

President U Htin Kyaw and wife share merits gained with Martyr leaders in Nay Pyi Taw

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays tribute to fallen martyrs



Photo: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of fallen Martyr Leader General Aung San, paid tribute and laid floral baskets at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon on the occasion of the 69th Arzani Day (Martyrs' Day) yesterday.

Before the tribute-paying ceremony the State Counsellor, Vice President U Myint Swe, Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than, Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo and Command-

er-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing cordially greeted families of the fallen martyr leaders at a hall of the Martyrs' Mausoleum.

Next, the Vice President, the Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker, the Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker, the Union Chief Justice and the Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services paid tribute to the fallen martyr leaders and placed a wreath of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar before the memorial.

While the Flag of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar was flown at half-mast, a guard of honour paid tribute with a gun salute and those present partook in a two-minute moment of silence to pay tribute to General Aung San and the martyr leaders.

Next, families of martyr leaders including U Hla Pe, on behalf of General Aung San's son U Aung San Oo, and State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi paid their respects and laid wreaths in front of the monument.

Then, the Yangon Region Chief Minister, the Speaker and the Deputy Speaker of Yangon Region Hluttaw, regional ministers, parliamentarians, representatives from political parties, associations, UN agencies, the European Union and foreign embassies in Myanmar paid tributes and laid wreaths at the Martyrs' Mausoleum.

Among the organizations which laid wreaths and paid tribute were Myanmar War Veterans Organization,

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State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi looks at the Martyrs' Mausoleum while attending the event marking the 69th anniversary Martyrs' Day at the Martyrs' Mausoleum dedicated to the fallen independence heroes, including her late father General Aung San, in Yangon on 19 July 2016. PHOTO: MNA

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69th anniversary Martyrs' Day at the Martyrs' Mausoleum

(From Right to Left) Comander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Speaker of Amyotha Hluttaw and Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than, Vice President U Myint Swe, Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint and Union Chief Justice U Tun Tun Oo pay tribute to fallen independence heroes at the event marking the 69th anniversary Martyrs' Day at the Martyrs' Mausoleum in Yangon July 19, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

General Aung San's monuments, memorials in Yangon draw record crowds

MONUMENTS and memorials related to the late national leader General Aung San in Yangon drew thousands of visitors, more so than in previous years on the 69th Arzani Day (Martyrs' Day) yesterday.

A huge number of visitors including students and social organisation members thronged to the late national hero's monuments and memorials—the statue of General Aung San in Bogyoke Park, the Bogyoke Aung San Museum and the Ministers' Office, also called the Secretariat—yesterday.

"It is a historic day as we will remember our martyrs forever," said Ko Nyi Nyi Htet, chair of the Hmawby Technological University's Students' Union who paid tribute to the Statue of General Aung San in Bogyoke Aung San Park.

Starting from 6 am, people and students holding posters of words in commemoration of Martyrs' Day walked into the park and laid wreaths in front of the Statue of General Aung San. Some of them also recited poems in honour of General Aung San and other martyr leaders in the park.

"This year's Martyrs' Day observation event is significant because all the monuments and

memorials related to General Aung San are crowded with people," said Ma Moe Wai, chair of Tai Yi Workers' Union.

Likewise, the Bogyoke Aung San Museum on Natmauk Street in Bahan Township also was packed with a huge number of visitors.

Mg Htet Moe Yan Oo, a fifth grader from Bago B.E.H.S (3) who visited the museum with his parents said that he was very delighted to see personal items of General Aung San, adding that he will retell his visits to the memorial to his friends.—Zaw Gyi (Pandita)/Min Thit (MNA)



Martyrs' Mausoleum, the Secretariat and Bogyoke Aung San Museum were thronged with visitors on the 69th Martyrs' Day in Yangon.

PHOTO: ZAW GYI (PANITA)

Dhammacakka Day observance ceremonies held in Yangon

BUDDHIST devotees in Yangon observed Dhammacakka Day, offering Waso robes to Buddha Images and alms to the members of the Sangha at Shwedagon Pagoda yesterday, the Full Moon of Waso.

Likewise, devotees thronged to Lawkachantha Abaya Labamuni Pagoda in Insein where

the 15th Waso robe-offering ceremony was held. Being a day of religious significance, Waso robe-offering ceremonies were also held at pagodas in Yangon's townships including Thiri Mingalar Kaba-Aye Pagoda in Mayangon and Shwe Phone Pwint Pagoda in Pazundaung.—Myanmar News Agency

DMH issues flood warning

DEPARTMENT of Meteorology and Hydrology has issued yesterday flood warning in Ayeyawady Region as the Ayeyawady and the Ngawun rivers have exceeded their danger levels at Hinthada and Ngathaing Chaung.

The Ayeyawady River is expected to fall below its danger level during the next two days, but the Ngawun River may remain around its danger level for next five days, according to the announcement of the weather bureau at 1 pm

yesterday.

The DMH has alerted the people living in low-lying areas near the two rivers to possible flooding. Meanwhile, the Chindwin River has exceeded by about 1 ½ ft above its danger level at Homalin and Phaungpyin and ½ foot above the level at Mawlaik.

The water levels at respective towns is expected to remain above the danger levels next two days, according to the Meteorology and Hydrology Department.—GNLM

President U Htin Kyaw and wife share merits gained with Martyr leaders in Nay Pyi Taw

IN memory of the martyr leaders who laid down their lives for the country a donation ceremony was held in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday to mark the 69th Arzani Day (Martyrs' Day).

The ceremony was attended by members of Sangha led by the State Ovadacariya Abhidhaja Maharahttaguru Zaygon Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavisara, President U Htin Kyaw, his wife Daw Su Su Lwin and party.

First, President U Htin Kyaw and Daw Su Su Lwin paid homage and offered alms to the Buddha Image kept at Zabuthiri Hall of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Office.

Next, the President, Daw Su Su Lwin and the congregation received Five Precepts from the

Sayadaw and members of Sangha recited parittas.

The President and his wife presented offertories to Sayadaw Bhaddanta Kavisara.

Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win and his wife, Union ministers, the Union Attorney-General, the Chairman of the Union Civil Service Board, the Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council and their wives also offered provisions to the members of the Sangha.

Afterwards, the congregation, led by the President, shared merits gained with martyrs and offered a meal to the members of the Sangha.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw and wife Daw Su Su Lwin present offertories to a Sayadaw at the donation ceremony in memory of the martyr leaders. PHOTO: MNA



The congregation led by union ministers and Yangon Chief Minister attend a donation ceremony at the Yangon City Hall in memory of fallen independence heroes. PHOTO: MNA

Alms offered to monks in memory of late martyrs in Yangon

AN alms-offering ceremony was held in commemoration of the fallen martyrs at City Hall in Yangon yesterday, attended by Union Minister Thura U Aung Ko, Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein and party.

During the ceremony

the Union minister, chairman of the 69th Arzani Day (Martyrs' Day) observance committee, and officials offered provisions to the members of the Sangha and shared the merits gained with the late martyrs led by General Aung San.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Martyrs' Day commemoration event held nationwide

THE 69th Martyrs' Day observance ceremony was held in front of the Statue of General Aung San in Pyinmana, Nay Pyi Taw, yesterday.

Chairman of the Nay Pyi Taw Council Dr Myo Aung and officials paid tribute to the martyrs and laid wreaths at the observance ceremony.

Next, representatives from political parties and social organisations, students from the Yezin University of Agriculture and basic education schools and local people paid respects and placed wreaths before the Statue of General Aung San. Distribution of pamphlets and

other memorial activities were carried out in observance of Arzani Day in Pyinmana.

Similarly, the Martyrs' Day observance ceremony was held nationwide.

The Martyrs' Mausoleum and the old secretariat where General Aung San was assassinated along with eight other independence heroes attracted thousands of visitors.

However, the visitors did not get a chance to look inside the room where gunmen burst into and shot General Aung San and other cabinet ministers dead as the building is under renovation.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Religious leaders say prayers for late national leader General Aung San on Martyrs' Day

A PRAYER service in honour of late national leader General Aung San took place on University Avenue in Kamayut Township, Yangon yesterday, with religious leaders saying prayers.

First, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, daughter of the late national leader, and faith groups took a two-minute silence to pay tribute to General Aung San.

Following the extended greetings by the State Counsellor, Secretary of All Myanmar

Hindu Federation U Kyaw Thu, Chief Convenor for the Islamic Centre of Myanmar Al Haj U Aye Lwin, Jewish religious leader U Sammy, member of Baha'i Faith Federation U Kyi Win and Archbishop of Yangon Catholic Church Cardinal Charles Bo said prayers for late General Aung San.

