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KEEP YOUR AXES AT BAY

LOGGING SUSPENDED ALONG BAGO YOMA FOR 10 YEARS

LOGGING in Myanmar has ceased for this financial year with logging along the Bago Yoma mountain range ceasing for the next ten years, according to the Department of Forestry that operates under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation.

The Department of Forestry has stated that as of 2015 the mountain range is 26 per cent forest, accounting for 9m acres.

"Upon resumption of logging activities to other areas around the country, the annual volume will be reduced," explained U Myo Min, director of the Department of Forestry.

Once logging resumes the size and circumference of trees will be taken into account prior to logging.

"Calculations have been made as to the number of trees, whose trunk circumferences measure over the minimum set width, which will be able to be logged," continued U Myo Min.

"Restrictions must be set on the size of trees that can be cut down. In the past, only teak trees measuring more than 7 feet and 6 inches could be logged.

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A man uses a chainsaw to cut teak logs in a logging camp in Myanmar in this picture taken on March 5, 2014. Photo: Reuters

Rescued boat men give a press conference in Yangon. Photo: CTUM

11 trafficked fishermen rescued in Yay

Ko Moe

ELEVEN trafficked fishermen were rescued by the police and the Confederation of Trade Unions Myanmar (CTUM) in July with the arrest of six suspects for trafficking.

The rescue and arrests came on 12 July after the CTUM tipped off police that a trafficked fisherman in Yay Township, Taninthayi Region, contacted the CTUM's migrant labour unit on 6th July.

At the press conference held in Yangon yesterday the trafficked fishermen voiced their concern that about 90 per cent of the total number of held fishermen remain to be rescued from their work on the Myanmar sea.

U Maung Maung, President of CTUM, said the organisation would submit a recommendation letter regarding the trafficking in persons to the parliament.

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomed by teachers on her arrival at the ceremony to open a seminar on the implementation of education promotion. PHOTO: MNA

Primary education sector improvement stressed by State Counsellor

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi stressed the need for strengthening the country's basic education sector, calling on teachers to perform educational activities in combination with goodwill, devotion and sacrifice yesterday.

In her address at the opening of a seminar on the implementation of education promotion (basic education sector) organised by the Ministry of Education in Nay Pyi Taw, the State Counsellor said that teachers' power of sacrifice will be boosted if they have goodwill and devotion to in their teaching profession.

She called on educational stakeholders to give careful thought to whether teachers are able to earn the trust and respect from their students' parents and whether the country's education system is laying sound foundations that help students prepare for the challenges of tomorrow.

Acknowledging that teaching primary students is a hard job the State Counsellor highlighted the importance of viewing teaching as a noble profession and working on own confidence of nurturing the next generation.

"If teachers are satisfied with their own job, an education system that can develop the skills of future generations will emerge." added the State Counsellor.

Next, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi elaborated on basic education sector's statistics and called for participation of all in the ministry's efforts to improve the country's education sector. The seminar is set to last for three days until tomorrow with officials concerned reading respective papers and those present holding group discussions on the papers.—*Myanmar News Agency*

BBC reporter freed from jail following appeal

A JOURNALIST from the BBC's Myanmar-language service was freed from prison yesterday after a court accepted his appeal against a three-month sentence with rigorous labour.

Nay Myo Lin, the journalist working for BBC, was handed the controversial sentence in June for allegedly striking a policeman.

The local court accepted his appeal and reduced the sentence from three months to one and half months.

The incident occurred while the journalist was covering the demonstration of students against an education bill in Mandalay on 27 March, in which he allegedly harmed a police officer. —*Aung Thant Khaing*

Myanmar mountaineers honoured for successful ascent of Mt. Everest

Thein Ko Lwin

THE Ministry of Health and Sports honoured the three Myanmar mountaineers who reached the top of Mt. Everest in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

In his speech honouring Win Ko Ko, Pyae Phyo Maung and Nyi Nyi Aung for their successful climb of Mt. Everest Union Minister Dr Myint Htway stressed the need for passing down their experiences to younger counterparts.

"I am very proud of the three climbers who have raised the aspirations of the younger generation for mountaineering expeditions" the Union minister said.

The ministry awarded K1 million to each climber and presented certificates of honour during the ceremony attended by officials concerned and responsible persons of the Myanmar Hiking and Mountaineering Federation.

The three Myanmar climbers reached Mt. Everest's summit and planted the country's flag on the peak of the mountain on 19 May this year.

"I am extremely pleased and happy because I have brought glory to the nation", said Pyae Phyo Maung, expressing his view that training and team spirit was the key to their success.

According to one of the team the MHMF and Technical Climbing Club of Myanmar trained them to scale Mt. Everest while the Htoo Foundation mainly sponsored the expedition. According to sources only about 90 climbers including the Myanmar mountaineers have successfully climbed Mt. Everest, the highest mountain in the world.

High-rise suspension causes loss of K5 B to K6 B for developers

DEVELOPERS have faced K5 to K6 billion losses following the regional government's suspension of high-rise buildings in Yangon, according to a press conference yesterday.

Developers held the press conference on the Yangon Region's government's high-rise review that resulted in the termination of permits for 12 high-rise projects that had received construction permits and 185 buildings that had met policy requirements.

We were granted permission to build as our projects complied with the rules of departments concerned previously, said developer U Myo Myint.

It took two or three years to pass the policy and a 12-and half-storey development requires ground inspections before construction kicks off, added the developer, stating that there are six steps to pass the scrutinising process while a building is under construction.

The Yangon region government formed a high-rise inspection committee on 17 June after ordering a temporary suspension of 185 high-rise projects across the city for review on 14 May. The Yangon City Development Committee has finished drafting the new policy for the construction of buildings and has a plan to make the new policy public, according to YCDC.

Developers have complained the against authorities for losing billions of kyats following the suspension of high-rise buildings in Yangon. PHOTO: KYAW ZEYA

An instruction to cut the number of floors on 12-floor buildings among high-rise projects was released in the second week of this month. Last month the YCDC suspended applications for the construction of high-rise buildings but has accepted applications for low-rise buildings this month. Currently, 141 high-rise buildings have been suspended pending checks. — *Ko Moe*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi meets with Oxford University Pro-Vice Chancellor

STATE Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi received Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Nick Rawlins of Oxford University at the Ministry of Education building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two representatives held discussions on the upgrading of Yangon University, cooperation in education on water use and management, training programs for faculty members and educational staff and conducting Yangon urban transport research and English proficiency programmes.—*Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Pro-Vice Chancellor Professor Nick Rawlins of Oxford University. PHOTO: MNA

Union Information Minister meets with Country Director for BBC Media Action

UNION Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint held talks with Mr. Ed Pauker, Country Director for BBC Media Action in Myanmar, on works for the development of Myanmar Radio and Television in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the talks the two representatives discussed cooperation between the MRTV and BBC Media Action in the joint production of programmes, transforming public service media, further production of TV programmes that can benefit the people and matters related to the creation of issue-based reporting and analytical reporting programmes.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Logging suspended along Bago Yoma for 10 years

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This has since been changed to six feet and six inches," said U Myo Min.

Forest conservation efforts will be conducted simultaneously with logging activities, while unofficial logging has been prohibited and logging permits for private companies will also reportedly no longer be granted. U Myo Min also said, "Trees would still be rather large even if this lower. But, since the re-growth rate of trees wouldn't prove to be cost-effective only trees over six ft and six inches have been permitted to be logged."—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Religious data from 2014 Census released

MYANMAR'S Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population published figures on religion in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, one year after releasing the main census results in May 2015.

According to the data on religion, 78.9 per cent of the national population of approximately 51,486,253 people including an estimated 1,206,353 people who missed out on the census in parts of Kachin, Kayin and Rakhine States are Buddhist.

Christians make up 6.2 per cent of the total population while Muslims constitute 4.9 per cent, Hindus 0.5 per cent, animists 0.8 per cent, others 0.2 per cent and people with no religion 0.1 per cent.

According to the ministry the numbers for each religion released yesterday covered population in regions and states only and religious populations at the district and township level are not included in the current data set.

Figures at the district/township level were not released in order to keep the confidentiality of personal data in accordance with the 2013 Population and Housing Census Law, said Union Minister U Thein Swe.

Compared to the 1983 religious census data the Buddhist population in Yangon has decreased by approximately 1 per cent while Christian and Muslim populations are projected to rise by 2 per cent and 1 per cent respectively based on the recent data, a surprising revelation for public groups that have put forward inaccurate predictions on religious denominational growth in the region in the past.

The release identified that 46,600 people in Kachin State, 69,753 in Kayin State and 1,090,000 in Rakhine State were not included in the census.

The Union minister assured the media after the ceremony that the figures released are accurate and reliable.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Motorists, bus drivers tested for alcohol on Expressway

THE Highway Police Force announced yesterday that action will be taken against those booked for drunken driving and speeding on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway beginning 1 August after the education period from 1 to 30 July is over.

Motorists and bus drivers have been tested for alcohol and stopped for using excess speed on the expressway, according to the Highway Police Force.—*Than Oo (Laymyathnar)*

Hotels help lacquer ware industry in Bagan

Women work on lacquer wares at an industry in Bagan. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

A decrease of tourists to Bagan this wet season has forced lacquer ware dealers to rely soly on hotels as a point of sale, according to shopkeepers. Hotels not only sell them but also use them to serve food from.

Hotels from Yangon and Mandalay are also ordering Bagan laquer ware.

