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COVERING ALL THE BASES

Tatmadaw holds press conference on Myitkyina shooting incident, dead bodies in Lashio, Mai Ja Yang ethnic conference, relief and rehabilitation works for Rakhine flood victims

THE Tatmadaw held a press conference in Yangon yesterday with Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo giving a press briefing on a shooting incident in Myitkyina, dead bodies found near Mong Yaw village in Lashio Township, an ethnic conference planned in Mai Ja Yang and the Tatmadaw's relief and rehabilitation works in Rakhine State.

On the Myitkyina shooting incident that occurred on 20 June between an alleged group of eight young people and two defence services personnel that resulted in the death of a victim following what the Tatmadaw claims was an attempt by the victim, a local university student, to snatch away a firearm from Private Maung Maung, Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo elaborated on measures being taken by Tatmadaw in accordance with rules and regulations.

In his briefing on dead bodies found near Mong Yaw village in Lashio he claimed that two unidentified people were shot dead during a clash between a military column and an insurgent group on 25 June and the drugs were later discovered on the two people killed.



See page 2 >> Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo talks to media at a press conference in Yangon on 20 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NCA groups vow to seek inclusiveness at Peace Conference

Ye Khaung Nyunt

FOLLOWING a three-day meeting in Chiang Mai, Thailand, eight signatory armed groups to the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement vowed yesterday to seek inclusiveness of the peace process,

considering the NCA is the beginning point to ending current armed conflicts and for holding dialogues to solve political dilemma.

In their announcement, which came after the meeting held from Monday until yesterday,

the eight ethnic armed groups that signed the NCA last year also said that they all will cooperate with the State Counsellor to hold the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong Conference as they believe that the conference can

lead to national reconciliation, internal peace and a democratic federal union.

They also declared that they will all participate in the conference scheduled to take place in Maijayan, Kachin State, from 26 to 29 July.

In the announcement the groups said that they will make coordinated efforts together with other ethnic armed groups, political forces, the government and the Tatmadaw to achieve internal peace through political dialogue.



သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်



Restoration on Nyaungshwe Hawnan is expected to launch at the end of July. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Calls to restore Nyaungshwe's Hawnan

A FRENCH archaeology team is working with the Department of Archaeology in order to restore the Hawnan in Nyaungshwe township. The Hawnan, once the residence to a Shan chief has been converted into a Buddhist museum, according to the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism of Taunggyi.

The French team, who work on restoring ancient structures, viewed the site in the first week of July and has since submitted their report.

"Restoration work to the Hawnan will commence around the end of this month," said U

Htin Aung Naing, director of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism for Shan State, adding, "Our department is not privy to the details relating to finances of the project. The budget will be released only by union government."

So far this year Nyaungshwe, home to Inle Lake, has seen 100,000 tourist visitors in the 2016-17 FY compared to 90,000 for the previous FY, according to records of the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism, Shan State Department.

There are plans to open a night market in Hawnan. —Myitmakha News Agency

Amnesty International calls to relocate sulphuric acid factory

AFTER a recent research trip to Kankone village in Sagaing region Amnesty International has issued a release urging the Myanmar government to relocate a sulphuric acid factory in the village located only 50 meters from a secondary school.

According to the press release the factory closed for a month, after "newly elected municipal authorities" ended the factory's license. It has since begun operations in June. "Myanmar's government must intervene immediately and stop the operations of the sulphuric acid factory. The factory must be relocated to an area where it can't endanger anybody's health," said Amnesty International Business and Human Rights researcher Mark Dummett, who visited Kankone village in the country's northwest Sagaing Region last month.

The factory began operating again on 15 June and the air pollution forced the nearby school to leave, with villagers saying that at times they are forced to leave their homes due to the polluted air.

"Every time we smell the acid it is really bad. We tell the factory to stop it, but they say that's not possible," a male resident told

Amnesty International in 2014.

"People cannot stay in the village at those times. Our eyes tear up and we cough," another man told Amnesty International on the same visit. The report also that skin, eye and respiratory problems are associated to the factory.

The Moe Gyo Sulphuric Acid factory began operations in 2007 and was found to be illegally operating in 2013 by a committee headed by the current State Counsellor, Daw Aung San Suu Kyi. The committee found it had been illegally operating from 2007-2013.

A government department and a NGO conducted soil samples from the area in 2013 and found high levels of sulphur in the samples. The Union of Myanmar Economic Holdings Limited owns the company and obtained permission to operate the factory in July 2013. The group has had no sanctions placed against it for the illegal operation due to its relationship with the Myanmar military.

"UMEHL shouldn't ignore the concerns of the local authorities and must listen to the very serious complaints of the affected population. The central government now needs to stop the oper-

ations of this factory and move it to a safe location," Mark Dummett said. Adding, "The authorities must also investigate potential breaches of the Factories Act by UMEHL from 2007 to 2013."

The factory supplies sulphuric acid to two copper mines, the Letpadaung and Sabetaung and Kyisintaung (S&K) mines, joint ventures operated by UMEHL and China's Wanbao Mining.

In 2014 Daw Khin Win, a local villager, was shot dead by police while protesting the operation of the Letpadaung copper mine and in 2012 police were accused of using white phosphorous, a internationally sanctioned chemical weapon that is highly toxic and explosive, on protestors.

In the press release Amnesty International said that in April 2015 it, "wrote to the company, raising its concerns, and asking it to share what assessments it has collected, but has not received a response." "The newly elected government must ensure that the operations of the Letpadaung mine are halted until the environmental and human rights concerns about the project are resolved in genuine consultation with all affected people." —GNLM

Day Care Centre for the Aged provided with two ferries by BFM

A DAYTIME care home for the elderly run by the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement was provided with two ferries by KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation-BFM yesterday.

At the ceremony held at the Day Care Centre for the Aged in Mayangon Township, Daw Nang Kham Naung, the vice chairperson of the BFM handed over documents related to the two Hundai vehicles, each with a seating capacity of 28 persons, to Dr Win

Myat Aye, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

On behalf of the aged at the centre U Soe Hlaing expressed his thanks to the foundation and its chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham for the donation, saying that the move would enable the aged to come to the centre and return home safely and with convenience. The day care centre was opened in November 2013 and cares for around 70 aged people. —Thura Lwin (Eco)



Personnel of Brighter Future Myanmar foundation, Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, officials and aged people pose for documentary photo after the donation ceremony. PHOTO: BFM

Tatmadaw holds press conference on Myitkyina ...

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Regarding the incident, punitive action will be taken following the findings of the Tatmadaw's investigation committee and investigation is still ongoing as violations of the army rules and regulations were found.

In his briefing on the Mai Jar Yan ethnic summit, Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo said that Khun Okkar of the PNLO and Saw Ta Mu La of the KNU informed the Tatmadaw that they were preparing for the summit during a meeting be-

tween Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and the Peace Process Steering Team led by the KNU's Saw Mu Tu Sae Po on 30 June in Nay Pyi Taw.

On — 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference, Lt-Gen Mya Tun Oo explained the Tatmadaw's involvement in the government's peace process, how the implementation of the — 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference is seen as a follow-up of the previous Union

Peace Conference based on the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement (NCA), works of NRPC and UP-DJC and cooperation with the government in accordance with the Tatmadaw's six peace principles.

The Lt-Gen ended his speech on a lighter note, drawing attention to the Tatmadaw's relief and rehabilitation works in Rakhine State where floods occurred in some townships, saying that relief supplies were delivered to the affected areas by air. —Myawady

National News Awards presented to winners

THE FOURTH presentation ceremony for Myanmar National News Award took place at Sky Star Hotel in Yangon on 16 July, with responsible persons presenting winners in five categories.

The News Hero Award went to Daw Aye Aye Win, the Best News Feature to Ko Sit Htet Aung, the Best News Cartoon

Award to Cartoonist Agga, the Best News Photo Award to Ko Ye Aung Thu and the Best News Broadcast Award to MNTV.

Also present at the ceremony were Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein, departmental officials, veteran journalists and guests. —Myanmar News Agency

Union Foreign Affairs Minister meets with US Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Communications

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Mr. Benjamin Rhodes, Deputy National Security Adviser for Strategic Communications of the United States, at her office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two representatives procedurally exchanged views on the US's co-operation with and assistance to Myanmar for boosting bilateral relations between the two countries. —Myanmar News Agency



Union Foreign Affairs Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi receives Mr. Benjamin Rhodes in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

JICA assists with over K800 million for Pyay water purification project

THE JAPANESE International Cooperation Agency (JICA), the aid-wing of the Japanese government, has issued K846.99 million to be utilized in a project to distribute clean water within the Bago Region town of Pyay, according to the Pyay Township Development Committee (PTDC).

The initiative kicked-off at the beginning of this 2016-17 fiscal year and will be completed by the beginning of next year, while the WEG company, the successful bidder of the tender to implement the project, is tasked with supplying the entire town with a high-quality distribution of water sourced from the Ayeyawady River.

"The water will be sourced from the Ayeyawady. The water will be collected and purified through a sand filtration system. This project is currently being implemented by the winner of



Japan-funded Clean water supply project in Pyay is expected to finish next fiscal year. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

the tender, the WEG company, and JICA are here presently making inspections. We're here to provide supervision, pretty much from start to finish. Our chief engineer will thoroughly inspecting as to whether criteria are met or not, but JICA will be the official

overseers of this initiative." said Thura Myint Thu, deputy chief engineer for the PTDC.

However, JICA's financial assistance extends solely to the construction of water reservoirs and filtration systems. As such, a submission has reportedly been

made to the Bago regional government for the replacement of the over century year old water pipes, which currently facilitate the distribution of water throughout the town, as they have a tendency to clog up with silt and mud. "About 20 per cent of the project has been completed so far. Once finished, the residents of Pyay will be able to enjoy cleaner and clearer water than they do currently. The water will be so devoid of bacterial particles that it could even be consumed for one's health." said Ko Wai Phyto Aung, a project engineer.

Pyay residents are currently provided water from the Ayeyawady River and an underground water source, with more than 18 million gallons sourced from the river, and eight million gallons from the underground reserve, distributed across the town on a daily basis. —Myitmakha News Agency

Heads of service organisations approved, appointed

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has approved Rector U Aung Naing Myint of the National Culture and Fine Arts University (Yangon) under the Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs on the expiry of one-year probationary period.

Likewise, the President has appointed General Manager U Zaw Win of Inland Water Transport under the Ministry of Transport and Communications as Managing Director of the same department on probation from the date he assumes charge of his duties. — Myanmar News Agency

LUXURIOUS & TRANQUIL WEEKEND 'BUBBLY' BRUNCH AT SEDONA YANGON



Relax this weekend away from the hustle and bustle at Sedona's 'Bubbly' Brunch that serves up an indulgent spread of mouth-watering delicacies and cuisine, with seafood, sushi, sashimi, carving & 'live' cooking stations and an extensive salad bar for the health conscious!

Immerse yourself in luxurious surroundings with 'Live' Entertainment, comfort and 5* services at our lavish Weekend 'Bubbly' Brunch available every Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday from 11.30pm to 3.00pm at D'Cuisine.

