htin Kyaw receives General Prawit Wongsuwon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Thailand, at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw stressed the need of respect for and adherence to laws, rules and regulations by each other's citizens working in each country during a meeting with General Prawit Wongsuwon, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Thailand at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Thai Deputy PM explained to the president as a reply to the president's request that Thailand handle criminal cases involving Myanmar nationals with care, that there are only around 100 criminal cases involving Myanmar workers in Thailand at the moment despite the fact that over one million migrants are working within the country. The two representatives held discussions on further cooperation in border security and developmental undertakings between the two ministries of defence, police training, counter-terrorism measures, the fight against trans-boundary crimes, the creation of better situations for IDP returnees in their own regions between the two governments, the sooner completion of the construction of a friendship bridge on the Myawady border and promotion of the volume of bilateral trade to reach the target of US$20 billion by 2017.

Also present were Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win, U Kyaw Tint Swe and Dr Pe Myint, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs U Kyaw Tin, Thai delegation members and Thai Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Pisanu Suvanajata.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Mandalay FDA cautions against sales of expired drugs

THE Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in Mandalay district has cautioned against the sale of expired or unregistered drugs in the district.

Mandalay's FDA Assistant Director U Kyaw Kyaw said awareness campaigns would be followed by punishment as 23 pharmacies in the region have so far turned in outdated medicines. The region has over 700 drugstores.

Unregistered medicines were found to be circulating outside controlled distribution channels with the assistant director saying that investigation will reveal the sources of the illegal medicine.

U Yone, who runs a drugstore, welcomed the FDA's initiative, saying that the drug stores should follow the rules for the good of public health. The FDA has incinerated caches of expired and unregistered drugs and food items nearly 20 times in Mandalay district this year.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Not place and land but political path important: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Peace Process Steering Team pose for documentary photo. PHOTO: MNA

>> From page 1

"We cannot be dogmatic; we must be flexible. As long as we harbor the union spirit or Myanmar spirit we can reach our goal fast and peacefully," said Min Aung Hlaing.

He went on to say that the Tatmadaw has invited all organisations to sign the nationwide ceasefire agreement, that if a multi-party democracy and unity among national brethren is really wanted, the NCA must be signed.

The strength of the nation lies only within, that the ethnic armed organisations are needed to adhere to the political means, that in the age of democracy, people can differ in their political doctrines but people ought not to differ in the affairs of the ethnic people and the Tatmadaw is not willing to wage battles against their brethren ethnic people.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Seals from Uruguay to be kept at Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden

Zoological Garden (Nay Pyi Taw). PHOTO:200

THE Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden has announced that it will keep seals from Uruguay and that there will be 3-D drawings of the animals in five places within the Yangon Zoological Garden to attract more visitors to Nay Pyi Taw, according to U Tin Mon Hsan, administrator of Yangon Zoological Garden.

We have contacted an artist to draw 3D animals soon at locations within the Yangon Zoological Garden. We have also made agreements with an organisation to buy penguins. The seals will arrive from Uruguay and be housed at the Nay Pyi Taw Zoological Garden, he added.

There are plans to showcase rare animals at the zoo as well as to buy five canoes for joyrides, it is reported. Currently, the Nay Pyi Taw zoo is maintaining rare species of animals through the exchange of animals with foreign zoos. The zoo is home to 1,394 animals, comprising 44 species of mammals, 70 species of birds and 17 species of reptiles.—*200*

Early Childhood Education subject to be added for KG students

THE Yangon University of Education is planning to added early childhood education subject for kindergarten students according to Prof. Dr Aye Aye Myint of the Yangon University of Education.

KG teachers will also have to learn teaching methodology related to the new subject for KG teaching. It is known that some teachers are teaching KG students without having attended teachers' training courses on preschool education.

"This can have evil effects on the children. So, we will conduct an early childhood education diploma course", the professor said.

The course will begin in the second semester of this academic year. There may be an entrance exam depending on the number of applicants, it has been learned. The curriculum of the course has been prepared by the US Open Society Foundation (OSF), which will also provide teaching/ learning aids. In addition, OSF will hold a discussion with course attendees. The course will be opened as a Human Resources Development (HRD) Diploma course in collaboration with UNICEF, NGOs and academics, it is reported.—*200*

Tatmadaw Medical team provide health care to students in Mingaladon

A TATMADAW Medical team in Mingaladon Station area conducted medical check-ups and physical examinations on 297 students of No. 6 Basic Education Middle School of Mingalardon on Monday.

The students were subjected to tests for eye diseases, dental diseases, ear and nose and throat diseases and an educational talk. —*Office of the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

Tatmadaw medical team provide health care to students. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

Myanmar Skating Championship seeks talented shredders for world stage

MYANMAR Skating Championship will be held in August in Yangon, according to Myanmar Skateboarding Association. 15 skilled skaters will be selected from the upcoming national contest to represent the country in the world competition.

The World Skateboarding Championship will be held in Bangkok from 18 - 22 November. Local shredders will face over 100 athletes from 35 countries in the global contest.

Plans are underway to arrange 10 categories for the national event, said an organiser of the event.

Myanmar participated in the 3rd ASEAN Freestyle Skateboarding Championship in Malaysia last May but did not receive any award.—*200*

Crime NEWS

Overheated solar panels cause fire

A FIRE, caused by overheated solar panels, destroyed three rooms in Myauk Taw Gyi village, Sintgaing township, Mandalay region on Monday.

The accident occured during the night due to electric short-circuiting caused by an overheated solar panel in the living room of one U Thein Lwin. The fire quickly got out of control and spread to two other rooms. It took two fire engines to put out the blaze with the assistance of neighbours. Local police have filed charges against U Thein Lwin.— *Tin Tin Htway (Sintgaing)*

The house seen damaged by the fire. PHOTO: TIN TIN HTWAY (SINTGAING)

Yaba seized in Muse

A LOCAL police squad in Muse township seized yaba from a house in Hoe Mon ward, Muse town, Shan (North) on Monday. Acting on a tip-off, the police searched the home of one Ma Nan Sai Hon, 22, and discovered 21,450 yaba pills. from Ma Nan Sai Hon's house.

When interrogated, Ma Nan Saw Hon claimed that one Sai Hsar Aung, 24, Thet Paing Oo,24, and Aung Ba, 25, who were staying at Lucky hotel brought the yaba from Tang Yang town and entrusted her with its safekeeping. The police arrested all three at the Lucky hotel. Police have filed charges against them under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Sayar Maung (Muse)*

Criminal suspects seen together with seized drugs.
PHOTO: SAYAR MAUNG (MUSE)

Two firearms discovered on a Pajero

Saw Myint Win and Saw Tun Yee.
PHOTO:THET OO (THATON)

POLICE from Thudamawady station, acting on a tip-off, discovered two firearms on a Mitsubishi Pajero near Kyar Pan Village, Thaton township, Mon State on Monday.

The police searched the Pajero which was en route to Thaton from Hpa-an. The vehicle was being driven by one Saw Myint Win, 49, with Saw Tun Yee, 48, on board. Local police have filed charges against the suspects for holding illegal weapons.— *Thet Oo (Thaton)*

LOCAL Business

Myanmar needs to improve rubber quality

MYANMAR's rubber market has to improve to be offered international rubber price. International rubber price increased over KS1.4m (US$1,200) per tonne in early 2016 although it had been on the decline since February 2011.

The rubber price climbed to Ks2m (US$1700) per tonne in April. Yet, Myanmar rubber is of inferior quality and cannot fetch market prices. Myanmar rubber growers are making efforts to improve the quality of rubber.

A total of 801 tonnes of various quality rubber is worth Ks1bn (US$848,000) was exported through border trade camps between 4-10 June 2016, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Commerce.

127 tonnes of RSS-3 rubber and 300 tonnes of RSS-5 rubbers via Muse trade zone, 29 tonnes of RSS-3 rubbers and 45 tonnes of MSR-50 rubbers via Chin Shwe Haw trade zone and 240 tonnes of RSS-3 rubbers and 60 tonnes of MSR-50 rubbers via Myeik trade zone.

The volume of rubber export shipped to China, Japan, Korea and Malaysia totaled 803 tonnes worth (US$938,000) from 5-11 June. During that week, the export volume of rubber through both the border trade camps and the sea trade declined compared to the previous week, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

1,550 tonnes currently fetches Ks1.4m, although it depends on the price of rubber that week. 500 to 1,800 pounds per acre of land is produced in neighboring countries where as 700 pounds per acre is yielded in Myanmar. Only 600,000 acres of land is used for rubber production despite there being 1.6m acres of rubber plantations in Myanmar. About 90,000 tonnes of rubber is to be exported in 2016-2017 FY, according to Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers Association.—*YCDC Daily*

Commerce ministry to enhance export sector

MYANMAR's export sector is set to see changes next financial year as the Ministry of Commerce is working on plans to improve the country's export sector, according to U Khin Maung Lwin, the assistant secretary of the Ministry of Commerce. The export sector is expected to improve due to a three fold increase.

"The increase in export sector can earn more foreign currency and so we need to focus on this sector," said U Khin Maung Lwin.

The export sector has been on the rise since 2012 but export volume has declined over the last financial year. Export value in 2015-2016 was Ks13 trillion (US$11bn), down from Ks14 trillion (US$12bn) earned in 2014-2015.

Trade volume is still low this year, thus export will be boosted through the new projects.