"We're only processing large-scale orders, hotels are employing the use of lacquer ware products for more than just decoration these days. The number of hotels making orders with us has increased as a result," said Ko Aung Kyaw Htun, owner of the U Ba Nyein lacquer ware store in Bagan.

The creation of a laquer ware product can take anywhere between four-six months with the process involving bamboo, wood and wooden dies.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

K10m donated to monastic school

K10m being donated to the Sayadaw of monastic education school. PHOTO: GNLM

MTTK Trading Co, a subsidiary of Maxxis International has donated K10m (US$8454) to Yangon's Natmauk Pariyatti Monastery that educates 600 underprivileged students for free. This is the first time the company has provided cash to out-of-school children.

Mr Choochart Korcharoenkiat, chair of the MTTK (Maxxis Myanmar) and Dr Wally Chen of Maxxis International Co, donated teaching materials to students of the monastic education school and also handed over the cash on Wednesday.

The move aims to help promote students' learning by using donated facilities, the company's spokesperson said.—*GNLM*

Nay Pyi Taw old road section to be extended and upgraded

THE Ministry of Construction is planning to extend and upgrade the Nay Pyi Taw section of the old Yangon-Mandalay highway, it has been learned from Nay Pyi Taw council.

"As there are a number of old trees on the Nay Pyi Taw section of the old road we will need to fell them" said Colonel Min Naung of the Nay Pyi Taw Council.

The section of the Yangon-Mandalay old road to be upgraded is located in Zayarthiri township. The section is 20 feet wide with two traffic lanes and is where most road accidents occur in the region.

"The road will be expanded 16 more feet. 40 trees in total, located on both side of the road, need to be felled for the expansion of the road to go ahead. We will seek the agreement of locals to fell the trees." the colonel added.

The Nay Pyi Taw section of the old Yangon-Mandalay highway is 70 miles long in the Nay Pyi Taw council area.

The Ministry of Construction is currently facing complaints from local people because of their planned destruction of old-growth trees.

"We welcome the expanding of the road but we want to know if there are other ways to extend the road without cutting down the trees. We will protect the trees as much as we can when they extend the road." said U Myo Myint from Kyauk Chat village.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Crime NEWS

Heroin and Yaba confiscated

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Tamu confiscated heroin from a motorcycle driver at Tamu town check point on Monday. Acting on a tip-off police stopped a motorcycle heading for Khan Pat from Tamu that was being driven by one Ma Aye Mi Kyaw with Ma Khin Nwe Phyo on board. Police discovered heroin weighing 50 grams.

Similarly, police from Banyin searched motorcycle driver Soe Maung on Taunggyi-Hsi Seng road and found 221 yaba pills.

Police from Momeik township stopped one Ma Arr Yee who was walking on the road near Moe Lo village and discovered 10.07 grams of heroin and 360 yaba pills.

Ma Aye Mi Kyaw with Ma Khin Nwe Phyo and Ma Arr Yee.
PHOTO: THE MIRROR

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

Fugitive arrested on murder charges

A MAN wanted on suspicion of killing two people was found in Thatyetkone village, Phayagyi town on Tuesday. According to police he was arrested for looking suspicious and later identified as a wanted man.

When interrogated, Saw Kyaw Swa alias Saw Aung Kyaw Swa alias Saw E Kaw Htoo, 49, told police that he was responsible for the murder of two people on the Yangon-Mandalay road, near Indagaw village, Bago region on 5 May, 2015.

Saw Kyaw Swa (a) Saw Aung Kyaw Swa (a) Saw E Kaw Htoo.
PHOTO: MPF

The police seized a firearm and four rounds of ammunition from him following a search. Police have taken action against the suspect under section 19 F of the Arms Act for being in possession of a firearm without a license.—*Myanmar Police Force*

One dead and two injured following motorcycle accident

A 12-year-old girl died and two others were injured in a motorcycle accident on Myit Chay- Kamma road, Pakokku township on Tuesday.

According to an investigation a motorcycle being driven by one Myo Aung, 19, with Ma Khin Myo Kyaw, 20, and Ma Theint Theint Win, 12, on board crashed into a trailor car being driven by Ye Tun, 19, when the latter stopped the car abruptly between mileposts 3/7 and 4/0.

Ma Theint Theint Win succumbed to her injuries at the scene while Myo Aung and Ma Khin Myo Kyaw were injured seriously in the accident. Both of the drivers have been deemed guilty of careless driving.—*Kyaw Zaya*

Man charged over stick hurling incident

POLICE arrested a man for hurling a stick at a vehicle on the highway near Kyaukdaga township, Bago region on Tuesday.

According to an investigation, a Hijet vehicle being driven by U Than Win with seven passengers on board decelerated when the driver saw a man holding a stick on the road ahead. The man reportedly then hurled the stick at the passengers in the back of the vehicle when the car stopped. The stick struck the head of a passenger identified as Ma Ye Ye Win. The driver promptly informed local police. Upon interrogation police identified the belligerent stick wielder as one Soe Win, a local of Than Bayagon, Kyaukdaga.— *Phyo Ko Lin*

Belligerent stick wielder Soe Win.
PHOTO: PHYO KO LIN

LOCAL Business

CBM plans to practice RTGS online

THE Central Bank of Myanmar (CBM) has planned to practice Real Time Gross Settlement (RTGS) online to transfer money between banks and customers, according to a CBM representative. The online system can save time, but according to the report, banks must build trust between one another.

Currently, a small number of banks use the system amongst one another with guidance from the CBM. Many expect the system to take off in the near future.

"The RTGS system was used between the CBM and other banks as of April when they were transferring large sums of money. Now technical requirements are being satisfied in order to use the system with customers," said U Mya Than, chairman of Myanmar Oriental Bank.

Adding, "Some banks have practiced this method but not many customers use this system. Therefore, the banks need to advertise it."

With the foreign banks entering the local market, CBM is planning to practice online systems, while CBM will bid an auction to sell and purchase US dollars with foreign banks in September.—*200*

The Central Bank of Myanmar in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: REUTERS

300 development projects to be conducted over five years

337 development projects are to be undertaken over the next five years with the assistance of US$1bn from international donors. The priority of these projects is aimed at infrastructure.

From April 2011 to August 2015, 242 development projects received $875m in funding.

Foreign monetary assistance has been set to allocate to the respective sectors: 21 per cent in construction sector; 11 per cent in rural development sector; nine per cent in technology sector and social protection sector; seven per cent in education sector; six per cent in transportation and industry sectors respectively; five per cent in health sector; four per cent in vocational training sector; three per cent each in statistics sector, water supply, agriculture, communication; two per cent each in prevention of natural disaster sector and forestry sector and media sector; one per cent in trade, tourism, electric power and energy sectors respectively. Foreign assistance aims at reducing poverty rate and effectuating the economic development in the developing country.—*GNLM*

Only 52 high-rise buildings granted continuation of construction

OUT of 64 high-rise buildings that have seen construction suspended for not being built in accordance with rules and regulations only 52 have been given the green light by the Yangon City Development Committee (YCDC) to continue construction, it has been learned.

Officials rechecked in detail all 64 high-rise building projects in the city to determine if they were working in accordance with metropolitan characteristics and construction guidelines. High-rises are also required to meet set safety standards to protect people from natural disasters like earthquakes and fire.

The remaining 12 buildings will need to be rebuilt to meet requirements, some of those lacking sufficient drainage systems, proper car parking designs, fire safety requirements, sewage water treatment systems, proper electric wiring and parking capacity among others.

To continue construction of the rejected 12 building projects the construction teams will need to redesign the buildings and re-apply for a construction permit. —200

Import value of capital goods decreases by US$800m over 3 months

THE import value of capital goods has decreased by US$800m over the first three months of this FY, compared to this time last year, according to the Ministry of Commerce. This year fetched just under US$1.7bn with Myanmar earning $2.6bn last year.

The main import products to Myanmar are capital goods, industrial raw materials and personal goods. The import of industrial raw materials is highly seen because the infrastructure buildings and construction sites are being conducted in Myanmar.

Imported capital goods from the 1st April to 8th July this FY fetched over US$56million from the state-owned sector and over US$1.6billion from private sector. Last year imported capital goods earned $786m from the state-owned sector and $1.8bn from the private sector.

In foreign trade sector, the import ratio is expected to have larger than expected export ratio up to 2020, according to the Ministry of Commerce. Foreign trade declines every year due to exports outdoing imports, claims the report. —*GNLM*

Only five local and foreign delivery services legal, claims MTT

ONLY five local and foreign fast delivery services are allowed legally by the authorities and so action will be taken if unregistered companies are found, it has been announced by Myanmar Telecommunications under the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications.

Although the postal service can only be handled by Myanmar Telecommunications under the Ministry of Transport and Telecommunications the government has allowed five local and foreign fast delivery companies to conduct postal services to enable more consumer options.

The officially registered international fast delivery company is Transmarine Asia Pte Ltd, which is local, whereas the international and domestic registered fast delivery companies are Magnate Group Logistics Co Ltd and the United Courier Services Co Ltd. Officially registered domestic fast delivery companies are Royal Express Services Co Ltd and Speedy Business Services Co Ltd.

Those found in violation of the licence law may face a five-year imprisonment term and fines. Both moveable and immovable property of the violators will be confiscated.—*GNLM*

We've been looking in the wrong place, MH370 search team says

SYDNEY — Top searchers at the Dutch company leading the underwater hunt for Malaysia Airlines jet MH370 say they believe the plane may have glided down rather than dived in the final moments, meaning they have been scouring the wrong patch of ocean for two years.