* Free use of swimming pool for brunch dinners.
* Seniors above 60 yrs and children below 12 yrs old enjoy 50% discounts.
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SEDONA
YANGON

France made antique car can be observed in Yangon free of charge



PHOTO: THANT ZIN WIN

A France made antique car, assumed to be invented in the earliest period of car inventions, has been moved to Yangon from Bagan.

A French man got this car serviced at an industrial zone in 2007 and a rich man from Myanmar purchased and he displayed his car at the museum in Bagan since then.

There is no brand affixed to this car because it was in the earliest period of invention. The wheels were made of the wood axis around which the tyres were fit. This car speed is 25 miles per hour, being able to carry four passengers. Previously, this car was recorded in the lists of antique cars. The engine used in three wheeled bicycle was installed in this car because the original engine worn out.

This car is rather similar to 1898 modeled Renault from France.

Those interested had to pay US\$30 to observe this car while it was displayed at Bagan museum. They will give more charges if they want to take photo with this car. Now, this car can be observed free of charge in front of the owner's house which is located on 42nd Street (lower block). People are very much interested in this, said the owner.

Auto car museums are placed at the western countries to display the antique cars for the visitors to drive to enjoy a different taste in a different moods, it is learnt from youtube videos. The cars displayed at the western auto museums are De Dion-Bouton, Type Q de 1903 and 1908 De Dion Bou-

ton Landaulette. The first sport car can be driven at a speed of 45 mph. These sport cars were manufactured with the use of bronze and wood.

In 1912, more auto designs were invented: Hupmobile Twenty Roadster, Dodge Brother Tourer Baujahr 1917, Delage Baujahr 1908, Huchet Baujahr 1911, Flahders Twenty Baujahr 1912, Krit Baujahr 1910, Stellite Open 2-seater Baujahr 1915, Delage B 1 Baujahr 1915 with five passengers, Calcott Cabriolet Baujahr 1914, Le Zebre Motorkutsche Baujahr 1912, Overland Sport Baujahr 1912, Overland Open Tourer Baujahr 1910, Hansa A 8/18 Baujahr 1908, Lorraine-Dietrich Tonneau Baujahr 1098, Overland Sport and various Over Turn designs. —Thant Zin Win

Educational talk held in Taungoo

AN educational talk organised by the Taungoo District Office of Information and Public Relations

Department (IPRD) and the township police was held at Taungoo Education College yesterday.



Students acting out a drama about human trafficking.

PHOTO: SHWE WIN (PYAY)

Township Police Captain Saw Than Lwin spoke about the reduction of crime rates, Police Captain Ohn Kyaw of the Traffic Police Force elaborated on the traffic rules and their enforcement and Police Lt. Zaw Win gave an educational talk about human trafficking to the audience. Daw Khine Khine Thin, District Officer of the Taungoo District IPRD urged the public to read in order to improve their knowledge base. The headmistress of Taungoo Education College Daw Nyein Nyein delivered the opening speech.

Students of Taungoo Education College acted out a drama about human trafficking and sang crime prevention related songs. —Shwe Win (Pyay)

Crime NEWS

Man charged with house burglary

POLICE filed charges against a man on suspicion of house burglary in Chanmyathasi township on Monday.

The suspect, identified as one Lu Lu Htet alias Lu Lu, 20, was found on 22 Street with gold jewellery and US\$ dollar notes.

When interrogated the suspected admitted to police that he had stolen the jewellery and US\$ 6,118 from a safe box located in a home on 65 street, Myothit 1 ward. The local police station has filed charges against him.— Myanmar Police Force

Three people injured after bus crashes into shop in Nay Pyi Taw

THREE people including a driver were injured when a passenger bus crashed into a jewellery shop near Hninsi Pan roundabout, Pyinmana township, Nay Pyi Taw council area on Tuesday.

According to the police a passenger bus belonging to one Kyai Sin Hein collided with a plinth. After hitting the plinth the driver lost control of the vehicle

and crashed into the Aung Hlaing Tun jewellery shop.

Three people including the driver sustained minor injuries in the accident and are undergoing medical treatment at the general hospital in Nay Pyi Taw. Police have taken action against the driver under sections 337 and 279 of the criminal law.— Myanmar Police Force



The bus seen after crashing into a jewellery. PHOTO: MPF

Man charged with a bike theft

The police arrested a man on suspicion of a motorcycle theft as they found him looking suspicious while patrolling.

The police found a man called Mutu alias Myat Khine, 27, together with a motorbike

at Ayawady Bridge on 19 July. When interrogated, the man could not produce any documents concerning the motorbike that, he said, belonged to him. The local police have taken action against him.—Myanmar Police Force

Illegal weapons seized

POLICE seized illegal weapons from a motorcycle driver at the junction of Myoma market and the railway station in Swa, Yedashe township, Bago region, on Tuesday.

Acting on a tip-off, police

searched one Saw Al Hwar, 41, and seized a firearm, 31 rounds of ammunition, a motor saw and a small knife.

Local police have filed charges against him.— Ko Lwin (Swa)



Illegal weapons seized being seen. PHOTO: KO LWIN (SWA)

LOCAL Business

Yangon General Post office making effort to link with more online sites

YANGON General Post office is making effort to link its courier service with more online shopping sites, said an official from the Ministry of Transportation and Communication.

There are currently 30 online shopping sites which have linked with Yangon General Post office. These sites delivered the ordered merchandises to their customers through Yangon General Post Office. The postal service is good but cannot reach many people as they need to attract the attentions of the public by releasing the public announcements.

Yangon General Post office is conducting the awareness campaign through its own staff to be able to cooperate better with online shopping sites to earn more revenue. To be able to provide better and faster service, the post office is adapting to the modern delivery systems.

Previously, there were misunderstandings between online shopping sites and the Yangon General Post office. However, the relationship has now improved. The Yangon General Post is now offering more business-like service.—200



Yangon General Post office photo taken on 20 July 2016. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Over three-month frozen chicken to be destroyed

IMPORTED frozen chicken will be destroyed if they are found to have been frozen for over three months, according to an announcement by the Livestock and Treatment Department.

According to the announcement, the samples of imported frozen chicken will be tested at Animal Quarantine Station to check if the chicken have been frozen for over three months. Those overdue frozen chicken will be destroyed without the breeders being compensated.

Yangon regional chief minister made this decision when he met the chicken breeders and Myanmar C.P Livestock Company on 24 June, encouraging them to reduce down to 50 per cent of prevailing market price. He will proceed to submit this matter to the union government for approval.

The import licence issued

by the Ministry of Commerce, the certificates bearing production date, initial storage date and expiry date and the certificate for freedom from infectious diseases are required to import the chicken.

Those poultry will be tested at the laboratory to ensure they do not have the pesticides and the chemicals injected. The authorities will also find out the breeding farms, the slaughter houses and the packaging are in accord with the health.

Our department is drawing the procedures in regard to this matter to ensure the consumers are harmless, said an officer from the Livestock and Treatment Department.

It was already uploaded onto the website of the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigations in 2013 that Ks290 is levied per tonne of frozen chicken and livestock.—200



A package of imported frozen chicken. PHOTO: MYAWADY

Myanmar to cooperate with Japan to produce finished lacquerwares

THE lacquerware college (Bagan) under the Small-Scale Industry Department will co-operate with Japan to teach its college students to be able to produce finished lacquerwares beginning from the 2017-2018 academic year, it has been learned from Daw Yee Yee Hlaing, director of the lacquer-

ware college (Bagan).

“We have cooperated with Japan and arranged to produce finished lacquerwares since 2012. Japan provides technical assistance for teacher training courses but production of finished lacquerwares cannot be undertaken yet. We have done testing but we hope we can pro-

duce finished products by using Japanese technology beginning from 2017-18,” said the director.

“We are not a market place. We only teach the making of lacquerware to the students. The lacquerware businesses will need to form a syndicate to market the finished products,” she added.—200

SMIDB to borrow US\$30million from Viet Nam bank

SMALL and Medium Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB) will take US\$30million loans from a bank based in Viet Nam so that they can provide loan to those who are engaged in small and medium sized enterprises (SME), it is learnt from SMIDB.

The interest rate of the loan borrowed from Viet Nam bank is 3 to 4 per cent per annum, and SMIDB will lend this loan to the SME entrepreneurs, said Daw San San Yee, a member of the board of directors of SMIDB.

We have a plan to effectuate the development of SME. Most of the foreign banks have decided

to offer loans to SME entrepreneurs with an interest rate of 3 or 4 per cent while some have been managing to set the interest rate of the loan at 5 to 8 per cent. The interest rate of the local banks is usually 12 per cent per annum. Therefore, the interest rate of the foreign banks is lower than that of the local banks. The foreign banks aim to offer the monetary assistance to the local SME businessmen with a small profit margin, she added.

Currently, the exchange rate is being observed to take the loan from Viet Nam. SMIDB will take the prompt action to be able to provide the loans.

We’ve been negotiating to receive the low-interest loans from Viet Nam bank. Now, we can offer only 8.5 per cent of interest to SME entrepreneurs. But, we will reduce the interest when the interest set by Viet Nam bank can be reduced, said U San Maung, the managing director of SMIDB.

SMIDB have taken Ks30billion from Myanmar Economic Bank to lend loans the SME businessmen. Currently, the loan of Ks21.58billion has already been offered to them while Ks8.42billion remains left to provide loans in this fiscal year of 2016-2017.—200

Taiwan and EU cease buying Myanmar green peas

TAIWAN and the EU have stopped buying Myanmar green peas due to their finding the remnants of insecticides inside the product, it has been learned from merchants of beans and pulses.

“We exported the green peas only after testing them at the government’s recognised laboratories.

Taiwan and the EU, however, have complained that they found remnants of insecticides inside green peas when they tested the product in their home countries. The EU now only buys green pears that are grown by growers who were given training by the EU,” said U Sai Ba Nyan, vice chairman of the Organi-

sation of Myanmar Beans and Sesame Merchants.

Myanmar exports 70 per cent of all peas to India and about 30 per cent to the EU and China. 50,000 tonnes of assorted beans are being exported to Taiwan every year according to the Ministry of Commerce.—GNLM

China Voice: Invalid award will not impede China-ASEAN cooperation on South China Sea issue

BEIJING — For more than a decade, China and ASEAN have endeavored to address issues concerning the South China Sea through their own mechanisms, and progress has been made.

Thus, the recent tribunal “award” should not — and will not — stand in the way of continued achievements.

In 2002, China and ASEAN member states signed the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC), which serves as the common basis for relevant parties to explore the peaceful resolution of disputes.

For years, China and members of ASEAN have maintained close and effective communication and reached many consensuses. They are pushing forward consultations on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea (COC) under the framework of the DOC.

