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CSOs MAKE THEIR CASE

CSOs come up with terms of reference for its forum

Ye Khaung Nyunt

CIVIL Society Organisations have finalised the terms of reference in an effort to gear up for the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference scheduled for August.

They gave a press briefing in Yangon yesterday to announce their plan of organising a forum as prelude to the peace conference.

Daw Phwe Yu Mon, a member of the organising committee for the CSO forum, said that the civil society organisations (CSOs) have been meeting to discuss their participation in the conference since 1 June.

"In the previous meetings, we sought ways of how to play our role at the event. And we all agreed on the fact that we should develop the terms of reference on our own," she said.

The CSOs have sent the copies of the terms of reference to the Preparatory Committee for 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference, the United Nationalities Alliance (UNA) and the eight eth-



CSOs discuss terms of reference for the Union Peace Conference — 21st Century Panglong. PHOTO: MNA

nic signatories to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA).

"We met the ethnic armed organisations to explain our stance and the terms of reference," Daw Phwe Yu Mon said, adding that

the copies of the terms of reference have also been emailed to ethnic armed organisations which are yet to sign the NCA.

U Saw Min Naing, a member of the organising committee for

the CSO forum, said that CSOs have been determined to play an active part in the upcoming peace conference by representing the voices of the people.

The terms of reference fall

into seven parts focusing on the rights of civil society organisations, a time frame for the implementation of procedures, and the CSO forum to the peace conference.

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Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Mr Geng Huichang, Minister of State Security of China in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

FM Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Chinese Minister of State Security

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar received Mr Geng Huichang, Minister of State Security of China who is on a visit to Myanmar at the invitation of the Office of the Chief of Military Security Affairs of Myanmar, in Nay Pyi Taw Friday.

At the meeting, matters on bilateral relations and security cooperation between the two countries were discussed in a cordial manner.—MNA



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing greeting Chinese Security Minister.
PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing meets with Chinese State Security Minister

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing received Mr. Geng Huichang, Minister of State Security of the People's Republic of China, at Zeyathiri Beikman Hall in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two rep-

resentatives held discussions on further bilateral relations and cooperation between the two Defence Services, border security and matters related to terrorism prevention and drugs control.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Continuous deluges wreak havoc across Ayeyawady farmland

AN estimated 13,300 acres of farmland, upon which monsoon season paddy was still being planted, has been destroyed in Myaungmya Township, Ayeyawady Region, after continual rain throughout June put increased pressure on local rivers and streams.

A hundred-and-seventy local farmers, whose fields have been destroyed, fear they will not be in a position whereby they can repay their agricultural expenses in time.

"This has never happened before. Flooding which coincides with the planting of rice grain leaves nothing salvageable. Some have scattered rice grain as many as three times to

no avail. There are many losses," said U Hla Than, local administrator of Mwetawtelkyaung village tract, Myaungmya Township.

Eighty per cent of farmers from Mwetawtelkyaung village tract who cultivate paddy have lost their crops, of which for each acre they reportedly had to plant roughly 30,000 seedlings.

This kind of destruction of paddy fields has given farmers from other villages within Myaungmya Township cause for concern.

Farmers have reportedly expressed desire for the Ministry of Agriculture to employ the use of experts to assist in rallying round to solve the current hard-

ship faced by local farmers.

"Those affected regions are ones which primary cultivate a dry rice grain. This paddy sprouted but couldn't continue to survive once it became submerged underwater.

We're currently doing everything we can't to help alleviate the woes of the farmers," said an official from the Department of Agriculture for Myaungmya Township.

But this kind of troubling circumstance is not unfamiliar to farmers of Ayeyawady Region; just last year, unprecedented flooding to the region submerged over 150,000 acres of farmland, destroying crops and paddy. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Mandalay municipal election set for within three months after termination of 11 members

MUNICIPAL elections will be held within three months according to the Mandalay City Development Committee following the termination of 11 committee members yesterday.

Elections will be held within three months to fill vacancies in the MCDC's membership as eleven MCDC members, including the Vice Mayor and Secretary, were removed on Thursday, said Joint Secretary U Thet Naing Tun.

Under the Development Committee Law, the terms of the members who were voted into power in September last year

formally concluded this May as their length of service in the committee is the same as the government's five-year term.

Among eleven posts, five will be appointed by the regional government while the remaining six will be voted on by the people of Mandalay, added the joint secretary.

U Nyunt Maung, who served as vice-mayor before resignation, accepted the termination, saying that their terms have ended.

"I have applied to run for municipal election", said the former vice mayor who was voted

representing Aungmyay Thasan Township last year and appointed as Vice Mayor later.

According to sources, the six elected members who have resigned are likely to run for re-election.

"Termination of membership in the MCDC has run smoothly as we have sensed that we would be removed from office," said U Ye Mon who served as committee member 5.

A reception was held to bid farewell to the eleven committee members yesterday.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Elephant poacher arrested in Ngapudaw, three still at large

A MEMBER of an underground elephant poacher gang has been arrested in Ngapudaw Township, Ayeyawady Region.

The culprit was arrested with two elephant hunting rifles, ivory tusks, elephant hide and dry elephant meat in his possession on Wednesday morning.

"We were made aware of the situation by reports from local residents. The move for making arrests was conducted when the culprits were asleep guarding their elephant trophies.

They returned fire and an arrest was made only upon forced entry by the police. We've obtained the identification cards of those that escaped," said U Htun Lay, administrator of Tinchang village who was part of the arrest operation.

The Department of Forestry for Ngapudaw Township has

made it known that the arrest operation was undertaken with information provided by roughly 30 individuals, including ten forest police from within section 138 of the Myittayar Forest, together with staff from the township forestry department and village administration. Despite arresting one individual, three members of the elephant poacher gang are reportedly still at large.

The culprit arrested reportedly originates from Ngaphe Township. He was caught with two long rifles, three packets of poison, 33 ball bearings, gun powder, a power bank and two mobile phones.

Furthermore, two ivory tusks — one 9.5 inches in length and four inches in circumference, the other 7 inches in length and three inches in circumference; ten viss (5.76 ounces) of elephant hide,

together one viss (0.576 ounces) of dried elephant meat, were also confiscated from the scene.

"The Ngapudaw forestry police force are currently sweeping the local forest along the Patheingyi — Mawtin highway in search for the remaining three culprits who are still at large," said U Win Zaw, a junior forester from the Department of Forestry for Ngapudaw Township.

The three men are known as Maung Maung from Winkabar village, Zaw Myo Chit from Wethsar village and Maung ... from Thetkeltaung village, all within Ngaphe Township.

The arrested Maung Htar is to be transported and held in custody at Ngapudaw police station and charged with article 37(a) of the Protection of Wildlife and Conservation of Natural Areas Law.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



The elephant poacher being seen together with rifles, ivory tusks etc.
PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY



President U Htin Kyaw inspects Yeywa Hydropower Plant in Mandalay. PHOTO: MNA



President U Htin Kyaw inspects Yeywa Hydropower Plant in Mandalay

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw stressed the need to minimize the environmental and socioeconomic impacts of hydropower projects during his inspection tour of Yeywa Hydropower Plant in Kyaukse, Mandalay Region yesterday.

The President also emphasised the need for private companies working together with the ministry to take responsibility for their work

and action in meeting with officials at the briefing hall of the plant.

During the meeting, officials concerned reported to the President on hydropower plants on the Myitnge river including ongoing and future projects, the capacity of installed power plants, sub-power stations in Mandalay Region and rural electrification in the region as well as ongoing renewable energy

projects in Wundwin, Nabuiang, Minbu and Chaungtha.

Next, the President, accompanied by Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Dr Aung Thu and U Pe Zin Tun, Mandalay Region Chief Minister Dr Zaw Myint Maung, Lt-Gen Aung Kyaw Zaw of the Ministry of Defense and officials inspected the control room of the plant.

The President then visited staff quarters of the plant and cordially greeted staff families.

During his inspection tour, the President visited Mandalay Hill and the Mahamuni Buddha Image in Mandalay.

Yeywa Hydropower Plant is located on Myitnge river, 31-mile south-east of Mandalay. Yeywa dam is of an RCC type which is

2,264 feet long with a 433 foot high embankment. It has a 448 feet wide spillway and full-brim water storage capacity of 2.114 million acre-ft.

Yeywa hydropower plant was installed with a 790 megawatt generating capacity of four 197.5-megawatt turbines that generate 3,550 million kilowatt hours annually.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Second meeting on 69th Anniversary Martyrs' Day ceremony held

THE second meeting of the holding of the 69th Anniversary Arzani Day (Martyrs' Day) took place at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday with an address by Vice President U Myint Swe, patron of the organising central committee.

The Vice President reportedly spoke about the holding of a ceremony to observe Arzani Day with hopes to instill a nationalistic pride in order to remember forever the national heroes who laid down their lives in the country's Independence struggle and instil a 'national spirit' in young-

er generations.

In his address, the Vice President said that the observance of martyrs' day will be held with the full essence of politics and Myanmar Radio and Television will sound a siren at 10.37 am on Martyrs' Day to observe the time of the assassination of the country's national heroes.

Next, Union Minister for Religious Affairs and Culture Thura U Aung Ko, chairman of the organising central committee, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, vice-chairman of the committee, Yangon Mayor



Vice President U Myint Swe addressing the meeting for holding 69th Anniversary Arzani Day (Martyrs' Day). PHOTO: MNA

U Maung Maung Soe, secretary of the working committee, and Deputy Minister for Home Affairs Maj-Gen Aung Soe, reported on preparations at the Martyrs

Mausoleum, Bogyoke Museum in Yangon and Natmauk, agenda for Arzani Day observance ceremony and security matters.

After hearing reports on re-

spective matters presented by officials concerned, the Vice President made concluding remarks on the reports.—*Myanmar News Agency*

3-country bus service proposed between India, Myanmar, Thailand

THE Asian Development Bank (ADB) is promoting a regular bus service as part of a transport agreement being negotiated by Thailand, Myanmar and India for the historic 1,400-kilometre highway currently under renovation, according to *the States Man* of India.

The States Man quoted ADB country director Yasushi Negishi on Thursday as saying that the negotiations are expected to be concluded next year as the Indian

government has offered Myanmar financial assistance to upgrade bridges along the route linking India's eastern region with Myanmar and Thailand.

Currently, 73 bridges inside Myanmar, built since the Second World War, are being renovated, to ensure the highway is safe to use.