Next, Archbishop Stephen Than Myint Oo of the Church of the Province of Myanmar and Rev. U Kyaw Nyunt spoke on the occasion.

After the prayer service, the State Counsellor posed for documentary photographs together with those present.

Also present at the prayer service were Vice President U Henry Van Thio, Union Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe, Chairman of Preparatory Committee for 21st Century Union Peace Conference Dr Tin Myo Win, Patron of National League for Democracy U Tin Oo and guests.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and Vice President U Henry Van Thio pose for photos together with religious leaders after the prayer service at the home of Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays tribute to fallen martyrs

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Myanmar Fire Services Department, Myanmar Red Cross Society, Myanma Motion Picture Asiayon, Myanmar Music Asiayon, Myanmar Artistes

Asiayon, Myanmar Artists Asiayon, Myanmar Sculptures Asiayon, Myanmar Publishers and Distributors Asiayon, Myanmar Writers Asiayon, Myanmar Journalists Association,

Myanmar News Media Council, Myanmar Women's Affairs Federation and Myanmar Maternal and Child Welfare Association.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Uppatasanti Pagoda is crowded with Buddhist devotees on the Dhammacakka Day. PHOTO: MNA

Dhammacakka Day observed in Nay Pyi Taw

BUDDHIST devotees observed Dhammacakka Day with the eighth Waso robe-offering ceremony at Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, the Full-moon Day of Waso.

During the ceremony, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, Deputy Commander of

Nay Pyi Taw Command Brig-Gen Maung Maung, Retired Union Minister for Religious Affairs Thura U Myint Maung and party presented Waso robes and provisions to the members of the Sangha.

In the evening, religious associations offered the lighting of

9,000 candles to the Uppatasanti Pagoda and recited Dhammacakka verses at the Pagoda.

Being a day of religious significance, pagodas including Thatta Thattaha Maha Bawdi Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw were packed with devotees the whole day.— Myanmar News Agency

Weather station Buoy installed at Mandalay Gaw Wein Jetty

A WEATHER station buoy was installed at Gaw Wein Jetty, Mandalay on 17 July by the Directorate of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems in cooperation with Pentair Environment System of Australia.

Meteorological information can be recorded by the onboard weather sensor and the data will be uploaded onto the website 24 hours a day, aiding research.

If erratic weather conditions are found upon the processing

of information, we can issue weather warnings, said U Aung Myo Khaing, director of Component-3.

The buoy will conduct ten measurements per day such as measuring wind speed and direction, Barometric pressure, temperature and other variables.

Another buoy has been installed in the Yangon River. Besides acting as a weather sensor, this buoy includes a physical barometer to measure the pollution of the river and the dissolution

of oxygen in the river water. The buoy in Mandalay can provide only weather data, he continued.

The Australia Company has donated a total of three weather measuring pieces to Myanmar: one buoy with a weather sensor at Mandalay Jetty, a radar device at Innwa (Sagaing Bridge) to measure the water level and speed of the Ayeyawady and another buoy in the Yangon River with a weather sensor and water quality measuring apparatus.—Aung Thant Khine



A weather station buoy being seen at Gaw Wein. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHINE

Licences for motorboats on Inle Lake to be issued

LICENCES for motorboats running on Inle Lake will continue to be issued in August according to U Htin Aung Naing, director of the Taunggyi Hotels and Tourism department. There are around 1,000 motorboats running on the lake with licences for motorboats

being granted for the period of 1 to 15 June. Some motorboat licences remain to be granted and so the department will proceed to grant licences for those boats into August. Currently the motorboats running on Lake Inle for tourists are being reviewed for licences,

the director added.

Boatmen have been put through a tourism management course in conjunction with the three other ministries concerned, it is reported. Currently, there are a total of 300 motor vehicles for tourist use on Inle Lake.—200

Crime NEWS

Yaba seized in Mandalay region

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Mandalay (North) confiscated Yaba from a passenger at 16 mile Kyauk Chaw check point, Patheingyi township on 16 July.

Acting on a tip-off police searched a bus belonging to the Man Shwe Pyay bus line and discovered 1,980 yaba pills on a passenger identified as one Hein Min Latt, 21.

Similarly, local police from Pyawin-Oo-Lwin seized 1,188 yaba pills from motorcycle driver Aung Cho Myint, 27, with Win Myint Sithu Aung, 24, on board on the Mandalay-Lashio road, near the Asia World toll gate on 17 July.

Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—The Mirror



Arrested drug dealers being seen.

Cluster collision occurs in Hmawbi

A CLUSTER collision of three vehicles occurred on the Yangon-Pyay road near the Hmawbi toll gate, Hmawbi township on 15 July.

According to police a HINO vehicle carrying bricks being driven by one Lin Lin alias Lin Lin Htike with Myo Ko on board collided with the Hmawbi toll gate. After hitting the gate the driver swerved the car to the other side of the road after he lost con-

trol due to high speed and ran into a mini bus ferry and a Townace car. One Myo Ko Lwin was seriously injured and is undergoing medical treatment at Yangon General Hospital while toll gate staffer Ko Tint Naing sustained minor injuries in the accident. The injured are receiving medical care at Hmawbi general hospital.

Police are searching for the HINO driver who fled the scene.—MNA

Heroin seized in Nawngkhio

A RAILWAY police squad in Lashio seized heroin from a train passenger between Gokhteik and Nawngkhio railway stations on 17 July. Acting on a tip-off police searched a suspicious looking passenger identified as one Ma Khine Thazin, 37, who

boarded the train without buying a ticket.

The police discovered heroin weighing 1.21 kilograms. Police have filed charges against her under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— Myanmar Police Force



Ma Khine Thazin seen together with seized heroin. PHOTO: MPF

LOCAL Business

Myanmar National Airlines receives new ATR aircraft

MYANMAR National Airlines celebrated the third arrival of new ATR72-600 MSN-1339XY-AME at Yangon International Airport yesterday.

The new aircraft is the third of an order for six placed with ATR company, said the MNA, adding that the remaining three planes will be delivered in 2016 and 2017.

According to the MNA, the arrival of the new aircraft will help the airline provide its customers with better services and new destinations.—GNLM



New aircraft ATR72-600 of Myanmar National Airlines seen at Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MYANMAR NATIONAL AIRLINES

Sugarcane, sugar law expected to develop sugar business

SUGARCANE growth and the sugar law is expected to help develop the sugar business and to enable sugar businessmen to survive for the long term, said U Win Htay, the vice chairman of Myanmar Sugar Development Public Co Ltd.

Local sugar entrepreneurs are being faced with high costs of production and cannot compete with the quality of imported sugar, it is learned.

Sugar mills are not fully operational as they are too old, not being able to run to their full capacity. There is also no technology to recycle the byproducts like generating electricity or making compost from bagasse or producing ethanol from the sugarcane

juice. The production cost of sugar turns out rather high.

Government intervention is therefore needed to render the sugarcane businessmen able to buy new equipment for sugar mills. The number of sugarcane growers nationwide has been seen to be decreasing due to not receiving government subsidies as before resulting in the decline of sugarcane plantations. To boost sugar production we are in dire need of government's subsidies, said U Tin Maung Lat, a sugarcane grower from Lewe town.

The previous government permitted private companies to run sugar mills under a 30-year contract.—Zar Zar



A worker cuts sugarcane on a field in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Forty purified water companies found in breach of the law

THERE are a total of 40 purified drinking water businesses that are no more permitted to manufacture drinking water, according to Department of Food and Drug Administration sources. To the surprise of consumers, some of the famous brands are found to lack certification, it is reported by the FDA.

Samples are checked by the

FDA when water manufacturers apply for their licence. If the samples fail the test three times, they are no longer permitted to apply.

Currently, surprise checks are being conducted at purified drinking water factories in Yangon to check whether they produce safe drinking water of the prescribed quality. Some purified

drinking water producers were found to not hold FDA certificates.

There are a total of 344 purified drinking water businesses approved by the FDA. Action will be taken against those who distribute drinking water bottles without FDA certificates issued under the National Food Law, the FDA has said.—200

Jelly fish businesses on the decline

A DECLINE in the jelly fish industry can be attributed to the decreased number of fish caught along the Taninthayi coast and suspended demand from China, according to local fishery entrepreneurs.

Locals of Taninthayi Region began a jelly fish industry in 1983. At that time around 50,000

jelly fish were caught daily.

China is the major regional buyer of jelly fish, offering high prices. The offered price later dropped due to the declining quality of Myanmar Jellyfish. The number of entrepreneurs who are engaged in the jelly fish industry are also on the decline, said U Saw Hla Maw, a jelly fish businessman.