Flight MH370 disappeared in March 2014 with 239 passengers and crew onboard en route to Beijing from Kuala Lumpur. Searchers led by engineering group Fugro (FUGRc.AS) have been combing an area roughly the size of Greece for two years.

That search, over 120,000 square kilometres of the southern Indian Ocean off Western Australia, is expected to end in three months and could be called off after that following a meeting of key countries Malaysia, China and Australia on Friday. So far, nothing has been found.

"If it's not there, it means it's somewhere else," Fugro project director Paul Kennedy told Reuters.

While Kennedy does not exclude extreme possibilities that could have made the plane impossible to spot in the search zone, he and his team argue a more likely option is the plane glided down — meaning it was manned at the end — and made it beyond the area marked out by calculations from satellite images.

Children write messages of hope for passengers of missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 at Kuala Lumpur International Airport (KLIA) outside Kuala Lumpur on 14 June 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

"If it was manned it could glide for a long way," Kennedy said. "You could glide it for further than our search area is, so I believe the logical conclusion will be well maybe that is the other scenario."

Doubts that the search teams are looking in the right place will likely fuel calls for all data to be made publicly available so that academics and rival companies can pursue an "open source" solution — a collaborative public answer to the airline industry's greatest mystery.

Fugro's controlled glide hypothesis is also the first time officials have leant some support to contested theories that someone was in control during the flight's final moments.

Since the crash there have been competing theories over whether one, both or no pilots were in control, whether it was hijacked — or whether all aboard perished and the plane was not controlled at all when it hit the water. Adding to the mystery, investigators believe someone may have deliberately switched off the plane's transponder before diverting it thousands of miles.

The glide view is not supported by the investigating agencies: America's Boeing Co (BA.N), France's Thales SA (TCFP.PA), US investigator the National Transportation Safety Board, British satellite company Inmarsat PLC(ISA.L), the UK Air Accidents Investigation Branch and the Australian Defence Science and Technology Organisation.

The meeting between officials from China, Australia and Malaysia is expected to discuss the future of the search. The three governments have previously agreed that unless any new credible evidence arises the search would not be extended, despite calls from victims' families.

Any further search would require a fresh round of funding from the three governments on top of the almost A$180 million ($137 million) that has already been spent, making it the most expensive in aviation history.

Deciding the search area in 2014, authorities assumed the plane had no "inputs" during its final descent, meaning there was no pilot or no conscious pilot. They believe it was on auto-pilot and spiralled when it ran out of fuel.

But Kennedy said a skilled pilot could glide the plane approximately 120 miles (193 km) from its cruising altitude after running out of fuel. One pilot told Reuters it would be slightly less than that.

For the aircraft to continue gliding after fuel has run out, someone must manually put the aircraft into a glide — nose down with controlled speed.

"If you lose all power, the auto-pilot kicks out. If there is nobody at the controls, the aircraft will plummet down," said a captain with experience flying Boeing 777s — the same as MH370. Like all pilots interviewed for this story, he declined to be named given the controversy around the lost jet.

Fugro works on a "confidence level" of 95 per cent, a statistical measurement used, in Fugro's case, to indicate how certain the plane debris was not in the area they have already combed, a seabed peppered with steep cliffs and underwater volcanoes. "The end-of-flight scenarios are absolutely endless," Fugro managing director Steve Duffield said. "Which wing ran out of fuel first, did it roll this way or did it tip that way?"

—Reuters

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Five killed as seaplane crashes into Shanghai bridge

SHANGHAI — Five people died on Wednesday when a seaplane they were travelling in crashed into a bridge in Shanghai on its maiden flight to an offshore island, the government said.

The Cessna 208, operated by AVIC Joy General Aviation, was carrying 10 people from Shanghai's Jinshan district to Zhoushan, an island in the eastern province of Zhejiang, the district government said in a statement.

One survivor is seriously hurt and is undergoing surgery, while four others sustained lighter injuries, the government said.

The cause of the crash is under investigation, it added.

Xinhua news agency said the airline is the first seaplane operator in eastern China approved to carry passengers.

A rescue site is seen after an aircraft, registered as B-10FW from Joy General Aviation, crashed during a ceremony for its first flight, in Shanghai, China, on 20 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

An airline official, reached by telephone, declined to comment.

AVIC Joy General Aviation is an affiliate of state-owned Aviation Industry Corp of China.

—Reuters

Japanese banknotes seized by Taiwan customs in February likely fake

TAIPEI — Japanese banknotes with a combined face value of 119 million yen (US$1.1 million), seized by Taiwanese customs earlier this year, are believed to be fake, a customs official said on Thursday.

The Taipei Customs official confirmed to Kyodo News that careful examinations conducted by Taiwanese and Japanese experts have concluded that the money discovered in the suitcase of a Japanese man during routine luggage checks in February was counterfeit. "We will inform the criminal investigation authorities of the result and let them take care of the rest," said the official who declined to be named.

The man, who had planned to take a flight from Taipei to Manila on 19 February, told authorities then that he intended to take the stacks of banknotes, which are old versions of 10,000 yen bills, to the Philippine capital for appraisal.

When leaving and entering Taiwan, travellers are required to declare currency, gold, traveller's checks, securities or stocks exceeding an amount equivalent to $10,000. Those who fail to declare or give incorrect information could see the undeclared cash seized.

—Kyodo News

From Pyongyang with love — North Korea restarts coded spy broadcasts

SEOUL — "Now we'll begin a mathematics review assignment for members of the 27th expeditionary unit of the distance learning university," the woman's voice crackled over the radio.

"Turn to page 459, question 35; 913, question 55; 135, question 86."

Isolated North Korea has restarted coded radio broadcasts, presumed to be targeted at its spies, for the first time in 16 years last month, South Korea said on Wednesday.

The messages, a recording of which was broadcast by South Korean TV channel KBS, were disguised as a mathematics lesson for distance learners and reappeared on North Korean radio station Voice of Korea in the early hours of Friday.

North and South Korea are still technically at war after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in a truce, not a peace treaty, and tensions are running high.

North Korea, which has carried out a string of rocket and nuclear weapons tests in defiance of UN Security Council resolutions, said on Wednesday it had conducted a ballistic missile test that simulates strikes against South Korean ports and airfields used by the US military, apparently referring to three missile launches on Tuesday.

Those 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.

The radio messages, also known as numbers stations, work by broadcasting strings of seemingly random numbers over shortwave signals to an agent in the field. The technique, a method of sending one-way secret messages, dates to the French Resistance in World War II and is still in use by some governments today.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un provides field guidance to the Paektusan Architectural Institute in this undated photo released by North Korea's Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) in Pyongyang on 14 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

South Korea jams most North Korean radio frequencies but Pyongyang-based Voice of Korea broadcasts on shortwave signals which can be picked up far beyond the Korean peninsula, and are difficult to jam.

The receiving agent, armed with a radio and a pen, uses an easily concealed pad with corresponding letters on it to listen to and decrypt the secret message.

"(North Korean) numbers broadcasts have been on hold for quite some time but have recently resumed, something we think is very regrettable," Jeong Joon-hee, a spokesman for South Korea's unification ministry, told a media briefing on Wednesday.

It was not clear whether the signals were meant to deceive or deliver genuine instructions.

"I can't speak to their intentions, but we hope that the North will refrain from an old practice like this and behave in a manner that's conducive to improving South-North ties," Jeong said.

Seoul has also operated a numbers station, former agents told Reuters in 2013. Officials at the National Intelligence Service were not immediately able to confirm their use. South Korea's station is known as "V-24" to amateur radio enthusiasts who have tracked the source of the signal to a location somewhere south of the Demilitarised Zone separating the two Koreas, and has been known to begin with a scratchy rendition of Beethoven's Piano Sonata No.8.—*Reuters*

Japan foreign minister to visit Laos from Sunday for regional meets

TOKYO — Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida will visit Laos from Sunday to Tuesday next week to attend a series of regional foreign ministerial meetings involving the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

In the Laotian capital of Vientiane, Kishida will discuss ways to strengthen cooperation with ASEAN and also exchange views on regional and international affairs including China's military buildup in the South China Sea, a senior ministry official said.

Kishida also plans to hold bilateral talks with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi and Philippines Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay on the sidelines of the meetings, which include the 27-member ASEAN Regional Forum and the ASEAN-plus-three foreign ministerial meeting, a Japanese government source said.

Kishida's talks with Wang and Yasay would be the first since an international tribunal ruling on a case brought by the Philippines found "no legal basis" for China's claim to historic and economic rights over almost all of the South China Sea.

In his respective meetings with Wang and Yasay, the Japanese minister is likely to stress the importance of the rule of law and call to comply with the tribunal ruling and to resolve disputes in a peaceful manner, the source said.

Undated photo shows Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida, who will visit Laos for three days from 24 July 2016, to attend a series of regional foreign ministerial meetings involving the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, his ministry said on 21 July. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

The ASEAN-plus-three process involves the 10 ASEAN member states — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam — plus China, Japan and South Korea.

The ASEAN Regional Forum, the largest annual security meeting in Asia, will likely see a rare appearance of North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho.