The highway runs from the Indian city of Moreh to Myanmar's Tamu city and reaches Thailand at Tak's Mae Sot dis-

trict. It will serve as the first major land bridge linking India with mainland Southeast Asia.

The Indian envoy said cargo transport is the first priority for this route.

Negishi yesterday told a Fitch Ratings conference on infrastructure development in Thailand and the Mekong region that Thailand has already completed road transport links with Cambodia via Aranyaprathet district and Laos via its northeastern provinces.

According to the ADB, the 10-country Asean grouping needs to invest an estimated US\$60 billion per year in infrastructure, especially for roads and railways.

At present, Asean countries have a combined average of 10km of roads per 1,000 persons, compared to the OECD countries' 200km, while the railways deficit is at about 0.25km per 1,000 people for Asean countries compared to the OECD countries' 5km.

Based on the master plan for

Asean connectivity, the first strategy is to complete the Asean highway network while the second strategy is to implement the Singapore-Kunming rail link project.

Regarding the Asean highway network, the planned three-nation highway from India to Myanmar and Thailand will further extend Asean connectivity beyond member countries to India as well as China, with which Myanmar already has a land transport link.—*GNLM*

Education provided to over half of migrant children in Mae Sot

APPROXIMATELY one half of the 30,000 school aged Myanmar migrants living in the Thai – Myanmar border region of Mae Sot are getting an education, says U Kyaw Hsan, headmaster of the AhYoneoo School based in Mae Sot.

The headmaster made the statement during the Alternative Education Forum which was held in Nay Pyi Daw on Wednesday.

“The children in the class are being taught in a variety of methods. About half [of those who’ve moved to Mae Sot from Myanmar] attend Thai government schools. Some of them

also attend other tuition classes outside of the Thai school system. But, they need to be able to read, write and speak a little bit of Thai.” he said.

He continued by adding that an education policy needs to be passed to properly cater for migrant worker families and their children in the region as there are currently 11 schools that receive no financial assistance or support for which it remains a big challenge for these schools to be able to stay open so that their 1,500 attending students can finish their current school year.

“The headmaster presented

the difficulties faced in educating 1,500 children. In regard to his point about passing of a effective policy, I would first of all like to request that everyone related to passing policy gathers round to work together to make such a reality.” said Dr Khaing Myey, director -eneral of the Department of Basic Education.

Education outside of the Thai schooling system is being provided within the Mae Sot region but weaknesses render such educational facilities under equipped to deal with teaching the volume of students that attend classes.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Over 200 old trees to be felled to make room for road expansion

THE Monywa District road department is planning to cut down over 200 old trees for the expansion of the Monywa-Thazi-Naunggyi-ai road in Sagaing region, it has been reported.

The road was originally 12 feet wide but will be further expanded by six feet. The trees lining the road between the area of Monywa Education College and Kyauk Sit Pon Taung village will be removed. The distance is over 4 miles long.

We will be listening to the public voice till the end of July. We will implement this project if the people agree. Currently, a proposal has already been submitted to the regional government, said U Kyaw Lin, Assistance Director from the Monywa District Road Department.

The road is too narrow for cars to drive along, according to the department. The road expansion is meant to aid regional development. A total of 120 trees on both sides of the road needed to be felled for the expansion of the road. Most of the trees are margosa trees.

We can do nothing if the authorities cut the trees for regional development. Most of the people from the region rely on these trees. Some of the trees are centenarians, said a 65-year-old man from Pyitawtha ward, Monywa township.

The road department said it would plant 250 saplings to replace the felled trees. The project will be finished at the end of 2016 when permission is obtained from the regional authorities.—200

Crime NEWS

Ambulance overturns in Sintgu township

AN ambulance belonging to the Aung Zay Yar social association overturned on the Mandalay – Mogok road, Sintgu township on Wednesday.

According to an investigation, the ambulance, being driven by one Aung Phyo Wai, 28, with a patient named U Thar Kyaw, 42, and two attendants named Ko Naung Naung, 30, and Daw Thandar Myint, 45, on board crashed into a tree and overturned between mileposts 44/2 and 3 when the driver lost control.

The accident killed Daw Thandar Myint on the spot while the other three sustained minor injuries. The injured are undergoing medical treatment at Mandalay general hospital. The police have filed charges against the driver.—*Ko Naing (Indaw)*



Ambulance being seen after the crash. PHOTO: KO NAING (INDAW)

Yaba and heroin confiscated

A COMBINED team comprising officers and staff from Lashio police station confiscated heroin from two passengers near Oriental toll gate, on Thursday. Acting on a tip-off, police searched a passenger bus en route to Thein Ni from Muse and discovered heroin weighing 396 grams on two passengers on board identified as Lon Ma and Khin Shan.

Similarly, a local police squad in Momeik police station seized 1,500 yaba pills and heroin weighing 90.2 gram from one Kan Win and Tun Lwin who were found next to the Thayeat Chaung cliff near Daunt Gyi village on Wednesday.

And, Police stopped a motorbike heading for San Pya market being driven by one Cherry Oo. Upn conduction of a search police discovered 749 yaba pills.

Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*



Lon Ma and Khin Shan. PHOTO: MPF

Man dies, seven injured following car crashing

A MAN died and seven others were injured when a car crashed into a parked car in front of City

Mart on Wayzanyatnar road in South Okkalapa township on Wednesday, according to the po-

lice report.

According to an investigation, a vehicle being driven by one Zaw Htet Aung crashed into another vehicle parked out the front of City Mart when the driver lost control. The driver then crashed again into an electric lamp post and overturned on Wayzanyatnar road.

The driver and passenger were taken to Thingangyun general hospital where the passenger, identified as one U Win Naing Tun, later died. The police have filed charges against the driver.—*Soe Win –MLA*



The scene of car accident. PHOTO: SOE WIN (MLA)

Man charged with robbery in Sagaing

POLICE have filed charges against a man on suspicion of a robbery committed in Yinmabin township, Sagaing region, on Wednesday, according to a police report.

According to an investigation, the store owner found money and top-up cards missing in his store when he came in on the morning of 28 June.

The police requested help from the MPT the cards be-

longed to.

MPT contacted the police station and said that one phone number was using stolen top-up cards and so police identified one Lwin Moe, 20, a car shop attendant, as the likely suspect.

When interrogated, Lwin Moe admitted that he had stolen the money and top-up cards from the store. Local police have filed charges against him. —*Tun Ko (Yinmarbin)*

LOCAL Business

South Korea ranked six in FDI

“South Korea is ranked six for foreign direct investment in Myanmar, and has invested mostly in natural gas, and is still interested to invest more,” said U Aung Naing Oo, secretary of the Myanmar Investment Commission (MIC).

When South Korea held a meeting with entrepreneurs from the countries of the Greater Mekong Sub-region (GMS) for making investments, they demonstrated a strong interest in making investments in Myanmar, it is reported.

What appeals to Korean entrepreneurs, experts say, is

that the GMS countries are provided with Asia Development Bank (ADB) loans in addition to having established Special Economic zones (SEZs) within their countries.

Another attraction is that there are six special Economic Zones in Yunnan Province with which trading can be conducted and the potential for lucrative trade is high. Korean entrepreneurs have called on Myanmar, however, to increase their attractiveness by streamlining visa application processing to be more in line with Vietnam and Cambodia. —200

South Korea and Japan to invest in shoe manufacturing

SOUTH Korea and Japanese shoe companies will invest in bulk in Myanmar beginning this year, it is reported.

“We have decided to invest in Myanmar because of cheap labour when compared to other countries. Therefore, we will invest in bulk to make foot wear. The brands are already popular among Myanmar customers. The investment is looking like it will be successful,” said U Win Myint, speaking on behalf of a South Korean shoe making

business.

Seven shoe making companies from Japan and South Korea have proposed to seek permits to establish shoe making factories.

The shoe making factories will be set up in Yangon and Mandalay and the foot wear will sold mainly on the local market but they will also be exported to certain neighbouring countries, it was noted by an official from a Korean shoe making firm. —200

Over 1,500 tonnes of rubber exported in a week

OVER 1580 tonnes of latex and rubber worth US\$1.649m will depart by sea next week and also through border trade camps, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

Export volumes of rubber through border trade camps will be 350 tonnes of RSS-3, 110 tonnes of MSR-20 and 150 tonnes of MSR-50 via 105th Muse trade camp, 172 tonnes of RSS-3 via Chin Shwe Haw trade camp and 20 tonnes of latex via Tachilek border trade camp, making a total of 802 tonnes of latex and rubber worth US\$857,000.

The export volume of rubber through sea trade is 105 tonnes of MSR-20 and 140 tonnes of RSS-3 to Malaysia, 48 tonnes of RSS-3 to Indonesia, 294 tonnes of MSR-20 TSR and over 12 tonnes of RSS-3 to Japan, 101 tonnes of MSR-20 TSR to South Korea and about 81 tonnes of MSR-

20 TSR to Singapore, amounting to 781 tonnes of rubber valued US\$792,000 from 19 - 25 June.

The increase in export volume via border trade camps was attributed to no trade at Tachilek trade camps and only 594 tonnes of rubber being exported via Muse and Chin Shwe Haw trade camps in the previous week. The export volume of rubber recorded 795 tonnes last week while 781 tonnes of rubber will be exported this week through sea trade.

This week the international rubber price is on the rise, so the export price of Myanmar's rubber has also increased from US\$1,300 to 1,400 per tonne of RSS, from US\$1,450 to 1,550 per tonne of MSR (3)L and from US\$1,150 to 1,250 per tonne of MSR-20, according to Myanmar Rubber Planters and Producers' Association (MRPPA). —200

Framework Agreement for Hanthawady International Airport to be signed soon

“A framework agreement for Hanthawady International Airport will be signed soon for the new construction project,” said an official from the department of civil aviation (DCA).

The international airport project will not be postponed as was rumoured, it has been learned, with Yongnam CAPE-JGC Consortium and the department of civil aviation (DCA) set to sign the framework agreement.

Yongnam-CAPE_JGC Consortium may be selected to carry

out the Hanthawady International airport project and if so the company will use an ODA loan from the Japanese government amounting to USD 706 million and a Private loan of USD 517 million, and their own investment of USD 222 million. The company will spend a total amount of over USD 1.4 billion on investment in the new airport project.