This suggests that Chi-

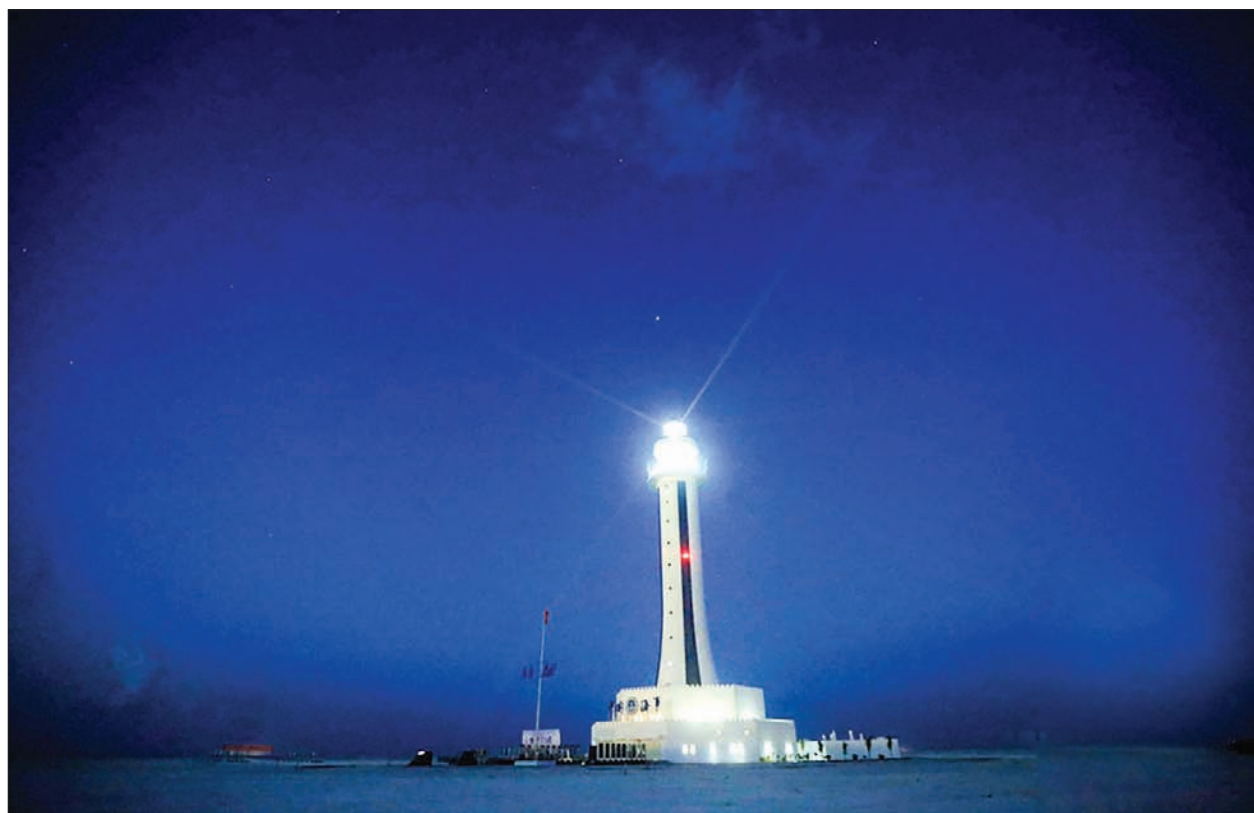
na and ASEAN are more than capable of handling their differences in a mature manner, with the support of necessary channels and mechanisms.

On the day the award was announced, members of ASEAN including Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia issued statements stressing the full and effective implementation of the DOC, early conclusion of the COC, respect for international law, and healthy dialogues, negotiations and consultation.

Cambodia, on the same day, reiterated its position of not supporting the arbitration award.

Lao Prime Minister Thongloun Sisoulith said days later that Laos supports China’s stance over the South China Sea issue, and stands ready to work with China to maintain peace and stability in the region.

It is the shared aspiration of China and ASEAN



The lighthouse on Zhubi Reef of Nansha Islands in the South China Sea, south China, on 5 April 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

to make the South China Sea a region of peace, stability and development, and they have the ability and means to achieve this goal.

The commitment of China and ASEAN to the DOC and to resolving disputes through friendly consultations and negotiations by countries directly concerned should be respected.

There is absolutely no need for any third party to intervene.

In 1991, China and ASEAN established dialogue relations. Fast forward 25 years, and the two have fostered a most robust and vibrant relationship, with across-the-board cooperation — bringing practical benefits to a combined population of around

2 billion. China is now ASEAN’s largest trading partner and ASEAN is China’s third-largest trading partner. Their trade volume surged from nearly 8 billion US dollars in 1991 to 472 billion dollars last year.

It is cooperation and mutual benefit, rather than disputes, that characterise the China-ASEAN rela-

tionship.

Peace, security and stability serve both side’s needs and interests, while a volatile South China Sea will do nobody any good.

China and ASEAN should work to tap into their great cooperation potential and not let, what is actually a non-legally binding, award effect the future growth of ties. —Xinhua

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Cambodia’s military investigates ‘coup’ plot against Hun Sen



Cambodia’s Prime Minister Hun Sen gestures as he arrives for a family photo with other leaders during the Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit just outside Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 16 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia’s military is investigating a suspected coup plot against Prime Minister Hun Sen, a defence ministry official said on Wednesday, amid rising political tension in the Southeast Asian country.

The army investigation centres on a man who announced plans to topple Hun Sen in Facebook and YouTube videos and called

on others to join his cause, said Defence Ministry spokesman Chhum Suheat.

“The authorities are investigating and looking for him,” Chhum Suheat told Reuters. He identified the man as Vichea Som but declined to give further details.

News of the plot comes a day after a senior US official responsible for human rights urged Cambodia’s political rivals to return to

negotiations amid a “deteriorating situation”.

In the video, the man the ministry identified as Vichea Som is dressed in a business suit and tie with a camouflage background visible in the footage.

He did not identify himself but accused Hun Sen’s government and his ruling Cambodian People’s Party of being behind big land grabs in one of Southeast Asia’s poorest countries. He also accused the government of high-profile killings and human rights abuses.

“In the near future, please all forces be ready against the dictatorial regime,” the man said.

He did not specifically call for a coup or threaten to organise a coup in the video clip.

It was not clear where he was speaking from but he said he belonged to a “unit” based in southwestern Cambodia.

The Facebook page bearing the name Vichea Som showed the same man. He did not immediately respond to a request for com-

ment sent via Facebook.

Hun Sen has ruled with an iron fist for more than 30 years, defeating all challenges to his authority, but he faces a young electorate which appears increasingly hungry for change.

In recent months, tension has been rising between Hun Sen and an opposition hoping to challenge his grip in local elections next year and a general election in 2018.

Several members of the opposition and activists have been jailed as part of what they say is a government crackdown to silence critics ahead of the elections.

On 10 July, Kem Ley, a prominent activist and frequent critic of Hun Sen, was murdered in the capital Phnom Penh.

A suspect has been arrested and police said they believed Kem Ley was killed because of a debt. Activists believe his murder was political. The United States has called for a credible investigation. The European Union and United Nations have expressed concern about the political tension.—Reuters

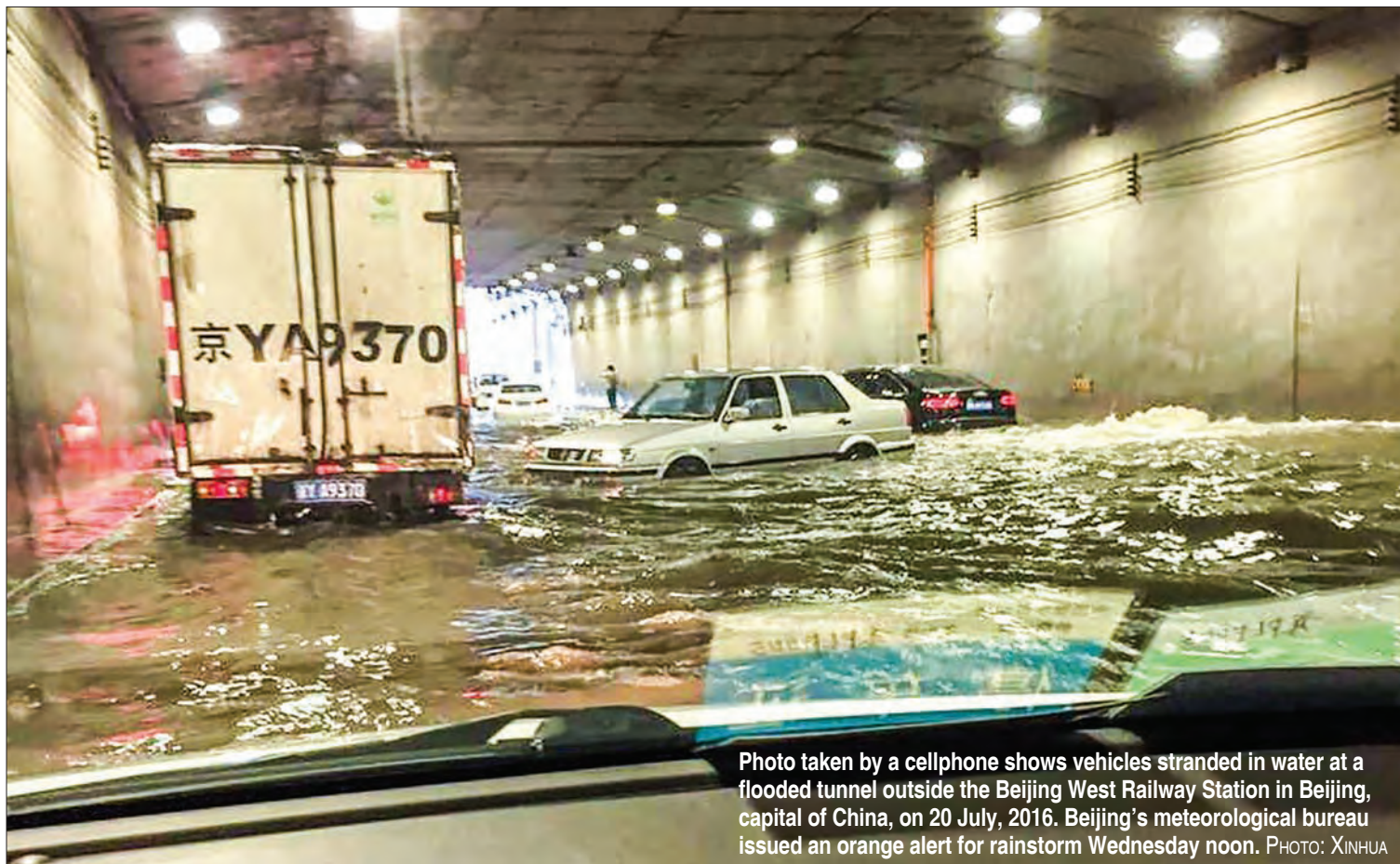


Photo taken by a cellphone shows vehicles stranded in water at a flooded tunnel outside the Beijing West Railway Station in Beijing, capital of China, on 20 July, 2016. Beijing's meteorological bureau issued an orange alert for rainstorm Wednesday noon. PHOTO: XINHUA

Beijing upgrades storm alert as heavy rain continues

BEIJING — An orange alert, the second highest of China's four-tier warning system, was issued on Wednesday as heavy rain hit Beijing, disrupting the traffic and forcing flights to be canceled.

Around 70 mm of rain fell in central and southern Beijing in six hours, according to the city's meteorological authority.

Heavy rain is expected to last until Wednesday night and may

exceed 100 mm.

The capital issued a blue storm alert at 7:30am Tuesday and raised it to yellow on Wednesday morning before raising it again in the early afternoon.