Kishida's possible contact with Ri would be notable as North Korea continues to pursue nuclear and missile development programs despite global condemnation.—*Kyodo News*

Heavy rainfall and heat swamp Sri Lanka's anti-dengue drive

COLOMBO — High temperatures and unseasonal rains have combined to effectively scuttle Sri Lanka's efforts to curb dengue, experts say.

The island is facing yet another outbreak this summer, with infections more than doubling in June to 3,421 cases, up from 1,477 cases during the same period in 2015.

The epidemiology unit of the Ministry of Health said that 23,000 infections had been reported countrywide up to the second week of July. In comparison only 29,000 cases were reported for the whole of 2015.

The outbreak follows heavy rains in May that left large parts of the island inundated for days. Just before the rains, the country witnessed an extended period of above-average temperatures, with the Meteorology Department confirming some areas were experiencing temperatures between 2 to 3 degrees Celsius higher than usual.

Changing weather patterns, as a result of climate change, are likely to make the battle to control dengue increasingly difficult in years to come, officials say.

"Changing rain patterns contribute to extend the period of dengue virus transmission due to more (mosquito) breeding. Temperature also plays a pivotal role by contributing to high level of (mosquito) activity," said Faseeha Noordeen, a senior lecturer and virologist at the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Peradeniya.

"These collectively contribute to extended periods of transmission and outbreaks," she said.

The capital Colombo and the surrounding Western Province have been the hardest hit areas, with close to 50 per cent of the infections reported from the province, which is also the country's most densely populated area.

Of the 29,000 infections reported so far, 7,400 have been from Colombo.

A man carries vegetables and cooking items as he walks through a flooded road during a wet day in Colombo, Sri Lanka on 16 May, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

During the May floods, large areas of Colombo were underwater for several days and, prior to the rains, the district also recorded high temperatures.

"It is obvious that changing rain patterns contribute to spread and expansion of dengue in the island," Noordeen said.

As during past outbreaks, government authorities have heightened eradication and awareness programmes.

Members of the armed forces have been tasked with clean up operations and public officials in high-risk areas in Colombo have warned of strict action, including legal cases, against those who permit standing water on their property, which allows mosquitoes to breed. —*Reuters*

China eyes eight cruise ships to serve South China Sea

BEIJING — Up to eight Chinese ships will offer cruises to the South China Sea over the next five years, a state-run newspaper said on Thursday, as Beijing continues to promote tourism to the disputed waters.

Sanya International Cruise Development Co Ltd, a joint venture by COSCO Shipping, China National Travel Service (HK) Group Corp and China Communications Construction Co Ltd, will buy between five and eight ships, the official *China Daily* reported. It will also build four cruise liner docks in Sanya, a Chinese resort city on the southern island province of Hainan, the paper added. Liu Junli, chairman of Sanya International Cruise, said the company is already operating the "Dream of the South China Sea" cruise ship and plans to add another two cruise ships by next summer, the report said.—*Reuters*

Opinion

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Constitutions guarantee fundamental rights

Khin Maung Aye

THERE is no country in the world that does not have a constitution, which governs both the government and the people. The constitution enshrines in it important rules which have legal binding not only upon the government but also upon the people. All the constitutions prescribe rules regarding the conduct of the government, its duties and responsibilities, the relation between the government and the people and the rights and responsibilities of the people. And what is more, the constitutions establish order in the societies, render the government accountable and the people be aware of why the governments exist for the people.

In this regard, it is worth noting that constitutions normally encourage and strengthen democracy by granting freedoms to people and enabling them to participate in the government. Nevertheless, the ruling regimes promulgate constitutions which serve their interests rather than those of the people.

The fundamental rights are usually guaranteed to the individuals by the constitutions. Generally, there are six basic rights in almost all constitutions. They are: the right to equality; the right to freedom; the right against exploitation; the right to profess any religious faith; the cultural and educational rights; and the right to constitutional remedies.

Again, the rights fall under two categories – the moral rights and the legal rights with the former based upon the sense of morality and conscience whereas the latter are those privileges, which are recognized and enforced by the state. If one violates the legal rights, his violation will lead to punishment by the state. And these legal rights can be further divided into civil rights and political rights, with the former being privileges essential to a free, civilized and decent civil life while the latter enabling a citizen to participate in the affairs pertinent to management and control of the government. It should be noted that there are certain rights like the freedom of speech and the right to freedom of association which come under both civil and political rights.

To poo or not to poo, that is not the question!

Tin Aung

WHEN it comes to humans of the mamal family we say: they relieve themselves and when it comes to canines and 'felines, they poo. Poo can be a verb as well as a noun; in this short, silly literary piece the present author shall use both verb and noun sense of the word. Whether it is relieving or paving, it all boils down to answering the call of nature—the thing all the living, breathing beings must dutifully carry out each and every day. Law of gravitation—whether it be the newtonian or einsteinian version —states that whatever goes up must come down. In the same vein it can be said that whatever goes in must, sooner or later, come out. This is so because the input and output must be kept in balance so as to keep the body a hundred per cent efficient.

Tok Pisin is one of the two official languages of Papua New Guinea, the biggest islands nation in South Pacific. PNG is unique in that with a population of only about 4 millions it has over 700 different languages, TP is a colourful, down to earth language: with a vocabulary of a few hundred words one can go a long way towards expressing and making oneself understood. To back up my point here is an example.

In English there are multiple words meaning the same thing; for instance, fired, releived, booted out, given the pink slip, made redundant, shown the door mean sacked from a job. In TP it's the other way round. The TP word rausim is derived from the German word raus. In TP rausim has multiple meanings: throw away, erase, get rid off, kicked out, banished. So, rausim wara (water) would mean urinate, rausim black board would mean erase the bb, rausim long wok (work) would mean sacked from job.

And rausim pekpek (excretion) means—what else? - to give out you know what; in simple English, to poo.

Here, now, is the central theme of the present article. It has to do with canines and felines pooing randomly and recklessly on public roads or where ever.

I live in a neighbourhood that could be quite lovely if not for the stench emanating from animal-excretion. Ours is short dead-end street with some twenty households. A couple of neighbours choose to have two pet dogs—one a basset hound and the other a golden retriever. As pets go they are of good pedigree. The nearest neighbour of mine on the right and the next nearest neighbour on the left have as pets a collection of cats that breeds almost like rabbits.

The two dogs have the nasty habit of going to toilet not too far but far enough from their places. And, so, it came to pass that my residence fits their requirement ideally. Here, then, is the daily ritual of my two neighbours: come 6 am sharp, they would come out of their respective houses and let loose their pets. Once the dogs are released they dashed to their favorite spot while the owners retired into their compounds and closed the gates. This is a signal that the dogs are not to return home before they had done their thing. Once the call of nature had dutifully been answered, the dogs went back to the respective gates and barked at a low decibel level. The lovely neighbours, as if on que, let them in. For these two blokes mission is accomplished and all is well that ends well. Unfortunately, though, things do not end well for me. Once the dogs have completed their tasks, swarms of flies congregate at the heaps of pekpek to have their brakefast. One might as well ask what is wrong about that. The feast itself is not a problem but it's the spin off that is quite bothersome. After the flies have had their fill they would be attracted by the culinary aroma of the better half's cooking and the moment there is a gap in the fly-wire screened door, they would enter the house at supersonic speed. One inside, they would rest anywhere they liked--food included. This surely is quite annoying to say the least.

The cats, too, are pests. It so happens that all of the residences at our street, except mine, have their compounds completely paved over with concrete. I have left a corner of my yard unpaved. The intention was to leave some ground on which to grow some trees hoping thereby to help, in a humble limitted way, reduce the size of the ozone hole up above. Global warming and all that, you know. Unfortunately, though, this piece of ground serves as a favorite place for them to poo. The cats' poo also turn out to be equally troublesome. Period. The poo problem then needs to be addressed. But, how?

First and foremost, the pet owners must be made accountable. They must be made socially aware that letting their charges to poo on the public street is quite an irresponsible action. This can probably be done by educating through mass media. Knowing quite well that quite a few of us wouldn't give a hoot about such educating, municipal codes must be put in place to control such socially irresponsible acts. The owners must be induced to collect their pet 's droppings in, say, plastic bags. This recalls to mind what U K M Myint wrote in one his articles—namely, that on one of his early morning strolls he saw an expat clearing the mess excreted by his dog through collecting the excrements in a plastic bag. A commendable act, indeed!

A sure fire way would be to follow the method used in certain cities and counties of US. Owners are required to register their pets. At the time of registration the DNA of the pet is recorded. Once an unattended pile of poo is found, its DNA is tested and the deliquent owner identified. The owner is then fined a certain amount. A repeat offender is fined a larger amount. A third offence will result in the owner being booted out from the neighbourhood. As they say: three strikes and you are out. That, certainly, is a neat way of enforcing the municipal code.

So, then, the question is not whether pets can poo on public streets or not, but that the owners be held accountable.

Now, what of ownerless waifs and strays? They should be locked up in animal ponds where they belong as K M Myint had suggested in a GNLM article of his. Looking forward to a cleaner, healthier environment.

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Attendees of ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement-ACIA Forum and Seminar posing for a group photo. PHOTO: ACIA

ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement-ACIA Forum and Seminar concludes

THE ASEAN Comprehensive Investment Agreement Forum and Seminar concluded yesterday with the participation of experts over the benefits of the ACIA.

Jointly organised by the ASEAN Secretariat and the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration under the Ministry of Planning and Finance with the assistance of the Australian Government through the ASEAN-Australia Development Cooperation Program Phase II, the two-day forum and seminar kicked off on Wednesday at the Kandawgyi Place Hotel in Yangon.

