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MOVING TO FIRMER GROUND

Roughly 200 Letpadaung households stranded by the roadside as Chindwin bursts

AROUND 200 households in the vicinity of Letpadaung Mountain, situated in Sagaing Region's Salingyi Township, was evacuated on Monday to the verge on the Salingyi – Nyaungpingyi road-side as their houses were flooded after the Chindwin River burst its banks.

The Salingyi — Nyaungpingyi road is 18 feet wide and only accommodates a one way flow of traffic. The villagers have erected their shelters on a patch of land beside the road which measures four feet higher than their flooded village.

“Those from our village are having to relocate as water is flooding into our homes. Come the afternoon and we'll have to move to the side of the road too. In the past, it used to take between a week to ten days after the Chindwin had burst its banks for the water to start entering into our village. But, the blocking up of the waterway towards the Letpadaung Mountain by the Chinese Winbao Company has seen the waters of the Chindwin flood our village as soon as the river has overflown.” said U Myint Htay, a resident of Tonetawkyang village.

The waters of the Chindwin surpassed the dangerous 1,000cm level on Sunday, with water



Local people wade through the flood in the field in Salingyi. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

levels slowly creeping up ever since, reaching 1,016 on Tuesday, according to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.

“The water has risen by about three feet. Families have left a person or two behind [to guard the remainder of their household possessions] while the rest relocate to dryer ground with their livestock and household an-

imals. For the time being, we still haven't received any assistance from any government departments concerned.

There aren't yet any issues with drinking water and people are cooking and eating as they need to.” said U Win Myint Oo, administrator of Letpadaung village tract.

Residents of Shwehla village have been relocating to the side

of the Salingyi – Nyaungpingyi road over the last four days, taking with them their livestock of cattle, horses, sheep and swine. The numbers of displaced households beside the road is reportedly in the region of 200 while the local middle school has also been temporarily closed.

It is reported that water from the Chindwin is also beginning to

flood into the Letpadaung Mountain region villages of Tonetawkyang, Alaytaw, Ywarthit and Alayywar.

But the verge along the road-side will prove familiar for most as flooding of the Chindwin last year saw families from the region forced to seek refuge beside the road for nearly three weeks.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

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Labourers sentenced to 1 month jail or a K5,000 fine for contempt of court

Thein Ko Lwin

FIFTEEN detained labour demonstrators received a sentence of one-month imprisonment or a K5,000 fine for contempt of court from a Nay Pyi Taw Tatkon Township court yesterday.

The group was detained in

the township in May for trying to pass barricades blocking them from entering Nay Pyi Taw.

The workers, from a finished wood products factory in Sagaing, are currently facing charges under articles 143, 147 and 505 (a) for unlawful assembly, disobeying the instruction of the police and dis-

turbing public order.

After hearing the sentence at the fourth hearing the workers voiced the disappointment at the decision of the court, saying they don't have faith in the judiciary.

“We will go on hunger strike to protest against the court and the government”, said Ko Khaing

Min, the leader of the protestors.

The next court hearing for other charges will be on 27 July.

Out of 51 labour protestors that were detained after their protest were dispersed by police in mid-May, 35 returned home on 30 May after they were found not guilty.



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects National Museum and National Library



Vice president U Henry Van Thio seen observing the Parabaits. PHOTO: MNA

VICE President U Henry Van Thio, who chairs the Central Committee for Myanmar National Culture, went on an inspection tour of the National Museum and the National Library in Yangon yesterday.

At the National Museum, the vice president was given a briefing on the number of visits to the museum, the interpretation services for tourists, cooperation with international institutions and the maintenance of the objects on display.

During his inspection tour, U Henry Van Thio also looked around the exhibitions of history and culture.

The National Museum was first opened in Yangon Jubilee Hall in 1952 before being relocated from the building (now the Myanmar Agricultural Development Bank) on Pansodan street in 1970 to the current location on Pyay street in 1996.

The vice president proceeded to the National Library on Kaba Aye Pagoda road, where he was

briefed on a collection of rare books, cooperation with international institutions and future plans.

The National Library started life in Yangon Jubilee Hall under the name of the "State Library" in 1952 and then moved to a building on Pansodan street in 1962. It was later relocated from the City Hall in 1964 to the six-story office building on Strand road in 1984. In 2002, it was reopened in Tamwe township before settling in its current location on Kaba Aye Pagoda road.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Speaker U Win Myint meets with lawmakers in Magwe

PYITHU Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint stressed the need to produce a family spirit among colleagues and build a genuine democratic nation with a full understanding of democratic values in meeting with lawmakers in Magwe yesterday.

In his address, the Speaker MP's actions the importance of strict adherence to laws, rules, and regulations, saying that parliamentary questions and proposals must comply with the Constitution, national reconciliation policy, government policies and current situations.

It is also required that MP's actions conform to the Constitution and government policies and MPs look into the interest of the country and its people, added the Speaker.

He called on parliamentari-

ans to distance themselves from the abuse of entrusted power for private gain and represent the people of their constituencies in a dutiful way, attending to the needs of the voters to the best of their abilities.

He also called for the building of a corruption-free and just society to strengthen the foundations of democracy in the country.

Next, the Magwe Region Speaker elaborated on parliamentary activities during the first and second Hluttaw sessions, promulgation of legislations, formation of parliamentary committees and other matters.

Then, the Speaker answered queries raised by parliamentarians at the meeting. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint talking to the MPs. PHOTO: MNA

World Bank-supported project to provide financial support to all schools in Myanmar

Thein Ko Lwin

BASIC education schools and monastic education schools in Myanmar will receive financial support through a World Bank-supported project according to an official from the Ministry of Education yesterday.

There will be different amounts of funding depending on the number of students in the national schools and monastic education school, said Deputy Director U Toe Win of Basic Education Department of the ministry, adding that all schools will receive grants.

The Decentralising Funding to Schools project is set to cover all basic education schools including monastic education schools and schools under the University of Education and Sagaing Nationalities Youth Resource Development University as well.

Under the school grants program, a school with 50 students will receive K400,000 while K800,000 is set for a school with 100 students, K1 million for a school with 200 students, K1.2 million for a schools with 300 students, K1.4 m for a school with 400 students, K1.6m for a school with 500 students, K1.8 m for a school with 700 students, K2.2 m for a school with 900 stu-



School children reading during lecture time at a school in TadaU, Mandalay Region. PHOTO: AUNG SHINE Oo

dents, K2.6 m for a school with 1,100 students, K3 m for a school with 1,500 students, K3.4 m for a school with 2,000 students and K3.8 m for a school with 2,500 students.

The project set to run for four

years and was started during the 2014-2015 academic year, said the Basic Education Department.

Under a student stipend program focusing on 55 townships, poor students who are in Grade IV will receive K5,000 while K8,000

is set as a stipend for students in Grade I, II, III, IV and V and K10,000 for ninth and tenth graders.

School heads will be allowed to use the cash assistance freely for respective requirements and all

schools will be funded via the Basic Education Department under the Ministry of Education.

According to the World Bank, it is planning to expand funding for the project by the end of the 2017-2018 academic year.

Vice President U Myint Swe receives Ro K Ambassador

VICE President U Myint Swe met with the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Mr. Yoo Jae Kyung at the Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two

representatives held discussions on economic cooperation between Myanmar and the Republic of Korea and further bilateral relations. Also present at the call were Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Myint Swe welcomes Mr. Yoo Jae Kyung.
PHOTO: MNA

Union Information Minister meets with delegations from IMS/Fojo Media Institute, DW Akademie

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint held separate talks with delegations from International Media Support-IMS, Fojo Media Institute and the DW Akademie, Germany, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting with Ms. Petra, Qiding, Deputy Program Manager of IMS and Fojo Media Institute the two representatives discussed works for the development of Community Radio Services and programmes to disseminate knowledge regarding radio

broadcasting.

Next the Union minister met with the delegation from DW Akademie led by Myanmar Country Coordinator Ms. Isabella Kurkowski.

The groups held talks on reforming Myanmar Radio and Television, decentralisation measures on news reporting and broadcasting and the upgrading of the MRTV website page to enable viewers to watch TV programmes online.

Also present at the calls were officials from Myanmar Radio and Television.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw leaves for Mongolia to attend 11th ASEM Summit

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw left Yangon yesterday to attend the 11th ASEM Summit in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

The President was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and officials.

The 11th Asia-Europe Meeting hosted by Mongolia coincides with the 20th Anniversary of the ASEM launched in 1996 with its inaugural summit in Bangkok,



President U Htin Kyaw is seen off at Yangon International Airport by Vice President U Henry Van Thio and Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein. PHOTO: MNA

Thailand.

During the 11th ASEM Summit, Myanmar will serve as the coordinators on the Asian side while New

Zealand will act as the coordinator on the European side. The Summit, being held as the ASEM turns 20 years old this year, is aimed at cre-

ating opportunities in Asia and Europe and laying down foundations for future development, sources said.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ma Ba Tha rails against Yangon Region Chief Minister while urging calm

THE Central Committee for the Protection of Race and Religion, whose local acronym is Ma Ba Tha, has released an announcement on 12 July in which it urged its subcommittees nationwide to focus on 'peaceful missionary work' rather than mobilising mass rallies in response to recent political setbacks.

Ma Ba Tha is known nationally and international-

ly as a provocative and outspoken Buddhist ultra-nationalist organisation that promotes ideals of racial and religious purity.

The announcement was directed to deter possible protests against Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein's comments on Ma Ba Tha in Singapore and in Yangon. The chief minister remarked that the committee was 'unnecessary'.

Following the chief minister's remarks the committee called an emergency meeting with leading monks and reached a decision to call the president and the State Counsellor to lodge complaints over the chief minister's words.

In a recent response to queries by the media in connection with what the chief minister said, Union Minister for Religious and Cultur-

al Affairs Thura U Aung Ko refused to comment but said the chief minister exercised his democratic right to free expression.

Ma Ba Tha later appealed to its subcommittees to remain calm in its announcement after learning that U Phyo Min Thein's statement was a free expression of his personal opinion.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Flag at half-mast, siren wailing and honking for Martyrs' Day

THE President's Office has sent letters of instruction to all government organisations ordering the flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

to be flown at half-mast across the country on 19 July (Tuesday) to mark the 69th Anniversary Arzani Day (Martyrs' Day). In addition, a siren to be sound-

ed by Myanmar Radio and Television at 10.37 am to observe the time of the assassination of the martyred leaders. It has become customary for motorists

to show their respect by blaring their horns while they stop in traffic during the period of reflection and mourning.—*Myanmar News Agency*

LUXURIOUS & TRANQUIL WEEKEND 'BUBBLY' BRUNCH AT SEDONA YANGON



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SEDONA
TANDEM

RBE trains to run between Taikkyi, Insein this month



One of the new RBE coaches which will run between Taikkyi and Insein stations this month being seen.