A total of 169 flights have been canceled at Beijing International Airport due to the rain. Train services have also been disrupted.

The national meteorologi-

cal authority on Wednesday also maintained its orange alert for rainstorms across the country.

Besides Beijing, torrential rain will hit parts of Tianjin, Hebei, Liaoning, Jilin, Inner Mongolia, Shandong, Henan, Jiangsu, Anhui, Hubei, Hunan and Yunnan from Wednesday afternoon to Thursday afternoon, with rainfall of up to 240 millimetres in some places.

The National Meteorological Centre advised people living in the affected areas to prepare for possible floods, landslides and mud and rock flows, and those that live in mountainous areas should move to safe places.

China has a four-tier colour-coded system for severe weather, with red being the most serious, followed by orange, yellow and blue.—Xinhua

North Korea says missile test simulated attack on South's airfields

SEOUL — North Korea said on Wednesday it had conducted a ballistic missile test that simulated preemptive strikes against South Korean ports and airfields used by the US military, a likely reference to the launches of three missiles on Tuesday.

The North's leader, Kim Jong Un, supervised the exercise that successfully tested the simulated detonation of nuclear warheads mounted on missiles, its official KCNA news agency reported.

It did not give the date of the exercise, as it customarily reports activities of its leader without dates or locations. Rodong Sinmun, the ruling Workers' Party's official newspaper, carried photographs of Kim with military aides, apparently observing a ballistic missile exercise.

North Korea fired three ballistic missiles that flew between 500 km and 600 km (300-360 miles) into the sea off its east coast, South Korea's military said, in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions and the latest in a series of provocative moves by the isolated country after a series of nuclear weapons tests.

"The drill was conducted by limiting the firing range under the

simulated conditions of making preemptive strikes at ports and airfields in the operational theater in South Korea where the US imperialists' nuclear war hardware is to be hurled," KCNA said.

"And it once again examined the operational features of the detonating devices of nuclear warheads mounted on the ballistic rockets at the designated altitude over the target area."

Yang Uk, a senior researcher at the Korea Defence and Security Forum and a policy adviser to the South Korean navy, said there was little firm evidence to suggest the North had succeeded in developing a nuclear warhead for missiles.

"But it's a reminder that they are continuing to pursue nuclear warhead development, and that itself is an escalation of risks for us," he added.

Tuesday's missile launches were seen as a show of force 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.

North Korea had threatened a "physical response" to the move.



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un watches the ballistic rocket launch drill of the Strategic Force of the Korean People's Army (KPA) at an unknown location, in this undated file photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang. PHOTO: REUTERS

"The idea seems to be to signal that (US) war plans cannot succeed because if we activated them, the North Koreans would strike as we made the attempt," said Joshua Pollack, editor of the US-based Nonproliferation Review.

Late on Tuesday, North Korean state media called US Ambassador to South Korea Mark Lippert a "mentally deranged hooligan" and "a heinous war ma-

niac" for flying in a US fighter jet earlier this month.

Reclusive North Korea occasionally publishes insults of US and South Korean officials.

The North 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 Japan, South Korea and the South's main ally, the United States.—Reuters

Bangladesh seeks whereabouts of 260 missing in hunt for militants

DHAKA — Bangladesh police are trying to determine the whereabouts of at least 260 young men who have been missing for a year or more, a security officer said on Wednesday, as part of an effort to track militants after a deadly attack this month.

Five young men killed 22 people, most of them foreigners, in an attack on an upmarket Dhaka cafe on 1 July claimed by Islamic State. Three of the attackers were from affluent Dhaka homes who had broken off contact with their families months ago.

Authorities have blamed the attack on a domestic militant group, but security experts say the scale and sophistication of the assault suggested links to a trans-national network.

In the days after the attack, the government appealed to families to contact authorities if their sons had disappeared.

A senior officer with the police-led Rapid Action Battalion (RAB), which is involved in the counter-terrorism effort, said a list of 260 missing young men had been compiled from reports from families and intelligence tip-offs.

"Some of the missing youngsters are sons of retired or serving army officials, bureaucrats and businessmen," Mufti Mahmud Khan, chief of the RAB's legal and media wing chief, told Reuters.

He said information was still being gathered and the number of missing was expected to grow.

On the list, which the RAB posted on its Facebook page, was a 16-year-old, a doctor whose father was in the army and a man who was arrested in 2013 with explosives but who went to Malaysia while on bail.

Mostly Muslim Bangladesh has faced a series of attacks on liberal bloggers, university teachers and members of religious minorities over the past year.

Islamic State has warned that the violence would continue until Islamic law was established worldwide, saying in a video the Dhaka cafe attack was just a hint of what was to come.

Three young Bangladeshi men who appeared in that video posing as fighters also appeared on the list of missing.—Reuters

Opinion

Citizenship versus multi-culturalism

Khin Maung Aye

IT is quite interesting to learn that citizenship has been a controversial notion throughout the history of the world. This is in fact a contested concept, involving a wide range of meaning depending on the types of political community in which it is put. There has been a heated debate since time immemorial as to what type of relationship should govern a political community both domestic and foreign or the nature of its membership along with right and duties. Such being the case, this is not a new phenomenon but has been the case of all political communities across time and space.

In this juncture, it is worth remembering that the issue of citizenship is not devoid of institutional mechanism and the governance process, which a particular community adopts. Accordingly, it need be analysed in consequence with the evolution of state-system and its governing process. Usually, it is understood that the form

and substance of citizenship in each historical period highlight the socio-economic and political forces operating in that particular period. Nevertheless, a deeper investigation has raised many more questions as to who the citizens are, what makes up citizenship, who are inclusive of and exclusive from citizenship and on what basis. In addition, there have also emerged questions as to it is only a legal or political status or it has something to do with the socio-economic or religious-cultural circumstance in which it is placed upon etc. These set of questions offer a complicated set of answers that must be understood in a historical perspective.

In a nutshell, citizenship must be considered from a historical perspective. In addition, multi-culturalism should not be neglected especially in a society like Myanmar which is inhabited by a plethora of national races and ethnic minorities, which, according to the statistics of the previous government, number 135 in toto.

Write for us

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.

Due to limitation of space we are only able to publish "Letter to the Editor" that do not exceed 500 words. Should you submit a text longer than 500 words please be aware that your letter will be edited.

Suzuki strikes sponsorship deal for 2016 ASEAN football cup

THE Suzuki Motor Corporation will back this year's ASEAN Football Championship, it has been learned. This will be the fifth year in a row the company has acted as a sponsor. The biennial AFF Suzuki Cup 2016 is being co-hosted by Myanmar and the Philippines with the tournament to kick off on 19 November.

The two countries will be hosting the group stages of the tournament for the first time since its inception in 1996.

The participating teams will be joined by one team from the

Qualification Round competition to be played in Cambodia from 15-21 October.

Hosts Cambodia, Brunei Darussalam, Laos and Timor-Le'ste will fight it out for the one spot at the Phnom Penh Olympic Stadium.

The AFF Suzuki Cup group stages will be played from 19 to 26 November in Myanmar and the Philippines, followed by the semi-finals and the final from 3 to 17 December which will be contested on a home and away basis.—GNLM

Nation Building and success stories on E-Government

Sayar Mya

THE Global New Light of Myanmar carried a news item saying "Yangon Government prepares to bring e-Yangon payment system online within six-months" in the 15 July 2016 issue.

It is learnt that the Yangon regional government is preparing to launch the "e-Yangon" system, a money transfer medium within six months and the public will be able to access information by calling a phone number (ph 1881) upon completion of the project. It was spelt out by the Yangon Region Chief Minister at a meeting involving officials from a one stop service center in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone in the second week of July.

The Chief Minister added that the system must be undertaken to make Yangon corruption free. The regional government is preparing the service to be available in 44 townships, except Kokogyun Township.

The Yangon Region Minister for Kayin National Race expressed her view that transparency will be boosted and corruption can diminish, thanks to the e-Yangon system.

The Myanma Freedom Daily also reported as follows.

The project will be executed in three stages and in the first stage, the information of the offices under the Yangon Regional government departments and information of the Yangon City Development Committee will be uploaded to the web portal so that the public can easily access the information of the relevant departments.

In the second stage, the public can download and send back the forms, questioning, complaining, reporting via the web portal and the government will establish the e-call center which will be accountable for serving the public requirements.

In the final stage, the public can apply for business licenses, pay tax, get the information of the various departments using Database management system, watching live traffic conditions via the web portal and can also make the transaction from the portal.

In this connection, the author would like to share some success

stories on e-government system through the use of ICT applications.

Global Perspective

From the United States to Cape Verde, governments around the world have embraced ICTs (Information, Communication and Technology), and the internet in particular. It is as a means of mainstreaming public policy decisions, practices and processes. At the same time, the system is providing citizens with greater and easier access to government services.

The network increased information flows between the public and private sector. Therefore, the citizens have improved transparency and accountability. It also established an environment of trust and reliability between citizens and elected officials / law makers in many parts of the world.

Moreover, many ministries / departments responsible for ICTs and modernization initiatives have realized the importance of a clear national strategy for becoming a part of the global Information Society and narrowing the gap between "Haves" and "Have-nots."

ICT stories from the field Awards Programme for Digital Cities- Latin America Success strategy:

The municipal areas of Latin America are often neglected in the government's modernization efforts. This informed the award of digital cities to reward the development of E-government initiatives and stimulate the modernization of these municipalities in Latin America.

The awards are made in three categories, which are:

- metropolitan area,
- medium size city,
- and small rural community.

The basic criteria for the contests are that these areas should have incorporated ICTs in its modernization process. This can be done through culture economics and must demonstrate a significant progress in the transition to a digital city.

Cultural economics is the branch of economics that studies the relation of culture to economic outcomes. Here, 'culture' is defined by shared beliefs and preferences of respective groups.

Programmatic issues include whether and how much culture matters as to economic outcomes and what its relation is to institutions.

Judgment criteria include existing accomplishments and the scope and quality of future plans and projects.

Two additional prizes are granted. First one is for E integration which emphasizes female labor contribution in the modernization process. Secondly, the regional E cooperation award which recognizes technical contribution in E government based on knowledge and technology transfer.

The award has made more visible on the applicability of ICTs to government. Subsequently creating model cities for other cities to emulate, leading to success story in e-government.

Republic of Korea: A National Success Story

The Republic of Korea's growing internet population is an important step towards the country's e-government efforts. In Korea, there is a strong awareness that an ICT literate citizenry is needed to make full use of the Government's online efforts, which have been bold and far-reaching.

Over a decade ago in January 2000, almost all government ministries and agencies were online and connected to a high-speed backbone network. Currently, more than 80 per cent of the central Government's documents are computerized and 55 per cent of the government's documents are handled electronically. A number of e-government projects have been implemented, including a registration system that has computerized over 200 million real-estate properties.

Information about the properties can be examined in real time and titles issued on demand. The system is accessible from government offices as well as kiosks. The word "kiosk" is a small structure in a public area used for providing information or displaying advertisements, often incorporating an interactive display screen or screens.

In the context of tourism industry, one or more kiosks are located in tourist areas in just about every city. The folks working



there always speak English, and are happy to answer all questions, provide maps, make hotel bookings, you name it. They can tell you train and bus schedules, and will make telephone calls to find out everything they don't have at their fingertips.