The upcoming Hanthawaddy International Airport is going to be constructed on a land covering more than 9,000 acres which were

previously used as an airfield during the Second World War. The airport is in Bago township, Bago Region. The government expects the upcoming airport to become the primary gateway to Myanmar, hosting millions of passengers annually. The new airport is going to become the fourth international airport in Myanmar after Yangon, Mandalay and Nay Pyi Taw International Airport. It is expected to be the largest among the four. The project is anticipated to be completed in 2019. —200



Visitors are seen outside the Yangon Stock Exchange. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Share price stability proves fruitful for FMI

FMI shares have appreciated despite three low days between July 4-6, share prices are stable at Ks21,000, according to a financial statement released by the Yangon Stock Exchange (YSX).

FMI shares declined by K5,000, below their entry level price on 4 July during which 7,177 of the Ks21,000 shares were traded. The following day saw the number of shares traded drop to just 2,340 before picking up to 6,750 being traded on 6 July, equating to over Ks259 million worth of shares being bought and sold over a three day period.

“I think most of it is to do with data people get unreason-

ably worried and sell off their shares. There are few people that purchase stocks by properly analysing the YSX. Prices fluctuate as people follow the actions of the rest in selling off their shares,” said Dr Aung Thura, CEO of Thura Swiss.

Shareholders of FMI and Myanmar Thilawa SEZ Holdings Public Limited (MTSH) announced the dividends shareholders are to receive this 2016-17 FY, of Ks135 and Ks2,500 per share respectively. The value of FMI shares made a continued decline.

“A company is good whether it splits a lot of dividends or a few.”

added Dr Aung Thura. “It can't be said it's a negative thing, famous companies hardly split dividends, with the aim of expanding their company. But, that's what some investors in Myanmar base consideration on, so assumptions are a little bit skewed.”

Shares in YSX had fallen by Ks1,000 to Ks49,000 each, by the end of trading on the YSX on 6 July, with 2,556 being bought and sold.

“I'm holding on to my shares in FMI I don't yet have a plan to sell, I believe the price will recover,” said U Thein Aung, a shareholder. —Myitmakha News Agency

Super typhoon Nepartak hits Taiwan, disrupts power supply, transport

BEIJING — Super typhoon Nepartak hit eastern Taiwan early on Friday, driving thousands of people from their homes, disrupting power supply and forcing the cancellation of more than 500 flights, emergency authorities said.

Television broadcast images of strong wind and torrential rains brought by the year's first typhoon, whose approach had prompted Taiwan and neighbouring China to bat down the hatches.

As many as 15,400 people were evacuated from their homes in preparation for the storm, while 187,830 households suffered power outages, emergency officials said.

"The wind is very strong," said a resident of Taitung, the eastern Taiwan city where the typhoon hit land.

"Many hut roofs and signs on the street have been blown off," the resident, who gave only her surname, Cheng, told Reuters.

One death and 66 injuries were reported. Bullet train service had been suspended, and more than 300 international and 254 domestic flights cancelled, an emergency services website showed.

Tropical Storm Risk had rated the typhoon as category 5, at the top of its ranking, but it is now weakening and should be a tropical storm by the time it hits China's southeastern province of Fujian on Saturday morning.

More than 4,000 people working on coastal fish farms in Fujian have already been evacuated, and fishing boats recalled to port, the official China News Service said.

The storm is expected to worsen already severe flooding in parts of central and eastern China, especially in the major city of Wuhan. Typhoons are common at this time of year in the South China Sea, picking up strength over warm waters and dissipating over land.—Reuters

Blast injures 25 on Taiwanese passenger train

TAIPEI — A suspected pipe bomb injured 25 people on a passenger train in the Taiwanese capital late on Thursday, officials said.

The blast shook Taipei's Songshan station close to midnight and witnesses quoted on Taiwanese television described

seeing a man leaving a long black device on the train just before the explosion. Premier Lin Chuan told Taiwanese television the blast appeared to be a deliberate "act of malice". Police and the Taipei fire department said a "steel pipe" was the origin of the blast.—Reuters



Policemen check a train after an explosion at the Songshan train station in Taipei, Taiwan on 7 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

South Korea, US to deploy THAAD missile defence, drawing China rebuke

SEOUL — South Korea and the United States said on Friday they would deploy an advanced missile defence system in South Korea to counter a threat from North Korea, drawing a sharp and swift protest from neighbouring China.

The Terminal High Altitude Area Defence, or THAAD, anti-missile system will be used only as protection against North Korea's growing nuclear and ballistic missile capabilities, the South's Defence Ministry and the US Defence Department said in a joint statement.

"This is an important ... decision," General Vincent Brooks, commander of US forces in South Korea, said in a statement. "North Korea's continued development of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction require the alliance to take this prudent, protective measure to bolster our ... missile defense."

Beijing said on Friday it lodged complaints with the US and South Korean ambassadors over the THAAD decision.

China said the system would destabilize the security balance in the region without achieving anything to end the North's nuclear programme. China is North Korea's main ally but opposes its pursuit of nuclear weapons and backed the latest United Nations sanctions against Pyongyang in March.

"China strongly urges the United States and South Korea to stop the deployment process of the THAAD anti-missile system, not take any steps to complicate the regional situation and do nothing to harm China's strategic security interests," the foreign ministry said in a statement.

Selection of a site for the system could come "within weeks," and the allies were working to have it operational by the end of 2017, a South Korean Defence Ministry official said.

The THAAD will be deployed to US Forces Korea "to protect alliance military forces from North Korea's weapons of mass destruction and ballistic missile threats," the joint

statement said. The United States maintains 28,500 troops in South Korea, a legacy of the 1950-53 Korean war.

"When the THAAD system is deployed to the Korean Peninsula, it will be focused solely on North Korean nuclear and missile threats and would not be directed towards any third-party nations," the statement said.

The decision to deploy THAAD is the latest move to squeeze the increasingly isolated North, which also includes a series of bilateral sanctions by Seoul and Washington as well as layers of UN sanctions.

South Korea has been reluctant to discuss THAAD openly, given the opposition of China, its main trading partner and an increasingly close diplomatic ally. South Korean President Park Geun-hye and her Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, have held seven summit meetings since both took office in 2013.

Russia is also opposed to basing a THAAD system

in South Korea. Its foreign ministry will take the deployment into account in Moscow's military planning, Interfax news agency quoted it as saying on Friday.

China worries the THAAD system's radar will be able to track its own military capabilities.

China "knows full well that the THAAD being deployed to South Korea is not aimed at it at all," said Yoo Dong-ryol, who heads the Korea Institute of Liberal Democracy in Seoul. "It just doesn't like more American weapons system being brought in so close to it."

Japanese Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Hagiuda said Tokyo "supports the deployment because it bolsters security in the region."

Japan has said it is considering another layer of ballistic missile defence, such as THAAD, to complement ship-borne missiles aboard Aegis destroyers in the Sea of Japan and its ground-based Patriot missiles.—Reuters



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) interceptor is launched during a successful intercept test, in this undated handout photo provided by the US Department of Defence, Missile Defence Agency. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Australian PM not declaring victory yet in cliffhanger election

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull slapped down an ebullient colleague on Friday who declared his struggling coalition “an election-winning machine” as the leader wooed more independent lawmakers in a bid to cobble together a government.

A third independent lined up behind the centre-right Liberal-National coalition government after a personal plea from Turnbull to help him return to power after Saturday’s cliffhanger election.

With that support, Turnbull’s coalition was expected to snaffle the 76 seats they needed to declare an outright victory. However, the close result will leave him with a hostile upper house Senate, endangering the passage of flagship policies such as a A\$50 billion (£29.04 billion) corporate tax break.

Industry Minister Christopher Pyne appeared to celebrate prematurely when he described the coalition as an “election-winning machine, although Turnbull later said he wasn’t claiming victory just yet as vote counting dragged into a sixth day. “Australians have voted, we respect their decision, there are many lessons in that election for all of us,” Turnbull told reporters in Melbourne.

“We’re taking those lessons to



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and Liberal candidate for the federal seat of Chisholm Julia Banks greet locals during a street walk in Oakleigh, in Melbourne's southeastern suburbs, on 8 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

heart very seriously and we respect the votes that have been cast, and one way we show that respect is by waiting for the counting to be completed, or completed to the point where the decision is claimed,”

he said. Turnbull’s gamble in calling an election, ostensibly to clear the Senate of what he saw as obstructive minor parties, backfired badly with a much bigger swing to the centre-left Labour opposition

than expected. It also saw minor parties and independents become even more powerful, making it less likely Turnbull will be able to push his reformist economic agenda through the upper house.

On Thursday, Standard and Poor’s cut Australia’s credit rating outlook to negative from stable, threatening a downgrade of its coveted triple A status. That came as Turnbull flew to northern Queensland state to win the support of Bob Katter, a maverick former member of the ruling conservative coalition.

On Friday, Andrew Wilkie and Cathy McGowan became the second and third of the four independents in the lower house who may hold the balance of power to give begrudging support to Turnbull’s coalition. Both said they would retain the right to vote independently in parliament but had agreed to support the coalition to form government.

“My focus now turns to doing what I can to help settle the situation down and foster stable government,” Wilkie said in a statement.

The support of Katter, Wilkie and McGowan theoretically gives Turnbull’s coalition a total of 76 seats, according to the latest Australian Broadcasting Corp projections, although they have not officially claimed victory.

On a projected 66 seats and without support from any of the four independents, it was almost impossible for Labour to form government. Six seats are still being counted.—Reuters

North Korea warns of tough response after US blacklisted leader

WASHINGTON/SEOUL — North Korea warned on Thursday it is planning its toughest response to what it deemed a “declaration of war” by the United States after Washington blacklisted the nuclear-armed country’s leader, Kim Jong Un, for human rights abuses.

Pyongyang described the sanctioning of Kim as a “hideous crime,” according to North Korea’s official KCNA news agency.

“... the US dared challenge the dignity of (North Korea) supreme leadership, an act reminiscent of a new-born puppy knowing no fear of a tiger,” the statement said.

“This is the worst hostility and an open declaration of war against (North Korea) as it has gone far beyond the confrontation

over the human rights issue.”

In response, the US government urged Pyongyang to refrain from statements and actions that raise tensions in the region.

The United States imposed its first sanctions targeting any North Koreans for rights abuses on Wednesday, blacklisting Kim along with 10 other people and five government ministries and departments. The action affects assets within US jurisdiction.

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a former South Korean foreign minister, hopes China will urge its ally North Korea to co-operate internationally on human rights, his spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, said on Thursday in New York.

Dujarric said that Ban, who

is currently visiting China, “believes that discussion of human rights concerns allows for a more comprehensive assessment and action when addressing security and stability concerns on the Korean Peninsula.”

