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A BRIEF MEETING

Preparatory subcommittee-1 gears up for 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference



Participants discuss at the second coordination meeting of the preparatory subcommittee 1 for preparing 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE preparatory subcommittee 1 held its second coordination meeting to prepare for the 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference that is believed to be held in the last week of August, in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Dr Tin Myo Win, chairman of the preparatory committee, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae, chairman of the subcommittee 1, and vice-chairman P'doh Saw Kwe Htoo Win

spoke on the occasion.

During the second coord meeting set to last for two days, those present held talks on political dialogue and negotiations set to be developed at the peace conference and matters related to citizens and CSO forums, topics for discussion and guidelines on political dialogue.

“A framework review process

is to be held by the subcommittee 1 in cooperation with eight NCA signatories, while subcommittee 2 plans to hold talks with non-signatory groups,” said Dr Tin Myo Win.

Adding, “A meeting on policy guidelines between the State Counsellor and the two subcommittees is scheduled for 5 July.”

U Hla Maung Shwe, secretary

of the preparatory committee, said that the meeting focused on timely completion of preparatory works for the Peace Conference, adding that policy guidelines are likely to come out following the talks between the State Counsellor and subcommittees.

A review of political framework is set to be made in early August after a meeting between

the State Counsellor and NCA non-signatory groups was slated for mid-July, said the secretary.

U Khet Htein Nan, member of subcommittee 2, used the meeting for future works, saying that a political dialogue structure presented by the subcommittee 1 is quite similar to a structure approved by ethnic sides at Law Khee La conference.—Myo Myint



Workers of Unipolar garment factory receive their compensations. PHOTO: NAY LIN

Over Ks56m Paid To 180 Employees

WORKERS of the Unipolar garment factory at Shwe Linpan Industrial Zone in Hlaing Tharyar received their months salary and compensation yesterday. Over Ks56m was paid out to the 180 employees from the Factories & General Labor Law Inspection Department under the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population.

The factory, which was opened two years ago, was closed suddenly in May after the owner Mr Richard Young from China (Taipei) disappeared.

In response to the request from workers the department settled the labour issue with authorities issuing a warrant and selling off the factory and its contents last month.

At the payment ceremony, the Rakhine Ethnic Affairs Minister of Yangon Region U Zaw Aye Maung urged employers and employees to obey the rules and regulations issued by concerned departments, adding that if anything like this happens, it will be solved in accordance with the law.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Chairman of Leading Body of Danu Self-Administered Zone appointed

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw has appointed U Arkar Lin as the Chairman of the Leading Body of Danu Self-Administered Zone with the release of Order 47/2016 yesterday.

According to the Order, U Arkar Lin nominated by the Shan State Chief Minister under section 276 (f) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, section 19 (g) of the Union Government Law and section 9 (b) of the Leading Body of the Self-Administered Zone or Division Law has been appointed as the Chairman of the Leading Body of Danu Self-Administered Zone. — Myanmar News Agency

Deputy Minister appointed

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw has appointed U Khin Maung Tin as Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor with the release of Order 49/2016 yesterday.

According to the Order, U Khin Maung Tin has been appointed as Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor under section 234 (a) and (d) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and section 16 (b) (9) of the Union Government Law. — Myanmar News Agency

Nay Pyi Taw Council member appointed

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw has appointed U Min Thu as a member of Nay Pyi Taw Council with the release of Order 48/2016 yesterday.

According to the Order, U Min Thu has been appointed as the member of Nay Pyi Taw Council under section 285 (b) (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, section 22 of Union Government Law and section 4 of Nay Pyi Taw Council Law. — Myanmar News Agency

Kayin State provided Ks100m for disaster preparedness



Kayin State Chief Minister Daw Nann Khin Htwe Myint accepts Ks100 m donated by Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

KANBAWZA Bank's Brighter Future Myanmar Foundation donated Ks100m to Kayin State for disaster preparedness and regional development goals, according to a press release. It claims, much like it's other donations, that the fund found it difficult to deliver aid last year during disasters due to poor infrastructure. This fund will help improve that. Learning from these situation, Chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham of BFM arranged to establish such a fund in region and

states for preparedness and quick respond to disasters.

Chief Minister for Kayin State Daw Nann Khin Htwe Myint accepted the donation handed over by U Bo Bo Wai Maung, an official from BFM. The foundation has also established such a fund in Rakhine, Chin and Kayah states and Magwe and Sagaing Regions.

It also donated Ks20m to the women and children hospital in Taunggyi for an oxygen generator. — Thura Lwin

Head of service organization appointed

THE PRESIDENT of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed Deputy Director-General U Maung Maung Kyaw of the Bureau of Special Investigation under the Ministry of Home Affairs as Director-General of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — Myanmar News Agency



High-rise developers to reduce their workers due to suspension of high-rise projects

CONSTRUCTION site workers are being laid off due to the recent freeze in construction of high-rise buildings in Yangon. Buildings of height of eight or more stories have been ceased in order for Yangon City Development Committee to inspect the sites.

It is almost two months since the Yangon region government has ordered high-rise developers to suspend their under-construction projects as of May 14.

Developers have said they would continue to struggle for their survival due to increasing buyers not paying monthly deposits and being unable to pay. Some construction companies have issued notices to their work-

ers one month ahead to find a new job.

One developer said, "I would like to urge the government to help solve workers' difficulties rather than creating more employment opportunities."

Developers have suggested that the government draw a new law rather than adopting a new policy to reduce barriers caused by changing the policy.

"We usually implement a project between 5-8 years after getting the green light from the authorities," said a constructor, who wishes the government to solve the current issue under the former policy. "We waited for the permission for our project

nearly three years," he added.

There are millions of workers in the country's construction industry. About 80 per cent of developers operating in the local construction industry are youth workers. Some Myanmar repatriates have also been flown in from Singapore, under the long-term employment.

Developers say that the government's order on suspension of high-rise buildings under construction in Yangon Region will affect the country's economic development. "Government needs to encourage local entrepreneurs who will face competition with international companies," a businessman said. — Pwint Thitsar

Political changes augment migrant workers from Mandalay Region

OVER 80,000 residents from across Mandalay Region have left the country in search of work abroad, according to the records of the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population (MLIP) for Mandalay Region.

"Some people go abroad and work legally, but there are those who cross borders into foreign countries under their own agency. The rights of Myanmar migrant workers abroad really need to be met. Migrant workers should be aware of the laws of the countries they seek employment in," said U Aung Myo, permanent secretary of the MLIP.

The majority of citizens from Mandalay Region - who leave Myanmar to find employment in other countries - originate from the areas of Myingyan and NyaungU, accounting for two per cent of Myanmar's total

migrant population.

"Political changes have augmented the number of migrant workers. We have many processes we're required to carry out for migrant workers," said U Myo Thit, Minister of MLIP for the Mandalay regional government.

The majority of Myanmar citizens from Mandalay Region who legally travelled abroad in search of employment travelled to Malaysia, making up 30,000. This is followed by 20,000 who ventured to neighbouring Thailand; 8,000 who travelled to China; 5,000 to Singapore; and a mere 2,000 who sought work as far away as South Korea. The remaining 15,000 migrant workers reportedly migrated abroad under their own steam, not through the conduit of any government agency. — Myitmakha News Agency

Over Ks56m Paid To 180 Employees

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"Employees received from Ks200,000 to Ks1m depending on their positions but most of the employees are still unemployed," said Aung Thu, an employee.

Workers have not received a paycheck for two months.

U Win Shein, Director-General of the Factories & General Labor Law Inspection Department under the Ministry of Labor, Immigration and Population urged workers to apply for jobs at the factories in the industrial zones as there is a demand for skilled workers.

He also urged them to sign employment contract with employers so that employees can enjoy their full rights. — Min Thit

Information Ministry, SBS Contents Hub discuss cooperation in broadcast industry

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint received Mr. Shin Dong Wook, chairman of Korean based SBS Contents Hub, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The two discussed imple-

mentation joint television programs between MRTV and SBS sharing technology and services on broadcasting and investment potential for development of the Myanmar's broadcast industry.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Latest gems emporium fetches more than €53m in jade lots

Twenty-one lots of jade were sold for €53.09m through competitive biddings at the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

According to sources, total sales reached €486.61m yesterday as 312 lots of pearl were bought for €3.12m, 63 lots of gems for €3.29m and 3,901 lots

of jade for €480.20m on previous days.

More jades lots are set to go on sale with displays of 60 lots today and 46 on 6 July at auction, added the sources.

Myanmar uses the Euro at the jade emporium because of US sanctions against the industry.—*Myanmar News Agency*



A merchant checks a jade stone during the 53rd Myanmar Gems Emporium in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Crime crackdown report in four townships to be released by mid-July

OFFICIATING Regional Police Commander, Police Col U Win Naing said that a report on the Yangon Region's crime crackdown will be released by mid-July as it is still going through its review process. The crackdown is focused on South Dagon, Kamayut, Thanlyin and Hlaing Tharyar townships that started 14 June.

"We will decide if we will crack down on other townships after reviewing the report," said the Regional Commander, adding that potential for crime cases and public participation in the plan will be reviewed.

According to the police, crime rates in the targeted four townships has been declining steadily as community-based policing was introduced to the townships.

During the period from 14 June to 4 July, five major cases and 84 minor cases occurred

in Hlaing Tharya township and preventive measures were taken against 238 cases, said police.

There were one major case and 24 minor cases during the same period in South Dagon township and preventive measures were taken against 207 cases.

One major case and 27 minor cases were recorded in Thanlyin Township where preventive measures were taken against 124 cases.

Kamayut Township saw one major case, 23 minor cases and preventive measures were taken against 63 cases.

In his address, the Officiating Regional Commander called for mass participation in the Yangon Region government's fight against drug and criminal cases. A report will be submitted to the regional government on 15 July, said the commander.—*Ko Moe*

Foreigners taking care committee has its first meeting



Vice President U Myint Swe addresses at the meeting of "taking care of foreigners". PHOTO: MNA

A supervisory committee for "taking care of foreign visitors" commissioned by the President's office met in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. Vice President 1, U Myint Swe, chairman of the committee, spoke at the committee's first meeting.

In his address, U Myint Swe said that Myanmar Police Force has established a 24/7 channel to connect the international organisations regarding matters related to scrutinising and protecting foreign visitors.

U Myint Swe stressed the need to provide safe and secure

environments for foreigners who enter Myanmar in accord with the laws and developing security systems at border checkpoints as Myanmar is set to welcome around 5.5million tourists this year, according to its own statistics.

U Myint Swe called for all-out efforts to achieve the functions of the committee, thereby ensuring sustainable tourism in the country.

"It is required to step up scrutiny of visitors for the security of the country, especially those blacklisted by the international

governments and Myanmar's government, but also to promote the tourism sector," said U Myint Swe.