In this way, time spent on registering properties has been reduced from over two hours to less than five minutes.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of the Korean experience has been the Government's proactive and practical stance. In fact, they provide the necessary regulatory framework and supportive environment, in an effort to be one step ahead. It also encourages investment by companies and usage by consumers. Not surprisingly, Korea was one of the first countries to emphasize the importance of ICT as an economic stimulus.

Six major national projects have structured the direction of Government policies, including the recent "Global leader, e Korea". It is the slogan of the latest Ministry of Information and Communication (MIC) initiative. Goals include getting more than 90 per cent of all Koreans online, improving E Government and encouraging schools to use more sophisticated ICT applications.

India – WebCITI (Web Based Citizen-IT Interface) Success strategy:

An e-Governance project for

building citizen-IT interface for services offered by district administration at Fatehgarh Sahib in Punjab. Fatehgarh Sahib District is one of the twenty-two districts of the state of Punjab in North-West India. It also provides complete workflow automation in the District Commissioner's office. The WebCITI provides a web based interface to citizens seeking services from the district administration. The computer interface means the way a computer program presents information to a user or receives information from a user, in particular the layout of the screen and the menus.

These include issuance of certificates such as death/birth, caste, rural area etc. It also issued licenses such as arms license, permission for conferences/rallies etc and benefits from socio-economic schemes.

The Project has been appropriately funded by Government of Punjab and has been executed through National Informatics Centre Services Inc. (NICSI) of Punjab State Unit. The WebCITI has been augmented with DialCITY (Dialup based Citizen-IT Interface) to provide status as well as procedural information through telephone. It further extends the cause of providing efficient, transparent and quick information to the citizens.

One can have information on any services or status of his case or application on phone. One can

also find information about various schemes and procedures, status of one's application etc. through web Interface available through select intranet counters at developmental block / revenue tehsil. Tehsil also tahsil is an administrative division of India denoting a sub-district.

Webcity: Web-based Citizen IT Interface Project at Fatehgarh (Punjab) is doing fine as Webcity provides the Web-based interface to citizens seeking services from district administration. It facilitates the citizens to interact with the government.

Broadband 100% Installation Programme of Hyogo - Japan Success strategy:

The story of the Hyogo prefecture broadband initiative provides some perspectives for the developing world with its best practices of regional development programme. It is to promote partnership between the local government and business for building a broadband access network in rural areas.

Hyogo prefecture is located in the western part of Japan, which has been known as an area of disaster recovery from the Big Earthquake of Hanshin-Awaji in 1995. More, even if Japan is a technologically advanced country, there are huge underserved areas with regards to broadband services. In those areas, the dial up through fixed telephone line is still the only way to connecting to

internet.

Rapid progress of broadband access technologies has recently been made in both wired and wireless technologies in Hyogo. Technologies such as ADSL and wireless LAN, which become less and less expensive make easier to build broadband access environment even in the rural areas.

Over a decade ago, in 2004, in the Hyogo prefecture ADSL service coverage rate for households achieved 97.7%, while the overall average for Japan was 77.1%. This broadband success has been achieved thanks to the local government special measures entitled "Broadband 100% installation programme of Hyogo". The task was implemented through cooperation with business in order to bring efficient technology services to the rural areas.

From the point of view of the local community, this public-private partnership on the local level resulted in an improvement of the quality of life in the region and smooth development of local digital content, including an expansion of administrative services on the web. All the cities and towns administrations in Hyogo Prefecture --- including 28 cities and 32 towns as of 24 May 2005 --- developed their own website for better administrative services, as well as for dissemination and exchange of information among households, local industries and local administrations.

Furthermore, in the framework of the partnership an initiative was undertaken to connect all elementary schools to the internet. Thanks to the Harima Smart School Project, the majority of the local schools have been already connected through volun-

teers' organizations activity. And, the Hyogo New Media Council is a place for discussion among all the stakeholders of ICT development in Hyogo Prefecture for possible cooperative solutions.

This achievement could be reached with an active participation of the people in the local community, a working partnership among all of these stakeholders as well as a strong leadership of the local government authorities. While promoting the broadband information infrastructure constructions, Hyogo Prefectural Government endeavored to attain a wider goal of supporting a multi-dimensional cultivation of local community as well as an information sharing among all stakeholders, thus further creating new style of local community based on advanced ICTs.

Conclusion

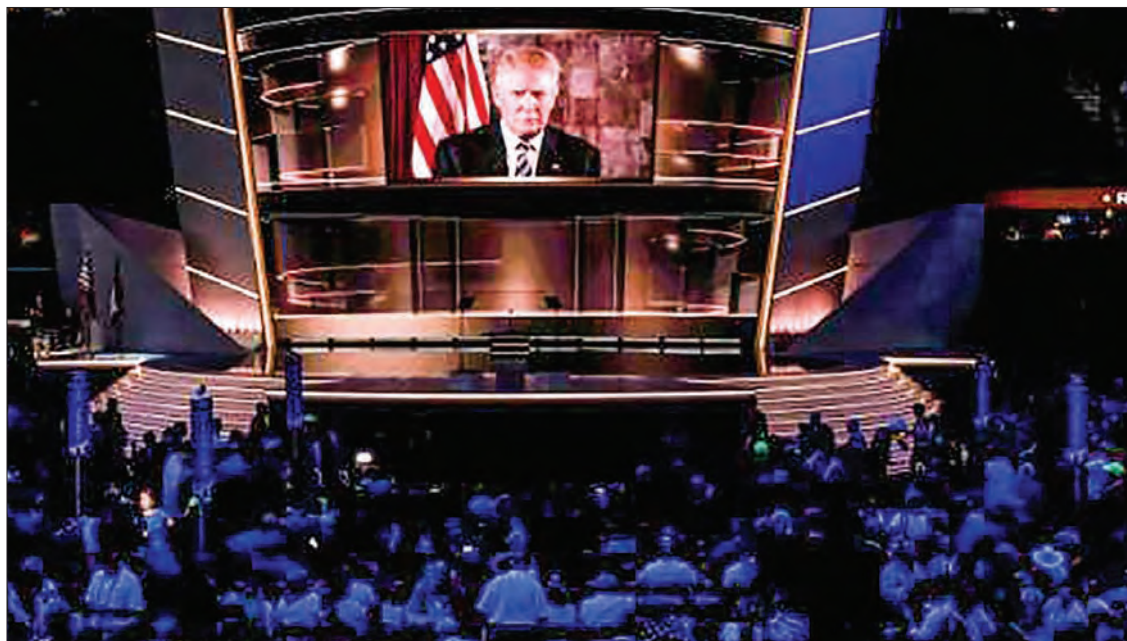
It is heartening and inspiring to learn that the Yangon regional government is preparing to launch the "e-Yangon" system, which is most likely in reducing bribery and corruption in Yangon Region, when it reaches the right direction.

The author has shared with the esteemed readers of The Global New Light of Myanmar on the success stories in summary with diverse background from the different locations of the planet on (a) Latin America; (b) Republic of Korea; (c) Punjab Province in India; (d) Hyogo of Japan. They have had their own challenges and time frames in the implementations of their intended targets by all stakeholders through strong commitment and subsequently reaping conquest.

The author sincerely wishes e-Yangon system a success.



Trump could seek new law to purge government of Obama appointees



Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump speaks live via satellite from Trump Tower in New York City during the second session at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, US, on 19 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CLEVELAND — If he wins the presidency, Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump would seek to purge the federal government of officials appointed by Democratic President Barack Obama and could ask Congress to pass legislation making it easier to fire public workers, Trump ally, Chris Christie, said on Tuesday.

Christie, who is governor of New Jersey and leads Trump's White House transition team, said the campaign was drawing up a list of federal government employees to fire if Trump defeats Democratic rival Hillary Clinton in the 8 November presidential election.

"As you know from his other career, Donald likes to fire people," Christie told a closed-door meeting with dozens of donors at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, according to an audio recording obtained by Reuters and two participants in the meeting.

Christie was referring to Trump's starring role in the long-running television show "The Apprentice," where his catchphrase was "You're fired!"

The Trump campaign did not respond to requests for comment.

Trump's transition advis-

ers fear that Obama may convert these appointees to civil servants, who have more job security than officials who have been politically appointed. This would allow officials to keep their jobs in a new, possibly Republican, administration, Christie said.

"It's called burrowing," Christie said. "You take them from the political appointee side into the civil service side, in order to try to set up ... roadblocks for your successor, kind of like when all the Clinton people took all the Ws off the keyboard when George Bush was coming into the White House."

Christie was referring to pranks committed during the presidential transition from Bill Clinton to George W. Bush in 2001. During that period, some White House staffers removed the W key on computer keyboards and left derogatory signs and stickers in offices, according to a report by the General Accounting Office, an investigative arm of Congress.

"One of the things I have suggested to Donald is that we have to immediately ask the Republican Congress to change the civil service laws. Because if they do, it will make it a lot easier to fire those people," Christie said.

He said firing civil servants was "cumbersome" and "time-consuming."

There was no immediate comment from the American Federation of Government Employees, which is the largest federal employee union in the United States. Christie also told the gathering that changing the leadership of the Environmental Protection Agency, long a target of Republicans concerned about over regulation, would be a top priority for Trump should he win in November. Trump has previously vowed to eliminate the EPA and roll back some of America's most ambitious environmental policies, actions that he says would revive the US oil and coal industries and bolster national security.

Christie added that the Trump team wants to let businesspeople serve in government part time without having to give up their jobs in the private sector. Trump frequently says he is better equipped to be president because of his business experience.

Although Christie was repeatedly asked during the meeting, he declined to name any potential Cabinet picks. He said Trump was not ready to do that yet.—Reuters

German foreign minister urges more ties between police, spy agencies

BERLIN — German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier called on Wednesday for greater cooperation between police and intelligence agencies in Europe as well as sustained international efforts to fight Islamic State after recent attacks.

The minister also said Germany would pledge a further 160 million euros (\$176 million) to help stabilize Iraq at a donor conference of 24 countries in Washington.

"The attacks of the past have shown us there is no absolute security," Steinmeier told Reuters in a written interview. "Terror strikes randomly and can hit each of us individually."

"The fact is, we urgently need even closer cooperation between police and intelligence agencies in Europe, and better information sharing."

He said it was also critical to keep fighting Islamic State in the Middle East and to improve the

prospects of people in areas freed from its influence. On Monday, a 17-year-old Afghan refugee injured five people in southern Germany before being shot dead by police, the latest in a string of attacks claimed by Islamic State.

Steinmeier said the only long-term way to combat extremism was to create conditions that allowed different religious and social groups to live together peacefully, both in the West and in the Middle East.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Selakovic: We will have more independent, more efficient judiciary

BELGRADE — By fulfilling the obligations from Chapters 23 and 24 in the EU accession talks, Serbia will get a more independent and more efficient judiciary, says Justice Minister Nikola Selakovic.

"Those are not things that happen overnight," Selakovic told the RTS Monday evening after the chapters had been opened in Brussels, adding that the judiciary must focus on benefits for citizens as otherwise the opening of chapters would be futile.