Jelly fish can be mostly found between April and July when the saltwater content is high. Local entrepreneurs place the jelly fish into lakes, adding salt and alum to make them ready to eat.

The locals of Dawei, Ye, Launglon and Bokebyin make up the bulk of those engaged in the jelly fish industry.—Zar Zar

Over 300 SMEs late with loan repayments to SMIDB

SMALL and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB) has announced that 300 Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) have outstanding repayments for the 2015-16 fiscal year.

K3bn of K10bn issued to SMEs in the 2014-15, 2015-16 FY has reportedly been repaid, with K6bn remaining to be repaid.

"It's time for these loans to be repaid. It's not that these entrepreneurs aren't in a position to

repay the loans. As such, they've been given another year in which to pay off their debts," said U San Maung, managing director of the SMIDB.

SMEs which are yet to repay loans have until the end of the year.

"The loans taken by SMEs carry an interest rate of 8.5 per cent, in which we have to pay 8.25 per cent interest to the State-owned bank from which we originally procured the mon-

ey. As such, it renders our profit margin at just 0.25 per cent, which is really ruining our business," said Dr Than Htun, chair of the SMIDB.

The sum of credit loans issued to Myanmar SMEs is reportedly part of a K30bn purse that the SMIDB procured from the State-owned Myanma Economic Bank. SMIDB has owed K8.42 billion to the Myanma Economic Bank this FY.—Myitmakha News Agency

Families of martyrs pay tribute to fallen leaders



On behalf of U Aung San Oo, U Hla Pe pays tribute to national leader General Aung San. PHOTO: MNA



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi pays tribute to national leader General Aung San. PHOTO: MNA



Family members of Thakin Mya pay tribute to martyrs at mausoleum. PHOTO: MNA



Family members of Deedok U Ba Cho arrive at mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. PHOTO: MNA



Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing at mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. PHOTO: MNA



Family members of Mahn Ba Khaing arrives at mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. PHOTO: MNA



Family members of U Ohn Maung arrives at mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. PHOTO: MNA



Family members of U Razak arrives at mausoleum to pay tribute to martyrs. PHOTO: MNA

Families of martyrs, people pay tribute to fallen leaders



Family members of Mongpun Sawbwa pay tribute to martyrs at mausoleum. PHOTO: MNA



Family members of U Ba Win pay tribute to martyrs at mausoleum. PHOTO: MNA



Yangon Region Government pay tribute to martyrs at mausoleum. PHOTO: MNA



Yangon Hluttaw pay tribute to martyrs at mausoleum. PHOTO: MNA



Family members of Yebaw Ko Htwe pay tribute to martyrs at mausoleum. PHOTO: MNA



General public pay tribute to martyrs at mausoleum. PHOTO: MNA

Opinion

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We appreciate your feedback and contributions. If you have any comments or would like to submit editorials, analyses or reports please email ce@globalnewlightofmyanmar.com with your name and title.

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Challenges for good governance

Khin Maung Aye

NOWADAYS, academics, scholars and researchers are unanimous in the notion that good governance plays a paramount role in the transformation of predatory state to developmental state. This being so, the concern for good governance is attracting the attention of those who make policies, who lead the states and people at large. The policies of economic liberalisation introduced in 1991 has set the tone of urgency but the path towards good governance is not free from obstructions particularly in the case of developing countries.

According to literature on identification of the developmental state, there are few challenges that every society, especially the developing economies, are faced with in ac-

complishment of good governance: they are weak institutions, lack of participation and democratisation, lack of social capital and corruption etc.

In the developing countries, institutions concerning fined property rights, formal contacts and guarantees and enforcement rules are weak—either too weak or too predatory in their demands. This being so, to achieve good governance becomes difficult. Attributes of goods and services have to be clearly measured for proper exchange to take place and property rights enforced. All these activities have costs, which can be reduced only when these institutions are effective.

In fact, good governance is significantly related to issues of

participation and democratisation. For the people dependent on local resources, democracy means participation in managing them. But in the face of the emergence of worldwide markets, the efficacy of local community tends to be destroyed and they seem to be powerless in facing new challenges. These local communities need to be strengthened to at least manage local resources and local affairs.

Other than weak institutions and absence of participation and democratisation, lack of social capital poses a major challenge to approaching good governance. Social capital is viewed as emerging from the collection of norms, belief, attitudes and practices that govern relationship between individuals and groups in a society.

It is the social capital that fosters trust in societies, and the societies that are marked by trust are industrialized and economically developed.

Last but not the least, another significant challenge is corruption. The case of state failure is based upon how monopoly rents are created through imposition of regulation and control over the economy. Corruption and favoritism surround bureaucratic allocations of investment licenses, import licences and the award of government contracts. Such a state is classified as a predatory state and the problem that is posed is how to create conditions that such a state moves on to become a development state in which resources are invested for the good of the society as whole.

Be a Leader, not a Boss

Khin Maung Myint

DURING my career days, I didn't like my subordinates calling or referring me as "boss". The reason: the term "boss" sounds intimidating, which is an undesirable trait of a bullyish leader. Thus I tried to be their leader---coach, example-setter, mentor, motivator, inspirer, role model---instead of being a boss to my subordinates. Of course sometimes, it was necessary for me to be strict and firm, but I always tried to be a motivator instead of being too pushy to get things done by giving harsh orders or using threats of punishments. (Bullyish is a new word that came into existence lately, which the Wiktionary, the online dictionary, defines it as an informal adjective meaning: "resembling or characteristics of a bully").

The subordinates disdain such bullyish persons as bossy persons. So, please try not to be such a bossy person. Today, a Myanmar version: "**Bawsi**", a corrupted form of English that sounds similar to the word bossy

is being popularly used among the middle-aged and younger generations. I see that as a sarcasm rather than as a compliment. Thus try to be a leader and not a boss, otherwise you will become a **Bawsi**.

At this juncture, I should explain the meaning of the term leader. Any dictionary, if you care to look up, would define that as a person who leads or commands a group of men or an organization. Whereas, the word boss, in the noun form is defined as a person who heads a group of men or organization. In both of the cases, each is given as a synonym to the other.

From the above definitions, one may think a leader is the same as a boss. However, if one would study them closely, though they may seem to be the same in the sense that one leads and the other heads a group or an organization, they are quite different in essence. Also, it is evident from the fact that the dictionaries define the verb form of boss as: giving orders in a domineering manner and its synonyms include bully, control, dictate, dominate, overbearing,

pressure, pushy, to mention just a few.

The word leader embodies good qualities, while the word boss depicts negative or despicable traits in a person. For example, such words as "a bossy person" or "bossing around" that are derived from the word boss depict bad image or action. Furthermore, the word boss is more commonly used in connection with illegal organizations or gangs; for example: Mafia boss (godfather), Yakusa boss, etc.

My perceptions of the two words may seem eccentric or even sound absurd and might not be acceptable to some at first, but if one would care to give it some time for a serious thought, it would become palatable. So, I would like to urge those who are in positions to lead others, whether in political, business, civil services, military, religious, sports, community or social organizations, and etc, to try to be fair, good and understanding leaders instead of being bullyish bosses.

To be a good leader, one has to possess the leadership skills, which can be acquired through training. The most commonly

accepted leadership skills are:---

1. Inspires and motivates others.
2. Displays high integrity and honesty.
3. Solves problems and analyzes issues.
4. Drives for results.
5. Communicates powerfully and prolifically.
6. Builds relationships.
7. Displays technical or professional expertise.
8. Displays a strategic perspective.
9. Develops others.
10. Innovates.

It is no secret that the environments for every organization or sector are changing faster than before in the world today, which requires the people and the organizations they work for, to change right along with it. Great leaders see the changes coming on the horizons, and they constantly push their organizations to be in the right place when those changes happen. Those who are playing the leading roles should try to be such foresighted leaders.

Apart from the leadership skills mentioned above, I have

conceived some ideas of my own, based on my experiences relating to leadership. They are as follows:--

1. Be a father/mother figure to your subordinates.
2. Avoid favouritism; don't treat anyone as pet, treat everyone equally and fairly.
3. Be selfless, sensible and understanding to your subordinates.
4. Take responsibility.
5. Avoid corruption.
6. Be an example to your subordinates, or in other words be their role model.
7. Be a mentor, not a master (boss) to your subordinates.
8. Don't be bullyish.
9. Give proper guidances to your followers.
10. Garner their trusts in you.

These ten concepts are well-proven, for me, and could also guarantee those who practice them, to be successful and become good and respectful leaders in whatever profession they are serving in, and would be revered forever.

North Korea fires three ballistic missiles in new show of force

SEOUL — North Korea fired three ballistic missiles on Tuesday which flew between 500 and 600 km (300-360 miles) into the sea off its east coast, South Korea's military said, the latest in a series of provocative moves by the isolated country.