Next, Chief of Myanmar Police Force Police Maj-Gen Zaw Win who is also the secretary of the central committee, Union Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, vice-chairman of the committee, and members from the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population U Thein Swe, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung and officials reported on respective matters.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ks3,658m needed to prevent erosion at seven villages in Mandalay Region

THE Mandalay Region water Resources and Improvement of River System Department has requested Ks3,658m from the Union government to help prevent soil erosion in seven villages in the region. The call comes after MPs and authorities inspected the seven villages located on the Ayeyawady River, Panlaung River and Myitnge River, all are facing erosion.

"The work is expected to start when the water level falls after the rainy season," said U Kyaw Myint, Assistant Director of the Mandalay Region water Resources and Improvement of River System Department. Currently, the department is working on emergency prevention against the erosion spending Ks150m allocated by the Mandalay Region Government for

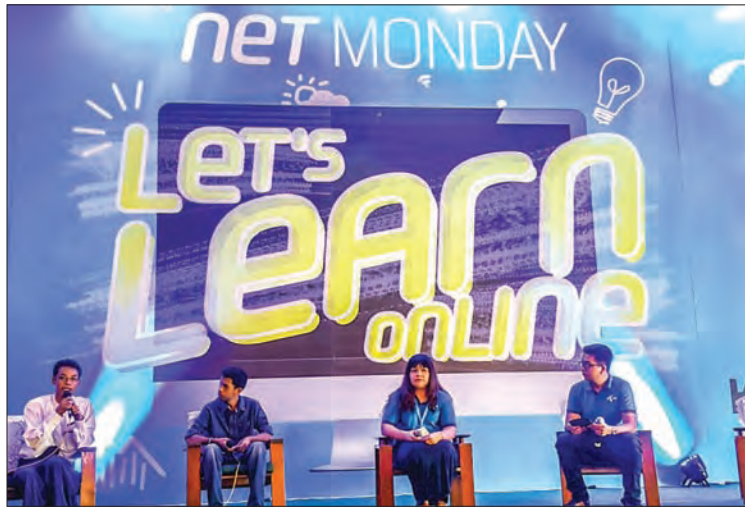
the 2016-17 Fiscal Year, he added.

The seven villages are Ywa-thayar Village in Singu Township, Aidai Village in Madaya Township, Simikhon Village in Myingyan Township, Inn-wa on the Myitnge River, Zaycho Village in TadaU Township and Ohtoketan Village and Ushitpho Village on the Panlaung River.—*Aung Thant Khaing*



The site of erosion is seen in Madaya Township. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

28th Telenor's monthly industry event highlights online education



MORE than 500 students joined the monthly programme organised by telecom operator Telenor in Yangon on Monday to explore opportunities for youths to help develop their professional skills through online education.

This is the 28th time Telenor Myanmar has held the programme to promote a rich dialogue on topics relevant to the growing digital and online community in the country.

"Myanmar has seen accelerated growth in its telecommunications industry, and as a result more and more people are

connected to the Internet. Young people today especially have tremendous opportunities at their fingertip to further develop their study and career," said Joslin E Myrthong, Chief Marketing Officer at Telenor Myanmar.

"We encourage the youths in Myanmar to effectively utilize the Internet to help advance their lives". During the event, future of online learning challenges and opportunities in Myanmar as well as how online and mobile internet development can help learning and career opportunities for young people were discussed by

representatives from Khan Academy and Telenor Myanmar together with the rector of Hmawbi Technological University.

"With over 5700 sites Telenor Myanmar provides mobile and internet connectivity nationwide, and wider network coverage also offers youths in rural areas across Myanmar chances to tap and exploit a wealth of resources available online," Myrthong said.

The last events were held in different towns across the country, including Magwe, Mawlamyine, Bago and Yangon.—GNLM

Legislation aims to protect Myanmar's water resources

LEGISLATION concerning the distribution of water sources within Myanmar, as part of a comprehensive water management initiative, will be definitively drawn up before the end of the year, according to the Ayeyawady Integrated River Basin Management Project (AIRBMP).

Work was reportedly undertaken to put such a legislation together back in 2013, but was put

on the back burner after it ran into financial difficulties and the inability to obtain required information.

"The drawing up of water legislation requires a replete set of information. Money to finance public consultation meetings, in order to acquire such knowledge, was lacking in the past. We've faced delays, too, as we had to rely on money being sought for us by

the Department of Water Sources and Rivers Development," said Dr Khin Ni Ni Thein, section one director of AIRBMP.

The water legislation will reportedly be financed by the World Bank, while similar legislations of thirteen other countries will be studied in order to draw up a legislation that is compatible for the situation of Myanmar's water resources.

"I don't know what difficulties caused the delays. Policy books have been released, I know that much. We've made suggestions in the drawing up of water based legislation, and our submissions have included points on policy which guards against the rise of the illegal storage, and sale, of water," said U Maung Maung Oo, leader of the Sein Yaung Soe organization.

Public consultations in regard to water based legislation have been held a total of six times across Yangon, Mandalay, Monywa, Mawlamyine and Patheingyi, while the drawing up of the legislation will be a concerted effort between stakeholders such as civil society organisations, the World Bank, the Office of the Attorney General and local water experts.—Myitmakha News Agency

Crime NEWS

Heroin, yaba pills seized in Kachin, Shan states

POLICE units in Shan and Kachin states reported on the collection of 30,000 yaba pills, seven kilos of pure methamphetamines and 780g of heroin on 2 July.

Baranang was arrested after police found him in possession of 780 grams of heroin and 23,600 yaba pills in Nanthmaw Village in Hpakant, a township of Kachin State.

In Loilem Township, Shan State police seized nearly seven kilograms of methamphetamines from Banya Aung on the road between Loilem and Nang-

sam townships.

Acting on a tip-off, police searched a motorcycle being driven by a man with another on board along Lashio-Mandalay Road near the University of Computer Studies (Lashio) and collected 7,800 yaba tablets from them.

Action is being taken against all suspects, who will be charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law, where the people listed in this article are to face between 5-10 years in prison.—Police Information



Baranang poses behind the drugs seized from him.



The house seen after being devoured by the fire.

None injured in Mawlamyine home fire

A HOME fire broke out in Mawlamyine Township in Mon State on Friday morning, leaving no people and animals injured, according to a police report.

An elderly lady has accidentally set fire to her kitchen in Mawlamyine that injured no one. Locals assisted the owner in putting out the fire with 80 fire

fighters assisting.

The fire was extinguished and police are charging the 73-year-old owner. —Township IPRD

Illegal gold miner arrested in eastern Shan State

A YOUNG man is being charged for illegal mining after he was found in possession of "mining-related apparatuses" and prospecting in Eastern Shan State on Friday 30 June.

After a tip-off the police arrested U Alima, 24, while he was working at a gold min-

ing at Nanglon Creek near Nankhantaung Village in Wundwin Village-tract.

A combined team also collected mining-related machineries in the creek near Hsitekhaung Village in Tawhnyar Village-tract on the same day.—Shaw La Mon (IPRD)

Man charged with smuggling prohibited wildlife products

A MAN has been caught with eight Gaur (Indian Bison) horns and 8kg of Gaur gull, 15 monkey paws, 40g of Porcupine quills on the Patheingyi-Monywa highway on 30 June. Salai Phal was arrested after they found him to be in possession of the illegal products and Ks347,700 (US\$297). —Kyaw Zeya

LOCAL Business

Tiddim apples to be sent to Yangon

APPLES from Tiddim area have already ruled over the markets around Kalay and Monywa towns and they will be sent direct to Yangon market this year. Currently, apple growers from Tiddim area are receiving technical training from the agriculturists from Japan and America so that Tiddim apples can enter the international market, it is learnt for an unknown source.

The apples are smaller in size when compared to those from China and India and they are sour. As a result, those apples cannot still

fetch the market price.

"Apples from farms in the Chin Hills are selling well with resale manoeuvres. But, they can only reach Mandalay markets and now will also be sent directly to Yangon in 59kg lots," said Ko Sein Aung, an apple seller from Kalay town.

Aiwa and Ruby apples are standard amongst varieties produced in Chin State. Tiddim apples are mainly produced from Bante, Phonnom and Sozan areas but the number of apple growers and farms are on the decline. —200

JCB to open Yangon Branch



JCB and MPU agreed in March to issue cards in Myanmar. PHOTO: SUPPLIED BY JCB

JCB International is cooperating with Myanmar Payment Union banks to issue JCB cards by the end of 2016 or as soon as next year, according to a press release from the group. As well as this partnership JCB is establishing a branch in Yangon under the subsidiary JCB International (Thailand) Co. Ltd.

JCB will be working with Ayeyawady Bank and Co-operative Bank. Naoya Michishima, Managing Director of JCB International (Thailand), said, "I am excited to have a new branch in Myanmar, which is one of the fastest growing countries in Asia. With this launch, now we will be able to build even closer relationships with our partners and devel-

op our business in the Mekong region."

Adding, "We have been making efforts to provide support to the expansion of the Myanmar payment market in cooperation with MPU. I am confident that the issuance of MPU/JCB card in summer 2016 will grow the market even further and will contribute to the financial inclusion promoted by the government." 31 million merchants in 190 countries are in JCB's network with more than 95 million card members; they have also formed partnerships with 350 world-leading banks and financial institutions. The company launched its card business in 1961 and began expanding in 1981 worldwide.—GNLM

New Tachilek-Mae Sai bridge to be built

A NEW bridge connecting Thailand and Myanmar will be built at the Tachilek and Mae Sai borders, according to Thai Rath Thai. It is being built to develop trade and relations. The border is already used for

trade but it will also help facilitate trade into China.

Preparations for constructing the new bridge are being made so that the construction of the new bridge can be completed as soon as possible.—200



MCDC workers sweep garbage from which electricity will be generated. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

MCDC to turn trash into electricity

Aung Thant Khaing

MANDALAY City Development Committee (MCDC) is reported to invite interested entrepreneurs to submit tender for generating electricity from disposed waste this month. Both local and foreign companies have the chance to bid for the project that will convert daily disposed waste weighing more than 700 tonnes into electricity.

MCDC had the coordinating meetings with local joint ventures with

Thailand to implement the project under the previous governments but the project was not realized even after a feasibility study was conducted, because generation of electricity from garbage is found not to be cost-effective.

"I want to get rid of the enormous garbage dump more than making a profit from generation of electricity," said Dr. Ye Lwin, Mandalay Mayor.

Currently, waste is disposed of at dump in South and North Lake of Kyarnika village, caus-

ing fires and smells that is harmful to human health, apparently burning it to create electricity is the solution.

"Foreign companies teamed up with local companies will only be allowed to participate in the project," said Dr Thwin Kyaw Kyaw, a MCDC member.

15 mega watts should be generated from 700 tonnes of garbage, according to a previous survey. This project was not submitted to the previous regional government.

The project has to be

submitted to the Union Attorney-General through regional authorities after approval from Myanmar Investment Commission. If the volume of electricity that will be produced is under 30 MW, the approval does not need to be sought from Union government but from regional government only.

As part of the first 100-day plan of the government, Mandalay Regional Government has spent more than Ks910m on upgrading power supply facilities in the region.