The opening of the chapters means a confirmation of the obligations Serbia itself has envisioned, and fulfilling those obligations is what will follow now, based on a consensus of all societal factors, Selakovic said. That means much more hard work, but also a much higher degree of certainty, he said.

The European Commission will oversee the implementation of those measures, but it will not be the one to solve key issues in the judiciary, as that will be Serbia's job, Selakovic explained.—Tanjug

Snake on a train: Australian police seize northbound pet python

SYDNEY — A pet python called 'Bread' was confiscated by New South Wales Police on Wednesday after the snake's owner started showing him off on a train.

Bread, a one-metre (3 feet) diamond python, was pulled out of a backpack by a 20-year-old man on a northbound Central Coast train, with worried passengers calling the police concerned for the snake's safety. Police met the man at Woy Woy train station, 80 km (50 miles) north of Sydney, at 1am (1500 GMT) and took the yellow and black snake when the owner said he didn't have a permit for it.

"If I could give one piece of advice, don't get your snake out on a train," Brisbane Waters Police Commander Superintendent Danny Sullivan said. The man was expected to be arrested for possessing and displaying protected fauna which carries a penalty of A\$300 (\$225), police said. Bread was taken to the Australian Reptile Park in Somersby, 50 km (30 miles) north of Sydney, and was in good health, Sullivan added.—Reuters

UK to give up its planned presidency of European Council — May's spokeswoman

LONDON — Britain will give up its planned presidency of the European Council, due to start in July 2017, a spokeswoman for Prime Minister Theresa May said on Wednesday after a conversation between May and council president Donald Tusk.

"The Prime Minister suggested that the UK should relinquish the rotating Presidency of the Council, currently scheduled for the second half of 2017, noting that we would be prioritising the negotiations to leave the European Union," the spokeswoman said.

"The Prime Minister explained that we will need to carefully prepare for the negotiations to leave the EU before triggering Article 50. Donald Tusk reassured the Prime Minister that he will help to make this process happen as smoothly as possible." —Reuters

British police officer stabbed after water fight turns violent

LONDON — A British police officer was stabbed after a water fight in London's Hyde Park turned violent late on Tuesday.

Several hundred people threw bottles at the police in Hyde Park, according to the BBC. One police officer was stabbed and the other was injured by a bottle.

"Both have been taken to hospital for treatment," police said in a statement. "Their injuries are described as not life threatening."

Police said two other people had suffered from stab wounds. One had injuries described as not life-threatening, while an update on the other was awaited.

Police officers remained at the scene until the crowds dispersed at around 0120 GMT (09:20pm EDT) on Wednesday. No arrests have so far been made.—Reuters

Three French soldiers killed in Libya — French defence ministry

PARIS — Three French soldiers have been killed in Libya, the defence ministry said on Wednesday.

It gave no further information. Earlier in the day, French government spokesman Stephane Le Foll said special forces were operating in the North African country.—Reuters

France says west plans strike on Islamic State in Iraq, confirms Libya presence

PARIS — France and the United States are preparing a coordinated strike against Islamic State on the militant group's stronghold in Mosul, Iraq, French government spokesman Stephane Le Foll said.

“(French Defence Minister) Jean Yves Le Drian is in Washington. He is preparing with the Americans a coordinated attack on Mosul,” le Foll said on France Info radio.

Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault spoke about a Washington meeting of the anti-Islamic State coa-

lition in an interview with Reuters on Tuesday.

Le Foll said he could not confirm a report in *Le Parisien* newspaper, citing an Associated Press report, which said two French special forces soldiers had been killed in Libya on Sunday.

However, he confirmed that French special forces were present in the country. “Special forces are there, of course, to help and to make sure France is present everywhere in the struggle against terrorists,” he said.—Reuters



French Defence Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian (L) and Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault attend the Bastille Day military parade on the Champs-Elysees in Paris, France, on 14 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Britain adds Chinese militant group to terror list

BEIJING — Britain has listed the East Turkestan Islamic Movement (ETIM) as a terrorist organisation, a move likely to please China, which has demanded Western support for its fight against a group it says seeks to split off its western region of Xinjiang.

Britain's Home Office, or interior ministry, on Friday designated ETIM, which it also called the Turkestan Islamic Party (TIP), as an “Islamic terrorist and separatist organisation” trying to create an “independent caliphate” in Xinjiang.

The United States and the United Nations have listed ETIM as a terrorist group, though there is some discrepancy internationally over whether ETIM and TIP are the same entity as China claims, and experts have questioned their cohesiveness.

Western countries have long been reluctant

to share intelligence with China or otherwise cooperate when it comes to counter-terrorism in Xinjiang, saying China has provided little evidence to prove ETIM's existence and citing worries about possible human rights abuses.

The addition of ETIM to the list of proscribed organisations comes as leaders from China and Britain have proclaimed the countries are enjoying a “golden age” in relations.

Inclusion on the list criminalises association with the group, according to the Home Office website. Criteria for the listing of a group include factors such as the “specific threat it poses to the UK” and “the need to support other members of the international community in the global fight against terrorism”.

The Home Office said the group is based in tribal regions of Pakistan, had

claimed responsibility for attacks in China, “maintained an active and visible presence in the Syrian war” and had detailed its “jihad against the Chinese authorities”. China's Foreign Ministry did not immediately offer a comment on the designation.

Hundreds have died in violence in recent years in Xinjiang, home to the Muslim Uighur people. Beijing blames the bloodshed on Islamist militants and separatists, though rights groups say the unrest is more a reaction to repressive Chinese policies.

The US State Department, in its annual report on terrorism around the world, said there was a lack of transparency or information from China about incidents Beijing called terrorism, and said counter-terrorism cooperation was limited.

It has also criticised Chinese restrictions on re-

ligious expression in Xinjiang, like banning veils for women.

China has asked the United States to respect what it says is its fight against militants in Xinjiang and has sought greater Western support for its domestic “war on terror” since the attacks in Paris last November.

Last week, Premier Li Keqiang called for greater global cooperation against terrorism. Dilxat Raxit, a spokesman for the World Uyghur Congress, the main Uighur exile group, said in an email that Britain had given China the pretence it needed to “increase its crackdown on Uighurs”.

“In China, any Uighurs that are unhappy with China's systematic policies of suppression are all accused of terror, but China is incapable of providing any evidence able to stand up to transparent examination,” he said.—Reuters

Israeli parliament enacts impeachment law, critics say targets Arab MPs

JERUSALEM — Israel's parliament on Wednesday passed a law enabling it to impeach deputies for incitement to violence, racism or support for armed struggle against the state, in a move critics said was aimed mainly at Arab legislators.

Some Arab parliamentarians have enraged Israel's Jewish majority by meeting with families of some of the Palestinians killed during a recent surge in street attacks on Israelis.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the new law ended “the absurd situation” whereby someone who “supports terror against the State of Israel and its citizens” could serve as a member of parliament.

Passed by a 62-47 vote, the bill is also seen by campaigners as the latest example of legislation promoted by Netanyahu's right-wing government attempting to curb freedom of speech.

“This is one of the most serious legislative proposals in recent years and it harms the very building blocks of democracy — the right to freedom of expression, the right to vote and to be elected, and the right to representation,” said Debbie Gilad-Hayo of the Association of Civil Rights in Israel. “Arab (lawmakers) whose actions and remarks do not find favour with the

political majority will be the first people harmed by the bill — however, it is a slippery slope and the bill has potential to affect all,” she said in a statement.

But the law could prove to be more symbolic than practical, as it requires at least 90 of the house's 120 members to vote in favour of any impeachment, a majority that may be hard to achieve in the fractious Knesset.

There are 18 Arab members of parliament, 16 of them in the opposition. Arabs citizens, many of whom identify as Palestinian, make up some 20 per cent of Israel's population.

In a move that the European Union said risked undermining democracy and free speech, parliament last week adopted a law requiring NGOs that receive more than half their funding from abroad to provide details of their donations.

This could have an impact on some of the most outspoken opponents of Israeli policies in the occupied territories, including groups such as the anti-settlement Peace Now and Breaking the Silence, which takes testimony from former soldiers on treatment of Palestinians.

Netanyahu said the law was aimed at preventing interference by foreign countries and entities in Israel's internal affairs.—Reuters

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The amphibious assault ship US Boxer transits the East Sea during Exercise Ssang Yong 2016 on 8 March, 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

US says its forces will keep operating in South China Sea

WASHINGTON — US military forces will continue to operate in the South China Sea in accordance with international law, the US Chief of Naval Operations John Richardson said on Wednesday during a visit to a Chinese naval base.

China has refused to recognise a ruling by an arbitration court in The Hague that invalidated its vast territorial claims in the South China Sea and did not take part in the proceedings brought by the Philip-

pin.

China has repeatedly blamed the United States for stirring up trouble in the South China Sea, a strategic waterway through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually.

China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam all have rival claims, of which China's is the largest.

The United States has conducted freedom of navigation patrols close to Chinese-held islands,

to Beijing's anger, while China has been bolstering its military presence there.

Meeting Yuan Yubai, commander of the Chinese North Sea Fleet, Richardson "underscored the importance of lawful and safe operations in the South China and elsewhere professional navies operate", the US Navy said. US forces would keep sailing, flying and operating wherever international law allows, Richardson added.

"The US Navy will continue

to conduct routine and lawful operations around the world, including in the South China Sea, in order to protect the rights, freedoms and lawful uses of sea and airspace guaranteed to all. This will not change," Richardson said he was supporting of the deepening of relations between the two navies.

"But I will be continuously reassessing my support conditioned on continued safe and professional interactions at sea. In this area we must judge each other by our deeds

and actions, not just by our words," he added. The United States has complained that Chinese aircraft and ships have performed "unsafe" maneuvers while shadowing US ships and planes, particularly in the South China Sea. Speaking in Sydney on Wednesday, US Vice President Joe Biden assured key ally Australia there would be no retreat from Washington's pivot to the Asia-Pacific region, regardless of who wins November's presidential election.—Reuters

Brazil probes Olympics threats after group backs Islamic State

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil's intelligence agency said on Tuesday it was investigating all threats to next month's Rio Olympics after a presumed Brazilian Islamist group pledged allegiance to Islamic State (IS) less than three weeks before the Games.

The SITE Intelligence Group that monitors the internet reported that a group calling itself "Ansar al-Khilafah Brazil" said on the Telegram messaging app on Sunday that it followed IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and had promoted IS propaganda in Arabic, English and Portuguese.

Brazilian authorities stepped up security measures following the truck massacre in Nice last week, planning security cordons, further roadblocks and the frisking of visitors in Rio de Janeiro for the Olympics.

Police and soldiers took part over the weekend in drills near sports facilities and along trans-



A passenger waits as Brazilian Air force soldiers patrol the Tom Jobim International airport ahead of the 2016 Rio Olympics in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, on 19 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

port routes. The Games start on 5 August and are expected to attract as many as 500,000 foreign visitors.

"All threats related to the Rio 2016 Games are being meticulously investigated, particu-

larly those related to terrorism," the Brazilian intelligence agency ABIN said in a statement when asked to comment on the previously unknown group's claim of support for Islamic State.