The US military said it detected launches of what it believed were two Scud missiles and one Rodong, a home-grown missile based on Soviet-era Scud technology.

North Korea has fired both types numerous times in recent years, an indication that unlike recent launches that were seen as efforts by the North to improve its missile capability, Tuesday's were meant as a show of force.

"This smells political rather than technical to me," said Melissa Hanham, a senior research associate at the US-based Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, California.

"I think the number and distance of the missiles lets them remind the ROK (Republic of Korea) of what they are up against," she said, referring to South Korea by its official name.

North Korea and the

rich, democratic South are technically still at war because their 1950-53 conflict ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty. The North regularly threatens to destroy the Japan, South Korea and the South's main ally, the United States.

The launches came nearly a week after South Korea and the United States chose a site in the South to deploy the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) anti-missile system to counter threats from the North, which had prompted Pyongyang to threaten a "physical response".

"Our assessment is that it was done as a show of force," a South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff official said at a briefing.

The missiles were launched from an area in the North's western region called Hwangju between 5:45 am South Korea time (2045 GMT Monday) and 6:40 am, the South's military said, an indication that the North was confident they would not crash on its own territory.

"The ballistic missiles' flight went from 500 km to 600 km, which is a distance



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un looks through a periscope of a submarine during his inspection of the Korean People's Army (KPA) Naval Unit 167 in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

far enough to strike all of South Korea, including Busan," the South's military said in a statement.

Busan is a South Korean port city in the south.

North Korea has test-fired a series of ballistic missiles in recent months, in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions, including intermediate-range missiles in June and a submarine-launched missile

this month.

"In addition to the basic goal of enhancing missile units' readiness to fight, it might be a way of reminding their southern neighbours that the site chosen for a THAAD battery in South Korea is within reach," Joshua Pollack, editor of the US-based Nonproliferation Review, said of Tuesday's launches.

South Korea announced

last week the THAAD system would be deployed in the southeastern county of Seongju.

In addition to the decision to base a THAAD system in South Korea, the United States recently angered North Korea by black-listing its leader Kim Jong Un for human rights abuses.

"The threat to our national security is growing very quickly in a short pe-

riod of time," South Korean Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn told parliament on Tuesday.

North Korea conducted its fourth test of a nuclear device in January, and activity at its nuclear test site has increased recently, according to media reports in South Korea and Japan citing government officials, as well as a report by Washington-based North Korea monitoring project 38 North.

Following the latest nuclear test and a February space rocket launch that was widely viewed as a missile test in disguise, the UN Security Council imposed tough new resolutions that further isolate North Korea.

While China supported tougher sanctions against its neighbour and ally North Korea, it has sharply criticized the decision to base a THAAD battery in South Korea, saying the move would destabilise the security balance in the region.

"The situation on the Korean peninsula is severe and complex and all sides should avoid any actions that raise tensions," China's foreign ministry said, echoing previous statements. —Reuters

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Philippines says rejected China offer of conditional dialogue on South China Sea dispute

MANILA — The Philippines has turned down a Chinese proposal to start bilateral talks, its foreign minister said on Tuesday, because of Beijing's pre-condition of not discussing a court ruling that nullified most of its South China Sea claims.

Perfecto Yasay said he had met his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi on the sidelines of a summit of Asian and European leaders on the weekend and after raising the topic of last week's ruling, it became clear that was a no-go area.

China has angrily rejected the verdict by the Permanent Court of Arbitration and the initial case as illegal and farcical. It has repeatedly said it will not change its approach or its sovereignty claims in the South China Sea.

"They said if you will insist on the ruling, discussing it along those lines, then we might be headed for a confrontation," Yasay said during an interview with the news channel of broadcaster ABS-CBN.

"But I really honestly

feel that this is something they have to make on a public basis but I also sensed there was room for us to talk very quietly using backdoor channelling."

Yasay said Yi had proposed bilateral talks but only on issues "outside, or (in) disregard of, the arbitral ruling," which he declined because it was not in the Philippines' national interests.

Yasay's account of the meeting highlights the challenge ahead for the Philippines, a US ally, in getting China to comply with the decision which has ramped up tensions in the vital trade route.

The ruling laid out what maritime rights Manila had and where Beijing had violated its rights under international law, including its massive construction works on Mischief Reef.

Manila wanted to enforce the points of the complex ruling step-by-step but as a priority had asked China to let its fishermen go to the Scarborough Shoal without being harassed by its coastguard, Yasay said.



Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay gives a brief statement regarding the tribunal ruling on the South China Sea during a news conference at the Department of Foreign Affairs headquarters in Pasay city, metro Manila, Philippines on 12 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

China's coastguard was preventing Filipino boats from fishing around the hotly contested Scarborough Shoal, fishermen and officials said on Friday, and China's air force has released pictures showing bombers recently flying over the area. China claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam have rival claims.

Yasay said hoped the ruling would lead to other Southeast Asian countries issuing a joint statement, adding that it could help neighbours also locked in disputes with China. "We are not yet engaged in bilateral talks with anyone," he said. "But I would like to see how we can pursue certain provisional arrangements so that it would lead to opening of bilateral or multilateral engagements should that be necessary." —Reuters

MPs back renewal of Trident nuclear deterrent

LONDON — MPs voted strongly on Monday to renew Britain's ageing nuclear weapons system, a multibillion-pound project regarded as key to maintaining the country's status as a world power following its vote to leave the European Union.

Despite opposition from the pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) and some in the opposition Labour Party, parliament approved the renewal of the Scottish-based nuclear-armed Trident submarines by 472 to 117 votes.

Some opponents said the vote was being used by new Prime Minister Theresa May to unify her party, which has a par-

liamentary majority of 16, after a bruising Brexit campaign, and embarrass Labour by highlighting its own deep divisions.

In her first statement in parliament as prime minister, May urged lawmakers to back Trident, not only to protect Britain from growing threats from Russia and North Korea, but also to protect thousands of jobs in Scotland and elsewhere.

"What this country needs to do is to recognise that it faces a variety of threats and to ensure we have the capabilities that are necessary and appropriate to deal with each of those threats," she said ahead of the vote.

Britain needed to retain a

nuclear deterrent which had been an insurance policy for nearly 50 years, May said.

"We cannot outsource the grave responsibility we shoulder for keeping our people safe ... That would be a reckless gamble: a gamble that would enfeeble our allies and embolden our enemies; a gamble with the safety and security of families in Britain that we must never be prepared to take." Parliament agreed in principle in 2007 to replace the deterrent system and Monday's vote was to rubber stamp the decision to approve the building of four submarines to ensure Britain can have nuclear weapons continuously on patrol at sea.—Reuters

Islamic State flag found in room of German train attacker

BERLIN — A hand-drawn Islamic State flag was found in the room of the axe-wielding Afghan refugee who attacked passengers on a train in southern Germany, a senior state official said on Tuesday.

The 17-year-old severely wounded four passengers before police shot him dead late on Monday, days after a Tunisian delivery man ploughed a 19-tonne truck into crowds of revellers in the southern French city of Nice, killing 84.

The case is likely to deepen worries about so-called "lone wolf" attacks in Europe and could put political pressure on German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who welcomed hundreds of thousands of migrants to Germany over the past year.

Bavarian state Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann said it was still too early to say whether the Afghan youth was a member of Islamic State, which has

claimed responsibility for the French attack, or any other militant group.

Two of those injured in the attacks were in a critical condition and several of the injured included members of a Chinese family, he added, without giving any further details.

At least one witness reported that the attacker, who had been living with a foster family in the nearby town of Ochsenfurt, had shouted "Allahu Akbar" (God is greatest), Herrmann told ZDF television.

"All of that has to be put together in a large mosaic as to what his motivations were, and to what extent he can be counted as an Islamist, or to what extent he radicalised himself in recent times," Herrmann said. "We are pursuing every piece of evidence."

Herrmann told the Bayerischer Rundfunk radio station in a separate interview that the at-

tacker had come to Germany as an unaccompanied minor about two years ago.

He started attacking his passengers with an axe and a knife as the train was approaching its last stop, the Bavarian city of Wuerzburg.

He fled after the emergency brake was pulled and was pursued by a police unit and shot dead when he tried to attack the officers, officials said.

The South China Morning Post said the injured passengers were from Hong Kong.