During the ACIA Forum and Seminar experts discussed the provisions of the ACIA and its benefits.

The forum and seminar aims to introduce and promote the ACIA to ASEAN investors, government agencies and the private sector, to improve the understanding of the ACIA and to discuss the ACIA as a catalyst for a Global ASEAN as part of the ASEAN Community 2025.

U Aung Naing Oo, Director General of the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration, U Win Aung, Chairman of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, around 100 delegates and officials from the Australian Embassy, ASEAN Embassies, the ASEAN Secretariat, the Ministries, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry and the speakers were present at the forum and seminar.— *GNLM*

Japanese Sakura to be planted on Yangon University campus in 2017

THE Japanese Cherry Plants Group will plant Sakura (cherry blossoms) as a gesture of strengthening friendship between Japan and Myanmar on Yangon University campus some time in 2017, it has been learned from the Japan Cherry Group.

The group will ship in Sakura plants in February 2017 and will discuss with the authorities of Yangon University to fix the number of Sakura (cherry blossoms) that will be planted on Yangon University campus.

"The growing of cherry blossom at Yangon university is aimed not only at furthering the friendship between Japan and Myanmar but also at enabling students to enjoy the scenic beauty of the trees during their recreation time" said Fumihiko Murmatsu of the Japan Cherry Plant Group.

If the cherry blossom trees are planted in 2017, the flowers are expected to begin blooming in 2020 as it takes three years for Japanese Sakura to blossom.

There are many kinds of Sakura, among those the HIKAN Sakura (cherry blossom) is suitable for Myanmar's climate. —*200*

15,000 job seekers head abroad in June

15,000 Myanmar migrants have started work in seven different countries last month being dispersed legally by 200 different employment agencies, according to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population.

A total of 17,901 job finders across the country get decent jobs at the local companies in June. Yangon tops the chart with 12,185 workers. Mandalay is the next highest with 1,796, followed by Bago, Sagaing, Magway and Tanintharyi regions as well as Kachin, Kayah, Kayin,Chin, Mon, Rakhine and Shan states.

Myanmar is working towards sending local workers to Taipei in near future, according to U Kyaw Htin Kyaw, general secretary of Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation, a local non-government organisation.

The majority of migrants went to Thailand, followed by Malaysia with 2,731, Singapore with 114, Korea with 725, Japan with 182, United Arab Emirates with 15 and Quota with 17.

According to official figure, about 6,000 migrants monthly go to Thailand, around 3,000 to Malaysia, 200 to Japan, 100 to Singapore and 600 to South Korea. Currently the MOEAF put forward the proposal on sending blue-collor labours to China (Taipei), to the ministry.—*GNLM*

Improved vege markets for Rahkine and S. Shan

TWO new vegetable markets will be set up in Rahkine and southern Shan state with the assistance of Mercy Crops, Swisscontact and Livelihoods and Food Security trusts (LIFT), the markets are to be set up in poor rural areas.

The new scheme will help vegetables growers and related business develop.

The assisting groups will provide technical support and assist in distributing produce to different areas, this will help supply chains and business links.

Since 2009, Mercy Corps has partnered with the Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT) to introduce market-led, pro-poor agricultural growth strategies in Myanmar. Making Vegetable Markets Work (MVMW) is the first market systems development project funded by LIFT. In cooperation with Yezin Agriculture University, a research programme has started in Shan State to help distribute technical knowledge to farmers based on the groups findings.

Another programme to sell produce at lower prices through business groups in Taunggyi, Shwenyaung, Nyaungshwe, Kalaw, Pintaya and Pinlaung in Shan State and MyaukU, Kyauktaw, Ponnagyun, sittway and Pauktaw in Rakhine State.—*200*

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-Leste 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*

1.8m MPU users this year

NUMBERS of Myanmar Payment Union (MPU) card users have reached over 1.8 million from its establishment of 2012 to date, according to its official.

Myanmar Payment Union now has over 1.8m people using its electric payment methods since 2012, according to an official. The card allows people from 23 different banks to use automatic teller machines (ATM).

The MPU official said the company is trying to transform the country's payment system and is currently negotiating with partner banks to reduce risks when using the ATM cards.

Issues tend to stem from repairing the server system and changing bank ID numbers. ATMs need maintaining every two weeks, according to the report.

Member banks include Myanma Economic Bank, Myanma Foreign Trade Bank, Myanma Investment and Commercial Bank, Kanbawza Bank, Yoma Bank, Ayeyawady Bank and Myanmar Apex Bank.—*200*

MPU users seen drawing the money. PHOTO: 200

Ted Cruz jeered for refusing to back Trump, exposing Republican rift

CLEVELAND — US Senator Ted Cruz refused to endorse Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump at the party's convention on Wednesday, drawing angry jeers from Trump supporters and shattering the facade of party unity that has been carefully built up in Cleveland this week.

Anti-Trump Republican delegate Ken Cuccinelli told Reuters he escorted Cruz's wife, Heidi, off the floor of the Republican National Convention out of concern for her safety following her husband's speech.

For the third day in a row, what was supposed to be a carefully scripted show of unity was thrown into turmoil by unexpected events that have raised questions about whether the party can unite around Trump to defeat the presumptive Democratic nominee, Hillary Clinton, in the 8 November election.

Cruz, who came in a distant second to Trump in the race for the Republican nomination, stopped short of endorsing Trump after a bitter and personal campaign and mentioned him only once, drawing boos and repeated chants of "We want Trump."

Cuccinelli, a former Virginia attorney general, said: "When the speech ended, there was an ugly crowd behind us." A witness said one person shouted: "Goldman Sachs" at Heidi Cruz in reference to her employment at the investment bank. Cruz began his speech saying: "I want to congratulate Donald Trump on winning the nomination last night."

Later in the speech, he urged: "Please, don't stay home in November. Stand, and speak, and vote your conscience, vote for candidates up and down the ticket who you trust to defend our freedom and to be faithful to the Constitution."

Some critics saw the appeal for people to vote their conscience as a vote of no-confidence in Trump. Republican strategist Eric Fehrnstrom, who is not affiliated with any campaign, tweeted: "'Vote your conscience' was the rallying cry of the Never Trump movement. For Cruz to bring that message into #RNC hall was a colossal error."

Former Republican presidential candidate Senator Ted Cruz arrives to speak during the third night of the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, on 20 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"It's taken me about 30 minutes to calm down and stop shaking with anger," said Erik Layton, an alternate delegate from California who had shouted: "Go home" at Cruz after his speech. "I just don't know why Cruz did this. It baffles my mind."

Trump, 70, a businessman and former reality TV star who has never been elected to public office, made his entrance to the convention hall near the end of Cruz's speech, applauding Cruz's remarks but, by his appearance, drawing attention away from his former rival.

In a tweet after the convention adjourned for the night, Trump wrote that Cruz broke a promise they both had made to endorse the party's White House choice.

"Wow, Ted Cruz got booed off the stage, didn't honour the pledge! I saw his speech two hours early but let him speak anyway. No big deal!" Trump wrote.

During the campaign for the party's nomination, Trump insulted Cruz's wife's looks and suggested the Texan's father was with John F. Kennedy's assassin just before the president was shot in Dallas in 1963.

Cruz, 45, who as a Tea Party conservative in the US Senate angered many mainstream Republicans in Congress and spearheaded tactics that led to a government shutdown over the federal budget, called Trump a "serial philanderer" and a "narcissist" during the campaign.

A Cruz adviser who asked to remain anonymous said Cruz anticipated a backlash from the crowd if he did not endorse Trump.

"We knew people were going to be mad if he didn't say the words, but he congratulated him and called for unity behind common values. He expected people to not be thrilled about this," the adviser said.

Trump won the party's nomination on Tuesday with 1,725 delegates, followed by Cruz with 475 delegates. Several delegates were outraged by the reaction to Cruz's speech, saying it could undermine Trump's support among Republicans who had supported the senator from Texas. "I thought it was shameful," said Manette Merrill, a Cruz delegate from Washington state, adding she was now confident she would not vote for Trump in November. "They talk about unity ... and then they act like that. That is not going to get us to unify," she said.—*Reuters*

Germany urges swift end to state of emergency in Turkey

BERLIN — German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier on Wednesday urged Turkey to restrict a state of emergency imposed after a failed coup attempt to only the truly necessary length of time, and to end the measure as quickly as possible.

Steinmeier issued a statement late on Wednesday in response to the declaration of emergency rule, urging the Turkish government to maintain both the rule of law and a sense of proportionality in its response to the coup attempt.

"The declaration of a state of emergency makes it clear once again: the attempted putsch is having a profound effect on Turkish politics and society," Steinmeier said.

He said Germany was continuing to call on Turkey to exercise restraint in its response to the thwarted coup.

"Only provable involvement in illegal acts, not suspected political leanings, should trigger governmental action," Steinmeier said.

"It's also critical that the declaration of emergency be restricted to only the necessary duration and then be ended as quickly as possible," he said.

Steinmeier said such an approach was in the interest of Turkey itself, since anything else would tear the country apart and weaken Turkey both internally and externally.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish Deputy PM says Turkey will be stronger after state of emergency

BERLIN — Turkey's deputy prime minister said on Thursday a three-month state of emergency would have no impact on the general public and business and it would strengthen democracy, the market economy and enhance the investment climate.