Higher crab export renders price low

CRAB prices have dropped at the Muse border trade zone, according to crab dealers. Around 1 tonne of crabs are sent to Muse where the crabs fetch US\$1,800 per tonne at the end of June, dropping from US\$2,500 per

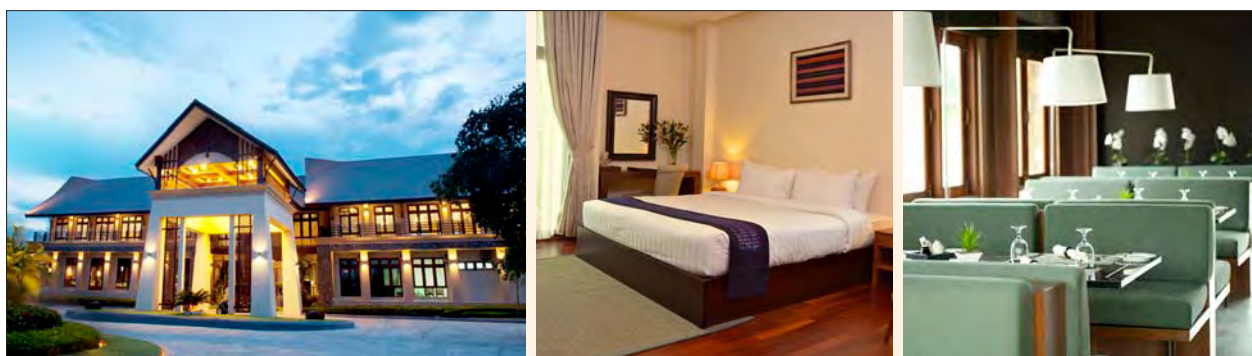
tonne in previous months, according to an unspecified report.

The overwhelming supplies of crabs are from Ayeyawady Region and Rakhine State

About 1,000kgs of crabs are sent to Muse

camp from crab packaging workplace in Sintkaing Township, Mandalay Region in the previous months. The volume of crabs has increased up to 3,000kgs per day at the end of June, said a crab depot owner.

Crab exports earned over US\$100million in 2011-2012, and since has been on the decline. About US\$40million was earned from crab exports in 2014-2015 fiscal year while only US\$20million last financial year.—200



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New Zealand navy inspecting fishing vessels in southwest Pacific

WELLINGTON — The New Zealand navy has boarded 26 commercial fishing boats in waters around island nations as part of the effort to stop illegal fishing the southwest Pacific, the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) said on Monday.

Offshore patrol vessel HMNZS Otago began the operation in Fiji's exclusive economic zone, making 18 boardings on 13-19 June.

The other inspections were carried out during patrols in Tuvalu, said HMNZS Otago Commanding Officer, Lieutenant Commander Andrew Sorenson.

"There were some breaches, but on the whole, all vessels were compliant and allowed us to board," Sorenson said. The navy was checking that fishing boats were monitoring fishing activity and complying with the rules, and then reporting back to the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency.

HMNZS Otago was carrying compliance officers from New Zealand's Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) and Pacific island nations. "MPI places great importance on this patrol as it not only supports the Pacific islands' management of key fish stocks, but it also allows for the protection of our own domestic tuna fisheries, given the migratory nature of the various tuna species," MPI chief operations officer Andrew Coleman said. The fisheries patrols were set to continue this month supported by a New Zealand air force P-3K2 Orion aircraft. Commodore Jim Gilmour, the Maritime Component Commander, said the patrols were carried out to help detect and deter illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing activity on behalf of Pacific island nations.

"Vessels fishing for tuna are the current focus of our inspections," Gilmour said.—Xinhua

Thailand sets up security centres ahead of referendum

BANGKOK — Thailand's military government has set up security centres around the country ahead of an August referendum on a new constitution, a spokesman for the government said on Monday.

The centres are the latest measure rolled out by the government as Thailand prepares to vote on a new constitution that critics fear will entrench the military's influence.

The draft of Thailand's 20th constitution is to replace one scrapped after a 2014 coup by generals who promised stability in Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy.

The 7 August referendum will be the first real rest of the junta's popularity since it took power.

A "Centre for Maintaining Peace and Order" has been set up in every one of Thailand's 76 provinces, said Major General Sansern Kaewkamnerd, spokesman for the Thai

prime minister's office, in order to ensure "no cheating, no lobbying and no persuading people to vote one way or another."

Provincial governors will be responsible for assembling teams to join the centre including police, troops and civilian volunteers.

"We need to ensure peace during the referendum so that people can decide how our country will move forward," Sansern told Reuters.

Last month junta chief Prayuth Chan-ocha and opposition supporters of ousted populist premier Thaksin Shinawatra both contacted the United Nations after an upsurge in political tension, just a day after police shut down an electoral monitoring centre of the "red shirt" anti-government movement. The red shirts say the centres are needed to prevent fraud. Thanawut Wichaidit, a spokesman for the red shirt move-



A soldier is silhouetted against the wall of Dusit zoo as he provides security near the Parliament during the National Legislative Assembly meeting in Bangkok in January, 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ment, accused the government of double standards.

"We weren't able to set up our monitoring centres so why should the military government be allowed to set up their centres?" Thanawut told Reuters.

"The military government is blindfolding the

electorate and leading their hand to vote in the manner they want."

Under the proposed charter, a junta-appointed Senate with seats reserved for military commanders would check the powers of elected lawmakers for a five-year transitional period.—Reuters

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Far-right candidates emerge to fill vacuum after close Australia vote



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull reacts as he speaks next to members of his family during an official function for the Liberal Party during the Australian general election in Sydney, Australia, on 3 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Independent candidates who will likely determine a cliff-hanger Australian election shot to prominence on Monday, one of them renewing anti-Asian rhetoric first heard 20 years ago, with Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull under fire for a failed political gamble.

Pauline Hanson, founder of the controversial far right One Nation party, used the political limbo that has resulted from Saturday's close

vote to push her far-right agenda that first won her international notoriety in 1996, warning that Australia was being "swamped by Asians".

"A lot of Australians feel that Asians are buying up prime agricultural land, housing," Hanson said at a fiery media conference in Brisbane on Monday, where she also reiterated her anti-Islam stance.

"Do you want to see terrorism on our streets here? Do you want to see our Australians mur-

dered?" she said.

With the two major parties, the conservative Liberal-National coalition and centre-left Labour, sitting on the sidelines waiting for a result that could take days, it was left to another independent, centrist Nick Xenophon, to mount a defence of multicultural Australia.

The power vacuum that allowed Hanson to re-emerge showed just how badly Turnbull's gamble of dissolving both houses of parliament, to clear out minorities he said were blocking his reformist agenda, had failed.

Saturday's election was meant to end political turmoil that had seen four prime ministers in three years. Instead, it left Turnbull's own leadership in question less than a year after he ousted then prime minister Tony Abbott in a party-room coup.

"I think in the end he should be asking himself if he has done the Liberal Party a service or a dis-service," Corey Bernardi, a senator from Turnbull's

Liberal Party, said. Labor leader Bill Shorten also called on Turnbull to quit, likening his position to that of British Prime Minister David Cameron after last month's "Brexit" vote.

Turnbull, acting as caretaker prime minister while vote counting continues, appeared to have underestimated the protest vote that stole support from both major parties and must now negotiate with minor parties and independents to retain power.

Labour had won 67 seats to the coalition's 65 before counting was paused on the weekend, with the Greens picking up one seat and independents claiming four. The major parties need 76 seats to form a majority government in the House of Representatives.

With the result of 13 seats still in doubt, political pundits were predicting one of two main scenarios: the coalition scrapes across the line by picking up nine or more of the undecided seats, or it fails to reach 76 and has a hung parliament where neither side holds power.—Reuters

Bangladesh police try to confirm ID of cafe killers from FB posts

DHAKA — Bangladeshi police are trying to confirm the names of Islamist militants who attacked a Dhaka restaurant, killing 20 people, checking whether the identification of some by friends on social media is correct, officials said on Monday.

Islamic State posted pictures of five fighters it said were involved in Friday's killings in Dhaka's diplomatic zone, most of the victims from Italy, Japan, India and the United States.

"Let the people of the crusader countries know that there is no safety for them as long as their aircraft are killing Muslims," it said in a statement.

Posts on Facebook identified three of the five, whose grinning images appeared in front of a black flag, as Nibras Islam, Rohan Imtiaz and Meer Saameh Mubasheer.

Police have said all six gunmen killed were locals and five were on a government militant watchlist. But they also said they were holding off before confirming their identities.

Whoever was responsible, Friday's attack marked a major escalation



A child place flowers at a makeshift memorial near the site, to pay tribute to the victims of the attack on the Holey Artisan Bakery and the O'Kitchen Restaurant, in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 3 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

in scale and brutality by militants demanding Islamic rule in Bangladesh, whose 160 million people are mostly Muslim.

Some of the men went to an elite public school in Dhaka, Scholastic, and then college at North South

University in the capital and Monash University in Malaysia, according to the posts. Masudur Rahman, deputy police commissioner of Dhaka police, said officers were probing those links. "A majority of the boys who attacked the

restaurant came from very good educational institutions. Some went to sophisticated schools. Their families are relatively well-to-do people," Bangladeshi Information Minister Hasanul Haq Inu told India's NDTV.

Police arrested a seventh man at the restaurant who they suspect played a role in the attack. He is currently in hospital.

Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan believes home-grown militants responsible for a wave of

killings against minority groups in the past year and a half were to blame for Friday's bloodshed.

The plan is to look for family members of the gunmen, conduct DNA tests and investigate their links to international groups, Rahman said.

Bangladesh's \$26 billion garment industry is braced for the fallout from the killings, fearing major retailers from Uniqlo to Marks and Spencer and Gap Inc could rethink their investment.

Japan's Fast Retailing Co, owner of the Uniqlo casual-wear brand, will suspend all but critical travel to Bangladesh and has told staff there to stay home. US Secretary of State John Kerry has offered Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina help in the investigation.

"The Secretary (Kerry) encouraged the government of Bangladesh to conduct its investigation in accordance with the highest international standards and offered immediate assistance from US law enforcement, including the FBI," US State Department spokesman John Kirby said in a statement.—Reuters

Malaysia's police confirm IS link to nightclub grenade attack

KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysian authorities on Monday confirmed that the Islamic State (IS) was responsible for a grenade attack on a nightclub last week, which is believed to be the first successful attempt in the country by the militant group.

Inspector-general of police Khalid Abu Bakar said two men have been arrested in connection to the attack, and that they received direct instructions from Muhammad Wannady Mohamed Jedi, a known Malaysian IS fighter.

"The two of those arrested had received instructions from Muhammad Wannady, who had commanded them to carry out attacks in Malaysia, on our government leaders, top police officials and judges.

These three groups are considered as threatening to IS activities," Khalid said at a news conference.—Reuters

Japan, US agree to review status of civilian base workers

TOKYO — The Japanese and US governments have agreed to narrow the extent to which American citizens can be granted preferential treatment under a bilateral pact governing jurisdiction over US military personnel and base workers, a Japanese government source said Monday.