China’s foreign ministry, when asked about the US decision, said it opposed the use of unilateral sanctions. China argues that the human rights situation in North Korea is not a threat to international peace and security, and has sought to prevent the issue being discussed at the UN Security Council.

US Secretary of State John Kerry said he had spoken to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and hoped that Beijing would continue to cooperate with UN sanctions aimed at rolling back North Korea’s nuclear weapons programme.

North Korea has been under UN sanctions since 2006. In March, the Security Council imposed harsh new sanctions on the country in response to North Korea’s fourth nuclear test in January and the launch of a long-range rocket in February.

Some analysts and diplomats have warned that the US action could limit cooperation with China on further action.

US Ambassador to the United Nations Samantha Power said last month that the United States would seek to identify people and entities linked to a series of recent ballistic missile tests by Pyongyang, in

violation of a UN ban, who could be sanctioned by the UN Security Council. The cooperation of China and Russia would be needed for any further designations.

Senior US administration officials said the new US sanctions showed the administration’s greater focus on human rights in North Korea, an issue long secondary to Washington’s efforts to halt Pyongyang’s nuclear and missile programmes.

“Under Kim Jong Un, North Korea continues to inflict intolerable cruelty and hardship on millions of its own people, including extrajudicial killings, forced labour, and torture,” Acting Undersecretary for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence Adam J. Szubin said in a statement.

Inside North Korea, adulation for Kim is mandatory and he is considered infallible. A 2014 report by the United Nations, which referred to Kim, 32, by name in connection with human rights, triggered a strong reaction from Pyongyang, including a string of military provocations.

The US Treasury Department identified Kim’s date of birth as 8 January, 1984, a rare official confirmation of his birthday.

South Korea, which cut all political and commercial ties with its own sanctions against the North in February, welcomed the US move, saying it will encourage greater international pressure on the North to improve its human rights record.—Reuters



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un gives field guidance to Pyongyang Orphans' Secondary School in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) on 3 July 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Viet Nam strives to basically complete construction of North-South Expressway by 2020

HANOI — Viet Nam is striving to basically complete the construction of eastern route of the North-South Expressway by 2020, said Vietnamese Deputy Prime Minister Trinh Dinh Dung.

Dung made the remark at a meeting on proposal of North-South expressway investment in capital Hanoi, reported Viet Nam’s state-run radio VOV on Friday. According to Dung, the construction of Viet Nam’s North-South expressway cannot be delayed as it will provide foundation for the country’s development.

“We will not be able to integrate, industrialise and modernize with weak transport infrastructure,” said Dung. Speaking at the meeting, Vietnamese Minister of Transport Truong Quang Nghia said in Viet Nam, there will be two North-South expressway routes. The eastern route will follow existing National Highway No.1 and run parallel with that highway while the western route will follow Ho Chi Minh Road. The eastern route of Viet Nam’s North-South Expressway will be 1,814 km long, with its first point in capital Hanoi’s Phap Van and the last point in southern Can Tho City.—Xinhua

Opinion

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National reconciliation can't wait

Kyaw Thura

It is not an easy task to introduce a democratic system to a country where tyranny and oppression had reigned for many decades. Ours used to be such a country. Prolonged authoritarianism had sown the seeds of cronism and nepotism, with its effects still posing an obstacle to the government working hard to make a difference in the country's political arena.

As a new democracy, our country still remains fragile, considering the recent rise of aggressive nationalism and feelings of religious dominance, let alone its lengthy internal armed conflict. In dealing with these issues in order of importance, the government seems to be determined to overcome all the obstacles that have been placed on the path to democratic reform as

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has decided to triangulate at the peace conference, known as the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference initially scheduled for August.

It is, therefore, undeniable that the restoration of peace should take on an added importance at a time when the country finds itself in a position unable to afford any more

delays in national reconciliation. Martin Luther King once put it that "true peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice."

Similarly, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi has recently defined true peace as a state in which nobody needs to bear arms and get ready to fight, stressing that there is no alternative to mutual trust for genuine peace to prevail.

Civil Service Academy

U KHIN MAUNG
(A retired diplomat)

Introduction

I was thrilled by a news item that a two-day seminar was held at the Union Civil Service Board office at Naypyidaw about the setting up of a civil service academy. At the seminar, Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, H.E Dr. Win Thein and the resident representative of Hanna Seidal Foundation, MR. Archin Munz delivered the opening speeches. The seminar was attended by the members of the Union Civil Service Board and the officials concerned of Hanna Seidal Foundation, U.N.D.P., Z.O (GOPA), high ranking Myanmar officials and foreign scholars among others.

This news item really made me happy and hopeful and also gave me great expectations that we would come to have good public servants, well-trained, clean, competent and uncorrupted. We have had a motto for quite a time. That motto, if translated in English, I think, will read as follows:

"Only when good public servants are there, will there be good government and good nation too. And only then, I think, our nation will get to a position, standing tall and standing shoulder to shoulder with all others, as a member of the family of nations.

I am also quite happy reminiscing about the past of our

own mother land, Union of (Burma)- Myanmar and our national heroes, our leaders, and brilliant academics and some outstanding civil servants. With prejudice and bias towards none, but with due respect and honour to all those, who respect, and honour are due, may I mention only a few of those personalities. On top of the list; General Aung San, a national hero and a martyr. Dr. Htin Aung, P.hd, D.Litt, and LL.D: three doctorate-degree holder, and rector of Rangoon University — an internationally renowned academic and scholar who was greatly admired and respected by John Hopkins University of America.

We have also many other brilliant academics, internationally respected and honoured. To mention only a few, Dr. Khin Maung Nyunt (Maha Sadhamma Jotika—dhaja Sithu), Dr. Ohn Khaing, Dr. Maung Maung, J.S.D (Yale) LL.D (Utrecht) of Lincoln's Inn, Barrister at law, Professor U Ba Nyunt, Senior Lecturer Daw Khin Su, M.A (U.S.A) etc. They are all my honourable teachers, to whom I owe immeasurable debt of gratitude, for what I am today, a nonentity, but with a love of learning. To mention some other dignitaries; the very first prime minister of our Union-U Nu, who together with his counterparts MR. Chou-EN-Lai(N), The Premier of China and Mr. Nehru, the Prime Minister of India, expounded

and propagated the well-known-five principles of peaceful co-existence.

Some other Myanmar civil servants, U Thant, United Nations Secretary-General, U Shwe Mra ICS, Chief secretary, and chairman of Civil Service Enquiry Commission and so on. Those personalities are in the general sense of the term, public service personnel, civil service personnel.

I also remember quite well that in those days, (Rangoon) Yangon University, my Alma Mater, was one of the prestigious universities in Asia. And with purely keen academic interest and deep admiration, may I present to you, the five principles of peaceful coexistence, which our Ministry of Foreign Affairs strictly adheres to in its international relations. They are mentioned below:

- Mutual respect for each other's territorial integrity and sovereignty.
- Non-aggression.
- Non-interference in each other's internal affairs.
- Equality and mutual benefit, and
- Peaceful co-existence and peaceful settlement of disputes.

"These five principles of peaceful co-existence form one of the main pillars of Myanmar Foreign policy. Moreover, these principles have also become universally accepted and that they were incorporated into the Ten Principles, laid down at the 1955 Bandaung Conference of

Afro-Asian States, which in turn led to the formation of the Non-Aligned Movement.

Civil Service Academy

It was also learnt from the afore-mentioned news item that the Union Civil Service Board and the Civil Service Training Institute (Phaunggyi), which is under the Union Civil Service Board's supervision, consulted about the vision, mission, duties and responsibilities of the civil servants. And the new civil service courses were planned to be opened in the Civil Service Training Institute (Phaunggyi) in January 2017. Furthermore, the curricula, syllabi and technologies for the post-graduate courses, diploma courses, master degree courses were also discussed, it was learnt.

In the Civil Service Academy's curricula, and syllabi, it was learnt that, those subjects such as "management, political science, economic theories, sociology, law, English language proficiency, Information and Communication Technology (ICT) inter alia, would be included.

Conclusion

To be able to serve the people to the best of their abilities, the civil servants must have a love of learning, and make learning a habit, as a proverb says "old habits die hard". And through constant learning, the civil servants must upgrade and update themselves so as to keep themselves abreast of the rapidly changing world. And in this

"knowledge age", a day without learning is, in every sense of the phrase, a day lost. From another sense, civil servants must appreciate and must put it into practice the timeless truth of the following words of wisdom concerning habit and custom "Sow an act and you reap a habit. Sow a habit and you reap a character. Sow a character and you reap a destiny."

All in all, I would like to quote, the vital points of a speech, made by the State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, as follows:

"Civil servants must strive to win the trust of the public, by being reliant and carrying out their jobs in the interest of the people"

To sum up, "an investment in knowledge pays the best interest". So, a hearty welcome to the civil service academy." The sooner, the better, to be opened, sir. My best wishes to the academy.

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Projects aim to develop coastal regions in north, south of Myanmar

THE Ministry of Hotels and Tourism plans to draw coastal region development projects including the Ngapali Beach, one of tourist attractions in Myanmar, its spokesperson said.

This is a part of the ministry's responsible tourism to protect the country's natural environment.

Sustainable development projects play a vital role in promoting the country's tourism industry, U Win Maung Maung, deputy director of the department of hotels and tourism (Thandwe branch).

Myanmar targets to con-

serve natural environment in coastal areas situated in the north and south of the country as there are many undamaged coral reefs that are natural habitats for native species of birds, fishes and plants.

The project areas will cover Ngapali Beach in Thandwe Township of Rakhine State, Chaungtha Beach in Patheingyi Township of Ayeyawady Region, natural islands in Tanintharyi Region including Yepyae Island, Yepyaeaww and Natthameyedwin as well as Maungmagan Beach, Done Waterfall, Donenyaungmaing Vil-

lage, and Kabyawa Beach and State Beach in Mon State.

The coastal zones see a massive influx of international tourists year on year.

The majority of tourists who visited the Ngapali Beach and nearby areas are from European countries including Switzerland, France and Germany.

Located seven kilometres from the town of Thandwe (Sandoway), in Rakhine State, Ngapali Beach is one of the best known natural beaches in the country. The beach stretches for three km and overlooks the Indian Ocean.—Zar Zar

Mango growers need agricultural certificate to enter international market

MANGO growers need to obtain agricultural certificate to help prove the quality of their products to enter the international market, local farmers say.