"Life of ordinary people and businesses will go un-impacted, uninterrupted, business will be as usual. We're committed to market economy," Mehmet Simsek said on Twitter following the announcement of the state of emergency. Simsek said there would be no backsliding on human rights.

President Tayyip Erdogan, who has launched mass purges of state institutions since a 15 July coup attempt, said the emergency was fully in line with Turkey's constitution and did not violate the rule of law or basic freedoms of citizens.—*Reuters*

Over 6,500 Indian nationals lodged in foreign jails, says government

NEW DELHI — India has said that more than 6,500 of its nationals are currently lodged in jails in 75 countries, with the maximum being in Saudi Arabia.

"A total of 6,567 Indian citizens are in foreign jails and 354 of them are awaiting repatriation after having completed their sentence," junior Foreign Minister VK Singh told Parliament Wednesday.

He added: "A maximum of 1,896 Indians are lodged in jails in Saudi Arabia, followed by 764 in the United Arab Emirates, 614 in Nepal, 595 in the US and 518 in Pakistan."

According to the Minister, a total of 325 Indians are also languishing in jails in Kuwait, 293 in Malaysia, 235 in Bahrain and 147 in Singapore. Singh also said that New Delhi has signed bilateral pacts with at least 42 nations for transfer of Indian prisoners so as to bring them back. However, the Indian government has not given any figure of foreign nationals lodged in jails across the country for various offences.—*Xinhua*

Malaysia opposition leader urges PM to step down amid 1MDB scandal

KUALA LUMPUR — The leader of a Malaysian opposition party called on Prime Minister Najib Razak to step down on Thursday after US prosecutors filed lawsuits linked to scandal-plagued state-owned fund 1Malaysia Development Berhad (1MDB).

Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, the president of the People's Justice Party (PKR), said the government should also push for an independent commission to investigate graft claims outlined by the civil suits filed in California on Wednesday.

"I believe the Malaysian people want Dato' Sri Najib to go on leave as prime minister so as not to create the perception of abuse of power or process to halt or hinder a full and transparent investigation on this very serious issue," Wan Azizah said in a statement. —*Reuters*

Fire at former brewery in Moscow contained

MOSCOW — A fire that erupted at a former beer brewery in Moscow in the early hours of Thursday has already been contained, said the Investigative Committee of the Russian Federation.

"The fire erupted Thursday at 1:39am local time (2039 GMT)," said the committee.

Earlier reports said that the fire raged over an area of 5,500 square metres in a three-story wooden building of the former brewery in western Moscow. Emergencies authorities said that over 160 personnel were involved in extinguishing the blaze. The fire led to a partial roof collapse, but there was no immediate report on casualties.

Preliminary investigation showed that electrical faults had caused the fire.—*Xinhua*

Massive evacuation as Dubai Sufala Tower catching fire

DUBAI — The 75-storey high Sufala Tower in Dubai caught fire Wednesday in the lower levels of the building, triggering a massive evacuation as civil defense and police were fighting the blaze.

There were no immediate reports about casualties. The fire broke out somewhere around the 35th floor of the skyscraper, local media said. Hundreds of tenants left the building, some of the coughing from smoke inhalation. Light wind and a clear sky amid temperatures around 40 degrees Celsius aided the flames which arose quickly upwards from level to level.—*Xinhua*

Libyans gather around the remains of a helicopter that crashed near Benghazi, Libya on 20 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Libya's UN-backed govt condemns France for not coordinating military presence

TRIPOLI — Libya's UN-backed unity government has said France had not coordinated with it over the presence of French troops in Libya and that it would not compromise on its sovereignty after France announced the deaths of three of its soldiers there.

Special forces teams from countries including France, Britain and the United States are on the ground in western and eastern Libya. The French have been working alongside forces loyal to eastern Libyan commander Khalifa Haftar against Islamist militants. Haftar has rejected the UN-backed Government of National Accord (GNA) in Tripoli, which is backed by major Western powers including France.

The GNA's Presidential Council said in a statement released late on Wednesday that it had asked France for an explanation after President Francois Hollande announced the soldiers' deaths during "dangerous intelligence operations".

"The Presidential Council expresses its deep discontent at the French presence in eastern Libya without coordination with the Council, which was declared by the government of France," said the statement from the unity government.

There could be "no compromise" over Libyan sovereignty, the council said in the statement. It also said the council had contacted the French authorities demanding an explanation. Hollande called the helicopter crash an accident, but an Islamist-led armed group fighting against forces loyal to Haftar claimed it had shot the helicopter down.

A military spokesman from Haftar's forces in eastern Libya said the French had died when their helicopter came down south of Benghazi on Sunday.

Western powers are hoping the GNA can end the turmoil and conflict that developed after Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was toppled in an uprising five years ago. They have said they are ready to help Libya tackle the threat from Islamic State, but the GNA says any assistance must follow its own request.—*Reuters*

US blacklists three al Qaeda members living in Iran

WASHINGTON — The United States on Wednesday blacklisted three members of al Qaeda living in Iran, saying they had helped the Islamist militant group on the battlefield, with finance and logistics, and in mediating with Iranian authorities.

Iran has held several al Qaeda high-ranking members and lower-level militants since the 11 September 2001 attacks on New York and Washington, though US officials say the precise conditions of their confinement are unclear.

Faisal Jassim Mohammed al-Amri al-Khalidi, a 31-year-old Saudi national, led an al Qaeda brigade and was serving as the group's military commission chief in May 2015, Treasury said, describing him as "part of a new generation" of al Qaeda operatives. As of 2011, Khalidi liaised between al Qaeda associates, central council members, and leaders within the Pakistani Taliban. Yisra Muhammad Ibrahim Bayumi, 48 and an Egyptian national, mediated with Iranian authorities as of early 2015, Treasury said, and helped al Qaeda members living in Iran.—*Reuters*

Migrants sit in their rubber dinghy during a rescue operation by Italian navy ship Borsini (unseen) off the coast of Sicily, Italy, in this handout picture courtesy of the Italian Marina Militare released on 19 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bodies of 21 women, one man found on migrant boat in Mediterranean: MSF

ROME — The bodies of 21 women and one man were found on a rubber dinghy adrift near the Libyan coast on Wednesday, just hours after they had set sail for Italy, humanitarian group Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) said.

An MSF ship patrolling the central Mediterranean came to the rescue of two dinghies that were sailing close together and managed to pull 209 people, including 50 children, to safety.

However, 22 migrants were found dead at the bottom of the first dinghy, lying in a pool of fuel. "It is still not entirely clear what happened, but they died a horrible death. It is tragic," said Jens Pagotto, MSF Head of Mission for Search and Rescue Operations.

"It seems that water and fuel mixed together and the fumes from this might have been enough for them to lose consciousness," he told Reuters by telephone.

The survivors, most of them from West African states such as Nigeria and Guinea, were being brought to Sicily along with the dead and were due to reach the port of Trapani on Friday.

Italian authorities have reported a jump in the number of migrants who have left Libya this week on overcrowded boats in search of a better life in Europe, as people smugglers take advantage of calm seas and hot summer weather.

More than 2,500 people were rescued on Tuesday and one body was recovered, Italy's coast guard said. Almost 600 people were saved on Wednesday.

As of Monday, 79,861 migrants had arrived in Italy by sea so far in 2016 compared with 83,119 during the same period last year. Almost 3,000 migrants have died or gone missing in the Mediterranean in the first seven months of this year, according to the International Organisation for Migration.

Pagotto said the two dinghies had probably left the north African state of Libya in the early hours of Wednesday and were picked up some 17 nautical miles east of Tripoli.

The Italian coastguard received a distress call at about 10am (0800 GMT) and notified the MSF ship MV Aquarius, which took three hours to reach the scene. An Italian naval vessel also helped with the rescue.

"The survivors had been on the boat with the bodies of these women for hours on end. Many are too traumatized from what they have endured to be able to talk about what had happened," said Pagotto. He said a team of trauma specialists would be on hand to help the survivors when they reached land.—*Reuters*

French Riviera attack darkens clouds over Hollande's re-election hopes

PARIS — Long under fire for the economy's slow recovery, French President Francois Hollande looked his chirpiest in months in his traditional Bastille Day TV interview.

Nine months from a presidential election, unemployment was showing signs it may at last start falling, and France had hosted the Euro soccer championship without a major security scare.

Hollande brushed aside questions about the cost of his hairdresser which had pre-occupied French journalists over past days, and took the opportunity to announce that the state of emergency in place since November's Paris killings would be lifted before the end of July.

Before the day was out, the dark clouds were back over his re-election hopes. The truck attack that night on a crowd of revellers in Nice, southeast France, inevitably shifted the political focus back to security.

After the attack that killed 84 people and was claimed by Islamic State, opposition politicians were jockeying to sound tougher than each other on security. Their remarks stood in stark contrast to the restraint and unity showed last year, after gun and bomb attacks against Paris entertainment venues in November and against a satirical newspaper in January.

The state of emergency, with reinforced police powers, is back in place for another six months.

"Before there was still a collective reflex to rally behind the government, but now the need to hold someone to account has destroyed that," political analyst Thomas Guenole said.

The broader public has hardly been more sympathetic. A poll shows just a third consider the government up to the task of defending the nation against terrorism threats, compared to around half after the two attacks of 2015. On Monday, Prime Minister Manuel Valls was jeered by crowds at a commemoration for victims in Nice.