The move comes amid heightened calls by Okinawa, which hosts the bulk of US military bases, for revision of the 1960 pact in the wake of the recent

arrest of a US civilian base worker over the death of a local woman in the southernmost island prefecture.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, Defence Minister Gen Nakatani, US Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy and Lt. Gen. John Dolan, commander of the US military in Japan, are expected to announce the agreement at a joint press conference on Tuesday, the source said.

Okinawa, hosting about 75 per cent of all US

military facilities in Japan in terms of land area, has said the pact, called the Japan-US Status of Forces Agreement, is one-sided and overly protective of Americans.

"Japan and the United States are currently reviewing the treatment of Americans subject to the (agreement). We are making final arrangements to swiftly compile effective measures," Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Hagiuda told a press conference.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is also the leader of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, is likely to highlight his government's efforts to address Okinawa's concerns ahead of the upcoming House of Councillors election on 10 July.

Under the pact, Japanese prosecutors cannot indict members of US forces or their "civilian component" if offenses are deemed to have been committed while on duty, giving US authorities, in principle, the primary right of

jurisdiction over them in such cases.

Okinawa has argued that the applicable scope of "civilian component" defined in the agreement is unclear as it does not state the conditions of their employment or working arrangements.

The agreement merely defines it as "civilian persons of United States nationality who are in the employ of, serving with, or accompanying the United States armed forces in Japan."—Kyodo News

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Eradicate the root cause

Khin Maung Aye

CRIME rates in Myanmar have risen significantly over the past four years, and the patterns of criminal acts have been found unusual and varied. Criminals have become rather bold and have committed crimes anytime, anywhere. This being so, there has emerged a question as to why the rate of crimes has increased; is it because of poverty? Or the lack of a rule of law, or a deterioration of peoples' characters?

In this juncture, it is worth recalling our national leader General Aung San, who, during a heated debate with the Indian Civil Ser-

vice (ICS) personnel just three days before his assassination, had a different perspective from the ICS officials in regard to the root cause of high crime rate. At a time when the high-ranking ICS officials attributed the higher crime rates to an absence in the rule of law, General Aung San blamed the high crime rates on poverty. In the opinion of the ICS officials, crime suppression was needed to enhance and restore law and order and reinforce the rule of law. Nevertheless, General Aung San insisted on poverty alleviation.

They had a very long heated

debate but General Aung San could have convinced the ICS officials that the root cause of increased outbreak of crime was poverty, which was required to be reduced.

When it comes to poverty, Myanmar has improved in terms of GDP growth, registering average seven per cent between 2011 and 2014. The growth rate is quite satisfactory. However, redistribution of wealth is an important factor to enable the most needy to enjoy the fruits of economic growth.

In this function, the World Bank, in a report released recently, has pointed out a very big gap be-

tween the rich and the poor, suggesting redistribution of wealth, effective management of state-owned enterprises, imposition of taxes to be able to raise the government revenue, effectuation of rural development and small and medium-size enterprises.

The Global New Light of Myanmar wants to highlight the root cause of increased crime rates, not downplaying the role of crime suppression squads in their attempt to restore law and order as well as to enforce the rule of law in co-operation with other law enforcement agencies.

For the first time in Italy showcasing 10 contemporary painters from Myanmar

Mauro Salvemini

ON June 29th in Milan -Italy has been inaugurated at XXI Triennale, one of the most prestigious event for design and art in the world, the exhibition Myanmar Art Italy 2016, designed and organised by the NGO CULTURE2ALL — Mauro Salvemini (www.culture2all.com), that, for the first time in Europe and in Italy, showed the works of ten contemporary Burmese artists. H.E. Myanmar Ambassador in Italy mr. Myint Aung, the vice Consul mr. Luca Saporiti and the president of Triennale mr. Claudio De Albertis open the exhibition which has seen at the vernissage the participation of a great number of qualified guests representing both the Myanmar resident community and Italian community. " This is the way of showing how Italy and Myanmar are very close also in the culture and linked in the art contest. " said Ambassador Myint Aung after thanking the NGO and professor Mauro Salvemini for his effort. The vice-consul Luca Saporiti emphasized the importance of building strong commercial relation-



The works of ten contemporary Myanmar artists being seen.



Some of the Myanmar artists's paintings shown in Milan.

ships based on solid cultural exchanges and the president of Triennale mr. Claudio De Albertis recalled that the ongoing edition of Triennale wants to focus on emerging countries, such as Myanmar, and that according to the already achieved success this approach has to be considered for further developments. As president of NGO CULTURE2ALL and also as curator of the exhibition I said that " the exhibition demonstrates that the culture can be considered and play the role of a bridge connecting two societies ready to exchange not only physical goods but also ideas and ethical, societal and artistic issues " . Ms. Eugenia Battisti, a young and emerging art historian and art critic, which has been the

other curator of exhibition highlighted the peculiarities of the different artists' styles and how the staging of the exhibition is organised. The group of ten contemporary artists by using different styles deliver the message how Myanmar may contribute to the global discourse of contemporary art. The exhibition is showing the artworks in abstract style of the master Aung Myint, of artist Chan Nyein Kyaw which is using regular shapes and the colours of nature and of artist Tin Maung Oo which uses the cubism inspired forms extracting colours from every day life happenings. The colourful canvas of artist Kyaw Nyo homage the nature by stamped leaves, the amazing landscapes of Shan State portrayed by

artist Khin Maung Zaw with transparencies and human presence give the deep feeling of the countryside, the impressive watercolours of Yangon city painted by artist Myint Naing interpret the rapid modifications occurring in the city space, the big faces of young boys and girls painted by artist Khin Zaw Latt dramatically represent the changing Burmese society, the ladies in traditional costumes of artist Mon Thet are anchored to the heritage while looking to the future, the amazing light going out from the paintings of artist Aung Sint hypnotizes the visitors and the essential red and black colored shapes of artist Saw Moe Zaw are showing ancient stories in new shape.

Civil Service Value

Dr. Khine Khine Win

AFTER attending consultative workshop for “Establishing the Myanmar Civil Services Academy”, many thoughts relating to civil service came into my mind. What is civil service? What are the values of civil service? Why we need to strengthen human resources of civil service? What is relation between democracy and civil service?

Civil service has diverse meaning. My understanding is that civil service is one of the most important part of a government as it enables a country to function properly and to deliver public services. They are politically impartial employees who work for a department regardless of which political party is in power.

For the time being, in Myanmar, in order to cre-

ate an efficient, effective, accountable and transparent governance, we absolutely need civil service reform. As we are on the way to democratic society, we need to promote better delivery of public goods and services with increased accountability. All civil servants are needed to hone their ability on the whetstone to improve their performance. They should upgrade their knowledge and skills to keep themselves ready to perform the statutory duties impartially. In any democracy, ministers are responsible to the people through parliament and therefore civil servants have to be accountable to the ministers. At the same time, implementing the policies of the duly elected government is a core function of civil servants.

Here we need to know the values of civil services. According to Gol-UNDP Project, “Strengthening

Human Resources Management of Civil Services”, there are four pillars for good governance and citizen centric administration. They are Ethos, Ethics, Equity and Efficiency (4Es). Being a civil servant, understanding the civil service value and act accordingly is important. And also they need to act ethically and behaves in an open fair and transparent manner.

According to Gol-UNDP Project, “Strengthening Human Resources Management of Civil Services”, there are four pillars for good governance and citizen centric administration. They are Ethos, Ethics, Equity and Efficiency (4Es).

They have to be expressed and embodied in practical, visible ways, in behaviors and actions. It is important to help staff translate each value into expected or un-

acceptable behaviors, and to create awareness of these behaviors through different means. Here, we need to ensure that every level in departments and ministries not only understand the values, but are equipped to behave consistently with those values in every aspect of work.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi said that “civil servants must

ple, civil servants need to understand the needs of the people and constantly strives to improve the services. And also they need to understand what is required in their role and how this contributes to departmental priorities.

Let me highlight the role of mindset here. Dr. Win Thein, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, said in his speech at opening of management course for heads of service organizations that “the need for Myanmar citizen to bring about change in the country, as development cannot be effectuated just by the words correct perception is the key to changing mindsets”. I totally agreed with him. Changing perception is critical to changing mindsets. And I think a good mindset will reflect reality and will help you in daily life. It is the time to change our mindsets as much as to

build a peace and prosperous nation.

In order to nurture efficient civil service personnel, it is essential to train civil servants from all service organizations — both departments and enterprises. In this regard Government needs to encourage and motivate civil servants by giving them necessary training and exposure to be able to exert their almost effort. More training opportunities to civil servants could certainly help them to upgrade and seek higher positions within the service.

Civil service personnel are the bedrock of public administration and it has assumed more important role in democracy to ensure good governance. No government can exist without administrative machinery. As Myanmar is new to the democratic institution, it is only the stable and efficient civil service that can strengthen the democracy.



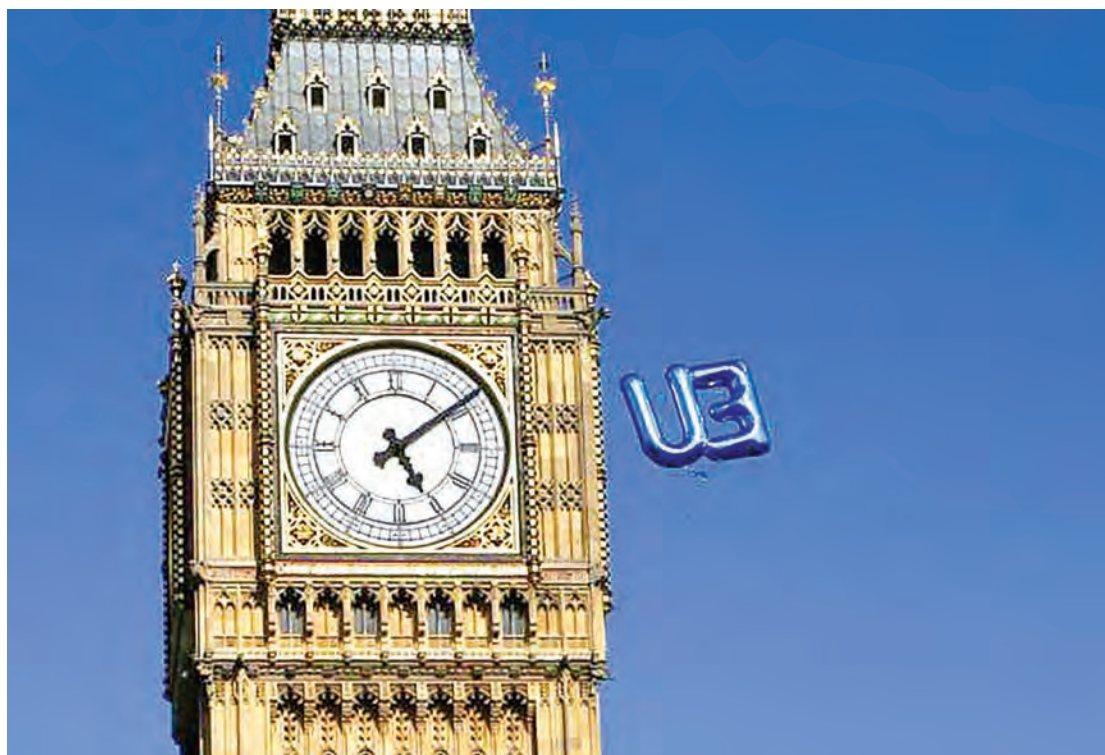
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A balloon floats towards the Big Ben clock tower in Parliament Square during a 'March for Europe' demonstration against Britain's decision to leave the European Union, in central London, Britain, on 2 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

British government faces legal challenge over Brexit trigger

LONDON — Law firm Mishcon de Reya said it had started legal action to demand the British government win legislative approval from Parliament before triggering a formal divorce from the European Union.