Unlike neighbours France and Belgium, Germany has not been the victim of a major attack by Islamic militants in recent years, although security officials say they have thwarted a large number of plots. Germany welcomed roughly 1 million migrants in 2015, including thousands of unaccompanied minors. Many were fleeing war in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan.—Reuters



German emergency services workers work in the area where a man with an axe attacked passengers on a train near the city of Wuerzburg, Germany early 19 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEWS IN BRIEF

Eastern Japan shaken by 5.2 quake, no tsunami warning

TOKYO — An earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.2 shook eastern Japan on Tuesday, but no tsunami warning was issued and there were no immediate reports of damage.

The quake, centered east of Tokyo, shook buildings in the capital but was not strong enough to dislodge items from shelves.

Earthquakes are common in Japan, one of the world's most seismically active areas. Japan accounts for about 20 per cent of the world's earthquakes of magnitude 6 or greater.

On 11 March, 2011, the northeast coast was struck by a magnitude 9 earthquake, the strongest on record in Japan, and a massive tsunami. Those events triggered the world's worst nuclear crisis since Chernobyl, a quarter of a century earlier.—Reuters

Presidential candidate Clinton promises to prosecute police killers

NEW YORK — Hillary Clinton promised on Monday to bring the "full weight of the law" against people who kill police officers if she becomes the next US president after two recent episodes of gunmen slaying police officers in Dallas and Baton Rouge.

Clinton, the presumptive Democratic candidate ahead of a 8 November election, made the promise in a speech in Cincinnati at the annual convention of the civil rights group the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured People.

"Anyone who kills a police officer and anyone who helps must be held accountable," Clinton said. "As president, I will bring the full weight of the law to bear to make sure those who kill police officers are brought to justice." —Reuters

US says hopes to raise more than \$2 billion from donors for Iraq

WASHINGTON — The United States expects to raise about \$2 billion from donor nations for Iraq's needs during a pledging conference in Washington this week, a senior State Department official said on Monday.

"We're hoping to raise in excess of \$2 billion in what has been a roughly six-and-a-half-week pledging effort," the official told reporters a day before the conference.—Reuters

Britain's May to tell ministers they must work for Brexit success

LONDON — New British Prime Minister Theresa May will use the first meeting of her senior ministers on Tuesday to tell them they must all play their part in making Britain's exit from the European Union a success.

While May, who backed remaining in the EU ahead of last month's referendum, has appointed Brexit campaigners to several top roles including foreign secretary, less than a third of the ministers in her cabinet backed leaving the bloc.

May's office said she would also tell her cabinet that the government must seize the global opportunities offered by leaving the EU and ensure Britain remains open for business.

"Brexit means Brexit and we're going to make a success of it. It will be the responsibility of everyone sitting around the cabinet table to make Brexit work for Britain," May said in a statement ahead of the meeting.—Reuters

10 security personnel killed by armed rebels in eastern India

NEW DELHI — Ten security personnel, members of a paramilitary force, were killed and five more injured in explosions triggered by armed Maoist rebels in India's eastern state of Bihar, late on Monday.

Soon after the blast, a gun-battle ensued between with the security personnel and the Maoists. The bodies of three Maoist rebels have so far been recovered from the site, said Kundan Krishnan, a senior police officer in the state who is overseeing the operation.

According to media reports, the Central Reserve Police Force commandos were lured into a low-lying area rigged with landmines and were killed in serial blasts in a forest area. —Kyodo News

24 mainland tourists killed as coach catches fire in Taiwan

TAIPEI — Twenty-six people have died after a fire on a tour bus on a highway near Taoyuan Airport on Tuesday.

Twenty-four of the victims were tourists from the northeastern province of Liaoning on the Chinese mainland and the other two fatalities were the driver and the tour guide, who were both from Taiwan, according to Taiwan authorities.

The bus had crashed into one of the outer lane barriers before the fire broke out. The investigation continues.

Of the tourist fatalities, there were 16 women and 8 men, including three children.

An arrangement will be made as soon as possible for the relatives of the victims to go to Taiwan, said Man Hongwei, director of the Taipei Office of the Association for Tourism Exchange Across the Taiwan Straits.

The State Council Taiwan Affairs Office has launched emergency response measures after the fatal accident, said Ma Xiaoguang, spokesperson for the office.

“We are highly concerned about the safety of our mainland compatriots,” Ma said, adding that a working team will be dispatched to Taiwan to assist with handling the aftermath of the accident. —Xinhua



A tourist coach caught fire on a highway near Taoyuan Airport, on 19 July 2016, killing 26 people on board, including 24 mainland tourists from northeastern Liaoning Province. PHOTO: XINHUA

India to inject \$3.4 bln in state banks to revive credit growth

NEW DELHI/MUMBAI — India will inject 229.15 billion rupees (\$3.41 billion) in 13 state-run banks to help shore up the cash-strapped lenders and revive loan growth that has hit a two-decade low.

The capital infusion is part of New Delhi's plans to invest 700 billion rupees in state lenders over four years to March 2019.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley has budgeted 250 billion rupees for bank recapitalisation this fiscal year, but he has committed to infuse more if required.

Top lender State Bank of India will get 75.75 billion rupees in capital, the finance ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

Indian Overseas Bank, which has the worst bad-loan ratio, is set to get 31.01 billion rupees.

A surge in bad loans and the full implementation of global Basel III bank capital rules mean Indian banks need billions of dol-

lars of new capital.

While relatively better balance sheets are expected to make it easier for private lenders tap financial markets, most state-run lenders — struggling with a pile of stressed assets and lower profits — are heavily reliant on the government for funds.

Rating agency Fitch reckons Indian banks would need \$90 billion in new capital to meet Basel III requirements, with about two dozen state-run banks accounting

for 80 percent of that figure.

Fourth-biggest state-run lender Punjab National Bank, which reported a record loss in the March quarter, will get 28.16 billion rupees, the finance ministry said. Bank of India, the third-biggest state-run lender, will get 17.84 billion.

Bank stocks rose after the announcement, with the state-bank index trading 0.4 per cent higher in a Mumbai market that was down 0.1 per cent. —Reuters

Philippines' top court frees ex-president Arroyo after five years

MANILA — The Philippines' Supreme Court on Tuesday dismissed a plunder case against influential former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and ordered her immediate release after five years under hospital arrest.

The diminutive Arroyo, 69, was leader of the archipelago nation from 2001 to 2010 but her presidency was plagued by allegations of corruption and vested interests.

Judges voted 11-4 in her favour to throw out the plunder case due to a lack of evidence, court spokesman Theodore Te told a televised news conference.

She was initially detained for alleged electoral fraud but was later charged with plunder in connection with 366 million pesos (\$7.82 million) in state lottery funds, some of which had been allocated for intelligence gathering.

Despite her detention, a spinal condition and legal cases against her, Arroyo remains an influential figure in national politics. She was re-elected to congress in May for a third successive term, despite not attending any house sessions.

The court decision is almost certain to be welcomed by new President Rodrigo Duterte, who had said he would seek her release.

Arroyo still faces an investigation into allegations she took kickbacks over a \$329 million broadband Internet deal with China's ZTE Corp in 2007, which fell through a year later. She denies all charges and has posted bail. —Reuters

Indonesian forces kill militants, suspect most-wanted man among them

JAKARTA — Indonesia's most wanted man, an Islamic State supporter, may have been one of two militants killed in a gunbattle with security forces in eastern Indonesia on Monday, the government said.

If confirmed, the death of Santoso, who was slapped by the United States with an official terrorist designation, would be a victory for President Joko Widodo, who made capturing him a top security priority.

Presidential spokesman Johan Budi said on Monday that Santoso was believed to be one of two militants killed in an exchange of fire with police on Sulawesi island, where he was thought to be hiding.

“One of the people killed bore resemblance to Santoso, and the body is being transported for identification by the family,” Budi said via telephone. Santoso's age was not known.

He had been hunted by Indonesian security forces for several years and pledged allegiance to the Islamic State group. His armed faction has attracted militants from other parts of Indonesia and several from the Uighur minority group in China's restive Xinjiang province.

Indonesia deployed thousands of police and military officials to scour the jungles of Sulawesi where Santoso and dozens of associates were believed to be holed up. Santoso was from the most populous Indonesian island, Java. In March, the United States imposed a special terrorist designation on Santoso, blocking any US assets he might have, banning dealings with him by Americans and opening the way for US law-enforcement action against him.

The US State Department said Santoso led the Mujahidin Indonesia Timur (MIT) that had carried out numerous killings and kidnappings in Indonesia over the past few years. —Reuters



A police billboard showing a list of individuals, including the country's top militant Santoso (top L), wanted in relation with terrorism cases in Poso, Indonesia's Central Sulawesi province, on 19 December 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

French parliament urged to unite on emergency rule after attack in Nice



A general view shows the crowd gathering on the Promenade des Anglais during a minute of silence on the third day of national mourning to pay tribute to victims of the truck attack along the Promenade des Anglais on Bastille Day that killed scores and injured as many in Nice, France, on 18 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

PARIS — France's government, smarting from accusations that it did not do enough to avert last week's deadly truck attack in Nice, urged lawmakers on Tuesday to extend a period of emergency rule that gives police greater search-and-arrest powers.