With an aim of improving the export sector, relaxation of export licences has been issued this year. The decline in export volume in last fiscal year was through sea trade but not via border trade zones.—*200*

Hygrophila phlomoides listed as the export product

Mi Kyaung Kun Bat (Hydrophila Phlomoides), used for its traditional medicinal purposes, has increased exports to China. Farmers who grow the plants have said the demand in China is due to it's use in cosmetic and medicinal products. The plant naturally grows in fields in Bago and Ayeyarwaddy Regions.

"Traders come to purchase the herb in the two regions and the number of growers have risen, said U Soe Win, a Mi Kyaung Kun Bat grower from Ayeyawady Region.

A total of 3,608 tonnes of Mi Kyaung Kun Bat passed through the Muse border trade zone last financial year, at a value of Ks7bn (US$6m) – the herb is listed in the top 20 export products.

Buyers also purchase the herb in advance in order to collect large amounts during off-seasons because this farmers have begun to grow plants in irrigation canals during March and April.—200

589 jade lots sold for 69.78m Euros

THE 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium earned 69.78 million Euros in sales of 589 lots of jade on its sixth day when 1,000 lots went on sale for the second batch through an open tender system.

The emporium fetched 36.56m Euros in sales of 624 lots of jade on the fifth day. 312 lots of pearl and 63 lots of gems found buyers for 3.12m Euros and 3.29m Euros respectively on the previous days, total sales amounted to 106.34m Euros yesterday.

Each 1000 lots of jade will go on sale to buyers daily till 3 July and sales of lots of jade with reserve price of 200,001 Euros per item are set for sale between 4 and 6 July.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Merchants appraise jade stones at the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

Natural gas exploration to start on offshore block near Ngapali Beach

BLOCK AD-3, west of Ngapali Beach will be searched for natural gas by the end of this year, according to the Ministry of Electric Power and Energy. Over 20 blocks of oil and gas were put out to foreign tender back in 2013, AD-3 is set to be explored by Ophir Energy Public Company.

The initial report on Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) was completed in 2015 and verification of the report will be conducted at the end of July.

A total of 30 companies have submitted tenders to engage in oil and gas exploration with 18 companies having been selected. Among these 18 companies, world famous energy companies like Chevron and Shell are included.

Other companies who won tenders are BG Asia Pacific Pte. Ltd, Woodside Energy (Myanmar) Pte. Ltd, Oil India Limited, Mercator Petroleum Limited, Oilmax Energy Pvt. Ltd, ROC Oil Co., Ltd, Tap Oil Ltd, Berlanga Holding B<V, Trans Continental Group, Reliance Industries Ltd, Ophir Energy Pl, Statoil & ConcoPhillips, Eni Myanmar BV, MOECO, Total E&P Myanmar and BG Exploration & Production Myanmar Pte. Ltd.—*200*

OCK Group plans to build over 900 telecommunications towers within one year

OCK Group Bhd, a regional telecommunications tower business entity, will construct 920 telecommunications towers within one year, it has been learned from an official of the company.

The group is in the final stages of entering into a contract with Telenor's Myanmar unit to build and lease 920 towers in the country. The company has secured a syndicated term loan facility worth USD 40.2 million from four international banks, namely OCBC Bank, May Bank, UOB Bank and Bangkok Bank to enable it to complete the financing for the construction of the towers.

OCK was awarded by Telenor Myanmar Ltd a contract for the construction on a build-and-lease model with a total investment of approximately US$70.2 million in December 2015, the remaining US$30 million will be funded by equities obtained through a rights issue exercise.

"In the contract of our company with Telenor Myanmar Company, we will provide our service for 12 years. If they do not continue to receive our service after 12 years, we will give our service to other operators. All the towers are of high standard because they are erected on the ground not on the roofs of buildings," said Managing Director Sam Ooi Chin Khoon of OCK Group Berhad Group a the press conference in which an agreement was signed with the four Banks held at Shangri-La Hotel Yangon on Tuesday.—*Maung Sein Lwin (Myanmar A lin)*

Malaysian police probe grenade attack, checking credibility of IS claim

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian police remained doubtful that militants were behind a grenade attack on a nightspot that wounded seven people, but were forced to reassess the possibility on Wednesday after an Islamic State claim of responsibility was posted on Facebook.

Investigators had previously ruled out terrorism as the motive for Tuesday's attack on the bar in Puchong, a town outside the capital Kuala Lumpur, which wounded eight people, including a woman from China.

The more likely motive appeared to be business rivalry, or a targeted attack on someone in the bar, according to police. The owner of the Movida bar also used Facebook to air suspicions that there was some personal grudge against two of his customers.

Counter-terrorism officials, however, were trying to establish the credibility of the claim of responsibility posted on the Facebook page of a known Malaysian IS fighter.

Muhammad Wanndy Mohamed Jedi claimed on his Facebook page that the attack had been carried out by two followers of IS, according to a screenshot posted online by a local newspaper, *Sin Chew Daily*.

Police counter-terrorism unit head Ayob Khan Mydin Pitchay declined to comment on whether the Facebook profile was credible.

"We are looking at all possible motives, including business conflict, revenge, gangland involvement and finally terrorism," he told Reuters.

Roger Hew, the bar owner, suspected that a couple celebrating their wedding anniversary had been the target. In a Facebook post on Tuesday, Hew said the attack was due to "a personal matter" and that an eyewitness had seen two men throwing the grenade towards the couple.—*Reuters*

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US to upgrade Thailand in annual human trafficking report — sources

Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha speaks during the National Anti-Trafficking in Persons Day at the Government House in Bangkok, Thailand, on 6 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WASHINGTON/BANGKOK — The United States has decided to remove Thailand from its list of worst human trafficking offenders, officials said, a move that could help smooth relations with Bangkok's military-run government.

The upgrade, confirmed to Reuters by a US official in Washington and a Bangkok-based official from an international organisation with direct knowledge of the rankings, would mark a rare boost for US-Thai relations. Ties between the countries have flat-lined since the Thai military seized power in a 2014 coup that Washington strongly condemned.

It also comes as President Barack Obama works to forge a united front among wavering Southeast Asian countries against China's pursuit of its territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Bangkok has protested publicly to Washington that it should be removed from the lowest ranking on the State Department's annual Trafficking in Persons (TIP) report, which is due to be released on Thursday.

The report is expected to cite improvements in Thailand's efforts to combat human trafficking, especially in its vital multibillion-dollar seafood industry, the US official said.

The upgrade would put Thailand on a so-called "Tier 2 Watch List" and remove it from the rating for countries with the worst human-trafficking records, known as Tier 3.

Major General Sansern Kaewkamnerd, spokesman for the Thai premier's office, said the upgrade shows Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha had stuck to his pledge to fight human trafficking in response to international criticism.

"The international community will see that what the prime minister told the international community he would do, he did," Sansern told Reuters.

Thai Defense Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan said the upgrade to Tier 2 Watch List did not mean Thailand will stop tackling trafficking issues.

"Even though we will be moved to Tier 2 we need to keep solving this problem," said Prawit.

The report organises countries into tiers based on trafficking records: Tier 1 for nations that meet minimum US standards; Tier 2 for those making significant efforts to meet those standards; Tier 2 "Watch List" for those that deserve special scrutiny; and Tier 3 for countries that are not making significant efforts.

Thailand was downgraded to the lowest ranking in June 2014 just weeks after the military seized power.

Thai officials were incensed last year when Malaysia was upgraded from Tier 3 but Thailand was not, and even human rights advocates agreed that Bangkok had made a greater effort to curb human trafficking than Kuala Lumpur had.

In this year's report, the State Department has opted to keep Malaysia at the higher ranking it received last year, according to the US official.

State Department spokesman John Kirby declined to comment on the tier rankings: "We will not comment on the contents of this year's report until after the report is released," he said.

The junta has repeatedly vowed to crack down on human trafficking, particularly in its multi-billion-dollar seafood industry.

Thailand is the world's third-largest seafood exporter, and much of the labor the fishing industry employs comes from neighbouring Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar.

Thailand recently reformed its anti-trafficking laws and introduced a system to track fishing vessels, part of what it called "comprehensive and irreversible" measures to clean up its supply chain and curb illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing.

But rights groups say millions of migrant workers remain vulnerable to abuse in the fishing sector and other Thai industries. Investigations by news organisations and rights groups have exposed widespread trafficking and abuse, sparking fears of a consumer backlash in the West against Thai-sourced seafood.

The Obama administration has been unsettled by China's warming ties with the Thai junta, which has sought to counterbalance the cooling of its traditionally strong US relationship, US officials say.

A Reuters investigation published last August found that senior diplomats repeatedly overruled the State Department's anti-trafficking unit and inflated the grades of 14 strategically important countries, including Malaysia.

The State Department denied any political considerations but US lawmakers raised questions about the report's credibility and called for reforms.

The TIP report matters to Thailand's generals not only because the US appraisal could affect a key industry. The junta, widely criticised at home and struggling to kick-start a sluggish economy, also is keen to boost its record for tackling issues that previous, civilian governments did little about.—*Reuters*

Cambodian PM reiterates 'no support' for arbitral tribunal's decision over South China Sea

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen reiterated on Wednesday that the country would not support an arbitral tribunal's upcoming decision over the South China Sea issue.

In 2013, the Philippines unilaterally filed compulsory arbitration against China at the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague with respect to the two sides' disputes in the South China Sea.

The Chinese government has reiterated its non-acceptance and non-participation stance in the case.

"Cambodia does not support, and more so is against, any statement by ASEAN to support the court's decision," Hun Sen said in a speech during the 65th anniversary of founding the Department of Customs and Excise.