PHOTO: SOE WIN (MLA)

NEW RBE railway coaches will begin running along the Taikkyi-Insein-Taikkyi train route in Yangon this month with the aim of providing better and faster transportation services for Yangon commuters, according to Myanmar Railways.

The new RBE (DMUs) trains are set to start operating on Thursday, 21 July.

Under the new schedule, No. 66 down train will leave Taikkyi railway station at 6.45 a.m and arrive at 8.35 a.m at Insein sta-

tion. No. 65 up train is planned to leave Insein Station at 5.30 p.m. and enter Taikkyi Station at 7.15 p.m. The new coaches will stop at each station including Padauktan, Phugyi, Letpadansu, Wanetchaung, Hmawby, Hlawga and Danyingon stations located between the two target points. MR has set a fare price of K200 per commuter travelling between Insein and Hmawby stations and K300 for the trip between Insein and Taikkyi stations. The set price between Taikkyi and

Hmawby is K200 and K300 for the whole route (Taikkyi-Insein).

With the aim of offering modernised railway service to help ease traffic congestion, MR is running public transport services with 14 new RBE large-sized coaches plus nine small coaches for 215 round trips a day. According to official figures issued by Myanmar Railways, over 70,000 people, including fair-income citizens in Yangon, are using the circular trains every day.—*Soe Win (MLA)*

Exhibition aims to showcase Myanmar's natural world

THE natural environment of Myanmar including the life of birds will be featured at a photo exhibition scheduled to take place in Yangon this month.

The collective event will showcase between 23 and 24 July at Royal Rose (Taw Win Hnin Zi) Hall under the supervision of a local team of bird conservationists and natural environment enthusiasts. The event will feature the life of native birds, bird ecosystems and the challenges in conservation of birds and other wildlife.

Several educative talks about the life and challenges of rare birds, which are in danger of extinction, will be held during the two-day event. The major purpose

of the exhibition is to raise awareness of the conservation of birds and the natural environment among audiences, one of event organisers said. Birds play a crucial role in balancing the ecosystem. Some species are facing extinction, said an executive member of the team.

The organiser invites enthusiastic photographers to showcase their own works. All works will be displayed for sale during the two-day event. According to a survey, Myanmar has more than 1,000 recorded bird species, seven of which are endemic birds, 114 bird species are globally threatened or near-threatened and 186 bird species are waterbirds.—*YCDC*



Myanmar's natural world.
PHOTO: YCDC

Crime NEWS

Car accident kills 5, injures 11



The three-wheeler being seen after the accident. PHOTO: KO LWIN (SWA)

A THREE wheeled motorcycle collided head on with a 12 -wheel vehicle on the Yangon-Mandalay road, near Nunneera village, Kyaukdaga Township, Bago region, on Tuesday, leaving five dead and

eleven injured.

The motorcycle, being driven by one Paya Kat, alias Baja, 29, with 16 female farmers on board, crashed into the 12 wheel vehicle being driven by Wai Lin Htet, 25.

The reason for collision is not known yet.

The accident killed five passengers while eleven others including the driver were injured seriously. Police are investigating.—*Ko Lwin (Swa)*

Man attempted to commit suicide by jumping down from the motel

A man jumped down from a motel in Myawady town, Kayin state on 10 July. U Thiha Win alias Ko Maung, 42, from South Dagon township, Yangon arrived at the motel on 6 July. U Thiha Win is said to quarrel with

his wife over the phone. This argument is believed to make him over drunk in his room. He jumped down from his room to commit suicide under the influence of liquor.

U Thiha Win was serious-

ly injured in the fall and he is taking medical treatment at district general hospital. Police are still investigating the case and have taken action against him.—*Tin Win Hlaing (Kawka-reik)*

Ownerless illegal gold digging machines seized in Nam Lon creek

A combined investigation team comprising policemen from Mong Phyat police station seized ownerless illegal gold digging machines in Nam Lon creek near Hsit Gaung village, Mong Phyat township on 11 July.

Acting on a tip-off, the police discovered on the raft 25

HP engines and other 13 items which are used in digging gold when the police arrived at the scene.

The police reported the matter to Township Management Committee.

The police are investigating the case.—*Shaw La Mon (IPRD)*



Ownerless illegal gold digging machines seized on the raft.
PHOTO: SHAW LA MON (IPRD)

LOCAL Business

CMP garment industry eyes US, Canadian and Russian markets

MYANMAR garment factories with Cutting-Making and Packing (CMP) systems plan to expand their markets to America, Canada and Russia, said an official from Myanmar Garments Entrepreneurs' Association. Myanmar's main markets currently are Japan, South Korea and the EU.

Myanmar is making a concerted effort to boost its export products focusing mainly on its garment and industrial sectors. Myanmar's garment industry operates on a CMP system, earning the sector US\$1.6bn in the 2015-16 Financial Year.

About 1,500 garment factories are expected to be operating by 2025, creating an estimated one million jobs. Myanmar's garment industry is planning to turn to an FOB system where the garment factories produce and exported their own products.

Myanmar garment industry earned US\$912m in 2012. The industry is expected to earn US\$8-10 bn this decade.—*Myawady*



Employees work at a production line of a garment factory in Hlinethaya Industrial Zone. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Sculpture business needs aid

SCULPTURES are calling for aid to help save one of Myanmar's traditional arts and crafts, said U Zawgyi, an expert artisan, adding that the SMEs and artists have been neglected by authorities and donor organisations.

"The raw materials are scarce and expensive, and so, the scul-

tors need the monetary assistance. If they are continued to be neglected, they will find it difficult to earn a living," said U Zawgyi.

The wood utilized in sculpture has become scarce and so the cost is high; some artists engaged in sculpturing are not doing well. Currently, the sales of sculptured

toys have remarkably declined - the business is dependent only on the tourists.

"Assistance is required in order for the sculpture business not to fade away. The artisans are doing this business because of their love for the art of sculpture, continued U Zawgyi.—200

Viettel to cooperate with Myanmar National Telecom Holding to become fourth operator

TELECOMPANY Viettel is expected to partner with Myanmar National Telecom Holding to become the fourth telecommunication operator, according to an official from the Ministry of Transport and Communication.

Viettel is allowed to invest only 49 per cent unlike Ooredoo and Telenor which have been granted the right to make a one

hundred per cent investment.

Myanmar National Telecom Holding is formed by 11 local public companies. The local consortium is said to be holding a 51 per cent share in the cooperation. Currently, Viettel and Myanmar National Telecom Holding have been negotiating the establishment of a joint venture.

The government will sub-

sidise the installation of 1,000 telecommunication towers and 8,100-mile-long fiber cables under the name of the Star High Public Company with a share of 28 per cent, it is reported.

Currently, there are three operators in Myanmar: Myanmar Post and Telecommunication (MPT), Telenor and Ooredoo.—200

Fishery exports expected to fetch US\$700 million this FY

FISHERY exports are expected to earn US\$700 million this fiscal year, it is reported. Meeting the target requires concerted effort on the part of all stakeholders, said an official from Myanmar Fishery Federation (MFF).

During the previous fiscal

year Myanmar was not able to reach its target for fishery exports, set at US\$ 700 million, but earned US\$502.8 million.

"We expect to earn US\$700 million from fishery exports this year through both border trade camps and normal trade. We

need to boost fishery production and extend the market. We also need the government's subsidies to meet the target and to develop fish farming businesses" said U Han Tun from the MFF at a meeting held on Tuesday.—*Myint Maung Soe (MMAL)*

NTT Communications to offer broadband service in Yangon

JAPAN's NTT Communications Corp. announced Wednesday it has begun offering high-speed Internet connections for enterprises throughout Myanmar's commercial capital Yangon, after receiving a network service license from the government.

The company is offering the service, Digi-Path Premier, to provide reliable, high-speed Internet connections for enterprises throughout the Yangon area, the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. subsidiary said in a statement.

The service offers dedicated circuits starting from bandwidth of 1Mbps, to connect enterprises with NTT Communications' global Internet network with options including global IP address, web hosting, mail hosting, rental routers, managed firewalls, Internet VPN and file transfers, it said.

It said its new service in Yangon would ensure highly reliable communication environment, prompt delivery, and around-the-clock network monitoring.

Meanwhile, Manabu Ka-

hara, president of NTT Communications (Thailand) Co., told reporters in Yangon that his company will start a small or medium-sized data center in Yangon in cooperation with a local partner in order to provide advanced IT services to its customers in Myanmar.

In Southeast Asia, NTT Communications is also providing Internet connections to enterprises on in Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Since the beginning of Myanmar's transition from military to democratic rule in 2011, an increasing number of multinational enterprises are entering the country's market and creating demand for reliable high-quality Internet connection services.

NTT Communications opened its branch in Yangon in 2012.

According to earlier surveys, the number of Internet users in Myanmar, mainly through mobile phones, could reach more than 38 million, out of a total population of more than 51 million, by the end of this year.—*Kyodo News*

LDP to regain upper house majority for 1st time in 27 years

TOKYO — Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party is set to regain a majority of upper house seats for the first time in 27 years after an independent member submitted an application to join the party, LDP lawmakers said Wednesday.

Tatsuo Hirano, who has held a seat in the Iwate prefectural constituency since 2001 and was reconstruction minister in 2012 under the government led by the Democratic Party of Japan, told reporters, "Japan now needs continuity of policies. What the LDP is doing is not wrong. I want to contribute to Iwate and Japan as a lawmaker of the LDP."

LDP Secretary General Sadakazu Tanigaki asked Hirano to join the ruling party during talks on Tuesday.

Hirano's switch to the LDP could give Abe more power to push his "Abenomics" monetary policies and achieve his ultimate goal of revising Japan's 70-year-old Constitution for the first time. Along with other lawmakers supportive of revising the postwar Constitution, the LDP and its junior



Undated photo shows House of Councillors member Tatsuo Hirano, who was reconstruction minister in 2012 under the government led by the then Democratic Party of Japan. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

coalition partner Komeito won a two-thirds majority in Sunday's upper house election, but the LDP itself fell short of an overall majority by just one seat. Hirano, whose seat was not contested in the election, previously left the DPJ in April 2013 and became an independent.