The country has received a greater interest from Japan, Korea, Australia and the U.S, said Ma Zin Mar Than of Myanmar Fruits, Flower, Vegetable Producer and Exporter Association.

Exporters say, nearly 10,000 tonnes of mangoes have been exported to Yangon market per year. They distribute around 40,000 tonnes of quality mangoes to partner countries a year.

Over 200 varieties of mangoes thrive in Myanmar. Mango plantations have been developed on about 77,00 hectare which

produce over 440,000 metric tonnes per annum.

Exporters normally receive between US\$800 and \$1,200 per tonne of large sized mangoes weighing 600 grams per package and \$1,000 for middle sized mangoes weighing 350 grams per package and \$500 for small ones weighing 350 grams per package. Myanmar exports the Seintalone (Diamond solitaire Mango) and Shwehintha, popular varieties of native mango, mainly to China, Thailand and Singapore.

Those kinds of perennial crop originate in some townships in Mandalay Region including Myittha and Kyaukse townships.—Zar Zar



Mango trees with luxuriant growth being seen. PHOTO: AMS

Telenor subscribers in flood-hit areas receive Ks500 bill

TELECOM operator Telenor from Norway on Friday provided Ks500 bill to its subscribers in flood-affected Rakhine State as part of its corporate social responsibility initiative, according to Telenor Myanmar.

Located on the western coast of Myanmar, several townships in Rakhine State including Minbya, Kyauktaw and MraukU townships are affected by flooding due to heavy rains

since July 3.

This support aims to help flood victims facilitate communication with their family, relatives and friends.

The telecom operator has pledged to continue to provide support in the flood affected areas based on their needs. Telenor launched its network in Rakhine in May this year.

Telenor won licenses in February 2014 together with the

Ooredoo of Quata to operate nationwide network including mobile and internet for 15 years in Myanmar. It currently provides mobile and internet connectivity through over 5700 sites nationwide.

Among three operators, Myanma Posts and Telecommunications (MPT) remains the largest operator in the country with over 20 million subscribers.—GNLM

Inter Milan to Cooperate with MFF

ITALIAN Serie A football club Inter Milan is going to cooperate with Myanmar Football Federation-MFF for development of Football Academy.

A delegation led by Inter Milan Academy Business Development held talks with MFF about youth development project and academy development

during their visit to Myanmar from July 3rd to 7th.

The delegation also attended the U-14 football tournament during their visit.

President Myanmar Football Federation U Zaw Zaw discussed about football academies to cooperate with Inter Milan FC, including about the syllabus, training session, nutrition and sports medicine.

MFF has already established Football Academy in Mandalay of Mandalay Region and Patheingyi Township of Ayeyawady Region.

The construction of football academy in Yangon is underway.—GNLM

Ministry to offer birth spacing services for women free of charge

UNDER the family planning programme implemented by the Ministry of Health and Sports, Yangon Central Women's Hospital will provide birth spacing services free of charge to women between 15 and 45 years of age.

Dr Hla Mya Thway Eindra, director of Mother and Reproductive Health Section under the Public Health Department, said the hospital will protect women against unwanted pregnancy by inserting a matchstick-sized rod under the skin of their upper arm. Their protection lasts from three to five years. Menstrual cycle change is one of the minor side effects of this method.

This is one of the ministry's plans for women to reduce unplanned pregnancies and abortions. The new programme is essential to support the women's health and development of communities and to prevent deaths of mothers and children.

The family planning protects young women from health problems and death related to

early childbearing. According to international study, women who have more than four children are at increased risk of maternal mortality.

An estimated 225 million women in developing countries would like to delay or stop childbearing but are not using any method of contraception, according to the World Health Organization. In cooperation with Population Services International Myanmar (PSI), the ministry has been offered launching a master mentor training on long acting reversible contraception implant to midwives as of 5 July in Yangon.

According to the UNFPA, the maternal mortality in Myanmar remains high. A local survey shows that birth rates are also still high in rural areas.

According to the country's latest census, an infant mortality rate of 62 deaths per 1,000 live births and an under-five mortality rate of 72 deaths per 1,000 live births.—Zar Zar



Firemen unloading relief aid off a military helicopter to send them to the people in flooded areas in Ann, Rakhine State on 7th July, 2016. PHOTO: MYANMAR FIRE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

NATO leaders to show resolve towards Russia despite Brexit



NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg and Poland's President Andrzej Duda speak during a news conference during their meeting at Belvedere Palace, a day ahead of the NATO Summit in Warsaw, Poland, on 7 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

WARSAW — NATO leaders will display their resolve towards a resurgent Russia at a summit in Warsaw on Friday despite what many see as a weakening of the West due to Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

US President Barack Obama, attending his last summit of the Western defence alliance before he leaves office next January, will urge European allies to stand firm over Russia's annexation of Crimea and its support for Russian-speaking rebels in eastern Ukraine.

The 28-nation alliance will formally agree to deploy four battalions with 3,000 to 4,000 troops in the Baltic states and eastern Poland on a rotating basis to reassure eastern NATO members of its readiness to defend them.

"This is a defining moment for our security," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg told a new conference with Polish President Andrzej Duda on Thursday. "NATO is responding with speed and determination."

Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

and Poland requested a permanent NATO presence amid fears that Moscow could seek to destabilise their pro-Western governments through cyber attacks, stirring up Russian speakers, hostile broadcasting and even territorial incursions. Critics say the NATO plan is a minimal trip wire that might not deter Russian action.

The Kremlin denies any such intention and says NATO is the aggressor by moving its borders ever closer onto former Soviet territory which it regards as its sphere of influence.

President Vladimir Putin has made several gestures that seem aimed at defusing tension ahead of the summit, even as Moscow highlights its intention to deploy nuclear-capable missiles in Kaliningrad, a Russian enclave between NATO nations. Putin agreed to a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council next week, the second meeting this year of a consultation body that was put on ice after Moscow's seizure of Crimea in 2014. Russia allowed a UN resolution authorising the EU to

intercept arms shipments to Libya in the Mediterranean, and Putin talked by telephone with Obama in the run-up to the NATO meeting.

However, a White House spokesman said they reached no agreement on cooperation in fighting Islamic State militants in Syria during that call on Wednesday. Outgoing British Prime Minister David Cameron, who announced his intention to resign after losing a referendum last month on EU membership, will seek to underline active commitment to Western security at his final NATO summit, to offset likely concerns about Europe's biggest military spender leaving the EU.

"The backdrop to this summit is the historic decision taken last month to leave the European Union but this summit will be an opportunity for us to demonstrate the enormous contribution that Britain makes to Europe's and NATO's security and that we will continue to do so even outside of the EU," a British government official said.—*Reuters*

UN food agency says faces \$610 million shortfall for southern Africa drought relief

NEW YORK — The United Nations' food agency said on Thursday it needed \$730 million over the next 12 months for relief in seven southern African countries hit hard by a blistering drought and faced a \$610 million shortfall.

The World Food Programme (WFP) said in a statement the seven countries were Malawi, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Lesotho, Madagascar, Swaziland and Zambia.

In Malawi, WFP said it needed \$288 million but had only sourced \$43 million, while in Zimbabwe — where drought has exacerbated an economic meltdown which has led to unrest — \$228 million was required but only a tenth of that has been



A child drinks water from a cup in drought-hit Masvingo, Zimbabwe, on 1 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

raised. An El Niño weather pattern, which ended in May, triggered drought conditions across

the region which hit the staple maize and other crops and dented economic growth.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eight rescued five days after north China colliery flooding

TAIYUAN — Eight miners who had been trapped in a flooded coal mine in north China's Shanxi Province for more than five days were lifted up from the pit early Friday morning, local authorities said.

The flooding occurred at a coal mine shaft in Jincheng City around 10:53pm Saturday when 94 people were working in the shaft, 82 of whom were evacuated. Twelve miners were trapped after the flooding. The eight miners had been reached by phone on Sunday. After about 125 hours' continuous rescue efforts, they were brought to safety at 4:26am on Friday. They were rushed to local hospitals for treatment. Rescuers are still searching for the four others.—*Xinhua*

20 killed in suicide bombings in central Iraq

TIKRIT (Iraq) — At least 20 people were killed and some 70 others wounded when two suicide bombers on Friday detonated themselves at a Shiite shrine in Iraq's central province of Salahudin, while other gunmen took many Shiite pilgrims hostages, a provincial security source told Xinhua.

The attack occurred shortly after midnight when a group of gunmen disguised in military uniforms stormed the shrine of Saiyd Mohammed in the town of Balad, some 80 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, while two suicide bombers detonated explosives with themselves at the shrine, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The gunmen, who believed to be members of Islamic State (IS) group, also held an unknown number of Shiite pilgrims hostages inside the shrine, but the security forces freed the hostages after fierce clash, killing all the attackers, the source said.—*Xinhua*

Police investigate body found in demolished home

CHANGSHA — An autopsy is being carried out on a body found in the debris of a demolished home in central China's Hunan Province after an apparent dispute between the home owners and demolition crew.

The police station of Guanshaling Community, Yuelu District of provincial capital Changsha City received the report of the death in Chazishan Village on Thursday morning.

The autopsy, involving police authorities of the province, Changsha city and Yuelu district, as well as prosecutors, began on Thursday night to identify the deceased and the cause of death, a spokesperson with the city government told Xinhua on Friday.

Beijing News had quoted a person named Yang Quan claiming to be the son of the deceased, 60-year-old Gong Xuehui. Yang said his mother was left missing after the demolition on 16 June and that her body was found on Thursday by an excavator he hired.—*Xinhua*

Three dead among 490 rushed to hospitals in Japan's heat wave

TOKYO — Three people died as about 490 were taken to hospitals due to heatstroke or heat exhaustion Thursday, a Kyodo News tally showed, as temperature soared across much of Japan.

Of 929 observation points nationwide of the Japan Meteorological Agency, more than 400 logged highs of at least 30 C, while the mercury topped 35 C at 51 locations.

The mercury reached the season's highest 38.8 C in the city of Koshu in Yamanashi Prefecture in eastern Japan, and 38.6 C in Kawanehoncho, Shizuoka Prefecture in central Japan. In Tokyo's Nerima Ward, the temperature rose to 37.7 C.

The weather agency said a high-pressure system covering the Japanese archipelago sent a blanket of hot air over a wide swath of the archipelago.—*Kyodo News*

Body found in Tokyo canal identified as Chinese woman

TOKYO — The body found in a suitcase floating in a canal near Tokyo Bay in late June has been identified by fingerprints as that of a 34-year-old Chinese woman, police said Thursday.