He said the issue is between the Philippines and China, not between ASEAN and China.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry said in a statement issued on 8 June that China has all along stood for peacefully settling territorial and maritime delimitation disputes through negotiations with states directly concerned on the basis of respecting historical facts and in accordance with the international law.

On issues concerning territorial sovereignty and maritime delimitation, China never accepts any recourse to third party settlement, or any means of dispute settlement that is imposed on it, the statement said. —*Xinhua*

Abe vows to use all policy measures to ease 'Brexit' impact

TOKYO — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Wednesday that his government will "mobilise all policy measures" to limit any adverse impact on the domestic economy following Britain's decision to leave the European Union.

"I'm determined to mobilise all policy measures to ensure Japan's real economy, especially business activity of small and midsize firms, is not affected," Abe said, adding there are still risks and uncertainties in markets.

In a meeting at his office with Finance Minister Taro Aso and Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, Abe instructed them to continue paying "full attention" to moves of the financial market, including currency, and take steps promptly when needed.

The gathering by the government and the central bank followed a similar meeting Monday. The series of meetings are believed to be aimed at containing speculative buying of the yen, which is perceived as a safe haven currency. The yen's appreciation hurts profits of Japanese export companies. Aso told reporters the financial market has been "stable in the short term" but added the government will closely monitor the situation in the medium to long term to assess the impact of the "Brexit."

BOJ chief Kuroda separately told reporters that there is "no problem" with procurement of foreign currency by Japanese banks. "We have a system to supply (funds) whenever needed," Kuroda said, referring to the bank's dollar fund supplying operation conducted Tuesday.—*Kyodo News*

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (far R), Bank of Japan Governor Haruhiko Kuroda (far L), and Finance Minister Taro Aso (2nd from L) attend a meeting in Tokyo on 29 June 2016. In the meeting to discuss countermeasures following Britain's decision to leave the European Union, Abe said the government will "mobilise all policy measures" to limit any adverse impact on the domestic economy. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Mongolia holds parliamentary election amid economic downturn

Mongolian President Tsakhiagiin Elbegdorj casts his ballot at a polling station in Ulan Bator on 29 June, 2016, in the country's general election. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ULAN BATOR — Mongolians headed to the polls on Wednesday to choose new parliamentarians amid a prolonged economic slump, with some observers predicting that the Democratic Party could lose its majority in the unicameral legislature ahead of next year's presidential election.

Nearly 500 candidates are running for 76 seats in parliament, known as the State Great Khural.

The outcome of the election, the seventh since the mineral-rich country of around 3 million people made a peaceful transition to democracy in 1990, is expected to be known on Thursday.

Mongolia, landlocked between China and Russia, saw its gross domestic product growth peaking at 17.5 per cent in 2011, one year before the Democratic Party took power with its promise to distribute wealth more widely.

Mongolia, rich in coal, copper and other natural resources, was riding an international mineral boom at that time.

But it is now facing economic difficulties following a sharp fall in global commodity prices and a screeching brake on the inflows of foreign direct investment. The International Monetary Fund forecasts its economic growth will be 0.4 per cent this year.

Due to recent changes in the country's election system, it is more challenging for candidates from small parties to win seats, and the national election is expected to be a one-on-one battle between the ruling party and the main opposition Mongolian People's Party.—*Kyodo News*

Crew member aboard Chinese search vessel injured during Australian-led search for MH370

CANBERRA — The operational search for missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 has been further delayed, after poor weather and injury to a Chinese crew member forced the return of one of the search vessels earlier this week, the Australian government confirmed on Wednesday.

In a statement released by the Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC), it was revealed a crew member aboard Chinese search ship Dong Hai Jiu 101 sustained an injury while the vessel was returning to search waters in the southern Indian Ocean.

"Dong Hai Jiu 101 arrived in Fremantle on 22 June for scheduled resupply, and departed for the search area on 26 June," the Australian government statement read.

"Two days into the voyage a crew member sustained an injury. Although not life-threatening, the decision has been made to return to port to ensure the best possible medical attention can be provided."

The search efforts were further delayed by poor winter weather in the region; the JACC now expects the search of a 120,000 square kilometre zone to be completed sometime in August.

As the end of the search draws nearer, the JACC also laid out plans should the missing Boeing 777 jetliner be found within the search zone.

"More than 110,000 square kilometres of the seafloor have been searched so far," the statement read.

"In the event the aircraft is found and accessible, Australia, Malaysia and the People's Republic of China have agreed to plans for recovery activities, including securing all the evidence necessary for the accident investigation."

"In the absence of credible new information that leads to the identification of a specific location of the aircraft, governments have agreed that there will be no further expansion of the search area."

MH370 was a scheduled passenger service bound to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur with 239 passengers and crew on board.—*Xinhua*

Cambodian PM warns to arrest deputy opposition leader after court issues order

PHNOM PENH — Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Techo Hun Sen said on Wednesday that he will order forces directly to arrest deputy opposition leader and lawmaker Kem Sokha when the court issues an order.

Kem Sokha has been holed up inside his Cambodia National Rescue Party's headquarters here since 26 May when police attempted to arrest him for ignoring court summonses in a prostitution case involving his alleged mistress. He was charged with "refusal to appear," which could face a prison term of between one and six months if convicted.

"Even though you do not come out, one day, you will be taken out," Hun Sen said in a speech during the 65th founding anniversary of the Department of Customs and Excise. "Do not expect any pardon."

The prime minister said that when the court issues an order, he will order security forces by himself to arrest Kem Sokha.

"I'd like to reiterate that do not misconstrue individual mistakes as political issues between party and party," he said.

He also warned foreign countries not to interfere in Cambodia's internal affairs and not to use their aid to put pressure on Cambodia.

The prime minister's remarks came after Kem Sokha told a foreign media outlet last week that "Hun Sen is scared of losing the 2018 election."—*Xinhua*

Kanji museum opens in Kyoto

Photo taken in the western Japan city of Kyoto shows visitors looking at a calligraphy of the kanji character "an," meaning safety or peace, which was chosen as a symbolic character of the year 2015, at the Japan Kanji Museum & Library on 29 June 2016, the day of its opening. The museum, launched by the Japan Kanji Aptitude Testing Foundation, allows visitors to deepen their knowledge about the shape, sound and meaning of each Chinese character through interactive exhibitions. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Opinion

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A soothing voice from a motherly woman

Kyaw Thura

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi visited Thailand from 23 to 25 June with the aim of seeking ways to deal with the rights of millions of Myanmar migrant workers and create new levels of cooperation between the two neighbours through the long-standing relationship.

During her highest profile overseas trip, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi met Thailand's Prime Minister General Prayut Chan-o-cha to discuss issues related to refugee repatriation and promotion of bilateral cooperation in labour and development. Her three-day visit saw the signing of memoranda of understanding on border crossing, employment of workers and labour cooperation between the two countries.

Statistics show that fightings between the army and ethnic armed groups have displaced more than 100,000 Myanmar refugees to Thailand over the past 30 years. In addition, a majority of Myanmar migrant workers are employed in the seafood industry, with more than 100,000 in Samut Sakhon alone, the seat of Thailand's giant seafood industry. Fisheries businesses in that area are notorious for its abuse and ignorance of labour rights and the practice of indentured labour.

During her visit, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi was briefed on the plights of Myanmar migrant workers, including the alleged murders.

The state counsellor urged officials of the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok and labour rights groups to render necessary assistance to their compatriots in need and make sure that they have easy access to full legal protection against labour abuses.

Words from the motherly national figure will not only soothe but also energise the migrant workers and refugees in Thailand who have felt stranded and neglected by successive governments. What is immediately striking in her visit is that the prime minister of Thailand has agreed to set up emergency hotlines that Myanmar migrant workers can call in need of help.

Myanmar Women's Day for all Myanmar Women

Aye Phyu

TO all Myanmar women, the Myanmar Women' s Day that falls on July 3, every year is an auspicious day, a milestone day in our lives, a day to take pride in.

Following the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) resulting from the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, in September 1995, the first ever "Myanmar National Committee for women's Affairs" (MNCWA) was formed on July 3, 1996 for ensuring security and development of women. However, the Committee's limitations eventually led to the formation of "Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation" (MWAF) on December 20, 2003 to undertake various issues for the entire Myanmar Women Mass, to promote women's sector in the country, and to stand as a body representing for all Myanmar Women from all walks of life. It was actually an upgrading of the previous committee since the new set up made it easier, more practical to effectively carry out all the related issues on a wider scale and with extended perspectives. July 3 on which the idea of a social organization that could represent as a national force for the betterment of women in Myanmar was initiated, was later designated as Myanmar women's Day for all Myanmar Women.

While paying due respect and recognition to the International Women's Day, March 8 of every year, all Myanmar women should attach great significance to Myanmar Women's Day of July 3, since it was the day of the laying down of the foundation of the establishment of an entity for women' s empowerment and advancement in our beloved country.

MWAF, at present, with its (16) working groups spreading over Education, Health, Culture, Economy, Environment, Media, Girl-child, Reintegration, Mobilization and Disciplinary concerns, Admin and finance, Nationalities Affairs, International Relations and legal affairs, has been trying its utmost to successfully implement its grand and noble objectives for the entire women mass.

In collaboration with other International Women organizations and other civil societies, MWAF tailor its programmes to meet the needs of Myanmar women so as to keep with the international trends and at the same time to safeguard the national interest at all times.