Hirano's joining the LDP means that the pro-constitutional revision parties — the ruling bloc, Initiatives

from Osaka and Party for the Japanese Kokoro — will have 162 of the 242 House of Councillors seats. In order to propose a constitutional amendment and call a national plebiscite on the matter, the support of two-thirds of both houses of the parliament is required. The ruling parties already hold such a majority in the House of Representatives, or lower house. —Kyodo News

Unemployed man charged with murdering Cambodian government critic

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian court on Wednesday charged an unemployed man with murdering prominent government critic and activist Kem Ley, who was gunned down in broad daylight at a shop in the capital Phnom Penh.

Kem Ley's death comes amid rising political tensions between veteran Prime Minister Hun Sen and an opposition hoping to challenge his grip on power at local elections in 2017 and national elections in 2018.

The Phnom Penh city court charged Chuop Somlap, 38, with the premeditated murder of Kem Key, 46, the founder of grassroots advocacy group "Khmer for Khmer", deputy prosecutor Ly Sophana told reporters.

He was also charged with the illegal posses-

sion of a weapon and another unidentified person was charged with the illegal sale of a weapon to Chuop Somlap, Ly Sophana said.

Chuop Somlap was arrested shortly after the shooting on Sunday. In a police video he claims to have killed the popular political commentator over a \$3,000 debt.

Members of Cambodia's opposition and activists have been jailed in recent months on charges they say were trumped up by the government as part of a crackdown to mute critics ahead of the elections.

Many of Kem Ley's supporters said the murder was political and were sceptical of the reason given for the killing.

Kem Ley's family said the activist did not owe money, adding that they now feared for their

safety.

"If I continue to live in Cambodia, it's not safe," Kem Ley's wife Bou Rachana said.

While Chuop Somlap's wife said her husband was a poor, unemployed man and would not have had such a large amount of money to lend. "He has never had that much money," she said.

Kem Ley was a frequent critic of Hun Sen, whose more than 30 years grip on power has been challenged by the rise of the opposition Cambodia Nation Rescue Party (CNRP).

His most recent critique was a commentary on a report by anti-corruption pressure group Global Witness, which accused the prime minister and his family of having amassed \$200 million in business interests.—Reuters

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Philippines says open to talks with China on South China Sea ruling

MANILA — The Philippines is open to discussions with China on implementing the landmark decision by a UN-backed arbitral tribunal on the South China Sea dispute involving the two countries among others, Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay said Wednesday.

A day after the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague issued its stunning ruling invalidating China's "nine-dash line" by which Beijing claims almost all of the South China Sea, Yasay told a radio interview that the Philippine government "will be formulating the succeeding steps in making sure that the decision...will be peacefully implemented."

"We are open to making sure that we will have bilateral talks with China in the implementation of this decision of the arbitral tribunal," Yasay said.

Aside from striking down China's claim to sovereignty over the resource-rich body of water that is also an important route of international trade, the five-member tribunal

also found some features in the South China Sea being claimed by China as actually being within the exclusive economic zone of the Philippines.

The ruling also said China violated the Philippines' sovereign rights by interfering with Philippine fishing and petroleum exploration, construction of artificial islands, and destruction of marine environment.

In a statement issued Wednesday, former President Benigno Aquino, under whose term the arbitration case was filed, suggested that "instead of viewing this decision as a victory of one party over another, the best way to look at this judgment is that, it is a victory for all."

"I say this because the clarity rendered now establishes better conditions that enable countries to engage each other, bearing in mind their duties and rights within a context that espouses equality and amity," Aquino, who ended his six year-term on 30 June said.

"Without doubt, this long-running dispute is

now closer to having a permanent solution," he added.

Acknowledging and thanking the efforts of the Aquino administration "in making sure that we get this kind of ruling by our arbitral tribunal," Yasay said the next step is to "move forward and let diplomacy reign."

"Now is the time for diplomacy to reign again, to make sure that our diplomatic options and initiatives will not be prevented or undermined, so that we can peacefully implement the decision of the arbitral tribunal," he said.

Yasay disclosed that even before the decision was issued, Manila and Beijing committed to each other not to take "provocative actions."

Asked on the particular impact of the decision on Filipino fishermen who were previously barred by China at the Scarborough Shoal, which lies just 124 nautical miles from the coast of Philippine main island of Luzon, Yasay said: "Now, I think, there is no basis for anyone to prevent fishermen from fishing, to

continue fishing in these traditional fishing grounds."

Yasay, who is a lawyer by training, said that based on his understanding of the decision, Scarborough Shoal has been declared as "a common fishing ground of fishermen, including from the Philippines, Viet Nam and China."

"So, my understanding of this decision is, it's important for us to immediately have an agreement with countries concerned how to mutually benefit in so far as these fishing grounds are concerned," Yasay said.

Philippine Defence Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said there are plans for consultations with member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations on what steps the Philippines should take in light of the ruling.

"The community of nations, the ASEAN, has supported us in our pleading," Lorenzana, a retired military official, said while highlighting that the landmark decision affects not just the Philippines but other claimant countries as well.—Kyodo News

China issues white paper on settling disputes with Philippines

BEIJING — The Chinese government on Wednesday issued a white paper titled “China Adheres to the Position of Settling Through Negotiation the Relevant Disputes Between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea.”

“The Philippines’ territorial claim over part of Nansha Qundao is groundless from the perspectives of either history or international law,” said the document issued by the State Council Information Office.

The core of the relevant disputes between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea lies in the territorial issues caused by the Philippines’ invasion and illegal occupation of some islands and reefs of China’s Nansha Qundao (the Nansha Islands), it said.

In addition, with the development of the international law of the sea, a maritime delimitation dispute also arose between the two states regarding certain sea areas of the South China Sea, it added.

The two countries held multiple rounds of consultations on the proper management of disputes at sea and reached consensus on resolving through negotiation and consultation the relevant disputes, which has been repeatedly reaffirmed in a number of

bilateral documents, according to the white paper.

In 2013, the then government of the Republic of the Philippines unilaterally initiated the South China Sea arbitration.

By doing so, the Philippines has violated its standing agreement with China to settle the relevant disputes through bilateral negotiation, has violated China’s right to choose means of dispute settlement of its own will as a State Party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), and has abused the UNCLOS dispute settlement procedures, it said.

“The Arbitral Tribunal established at the Philippines’ unilateral request has no jurisdiction over relevant submissions, and awards rendered by it are null and void and have no binding force,” said the document.

“China’s territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests in the South China Sea shall under no circumstances be affected by those awards. China does not accept or recognise those awards. China opposes and will never accept any claim or action based on those awards,” it added.

The white paper, consisting of more than 20,000 Chinese characters, also explained that Nansha Zhudao (the South China



Deputy head of the State Council Information Office Guo Weimin (L) speaks at a press conference on the white paper titled “China Adheres to the Position of Settling Through Negotiation the Relevant Disputes Between China and the Philippines in the South China Sea” in Beijing, capital of China, on 13 July, 2016. The Chinese government on Wednesday issued the white paper. PHOTO: XINHUA

Sea Islands), are China’s inherent territory, saying the activities of the Chinese people in the South China Sea date back to over 2,000 years ago.

China is the first to have discovered, named, and explored and exploited Nansha Zhudao and relevant waters, and the first to have continuously, peacefully and effectively exercised sovereignty and jurisdiction over them.

“China’s sovereignty over Nansha Zhudao and relevant rights and interests in the South China Sea have been established in the long course of history, and are solidly grounded in history and law,” it said.

China abides by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and is committed to upholding and promoting international rule of law. It respects and acts in accordance with international law, the white paper said.

While firmly safeguarding its territorial sovereignty and maritime rights and interests, China adheres to the position of settling disputes through negotiation and consultation and managing differences through rules and mechanisms, it added.

“China endeavors to achieve win-win outcomes through mutually beneficial cooperation, and is

committed to making the South China Sea a sea of peace, cooperation and friendship,” it said.

China is committed to maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea with other countries in the region and upholding the freedom of navigation and overflight in the South China Sea enjoyed by other countries under international law, according to the white paper.

In the white paper, China urges countries outside this region to respect the efforts in this regard by countries in the region and to play a constructive role in maintaining peace and stability in the South China Sea. —Xinhua

South Korea announces site for US missile defence system



South Korean Defense Ministry’s Deputy Minister Yoo Jeh-seung (R) shakes hands with the commander of US Forces Korea’s Eighth Army Lieutenant General Thomas Vandal after a news conference about deploying the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system, at the Defence Ministry in Seoul, South Korea, on 8 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

SEOUL — Seongju County in South Korea’s North Gyeongsang Province has been chosen as the site for deployment of an advanced US antimissile defence system, South Korean Deputy Defence Minister Ryu Je Seung said Wednesday.

“Defence ministers (of South Korea and the US) approved

Seongju as the best site for the deployment, which maximizes military efficiency, guarantees safety for local residents, and also doesn’t cause health and environmental effects,” Ryu said in a prepared statement.

He said the decision on the site selection was made after a joint survey by South Korea and

the United States on various candidate sites.

Seongju County is located in the country’s south central region, about 275 kilometres from the North Korean border.

The two countries on Friday last week announced the decision to place the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) system in the South to counter North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats.

THAAD is designed to intercept ballistic missiles flying at high altitudes inside and outside the atmosphere.

North Korea issued a strong warning against the deployment in a statement on Monday by the Artillery Bureau of the General Staff of the Korean People’s Army. It warned it will “take a physical counter-action to thoroughly control THAAD, aggression means of the US for world domination, from the moment its location and place have been confirmed in South Korea.”

China and Russia have also strongly opposed the deployment on grounds it could pose serious threats to their strategic security.—Kyodo News

India’s top court deals blow to Modi’s ambitions in northeast

NEW DELHI — India’s Supreme Court ruled on Wednesday that the government’s imposition of direct rule in a remote northeastern state was illegal, and the dislodged opposition Congress party should return to power immediately.

The government imposed so-called president’s rule in Arunachal Pradesh, a vast but sparsely populated state bordering China, in January after the Congress party that had been ruling there suffered splits which the government believed left it unable to govern.

The court’s order for the reinstatement of Congress rule in the state is a blow to Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s ambition of expanding the influence of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in the underdeveloped northeast.

“This court quashes the imposition of president’s rule in Arunachal Pradesh,” a five-judge

constitution bench said in its ruling, calling the Congress party’s dismissal “illegal and unconstitutional”.