Yang Mei arrived in Japan as a technical intern trainee in September 2013 and worked at a factory of an auto parts maker in Kyoto Prefecture, but disappeared from the company's dormitory in March 2014. The company reported her disappearance to the local police.

Her visa was valid for one year upon entry into the country but had not been renewed, the police said. Her fingerprints were kept at the Immigration Bureau. Her body was found in the canal in Shinagawa Ward on 27 June by a man aboard a boat.—*Kyodo News*

Iran missile tests 'not consistent' with nuclear deal spirit — UN report

UNITED NATIONS — Iran's ballistic missile launches "are not consistent with the constructive spirit" of a nuclear deal between Tehran and world powers, but it is up to the United Nations Security Council to decide if they violated a resolution, UN chief Ban Ki-moon said in a confidential report seen by Reuters on Thursday.

Ban's reluctance to state whether the March missile launches flouted the council resolution, which was adopted a year ago as part of the deal to curb Iran's nuclear work, further weakens the case for new sanctions that hinged on the interpretation of ambiguous language in the resolution.

Most UN sanctions on Iran were lifted in January when the UN nuclear watchdog confirmed that Tehran fulfilled commitments under its nuclear deal with Britain, France, Germany, China, Russia and the United States. But Iran is still subject to a UN arms embargo and other restrictions.

Under the UN resolution, Iran is "called upon" to refrain from work on ballistic missiles designed to deliver nuclear weapons for up to eight years. Critics of the deal have said the language does not make it obligatory.



A ballistic missile is launched and tested in an undisclosed location, Iran, on 9 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I call upon Iran to refrain from conducting such ballistic missile launches since they have the potential to increase tensions in the region," Ban wrote in his first bi-annual report to the 15-member Security Council on

the implementation of remaining sanctions and restrictions.

"While it is for the Security Council to interpret its own resolutions, I am concerned that those ballistic missile launches are not consistent with the constructive

spirit demonstrated by the signing of the (Iran nuclear deal)," he said. The council is due to discuss Ban's report on 18 July.

The United States, Britain, France and Germany wrote to Ban in March about the missile tests,

which they said were "inconsistent with" and "in defiance of" the council resolution.

The letter said the missiles used in the launches were "inherently capable of delivering nuclear weapons" and also asked that the Security Council discuss "appropriate responses" to Tehran's failure to comply with its obligations.

Ban's report simply references the letter and does not state if the missiles were capable of delivering nuclear weapons. Ban said Iran had stressed that it had not undertaken "any activity related to ballistic missiles designed to be capable of delivering nuclear weapons." Ban also said he was concerned by the seizure of weapons by the United States in the Gulf of Oman in March.

"The United States concluded that the arms had originated in Iran and were likely bound for Yemen. Iran has informed the (UN) Secretariat that it never engaged in such delivery," he said.

Ban said in the report the United Nations was still reviewing information provided by the United States and Iran and would provide an update on the arms seizure to the Security Council in due course.—Reuters

US troop cut won't impact mission in Afghanistan — US general

KABUL — President Barack Obama's decision to withdraw roughly 1,400 US troops from Afghanistan won't adversely impact America's mission there, a top general said before arriving in Kabul on Friday, adding that some jobs could be done from abroad.

Obama on Wednesday shelved his plans to cut the US force nearly in half by year's end, from 9,800 to 5,500. He opted instead for a more limited withdrawal to roughly 8,400 troops, noting that Afghan forces still needed US support battling the Taliban insurgency after nearly 15 years of war. In his first comments since Obama's announcement, General Joseph

Votel, the head of the US military's Central Command, played down any impact of the looming troop withdrawal even as he acknowledged Afghan forces were suffering heavy casualties.

A recent Pentagon report to Congress said casualties among Afghan forces rose 27 per cent from 1 January to 15 November last year. "It's difficult. They're taking a lot of casualties. That's a concern. We'll have to pay attention to that," Votel told a small group of reporters traveling with him to Afghanistan.

"But I don't think the reductions that we are taking are going to impact the principal missions that we are doing, particularly with respect to the Afghan secu-

rity forces."

Taliban forces now hold more territory in Afghanistan than at any time since the 2001 US-led invasion, according to recent UN estimates. The Islamic State group has also established a small presence in Afghanistan.

Republican critics of Obama questioned why, given Afghanistan's security concerns, he was still intent on cutting the force at all. Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman John McCain said it was difficult to discern "any strategic rationale" for the cut. Votel noted that Obama's decision to keep 8,400 troops in the country was welcomed by allies, who are expected to broadly reaffirm their

commitments to Afghanistan at a NATO summit on Warsaw on Friday and Saturday.

"It sends a very hopeful message here for the coalition and I think it will encourage our partners to continue to contribute," Votel said. Votel suggested the drawdown might take place gradually over coming months, with some support for the US forces in Afghanistan being drawn from outside the country.

"We're going to achieve those reductions by moving some capabilities out that can be conducted over the horizon—that don't necessarily need to be done in Afghanistan—to support the force," he said, without elaborating.—Reuters

Iraqi PM dismisses top Baghdad security officials after bombing

BAGHDAD — Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Friday dismissed three top officials in charge of Baghdad's security after a bombing over the weekend killed nearly 300 people and caused outrage at the inadequacy of emergency services and the security apparatus.

A statement posted on his Facebook page said he had fired the commander of military operations, security services and intelligence in the capital. The bombing, claimed by the militant group Islamic State, was the deadliest bombing in Iraq since US-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein 13 years ago.—Reuters

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Justice Department opens criminal probe into black Louisiana man’s death

BATON ROUGE, (La) — The US Justice Department has opened a criminal investigation into the fatal police shooting of a black man in Louisiana’s capital, the state’s governor said on Thursday, as two deadly encounters between law enforcement and black men triggered protests in the United States.

The probe comes as community leaders in Baton Rouge urged authorities to conduct a full-scale criminal probe of two white police officers over the slaying of Alton Sterling, 37, on Tuesday.

“I want you to know that a criminal investigation is under way. It is being led by the US Department of Justice,” Louisiana Governor Jon Bel Edwards told hundreds of people at Living Faith Cathedral in Baton Rouge on Thursday evening.

“We are going to come out of this tragedy stronger and more united than ever,” he added.

Sterling was pinned to the ground and fatally shot in the chest outside a convenience store after the officers responded to what police said was a call about a black man reported to have made threats with a gun.

The Justice Department said on Wednesday it would conduct a civil rights investigation into Sterling’s death.

The city’s mayor and police chief welcomed the move, but community leaders said they worried the probe would be too limited and urged authorities to consider all possible federal and state criminal charges against officers Blane Salamoni and Howie Lake.

“We don’t want this to be a narrow investigation,” Edgar Cage, a spokesman for the community organisation Together Baton Rouge, said at a church earlier on Thursday. “We plan to use this tragic event as a tool, a stimulant to change the culture.”

President Barack Obama said in a statement he had full confidence in the Justice Department’s ability to conduct a “thoughtful, thorough and fair inquiry” into Sterling’s death.

Citing an unnamed law enforcement official, CNN reported on Thursday that a homeless man placed the 911 call after seeking money from Sterling, who was selling CDs outside the store.

The 300-pound (135-kg) Sterling showed the man his gun and said to leave him alone, the official told CNN. Reuters could not independently confirm that account with Baton Rouge police, who did not respond to a request for comment.

Sterling, a father of five, had several criminal convictions since the mid-



Still images from video show Alton Sterling as he is shot dead by police during an incident captured on the mobile phone camera of shop owner Abdullah Muflahi in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on 5 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

1990s for battery, resisting arrest, burglary and other crimes. He was a registered sex offender after spending nearly four years in prison on a charge he had sex with a 14-year-old girl when he was 20.

Sterling’s death was the first of two fatal police shootings of black men in two days. Philando Castile was shot and killed by a police officer during a traffic stop on Wednesday near

Minneapolis.

The shootings and videos showing their bloody aftermath have sparked protests, including an overnight rally in Baton Rouge that drew about 300 people who stood in a peaceful vigil near the Triple S Food Mart where Sterling was killed.

Obama said that “all Americans should be deeply troubled” by the two deaths, which he said were

indicative of wider problems in the US criminal justice system.

At the Baton Rouge church on Thursday, Edwards said there would be a new focus on training and retraining in the police department, and stressed the need to introduce people to the police at an early age.

His words appeared to address concerns voiced by many community leaders in recent days about a

chasm between the black community and the police.

Video recorded by a bystander’s cellphone showed an officer confronting Sterling and ordering him to the ground. The two officers then tackled him to the pavement, with one pulling a gun from his holster and pointing it at Sterling’s chest.

One officer shot Sterling five times at close range, and the other took something from his pants pocket as he was dying, another video recorded by Abdullah Muflahi, owner of the store where Sterling was killed in the parking lot, showed.

Police said Sterling was armed. Muflahi said in an interview that police took a gun out of Sterling’s pocket after shooting him.

Officers Lake and Salamoni have been put on administrative leave, police said. In Lake’s three years and Salamoni’s four years on the force, both have been cleared by the police department after prior complaints against them regarding use of force, the Advocate newspaper reported, citing records.

The deaths of Sterling and Castile were the latest in a string of incidents in recent years involving police treatment of black men and boys in cities including Baltimore, Chicago, New York and Cleveland.—Reuters

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.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(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 5TH 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

Snipers kill five Dallas police during protests over shootings

DALLAS — Dallas police were in a standoff with a suspect on Friday after snipers killed five officers and wounded six, one of the worst mass police shootings in US history, during protests against the killing of two black men by police this week. Police had taken three people into custody after the ambush shooting on Thursday night that police described as carefully planned and executed. Police were in a standoff that has extended into Friday morning with another suspect in a downtown garage, where gunfire had been exchanged, officials said.

White House officials have spoken with Dallas Mayor Mike Rawlings about the shooting that turned the downtown of

one of the largest US cities into a sprawling crime scene and unfolded along streets that house major corporations, restaurants and courthouses.

President Barack Obama, visiting Poland, has been briefed, a spokesman said. No specific motive has been given for the sniper attacks at the downtown protest, one of many held in major cities across the United States on Thursday. New York police made more than a dozen arrests on Thursday night, while protesters briefly shut down one of Chicago’s main arteries. Dallas Police Chief David Brown said the shooters, some in elevated positions, used sniper rifles to fire at the officers in what appeared to be a

coordinated attack.