The 2016 theme for International Women's Day: "Planet 50-50 by 2030: Step It Up for Gender Equality" has the underlying Agenda on a gender equal planet to be achieved by 2030, by the joint effort of the UNs, governments, civil societies and private sector, with equal focus on the new Step It Up' initiative as well as other existing commitments on gender equality, women's empowerment and women's human rights.

UN Secretary General also said in his message on that day:

" We have shattered so many glass ceilings we created a carpet of shards. Now we are sweeping away the assumptions and bias of the past so women can advance across new frontiers."

There is not a single doubt that MWAF will ensure the improvement of all Myanmar Women, without any exception, especially those at the grass root level to assist in various areas for their protection, for their rights and for their employment.

However as regards the push for parity or gender equality there seems to be not much to do as Myanmar Women are lucky in a way to be able to enjoy equal rights as men and accordingly been keeping abreast with men in the effort for progress of families, community and the state, as well.

Dr. Sein Tu (Myanmar Times, June 4-10, 2007) has written that "... the status enjoyed by Myanmar women goes way back over 2000 years ...15 Actually there's no need to go back 2000 years;

To demonstrate that we, Myanmar Women, are equal to men, just a look around the community will be enough. We have a unique social status in our society, quite different from the "familiar picture of the down-trodden and backward Asian Women." But within the family, it's part of our culture to give precedence to men in our homes, as displayed in one stanza of a poem: ...

"Along with our men, together we march
With mutualrespect and trust
Yet common to find the reverse of "ladies first"
Not becos of status but becos of affection and love."

Global official data revealed that every year between 1.5 and 3 million women and girls lose their lives as a result of gender based violence and neglect. Most Myanmar women, without understanding the plights these women and girls are in, just take it for granted, born in Myanmar and growing up in a relatively safer environment. We hear of selective abortion, infanticide, genital mutilation, honor killing, dowry deaths etc. on global media only. All along we have never experienced gender favoritism and preference.

I have come across writings about the impressions of those people visiting Myanmar for the first time: two things that impress them about Myanmar women — a tradition of hard work and independence.

We enjoy some degree of freedom and quality in public life.

For that we love Myanmar and we are proud to be Myanmar Women.

At the same time, we should all be grateful and take pride in MWAF, giving proper recognition to its significant founding day —

Let's all hail the auspicious Myanmar Women's Day!

Monthly stipends increase for needy students in Mon State

STUDENTS from low-income families in Mon State are to have allowances increased; 4000 students including 797 primary students, 2,285 middle-school students and 691 high school students from 159 basic education schools in Paung township.

The programme was first launched in 2012 in three townships including Kyaikhto, Belin and Paung in Thaton District.

"With the financial assistance of the World Bank and well-wishers, we can increase the amount of stipend for each student this academic year (AY)," said Daw San San Aye, education officer of Paung Township.

Authorities offered Ks4,000 each to primary student, Ks5,000 each to middle school students and Ks6,000 each to high school students last AY. Higher allowances are offered to older students as they are at higher risk of leaving school to join the work force.

"Students with or without parents from poor background are eligible for the programme," she added.

The amount will be increased from Ks4,000 to Ks5,000 for primary level student, Ks5,000 to Ks8,000 for middle level students and Ks6,000 to Ks10,000 for high school students.—*YCDC*

Mutual trust is important to promotion of bilateral relations: Senior General Min Aung Hlaing

MUTUAL trust is central to the promotion of the friendly relations between two countries sharing a common religion, culture and ancestry, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing told Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Union Defence Minister Lt-Gen Sein Win met his Thai counterpart at his office on the same day to discuss border issues, defence cooperation and training, and internally displaced persons. –*Myanmar News Agency*

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greeting Thailand's Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister General Prawit Wongsuwan. PHOTO: MNA

Pneumococcal vaccinations roll out across Myanmar

IT is anticipated that roughly one million children across Myanmar will have been administered with a new vaccine against pneumococcal by the end of the current year, according to the Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV), which is being supplied by the Gavi Vaccine Alliance, will cost the government US$1,187,735. It is reported the rolling out of the vaccination initiative will commence from July.

"The vaccine will be simultaneously administered [to children] across the country. We're now in a position whereby we can roll out the vaccinations from Friday after pushing for the initiative to be a part of the new government's hundred day projects." said Dr Htar Htar Lin, deputy director of the Department of Public Health's Expanded Programme on Immunisation.

The pneumococcal disease can lead to severe pneumonia and meningitis, which can in turn reportedly prove fatal in children or leave them physically disabled.

"The administration of the vaccine can cause reddening of the skin and itchiness. But, this is nothing for parents to be concerned about. Children can also be vaccinated with PVC even if they are feeling a little under the weather. Parents should inform health personnel prior to administration of the vaccine as to whether their children are currently suffering from any other diseases," said Dr Htun Win, director of the aforementioned program.

The PVC vaccine will be administered to newly born babies in three stages: once at 2 months, once at 4 months and one final injection at 6 months. It is reported the Department of Public Health has the capacity to administer the vaccine to approximately 80,000 babies throughout the country every month.

According to estimates of the World Health Organisation, regarding mortalities of children under 5 years of age, every 100-300 newly born infants out of every 100,000 died from severe pneumonia.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

New cargo clearance system to be used in November

MYANMAR'S Custom Department plans to use Myanmar Automated Cargo Clearance System (MACCS) starting in November this year, according to its Deputy Director U Maung Maung Htwe Swe.

With the purpose of developing customs import and export clearance process, the system is being implemented by the Custom Department with financial assistance of Japanese government.

Since the beginning of April, the custom department has carried out user registration process for the new system. The department has announced to pause the user registration process on 30 June this year.

The department has issued importer/exporter code (IE Code), receiving application forms from those wishing to become a registered user for the new system.

U Maung Maung Htwe Swe said many businessmen show greater interest in changing new system from old one. The department has received over 1,300 applicants within the past three months.

Those registered users will receive services by the department under the new system, which is planned to start operate as a pilot project in August. The MACCS system is currently used in Japan as well as in Viet Nam. It will help users reduce the time spent in cargo clearance process.

The country will install the MACCS at airports, port terminals and Thilawa Special Economic Zone in November this year.

Plans are underway to install the MACCS at cross-border areas after the new programme is successfully implemented within Yangon Region.

The department offered training course for MACCS users from private sector between May and June. Around 800 custom data service providers to join the courses.—*Ko Moe*

Brexit has little impact on Myanmar

ECONOMIC relations will remain unchanged between the European Union and Myanmar, unsurprisingly, after Brexit. EU cooperation with Myanmar's local garment industry will continue thanks to the countries cheap labour and good quality, said an official from Shwelinban Industrial Zone in Yangon.

Most of local garment industries operating under the CMP system have already signed at least six-month contracts with EU nations, said the official.

There will be a little impact on Myanmar's economy as most of foreign investors are from Asia and the ASEAN, entrepreneurs say. According to experts, the export from the countries garment industry in EU market is likely to increase two fold in the 2017 financial year. Myanmar received an order to export textile products from some European nations, generating Ks523,808 (€400) last FY. Export is expected to grow to Ks1.3trillion (€1bn) in 2016-2017 FY.

After enacting the new Foreign Direct Investment Law in 2012, the flow of foreign direct investment into the garment sector has increased for Myanmar's garment industry.

Among international trade partners, Japan, South Korea, Taipei and the EU are major buyers of Myanmar garments, according to the Myanmar Garment Manufacturers Association.—*YCDC Daily*

Over 30,000 tonnes of rice to replenish state reserve

THE Myanmar Rice Federation (MRF) has announced over 30,000 tonnes of rice will be purchased via tender to act as a state rice reserve for utilization during times of natural disaster to the country.

It was anticipated the rice would be purchased within June-July but absence of a budget from the Ministry of Commerce has pushed the buying date back to this coming November-December.

"We're still only in the discussion phases. It will be monsoon paddy that will be bought. It was anticipated that summer paddy would be purchased, but a lack of support for a budget from the state has caused some delays." said U Aung Myint, treasurer of the MRF.

Weather fluctuations are the catalyst for the replenishing of the rice reserve, the first time in four years. Tenders will reportedly be called throughout States and Regions across Myanmar.

The MRF made a proposition to the Ministry of Commerce in a bid to stablise the price of rice and paddy in the wake of severe flooding which swept through whole swathes of the country in 2015. As a result, foreign exports of rice were suspended for over a month and commercial rice stores were opened up in flood effected regions around the country.

"The purchasing of reserve rice through tender will be conducted as in the past I think, with bids being made by rice millers from the countryside. The buying of reserve rice won't have an impact on the market." said U Myo Min, a paddy and rice trader from Ayeyawady Region's Kyaiklat Township.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

U Kyaw Tint Swe, Union Minister for the State Counsellor's Office, delivers an address at a ceremony to mark the 240th Anniversary of the Independence of the United States of America held at Hilton Hotel in Nay Pyi Taw on 29 June, 2016. PHOTO: MNA

Clinton leads Trump by 11 points in US presidential race — Reuters/Ipsos

NEW YORK — Democratic presidential hopeful Hillary Clinton posted an 11 percentage point lead over her Republican rival Donald Trump, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday, a small decline since late last week.

The 24-28 June poll showed that 45.3 per cent of likely American voters support Clinton while 34.1 per cent support Trump, and another 20.5 per cent support neither.

Clinton's lead was 14 points on Friday, though she has generally been widening her advantage over the New York real estate magnate since mid-May, when the two were nearly tied.