Congress, whose power base has shrunk across India since the BJP won a landslide general election in 2014, also saw its rule reinstated in May in Uttarakhand, another state where president’s rule had been imposed as Modi’s party attempted to wrest control.

The BJP scored its first state election victory in the northeast in May when it won in Assam, the region’s most populous state, in a sign of its growing influence beyond its traditional heartland.

Congress is run by the fabled Gandhi dynasty that has led the world’s largest democracy for most of its existence but now rules only a handful of India’s 29 states, including in Arunachal Pradesh, home to 1.38 million people.—Reuters

Opinion

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Hub with care

Aung Myint Oo

HUB literally means centre of an activity or network. Functionally, it acts as a nerve centre providing something essential or coordinating the others in its network with regard to a particular area of interest e.g. finance, medicine, education, transport and information technology etc. A hub can be put into a geographical context such as global, regional or national depending on its level of significance and dominance.

Status to be a hub is usually associated with some or all of those attributes such as wealth, top-notch services, sound legal and regulatory landscape, good human resource management, customer friendliness and historical significance. Besides being a financial booster, as 'hub-status' also means prestige, understandably it is usually regarded as something worth striving for although not easy to attain and a lot more difficult to maintain.

Logically, who to be labelled as hub should mainly be the business and interest of its customers

and peers. However, nowadays tradition of ranking the competitors by a third party such as a think-tank or consultancy agency sometimes can possibly turn the game into some form of commercialization or political play. One should also keep the fingers crossed and pray that 'media won't add the colours to it'. Otherwise, things can become misleading for the customers.

Although 'hub-status' generally serves as a reward to the holder, there is no guarantee that it is always on bright side. One of the potential downsides is possible conflict with the interest of its own community. A good example can be competition for limited healthcare resources between overseas patients seeking treatments and local patients. Therefore, carefully thought-out policies safeguarding the interest of its own population while maintaining reputation as a medical hub ought to be in place before enjoying the fruits of medical tourism industry.

The other potential risk of

being a hub is 'unwanted hub-status'. To describe it, one should imagine a context where a society or a country with unique policy permissive to a particular service to fulfill its own local need may inadvertently open the floodgates for overseas patients who are unable to seek that particular service in their own country due to some reasons e.g. legal restrictions, unless there are preventive measures such as policy and legislative safeguards in place. Good examples for such services are abortion and surrogacy whereby a woman rents her womb to another woman to give birth on her behalf for medical or non-medical reasons and with or without a fee for her service. The irony of such scenario is that it will be very easy and spontaneous to become a hub without a usual hard fight.

Even though without involving the risks mentioned above and something really looks peaceful, universal and spiritual, it could still impose some level of risks to the society once it pos-

sesses a hub-status. Please take Myanmar as an example. As of now, despite huge potential of development in near future, Myanmar is not yet a hub in any of the sectors mentioned earlier. However, Myanmar has a unique status in the world as a hub of Theravada Buddhism. Neither like a medical hub with the issue of conflicts for limited resources, nor like a financial hub with huge risks of money laundering, but it has been experiencing its own unique risks of potential conflicts between different religions which is really detrimental to the society and could seriously hamper its development potentials.

To conclude, though it is not a concrete and easy way-out to the issues mentioned, status of hub should always be coupled with carefully thought-out policies, legislations and more importantly, with involvement of the government and the entire society to safeguard its own interest. Therefore, it is good to be a hub, but always with due care.

Monastic education schools and monastic institutions in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Ba Sein
(Religious Affairs)

MONASTIC education schools and monastic institutions have been existing in Myanmar during the periods of the successive Myanmar Kings since thousand years ago. As you know, Myanmar has been a Theravada Buddhist country since then. Over 90 percent of population of Myanmar believe in Buddhism and they all are Buddhists. There is no Myanmar king that does not carry out the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana throughout the country. The countless number of shrines and pagodas built and constructed by successive Myanmar Kings can be seen all over the country till now. There is at least a monastery in every village throughout the country. The Myanmar Buddhist children of ancient time have only to go to monastery at their village because there were no academic modern schools at that time. Most of Myanmar nationals of ancient time educated from the monasteries or the monastic education schools. There were many famous and learned monks and people who were well-educated from the

monastic education schools all over the country. The British colonial imperialists invaded and occupied Myanmar after fighting three invading wars.

The British Colonial Government ruled the whole Myanmar for one hundred years and oppressed Myanmar nationals by divisive rule. On other-hand, they persuaded Myanmar nationals to be live in other religious leading to overwhelm the Buddhism, the primitive religion of Myanmar nationals. The monastic education schools and monastic institutions throughout Myanmar became weak and faint because they were not encouraged and supported by the British Colonial Government at all. However, some of farsighted and learned Myanmar Chief Monks (Maha Theras) and lay-devotees managed to continue keeping up the monastic education schools and the monastic institutions throughout the country. At present, there are altogether over fifty-one thousand monasteries and over fifteen thousand monastic education schools all over the Union of Myanmar. Over sixteen hundred thousand monks (members of the sangha) and twenty three hundred thousand novices (Sameneras) are dwelling at these monasteries and learn-

ing the Buddhist scriptures (The Pariyatti Education) which mainly lead to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana in the Universe.

And now, the Ministry of Religious Affairs of the Government of the Union of Myanmar is encouraging and supporting the monastic education schools thought out the State and regions in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar under the guidance of the State Sanghamahanayaka Committee of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar. The main aims and objectives of the Monastic Education Schools are to uplift of morale and morality of the young generations and to understand well the real, basic essence of the Buddhism, and Myanmar culture and traditions which handed down through ancient Myanmar generations. It is found that most of Myanmar young generations of today do not know and understand the real basic essence of Buddhism and the ancient culture and traditions of Myanmar. In fact Myanmar culture and traditions mainly depend on the culture of Buddhism. For the time being, many young novices, boys and girls are attending the monastic education shoots all over the country.

During the periods of the

British Colonial Government, the monastic education schools throughout Myanmar faded out and nearly disappeared for not being encouraged and supported by the British Colonial authorities concerned. After Myanmar had regained her Independence in 1948, some of the farsighted learned chief monks, lay devotees and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar tried to re-introduce the monastic education schools. But they were not completely successful because of confuse and unstable political situation of those days. And so, many young generations of those days were not able to go to monastic education schools for learning the real basic essence of the Buddhism and the ancient Myanmar culture and traditions. Hence, most of Myanmar young generation who were born in those days did not know well and understand the basic essence of Buddhism and Myanmar culture and traditions.

We can see vividly and clearly that ruthless and cruel activities of killing and beheading innocent people by destructive elements broke out in the period of 1988 destructive. It is learnt that the destructive elements who committed these crimes are most young

people who do not know the basic essence of the Buddhism and Myanmar culture and traditions.

According to the bitter and cruel experience of 1988 disturbance, the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar of the time decided to encourage and support the monastic education schools which lead to cultivate the young new generation to become good, gentle and polite in future. Besides, the Monastic Institutions, the main centres for the Pariyatti Sasana (learning canonical Texts of the Buddha) which lead to the purification, perpetuation and propagation of the Buddha Sasana have been more supported and encouraged by the Government of the State Law and Order Restoration Council of the Union of Myanmar of the time since 18 September 1988.

An old saying goes, "Whenever religion is pure, the society prospers". The situation of the nation is well-developed and prosperous. When the members of the Order (Bhikkhus) unanimously perform and practice the law and fulfill their religious duties. It is further learnt that there are altogether 1568 Monastic education schools in the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

47-member SSMNC meets to discuss religious issues



47-member SSMNC meeting in progress. PHOTO: MNA

THE 47-member State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee held its plenary session at the Wizaya Dhamma Hall on the Kaba Aye Hill yesterday, attracting its Chairman Sayadaw Dr Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa and Union Minister for Religious and Cultural Affairs Thura U Aung Ko.

The Chairman Sayadaw urged the member Sayadaws of three groups to voice constructive criticism of each other's unconventional decisions but cautioned that the frequent correction of bad decisions would lose respect and trust from the Sangha community.

The Sayadaw called for deep contemplation and critical evaluation of a problem from different angles in making a decision, stressing that care should be taken that the decisions for religious issues comply with the existing civil laws and the Buddhist laws called Dhamma Vinaya.

"We must take into consideration the existing civil laws and the Dhamma Vinaya (religious discipline)," the Sayadaw said.

Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, in his briefing to the members of the State Sangha Maha Nayaka Committee, said

that some young monks and novices were found to engage in conduct which is grossly indecent.

He urged the Sayadaws to decisively deal with the issue in a bid to promote Theravada Buddhism, describing the public use of social media as a platform for the ignition of religious and racial tensions.

He also pointed out the need to prevent any scheme designed to orchestrate the collapse of the Sangha community, calling for combined efforts to ensure the promotion and propagation of Buddhism. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Army chief hands over relief aids to floods victims in Rakhine State



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing preseting relief aid to a flood victim. PHOTO: MNA

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing encouraged flood victims from Myauk U and Kyauktaw townships in Rakhine State yesterday, calling for overcoming the challenges posed by the current disaster with the unity between them and the Tatmadaw.

He also pledged that the Tatmadaw would participate in

disaster preparedness and relief efforts in the state.

At the meeting with flood disasters in Myauk U and Kyauktaw, the Senior General handed over relief aids donated by families of the armed forces to the local peoples.

He also pledged that the Tatmadaw would assist in the cultivation of rice in summer season

as the rice cultivation in the rainy season is hit by the floods.

He also urged the local farmers to make more effort for growing rice in the summer.

During his visit to Kyauktaw, Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services also met with senior military officers and other ranks and their families. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Myanmar's statement on the Award of the Arbitral Tribunal on the South China Sea under Annexure VII of UNCLOS

13 July 2016

MYANMAR has taken note of the award made by the Arbitral Tribunal under Annex VII to the 1982 United Nations Conventions on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) on Tuesday, 12 July, 2016. We are now studying the impact of the Award and its possible repercussions within our region and beyond.

Although Myanmar is not a claimant state, we attach great importance to developments in the South China Sea. We have been consistent in calling for and supporting all endeavours to promote a peaceful resolution of disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations in accordance with universally recognised principles of international law including the 1982 UNCLOS.

Myanmar urges all parties to exercise restraint with regard to activities that could increase tension and to refrain from threats or use of force.

As a member of the rules-based ASEAN, Myanmar is committed to the principle of rule of law in the conduct of foreign relations throughout the international community.