“(They were) working together with rifles, triangulating at elevated positions in different points in the downtown area where the march ended up going,” Brown told a news conference, adding a civilian was also wounded.

“It has been a devastating night. We are sad to report a fifth officer has died,” Dallas police said on Twitter.

Mayor Rawlings advised people to stay away on Friday morning as police sort through the area where large areas have been cordoned off and transport halted. Federal authorities also halted commercial air traffic for the area as police helicopters hovered over the scene.—Reuters

Alberta wildfires Canada's costliest-ever natural disaster

CALGARY — Insured losses from the May wildfires in Fort McMurray, Alberta, are expected to total C\$3.58 billion (\$2.76 billion), making it the costliest-ever Canadian natural disaster, an insurance industry group said on Thursday.

The losses far exceed those from the Alberta floods of 2013, which cost about C\$1.7 billion in claims, the Insurance Bureau of Canada (IBC) said in a report.

It noted that the biggest previous insurance loss from a wildfire had been C\$700 million from one in Slave Lake, Alberta, in 2011.

The wildfires in the oil sands hub of Fort McMurray forced the evacuation of some 90,000 residents, shuttered numerous oil sands operations and cut Canada's crude output by more than 1 million barrels a day.

While most of the oil sands operations have returned to normal rates, rebuilding efforts for thousands of homes in Fort McMurray, along with the insurance payout, are expected to take months or



Smoke and flames from the wildfires erupting behind a car on the highway near Fort McMurray, Alberta, Canada, on 7 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

even years.

"In terms of a timeline, it really depends on how long the rebuilding process takes," said Bill Adams, an IBC vice president.

Adams added that in the Slave Lake wildfire, it took nearly two years to rebuild some 400 homes destroyed. But Fort McMurray, where more than 2,400 properties were destroyed, represents an "unprecedented challenge."

A study compiled by Catastrophe Indices and Quantification Inc said there were more than 27,000 personal property claims, with the average claim of C\$81,000.

The losses are not expected to change dramatically over time.

Seven of the largest 10 Canadian natural disasters for insurable losses occurred in Alberta, IBC said. The Fort McMurray

payout is expected to affect some of the largest Canadian insurers. Intact Financial Corp, Canada's largest property and casualty insurer, said earlier that it would suffer losses ranging from C\$130 million and C\$160 million.

"The larger impact might be on the reinsurance business," said Jaeme Gloyn, an analyst at the National Bank Financial.—Reuters

Bantu the gorilla dies from cardiac arrest in Mexico City zoo

MEXICO CITY — Bantu, a 220-kilogram (485-lb) endangered gorilla who lived in the Mexico City zoo, has died after going into cardiac arrest when he was sedated in order to be moved to another zoo to try to mate, city authorities said on Thursday.

A western lowland gorilla, Bantu, 24, was born in captivity in Mexico City's Chapultepec zoo, where he was one of the star attractions.

He had failed to mate with three females in the zoo, so zoo officials organised for him to travel to the zoo in the central Mexican city of Guadalajara, where there were two other fe-

males. However, at around 9.30pm on Wednesday, after being administered a sedative, Bantu went into cardiac arrest, Mexico City's environmental ministry said in a statement.

For 30 minutes, vets tried to resuscitate him but to no avail.

Lowland gorillas are critically endangered with fewer than 175,000 left in the wild, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). They can live into their 50s and even up to 60 years old in captivity. "The Chapultepec zoo is in mourning, and deeply regrets the death of Bantu," the statement said.—Reuters



Bantu, a male gorilla, walks in Mexico City's Chapultepec Zoo in January 2006. 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 SSL TRUST VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV SSL TRUST VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of B.S.W 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 THE SHIPPING CORP. OF
INDIA LTD

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAERSK ABERDEEN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.7.2016 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 KOTA HASIL VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.7.2016 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 ADVANCE CONTAINER
LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANAN BHUM VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 9.7.2016 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 COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

Take a stand: Beyonce on killing of two black men by police

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Beyonce has issued a statement in which she has encouraged her fans to “take a stand” and campaign for legal changes following the shootings of two black men by police.

The 34-year-old “Formation” singer has spoken out after Philando Castile and Alton Sterling were killed by officers in Minnesota and Louisiana respectively, insisting the issue goes beyond race to encompass “anyone who feels marginalised, who is struggling for freedom and human rights”.

And Beyonce urged her fans to contact politicians to “demand” changes, sharing a link to ContactingtheCongress.Org, the Louisiana State Legislature website for those wishing to “protest for Alton Sterling,” and the Minnesota State Legislature website for those wanting to “voice protest for Philando Castile.”

In a statement on her website, she wrote: “We are sick and tired of the killings of young men and women in our communities. It is up to us to take a stand and demand



Pop star Beyonce. PHOTO: REUTERS

that they ‘stop killing us.’

“We don’t need sympathy. We need everyone to respect our lives. We’re going to stand up as a community and fight against anyone who believes that murder or any violent action by those who are sworn to protect us should consistently

go unpunished.

“These robberies of lives make us feel helpless and hopeless but we have to believe that we are fighting for the rights of the next generation, for the next young men and women who believe in good.

“No matter your race, gen-

der or sexual orientation. This is a fight for anyone who feels marginalised, who is struggling for freedom and human rights. This is not a plea to all police officers but toward any human being who fails to value life. The war on people of colour and minorities needs to be over. Fear is not an excuse. Hate will not win,” Beyonce said.

“While we pray for the families of Alton Sterling and Philando Castile, we will also pray for an end to this plague of injustice in our communities.

We all have the power to channel our anger and frustration into action. We must use our voices to contact the politicians and legislators in our districts and demand social and judicial changes.”

Castile was shot on 6 July during a traffic stop in front of his girlfriend and her child as he reached for his driver’s license, while Sterling lost his life the day before when he was shot outside a convenience store, where he was selling CDs in a parking lot.—PTI

Actor says ‘Star Trek’ fan favourite Sulu is gay in new film

SYDNEY — The actor playing Hikaru Sulu in the upcoming sci-fi film “Star Trek Beyond” has revealed that the fan favourite character is openly gay and married in the new film, an Australian media outlet reported on Thursday.

Actor John Cho, who plays the role of Sulu first made famous by George Takei in the 1966 “Star Trek” television series, told Australia’s Herald Sun that Sulu, the helmsman of the starship USS Enterprise, is married to a man and is a father to a daughter with his partner.

The decision to make a long-time franchise staple character gay comes as Hollywood faces growing pressure to include more diversity in its blockbuster films. There is yet to be an openly gay superhero or action star leading a film franchise.

Cho said scriptwriter Simon Pegg and director Justin Lin made the decision to make Sulu gay to pay homage to the 79-year-old Takei, who is openly gay and married in real life.—Reuters

Emma Watson film takes \$61 at limited UK cinema open

LONDON — British actress Emma Watson’s latest movie, “The Colony,” took just \$61 in its UK box office opening weekend after showing in only three cinemas while immediately being made available for home streaming.

The film, already out in other countries, was released in the form of Video on Demand last Friday, the same day it began showing at the three UK cinemas. According

to British Film Institute figures, it grossed 47 pounds (\$61).

Watson, who played Hermione in the hugely successful “Harry Potter” films, stars alongside German actor Daniel Brühl in the movie about a sect in 1970s Chile.

The actress will portray heroine Belle in Disney’s remake of “Beauty and the Beast”, set for release next year.—Reuters

‘Game of Thrones’ season seven may be delayed

LOS ANGELES — “Game of Thrones” showrunners David Benioff and DB Weiss have revealed that the production on its upcoming season seven will start later than expected.

The duo, who made the remarks during a UFC podcast, said production is waiting for gloomy weather to return in a bid to capture the gloomy weather that comes with the “Winter is here” moment revealed in the season six finale,” according to The Hollywood Reporter.

“We don’t have an air date yet,” the duo said. “We’re starting a bit later because at the end of this season, ‘Winter is here’ — and that means that sunny weather doesn’t

really serve our purposes anymore. So we kind of pushed everything down the line, so we could get some grim, gray weather even in the sunnier places that we shoot.”

“Game of Thrones” typically arrives in March or April. The series was renewed for a seventh season with an episode count still to be determined. The showrunners previously said they were “writing the final act” for the adaptation of the George RR Martin series and are “looking at somewhere between 70 and 75 hours before the credits roll for the last time.”—PTI



Jessica Alba.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Actress Emma Watson.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Social media gave me a voice: Jessica Alba

LONDON — Actress Jessica Alba says she was only able to find her voice once she got Twitter and Instagram and is thankful for social media giving her a platform to be herself.

The 35-year-old actress admitted that until the introduction of social networking sites she felt her whole life was made up of portraying different images, which made her feel like a puppet, reported Female First.

“So much of my life was in other people’s hands. A movie studio would market me a certain way for a certain demographic, or a publisher had to portray me a certain way for their audience. I was this puppet, and I understood why, but I felt so disconnected from this version of me that everybody knew, or thought they knew.

“Social media was the first time I really got to be authentic and speak in my own voice. It’s so great to have an outlet where I can be me,” she said.—PTI

Nigeria's music scene becomes a cultural export

LAGOS — Each night as darkness descends on Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, sweat-drenched young men and women descend on the megacity's numerous nightclubs to dance to the latest hit songs.

Much like the famous "Nollywood" film industry, music is now big business in Africa's most populous nation.

The music industry's revenue from music sales was \$56 million in 2015 and is forecast to grow to \$88 million in 2019, auditing firm Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PwC) reported last year.

It said the country's entertainment and media industry had an estimated total revenue of \$4.8 billion in 2015 and is likely to grow to some \$8.1 billion in 2019, making it "the fastest-expanding major market globally".

As in many Nigerian cities, music is inescapable in Lagos, whose 21 million inhabitants can hear popular songs in the form of mobile phone ringtones or blaring out of speakers on the private transit buses, known as danfos, that are ubiquitous.

Artists who sing and rap over electronic backing tracks, in a genre known as Afrobeats, have seen their popularity in Nigeria spill over into record sales and sold-out concerts across Africa and in both Britain and the United States.

In May, Wizkid — one of Nigeria's most popular artists —

reached the top of the US singles chart in a collaboration with Canadian rapper Drake.

It is not the first time Nigerian music has found popularity overseas. Singer Fela Kuti established a cult following in the 1970s among fans of his high-octane sound fusing brass instruments, organs and guitars.

But the new wave of artists — such as D'Banj, Tiwa Savage and P-Square — have developed a broad fan base that has made music a major cultural export for the West African country.