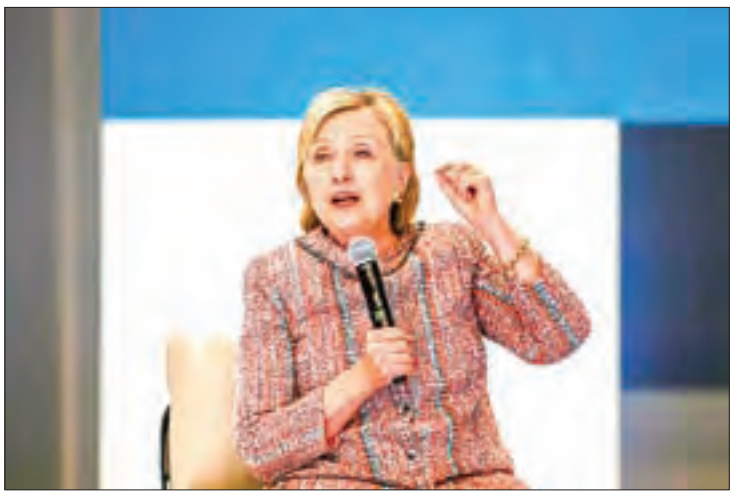
The former secretary of state, senator and first lady was bolstered in recent days by endorsements from members of the Republican establishment, including Henry Paulson, Treasury secretary under former President George W. Bush.

Her Democratic rival Bernie Sanders, a US senator from Vermont, said last week he would vote for her to stop Trump even though his campaign said this was not a formal endorsement.

Clinton is struggling to win over Sanders supporters after a hard-fought campaign for the nomination. Critics have assailed her over her handling of emails and a 2012 attack on a US mission in Libya while secretary of state. Trump got a brief boost in the days after the 12 June mass shooting in Florida, coming within nine points of Clinton as he fine-tuned a campaign promise to temporarily ban the entry of Muslim immigrants to shore up national security.

His level of support so far in June, however, lags behind what his predecessor, Republican White House hopeful Mitt Romney, received in the same period in 2012.

He has sparred with Republican leaders over his off-the-cuff rhetoric and lagged behind Clinton's campaign organisation in both size and fundraising, worrying some of his allies. The poll included 1,099 likely voters and has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3.4 percentage points.—*Reuters*



Democratic Presidential Candidate Hillary Clinton speaks at a town hall discussion with digital content creators in Los Angeles, California, US on 28 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US mixes signals on possible separate EU, UK trade talks

WASHINGTON — US Secretary of State John Kerry held out the possibility on Tuesday of negotiating separate trade deals with Britain and the European Union at the same time, but a spokesman later said he did not mean to suggest such a plan.

Speaking in Colorado, Kerry was asked about President Barack Obama's April comment that Britain would go to the "back of the queue" if it voted to quit the EU, as it did on Thursday, and Washington would focus on a wider trade deal with the EU called the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP).

"The president, very clearly, he was talking about TTIP and the fact that we have 28, now 27, countries we have to negotiate with, or now potentially 27 countries that we have to negotiate with, to get that done," Kerry said. If Britain leaves the EU, the bloc will have 27 member states.

"If you have a whole bunch of countries working to get one thing done, and that's the larger market, it makes sense to try to get it done," Kerry added in response to a question at the Aspen Ideas Festival conference.

"But I think given what has happened, the president is going to try to do both at the same time. He knows how to multitask," Kerry added. US State Department spokesman John Kirby later said Kerry did not mean to suggest any plan for separate, simultaneous negotiations.

"The secretary was not suggesting an intent by the administration to negotiate simultaneous trade deals with the UK and the EU," Kirby said in an emailed comment. "He was simply making clear that we will work with the UK and the EU to better understand the impacts of Thursday's referendum on TTIP and stay in touch with both as we explore our options going forward. We remain committed to TTIP."—*Reuters*

Vucic: Stronger economy, stronger army, higher salaries for SAF

BELGRADE — The Serbian Armed Forces (SAF) personnel is certain to see a salary increase by the end of the year, Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic announced on Tuesday, noting that a stronger Serbian economy would be capable of strengthening the country's armed forces.

Efforts will be made to achieve this in the coming period, Vucic said at Belgrade's Nikola Tesla Airport, where he attended a handover of two Mi-17 transport helicopters purchased from Russia.

Vucic also announced greater investments in the fighter air force — MiG 29 jets in particular — adding that substantial funds would be earmarked for that purpose next year. After 36 years, the SAF has acquired new transport helicopters, Vucic said, thanking the Ministry of Defence for cost cuts, as well as everyone who had made the EUR 25 million purchase possible. The helicopters arrived in Belgrade at around 3am and the handover was attended by Serbian government ministers, Serbian Air Force and Air Defence Commander Maj Gen Ranko Zivak and officials of the Russian military mission to Serbia.—*Tanjug*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Scotland determined to stay in EU, Sturgeon says in Brussels

BRUSSELS — Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said on Wednesday on a short-notice visit to Brussels that Scotland was intent on remaining in the European Union, despite last week's British vote to quit the bloc.

After meeting European Parliament President Martin Schulz, the pro-independence leader told reporters: "Scotland is determined to stay in the EU."

Schulz said he had "listened and learned".—*Reuters*

Miscevic: No guarantees about opening of Chapter 23 by end of June

BELGRADE — There are no guarantees that Chapter 23 in Serbia's EU accession talks will be opened by the end of June, Belgrade's chief EU negotiator Tanja Miscevic said Tuesday.

"Despite the fact that Chapter 23 has not been opened and that, at this time, we cannot guarantee that this will take place on 30 June along with (the opening of) Chapter 24, we have adopted the action plans for these two chapters and they are our obligation," Miscevic told the B92, adding that the first results of the implementation of the plans would be presented on 1 July.

Commenting on the fact that the UK on Monday did not vote in favour of the opening of Chapters 23 and 24, Miscevic said that a "green light" required the consent of the UK's justice and home secretaries, who had been busy during the country's EU referendum campaign.

Even after Brexit, enlargement remains one of the key policies of the EU, which will insist on fulfilment of the clear requirements implied by membership, Miscevic said.—*Tanjug*

European healthcare first sector to recover Brexit losses

LONDON — The rush to large-cap, high quality, dividend-paying pharmaceutical stocks in the aftermath of Brexit has helped Europe's healthcare index erase all its losses since last week's vote.

The healthcare index, up 1.4 per cent on Wednesday, is the only regional sector index to trade above last Thursday's close.

Gains were led by British pharma stocks such as AstraZeneca and GlaxoSmithKline, both up 10.5 per cent and 7.5 per cent, in the past three sessions.

A weaker sterling further adds to the UK large-cap healthcare sector's appeal given that a significant share of their revenues comes from outside Britain.—*Reuters*

Erdogan's phone call with Putin 'very productive' — Turkish presidential sources

ANKARA — Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan's phone call with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday was "very productive and positive", Turkish presidential sources said, adding that a written statement would be made shortly.

The phone call was arranged after Erdogan expressed regret in a letter to Putin on Monday over Turkey's downing of a Russian warplane last year, although the Kremlin later sought to dampen Turkey's hopes for a swift restoration of normal relations.—*Reuters*

Bombing in Kurdish-controlled Syrian town kills at least five — witnesses

AMMAN — At least five people were killed and scores injured on Wednesday in a bomb attack on a local administrative office in the Kurdish-held Syrian town of Tel Abyad, near the Turkish border, witnesses said.

They said a suicide car bomber had attacked the building run by Kurdish local authorities in the town, which was captured by the powerful YPG militia last year from Islamic State militants in an offensive backed by US-led air strikes.

Tel Abyad lies north of Raqqa and had been a key supply line for the jihadi capital.—*Reuters*

Suspected Islamic State suicide bombers kill 36 at Istanbul airport

ISTANBUL — Three suicide bombers opened fire then blew themselves up in Istanbul's main international airport on Tuesday, killing 36 people and wounding close to 150 in what Turkey's prime minister said appeared to have been an attack by Islamic State militants.

One attacker opened fire in the departures hall with an automatic rifle, sending passengers diving for cover and trying to flee, before all three blew themselves up in or around the arrivals hall a floor below, witnesses and officials said.

The attack on Europe's third-busiest airport was one of the deadliest in a series of suicide bombings in Turkey, which is part of the US-led coalition against Islamic State and is struggling to contain the spillover from neighbouring Syria's civil war. It is also battling an insurgency by Kurdish militants in its largely Kurdish southeast.

Police fired shots to try to stop two of the attackers just before they reached a security checkpoint at the arrivals hall, but they detonated their explosives, a Turkish official said.

Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said: "This attack, targeting innocent people is a vile, planned terrorist act."

"There is initial evidence that each of the three suicide bombers blew themselves up after opening fire," he told reporters at the airport. Yildirim said the attackers had come to the airport by taxi and that preliminary findings pointed to Islamic State responsibility.

Two US counterterrorism officials familiar with the early stages of investigations said Islamic State was at the top of the list of suspects even though there was no evidence yet.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the use of suicide bombers against "soft" targets was more typical of Islamic State than the other obvious suspect, Kurdish PKK militants who generally attack official government targets.

One of the officials also said that, while Islamic State had recently stepped up attacks in Turkey, the group rarely claims responsibility because Turkey remains one of the main corridors for its fighters travelling from Europe to Syria and Iraq.

No group had claimed responsibility more than nine hours after the attack, which started around 9:50pm local time (1850 GMT).

The attack bore similarities to a suicide bombing by Islamic State militants at Brussels airport in March that killed 16 people. A coordinated attack also targeted a rush-hour metro train, killing a further 16 people in the Belgian capital.