Myanmar will continue to work with ASEAN Member States and China for the full and effective implementation, based on consensus, of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC) and the early conclusion of the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC).

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nay Pyi Taw

Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force give educational talks on human trafficking across the country

THE Myanmar Police Force is implementing public awareness activities to better help the populace avoid becoming victims of trafficking. The MPF is also taking severe legal action against caught traffickers as part of its 100-day plan being implemented between 1 May and 8 August. The Police gave educational talks on human trafficking in Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, at Sanchaung and Thanlyin Townships in Yangon Region, Waimaw and Myitkyina Townships in Kachin State, Kalay twon in Sagaing Region, Kunhein town and Tachilek Township in Shan State on Tuesday.

At the talks, members of

sections and companies of the Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force elaborated the definitions of human trafficking and human smuggling, how to recognise the signs that someone might be a victim of human trafficking, methods of recruitment used by human traffickers, the types of human trafficking in Myanmar and the prevention of violence against women.

The police force gave out education pamphlets to 3,210 students, 100 trainees from the course for anti-narcotic drugs and members of the public who attended the ceremony. — *Myanmar Police Force*



Anti-Human Trafficking Police giving education pamphlets to the attendees. PHOTO: MPF

Clinton gets Sanders endorsement in show of party unity



Democratic US presidential candidate Hillary Clinton speaks as Senator Bernie Sanders looks on after he endorsed her during a campaign rally in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, US, on 12 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

PORTSMOUTH — Democrat Bernie Sanders endorsed former rival Hillary Clinton for president in a display of party unity on Tuesday, describing her as the best candidate to fix the United States' problems and beat Republican Donald Trump in the 8 November election.

With Clinton nodding in agreement beside him, Sanders put aside their bitter campaign for the Democratic nomination and said she would take up the fight to ease economic inequality, make college more affordable and expand healthcare coverage for all Americans.

"This campaign is about the needs of the American people and addressing the very serious crises that we face, and there is no doubt in my mind that, as we head into November, Hillary Clinton is far and away the best candidate to do that," he told a raucous crowd in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, that included plenty of vocal Sanders supporters.

"I intend to do everything I can to make certain she will be the next president of the United States," the US senator from Vermont said.

His endorsement, five weeks after Clinton became the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee, brought the most prominent holdout in the party's liberal wing into her camp. Sanders threw Clinton his support less than two weeks before the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, where she is to be formally nominated.

"I can't help but reflect on how much more enjoyable this election will be now that we are on the same side," Clinton said of Sanders. "Thank you, Bernie, for your endorsement, but more than that, thank you for your lifetime of fighting injustice."

Trump ridiculed the move

in a series of Twitter posts, saying Sanders had abandoned the supporters who flocked to his insurgent campaign to rein in Wall Street and get big money out of politics.

"Bernie Sanders endorsing Crooked Hillary Clinton is like Occupy Wall Street endorsing Goldman Sachs," Trump said on Twitter.

In a statement, the Trump campaign said Sanders was now officially part of the rigged system the senator had criticised during his long primary battle with Clinton.

"Bernie's endorsement becomes Exhibit A in our rigged system — the Democrat Party is disenfranchising its voters to benefit the select and privileged few," said Stephen Miller, a senior policy adviser to Trump.

In a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Tuesday, Clinton extended her lead over Trump to 13 percentage points, up from 10 points at the end of last week.

The former US secretary of state hopes the Portsmouth appearance with Sanders will help her win over his supporters, some of whom held Sanders signs at the rally and chanted his name. In recent Reuters/Ipsos polling, only about 40 per cent of Sanders backers said they would back Clinton, and the crowd at Tuesday's rally made it clear she still had work to do.

"I am absolutely certain I will not vote for Hillary Clinton," said Gale Bailey, a Sanders supporter and an unemployed graphic designer from Rochester, New Hampshire, who attended the rally in a Sanders T-shirt.

"She's a crook, and I'm not going to vote for a crook," Bailey said, adding that she would write in Sanders' name on the November ballot. The joint appearance concluded weeks of negotiations

between the two camps as Sanders pressed for concessions from Clinton on his liberal policy agenda.

It came after Clinton last week adopted elements of Sanders' plans for free in-state college tuition and expanded affordable healthcare coverage. Sanders also successfully pushed to include an array of liberal policy positions in the Democratic platform, which a committee approved on Saturday.

Sanders did not win all of his policy fights, most notably failing to win support for blocking a congressional vote on the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal.

But he told the Portsmouth rally that "our job now is to see that platform implemented by a Democratically controlled Senate, a Democratically controlled House and a Hillary Clinton presidency — and I am going to do everything I can to make that happen."

In an email to supporters after the rally, Sanders said he would still push for changes to the party's nominating process to make it more inclusive. In the months ahead, he will campaign around the country for progressive congressional candidates, he said.

Also on Tuesday, a source with knowledge of the process said the Clinton campaign is vetting James Stavridis, a retired four-star Navy admiral, as a potential vice presidential running mate. Stavridis, who served as supreme allied commander at NATO, is currently dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. Top Democrats, including President Barack Obama and Senator Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts, a favourite of the party's liberal wing, have already announced their support for Clinton, leaving Sanders at risk of being left behind in the Democratic battle against Trump. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Russia's Putin, John Kerry to discuss Syria and Ukraine on Thursday

MOSCOW — Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet US Secretary of State John Kerry in Moscow on Thursday to discuss the Syria and Ukraine crises, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday.

"The issues (to be discussed) are fairly predictable. Syria, Ukraine and bilateral relations," Peskov told reporters on a conference call. Kerry will also hold talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday, Peskov said. — Reuters

Amendola: Opening of chapters concrete political message

BELGRADE — Serbian First Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Ivica Dacic on Tuesday received Italy's Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Vincenzo Amendola, who noted that the opening of negotiation chapters 23 and 24 in Serbia's accession talks would be a concrete political message about the continuation of the country's European integration.

Italy has launched preparations to chair a Western Balkans summit in Rome in July next year within the Berlin process, Amendola said, proposing a strengthening of bilateral dialogue and development of cooperation on concrete infrastructure projects involving Italian SMEs. Serbia is highly appreciative of Italy's continued support on the European integration path, Dacic said, welcoming next year's Western Balkans summit in Rome. Vucic and Amendola expressed satisfaction with the high level of bilateral relations and a readiness to improve them further in all areas of mutual interest, an official statement said. —Tanjug

Asking employee to remove hijab is discrimination — EU court advisor

BRUSSELS — Asking a Muslim employee to remove her hijab when dealing with clients amounts to unlawful direct discrimination, a legal advisor to the European Union's top court said in a written opinion on Wednesday.

The case arose when a female employee of a French IT consultancy was fired after refusing to remove her hijab when meeting clients. She challenged this before a French court, which referred the case to the European Court of Justice. "There is nothing to suggest she was unable to perform her duties as a design engineer because she wore an Islamic hijab," Advocate General Eleanor Sharpston wrote.

Opinions by the Court's advocates general are advisory but it usually follows their advice in drawing up a final ruling. While a company could impose a neutral dress code if it pursued a legitimate aim, Sharpston said it was hard to see how such a measure could be seen as proportionate in the present case. France bars civil servants from wearing clothing indicating religious belief, such as a hijab or a Jewish skullcap, but not employees in the private sector. Companies can set dress codes but their exact legal status is disputed. —Reuters

Chinese civil aircraft land on new South China Sea airports

BEIJING — Two Chinese civilian aircraft landed on Wednesday at two new airports on reefs controlled by China in the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea, Mischief Reef and Subi Reef, the official Xinhua news agency said.

The aircraft then returned to the southern Chinese island province of Hainan, from where they had taken off, it added in a brief story on one of its official microblogs. It was not immediately clear if both aircraft visited both of the reefs, or if one went to one reef, and the other to the other reef. —Reuters

Four drown, six rescued after migrant boat overturns off Greece's Lesbos

LESBOS — Four people drowned and six were rescued when a small boat laden with migrants overturned on Wednesday off the Greek island of Lesbos, the country's coastguard said.

Wednesday's fatalities were the first in the area for some weeks after a European Union deal with Turkey that has helped stem the flow of migrants making the narrow but precarious sea crossing from Turkish shores to outlying Greek islands.

Those who survived said there were 11 people in total on the boat, the coastguard said. The victims included two children.

Hundreds of thousands of people fleeing conflict arrived in Europe through the Greek islands in 2015. —Reuters



Britain's outgoing Prime Minister, David Cameron with his wife Samantha, waves in front of number 10 Downing Street, on his last day in office as Prime Minister, in central London, Britain July 13, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

EU's parting shot: "Good riddance, Cameron"

Alastair Macdonald

BRUSSELS — Europe won't miss David Cameron, a senior EU lawmaker in Brussels said on Wednesday as the prime minister who led Britain to the exit left office and handed on the job of completing its withdrawal from the European Union.

"The UK finally has a new prime minister," Gianni Pittella, the leader of the centre-left group in the European Parliament said in a statement as Theresa May took over the government.

"Goodbye Mr. Cameron. Nobody will miss you."

Other European politicians focused their attention on May, his successor as Conservative leader, who backed Cameron's campaign to remain in the EU but then saw off pro-Brexit rivals once he had resigned after

losing the vote on June 23.

European Council President Donald Tusk, whose job it will be to broker negotiations between May and the 27 other national EU leaders, sent a two-sentence letter of congratulation saying that he looked forward to a "fruitful working relationship".

Belgian Prime Minister Charles Michel, a vocal supporter of a more federal European Union, was quick to urge May to do what Cameron refused to do after the June referendum and formally notify the EU that Britain was indeed leaving the bloc.

"We cannot afford a long period of uncertainty. Clarity is in the interest of both Europe and the United Kingdom," he said, adding a salute to Cameron's "tenacity" and "strong leadership".

Pittella, an Italian who leads

the second biggest group in the European Parliament, also called on May to serve notice of withdrawal under Article 50 of the EU treaty, which sets a two-year deadline for London to negotiate an exit or simply be bounced out of the EU.

He added: "It must be clear that no negotiations will begin before this is done."

May has said she may not trigger Article 50 for months but many officials expect tentative talks to start soon on how negotiations might work to forge a new relationship between Britain and the EU.

Pittella repeated warnings from across Europe that Britain cannot keep the benefits of access to the EU single market without following EU rules, including welcoming EU immigrants. —Reuters

Islamic State car bomb attack kills seven north of Baghdad

BAGHDAD — A suicide bomber killed at least seven people north of Baghdad on Wednesday, security and medical sources said, in the second bombing claimed by Islamic State in the district in as many days.