"Many are dismissed and

those that deserve attention are investigated exhaustively," ABIN said. An agency spokeswoman declined to comment on whether the posting by the group presented a credible threat.

ABIN last month confirmed it had detected a Portuguese account on the Telegram app that was a channel for exchanging information on Islamic State but authorities said no threat had been detected of an attack in Brazil.

Since Thursday's attack in Nice where a truck plowed through crowds during Bastille Day celebrations, Brazil has sought to reassure the international community that the Games will be safe and terrorist threats are being taken seriously.

On Monday, interim President Michel Temer issued a video message inviting foreigners to come to Rio and enjoy the Games and the beauty of the host city.

"We have reinforced security very much in the city and you can come without worries. You can enjoy the marvels of Rio de Janeiro and attend the Games," he said in the brief video.

Brazilian security officials say they are in close contact with partner countries about any possible threats to the Games and have been monitoring chatrooms and other communications among suspected sympathizers of radical groups.

They said their biggest concern during the Olympics is not the threat of a coordinated attack by known militants but the possibility that a lone actor or group sympathetic to militant causes could seek to target the event.

Brazil will deploy about 85,000 soldiers, police and other security personnel, more than twice the size of the security deployment during the London Olympics in 2012.—Reuters

French lawmakers back emergency rule after Nice attack, inquiry sought

PARIS — French lawmakers approved a six-month rollover of emergency rule on Wednesday in the wake of last week's truck attack on the city of Nice, the third deadly assault in 18 months for which the Islamic State militant group has claimed responsibility.

President Francois Hollande's Socialist government remained under pressure, however, over security standards as the head of the regional government in the southern Nice area demanded an inquiry into policing levels on the night of the carnage.

Tunisian Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlejel drove a truck into crowds of Bas-

tille Day revellers in the 14 July attack in the Riviera coast resort of Nice, killing 84 people before he was shot dead by police. Around 38 of the 84 killed were foreigners.

The extension of extra search-and-arrest powers for police was approved by 489 votes to 26 shortly before dawn in France's National Assembly, the lower house of parliament.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls, jeered by crowds at a remembrance ceremony on Monday and criticised by political opponents over the attack, called for national unity as he presented the emergency rule bill overnight.—Reuters



A view shows the crowd gathering near a makeshift memorial 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

China pipeline fire kills two, cuts gas supplies

HONG KONG / SHANGHAI — CHINA's Sinopec has shut down a section of the Sichuan-East China gas pipeline in the country's central region after it was hit by a landslide and fire, killing two people.

The fire was under control and the company was working to restore the facility that carries natural gas from the southwestern

province of Sichuan to eastern China, a spokesman for China Petroleum & Chemical Corp (Sinopec) said.

Associated gas wells were also being shut down, he said.

The accident happened in a remote region in central Hubei province. Central China has experienced heavy rains in recent weeks, resulting in landslides and

widespread flooding.

Sinopec said it has cut off 9.8 million cubic metres of gas supply per day to industrial users following the accident. The company was working with fellow state-owned energy firm PetroChina to arrange an emergency daily supply of 5 million cubic metres of gas per day for residential users, the spokesman said.

Two people were killed in the accident, Xinhua reported, without giving further details.

China launched an investigation into safety at oil and gas pipelines in November 2013 after more than 50 people were killed in an explosion at a Sinopec oil pipeline at the eastern oil hub of Qingdao.—Reuters

Hundred jihadis still entering Syria from Turkey each week—Le Figaro

PARIS — French military intelligence estimates that about 100 foreigners continue to enter Syria from Turkey each week to join Islamic State, French daily *Le Figaro* reported on Wednesday.

France's foreign minister said on Sunday that questions needed to be asked on whether Turkey was a viable partner in the fight against Islamic State in Syria and would raise the issue in a coalition meeting in Washington this week.

"According to the Direction for Military Intelligence (DRM) in Paris, each week, about 100 foreigners continue to cross Turkey into Syria to join Islamic State," *Le Figaro* reported, citing sources.

The defence ministry did not immediately comment on the report.—Reuters

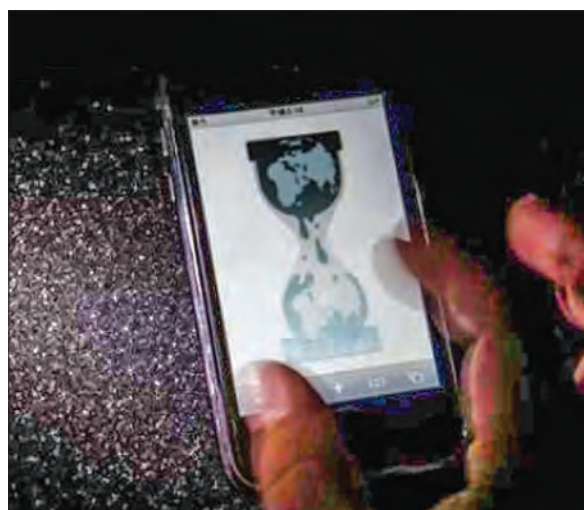
Turkey blocks access to WikiLeaks after ruling party email dump

ISTANBUL — Turkey has blocked access to the WikiLeaks website, the telecoms watchdog said on Wednesday, hours after it leaked thousands of ruling party emails just as Ankara grapples with the aftermath of a failed military coup.

Around 50,000 soldiers, police, judges and teachers have been suspended or detained since the attempted coup on the weekend, and Turkey's Western allies have expressed concern over the crackdown's reach.

WikiLeaks on Tuesday released nearly 300,000 emails from the AK Party dating from 2010 to 6 July this year. Obtained before the attempted coup, the date of their publication was brought forward "in response to the government's post-coup purges", WikiLeaks said on its website.

The source of the emails was not connected to the coup plotters or to a rival political party or state, WikiLeaks said.



The logo of the Wikileaks website is pictured on a smartphone in this picture illustration taken in Tokyo on 29 November 2010. PHOTO: REUTERS

Founded by Julian Assange, WikiLeaks publishes leaked material, mostly from governments. In 2010, the organisation published classified US military and diplomatic documents in one of the largest information leaks in US history.

Turkey's Telecommunications Board said on Wednesday that an "ad-

ministrative measure" had been taken against the website — the term it commonly uses when blocking access to sites.

Turkey routinely uses Internet shutdowns in response to political events, which critics and human rights advocates see as part of a broader attack on the media and freedom of expression.—Reuters

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Chris Martin performs son's favourite songs

LOS ANGELES — Coldplay frontman Chris Martin performed his son Moses' favourite track, from the film "Back to the Future".

The 39-year-old "Hymn for the Weekend" hitmaker, got the special request through video projection, and gave an impromptu performance of song "Earth Angel" from the movie, reported Entertainment Weekly.

During the performance at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey, actor Michael J Fox, who played a role of Marty McFly in the trilogy, joined the band onstage and even performed a guitar solo. —PTI

Johnny Depp's makes first red carpet appearance post

LOS ANGELES — Actor Johnny Depp made his first red carpet appearance since his split with estranged wife Amber Heard.

The 53-year-old "Black Mass" star accompanied his "Hollywood Vampires" bandmates for the annual Starkey Hearing Foundation Awards Gala in St Paul, reported E! Online. The event was also attended by Jennifer Garner, Buzz Aldrin and Jay Leno.

Depp, who caught up in a controversy for allegedly abusing his wife, walked the carpet and posed alongside Alice Cooper and his wife, Sheryl Goddard for camera.

"I've been lucky enough to play characters like Edward Scissorhands, Captain Jack Sparrow and my only sort of goal is of making someday a positive change, he said during the event.—PTI

Jane Fonda to auction off wedding dress, engagement ring

LONDON — Actress Jane Fonda is giving up her most prized possessions- her wedding dress and engagement ring from Ted Turner- in a Los Angeles auction.

Titled 'Property from the Collection of Jane Fonda,' the event is scheduled to be held on 23 September, reported People magazine. Julien's Auctions, the house that has also sold items owned by Michael Jackson and Marilyn Monroe will be hosting the event. The Collection of Jane Fonda is "a story of Fonda's life, representing different points in her celebrated career and personal life," the press release reads.



PHOTO: REUTERS

The lace gown and opal ring are from 1991, when Fonda, 78, married media mogul Turner, 77, in a Capps, Florida, ceremony. While her ivory dress features a Victorian-style high neck edged with lace and long sleeves, the oval black opal engagement stone is set in 18-karat yellow gold and nestled between two white diamonds. Julien's estimates their worth between USD 2,000 to USD 4,000.—PTI

resending different points in her celebrated career and personal life," the press release reads.

Harry Styles needed no acting tips, says Mark Rylance

LONDON — Mark Rylance is impressed with One Direction singer Harry Styles' acting caliber and the actor says the debutant does not need any tips.

Styles is set to start his acting career with Christopher Nolan's war epic "Dunkirk," alongside Rylance and has managed to surprise him, reported Femalefirst.

"No, he doesn't need tips. He is shaping up. I didn't know anything about him really other than my 12-year-old niece played me a music video. She adores him. There are girls all over the place trying to get to him — he is one handsome fella with an incredible smile and eyes.

"What's really surprised me is he's really witty, really funny — he really makes me laugh. He's been ever so brave, not making any fuss," Rylance said.

The "Bridge of Spies" star even compared him to Sean Penn.

"He seems remarkable... One of those people (who has) — Sean Penn has it too — a kind of panache. I look at them and think, 'How did you get that? How do you get so that life is easy?' But he has got a lovely, lovely character. It's a gift."

The film also stars Tom Hardy, Cillian Murphy, Kenneth Branagh, and James D'Arcy.

"Dunkirk" is scheduled to release on 21 July, 2017. —PTI

Taylor Swift now officially credited for Calvin Harris'

LOS ANGELES — Singer Taylor Swift has now been officially credited as the co-writer of ex boyfriend DJ Calvin Harris' track "This is what you came for".

Swift, 26, is now listed as a songwriter-composer for the song on BMI, the performing arts Organisation that collects license fees and distributes royalties to artists.

The change was instituted late last week, reported Entertainment Weekly.

Upon its release, the hit track, which features Rihanna, listed Harris, 32, and one Nils Sjöberg as the songwriter-composers.

The BMI record has since been amended after, last week, it was confirmed that Swift co-wrote the single under the Sjöberg pseudonym.—PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS

Hidden Budapest bath a locals' favourite for vibe, healing power

BUDAPEST — Hungary's capital owes its popularity as a tourist destination partly to its numerous hot springs and bathing culture which have drawn visitors to the area since Roman times.

Bath houses range from large, ornate 19th-century buildings like the Gellert and the Szechenyi to tiny Ottoman Turkish-era hamams, some of them more than 500 years old. However, few command such fierce loyalty from locals as Lukacs, an intimate bath complex wedged between the Buda hills and the Danube river.

Tucked away in a leafy hospital courtyard, Lukacs offers not only swimming and bathing facilities but also boasts special healing powers for its mineral-rich waters.

"No other bath house compares," said the director of the site, Mariann Eva. "Time has stopped here, and the harmony and the vibe are absolutely unique. Guests calm down, take life slowly, engage with one another."