Mishcon de Reya, a London-based law firm, said Britain would need an Act of Parliament - which would require approval votes by lawmakers in both houses of Parliament - before it invoked Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty, the trigger for formal negotiations on exiting the bloc Britain joined in 1973.

The law firm said in a state-

ment on Sunday it was acting on behalf of a group of clients but did not identify them. The BBC said the clients were a group of business people and academics.

Mishcon de Reya disputed the government's suggestion that following the 52-48 British referendum in favour of leaving the EU on 23 June, it has sufficient legal authority to trigger Article 50 without recourse to parliament.

"The outcome of the Referendum itself is not legally binding and for the current or future Prime Minister to invoke Article 50 without the approval of Parliament is unlawful," Kasra Nouroo-

zi, a partner Mishcon de Reya, said in the statement.

It has been in correspondence with government lawyers since 27 June to seek assurances for its clients that the government will respect the sovereignty of British parliament. Conservative Prime Minister David Cameron has said he will resign and that it will be up to his successor to decide when to trigger Article 50.

Theresa May, who is currently ahead in the Conservative Party's leadership race, said that the will of the people had been clearly expressed and that "Brexit means Brexit".—Reuters

Top US lawmakers confident in fairness of Clinton email probe

NEW YORK — Top lawmakers from both major US political parties said on Sunday they trusted the Justice Department to appropriately handle its probe of presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's private email server, after a heavily criticized meeting between Clinton's husband and the US attorney general.

Republican Senators Lindsey Graham and John McCain said on CBS show "Face the Nation" that they would respect Attorney General Loretta Lynch's decision on whether to prosecute Clinton, the likely Democratic presidential nominee.

Congressman Adam Schiff, the top Democrat on the House Intelligence Committee, also said he respected the process, though he acknowledged Lynch's private meeting last week at an airport with former President Bill Clinton was unfortunate.

"I think both of them wish their airplanes had never come

anywhere near each other," Schiff said on "Face the Nation," adding that he still had confidence in the DOJ and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to do a thorough investigation of Clinton's email use.

"If they say they are going to conduct this investigation by the book, I believe that's what's going to happen," said Schiff, who supports Clinton for the party's nomination.

Lynch said on Friday that she would accept whatever recommendations the career prosecutors working on the case made about whether to prosecute Clinton.

The lawmakers' endorsement for the process follows Clinton's meeting Saturday with investigators at the FBI's Washington headquarters, where she answered questions for three and a half hours as part of the probe into use of her private email server.

The FBI is investigating Clinton's email use and whether

laws were broken as a result of a personal email server kept in her Chappaqua, New York, home while she was secretary of state from 2009 to 2013.

Lawmakers and political strategists speculated on Sunday that the FBI's interview of Clinton signalled its investigation could be nearing its end. But the FBI offered no information about the status of the probe or who its targets may be. Clinton has long insisted she is not a target.

Clinton herself said in comments to MSNBC on Saturday that she "was pleased to have the opportunity to assist the department in bringing its review to a conclusion."

Her rival, presumptive Republican nominee Donald Trump, said it was "impossible" for the FBI not to recommend criminal charges against her. The two have already begun an acrimonious battle ahead of the presidential election on 8 November.—Reuters

Restoring the economy's ability to deliver prosperity

By Mukhisa Kituyi: Secretary General of the UNCTAD

Millions of people around the world have lost faith that the world economy can improve their lives. Instead of seeing value in open borders and the free exchange of information and ideas, they see only uncertainty about their futures, growing inequalities and weak productivity gains. Too few people benefit from new technologies that connect us and make the world smaller, and too many face the spectre of terror and conflict, forced migration and rising xenophobia. With globalization in retreat, this dampened mood is holding back the potential of trade, finance, technology and investment to improve lives.

In the developing world, significant headwinds now cloud growth prospects, threatening to undo hard fought development gains.

In Asia, with weak external demand and the global trade slowdown, many value chains are set to shorten and the gains from industrialization look more difficult to reap. Corporate and household debts are rising, and many previously fast-growing economies now face what some are calling the "middle-income trap".

In Africa, we are seeing a sharp reversal of the frontier market "Africa rising" narrative amidst the end of the commodity super cycle, a drying up of capital inflows, and rising public and corporate debt. Security threats and failed states are adding to the complexity, and the largest wave of migrants in more than 70 years is being driven out of the continent.

In Latin America, the region's dedication to inclusiveness is now confronted by the prospect of another lost decade; lower commodity prices, capital out flows and declining living standards for the middle class are forcing governments to re-assess the achievements of the last boom period and how to reignite industrialization.

In the developed world, globalization has left in its wake two related, major structural problems — increased inequalities and slowing productivity growth. Stagnant median incomes have sparked a backlash against migration in Europe and explain the anti-trade tone dominating the US presidential election campaign. Many of the recent "Brexit" votes to leave the European Union were cast by voters who feel left behind by globalization.

Whistle blower leaks — like "Panama Papers" — are also compounding the distrust that people have in political and economic institutions, revealing how international trade and investment can be riddled with illicit flows, hidden transactions and tax havens — at times even with the complicity of political leaders.

This dampened global mood gives substantial cause for international concern. At the United Nations, we contrast the current pessimism with the three major optimistic achievements of multilateralism agreed last year in 2015: the Addis Ababa Financing for Development Conference in July, the summit in New York on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in September, and the COP-21 climate change conference in Paris end-November. For us, implementing these agreements from last year as quickly as possible is the best way to confront the growing gloom that we are seeing.

We need to turn last year's optimism towards restoring the economy's ability to deliver prosperity with a shift in paradigm and approach. That is why the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed as a part of the 2030 Agenda last year are so important. The SDGs offer a blueprint for how our economy, our societies and our environment should look in 2030. And if we take the Goals seriously, the SDGs can become an effective yardstick for monitoring the inclusiveness of global prosperity.

The 14th UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 14) in Nairobi in July will be critical for taking the 2030 Agenda forward. International cooperation in trade, finance, technology and investment are a major emphasis of the SDGs. At Nairobi, United Nations member States will agree collectively on their international engagement on these issues for the next four years. At Nairobi world leaders will address how to reboot global trade growth, including through services trade, e-commerce and regional agreements. They will also move toward more international cooperation in tackling tax evasion, reforming investment governance, and improving international governance of debt. CEOs, investors, and business leaders also have an important role at Nairobi; the UNCTAD World Investment Forum will rally more productive investment in the countries and sectors that need it most.

The first statistical report from a United Nations agency on the SDGs will also be launched by UNCTAD in Nairobi. The Development and Globalization Facts and Figures report will be the first United Nations assessment benchmarking the trade, finance, technology and investment gaps, which need to be closed by 2030.

The entire world is invited to join our efforts at Nairobi to help revive the constructive mood that will lead to prosperity, dignity and a better planet. Together we can reinvigorate trade, finance, technology and investment as positive forces to end poverty and leave no one behind. Our collective efforts in these areas can renew our spirit of international engagement. Let us put the SDGs to work monitoring the inclusiveness of global growth and restoring the hope for prosperity for all that globalization presents us.—UNIC/Yangon

Niger Delta Avengers group claims five attacks in Nigeria's southern Delta

YENAGOA, (Nigeria) — The Niger Delta Avengers, a militant group that has been carrying out attacks on Nigerian oil facilities in the past few months, claimed responsibility on Sunday for five new attacks in the southern energy hub since Friday.

The group had previously not laid claim to any attacks in the Niger Delta — the source of most of the OPEC member's oil — since 16 June.

Petroleum Ministry sources said in late June that a month-long truce had been agreed with militants. But the Avengers said they did not “remember” agreeing to a ceasefire.

Attacks in the Niger Delta have pushed Nigerian crude production to 30-year lows, although the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) said last week that output was rising because of repairs and a fall-off in attacks.

In messages posted on Twitter in the early hours of Sunday, the Avengers said they had attacked a pipeline connected to the Warri refinery operated by NNPC on Friday night.



A petrol attendant sits on a floating fuel station on the banks of the Nun River on the outskirts of the Bayelsa state capital, Yenagoa, in Nigeria's delta region 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

day night.

They added that they blew up two lines on Saturday night close to Batan flow station in Delta state run by NPDC, a subsidiary of NNPC.

The militants also said two Chevron facilities close to Abiteye flow station, in Delta state, came under attack early on Sunday.

Residents in some of those areas reported hearing blasts.

“All five operations” were carried out by an Avengers “strike

team”, the group said.

Garba Deen Muhammad, a spokesman for state oil company NNPC, whose managing director is the oil minister, confirmed that the crude facilities identified by the Avengers had been attacked.

“Government will not be deterred in its efforts to find a lasting solution to these attacks,” he said.

Chevron spokeswoman Isabel Ordonez said that “as a matter of long-standing policy,” the compa-

ny did not comment on “the safety and security” of its personnel and operations.

The militants say they want a greater share of Nigeria's oil wealth, which accounts for around 70 per cent of national income, to be passed on to communities in the impoverished region and for areas blighted by oil spills to be cleaned up. On Thursday, President Muhammadu Buhari hosted a group of community leaders from the Delta and urged them to pacify people in the restive region where anger is widespread.

Eric Omare, of the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC), which represents the Delta's biggest ethnic group, said the “resumption” of attacks was “worrisome”, adding that the government had failed to build on goodwill generated by the oil minister's visit to the region in June.

“The federal government has not taken any practical step towards resolving the issues,” said Omare, adding that the IYC urged the Avengers not to carry out further attacks in order to “give room for constructive dialogue”.

—Reuters

Saudi Arabia intercepts ballistic missile from Yemen

DUBAI — The Saudi Arabian air force intercepted a ballistic missile fired from Yemen, Saudi state news agency SPA reported on Monday.

The missile was launched from Yemeni territory heading towards the city of Abha, the capital of southwestern Asir province, and was intercepted at 6:10 am (0310 GMT), SPA reported.

Houthi forces in Yemen, in which Saudi Arabia has led a war against the Iran-backed group, have previously fired missiles towards Saudi Arabia.

Saudi-owned Arabiya TV reported earlier on Monday that a missile had been intercepted in the city of Khamees Mushait in the Kingdom's southwest. It did not identify from where the missile had been fired.