Eleven others were injured when the attacker detonated his car, laden with explosives, at a checkpoint.

Islamic State, which regularly carries out such bombings in the capital and other parts of Iraq, where it seized large swathes of territory in 2014, said in an online statement it had targeted the army.

A similar attack in Rashidiya on Tuesday, also claimed by the Sunni Islamist group, killed nine people.

A suicide bombing in the central Karrada district on 3

July, claimed by Islamic State, killed at least 292, making it one of the worst among the hundreds of such attacks carried out in Iraq since US-led forces toppled Saddam Hussein 13 years ago.

It prompted a public outcry in Baghdad, with residents blaming the government for not protecting the capital.

Islamic State has been turning increasingly to suicide bombings, which US and Iraqi officials have touted as proof that battlefield setbacks are weakening the jihadists.

In a US-backed offensive, the Iraqi army has recaptured the cities of Ramadi and Falluja from Islamic State in recent months. The government said Falluja had been a launchpad for the group's Baghdad suicide bombings. —Reuters

Turkey PM Yildirim says aims to develop relations with Syria, Iraq

ANKARA — Turkey aims to develop good relations with Syria and Iraq, and both countries need to be stable for counter-terrorism efforts to succeed, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said on Wednesday.

Turkey has long been one of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's staunchest opponents, arguing that only his departure could stabilise Syria. The stance set it at odds with Assad's ally Russia and distanced it from a US-led coalition more focused on fighting Islamic State.

Since taking office in May, Yildirim has repeatedly said that Turkey needs to "increase its friends and decrease its enemies" — an apparent tacit admission that past policies have left Ankara sidelined.

"It is our greatest and irrevocable goal: Developing good relations with Syria and Iraq, and all our neighbours that surround the Mediterranean and the Black Sea," Yildirim said, in comments broadcast live on television.

"We normalised relations with Russia and Israel. I'm sure we will normalise relations with Syria as well. For the fight against terrorism to succeed stability needs to return to Syria and Iraq," he said. Turkey last month announced the restoration of diplomatic ties with Israel after a six-year rupture and expressed regret to Russia over the downing of a warplane, seeking to mend strained alliances. Officials have insisted those moves do not mark a broader foreign policy shift for Ankara. —Reuters

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Tocci: Relationship with Russia biggest challenge for Serbia

BRUSSELS — The relationship with Russia is the biggest challenge for Serbia in the process of alignment with the EU foreign and security policy, says Nathalie Tocci, adviser to EU foreign policy and security chief Federica Mogherini and the head of the team behind the new EU Global Strategy.

The EU's new foreign policy and security strategy, envisioning an enlargement into the Western Balkans as a key strategic investment for the future, was presented late last month.

The future of the Western Balkans fully lies in full EU membership and already today, the EU and Serbia face common challenges that can be solved more easily through joint efforts, Tocci told Tanjug in an exclusive interview.

The Serbia-EU cooperation on migration, energy, border control and the fight against terrorism and organised crime, as well as dealing with key challeng-



Nathalie Tocci. PHOTO: TANJUG

es in the common neighbourhood, can accelerate Serbia's progress towards EU membership, Tocci said.

In the accession process, a country is expected to meet all accession criteria and align itself with common European

rules through negotiations, which implies both foreign policy and security, she said.

In that regard, I see the relationship with Russia as the biggest challenge for Serbia — as it gets closer to EU membership, Serbia will be expected to also get

closer to the EU in terms of the position regarding Russia, but that is something that cannot happen overnight, she said.

It is a gradual process of alignment, which the EU expects from Serbia in the accession talks, Tocci explained.—*Tanjug*

Germany will recall soldiers from Turkey if MP visit blocked — vice chancellor

BERLIN — Germany will recall soldiers serving at the Incirlik airbase in Turkey if Ankara continues blocking German lawmakers from visiting the troops, Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel said in remarks published on Wednesday.

Turkey, angered by a resolution passed by the German parliament last month that branded the 1915 massacre of Armenians by Ottoman forces a genocide, has denied German lawmak-

ers access to the base.

"The German army answers to parliament," Gabriel told the regional newspaper *Mitteldeutsche Zeitung*. "And if parliament cannot visit its army, then the army cannot stay there. This is absolutely clear."

His threat to pull out the 250 soldiers at the base, who are part of NATO operations against Islamic State militants in Iraq, is the clearest sign yet of escalating tensions between the two mem-

bers of the military alliance.

Though they are crucial partners in the effort to stem mass migration to Europe, Germany and Turkey's relations have taken several blows in recent months.

President Tayyip Erdogan was perturbed by the broadcast of a satirical song about him on German television and in April launched legal action against the comedian who wrote it. The Armenian resolution last month, which prompted An-

kara to recall its ambassador, compounded the rift. Gabriel's remarks echoed earlier demands by some German lawmakers that the soldiers should be recalled if Turkey did not change its position.

German forces are currently on missions in around 13 countries, including Afghanistan and Kosovo, as well as conducting monitoring in the Mediterranean. Lawmakers have often visited deployed soldiers, mainly in Afghanistan.—*Reuters*

Indonesia hopes fishermen can net its South China Sea claims

JAKARTA — Indonesia wants to send hundreds of fishermen to the Natuna Islands to assert its sovereignty over nearby areas of the South China Sea to which China says it also has claims.

President Joko Widodo has launched an unprecedented campaign to bolster fishing, oil exploration and defence facilities around the island chain after a series of face-offs between the Indonesian navy and Chinese fishing boats.

"We are aware that if we don't do this there could be many claims that disrupt the integrity of Indonesian territory," Chief Maritime Minister Rizal Ramli told reporters on Wednesday.

The announcement of the plan came a day after the Permanent Court of Arbitration in the Hague rejected China's historic claims to almost all of the South China Sea and said it had breached the Philippines' sovereign rights by endangering its ships and fishing and oil projects.

Indonesia is not part of the broader dispute over claims in the South China Sea and it has remained neutral following the ruling, calling for peace and stability.

But Indonesia objects to China's inclusion of waters around Natuna being included within its "nine-dash line", a demarcation on China's maps to show its claims.

Ramli said he would seek cabinet approval this

month for the relocation of fishermen from the crowded island of Java to Natuna.

Under the plan, the government would move about 400 wooden boats of 30 tonnes or more to Natuna by the end of October. Fishermen who go could get subsidised housing, while the island's ports, power supply and internet will be upgraded.

The programme is expected to boost fishing in Natuna waters from 9.3 per cent of sustainable catchment levels to 40 per cent in less than a year.

"We will build cold storage there. We hope this will become the biggest fish market in Southeast Asia," Ramli said.

Ramli, who also oversees energy as part of his portfolio, said he also would review oil and gas concessions in Natuna and revoke permits from companies that are not developing their blocks.

ExxonMobil, ConocoPhillips, Chevron, and PTT Exploration and Production are among foreign oil companies with stakes in Natuna, which holds one of the world's largest untapped gas reserves.

Indonesia's foreign minister, Retno Marsudi, said no one wanted conflict in the South China Sea and she called on all parties to avoid raising tension.

"We are sure that if all sides respect international law, then it will be easier to achieve regional and global peace and stability," she told reporters.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PAN GLORIS VOY NO (002)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PAN GLORIS VOY NO (002) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 14.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.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.

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

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PICTURE OF THE DAY



People play at Dounan wetland park bordering Dianchi Lake in SW China's Kunming

KUNMING — People play at the Dounan wetland park bordering the Dianchi Lake on the outskirts of Kunming, capital of southwest China's Yunnan Province, on 12 July 2016. The local government has intensified efforts to improve the water quality through preventing pollution and other environment protection measures. More than 20 wetland parks have been built around the Dianchi Lake. PHOTO: XINHUA

Heavy rain hits northern Kyushu, evacuation advisories issued

FUKUOKA — Heavy rain fell in northern Kyushu in southwestern Japan on Wednesday, prompting local authorities to issue evacuation orders or advisories to some 18,000 people in areas including earthquake-hit Kumamoto Prefecture.

The Japan Meteorological Agency warned of landslides and swollen rivers in northern Kyushu as well as western Japan.

A downpour of 300 millimetres was logged in 48 hours through Wednesday morning in Tsushima, Nagasaki Prefecture, while the city of Dazaifu in Fukuoka Prefecture and the city of Yamaguchi recorded



Pedestrians brave a downpour in the southwestern Japan city of Fukuoka in Kyushu on 13 July 2016. The area was hit by "heavy rain seen once in 50 years," a local observatory said. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

45.0 mm and 44.5 mm rainfall per hour, respectively.

A woman in her 50s in Fukuoka sustained in-

juries to her face and legs after a stone wall behind her house crumbled, a city official said.

The heavy rain also

disrupted some sections of the Higashi Kyushu Expressway, the West Nippon Expressway Co. said.

Warm and moist air was flowing above the Japanese archipelago from the south as the rain front moved southwards, and the atmosphere in western Japan is expected to remain unstable, the weather agency said.

Up to 250 mm of rainfall is forecast for northern Kyushu, 200 mm for southern Kyushu and the Kinki region, 150 mm in Shikoku, and 120 mm in Chugoku over a 24-hour period until Thursday morning, according to the agency.—*Kyodo News*

Taiwan seeks two Russian suspects in \$2m ATM malware heist

TAIPEI — Taiwan investigators suspect two Russian nationals hacked into a major domestic bank's ATMs last weekend, using malware to withdraw more than \$2 million from dozens of machines in the country's first recorded case of its kind.

Combining cybercrime with daylight robbery after a typhoon battered greater Taipei, the suspects may have used a cellphone to trigger 41 First Bank ATMs to dispense fat wads of bills, investigators said on

Wednesday. In each case, the still-at-large suspects took the money and left quickly, filmed on close-circuit TV cameras.

As Taiwan officials continue to piece together how the crime was committed, the theft shows growing boldness in attacks on ATMs in Asia. In May, a gang stole \$13 million from Japanese ATMs in a three-hour, 14,000 withdrawal spree.

Since discovering the theft on Monday, a range of Taiwan's biggest state-run

banks have frozen withdrawals from nearly 1,000 ATMs of the kind used in the heist, supplied by Germany's Wincor Nixdorf. About 4 per cent of Taiwan's national ATM network of 27,200 machines is affected, leaving customers obliged to use other machines.