Workers clear debris from yesterday's blasts at Turkey's largest airport, Istanbul Ataturk, Turkey, on 29 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Most of those killed were Turkish nationals but foreigners were also among the dead, a Turkish official said. Ali Tekin, who was at the arrivals hall waiting for a guest, said the roof came down after an "extremely loud" explosion. "Inside the airport it is terrible, you can't recognise it, the damage is big," Tekin said.

A woman named Duygu, who was at passport control after arriving from Germany, said she threw herself to the floor after the explosion. "Everyone started running away. Everywhere was covered with blood and body parts. I saw bullet holes on the doors," she said.

Paul Roos, 77, said he saw one of the attackers "randomly shooting" in the departures hall from about 50 metres (55 yards) away. "He was wearing all black. His face was not masked," said Roos, a South African on his way home after a holiday in southern Turkey. "We ducked behind a counter but I stood up and watched him. Two explosions went off shortly after one another. By that time he had stopped shooting," Roos told Reuters.

"He turned around and started coming towards us. He was holding his gun inside his jacket. He looked around anxiously to see if anyone was going to stop him and then went down the escalator ... We heard some more gunfire and then another explosion, and then it was over."

President Tayyip Erdogan said the attack should serve as a turning point in the global fight against militant groups.—*Reuters*

EU's Juncker to meet Scottish PM after UK says leaving EU

BRUSSELS — The European Commission rolled out the red carpet for Scotland's first minister on Wednesday, hours after outgoing British Prime Minister David Cameron told an EU summit his country would be leaving the European Union following last week's referendum.

A spokeswoman for the EU executive said Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker would meet First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in the late afternoon after Britain's 27 partners meet without the UK to discuss how to respond to a Brexit.

They are expected to launch a period of reflection, culminating in a set of EU reform proposals to be unveiled by March of next year, the 60th anniversary of the founding Rome Treaty. Leaders have said the focus will be on getting a grip on migration, bolstering security and creating jobs and growth.

"It's important to have this meeting of 27 because it will show the unity of the 27," said Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel, describing the British vote as a wake-up call for Europe.

Sturgeon has said Scotland, where more than 60 per cent of voters said they wanted to stay in the EU, does not want to be forced out of Europe by England, the most populous component of the United Kingdom, which voted to leave.

She has raised the prospect of the Scottish parliament trying to block exit legislation, and alternatively holding a new referendum on independence.

The Scottish Nationalist premier was to meet European Parliament president Martin Schulz first in Brussels to discuss the way forward. But the president of the European Council, Donald Tusk, who chairs EU summits, turned down her request for a meeting, his spokesman said.

Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon is welcomed by European Parliament President Martin Schulz ahead of a meeting at the EP in Brussels, Belgium, on 29 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Diplomats said there was a risk that the high-profile welcome for Sturgeon, a day after Cameron's last EU summit, could be seen in London as an encouragement to secession, although EU officials denied any such intention.

Cameron told European Union leaders on Tuesday that Britain's future relations with the bloc could hinge on the EU's willingness to rethink free movement of workers, which he blamed for the referendum "no".

Juncker rebuffed that explanation for the vote, saying that successive British leaders had participated in "Brussels bashing" and should not be surprised if their citizens believed them.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel doused any hopes that Britain might yet reverse its decision, warning against "wishful thinking". While she persuaded fellow leaders to give London more time to hand in its formal notice to quit, Merkel said Britain could not drag out the process endlessly and made clear that a new government would not be allowed to "cherry-pick" the parts of EU membership benefits that it liked.

"Some think that Britain needs more time. I hear this, yes, but I think it strange. It's a type of surrealism," said Belgium's Michel.

Cameron, who announced his intention to resign after losing the referendum partly due to concerns about immigration, told his last summit he hoped his country would maintain as tight an economic and political relationship as possible with the EU.

"Britain will be leaving the European Union but we will not be turning our back on Europe," he told a late night news conference after a dinner at which he said many European partners voiced regret and friendship for Britain.

EU officials and diplomats said the mood was coolly polite.

The Conservative leader said he had reported with sadness on the outcome of the referendum, saying: "People recognised the economic case for staying, but there was a very great concern about movement of people and that was coupled with concern about issues of sovereignty. I think we need to think about that, Europe needs to think about that."

In a veiled rebuke to Leave campaign leaders such as Boris Johnson, who is vying to succeed him, Cameron said Britons would have to understand they could not keep all the benefits of EU membership without the costs.

"If you want the full benefits of the single market, you'll have to be part of every part of it," he said.

Driving home that message, French President Francois Hollande said continued access to the EU's prized single market was dependent on accepting the so-called four freedoms of movement of goods, capital, workers and services.

"If they don't want free movement, they won't have access to the single market," he said, adding that the City of London would no longer be able to act as a clearing house in euros.

The European Parliament adopted a non-binding resolution on Tuesday demanding that London activate the EU treaty's voluntary exit clause as fast as possible. That would launch negotiations on withdrawal terms with a two-year countdown to departure.

"Waiting for several months, as has been announced by you, Prime Minister Cameron, and taking the destiny of our entire continent hostage purely for internal party political reasons would be totally unacceptable," European Parliament President Martin Schulz told the British leader in the summit. "That would not mean stability — on the contrary it would mean prolonged uncertainty," the German Social Democrat said, summing up the fears of many EU partners.—*Reuters*

Japan, US, South Korea hold joint missile-tracking exercise in Hawaii

WASHINGTON — The naval forces of the United States, South Korea and Japan concluded an eight-day, trilateral missile-tracking exercise off Hawaii on Tuesday, amid continuing ballistic missile launches by North Korea that have increased tension in the Asia-Pacific region.

This year's "Pacific Dragon," the third since the biennial exercises began in 2012, "featured a coordinated live ballistic target tracking event where each nation's Aegis Ballistic Missile Defence System capabilities were tested and improved," the US 3rd Fleet said in a press statement.

The exercise, which was held off the coast of Kauai island, partly involved the Japanese Maritime Self-Defence Force's Chokai, an Aegis destroyer with the capability to intercept ballistic missiles, and two South Korean destroyers with like capability.

"While there were no missiles fired, all participants strengthened interoperability, communication channels, data collection and capabilities assessments," the statement said.

It said they shared tactical data link information on the basis of a memorandum of understanding on sharing and safeguarding classified information on North Korea's nuclear and missile programmes that was signed in December 2014.

During the exercise, North Korea carried out two test firings of its Musudan intermediate-range ballistic missile in violation of UN Security Council resolutions, claiming success after one of them flew 400 kilometres and reaching an altitude of more than 1,000 km. The missile has a potential range of between 2,500 and 4,000 km, which would cover not only any target in Japan and South Korea, but could also even reach US military bases on the Pacific island of Guam. North Korea, through its official media, reacted angrily to the trilateral exercise, calling it a "provocation" and vowing to "bolster in a sustainable manner the capabilities for preemptive nuclear attack to pose a constant threat to the enemies."

The trilateral exercise came ahead of the Rim of the Pacific, or RIMPAC, exercise that starts Thursday and will last through 4 August, in and around the Hawaiian islands and southern California, involving the same three countries.

This year's RIMPAC, the world's largest international maritime exercise, also involves Australia, Britain, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Malaysia, Mexico, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, China, Peru, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Tonga.—*Kyodo News*

Taiwan president says wants to maintain communication with China

LUQUE (Paraguay) — Taiwan's government will continue to look for ways to maintain dialogue with China, President Tsai Ing-wen said on Tuesday, after Beijing said it had halted a regular communication mechanism with Taipei.

China, which regards the self-ruled island as a wayward province, is deeply suspicious of Tsai, who took office last month, since Beijing suspects she will push for formal independence.

Tsai, who heads the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party, says she wants to maintain the status quo and is committed to ensuring peace.

But China has insisted she recognise a pact called the "1992 consensus" between its Communists and Taiwan's then-ruling Nationalists, by which both agreed there is only one China, with each having its own interpretation of what that means. On Saturday, China said because Taiwan's new government would not recognise that principle, it had stopped the regular communication mechanism between the two sides. "No matter what party is in government in Taiwan, we always have a single, common objective: to maintain peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," Tsai told reporters during a visit to Paraguay, Taiwan's sole diplomatic ally in South America.—*Reuters*

Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen speaks during an interview in Luque, Paraguay, 28 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Five dead, two missing in China mine flooding

GUIYANG — Five people died and two were missing after a coal mine in southwest China's Guizhou Province was flooded early Wednesday, local authorities said.

The accident occurred at about 1am when water from a nearby abandoned mine shaft flooded the Tiedingyan Coal Mine in Zheng'an County, the county publicity department said in a press release.

The county has been lashed by heavy rains during the past few days, it added.

Eight of 15 safety inspectors who were then underground checking for potential safety hazards during the raining season managed to escape. Five were killed and two were missing.

The rescue operation is under way.—*Xinhua*

An ambulance is seen at the site of a coal mine flooding in Zheng'an County, southwest China's Guizhou Province, on 29 June, 2016. Five people died and two were missing after a coal mine in Guizhou Province was flooded early Wednesday, local authorities said. PHOTO: XINHUA

Philippines-Indonesia border crossing arrangement consistent with pact

MANILA — The Philippine government justified its decision Wednesday to allow Indonesian forces to enter its territory in the event that another kidnapping of Indonesian nationals takes place.

Department of National Defence spokesman Peter Paul Galvez said the border crossing arrangement is consistent with the 1975 agreement of the two neighbours.