—Reuters



A Syria Democratic Forces (SDF) fighter walks in the silos and mills of Manbij after the SDF took control of it, in Aleppo Governorate, Syria, on 1 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

US-backed militias face second Islamic State counter attack

BEIRUT — Syrian militias backed by US-led air strikes have repelled a second Islamic State counter attack in 24 hours near a city being targeted in a major offensive against the jihadist group, an official and a monitoring group said on Monday.

The Syria Democratic Forces (SDF) alliance grouping Kurdish and Arab fighters launched an offensive last month to capture the city of Manbij from Islamic State, part of an operation aimed at dislodging the group from the border with Turkey. Islamic State, seeking to break a siege on Manbij, counter attacked on three fronts around the city on Saturday, followed by a further counter attack over Sunday night and in the early hours of Monday, the Syrian Observatory for Human

Rights and an SDF official said. Both assaults had been repelled, they said. “Dozens of air strikes repelled (Islamic State forces),” Rami Abdulrahman, director of the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, said. “The SDF has made no progress in Manbij for 10 days,” he said, noting that progress had been slow in part because Islamic State fighters had heavily mined buildings in the city. The US-backed campaign in northern Syria aims to drive Islamic State away from its last foothold at the border with Turkey. Syrian government forces, backed by Russia, are waging a separate campaign against the jihadists in the same area. The United States has ruled out cooperating with Damascus in the war against Islamic State.—Reuters

Israeli military says attacked two Syrian army targets

JERUSALEM — Israel attacked Syrian army targets after errant fire from fighting in Syria's civil war struck the Israeli-controlled Golan Heights, the military said on Monday.

A spokeswoman said two targets belonging to the Syrian military were hit overnight after the fire damaged Israel's security fence on the Golan, territory

captured from Syria in a 1967 war. She gave no further details about the targets that were struck or the weapons Israel used to attack them.

Two months ago, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Israel has launched dozens of strikes in Syria. Though formally neutral on the civil war, Israel has frequently pledged to

prevent shipments of advanced weaponry to the Iranian-backed Hezbollah group, whose fighters have been allied with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

The Israeli military has also responded in the past with shelling and air strikes to mortar bombs that have landed in the Golan during battles in the Syrian conflict.—Reuters



Israeli soldiers from the 605 Combat Engineering Corps battalion take part in a training session on the Israeli side of the border between Syria and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights, on 1 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Police stand guard at Central Park in New York, the United States, on 3 July, 2016. An explosion happened early on Sunday at New York's Central Park, leaving one man seriously injured. PHOTO: XINHUA

New York's Central Park blast likely caused by 'experiment' explosives: police

NEW YORK — The explosives that severely injured a young man on Sunday in New York's Central Park was likely an "experiment with fireworks or explosives," authorities said.

Commanding Officer of the NYPD Bomb Squad Mark Torre told a press conference that the Fourth of July holiday was a typical time of the year that the squad dealt with a lot of homemade explosives experimentations.

Torre said the squad had not found anything consistent with a constructed IED in the explosion, adding that the explosives could be

made by somebody with a knowledge with chemistry.

"There's nothing to indicate that this was an explosive device that was placed in this area with a specific intent to harm any individuals," said Torre.

"At this time, we have no evidence that this is related to terrorism," said NYPD Deputy Chief John O'Connell. "There're no specific credible threat directed at New York or the July Fourth celebrations," O'Connell added. O'Connell said the police did not consider the victim and his two friends were part of the construction of the explosives.

The blast occurred when the 18-year-old man stepped on the explosives on a rock structure in the renowned Central Park, seriously injuring his left foot.

According to the police, the victim was undergoing surgery and his condition was stable. Officials said the police were checking the park for any more explosives by looking through video surveillance camera footage, sending many police detectives and bomb-sniffing dogs, including some specially trained vapor wake detection dogs.

The investigation was still underway.—Xinhua

Search vessel recovers human remains at EgyptAir MS804 crash site

CAIRO — A search vessel contracted by the Egyptian government has recovered all mapped human remains under water at the crash site of EgyptAir flight MS804 in the Mediterranean, Egypt's aircraft accident investigation committee said on Sunday.

The John Lethbridge, belonging to Mauritius-based Deep Ocean

Search, headed to Alexandria port to hand over the remains to coroners and prosecution officials, the committee said in a statement. It will return to the crash site to make further checks for any possible remains there, the statement said.

The Airbus A320 plunged into the eastern Mediterranean en route from

Paris to Cairo on 19 May and all 66 people on board were killed. The cause of the crash remains unknown.

The plane is believed to have crashed in the deepest part of the Mediterranean. Investigators have started analysing one of its so called black box flight recorders and are extracting information from the other.

Debris from the jet was

brought to Cairo airport last week, where investigators will try to reassemble part of the frame to help establish what might have caused the disaster. No explanation for the disaster has been ruled out. But current and former aviation officials increasingly believe the reason lies in the aircraft's technical systems, rather than sabotage.—Reuters



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

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY ELECTRIC POWER GENERATION ENTERPRISE

Date: July 4, 2016

Invitation for Private Power Generation Plant thru Rental Power Basis in Yangon Region

1. Electric Power Generation Enterprise (EPGE) seeks to invite tender for the purchasing electricity of 300 MW by Rental power plant system in Yangon Region.
2. The concession period for the power plant shall be 5 (five) years from commercial operation date (COD).
3. The Tender Form fees is K.500, 000/- (Kyat five hundred thousand only) and can be purchased at Procurement Department, Electric Power Generation Enterprise, Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
4. The bidders shall send the technical and commercial proposal addressed to
Tender Evaluation Committee
Electric Power Generation Enterprise,
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
Building 27, Nay Pyi Taw
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
5. The bid submission date is August 18, 2016 at 16:00 hr. Myanmar Standard Time.
6. Bidding Proposal must be submitted at the address in time. Any late proposal shall be rejected.
7. The bidders shall make the proposals in accordance with the Invitation for **Invitation for Power Generation Rental Basis**
8. The necessary information of this project tender can be inquired within office hour.

Attention to

Tender Evaluation Committee,
Electric Power Generation Enterprise
Ph +95 9 8601033, + 95 67 8104281,
+95 96 8104282
Fax +95 67 8104280
epgethermal@gmail.com

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV NINOS VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV NINOS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 5.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CS TINA VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CS TINA VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 4.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY

AGENT FOR: M/S MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE)
PTE LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV VEGA LUPUS VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV VEGA LUPUS VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 3.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T/M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

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A member of the Philippine National Police (PNP) investigation unit shows illegal firearms along with confiscated methamphetamine, known locally as Shabu and Philippine pesos, seized from suspected drug pushers during an operation by the police in Quiapo city, metro Manila, Philippines on 3 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thirty killed in four days in Philippine war on drugs

MANILA — Thirty “drug dealers” have been killed since Rodrigo Duterte was sworn in as Philippine president on Thursday, police said, announcing the seizure of nearly \$20 million worth of narcotics but sparking anger from a lawyers’ group.

Duterte won the election in May on a platform of crushing crime, but his incendiary rhetoric and advocacy of extrajudicial killings have alarmed many who hear echoes of the country’s authoritarian past.

Oscar Albayalde, police chief for the Manila region, said five drug dealers were killed on Sunday in a gun battle with police in a shanty town near a mosque near the presidential palace.

“My men were about to serve arrest warrants when shots rang out from one of the houses in the area,” Albayalde told reporters, saying police returned fire and killed five men.

Four guns and 200 grams of crystal methamphetamine were recovered. Three others were killed in other areas in Manila on Sunday and 22 were killed in four areas outside the capital.

More than 100 people have died, mostly suspected drug dealers, rapists and

car thieves in stepped up anti-crime police operations since the election on 9 May.

Edre Olalia, secretary-general of the National Union of People’s Lawyers, said the killings must be halted.

“The drug menace must stop... Yet the apparent serial summary executions of alleged street drug users or petty drug lords which appear sudden, too contrived and predictable must also stop,” he said in a statement. “The two are not incompatible.”

In the north of the main island of Luzon, drug enforcement agents and police

seized a shipment of 180 kg (400 lb) of “shabu” (methamphetamine) worth about 900 million pesos (\$19.23 million) from either China or Taiwan, national police chief Ronald dela Rosa said.

The shipment was unloaded at sea and brought to shore by small fishing boats before delivery to Manila’s Chinatown, he said.

On Sunday, the Maoist-led New People’s Army rebels issued a statement supporting Duterte’s all-out war against drugs, saying it might conduct its own drug operations against soldiers, police and local officials.—*Reuters*

Bomber killed, two police wounded in blast outside US consulate in Jeddah

RIYADH — A suicide bomber was killed and two people were wounded in a blast near the US consulate in Saudi Arabia’s second city of Jeddah early on Monday, state TV said, the first bombing in years to attempt to target foreigners in the kingdom. The attacker parked his car outside a hospital opposite the consulate at about 2.15 am and detonated his device after being approached by two security men, killing him and lightly wounding them, it said, quoting a security spokesman.

Three further blasts rocked the location of the bombing hours later, a witness told Reuters, as police carried out what appeared to be controlled explosions near the site. A video sent by the witness showed police taking cover behind vehicles and covering their ears before a blast.

In a statement, the US consulate said there were no casualties or injuries among its staff, adding that it and the US embassy were in contact with Saudi authorities investigating the incident.—*Reuters*

Torrential rains suspend train operations in China

CHANGSHA, — Torrential rains in central China’s Hunan Province have disrupted train operations, a railway company said Monday. Since midnight on Sunday, when rain battered the province, more than 100 trains have been forced to stop, delay or detour along five railway lines, including one connecting Shanghai and Kunming, capital of Yunnan Province, said a manager with Guangzhou Railway Group.

Up to 27 railway sections along the five lines were reported to have been affected by rain-triggered landslides or flooded rail beds, said the manager.

An expressway bridge under construction collapsed because of the rain around 10 am Monday morning in Yiyang City, Hunan, creating a barrier lake near a national-level road. The flooding has disrupted traffic along the road. Also in Yiyang City, around 3 tonnes of gasoline and diesel oil leaked out of a gas station at 3 am Monday, forcing nearby residents to temporarily relocate, according to the city publicity department. The contaminated floodwater flowed into a nearby river, and authorities are monitoring the water quality and are prepared for an emergency response plan for drinking water contamination.—*Xinhua*

Mitsubishi Motors resumes minicar output at factory hit by mileage scandal

OKAYAMA — Mitsubishi Motors Corp. on Monday resumed production of four minicar models hit by its fuel data manipulation scandal at a plant in western Japan, following a two-and-a-half-month suspension.

Some 1,300 employees who were told to stay home will go back to work at the Mizushima plant in Kurashiki, Okayama Prefecture, although production is not expected to return to pre-scandal levels until October or later, Mitsubishi Motors said.

Workers conducted checks on the plant’s production lines that had been online since late April, with five cars expected to be built during the day. Mitsubishi Motors plans to increase the number step by step so the plant becomes fully operational and shipments from the factory will be resumed around 20 July.