"With the advent of social media the music is more readily available outside, beyond the shores of the country," said Deji Awokoya, general manager of Megalectrics Ltd which operates three Lagos radio stations and set up another in Britain's capital, London, four months ago.

This cross-cultural appeal also means artists raised overseas have collaborated with Nigerian artists or, like singer Temi Dollface, chosen to join the legion of thousands of "repats" who relocate to their country of origin each year.

"I wanted to incorporate Nigerian history and folklore into what I'm doing — something that I didn't do as much when I was growing up," said the Nigerian-born artist, real name Temitope Phil-Ebosie, whose sound blends soul, jazz and pop.—Reuters



Singer Temi Dollface works in her studio in the Ikeja district of Lagos, Nigeria, on 18 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

California shop makes lowrider bikes with expertise and heart



Manny Silva sits on a low rider bicycle he customized, outside his bike shop in Compton, California, on 3 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

COMPTON (California) — Mexican-born Manny Silva is known as the "godfather of lowriders" thanks to the custom-made bicycles he makes in the shop he set up in Compton in 1973.

His lowriders, with frames closer to the ground, feature tooled handlebars, detailed

spokes, specialized insignia and designer seats.

"The lowrider bikes, every single piece is special because it's custom, hand-made," explained Silva, whose shop team includes his sons, nephews and even grandchildren.

"We fix people's bicycles and we help people to fix their

lives," he added.

Creations from Manny's Bike Shop have been featured in music videos and films and sold to clients in Britain, China, South Korea, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

He has also made specialised bikes for disabled children.—Reuters

Baby elephant in India grieves over body of dead mother

COIMBATORE (India) — A three-year-old elephant, grieving over the death of its mother following a fight with another animal on Wednesday, refused to leave her body, forest officials said.

A team of workers rushed

to the site after learning the calf continued to cling to its mother's body for more than 24 hours. "We want to know the reason why the elephant has died," said environmentalist Mohammad Saleem.

"But until and unless the

post-mortem is done, we can't know the reason, and until and unless the elephant calf moves, the post-mortem cannot be done," Rescue workers were waiting for the calf to leave the body before it starts to decay.

—Reuters

Entertainment Channel

(9-7-2016, Saturday)

<p>06 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather Report • Cartoon Programme "The Little Prince" (Part-1) <p>07 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassette Recordings <p>08 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV Entertainment Music 	<p>08 : 30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creator of Imagination <p>09 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Movie Songs <p>09 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wonderful Indonesia <p>09 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Movie <p>Midnight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Down
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From 9-7-2016 (Saturday)
To 10-7-2016 (Sunday)

6:00 pm
6:00 pm

Myanmar International

(9-7-2016 07:00am ~ 10-7-2016 07:00am) MST

<p>Today Fresh</p> <p>07:03 Am News</p> <p>07:27 Am Great Shwedagon- The Ten Traditional Arts & Crafts</p> <p>07:48 Am A Star for Great Achievement</p> <p>08:03 Am News</p> <p>08:26 Am A Famous Festival & Its Fantastic Fair</p> <p>08:52 Am Temple Stalls</p> <p>09:03 Am News</p> <p>09:26 Am Lucrative Myanmar Rattan Industry</p> <p>09:45 Am Wet Market in Yangon: Shwe Pa Dauk Fish Market</p> <p>09:54 Am Colonial Buildings and a New Yangon</p> <p>10:03 Am News</p> <p>10:26 Am Reflected Glory</p>	<p>10:49 Am Tigers, Lions and The Guardians</p> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>Prime Time</p> <p>07:03 Pm News</p> <p>07:26 Pm Travel To The Southern Part of Shan State (Kalaw)</p> <p>07:44 Pm Creations of a Designer: Fashion</p> <p>07:49 Pm Today Myanmar: First Hundred Days of the New Government</p> <p>08:03 Pm News</p> <p>08:26 Pm Writer, Philanthropist: Daw Than Myint Aung (Part - II)</p> <p>08:47 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Artist Win Pe</p> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Friday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>
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Griezmann double sends France into final

MARSEILLE, (France) — Antoine Griezmann's double fired France into the Euro 2016 final as an emotional smash and grab 2-0 win over a territorially dominant Germany on Thursday ended 58 years of tournament suffering at their hands.

Griezmann drove in a penalty at the end of the first half after a needless handball by Germany captain Bastian Schweinsteiger.

The striker then poked the ball home for the host nation in the 72nd minute following a blunder by goalkeeper Manuel Neuer to set up a meeting with Portugal in Paris on Sunday.

World champions Germany dominated in terms of possession but their lack of a deadly finisher cost them and the razor-sharp Griezmann, whose double took his tournament-leading goal tally to six, was the difference.

"We are extremely happy and it was beautiful to live it," said Griezmann.

"But there is still one match left. We have to keep our feet on the ground and from tomorrow let's prepare for this final."

It was the first time France defeated Germany in a competitive match since the 1958 World Cup, a drought that included defeats in the semi-finals of the 1982 and 1986 World Cups and the quarter-finals two years ago.

Their reward is a place in the final where they will be strong favourites to emulate the teams of 1984 and 1998 who won the European and world titles respectively on home soil.

"I have played in many finals,



Germany's Manuel Neuer attempts to claim the ball ahead of France's Olivier Giroud during EURO 2016 Semi Final at Stade Velodrome, Marseille, France on 7 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

most of them on the pitch. Now I'm on the bench," said France coach Didier Deschamps, captain of the victorious 1998 squad.

"We deserve it. We played the best team in the world and we knocked them out. Yes, we suffered, but we never gave up. I always trusted my players and this is their reward."

Germany will look at the statistics and wonder how they failed to score.

After defender Jerome Boateng's handball had given It-

aly a lifeline in the quarter-finals, their captain's similarly inexplicable high hand swung the game France's way when they most needed it.

"There weren't too many things that went wrong, we were the better team," said Germany coach Joachim Loew.

"In 2012 or 2010 the sides were better than us but today that wasn't the case," he added in reference to semi-final defeats by Italy and Spain.

"We tried everything in the

second half. We created a lot of pressure and had chances towards the end but that's football."

Apart from the opening exchanges when France tore forward on a wave of noise from their home crowd, Germany totally controlled the first half.

They swamped the midfield but had only half-chances for Emre Can, Thomas Mueller and Schweinsteiger to show for it.

Schweinsteiger then gifted France the opener, changing the whole atmosphere when his raised

hand touched the ball as he challenged Patrice Evra in the air from a corner.

Few in the stadium saw it but replays validated Italian referee Nicola Rizzoli's decision and Griezmann, who missed a penalty in Atletico Madrid's Champions League defeat by Real Madrid six weeks ago, sent Neuer the wrong way with the last kick of the half.

It was a similar pattern after the break with almost all the action taking place in French territory.

However, with Mueller looking out of sorts, there was no focal point to Germany's attacks and home keeper Hugo Lloris was barely tested.

Instead it was Germany keeper Neuer who was found wanting as he flapped a Paul Pogba cross straight to Griezmann who sent it back past him into the net.

Joshua Kimmich and Benedikt Hoewedes went close as Germany poured forward late on but there was no way back.

The result was the same as when the teams met in a Paris friendly in November but that night will be remembered for the death and destruction caused when Islamist militants struck at the stadium and other locations around the city.

Eight months on, Les Bleus will return to the Stade de France in very different circumstances, carried by a wave of national and international goodwill.

"It was our duty to win matches to give the French joy and reach the end," said Griezmann. "I hope we will make it a beautiful end." — Reuters

Serena on verge of 22nd major, again, after thrashing Vesnina

LONDON — A Champagne cork popped somewhere on Centre Court four games into Serena Williams's Wimbledon semi-final and while it was a tad premature, her 6-2, 6-0 thrashing of Elena Vesnina suggested she could be celebrating something special come Saturday.

The top-seeded American will be taking nothing for granted when she plays Angelique Kerber in the final, having seen her bid to match Steffi Graf's modern era record of grand slam titles stuck one short on 21 for a year, but it was a menacing show of strength, albeit against an overawed opponent.

She dropped only three points on serve in an embarrassingly one-sided 48 minutes in Thursday's first semi-final — crunching down one 123mph delivery that topped the women's speed

charts at this year's tournament.

From the moment the 34-year-old nonchalantly broke serve in the opening game the writing was on the wall for a leaden-footed Vesnina who lasted three minutes less than Dinara Safina did against Venus Williams in the previous shortest modern era women's

semi-final in 2009.

By the time the latecomers shuffled to their seats two games later, Serena was 3-0 ahead and her place in a ninth Wimbledon final, barring a tumble, was already looking a done deal.

She will land a seventh Wimbledon title if she beats Germany's fourth seed Kerber in a repeat of this year's Australian Open final that she surprisingly lost in three sets.

If any more incentive were needed there is family honour at stake after Kerber beat older sister Venus 6-4, 6-4 in the second semi-final, denying the 36-year-old a first Wimbledon final since 2009 when Serena beat her.

Serena also has the fresh pain of a French Open final defeat by Garbine Muguruza and there

was a steely look in her eye when she spoke to reporters afterwards — leaving no one in any doubt that finishing runner-up again is not an option.

"I think for anyone else in this whole planet, it would be a wonderful accomplishment (reaching three grand slam finals in a row)," she said. "For me, it's about holding the trophy."

"For me, it's not enough. But I think that's what makes me different. That's what makes me Serena."

World number 50 Vesnina briefly held up Williams in the first set, holding serve twice, but it was futile and she managed only five points in the second as the match raced away in a blur of winners from across the net.

Few of Williams's 85 singles wins at the All England Club could have been easier.

"I felt like the score was going fast," Vesnina, the first unseeded woman to contest a Wimbledon semi since 2011, said.—Reuters



Serena Williams. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pogba 'perfect' for United's title challenge, says Ince

LONDON — Paul Pogba could spearhead Manchester United's Premier League title challenge if the playmaker can be lured back to Old Trafford, the club's former midfielder Paul Ince has said.

Pogba, who left United in 2012 under Alex Ferguson, has been at the centre of a 100 million pound (\$129.34 million) bid from the FA Cup winners, according to British media.

Spanish giants Real Madrid are one of the favourites to land the French playmaker, the reports added. Pogba was in sparkling form last season as he helped Juventus win a domestic double, and Ince said that the 23-year-old could light up Old Trafford under Jose Mourinho. "I think his style of football will suit the Premier League more than the Spanish league," Ince told Sky Sports.—Reuters