French President Francois Hollande attends a news conference at the Belem Palace in Lisbon, Portugal, on 19 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"This theme could sweep aside all others" heading towards the two-round presidential election in April and May, said political analyst Jerome Fourquet with pollsters Ifop.

The issue has already totally eclipsed debate over a contested labour reform that had been the focus of the political class for months, Fourquet said.

On Wednesday, those reforms aimed at making hiring and firing easier were due to make their final passage through parliament, but news bulletins all but ignored the subject which for months has dominated headlines with related strikes, violent protests, and a rebellion within the ruling Socialist party.—*Reuters*

Five to appear in Paris court in connection with Nice attack

PARIS — Five people held for questioning over the Bastille day attack in the southern French city of Nice will appear in court on Thursday and could be placed under formal investigation, a judicial source said.

The suspects have already been transferred from the custody of the French anti-terrorism unit SDAT to the Paris court where they could be charged, the source said.

Islamic State has claimed responsibility for the attack by 31 year-old Tunisian driver Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel who rammed his truck into a crowd of Bastille day revellers, killing at least 84 .—*Reuters*

South Africa's great white sharks could die out: study

CAPE TOWN — South Africa's great white sharks could die out due to human interference, ocean pollution and a limited gene pool, a new study released on Wednesday showed.

There are 350-520 great white sharks left off the South African coast, 50 per cent fewer than previously thought, according to a six year study carried out mainly in Gansbaai, a shark hotspot 160 kilometres from Cape Town.

"South Africa's white sharks faced a rapid decline in the last generation and their numbers might already be too low to ensure their survival," said Sara Andreotti, research leader and marine biologist at the University of Stellenbosch.

Scientists say there are still thousands of great white sharks off the coast of Australia, Canada and the east coast of the United States.

Thousands of tourists travel to South Africa's Western Cape each year to catch a glimpse of the ocean's top predator from underwater cages, but human interaction has made the largest contribution to declining local shark numbers.

Shark nets used to protect swimmers and surfers killed more than 1,000 great whites off the Durban coast in the 30 years up to 2008, while trophy hunting and pollution also killed off large numbers of a species which can trace its lineage back 14 million years.

South African great white sharks also have the lowest genetic diversity of all white shark populations globally, making breeding more problematic and the likelihood of illness higher, the study, which included documenting individual sharks by their dorsal fins, showed.

There are only 333 great whites capable of breeding in South African waters, below the 500 usually needed to prevent "inbreeding depression", the study found. "We are already in a situation where our number of breeders is below the minimum level required for a population to survive," Andreotti told reporters.—*Reuters*

After warming fast, part of Antarctica gets a chill: study

A mountain is reflected in a bay that used to be covered by the Sheldon glacier on the Antarctic peninsula in 2009.
PHOTO: REUTERS

OSLO — The Antarctic Peninsula, among the fastest warming places on Earth last century, has since cooled due to natural swings in the local climate, scientists said on Wednesday, adding that the respite from the thaw is likely to be brief. Rapid warming until the late 1990s on the peninsula, which snakes up toward South America, triggered the break-up of ancient ice shelves, which are vast expanses of ice floating on the sea at the end of glaciers, and declines in some penguin colonies. But a shift to colder winds and more sea ice since then have brought a chill to the region despite the build-up of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the scientists wrote in the journal Nature. "The increase of greenhouse gases ... is being overwhelmed in this part of the Antarctic" by natural variations in the local climate, said lead author John Turner of the British Antarctic Survey (BAS).

"We're certainly not saying that global warming has stopped. On the contrary," he told a telephone news conference on the study. "We're highlighting the complexity of climate change." Since about 1998, local air temperatures have fallen about 0.5 degree Celsius (0.9 Fahrenheit) a decade, roughly the rate at which they had previously been warming since about 1950. Stabilization of the ozone hole over Antarctica, which shields the planet from ultra-violet rays and has been damaged by man-made chemicals, may partly explain the shift in winds that led to the cooling, the study said.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV XETHA BHUM VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.P where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S REGIONAL CONTAINER LINES

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

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

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MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S CHINA SHIPPING LINES

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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

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AGENT FOR: M/S ADVANCE CONTAINER LINES

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CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S HANJIN SHIPPING LINES

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAX CRUSADER VOY NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAX CRUSADER VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 22.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S INTERAISA LINES

Phone No: 2301185

Lucky to work with Jackie Chan: Disha Patani

MUMBAI — Actress Disha Patani, who will be seen alongside Chinese superstar Jackie Chan in "Kung Fu Yoga", says she feels blessed to be part of the project.

Disha will launch her Bollywood career with director Neeraj Pandey's "M S Dhoni: The Untold Story", the biopic of Indian ODI captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni.

"I feel very lucky and fortunate to work with a legend like Jackie Chan and to be part of a film based on an icon like M S Dhoni at the beginning of my career," Disha said in a statement here.

In Dhoni's biopic, Disha will be seen playing the role of the cricketer's former girlfriend. The film, which has Sushant Singh Rajput in the titular role, is set for release on September 30.

Disha was recently seen in a music video alongside rumoured boyfriend Tiger Shroff.

"Kung Fu Yoga" is a multi-lingual action-adventure comedy and also stars Amyra Dastur, Aarif Rahman and Sonu Sood.

The film is a Chinese-Indian co-production and it will open in cinema houses next year.—*PTI*

Lopez's dance competition series greenlit by NBC

LOS ANGELES — Singer-actress Jennifer Lopez's dance-based show "World of Dance" is coming to NBC.

The 46-year-old former "American Idol" judge is teaming up with the network for a new dance competition series that has been greenlit with a straight-to-series ten-episode order, reported Ace Showbiz.

The brand new series described as an "unparalleled dance competition" pits solo artists against duos and crews in all genres of dance, including hip hop, krumping, popping, locking, tap, ballet, break dancing, ballroom, clogging, stomping and more.

The winner will receive USD 1 million.

Lopez, who is also starring on NBC's cop drama "Shades of Blue", is on board as executive producer.

It's currently unknown if she will appear in any on-camera capacity.

"This will be a fierce talent-heavy dance competition that embraces the raw emotion and excitement that dance represents," Lopez said.

"I am excited to work with 'World of Dance', an organization that has had an immeasurable impact on the dance community, to give all dancers an enormous platform where their dreams can be realized.—*PTI*

Workers finish off an outdoor display of the television show 'South Park' for the start of Comic-Con International in San Diego, California, United States, on 20 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Studios conjure magic, superheroes in battle for Comic-Con fans

LOS ANGELES — A slew of superheroes, magic and King Arthur are just some of the bait that movie studios are using to entice fans at this year's San Diego Comic Convention as Warner Bros' DC Comics franchise goes head-to-head with Disney's Marvel universe.

The four-day event, which has become an increasingly important tool for Hollywood to generate interest in upcoming movies, is due to kick off on Thursday. It will include panels and activities hosted by studios and television networks for the 100,000-plus audience comprising comic book, film and TV fans.

Dreamworks' "Trolls," Oliver Stone's "Snowden" and sci-fi adventure "Valerian" are putting on celebrity panels, while Seth Rogen and Evan Goldberg are scheduled to host a screening party for their R-rated animated "Sausage Party."

On Saturday, Warner Bros will showcase its upcoming films and Marvel will close out the day.

Anthony Breznican, Entertainment Weekly senior writer, said in an interview that Warner Bros has some work to do after the criticism around March's "Batman V Superman: Dawn of Justice."

"(Warner Bros) has to win over the people about the rest of this universe going forward," Breznican said. "Marvel just has to maintain, they have cruise control on, but of course that doesn't mean they can slow down."

Disney, keeping its line-up under wraps, is expected to bring "Guardians of the Galaxy 2" and Benedict Cumberbatch's "Doctor Strange."

Alongside "Wonder Woman", "Suicide Squad" and Guy Ritchie's new "King Arthur" film, Warner Bros is throwing in a dose of magic with "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," the first spin-off from the "Harry Potter" franchise.

"To be in a room full of people who genuinely put so much of their time and attention into following what happens in these various worlds — whether it's Marvel or Potter — it's primarily why we make movies," said the film's director, David Yates.—*Reuters*

Legendary Pictures bagged Pokemon movie rights based on widely popular game

LOS ANGELES — Legendary Pictures has secured the rights to make Pokemon movie after the massive success of widely popular game Pokemon GO. According to Deadline, the studio, and the Pokemon Company have closed their deals to launch the first live-action movie based on the Japanese pocket monster game.

The live-action film will centre on a character in the Pokemon universe, Detective Pikachu, which was introduced in a game that came out in Japan earlier this year. Though details of the story are still kept under wraps, the screenplay will reportedly be penned by Max Landis, who also wrote the script of Power Rangers.

Legendary will begin production of the film next year with Universal Pictures distributing outside Japan. Toho will handle the distribution in Japan as the studio had previously done the same in distributing the reboot of Godzilla movie franchise.

Pokemon GO puts Pokemon in the real world by utilizing GPS location information and makes players chase down the virtual pocket monsters in their own vehicles. The games are based on a popular hobby of bug catching from Japan. Pokemon itself is a franchise of video games, trading cards, TV shows, comic books and movies. The franchise focuses on the unique creatures that are collected by Pokemon Trainers, who then train them to battle for sport. Pokemon was created by Satoshi Tajiri in 1995.