Mitsubishi Motors suspended production of the four models in question after admitting on 20 April that it had manipulated data to make them look more fuel efficient than they actually are.

The four are the eK Wagon and eK Space, along with the Dayz and Dayz Roxx supplied to Nissan Motor Co. The two automakers resumed sales on Friday as Mitsubishi Motors submitted revised data to the transport ministry, which maintained its approval for the models to be sold.

A male employee at the plant who engages in minicar production said, “I’m a little bit relieved that production has resumed but I’m

also worried about how our sales are going to be.”

Mitsubishi Motors plans to boost monthly minicar production to 9,000 units in September from 5,000 units planned for July and August. The automaker built around 12,000 units a month on average a year earlier.

The plant suspension has prompted local suppliers to stop operations and one of its secondary subcontractors to file for bankruptcy, leaving a negative impact on the local economy and employment. “Mitsubishi Motors and its parts makers need to join forces and work hard to regain consumer trust,” said Shinzo Hiruta, who leads a group in Okayama of 12 parts makers doing business with Mitsubishi Motors.—*Kyodo News*

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (9 /2016)			
Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.			
<u>Sr.No</u>	<u>Tender No</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Remark</u>
(1)	IFB-021(16-17)	Electrical Spares for USS Oil Well Rig (13) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-022(16-17)	Spares for 3 rd Stage & 4 th Stage Atlas Copco Compressor (Intermech) (178) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-023(16-17)	2 7/8” & 2 3/8” EUE Tubing (2) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-024(16-17)	2”, 3” & 4” Flow Line Pipes (3) Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-025(16-17)	Spares for P & H Crawler Crane (19) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-026(16-17)	Handling and Lifting Accessories (62) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-027(16-17)	Spares for L-Type & ZW-Type Compressor (54) Items	US\$
(8)	IFB-028(16-17)	Spares for Clean Energy Mother & Daughter Compressors (IMW) (77) Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-029(16-17)	Rig Floor Handling & Lifting Accessories (20) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-030(16-17)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 70L Rigs (22) Items	US\$
(11)	DMP/L-010(16-17)	1” Ø Reinforcement Hose Pipe and 1” Ø Union (2) Items	Ks
Tender Closing Date & Time		-	28-7-2016, 16:30 Hr
Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5 TH July, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.			
Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206			

It wouldn't be the 4th of July without Willie Nelson's moveable 'picnic

AUSTIN, (Texas) — It is an on again, occasionally off again American tradition from the 1970s that has filled football stadiums and sun-baked Texas ranches, with one constant - country music legend Willie Nelson celebrating Independence Day with a music-packed picnic.

Nelson's first blowout picnic in 1973 was a combination of Woodstock hippy love and cowboy hoedown of more than 40,000 people in Dripping Springs outside of Austin that raised the ire of police, who received complaints about noise, nudity and dazed people wandering around.

As Nelson has aged, the event has mellowed. About 10,000 people are expected at this year's version, which will feature 20 acts, including some Texas troubadours who appeared at the first picnic, and will be held at a race track in Austin, which is the only US stop for global Formula One racing.

Nelson said he got the idea for the picnics from the 1969 Woodstock music festival and wanted to bring that feeling to the Hill Country west of Austin.

"I was looking at (Woodstock) and was realizing the same thing might happen in Texas if it were promoted right and had the right talent," Nelson said in an in-



Singer Willie Nelson walk on the stage during a concert honoring him as the recipient of the Library of Congress' Gershwin Prize for Popular Song in Washington, US in November 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

terview with Reuters.

"It is a national holiday for national independence and I felt like a lot of people would like to get together and celebrate. It was a no-brainer," said Nelson, 83.

The early affairs were raucous events, drawing crowds of over 80,000. They often lasted for days, often at places not pre-

pared for the onslaught.

"If we had arrested all the naked and drunk people I saw, we'd have filled our jail and yours and all of the jails from here to Dallas," a deputy in Williamson County, north of Austin, told the Austin American-Statesman after the 1975 event, which attracted about 70,000.

The 1976 picnic in Gonzales, Texas, was marred by reports of rapes, stabbings, rampant drug use and snake bites.

After a raft of troubles, Nelson moved the picnic in 1979 to his country club in the Texas Hill Country, much to the annoyance of his neighbors, who complained of the noise and clogged roads.

He has since taken the show on the road with stops in New York and Atlanta, as well as a truck stop town between Dallas and Austin. The picnic moved to the Circuit of the Americas race track in Austin last year.

The facility, with ice-cooled "water monster" hydrating stations, covered mist rooms, about two dozen restaurant and bar choices, and a bevy of functioning toilets is a far cry from the early days where the nearest shrub was often the closest thing to a rest room. The acts this year include some who have been picnic staples, including long-time country music notables Ray Wylie Hubbard, Johnny Bush and Billy Joe Shaver. Some of the newer stars to take the stage include Margo Price and Shakey Graves.

Nelson, with a six-decade career capped by numerous awards, including the Library of Congress Gershwin Prize for Popular Song in 2015, remembers the Fourth of July as a much simpler affair when he was growing up in rural Texas.

"It meant a day off when I didn't have to pick cotton. Like all the other holidays, it was a day I didn't have to do anything," he said.

"I would just hang out and do nothing. That is still my favorite thing to do."—Reuters



Insiders say that Zayn Malik is feeling better after spending time with girlfriend Gigi Hadid. PHOTO: PTI

Zayn Malik, Gigi Hadid now closer than ever?

LOS ANGELES — Supermodel Gigi Hadid and singer boyfriend Zayn Malik have reportedly become extremely close since they got back together post break up.

The 21-year-old supermodel and her former One Direction band member beau, who split up last month after embarking on their on and off romance for seven months, are now "back to normal," reported E! Online.

"Things are back to normal with them. They got through a rough patch that Zayn was facing personally and it started to put a dark cloud on their relationship.

Gigi was there for him when he needed her the most and that brought them closer than ever," a source said.

The couple are rumoured to be putting all their energy into mending their romance by spending time together and away from prying eyes.

"They have been spending some alone time together lately without the media seeing them. Zayn is feeling better with the help of Gigi and many other close people in his life. It's a work in progress for him," the insider said.—PTI

'Finding Dory' Dominates 'Tarzan,' Spielberg's 'The BFG' Bombs

LOS ANGELES — "Finding Dory" dominated the Independence Day box office, overcoming a trio of new releases to provide the weekend's biggest fireworks.

The Pixar release swam to the top of the charts for the third consecutive weekend, picking up \$41.9 million to bring its domestic total to \$372.2 million. The follow-up to "Finding Nemo" should end the four-day holiday with another \$50.5 million in receipts. It is on pace to surpass "Toy Story 3" and its \$415 million haul as the highest-grossing Pixar film in history on a domestic basis.

"It's showing no signs of slowing down," said Dave Hollis, distribution chief at Disney, Pixar's parent company. "As people are weighing what to see, it stands out as the only option that's going to entertain everyone."

The July 4th weekend is traditionally one of the movie business' biggest, but this national holiday suffered from a weak crop of new releases, as costly adventures such as "The Legend of Tarzan" and "The BFG" failed to excite audiences. The influx of new releases did lift industry-wide grosses, and the weekend should be among the five biggest.

"There's a lot of product out there," said Paul Dergarabedian,

senior media analyst at comScore. "That leads to a lot of fragmentation and cannibalisation, and a lot of spreading the wealth."

With a smaller budget, "The Legend of Tarzan" might rank as a hit. But Warner Bros. and Village Roadshow spent lavishly to update Edgar Rice Burroughs' jungle king stories, shelling out a reported \$180 million to produce the picture and millions more to market it.

Despite the high costs, the film did better than projected, earning \$38.1 million for the three-day weekend to take second place. It should make \$44 million for the holiday, roughly \$10 million more than analysts expected it would generate, but that may not be enough to cover the massive budget. David Yates, who directed several Harry Potter installments, was behind the camera on the film, with Alexander Skarsgard donning Tarzan's loincloth and Margot Robbie serving as his Jane.

To make a profit, the film will have to resonate with foreign crowds. In its first weekend of international release, "The Legend of Tarzan" pulled in \$18.8 million from 19 markets, including South Korea and Russia.

"You have to look at the whole worldwide results," said

Jeff Goldstein, Warner Bros. distribution executive vice president, noting that the film has yet to open in major territories such as China.

"At the end of the day we always looked at this as a bigger play internationally," he added.

The weekend's biggest disaster was Disney's "The BFG," Steven Spielberg's \$140 million adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic children's book. The story of a friendly giant (Mark Rylance) who befriends an orphan (Ruby Barnhill), got solid reviews, but was overshadowed by "Finding Dory." It collapsed at the box office, eking out \$19.6 million over the weekend and should earn a paltry \$23.6 million over the four-day holiday for a fourth place finish. It will rank as one of the biggest flops of the summer and of Spielberg's career, raising questions about his drawing power after a decade spent making historical dramas such as "Lincoln" that are geared at older crowds.

Disney's Hollis acknowledged the studio was disappointed with the results, but hopes that the film would get a lift in the coming weeks as families seek out entertainment options to keep children occupied during their summer vacations.—Reuters

The Olympic Games in Brazil, a country that welcomes the world with open arms

Michel Temer
Interim President of the Federative
Republic of Brazil

TODAY, exactly thirty days before the world's greatest-sporting event is scheduled to begin, Brazil can say with confidence: we are ready to host the first Olympic and Paralympic Games to take place in South America.

The Olympic Village, housing more than 17,000 participating athletes in one of Rio de Janeiro's most beautiful settings, has just been inaugurated. All sports facilities, especially those serving the Olympic Park in the Barra da Tijuca neighbourhood, are also up and ready.

The country has put together a solid security program of 85,000 federal, state, and municipal gov-

ernment personnel to ensure that sporting events take place in an atmosphere of absolute peace and tranquillity. This contingent of security personnel will work in an integrated fashion, overseeing the protection of athletes, coaching staffs, heads of state, government officials, local residents, and journalists.

This will not be Brazil's first opportunity to show the world its capacity for organization, and to welcome visitors warmly to a secure environment. Over the past few years, our country has developed an expertise in hosting mega-events on an international scale. We hosted the World Cup, the Pan-Ameri-

can Games, the World Military Games, World Youth Day, and the Confederations Cup, all unanimous successes, which we conducted in a spirit of excellence, dedication and with the characteristic Brazilian *joie de vivre*. And now, another success is on its way.

The Games will show the world one of the major global economies at work in a mature democracy: a country with great business potential that at the same time has set the standard for policies to fight inequality. Rio de Janeiro is expected to receive approximately 500,000 visitors from Brazil and abroad during the Games, while the five "Soccer Cities" São Paulo, Salvador, Manaus, Brasília and Belo Horizonte will also find themselves inundated with local and foreign fans. Hosting events

on this scale represents both a momentous accomplishment for the Brazilian people and a source of immense national pride.