Under fire from opposition politicians and jeered by crowds at a remembrance ceremony on Monday, Prime Minister Manuel Valls wants lawmakers to back a three-month rollover of the emergency regime imposed after a previous lethal attack last November.

The move comes as the Promenade des Anglais along the seafront of the Riviera city reopened after an attack last Thursday in which Tunisian Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel plowed a large truck into crowds of Bastille Day

revelers, killing 84, before being shot dead by police.

Two members of the government, which has urged opponents to show greater political unity in the face of a serious terrorist threat, sounded a conciliatory note ahead of Tuesday evening's parliamentary debate on the matter.

Justice Minister Jean-Jacques Urvoas left the door open to a six-month rollover of emergency rule in line with demands from right-wing politicians, saying the demand was "not incongruous" given that it would encompass the anniversary of the attacks of last November.

Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Valls was ready to take other proposals on board concerning the specific powers emergency rule would comprise

to bolster the counter-terrorism efforts of the police and intelligence services.

"This is not just symbolic," said Le Drian.

"We can see from what happened in Germany that the threat is everywhere," the minister said, alluding to news of yet another attack overnight in Germany in which a man hit train commuters with an ax, seriously injuring four

The number of French people who believe Francois Hollande's government is up to the task of tackling terrorism plummeted to 33 per cent after the attack in Nice, from confidence ratings of 50 per cent or more in the wake of the two other major attacks in early and late 2015.

Prime Minister Valls was "open to any proposals that may be

forthcoming" from lawmakers for tweaks to the emergency powers bill endorsed at a morning cabinet meeting, Le Drian added.

France imposed emergency rules after the 13 November attacks in which Islamist militants killed 130 people in Paris, giving the police powers to search homes and place people under immediate house arrest without advance clearance from judges.

The Interior Ministry said hundreds of unlicensed weapons - some war-grade - were unearthed in searches that led to a large number of arrests, helping foil several terror plots. The bill to be debated in parliament on Tuesday night would also grant police and spy services greater powers to dig into suspects' computers and mobile phone communications.—Reuters

Boris says Russia must join push to oust Syria's Assad

LONDON — New British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson called on Tuesday for Russia and other states to demand Syrian President Bashar al-Assad step down as he prepared for his first meeting with Western counterparts on Syria's intractable civil war. Johnson will meet peers from Germany, France, Italy and the European Union in London to discuss Syria's five-year conflict, which has spurred the rise of Islamic State, sucked in regional and major powers and created the world's worst refugee crisis.

"I will be making clear my view that the suffering of the Syrian people will not end while Assad remains in power. The international community, including Russia, must be united on this," Johnson will say, according to remarks released by his office in advance of the meeting. Johnson will also see US Secretary of State John Kerry in London on Tuesday, less than a week after the ex-London mayor known for his undiplomatic wit was surprisingly appointed as foreign secretary by incoming Prime Minister Theresa May. Russia and the United States are co-sponsors of peace talks, and back opposing sides, in the Syria conflict. Those talks, currently on hold, have so far carefully skirted the question of whether a peace deal would require Assad's departure, so negotiations could theoretically limp along despite contradictions between the stances of Moscow and Washington. —Reuters

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Mexico president apologises for scandal, vows to fight graft with new law

MEXICO CITY — Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto apologised on Monday for a damaging conflict-of-interest row in 2014 surrounding his wife's purchase of a luxury home from a government contractor.

Peña Nieto made what was an unusually frank apology for a Mexican leader over the scandal as he signed into law a new anti-corruption system that the government hopes will boost its credibility in the run-up to 2018 presidential elections.

Addressing political leaders at the unveiling of the new anti-graft rules that increase oversight of politicians, Peña Nieto admitted the scandal had damaged the Mexican people's faith in the presidency and the government.

"For this reason, with all humility I ask your forgiveness," he said. "I reiterate my sincere and profound apology for the offense and indignation I have caused you."

The president stressed he had not broken the law, and pledged to redouble efforts to fight graft in Mexico.

Peña Nieto's Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, suffered a severe reverse in regional elections last month as voters punished the party for failing to crack down on corruption, impunity and brutal drug gang violence.

Mindful of the need to clean up its image to challenge for the presidency in 2018, the party has since stressed its commitment to battling corruption.

The PRI ruled Mexico

for more than seven decades continuously until it was voted out in 2000, by which time the party name had become a byword for corruption.

Peña Nieto, 49, brought the PRI back to power in 2012. But old criticism of the party returned when it emerged in late 2014 that First Lady Angelica Rivera was buying the multi-million dollar house from Grupo Higa, a major government contractor.

It then emerged that Peña Nieto's finance minister had also bought a home from the same contractor, and that the president had enjoyed rent-free use of another house owned by the group in 2012.

A government-sponsored investigation later found no evidence of any



Mexico's President Enrique Peña Nieto (R) places documents next to Mexican congressman Jesus Zambrano during the promulgation of the anti-corruption laws at the National Palace in Mexico City, Mexico, on 18 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

wrongdoing by the three, though it was panned as a whitewash by the opposition. Earlier on Monday, the official who led that investigation stood down

to make way for the new anti-corruption regime.

The home scandal also damaged Mexico's relations with China, because it caused the cancellation of

a multi-billion dollar contract won by a Chinese-led consortium to build a high-speed rail link. Grupo Higa was part of the consortium.—Reuters

World must not forget about Ethiopia's food crisis — former Olympic champion

LONDON — Millions of Ethiopians in the grip of a severe hunger crisis are at risk of being forgotten by the international community and urgently need more aid to help them recover, former Olympic champion Haile Gebrselassie said on Monday.

Despite recent rains, Ethiopia is still reeling from its worst drought in 50 years, and 10.2 million people — one-tenth of the population — need food aid, according to the United Nations' World Food Pro-

gramme (WFP).

"There's a huge emergency here in Ethiopia and the world is at risk of forgetting what's happening," the long-distance runner said in a statement.

"Families are in desperate need of food as crops have been destroyed (and) livestock has been killed."

The Ethiopian world champion and two-time Olympic gold medallist joined international aid agency ActionAid in calling for more funds to tackle the food crisis.

The country's economy has grown rapidly for more than a decade, helping the government put in place agriculture, health and social programmes to build resilience against lean periods.

But the scale of this drought, caused by the El Nino weather phenomenon, is even overwhelming those measures.

"My home country has taken enormous steps forward in recent years ... But people here have been suffering for several months now, particularly young

children and pregnant mothers," he said. "The world needs to take action now and provide funds to avert widespread suffering, death and disease," said Gebrselassie.

The rains, which began in March, have brought some respite to the Horn of Africa nation. Families ate more vegetables and milk and skipped fewer meals in May and June compared with previous months, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said.—Reuters

Colombia high court approves plebiscite for peace accords

BOGOTA — A Colombian high court on Monday ruled in favor of using a plebiscite to approve a peace deal being negotiated with Marxist FARC rebels that seeks to end more than five decades of war.

Negotiators for President Juan Manuel Santos and leaders of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have said they will abide by a popular vote that would accept or reject peace agreements made over almost four years of talks.

A final peace accord could be signed in a question of weeks and the vote

held by year-end.

The constitutional court decision would allow the accords to be approved with 13 per cent, or 4.4 million, of the electorate and would be a response to one question. Some 33 million of Colombia's almost 49 million population are eligible to vote. Santos's decision to ask Colombians to respond to one question, with a yes or no answer, drew considerable criticism, especially from former president and now opposition Senator Alvaro Uribe, who argued that it does not allow voters to reject specific aspects of the peace agreement.



Colombia's Minister Counselor for Post-Conflict, Human Rights and Security Rafael Pardo (L) shakes hands with Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) negotiator Pastor Alape during the inauguration of a voluntary pilot plan to eradicate coca plantations, in Pueblo Nuevo, Briceno municipality, Antioquia, Colombia, on 10 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

The government and FARC have been hammering out accords in Havana on agricultural reform, FARC participation in poli-

tics and dismantling the illegal drugs trade among other issues that Santos hopes will allow the rebels to hand in their weapons.—Reuters

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No shaking off Taylor Swift-Kanye West 'Famous' feud

LOS ANGELES — Taylor Swift and Kanye West won't be shaking off their bad blood anytime soon, as the feud between the pop star and rapper over the lyrics of his single "Famous" took an ugly turn with the release of a video and phone call between the two music stars.