The Ministry of Justice's Investigation Bureau on Wednesday said two Russian suspects have been identified, but declined to disclose their names. It said it believed the pair left

Taiwan early on Monday, and was still investigating whether a possible third one might have been involved.

"So far we think it could have been done remotely, such as via a cellphone, laptop or hacked First Bank staff PC," said Lin Cheng-hsien, a spokesperson for the bureau.

First Bank reported T\$70 million (\$2.2 million) was stolen from its ATMs in hits that investigators said took place at various times during both daytime and nightfall.—*Reuters*

UK Labour lawmaker Owen Smith says to run for party leadership

LONDON — A second British Labour opposition lawmaker entered the contest to topple leader Jeremy Corbyn on Wednesday, boosting the veteran left-winger's chances of being re-elected by splitting the support of those who oppose him.

Labour is engulfed in a bitter internal power struggle between Corbyn's supporters in the grassroots membership and the party's lawmakers, who overwhelmingly rejected his leadership after Britain's vote to leave the EU last month.

Owen Smith, Corbyn's former work and pensions policy chief, said he had hoped the situation could be resolved without a "damaging, divisive contest" but despite three meetings with Corbyn, had failed to persuade him of an alternative route.

The leadership contest was triggered on Monday when lawmaker Angela Eagle challenged Corbyn. On Tuesday the party ruled he had the automatic right to stand in the contest without needing to be nominated by

lawmakers.

"Jeremy is a good man with great Labour values ... but he is not a leader who can lead us into an election and win for Labour," Smith told BBC radio on Wednesday.

"I have a radical and credible set of policies. I want to put that to the membership, I want to make my case to be the next leader of not just the Labour Party but the next Labour prime minister."

Some lawmakers fear having two candidates run against Corbyn reduces the chances of ousting the leader, by splitting the support of those party members who want to see change.

If Corbyn, who was elected last September and retains strong support among the party's more left-leaning rank-and-file members, is re-elected in the contest, the party may split.

Smith said he did not want to split the party, and would stand by the result of the contest.

"I will be Labour until the day I die," he said.—*Reuters*

MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY HOLIDAY NOTICE

As the wharves, warehouses and chellan Offices of Yangon Port will be closed on the 19th JULY 2016 (FULL MOON DAY of WASO, Martyrs' Day), Loading, Unloading and delivery for Goods will be received on Payment as Holiday Fees.

Invitation for Cooperation in High Grade Paper Mill (Thabaung) Under No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry

High Grade Paper Mill (Thabaung), under No.(3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry is intended to invite the investors who are interested to cooperate in the following (4) Sectors.

- To Upgrade the Capacity of the existing High Grade Paper Mill.
- Plantation the Paper Tree and Power Tree to use as raw materials.
- Manufacturing the Value Added Products related to the Pulp and Paper Production.
- Establishment of Biomass Power Plant which can provide the necessary Electricity, Water and Steam for the whole industrial complex.

The investors who interested in those cooperation are required to submit their Draft Proposal, in which mentioning kinds of business, to Technology Development Department, No. (3) Heavy Industries Enterprise, Ministry of Industry at Office No. (37) Nay Pyi Taw, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, not later than 4 pm (Myanmar Standard Time) on 15th September, 2016.

Base Line Data concerning the Mill are available at above office and interested entities can submit the Draft Proposal commencing from the date (15-7-2016) by presenting document of company profile.

Document of Company Profile

- Valid Certificate of Incorporation
- Memorandum of Association & Articles of Association (MoA & AoA)
- Name of Foreign Technical Cooperation (if it is Local Company).

(For more information, contact No. 95 67 40 8335, 408129)



Singer Selena Gomez performs during the 2015 Victoria's Secret Fashion Show in New York. PHOTO: REUTERS

More space adventures as crew return in 'Star Trek Beyond'

LONDON — The crew of the USS Enterprise are back for more space adventures in "Star Trek Beyond", the latest episode in the film reboot of the popular science fiction series that marks its 50th birthday this year.

The television show, which introduced characters like Captain James T. Kirk and Mr. Spock, the half-human, half-Vulcan first officer, followed the crew's missions and has spawned movies and other series since debuting in 1966.

In "Star Trek Beyond", Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto return as the younger Kirk and Spock alongside Simon Pegg as Scotty and John Cho as Hikaru Sulu and this time, they face a new enemy when they are shipwrecked on an unfriendly planet.

"This movie has definitely a retro vibe to it," Quinto said at the film's London premiere on Tuesday. "It's pretty remarkable for something like this to last for half a century and we're all really proud to be a part of it at this significant, celebratory milestone."

Quinto was joined by his co-stars, including Pegg who had the additional role of co-writer.

"It was a big responsibility, 'Star Trek' is precious," Pegg said. "We wanted to do it justice in the most faithful way but we approached it like you would any writing job ... studiously and carefully and never taking it for granted."

The movie has made headlines ahead of its release after Cho said Sulu is openly gay and married in the new film. Actor George Takei, who portrayed the character in the original show and is gay in real life, has said he was "delighted" the movie included a gay character, but the new version of Sulu does not reflect the original vision of late series creator Gene Roddenberry.

"I had spoken to (Takei) and I knew that was coming ... I hope that if he sees the film and sees the way it's treated ... that maybe he'll see some of the positives in time," Cho said. "Maybe he'll warm to it and realise that maybe young people are going to see this, young gay people, LGBT people in the closet perhaps and be encouraged by it." —Reuters

Selena Gomez tops Bieber for most-liked Instagram photo ever

LOS ANGELES — Selena Gomez now holds the title for most-liked photo on Instagram, dethroning the previous most-liked image shared by her ex Justin Bieber.

The photo, posted just two weeks ago, features Gomez wearing a red tank top with smok-

ey-eyed make-up while sipping coke from a striped straw.

"When your lyrics are on the bottle," she captioned it, referring to the lyrics from her song "Me & the Rhythm" which were displayed on the bottle.

The now most-liked photo surpasses the previous most-liked

picture by about 400,000 likes.

Gomez is also the most followed person on Instagram with over 89 million followers.

She is currently in the middle of her Revival tour, with her next performance scheduled for 23 July in Jakarta, Indonesia. —PTI

I am a fat-to-fit story: Parineeti Chopra

MUMBAI — Having been on a weight losing spree, actress Parineeti Chopra felt the pressure of Bollywood to be in shape but she is now happy to be fit.

"There are women who are pregnant or are dealing with post pregnancy weight, or teenagers who are obese, from across the world, (they) want to know my story. I am a fat-to-fit story," Parineeti told reporters here at a song launch event.

"I have struggled with my weight. I was big and unhealthy, not chubby. I took it upon myself to work towards this. There was pressure of Bollywood to bring me on right part."

The 27-year-old actress now eats and sleeps well.

"I am fit now. People need to be fit no matter what size they are. I was big and unfit. There are dancers in New York who are big but flexible. It took me a year-and-half to reach here."

The "Daawat-e-Ishq" actress was away from the screen for quite sometime and now post her weight-loss break, she is all charged up.

"Of course, I missed (be-



Actress Parineeti Chopra. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing on screen). When I entered the film industry I did four films back-to-back as everyone was used to seeing me on screen. I am not filmy as these (star kids) guys. I come from a different discipline and I have lived my life in a different way. I needed that emotional break. I wanted to settle down."

Parineeti feels the break helped her sort out her priorities.

"It's a different world for me. I come from a world of banking

and academics and I had to be in front of camera all the time and had the pressure. I just wanted to sort out some things."

The "Ha-see Toh Pha-see" actress is glad that she can wear better clothes now.

"Now I have this dedication and concentration on my work because of the break. I wanted to work on my body, I am 27 years old. I wanted to wear shorts and better clothes and not worry about anything. This one year break was amazing."

Parineeti will be seen dancing with Varun Dhawan in the "Jaaneman" song from his upcoming film "Dishoom". —PTI

Taylor Swift visits sick children

LONDON — Singer Taylor Swift visited young patients at a children's hospital in Australia.

The 26-year-old singer is currently Down Under with new boyfriend Tom Hiddleston, and while he was busy shooting "Thor: Ragnarok", the blonde beauty spent hours at Lady Cilento Children's Hospital in South Brisbane.

A post on the medical facility's Facebook page read, "Thank you Taylor Swift for dropping by the Lady Cilento Children's Hospital this afternoon to give our patients and families a special surprise they'll never forget."

"They'll never 'shake off' the memories you made tonight."

During her visit — which was co-ordinated by the Starlight Children's Foundation, a charity which supports teenagers through illness — Swift happily posed for selfies with the patients. —PTI



Taylor Swift. PHOTO: REUTERS

Qatar to build Zaha Hadid hotel shaped like desert flower

DOHA — Qatar will construct two buildings designed by late Iraqi-British architect Zaha Hadid, including a tower shaped like a desert flower close to the site of the 2022 soccer World Cup final, a member of its ruling family said on Tuesday.

Sheikh Mohammed bin Hamad al-Thani, the brother of Qatar's Emir, commissioned Hadid in 2013 to create the structures, one a 38-story hotel in the form of a hyacinth and featuring a nine-pointed base to shield visitors from the searing Gulf sun.

Sheikh Mohammed's Al Afiya Holding said in a statement it would construct the tower "designed in response to current and future environmental challenges" by 2020 in the city of Lusail, 23 km (14 miles) north of the capital Doha.

"We often look at nature's systems when we work to create environments, at her unrivaled logic and coherence," Hadid, who died in March, said of the project.

Now led by Patrik Schumacher, Hadid's architecture firm ZHA has announced a number of new projects including a new central business district for Prague and a technology park near Moscow.

In April, the firm said it would complete 36 projects that had been started or were under contract before Hadid's death including an "oyster-like" ferry terminal in Salerno, Italy, the King Abdullah Petroleum Studies and Research Center in Riyadh, and the Mathematics Gallery at London's Science Museum. —Reuters



A computer generated image shows one of two project's designed by Zaha Hadid – a 70,000sqm building featuring a hotel and residential apartments – which is scheduled for completion in 2020 in Qatar's Lusail City Marina District. PHOTO: REUTERS

From wooden glasses to honey, some Greeks innovating to survive

ATHENS — If necessity is the mother of invention, eight years of a crippling recession and dwindling work prospects has compelled at least some Greeks to reboot, switch professions and innovate to survive.

From the island of Syros, handmade wooden spectacle frames are proving a hit with hipsters in Europe and beyond.