It should be emphasized that 60 percent, 7.07 billion reais, of the total investment in the Olympic facilities were financed by the private sector. These resources and efforts will remain as legacies to the entire country. For instance, the Games will disseminate throughout Brazil the hallmark values of competitive sports: cooperation, solidarity, discipline, and resiliency. As a more concrete benefit, Brazilians throughout the country's five geographic regions will also inherit a national sports training network of world-class facilities for both sports beginners and high-performance athletes.

Finally, in Rio de Ja-

neiro, the Games have greatly influenced the implementation of public policy, causing the city to fast track, expand and even initiate many municipal infrastructure and mobility projects. The direct, favourable impact of the policies on the quality of life of the city's residents is evident.

Over the past few weeks, rumour of the possibility of an outbreak of tropical disease during the Games has circulated. We can assure you, as has the World Health Organization, that the risk of Zika infection during the Games is practically non-existent. Historically, an extremely low incidence of disease transmitted by the Aedes Aegypti has been recorded during the winter season in the Southern Hemisphere. Indeed, there has been a

dramatic decline in cases of Zika infection in Rio de Janeiro and throughout Brazil in the past few weeks. I recall a similar prediction of epidemic during the 2014 World Cup tournament in Brazil, when we hosted 1.4 million foreign visitors. No epidemic occurred. Then as now, tourists can be assured of favourable health conditions during the Olympic Games.

Brazil is ready to receive all of the visitors who will be enjoying the pleasure of watching the world's elite international sports athletes compete, and, surely, we will have a great deal to show the five billion viewers from around the world who will be watching the Games as well.

Brazil awaits you with open arms.

Serving up a solution to Singapore's retiring hawker sellers

SINGAPORE — Singapore is cooking up new methods to find the next wave of hawker sellers amid fears the city state's signature street-food delights could fall off the menu with chef retirements.

Singapore has more than 100 hawker centers and 6,000 stalls selling popular multi-ethnic meals for as little as S\$2.80 (\$2), but enticing new chefs to the small, basic kitchens is proving tricky against the riches offered by modern restaurants.

Chen Fu Yuan, a 72-year-old hawker that has been cooking Char Kway Teow (fried flat rice noodles) since 1969, is struggling to find anyone to take over his stall after his children and grandchildren took up oth-

er careers. "I will definitely be very heartbroken," Chen said. "It is a waste that no one wants to take it on."

In April the government set up an advisory Hawker Centre 3.0 Committee, charged with sustaining a trade that is a source of pride for locals and regularly draws visiting celebrities, like British chef Gordon Ramsay.

The government will open 10 new hawker centers over the next 12 years but many of these venues come without the government subsidies that have kept some monthly stall rents as low as S\$320 (\$238). New rates can be S\$1,800 a month.

"We can build hawker centres but who is going to man them?" Singapore food

blogger, author and Hawker Centre 3.0 Committee member Dr Leslie Tay asked.

Tay said most hawker stall owners were in their 50s and 60s with a wave of retirements expected in the near future but new initiatives to find replacements were showing signs of promise, such as pairing aspiring hawkers with experienced hands.

"I was holding a pen and a laptop a year ago and a year later I'm holding on to this knife," 30-year-old Derrick Lee said after giving up a career in oil and gas to learn alongside a hawker master.

"I believe there are still people out there who are interested to take over." —Reuters



Hawker Derrick Lee, 30, sells chicken rice in his stall at a hawker centre in Singapore on 30 June, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Entertainment Channel

(5-7-2016, Monday)

<p>06 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather Report • Cartoon Programme "The Incredibles" (Part-2) <p>07 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>07 : 40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>08 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV Entertainment Music <p>09 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pyi Thu Ni Ti 	<p>09 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Movie Songs <p>09 : 30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Traditional Instruments - Myanma Harp (Episode-1) <p>10 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Programme <p>10 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video <p>Midnight</p> <p>Close Down</p>
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From 5-7-2016 (Tuesday) **6:00 pm**
To 6-7-2016 (Wednesday) **6:00 pm**

Myanmar International

(5-7-2016 07:00am ~ 6-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Size Does Matter (Ep-1) "Human-Elephant Conflict"
07:46	Am	Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs: Thet Nge
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Director: Kyi Phyu Shin
08:36	Am	Memorable Yaw Region
08:53	Am	Cosplayer
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	The Strokes of Myanmar
09:51	Am	Today Myanmar: First Hundred Days of

the New Government

10:03	Am	News
10:25	Am	Adventurous Young Photographer
10:45	Am	Sai Ye Kwan
10:54	Am	Hip-Hop and Design

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	A Day Out With Sarah (EP-5)
07:53	Pm	Ngapali Beach: Fishing Villages
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Trend Of Kachin Dress
08:52	Pm	Crocodile Keeper

(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Monday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)
(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Fantastic France end Iceland's dream run with crushing win

PARIS — France swept emphatically into the Euro 2016 semi-finals and brought Iceland's fairytale run to a crushing halt as Olivier Giroud scored twice in a 5-2 win on Sunday to set up a mouth-watering last-four clash with Germany.

Paul Pogba, Dimitri Payet and Antoine Griezmann were also on target in a one-sided romp at the Stade de France that proved a nightmare end to war-weary Iceland's improbable Euro dreams.

Having fairly comfortably eased past England into the quarter-finals, Iceland, the smallest nation ever to have qualified for the European Championship, with a population of 330,000, were 4-0 down inside the first half.

They tried to rally after the break with a goal from Kolbeinn Sigthorsson, and added a late consolation through Birkir Bjarnason, but the damage had already been done.

France, who had not been past the quarter-finals since they won the tournament in 2000, eased off and cruised home and will no doubt feel they are warm-



France's Olivier Giroud celebrates after scoring their fifth goal against Iceland during EURO 2016 quarter final at Stade de France, Saint-Denis near Paris, France on 3 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing up nicely ahead of Thursday's semi-final against world champions Germany in Marseille.

"I am delighted for the players as they deserve this, and for these fans who have been behind us for months," said France coach

Didier Deschamps.

"To be able to offer them something to make them smile and feel happy and have another week in it — I'm delighted about that."

The French boss will also

have been happy to see midfield powerhouse Pogba finally stamp his authority on a match, having struggled in the early games, while striker Giroud silenced some of his critics with a man-of-the-match performance.

For Iceland, a revved-up France team, packed with attacking talent and aggressive running, proved a game too far, but they leave their first major tournament with their heads held high.

"We're disappointed but still incredibly proud," said captain Aron Gunnarsson. "It's been such an amazing experience, it's been a lot of hard work and the supporters have been fantastic. They're still singing, it's unbelievable."

Coming into the game, Iceland were praised for a rigidly well-organised defence while France had found first-half goals hard to come by, with their previous six coming after the break.

It was a matter of minutes, however, before both of those traits were swept aside, as France set about picking their way through gaping holes in Iceland's previously solid rearguard.

Having defended so admirably against England, Iceland were 2-0 down inside 20 minutes through two of the oldest and simplest tricks in the football playbook.—Reuters

Portugal defender Pepe misses training as a precaution

PARIS — Portugal defender Pepe missed a training session on Monday as a precaution after suffering a problem with his thigh, a team spokesman told reporters.

"Pepe has a muscle pain in his thigh and is not going to train

today as a precaution," the spokesman said. The 33-year-old Brazilian-born defender has had an excellent tournament and his absence from Wednesday's Euro 2016 semi-final against Wales would be a significant blow.—Reuters

EU orders Real Madrid, other Spanish clubs to repay state aid

BRUSSELS — EU competition regulators ordered Real Madrid, Valencia and five other Spanish football clubs on Monday to repay millions of euros in illegal state aid.

The European Commission said the public support measures granted by Spain to seven

professional football clubs gave those clubs an unfair advantage over other clubs in breach of EU State aid rules. Real Madrid was ordered to pay back 18.4 million euros (\$20.5 million) in one case for an overvalued land transfer and Valencia 20.4 million euros in another case.—Reuters

Germany's Khedira out of France semi-final

EVIAN — Holding midfielder Sami Khedira will miss Germany's Euro 2016 semi-final against hosts France after he sustained an adductor muscle injury in the quarter-final victory over Italy, coach Joachim Loew said on Monday.

Khedira, who had played in all of Germany's matches at the tournament, was withdrawn early in Saturday's game after over-stretching during a challenge for the ball.

"Sami Khedira won't play for us on Thursday. We will do everything for him to be available for a potential final," Loew told reporters of the 29-year-old Juventus player.

"I will have to bring in new names. There will be personnel changes in the lineup."

Germany are already without suspended central defender Mats Hummels and injured striker Mario Gomez, who will miss the rest of the tournament after also picking up an injury in the shoot-out victory over Italy.

Gomez, who will remain with the team, is the only specialist striker in the German squad.

Loew said he had enough options in midfield, naming Emre Can as one of Khedira's possible replacements due to his versatility.

"He is a player who can be used in a lot of different positions. In training, he has been very convincing. Physically he is very strong and skilled. I think that a player like Can would do our game a lot of good."

Captain Bastian Schwein-

steiger was also a doubt with a knee ligament injury and if he did not fully recover by Thursday, he would not play, Loew said.

"We will not put our head in the sand. We will try everything with the players that are doubtful," the coach added.

"One thing is clear: I will definitely not let play anyone who is not 100 percent fit. I hope and wish that Bastian can make it.

"I made the mistake many years ago (of fielding a player who was unfit) and I won't make it again," he said, refusing to name the match he was referring to. "The thoughts we have should not go back to the past but go forward. I fully trust all my players. They are training at a high level, they are physically in very good shape."—Reuters



USA's Serena Williams returns the ball against Germany's Annika Beck in Wimbledon, England on 3 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

Three hundred up and counting as Serena powers through

LONDON — World number one Serena Williams kept her Wimbledon title defense on track on Sunday, downing Germany's Annika Beck 6-3 6-0 with a crushing display of power and booming serves to chalk up her 300th grand slam victory.

Williams looked in no mood to follow men's top seed Novak Djokovic out of tournament after his shock defeat on Saturday and treated the middle Sunday party crowd to an imperious 51-minute performance. Warning her last-16 opponent, Russian Svetlana Kuznetsova, that there is more to come, she said: "I thought it was

good, I still want to get out to a little bit of a faster start but I was really focused and calm today."

Williams was broken by unseeded Beck in her second service game but then stepped it up and never looked back.

She thundered down the biggest women's serve of the grass-court major so far at 123 mph (198 kph), followed by an ace, to seal the first set against the 22-year-old.

The 34-year-old American, who said she had been helped by suffering a scare in round two against compatriot Christina McHale, romped through

the second set in 20 minutes as Beck's resistance crumbled.

The match brought her 300th grand slam win - something that seemed to take her by surprise.

"No? Was it? Cool, oh nice. I had no idea, that's awesome, right? I think that is a lot of matches," she said as she came off court. The statistic, just one of dizzying array for the six times Wimbledon champion, takes her past Chris Evert on 299 and leaves her behind Martina Navratilova on 306 after what, by Williams's standards, has been a disappointing spell.—Reuters