The video, released online on Sunday by West's reality star wife, Kim Kardashian, was a recording of West chatting by phone with Swift earlier this year in which the "Shake It Off" singer gave her approval — at least in part — to the song, which she later deemed offensive and misogynistic.

"Famous," released by West in February, contains the line, "I feel like me and Taylor might still have sex. I made that bitch famous."

The trio, three of the biggest pop culture celebrities, have been fighting long distance via tabloid and social media for months over West's insistence that Swift gave her blessing for the lyrics, and



Taylor Swift presents the Video Vanguard Award to Kanye West at the 2015 MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles, California, on 30 August 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Swift's strenuous denials.

According to video of the phone call, released by Kardashian on social media on Sunday after an episode of "Keeping up with the Kardashians," Swift told

West of the song, "I really appreciate you telling me about it. That's really nice," she says. "It's all very tongue-in-cheek either way."

"If people ask me about it, I

think it would be great for me to be like, 'Look, he called me and told me about the line,'" Swift says in the call, which took place before the February release of "Famous."

On Sunday, however, Swift said that she had been secretly recorded by West and accused him of character assassination.

"Where is the video of Kanye telling me that he was going to call me 'that bitch' in his song?," the 10-time Grammy winner wrote on her Instagram account on Sunday.

"It doesn't exist because it never happened ... While I wanted to be supportive of Kanye on the phone call, you cannot 'approve' a song you haven't heard. Being falsely painted as a liar when I was never given the full story or played any part of the song is character assassination," added Swift.

"Famous" refers to an infamous 2009 MTV Video Music Awards incident in which West snatched the microphone from Swift during her acceptance speech and declared that Beyonce should have won.

The pair publicly made up in August last year when Swift presented West with an lifetime award.—Reuters

Drake's 'Views' takes tenth week atop Billboard 200 chart

LOS ANGELES — Canadian R&B singer Drake reclaimed the top spot on the weekly US Billboard 200 albums chart on Monday for a 10th week, joining a small group of artists to have achieved the same feat in recent years.

Drake's "Views" album sold another 18,000 albums and 161,000 songs and was streamed more than 86 million times in the past week, totaling 117,000 overall album units, according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

"Views" is only the 10th album to clock 10 weeks, consecutive or non-consecutive, at No. 1 on the album chart in the past 20 years, according to Billboard.

The album's sales have been driven predominately by streams from online music platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album

sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Other artists to achieve 10 weeks at the top include Adele with her blockbuster 2011 album hit "21," which spent 24 non-consecutive weeks at the top of the chart, as well as the soundtracks to 1998's "Titanic" and 2014's "Frozen."

"Views" was pushed to No. 2 last week when Blink 182 took the top spot on the album chart with their latest record "California." The alt-rockers' album dropped to No. 3 this week on the chart.

Other new entries on the top ten of the Billboard 200 album chart this week includes rapper Schoolboy Q at No. 2 with "Blank Face LP," rockers Chevelle at No. 8 with "North Corridor" and alt-rock band Switchfoot at No. 10 with "Where the Light Shines Through."—Reuters



Rapper, singer, songwriter, record producer and actor Drake. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lady Gaga pulled over two weeks after getting driver's license

LOS ANGELES — Singer Lady Gaga got pulled over just two weeks after she received her driving license.

The 30-year-old Poker Face hitmaker was driving her red Ford F-150 SVT Lightning pickup truck on a highway in Malibu, California and got pulled over, reported Entertainment Weekly.

"Ya I got pulled over. Big deal! I just haven't received plates yet for my new pick up!" Gaga tweeted. It is unclear if she



PHOTO: PTI

was issued a ticket.

Ya I got pulled over. Big deal! I just haven't received plates yet for my new pick up! _(ツ)_/— Lady Gaga (@ladygaga) July 17, 2016

The singer had shared her excitement over getting her license on social media, sharing a pic of herself in her truck, with a friend, as well as photos of her smiling while sitting at a desk after taking the written test at the DMV and embracing the ground after passing her road test.—PTI

'Episode VIII' to break 'Star Wars' tradition; new Han Solo unveiled

LOS ANGELES — The anticipated "Star Wars: Episode VIII" will pick up from the cliffhanger in the final scene of "The Force Awakens," fans of the franchise were told at a special event, while a new Han Solo was unveiled for a stand-alone film on the much-loved character.

Director Rian Johnson said "Episode VIII," due out in theaters in December 2017, will break "a long-standing 'Star Wars' tradition" as each of the previous "Star Wars" films has picked up at least a year after the events of its predecessor. "I didn't want to skip ahead. That last moment of (Episode) VII, I want to see what hap-

pens next," Johnson told fans on Sunday gathered for the final day of the three-day Star Wars Celebration in London.

"Episode VIII" is the next installment in Walt Disney Co's latest "Star Wars" trilogy that kicked off with last year's "The Force Awakens," featuring a new generation of characters led by Daisy Ridley's Rey and John Boyega's Finn. Johnson said "Episode VIII" will get "to the heart" of the new characters and challenge them.

"The first film was this incredible explosion of adventure and excitement that sets up these characters and then just out of necessity it's very natural that in the second

film that we start zooming in on the characters," Johnson said.

On Sunday, rising star Alden Ehrenreich, 26, was officially introduced as Han Solo in a franchise spinoff due out in May 2018 that will follow an origin story of the handsome, rogue space smuggler made famous by Harrison Ford.

"As a kid, this character especially, you play make-believe and you kind of imagine what it would be like," Ehrenreich said.

The biggest applause went to veteran "Star Wars" actors Mark Hamill and Carrie Fisher, who played siblings Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia in the franchise.—Reuters

Annual Royal 'Swan-Upping' takes place on River Thames

LONDON — A census of the Queen's swans has taken place annually on the River Thames for the last 800 years.

On Monday, a group of Boats led by the Queen's Swan Marker continued the tradition, known as "Swan Upping."

"We go up the river in six traditional rowing skiffs - every family of swans we come across, we will take them out of the water, we will take them ashore. We will weigh them, measure them and check them for any injuries," The Queen's royal Swan Marker, David Barber told Reuters.

Cygnets are individually tagged, as part of conservation efforts to protect the young birds.

"A lot of the injuries we get these days is through fishing tackle. When the cygnets are very young, they get caught in fishing tackle quite easily," Barber added.

Dressed in their traditional livery, the teams use six traditional Thames rowing skiffs, each fly-



A cygnet, or young swan, is restrained whilst being examined during Swan Upping. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ing their flags and pennants.

It takes them five days to cover the stretch of the Thames between Sunbury near London out to Abingdon near Oxford.

They count all the adult swans and tag and monitor the

health of cygnets by weighing them and checking in their mouths.

The river can be a dangerous place for the young swans, at risk from fishing hooks and wire.

A serious decline in the swan

population in the mid-1980s was reversed when lead fishing weights were replaced with a non-toxic substance.

But growing demand for recreational use of the river has meant the river is still a dangerous habitat for the royal birds.

"We've had a lot of problems over the last few years. Last year we had 83 cygnets that we caught, weighed and measured. The year before, we had 120, so you can see it has declined," Barber said.

The tradition began in the Twelfth century where swans were often killed for food at banquets.

Barber said that the royal involvement in the process can be traced back to then.

"Her majesty has the right to own any swans swimming in open waters in the United Kingdom if she so pleases," he added. Those who carry out the tradition hope that it helps conserve the future of the birds and educates younger generations.—Reuters

2,000-year-old mural discovered in Inner Mongolia tomb

HOHHOT — Archaeologists in Inner Mongolia have discovered a mural in a tomb which was painted nearly 2,000 years ago, local sources said on Monday.

The tomb is in a cluster in the desert near Ordos City, where archaeologists also unearthed two skulls in a decayed sarcophagus, as well as pieces from pottery and bronze utensils, said Gao Xingchao, a researcher with Ordos city museum. The mural, on the walls and extending on to the ceiling of a vault, covers more than 30 square meters. More than 10 pictures tell the life story of the tomb's occupants, as they travel, feast and take care of their livestock. There are also pictures of flowers, flying dragons and a phoenix leading all kinds of birds, to show life after death.—Xinhua

UN tombstone listing celebrated as rare joint success in Balkans

SARAJEVO — A World Heritage listing for 70,000 medieval tombstones spread across four countries that emerged from Yugoslavia's bloody break up in the 1990s was praised on Monday as a rare example of successful cooperation between the former foes.

Bosnia, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia, whose neighbourly relations often suffer over disputes dating back to the war, spent six years persuading the United Nations to protect the graveyards as part of their shared heritage.