"Indonesian security forces are allowed to enter Philippine maritime zones under the concept of hot pursuit in the same way that Philippine forces are allowed to enter Indonesian maritime zones," he said.

The spokesman said that in such incidents the Philippine security forces are as well immediately informed so that a coordinated and joint operation could immediately be undertaken.

"This is a move to further strengthen collective commitment to address, prevent and resolve transnational crimes," Galvez explained.

Philippine Defence Secretary Voltaire Gazmin met with his Indonesian counterpart, Defence Minister Ryamizard Ryacudu, who recently visited Manila, to discuss effort to secure the release of seven Indonesian seamen being held hostage by an armed group in southern Philippines.

The kidnapping of Indonesians by the terrorist Abu Sayyaf Group was the third in the waters between the two countries.

The seven crew members of Tugboat Charles 001 and Robby barge ship 152 were seized in the Sulu Sea of southern Philippines on 20 June, Indonesia said.—*Xinhua*

North Korea set to convene parliamentary session

BEIJING — North Korea was scheduled Wednesday to convene its first parliamentary session of this year, with attention fixed on whether leader Kim Jong Un's regime will unveil another major overhaul in its opaque power structure.

Earlier this month, North Korea's state media reported the date for the session of the Supreme People's Assembly, without saying what will be on the agenda or providing other details.

Some North Korea watchers believe that one of the titles of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un — that of the first chairman of the National Defence Commission — could be altered to help elevate his status. They say that the "first" could be dropped.

The assembly normally meets once a year in April to rubber-stamp budgetary and personnel matters decided by the ruling Workers' Party of Korea.

This year, it did not take place as usual, apparently because the ruling party held its first congress in 36 years in May.

At the congress, Kim's title of the "first secretary" of the party was changed to its "chairman" and he made it clear that North Korea will push forward with its nuclear programme.

The parliamentary session also comes a week after North Korea claimed to have conducted a "successful" test-firing of an intermediate-range ballistic missile, in yet another violation of UN Security Council resolutions.—*Kyodo News*

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The country is scheduled to convene its first parliamentary session of the year on 29 June, 2016, with attention fixed on whether Kim's regime will unveil another major overhaul of its opaque power structure.
PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV YANTRA BHUM VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/A.I.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 REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AZIZI VOY NO (1605)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AZIZI VOY NO (1605) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-5 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 BRIGHT SAIL SHIPPING LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KORALIA VOY NO (751)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KORALIA VOY NO (751) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T-3 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 MERIDIAN SHIPPING AGENCIES PTE LTD.

Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV EVER ALLY VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV EVER ALLY VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 30.6.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S EVERGREEN SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

I am creative when I am a bit depressed: Adele

LONDON — Oscar-winning singer Adele says she can create good music only when she is momentarily depressed.

The 28-year-old "Hello" hitmaker, who has a three-year-old son, Angelo, with long-term partner Simon Konecki, said she doesn't move on easily from a heartbreak, reported Female First.

"I mope around for a little while. I do embrace the fact that I'm heartbroken. I don't move on quickly. I don't know if that's because it seems that I'm only really creative when I'm a bit momentarily depressed," Adele said.

The "Someone Like You" singer is considered as the queen of the break-up songs.—*PTI*

Adele. PHOTO: REUTERS

Backstreet Boys. PHOTO: REUTERS

Backstreet Boys to release new music in August

LOS ANGELES — Backstreet Boys are set to come up with new record.

Band member Brian Littrell recently took to Instagram to announce that new music from the band, which will be their eighth album is due out in late August.

"Doing something we've never done before... BSB feature with FGL...Great record... Comes out late August...," he captioned the picture of the studio.

The band recently performed at the Miss USA 2016 pageant and announced an upcoming Las Vegas residency trial run.

They are also slated to perform on ABC's upcoming series Greatest Hits, where they will be joined by Meghan Trainor.—*PTI*

Director David Yates talks 'Fantastic Beasts'

LOS ANGELES — Tarzan is swinging back into Hollywood with a new movie that was feted with a jungle-like premiere in Hollywood.

"The Legend of Tarzan," directed by "Harry Potter" filmmaker David Yates and out in theaters on 30 June, sees Swedish actor Alexander Skarsgard play the rope-swinging hero with Australian actress Margot Robbie as his wife Jane.

The film follows the story of Tarzan's life in England after he leaves the jungle, but he is lured back to the Congo unwittingly by the villainous Leon Rom (Christoph Waltz) and accompanied by Jane and American diplomat George Washington Williams, played by Samuel L. Jackson. Jane is kidnapped by Rom, forcing Tarzan to embrace his jungle roots and friends to rescue her and stop Rom enslaving the Congolese people.

Director David Yates (2nd L) poses with (L-R) cast members Christoph Waltz, Alexander Skarsgard, Margot Robbie, Samuel L. Jackson and Djimon Hounsou at the premiere of the movie "The Legend of Tarzan" in Hollywood, California, on 27 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Despite being held hostage for much of the film, Robbie said Jane is not a damsel in distress.

"I think she's just always actively seeking a way to problem solve and find her way out of a situation she is in, and she's a very defiant...well, she's held captive but she's not really taking it so well, and she's actively finding her way out of the situation rather than waiting for her husband to save her," she said.

This is the first of two films released this year for Yates, who also directed the eagerly anticipated Harry Potter spin-off "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" from a screenplay written by Potter author J.K. Rowling. The film is due out in November.

"It's slightly more liberating because it's all coming out of Jo's (Rowling's) head — these stories she's creating," he said. "No one quite has ownership of them yet in terms of having a relationship with the material other than having a relationship with the movie when it comes out." "When we adapted the books, we'd always have to leave out things you hated leaving out because they didn't quite work in the structure of the storytelling for the movie, or the movie would just be far too long. With this, it's just pure Jo, from the first page to the last page," he added.—*Reuters*

Actor Johnny Depp's Basquiat art to go under the hammer

LONDON — Eight works by American artist Jean-Michel Basquiat collected by actor Johnny Depp over 25 years go under the hammer this month at auction house Christie's in London.

Almost all the paintings and drawings, which go on sale on 29 and 30 June, date from 1981 and illustrate the post-punk New York scene of the time. The auction comes after the sale of the artist's Untitled piece from 1982 that fetched $57.3 million — a Basquiat record — in May.

"The Basquiat market is really high. He just thought it was the right moment to take advantage of the world record we broke ... last month," Edmond Francey, head of Post War and Contemporary Art at Christie's in London, told Reuters. One of the paintings in Depp's collection — Pork from 1981 — is estimated to sell for between 2.5-3.5 million pounds ($3.35-$4.68 million). The Basquiat works will be offered alongside pieces by Gerhard Richter, Andy Warhol and Lucian Freud as part of Christie's 250th anniversary sale.—*Reuters*

Actor Johnny Depp. PHOTO: REUTERS

Japan revamps child welfare, but tens of thousands still institutionalised

A baby is cared for by a nurse at Futaba Baby Home in Tokyo, Japan, on 21 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

TOKYO — A baby lies in a metal-bar cot drinking from a bottle perched on his pillow in a Tokyo orphanage. There's no one to hold and feed him or offer words of comfort.

The director of the institution, nurses scurrying busily around him, says he would like extra time and staff to pay more attention to the 70 babies and toddlers under his care, but it's not going to happen.

"I wish we could hold them in our arms, one by one," says Yoshio Imada. "Some people call this abuse. It's a difficult situation." Japan last month passed a bill overhauling its 70-year-old Child Welfare Law, recognising a child's right to grow up in a family setting. It is short on specific, immediate measures, but experts say it's a first step to making institutions a last resort, rather than the default position.

A staggering 85 per cent of the 40,000 children who can't live with their parents in Japan are institutionalised, by far the highest ratio among rich countries and prompting repeated warnings from the United Nations. Even with the revised law, Japan's goal isn't lofty: family-based care for a third of those children by 2029.

The statistics raise the question: where can foster parents be found for tens of thousands of children in need?

"We do the best we can but it's obvious that a one-on-one relationship that foster parents provide is better," says Kazumitsu Tsuru, who heads another infant institution in Tokyo.

"All children need someone who is dedicated only to them."

A major hindrance is a lack of awareness about the fostering system — there are just 10,200 registered foster families, while adoptions are even rarer, at 544 last year. And in a society that treasures uniformity and blood ties, fostered or adopted children are often stigmatized.

A rise in reports of child abuse has also proved a stumbling block. Welfare workers are too busy taking children out of immediate harm. Placing them in institutions is faster than finding a foster family. Too busy with the next victim, welfare workers also have little time to follow up with those children, leaving them to languish for years.

One foster mother knows all too well how harmful institutionalisation can be. Now 16, her foster son lulls himself to sleep by pounding his head against his pillow for several minutes. It's a habit he picked up as an attention-starved child growing up in institutions until he turned six. He is a charming boy, his foster mother says, but erratic.

"When I call him out on something he does wrong, he lashes out at me as if he can do whatever he wants," she says.

"He'll do hateful things and at other times he'll say, 'Mummy, I love you,' in a childish voice that's not normal for a teenage boy. The emotional ups-and-downs wear you out." Another mother describes a child she took in from an institution at age five, just when he was beginning to realize he had no family. He flew into fits of rage at school and was afraid to leave the house. Needing to test his new family's affection, he would ask: "Mummy, what would you do if I died?" At other times, he would beg to be fed milk out of a bottle in his foster mother's lap.—*Reuters*

Indoor farming gives former New Jersey arena new lease on life

NEWARK, (N.J.)— In an old warehouse in Newark, New Jersey, that once housed the state's biggest indoor paint ball arena, leafy green plants such as kale, arugula and watercress sprout from tall metal towers under bright lights.