There has been a bath house at the site, which sits atop a hot spring,

since the 12th century and its clients have included the 20th century composer and educationalist Zoltan Kodaly. In the communist era, especially in the 1970s and 1980s, Lukacs was a gathering place for artists and intellectuals, providing an island of relative free speech.

Hundreds of marble thank-you plaques on the outside wall speak of the healing power of the waters for the joints, the back and various diseases of the organs.

As well as regular swimming lanes and a large pool with massage and jacuzzi functions, Lukacs has a Turkish bath complete with saunas and steam rooms.

Medical massages are administered by experienced professionals. Bernadett Marosi, 72, has been coming to Lukacs daily for decades and her devotion led her to turn down an invitation from her daughter to move to Italy to live with her. "I told her I couldn't (move to Italy). My life is here and the strength I get for my life comes from Lukacs," Marosi said.

—Reuters



Bathers swim at the Lukacs Bath in Budapest, Hungary on 23 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

TV personality Kyosen Ohashi dies at 82

TOKYO — Veteran Japanese television personality and former upper house member Kyosen Ohashi died of acute respiratory failure at a Chiba hospital on 12 July, his office said Wednesday. He was 82.

Born in Tokyo, Ohashi, whose real name was Katsumi Ohashi, entered Waseda University in 1952 to study journalism but quit the university and became a jazz critic.

After working for music television programmes, he became the host of popular midnight TV show "11PM" in 1966. The show dealt with themes ranging from politics to entertainment, including mah-jong, horse racing and golf, and ran for more than 20 years.

His popularity grew as he appeared in quiz shows and various other TV programmes.

In 2001, Ohashi ran in the House of Councillors election as a candidate of the now defunct Democratic Party of Japan.

Although elected, he resigned six months later dissatisfied with



File photo taken in December 1973 shows Kyosen Ohashi hosting a TV show. Ohashi, whose real name is Katsumi Ohashi, died of acute respiratory failure at a Chiba hospital on 12 July 2016 at the age of 82, according to his office.

PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

the party's leadership.

Ohashi had business interests abroad and spent the last stage of his life in Australia and Canada. He had suffered cancer since 2005.—Kyodo News

Luxury hotel to open 27 July on Akasaka Prince site in Tokyo

TOKYO — Seibu Holdings Inc. will open The Prince Gallery Tokyo Kioicho, the group's top luxury hotel, on the site of the Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka in central Tokyo on 27 July.

The new hotel will occupy the top seven floors of the roughly 180-metre Kioi Tower, which will also have office floors. Guest rooms will feature large windows for views from the heart of the capital.

Besides 250 guest rooms,

the hotel, which will be the first Luxury Collection property of Starwood Hotel & Resort, will have a fitness gym, a swimming pool and a spa.

"We aspire to be a hotel that is loved on a global scale," said Hisaaki Takei, a senior official of the hotel's operator Prince Hotel Inc., during a preview tour for the media on Tuesday.

The commercial complex housing the Prince hotel was built at a cost of roughly 104

billion yen (\$980 million) in the capital's Chiyoda Ward. Tenants on the office floors of the tower's middle level include Yahoo Japan Corp. Cafes and restaurants on lower-level floors opened in May.

The classical western building on the premises that had been used as the Akasaka Prince Hotel and later as an annex is now named the Classic House at Akasaka Prince and will be used as a banquet hall.—Kyodo News

Summer scorcher: Heatwave bakes Britain

LONDON — Britain enjoyed the hottest day of the year on Tuesday (19 July), with temperatures soaring to possible highs of 35 degrees celsius in some parts of the country, Britain's Met Office said.

People sunbathed and ate ice creams in St James' Park in Lon-

don in the 32 degree celsius sun.

Gorillas in London Zoo were treated to refreshing fruit ice blocks to cool down from the heat. In the northern England seaside resort of Blackpool, where temperatures hit more than 28 degrees celsius, children splashed around on the beach.

Britain has so far had a drizzly summer, but the hot weather is expected to continue through to Wednesday (20 July) in southern parts of the country.

The Met Office issued thunderstorm warnings for later on Tuesday in the central and northern areas of the UK.—Reuters

Entertainment Channel

(21-7-2016, Thursday)

06 : 00 pm • Weather Report • Pyi Thu Ni Ti 06 : 30 pm • Cartoon Programme • "Kung Fu Panda" (Part-2) 07 : 10 pm • International Drama Series 07 : 50 pm • International Drama Series 08 : 30 pm • MRTV Entertainment Music 08 : 50 pm • Tigers, Lions and The Guardians	09 : 00 pm • International Movie Songs 09 : 10 pm • Memorable Yaw Region 09 : 30 pm • Music Programme 09 : 40 pm • Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma 10 : 00 pm • Hand Down Arts Heritage 10 : 20 pm • Myanmar Video Midnight • Close Down
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From 21-7-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm
To 22-7-2016 (Friday) 6:00 pm

Myanmar International

(21-7-2016 07:00am ~ 22-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh 07:03 Am News 07:26 Am A Novitiation Ceremony in a Rural Township 07:51 Am Famous Pagodas of Sagaing 08:03 Am News 08:26 Am Myanmar Traditional Thatched Roofs: IN-LEAF 08:43 Am The Recycle Art: Tyre 09:03 Am News 09:26 Am The Art of Making Glaze Ware 09:44 Am Shwe U Min Natural Cave In Kalaw 10:03 Am News 10:26 Am The Man and The Elephant (Part- I) 10:41 Am The Man and The Elephant (Part- II) 10:55 Am Paper Flower	Prime Time 07:03 Pm News 07:26 Pm To My Dream City (Part- 1) 07:49 Pm Welcome to the Southernmost part of Myanmar 08:03 Pm News 08:26 Pm Myanmar Traditional Identity (EP- 2) Myanmar Chinthe (Myanmar Lion) 08:41 Pm Coin Collectors 08:48 Pm Serene and Happy Rural Life in Myanmar (09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm)- Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Wednesday Repeat (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) (For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)
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PHOTO: REUTERS

Injured Woods to sit out rest of season

TORONTO —

Tiger Woods has shut it down for the rest of the professional golf season, bringing into question his playing future as the best golfer of his generation will be away from the sport for over a year when, and if, he returns.

Woods, who is recovering from multiple back surgeries that have kept him out of action for nearly a year, hinted earlier this year that he might not play this season but it was finally made official on Tuesday.

The PGA Championship announced that Woods had withdrawn from the 28-31 July event at Baltusrol, marking the first time he will miss all four majors in a calendar year, while his agent confirmed his client is done for the season.

“Not going to play in the ‘15/’16 season. We will assess this Fall when to come back and play for the ‘16/’17 season,”

Mark Steinberg said in an email to Reuters after Golf Channel had first reported the news. The

2016-17 PGA Tour season starts in mid-October in Napa, California, which marks the start of a seven-tournament run through November before the schedule resumes in January.

No one, not even Woods, can possibly know how the former world number one will fare when he makes his PGA Tour return after an absence that dates back to the Wyndham Championship in August 2015, where he tied for 10th.

Woods, famously, used to say he would never tee it up in a golf tournament unless he thought he was capable of winning and he is clearly being cautious about rushing his return to a game that has since seen a handful of young stars crowd the top of the world rankings. Woods, who made 11 starts on the PGA Tour last season and just seven the season before, had his first back surgery in early 2014. A second microdisectomy was performed last September with a follow-up procedure six weeks later.

In late February, in an effort to shoot down reports that suggested he endured setbacks during his rehabilitation process, Woods posted a video of himself swinging a golf club in front of an indoor golf simulator, seemingly without discomfort.

A week later the 14-times major champion said he was feeling “a lot better” and still had intentions of playing golf “at the highest level.”

In mid-May, Woods said he was “progressing nicely” but then hit three balls into the water on a short par-three hole during an exhibition to promote a tournament he hosts. Last month, Woods indicated that he might not return to competition this year, saying he needed to be patient during his recovery.

A winner of 79 PGA Tour titles, Woods was world number one a record total of 683 weeks but his form has slipped dramatically in recent years due to injuries and the mastering of a new swing, while his ranking has plummeted to a mind-boggling 628th.

“It’s been a long road,” Woods said in April after playing his first stretch of holes since last August, at a golf course opening in Montgomery, Texas.

“To actually be able to play soccer with my kids again, to do something like this, to be able to live life, that’s what’s been nice. Five months ago I couldn’t.”

The 40-year-old Woods has not won a tournament since 2013 and last won a major at the 2008 US Open.—Reuters

West Brom goalkeeper Myhill extends contract to 2018

LONDON — West Bromwich Albion goalkeeper Boaz Myhill has extended his contract until 2018, the Premier League club said.

The 33-year-old made 23 league starts last season and replaced Ben Foster, who spent much of the campaign on the sidelines with a knee injury, as first-choice keeper.

“We’re delighted Boaz has agreed a contract extension and we’ve secured his services for

an additional year,” coach Tony Pulis told the club’s website (www.wba.co.uk).

“Boaz is a great professional and he provides good competition for Ben.”

Myhill joined the club in 2010 from Hull City.

West Brom, who finished 14th in the league last season, open their 2016-17 campaign at Crystal Palace on 13 August.—Reuters

Demba Ba says not retiring after horror Shanghai leg break

SHANGHAI — Former Chelsea striker Demba Ba is not considering retirement after suffering a career-threatening leg break while playing for Shanghai Shenhua in the Chinese Super League.

The 31-year-old collapsed in the second half of his side’s derby victory over Shanghai SIPG, with his left leg giving way beneath the knee as he fell to the ground, but the Senegalese hopes to be back in time for next season.

“This is a really bad injury

but I can overcome it. I won’t call time on my career, that’s for sure,” Ba, who also had spells with West Ham United and Newcastle United, told Radio Monte Carlo.

“The season here ends in November and the new one starts in March. I’ll do my best to return in time for the season after that.” Shanghai Shenhua are fifth in Chinese championship standings and will face Shijiazhuang Ever Bright on Thursday.—Reuters

‘I want to be Neymar-dependent’ — Brazil Olympic coach

RIO DE JANEIRO — Brazil Olympic football coach Rogerio Micalle said on Tuesday he will be happy if his team is dependent on Neymar at next month’s Rio 2016 Games.

Micalle met the 24-year-old for the first time on Tuesday at the team’s training base in Teresopolis, near Rio de Janeiro, and the coach was impressed with what he saw.

“My impression of him was better than I expected. He is extremely motivated, he is aware of what the Olympics represent and wants to help as much possible.”

When asked if he was concerned the team might rely too heavily on the Barcelona forward, Micalle replied: “I want to be Neymar-dependent. Who wouldn’t want him in their team? I always want him in my team but I also want him to be happy playing.”

Micalle took charge of Brazil’s Olympic team last month after Dunga was sacked as coach of the Olympic and national teams following the Selecao’s



Brazilian Olympic national head coach Rogerio Micalle greets the main national team head coach Tite (L) after attending a news conference to announce Brazil’s soccer team for the Olympics at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil on 29 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

group-stage elimination from the Copa America.

The Olympic football tournament is the sport’s only major international competition that Brazil has yet to win.

Micalle’s side will fine-tune

their preparations for the tournament with a friendly against Japan in Goiania on 30 July.

Brazil will debut at the Rio 2016 Games against South Africa in Brasilia on 4 August.—Xinhua