Bosnia's Civil Affairs Minister Adil Osmanovic announced on Monday that a committee of the UN Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) had recognised the unique

and universal cultural value of the tombstones, known as stecci.

"They also acknowledged and welcome an unprecedented cooperation between our four countries on this project," Osmanovic told a news conference together with ambassadors of the other three countries and a UNESCO representative.

"Bearing in mind what our countries have been through in the near past, this project has really proved the importance of the graveyards and stecci for the regional relations," he added. "It is our joint success."

Bosnia co-ordinated the campaign to have the stecci listed.

The tombstones date to the 12th century and are treasured in the Balkans for their unique dec-



A woman walks near the Radimlja necropolis near Stolac in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

orative symbols and carvings, often linked to the medieval Kingdom of Bosnia. Around 60,000 have been found in Bosnia, with nearly 10,000 more scattered across Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Each of the countries has its own cultural and historic monuments on the UN's protected heritage list, and each has nominated more, but the stecci campaign was the first joint bid since the former Yugoslav states went

their separate ways.

The UNESCO committee listed 21 new World Heritage sites at a meeting last week in Istanbul that was overshadowed by the failed coup attempt in Turkey on Friday.—Reuters

Entertainment Channel

(20-7-2016, Wednesday)

<p>06 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather Report • Pyi Thu Ni Ti <p>06 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cartoon Programme "Kung Fu Panda" (Part-1) <p>07 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>07 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>08 : 30 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hanthawaddy U Win Tin "A Fearless Man" (Episode - 2) <p>08 : 40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV Entertainment Music 	<p>09 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tigers, Lions and The Guardians <p>09 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Movie Songs <p>09 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Memorable Yaw Region <p>09 : 40 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Music Programme <p>09 : 50 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) • "Dobat" <p>10 : 10 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dances of Myanmar "Lisu Traditional Dance" <p>10 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video
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From 20-7-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm
To 21-7-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm

Myanmar International

(20-7-2016 07:00am ~ 21-7-2016 07:00am) MST

<p>Today Fresh</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>07:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>07:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Insight Myanmar "ILO-SIYB Project" (Episode-II)</td></tr> <tr><td>07:51</td><td>Am</td><td>Sagaing: Guitars</td></tr> <tr><td>08:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>08:26</td><td>Am</td><td>A Real Dream Of Accidental Gift</td></tr> <tr><td>08:51</td><td>Am</td><td>A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving</td></tr> <tr><td>09:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>09:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder</td></tr> <tr><td>09:39</td><td>Am</td><td>The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)</td></tr> <tr><td>09:55</td><td>Am</td><td>Young Talent "Animator Swan Thura Htun"</td></tr> <tr><td>10:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>10:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Products of Myanmar - Pictures Decorated With</td></tr> </table>	07:03	Am	News	07:26	Am	Insight Myanmar "ILO-SIYB Project" (Episode-II)	07:51	Am	Sagaing: Guitars	08:03	Am	News	08:26	Am	A Real Dream Of Accidental Gift	08:51	Am	A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving	09:03	Am	News	09:26	Am	Aye Aye Soe: Myanma Pioneer Female Bodybuilder	09:39	Am	The Eel Business (Fisherman the eel culture)	09:55	Am	Young Talent "Animator Swan Thura Htun"	10:03	Am	News	10:26	Am	Products of Myanmar - Pictures Decorated With	<p>Seashells And Gemstones</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>10:39</td><td>Am</td><td>A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas</td></tr> <tr><td>10:51</td><td>Am</td><td>Colourful Threads</td></tr> </table> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>Prime Time</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>07:03</td><td>Pm</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>07:25</td><td>Pm</td><td>A Day In Bagan</td></tr> <tr><td>07:46</td><td>Pm</td><td>YUFL</td></tr> <tr><td>08:03</td><td>Pm</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>08:26</td><td>Pm</td><td>Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)</td></tr> <tr><td>08:42</td><td>Pm</td><td>Now in Yangon</td></tr> <tr><td>08:49</td><td>Pm</td><td>Lady Pilot</td></tr> </table> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)</p> <p>(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>	10:39	Am	A Historic Town: 9 Pagodas	10:51	Am	Colourful Threads	07:03	Pm	News	07:25	Pm	A Day In Bagan	07:46	Pm	YUFL	08:03	Pm	News	08:26	Pm	Mosaic Painting (Precious Stones & Gems)	08:42	Pm	Now in Yangon	08:49	Pm	Lady Pilot	
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Cristiano Ronaldo and Portugal's winning Euro 2016 team celebrate at a reception for their fans in Lisbon, Portugal, on 11 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ronaldo pledges to 'come back stronger' after knee injury

LISBON — Cristiano Ronaldo has vowed to come back stronger for the coming season after suffering a knee injury in Portugal's triumphant Euro 2016 final earlier this month. The Real Madrid forward, who is in this year's Best Player in Europe shortlist, was carried off the pitch on a stretcher after 25 minutes in the final against hosts France.

"I just wanted to thank all my fans," Ronaldo said in a video on his Instagram account.

"I wanted to tell them that all is well and that I will come back much stronger. Thank you, long live Portugal."

The 31-year-old, who racked up 51 goals in 48 games last season, scored the decisive penalty to seal Real's second Champions League final success over local rivals Atletico Madrid in three years. La Liga runners-up Real begin their 2016-17 campaign, in what will be manager Zinedine Zidane's first full season in charge, away to Real Sociedad on 21 August.—Reuters

German official wants Russian competitors excluded from Rio Olympics

BERLIN — The head of the German Olympic Sports Confederation on Tuesday said Russian competitors should be banned from the Rio Olympics if the findings of a scathing report about Moscow concealing positive doping tests at the 2014 Sochi Olympics are confirmed. Confederation president Alfons Hoermann told the German NDR Info radio programme that the report by Canadian law professor Richard McLaren showed it was time to think about more significant consequences.

"Where there are systematic lies, there must also be systematic

punishment," Hoermann said. "If the McLaren report is confirmed, the logical consequence is a broad exclusion" of Russian athletes," Hoermann said.

Hoermann said it would be important to consider whether to exclude the entire Russian team from the Rio games or just specific teams from sports where widespread doping had been proven. The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) on Monday responded to the McLaren report by recommending that the International Olympic Committee and International Paralympic Committee

consider banning all sportsmen and women entered by the Russian Olympic Committee for next month's Rio Olympics. The McLaren report revealed evidence of widespread state-sponsored doping by Russian athletes at the 2014 Sochi Olympics, and said Moscow concealed hundreds of positive doping tests in many sports ahead of the Sochi games. The Russian Olympic committee said on Tuesday that allegations required fuller investigation and it was ready to provide full assistance in such an investigation.—Reuters

Khaka the 'perfect signing' for Arsenal — Mertesacker

LONDON — Defender Per Mertesacker expects Granit Xhaka to set the tempo from the Arsenal engine room this season and described him as the "perfect signing" for the club. The 23-year-old, who joined Arsenal in May, captained Borussia Mönchengladbach to fourth place last season and also helped Switzerland reach the last 16 of the Euro 2016. British media reported Xhaka's transfer fee at about 30 million pounds (\$43.95 million), which would make the midfielder Arsenal's third most expensive signing behind Mesut Ozil and Alexis Sanchez. "He's a leader and that is really important, especially in midfield. He has got a very good attitude,

is very composed on the ball and contributes a lot," Mertesacker told the club's website (www.arsenal.com). "He is a good passer as well, so he will set the tempo. I am looking forward to how he does it, how composed he will be in training and in the games. "He will be the perfect signing for us."

Francis Coquelin, who played 26 league games last campaign, said Arsenal needed to dig deep in big games and must pay closer attention to details in order to push for the title after finishing second to champions Leicester City.—Reuters



Great Britain's Andy Murray. PHOTO: REUTERS

Murray pulls out of Toronto event to focus on Rio

TORONTO — Wimbledon champion Andy Murray has pulled out of next week's Rogers Cup in Toronto so he can give his body time to rest before he sets out in defence of his Olympic singles title at the Rio Games.

Britain's Murray won his third Rogers Cup title last year in Montreal but the defending champion said that after reaching the final round in each of his last five events that he needed to take some time off. "My body needs some re-

covery time after reaching the latter stages of tournaments over the past few months," Murray, who is second in the world rankings, said in a statement released by Tennis Canada. "I'm sorry to my fans in Toronto but I look forward to being back in Canada next year." Murray's decision marks the first time the three-times grand slam champion has skipped the Canadian event since his first appearance in 2006. The Rogers Cup will run from July 23-31 and the tennis competition at the Rio Olympics will be held 6-14 August.—Reuters