A local company named AeroFarms has built what it says is the world's largest indoor vertical farm, without the use of soil or sunlight.

Its ambitious goal is to grow high-yielding crops via economical methods to provide locally sourced food to the community, protect the environment and ultimately even combat hunger worldwide.

"We use about 95 per cent less water to grow the plants, about 50 per cent less fertilizer as nutrients and zero pesticides, herbicide, fungicides," said David Rosenberg, co-founder and chief executive officer of AeroFarms. "We're helping create jobs as well as create a good story to inspire the community and inspire other businesses."

Inside the 30,000 square feet (2,800 square metre) warehouse, farmers tend the short-stemmed plants, which are illuminated by rows of light emitting diode, or LED, lamps and planted in white fabric made from recycled water bottles. The levels of light, temperature and nutrients reaching the plants in the 5-foot (1.5 metre) wide, 80-foot (24 metre) tall columns are controlled using what AeroFarms describes as a patented growing algorithm.

Co-founder and Chief Marketing Officer Marc Oshima said that by producing indoors, AeroFarms can grow plants within 12 to 16 days, compared with 30 to 45 days outdoors. A year-round grow cycle protected from the changeable climate means that indoor farms can be 75 times more productive, he said.

The company plans to move its operation this year to a new facility in Newark with 70,000 square feet (6,503 square metres) of growing space.

Most green, leafy plants thrive during the spring and fall in sunnier states such as California and Arizona. Setting up indoor farms in New Jersey eliminates the environmental costs of transporting those crops to consumers in the Northeast.

Oshima declined to say how much the Newark operation produces, but said the firm hopes to develop 25 more farms, in the United States and abroad, over the next five years. —*Reuters*

Watercress seedlings grow on AeroCloth, a growing material, in a vertical farming bed beneath light emitting diode (or "LED") lamps and using a patented growing algorithm of controlled light, nutrients and temperatures for growing a variety of baby greens at an AeroFarms Inc. indoor vertical farming facility in a former indoor paintball arena in Newark, New Jersey, on 24 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(30- 6-2016, Thursday)

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

06 : 20 pm
- Cartoon Programme
  " How to train your Dragon " (Part-1)

07 : 10 pm
- International Drama Series

08 : 50 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

09 : 00 pm
- Let's perform a buffalo dance

09 : 30 pm
- Horse Cart Driver

09 : 40 pm
- Music Programme

10 : 00 pm
- Cultural Shows: Theatrical Art

10 : 10 pm
- Myanmar Video

From 30-6-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 Pm
To 1-7-2016 (Friday) 6:00 Pm

mitv Myanmar International

(30-6-2016 07:00am ~ 1-7-2016 7:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1) Mingalar Byuha
07:50	Am	Kay Tu Mar Lar "The Decision"
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
08:39	Am	Shop Shop Shop - Bogyoke Market
08:51	Am	Modifying Natural Thanakha Bark into Ready-Made Skin Care Product
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Products of Myanmar - Seashells Products
09:44	Am	Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater
09:53	Am	Myanmar Harpist
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	MONASTERY (Shwe In - Pin Kyaung)
10:37	Am	A Highland with Peace and Charm
10:55	Am	Will you feed the pigeons?

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:25	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-2)
07:45	Pm	All About Orchids
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 4) Tumbling Doll, Pyit Tine Htaung
08:38	Pm	Bollywood Actress "Laila Khan" (Born & Raised in Myanmar) (Part-II)

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

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Ronaldo poses biggest threat yet to Polish rearguard

MARSEILLE — Poland have an impressive defensive record at Euro 2016 but standing in their way to a semi-final spot is arguably one of sport's greatest-ever athletes, Cristiano Ronaldo.

The monstrous Polish centre back pairing of Michal Pazdan and Kamil Glik face their toughest challenge yet when they come up against Portugal in the last-eight clash in Marseille on Thursday, though their previous matches have not provided much by way of preparation for facing the Real Madrid star.

Describing 29-year-old Ronaldo as the "perfect athlete", US lifestyle magazine Men's Health says he hits speeds of more than 32 kph, jumps nearly a metre in the air off one leg, runs an average of 16 km per match and hits more winners in the last 20 minutes than anyone else.

He is the only player to have scored a goal in four Euros going back to 2004 and, while he struggled to find his feet early in this year's tournament, there are signs that he is back to his sublime best.

He scored twice in Portugal's last group match against Hungary — an audacious back heel and a towering header — and has had a hand in two of his country's other three goals, most importantly the shot that set up Ricardo Quaresma to score the easiest of extra-time winners in their last-16 win over Croatia.

For their part, Poland are good shotstoppers.

They have conceded just three goals all year and only one in the Euros, an outrageous bicycle kick by Switzerland's Xherdan Shaqiri in their round-of-16 tie which they eventually won on penalties. Only Germany still have a clean sheet in Euro 2016.

Poland's matches in France so far will have done little to prepare them for the pace, power and superhuman heading ability that Ronaldo possesses, however.

Their top-ranked opponents to date, Germany, fielded the diminutive Mario Goetze in their group-stage stalemate and the 'false nine' presented little trouble in the box, constantly dropping back into midfield to pick up the ball.

Other group matches against Northern Ireland, who did not get a decent effort on target, and Ukraine, who departed after failing to score in any of their games, were fairly straightforward. The late Shaqiri wonder goal in their last outing did unsettle the Poles, with Switzerland gaining the upper hand in extra time. But the rearguard held firm, forcing the tie to penalties.

That defence will have to be immaculate again if Poland are to have a chance of progressing because they have offered little up front.—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

No sentiment as Murray beats fellow Brit Broady

LONDON — Second seed Andy Murray showed no mercy to fellow Britain Liam Broady as he launched his Wimbledon challenge with a straightforward 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 victory on Tuesday.

The day after British qualifier Marcus Willis, the world number 772, made the front and back pages by reaching the second round, 235th-ranked Broady was given the Centre Court spotlight but played a subservient role as Murray gave a master class.

Murray, the 2013 champion, had not faced a fellow Britain in 56 previous Wimbledon matches while two home players had not squared off at the All England Club for 15 years.

The 29-year-old admitted beforehand that it had felt "weird" but it was business as usual once play began as he broke twice to pocket the opening set in 25 minutes.

Broady, still sporting the beard that caused a stir when he won a round last year, contributed to some eye-catching rallies but landed few telling blows as Murray raced away.

Murray did not have things all his own way in the third set but as dark clouds closed in, he was clearly keen to finish the match off and he did so with a cute dropshot.

"I hit the ball pretty clean today. I think offensively I was good. Felt like I could have moved a little bit better. I didn't defend as well as usual," Murray, who has never lost to a player ranked lower than Broady, told reporters.

"For a first match, to get it done in three sets is good."

Murray's next opponent, Lu Yen-hsun of Taiwan, might be a little tougher, according to the Scot.

"He's played the three grass court challengers in the buildup. He's won two of them and lost in the final of one," Murray warned. "He's made the quarters at this event before, beat (Andy) Roddick once. He plays well on the grass."—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

Batshuayi to join Chelsea, L'Equipe reports

PARIS — Belgium striker Michy Batshuayi is set to join Chelsea from Ligue 1 club Olympique Marseille, French sports daily L'Equipe reported on Wednesday.

The 22-year-old Batshuayi is expected to sign a five-year contract for the Premier League side for a transfer fee of some 40 million euros ($44.30 million), the newspaper said without citing sources.

Marseille had reached a deal with another Premier League club, Crystal Palace, earlier this week but Batshuayi turned down the offer, L'Equipe wrote.

Batshuayi had to pass a medical in Bordeaux, France, where Belgium are based for the European Championship finals, and Chelsea could announce the deal later on Wednesday, according to the French newspaper.

Batshuayi who joined Marseille from Belgian side Standard Liege in 2014, scored 23 goals in all competitions this season.

Belgium face Wales on Friday in Lille for a place in the semi-finals of Euro 2016.—*Reuters*

Hodgson denies reports of disharmony before Iceland blow

CHANTILLY, (France) — Outgoing England manager Roy Hodgson on Tuesday denied reports that his players questioned his selection decisions before the embarrassing 2-1 defeat by Iceland which sent the team out of Euro 2016.

At a news conference less than 24 hours after quitting, Hodgson was asked about reports of disharmony in the camp and claims that senior players queried the selection of striker Raheem Sterling against Iceland and the six team changes made before the final group game against Slovakia.

''There was no indication that they weren't behind us, that they weren't behind the game plans and trying hard to execute," said a visibly tense Hodgson before an Football Association (FA) official stepped in to point out that they had also been denied by England's captain Wayne Rooney.

Rooney released a statement to the Press Association which said: "In response to recent media reports, I'd like to say that is completely untrue. On behalf of the players, we completely supported the England manager.''

The claims had been reported by British broadcaster Sky Sports who said they had come from unidentified sources inside the England camp.

Hodgson, whose selections and tactics were heavily criticised in the British media, said he was feeling ''fragile'' after Monday's defeat, which some critics said was the worst in English football history.

''I don't really know what I'm doing here but I was told it's important for me to appear as everyone is still smarting,'' said Hodgson, who apologised to England supporters for the result.—*Reuters*

England head coach Roy Hodgson and FA chief executive Martin Glenn during the press conference during EURO 2016 at Auberge du Jeu de Paume, Chantilly, France on 28 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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