Gold-infused organic honey from the rolling hills of Evoia in the east is finding favour with upmarket clients in the United States, London, Hong Kong and the United Arab Emirates. And in an Athens suburb, a carpenter turned to his lifetime hobby of crafting fishing spearguns after his business faltered. His first client was from Russia.

Dimitris Hatzirodos, whose spearguns retail between 450 and 1,500 euros, said the crisis is forcing Greeks to think outside the box.

"When things get tough it gets you thinking, you start thinking differently. When things are easy nobody ever makes difficult choices," he says, sitting in the workshop that he and his brother inherited from their father.

More than 400,000 Greeks have emigrated abroad since the country's financial crisis started in 2009. Those who stayed are lucky to find jobs — a quarter of the population is unemployed, and earnings have fallen on average 40 per cent. National output has fallen by a quarter since 2008.

Periklis Therrios, 36, briefly migrated to Canada. But home beckoned.

He and his partner Eleni Vakondiou, 37, turned to making hand-crafted spectacle frames around 2012, some of them using recycled materials. The idea came over a coffee, after earlier endeavours with furniture flopped.

"It was very difficult, and

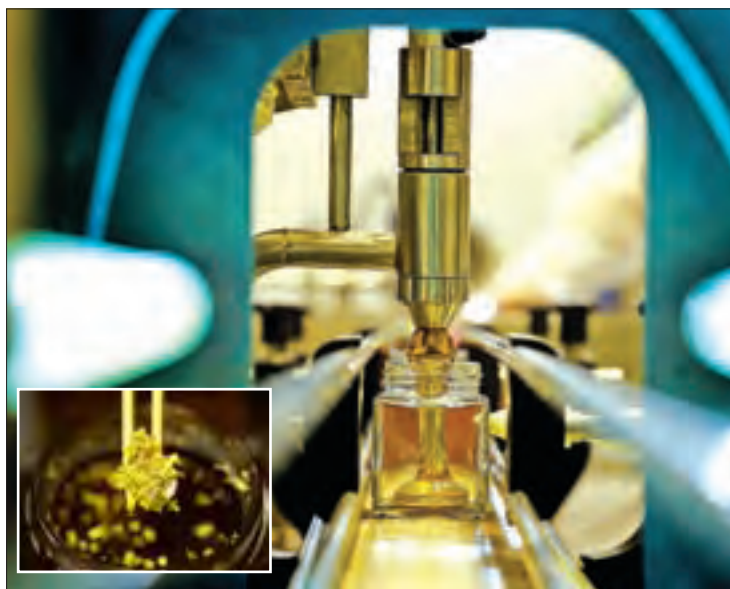
there were many times when we thought about giving up, but we believed in our efforts, we believed that we would make a product that could stand on its own in the market," said Vakondiou.

"There were moments when our (food) cabinets at home were empty because whatever income we had went towards research and development," she says.

From a small workshop on Syros the couple started with a production of 350 pairs a year. They say they are now on track to making 2,000 this year, retailing for between 250 and 300 euros.

In Evoia, in the heart of the Greek countryside, Yannis Karypidis and Stevi Theodorou administer beehives left by Theodorou's grandfather. Last year they sold 60,000 jars of organic honey. Production has already exceeded 70,000 jars for the first half of 2016.

Former advertising executive and accountant Karypidis, 35, said the couple had decided to move to the United Kingdom, but a last trip to Evoia changed their minds. —Reuters



A jar is filled with thyme honey at the Stayia Farm factory in Chalkida, on the island of Evia, Greece, on 28 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Special Israeli film screening is for the dogs

TEL AVIV — Dog lovers and film buffs enjoyed a treat when a cinema invited owners to bring their pet pooches to a special screening of the film, "The Secret Life of Pets."

The event, arranged by the Tel Aviv-Jaffa municipality at the Roof Top Cinema of the Azrieli Mall, was billed as the first of its kind for pets and their owners.

"We have 25,000 people in Tel Aviv that have dogs and we decided to do an amazing event just for them," said Ruth Hayat, one of the organizers of the event. "People who have dogs can come here and enjoy a fun evening with their dogs." —Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(14-7-2016, Thursday)

06 : 00 pm	09 : 00 pm
• Weather Report	• Unique Pattern of Myanma...A Trend of Chin
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	Traditional Dress)
06 : 20 pm	09 : 30 pm
• Cartoon Programme "Rio" (Part-1)	• International Movie Songs
07 : 10 pm	09 : 40 pm
• International Drama Series	• Strolling Along A Memory Link - U Pein Bridge
08 : 50 pm	10 : 30 pm
• MRTV Entertainment Music	• Myanmar Video

From 14-7-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm
To 15-7-2016 (Friday) 6:00 pm

mitv Myanmar International

(14-7-2016 07:00am ~ 15-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	SHWE SETTAW (Minbu)
07:45	Am	The Beauty In The North of Myanmar
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Hive Hunter
08:45	Am	A Way of Life: Karate-do
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Marketable Goods (Straw painting)
09:44	Am	The Iron Rider
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Bullock-Cart & Equestrian Racing

10:37 Am The World's Largest Book

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	"	Cruising To Precious Islands (Part-2)
07:48	"	A Way of Life: Aikido
08:03	"	News
08:26	"	Exquisite Myanmar Silk
08:45	"	Traditional Snacks
08:54	"	Now in Yangon

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

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

Rooney looking forward to Mourinho era

LONDON — Manchester United striker Wayne Rooney admits the arrival of Jose Mourinho has given him added motivation for the season ahead.

Former Chelsea boss Mourinho has suggested he preferred to play Rooney in a more attacking role, rather than see him pull strings from midfield as he did under predecessor Louis van Gaal.

Rooney will be looking to forge a formidable strike partnership with new signing Zlatan Ibrahimovic, after a dearth of goals under the Dutchman last season.

"I'm really excited to be working with Jose this season," the 30-year-old told the club's official magazine. "He's one of the best managers in the world and it's an exciting time for Manchester United."

"I've always respected him both as a man and a manager." "I like to think I'm always motivated as a player but I'd be lying if I said I wasn't a bit more motivated when a new manager comes in."

"He'll bring all these qualities with him and I'm sure he'll have his own ideas, but one of the biggest assets will be his experience." — Reuters



England's Wayne Rooney leaves Auberge du Jeu de Paume. PHOTO: REUTERS



Manny Pacquiao beats Timothy Bradley by unanimous points decision to reclaim WBO welter-weight title. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pacquiao to return to the ring in late 2016

TORONTO — Manny Pacquiao is planning to fight again later this year, just three months after announcing his retirement from boxing, ESPN reported on Tuesday.

Pacquiao, who said his win over Timothy Bradley in April was his final bout, would fight on 29 October or 5 November in Las Vegas against a yet-to-be-determined opponent, his promoter Bob Arum told ESPN.

Since Pacquiao's "farewell" bout three months ago, the 37-year-old former eight-division world boxing champion won a senate seat in the Philippines.

According to the report, Arum had placed a hold on the Mandalay Bay Events Centre in Las Vegas for a possible Pacquiao return on 15 October but the southpaw's responsibilities forced a change of plans.

"Manny wants to come back. The problem is he can only come back if it doesn't interfere with his senate duties," Arum said in the report.

"We had pencilled him in for 15 October at Mandalay Bay but we were informed that is no longer possible because he has to spend that week leading up to 15 October formulating the budget in the senate and doing the votes."

"So he has to be there for that week, so that knocks out that

week. He can't mess around with that. So now we're looking at 29 October or 5 November. The question is building availability because we want to do the fight in Las Vegas."

Pacquiao's unanimous decision win over Bradley was his first fight in nearly a year after his loss to Floyd Mayweather. He had said he was bringing the curtain down on his career to concentrate on politics and his family. Pacquiao adviser Michael Koncz said in the report that the southpaw, while committed to politics, is happiest when he is in the ring. "Manny's primary concern and obligation is to fulfil his senatorial duties," Koncz said. — Reuters

Mourinho hopes United players will forge close bond in China

LONDON — Manchester United's pre-season tour of China this month, when they face Manchester City and Borussia Dortmund, will give the players an opportunity to forge a close bond, manager Jose Mourinho has said.

United's first game under Mourinho will be against last season's Bundesliga runners-up Dortmund in the International Champions Cup in Shanghai on 22 July.

The 53-year-old Portuguese manager will also renew hostilities with old adversary Pep Guardiola, who replaced Manuel Pellegrini as City's manager, on 25 June.

"I hope to see a group, from an emotional point of view, coming together and getting to know each other better and understanding each other better," Mourinho said in an interview with adidas' Front Row. "It's important from a football point of view, but also from a human qualities point of view, that's very important. I think the pre-season tours are also for the club dimension." United will take on Premier League champions Leicester City in the annual Community Shield game at Wembley on 7 August. The 20-times English league winners begin their league campaign with a trip to Bournemouth on 14 August. — Reuters

China gets its richest man to back 'best football competition in Asia'

BEIJING — China, backed by its richest man, has struck a deal with FIFA to host the first China Cup from next year, a competition that will pit its national side against three international "first-class" teams — and hopefully pave the way to soccer glory.

Chinese property tycoon Wang Jianlin, whose Dalian Wanda conglomerate is already a high-level FIFA sponsor, said on Wednesday that his group and the Chinese Football Association would host the contest in the southern city of Nanning: four games played over a week every January.

European clubs often have a break around that time, potentially allowing national sides to pit their best — as China hopes. Eventually, it wants a total of

eight teams to play.

"We aim to become the best football competition in Asia," Wang told reporters in Beijing. "We will use all possible measures to ensure we achieve this."

China would qualify automatically for a contest that does allow them to earn points for global rankings — an opportunity for a country that wants to climb the FIFA table where it is currently languishing at 81, below Equatorial Guinea and Haiti. China is preparing to compete for a spot in the 2018 World Cup.

Soccer in China has been plagued by poor performances on the field and match-fixing scandals. But President Xi Jinping, a self-professed avid soccer fan, has spoken in the past of "three wishes" for China: to qualify for

another World Cup since their first and only appearance at the 2002 finals, to host a World Cup, and to eventually win one.

China has since said it wants to turn its team into one of the world's best by 2050.

"We are duty-bound as people in the soccer industry, as members of the Chinese Football Association, to vigorously develop Chinese football," said Yu Hongchen, vice president of the Chinese Football Association.

"This is our responsibility and it is also the demand of the times." Dalian Wanda has been at the forefront of China's push into the business of sport, building up a sports arm which already owns a 20 per cent stake in Spanish soccer club Atletico Madrid. — Reuters