The first video game was launched for Game Boy and was released in 1996. Nineteen animated films based on the property have been made with the first movie, Pokemon: The First Movie: Mewtwo Strikes Back, released in 1998.—*PTI*

I do watch my performances again, says Kristen Stewart

LONDON — Actress Kristen Stewart says she watches her previous performances time and again to improve herself.

The 26-year-old Twilight star believes that it is good to look back at her performances on the big screen as it helps her to become a better actress in the future, reported Female First.

"I've been wanting to make movies forever and I want to direct and write and keep acting forever, so it makes me better to watch the performance.

"It's enlightening, and not in a technical way – it's not like I go, 'Ooh, I saw my face do this and now I know how to cry onscreen.' It's more like, if you can correlate the experience of making the movie to the final product, it affects how you carry on from that point", she said.

Earlier, the 26-year-old actress worked with the filmmaker onCafe Society and initially thought he "regretted" casting her, so was determined to prove herself on set, reported Female First.

"I thought, 'He hates me! He absolutely is regretting his decision'," she recalled." But, then, I was like, "I'm going to prove to this little dude that I can absolutely do this!"Stewart revealed Allen, 80, criticised her for her looks and said she wasn't pretty enough."

That first day, he would come up to me and say thingslike, 'You look terrible. You're supposed to be pretty. "The "Twilight Saga" actress, however, wasn't offended as she thinks it was a test used by the director to see if she was "cool".—*PTI*

Archeological projects start to dig up secrets at the Alamo

A woman walks past as men use a lift to repair and restore stonework along the curved facade of the Alamo in San Antonio, Texas on 26 October 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

SAN ANTONIO — The first systematic archaeological study of the grounds around the Alamo started on Wednesday, looking for artifacts at the former Catholic mission in downtown San Antonio that was the scene 180 years ago of a battle for Texas independence.

The first stage of the project is tasked with finding the west and south walls of the original Alamo Mission, which dates from the 1720s and was damaged in the famed 1836 battle, which lasted nearly two weeks. The walls were demolished or crumbled as the city of San Antonio grew around it. The initial archeological site is across the street from the Alamo church, with its facade that is one of the most recognisable parts of the structure. It also sits on the banks of the San Antonio River, upon which the Alamo and four other 18th century Spanish colonial missions were built.

While descriptions, drawings, paintings — and later, photographs — of the Alamo Church are widespread, there are no descriptions regarded as entirely accurate of what the original mission looked like and what buildings stood on the site, officials said.

"We are asking some questions about what we know about the Alamo, and the answer is: not as much as you might think," Nesta Anderson, the project's lead archaeologist, told reporters in San Antonio.

The excavation, using ground-penetrating radar, will later turn to the streets of central San Antonio to uncover artifacts from the battle and learn about the development of the US Southwest as well as the arrival of the Native Americans some 9,000 years ago, Anderson said.

"What we're looking for is any sign of wall remnants, adobe, daub, which would have been from a mud structure," she said.

The team may also come across human remains and ordinance from the 1836 battle in which the Alamo's vastly outnumbered "Texian" forces as they were known, including such legendary notables as Davy Crockett and Jim Bowie, were routed by Mexican army forces after a 13-day siege, she said.

The Alamo and its surrounding plaza are undergoing their first major renovation in more than a century to revamp the state's most-visited tourist site.

The clamor of traffic, the modern hotels and office towers rising up around the surprisingly small building have diminished the stature of the white stone-walled structure with its distinctive curved facade. An oft-used derision is that it looks like a tourist trap.—*Reuters*

Santas from all over the world meet to talk shop

A participant takes a selfie at the 59th World Santa Convention, which was attended by participants from different countries, in Copenhagen on 18 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

COPENHAGEN — With just five months until Christmas, Santas from around the world are gathering in Copenhagen for a mid-season break at the annual World Santa Claus Congress.

The annual conference gives them a chance to network, meet the public and get into shape for the busy days in December.

This year 140 Santas from 12 countries gathered in the Danish capital for the three-day event.

Santa Cherry from Canada, who is taking part for the fifth time, said there was much more to being a Santa than just the clothes.

"A successful Santa is not just about the costumes and the clothes. You have to have Christmas in your heart. You have to have the love of children and caring and giving in your hear to be a really successful Santa and it's not something you can make up. It has to be in you and people know, they can see it," she said.

The World Santa Claus Congress has taken place at the Bakken amusement park near Copenhagen since 1957 and always in the summer which is Santa's off season.

"I think the congress was started as a way of bringing Santas from all over the world together and sharing ideas and sharing our love of Christmas and being Santa and it's just joyous. It's great to be here," said Santa Ian from London in the United Kingdom.

During the congress they have the opportunity to discuss important issues concerning their trade, such as presents and weight regulations for Santa Clauses. One of the most hotly contested topics is the date for Christmas Eve.

For Santa Allan from Denmark, there is only one correct date.

"I think the main question will be when is it Christmas Eve. Because everyone is talking about have you decided when that Christmas Eve will be or are you disagreeing like you used to? But the Danish guild is saying we have to have Christmas Eve on 24th December," he said.

The most important part of the meeting is for the professional Santas to meet the public. Apart from parades there is also some sightseeing, a foot bath in the sea, Christmas cake baking and storytelling for the children. On Wednesday (20 July), Santas had to complete an obstacle course. —*Reuters*

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(22-7-2016, Friday)

06 : 00 pm
- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

06 : 20 pm
- Cartoon Programme "Kung Fu Panda 2 " (Part-1)

07 : 10 pm
- International Drama Series

07 : 50 pm
- International Drama Series

08 : 30 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

08 : 50 pm
- The Stories of The Great Souls (Daw Saw Mone Nyin-A Living Literary Legend of Myanmar)

09 : 10 pm
- International Movie Songs

09 : 30 pm
- A Famous Festival & Its Fantastic Fair

09 : 50 pm
- Music Programme

10 : 10 pm
- Myanmar Video

From 22-7-2016 (Friday) 6:00 pm
To 23-7-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 pm

mitv Myanmar International

(22-7-2016 07:00am ~ 23-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Discovering Tribes "MUUN" (Episode- I)
07:49	Am	Amazing: Sayargyi Nyein Chan Aung
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Crab Business (Part-II) Soft Shell Crab
08:39	Am	A bike ride in pursuit of Mural Art (Ep-1)
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	…..Changes
09:42	Am	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part- II)
09:55	Am	Cosplayer
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Entrepreneur: Dr. Thin Nwe Win
10:35	Am	Aesthetic Chinlone

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:27	Pm	To My Dream City (Part- 2)
07:45	Pm	Amazing: Magician Sak Kaw Ma
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Sai Htee Hseng or An Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus (Ep-1)
08:53	Pm	Myanmar Masterclass: Impressionism

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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Sunderland manager Sam Allardyce. PHOTO: REUTERS

Allardyce set to be named England manager

LONDON — Sunderland boss Sam Allardyce is set to be appointed England's new manager in the next 24 hours, British media reported on Wednesday.

England have been without a coach since Roy Hodgson stepped down following their Euro 2016 exit to Iceland in the last 16 and Sky Sports said Allardyce would be ratified as his replacement at a Football Association board meeting on Thursday.

Allardyce, 61, has been manager at Sunderland since last October and managed to steer them clear of relegation last season.

The club said late on Wednesday, however, that they were frustrated with the situation.

"Naturally we are aware of the intense media speculation this evening, however, at the present time Sam Allardyce remains Sunderland manager," the club said in a statement.

"We share in the anger and frustration of our supporters and would like to assure them that we are working to conclude the matter in the best interests of Sunderland AFC."

Allardyce's coaching CV has included spells at Bolton Wanderers, Newcastle United, Blackburn Rovers and West Ham United, but he has never managed a club who were likely to challenge for the Premier League title.

He has, however, never been relegated from England's top flight and has not been afraid to ruffle some feathers along the way with some opposing coaches criticising his playing style and accusing his teams of being overly physical or employing negative tactics.

Allardyce has been the favourite for the job, since Sunderland confirmed last week that they had given the FA permission to speak to their manager about the vacant England position.

Hull City manager Steve Bruce was also interviewed for the job, while British media reported the FA had spoken to United States' German head coach Juergen Klinsmann as well as Bournemouth's English coach Eddie Howe.

England have been searching for a new manager after their embarrassing exit from the European Championship at the end of last month.

Hodgson said he was standing down in the immediate aftermath of a 2-1 last-16 defeat to Iceland, the smallest country to ever compete in the tournament.

Allardyce was first interviewed for the England job following Sven-Goran Eriksson's departure after the 2006 World Cup but he was overlooked in favour of Steve McClaren.

He will now be tasked with restoring pride in the England team, who have not reached the semi-final of a major tournament since they lost to Germany as hosts in the last four of Euro 96.

FA chief executive Martin Glenn told the BBC on Wednesday that the new manager would need to "build resilience" in his players.

"The British press, like it or not, are probably the most intensely passionate about the game in the world and that has a spill-over effect," he said.

"The consequence of which is people probably play not to make a mistake, as opposed to play to win.

"So the new manager's got to be someone who can inspire people to get the best out of themselves, build resilience and unashamedly adopt the kind of psychological techniques that other sports and other football teams have done."—*Reuters*

Federer to open 20th pro season at Hopman Cup

Switzerland's Roger Federer. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Roger Federer will kick off his 20th season as a professional at the Hopman Cup next year, returning to the international team tournament in Perth for the first time since he teamed up with his now wife Mirka in 2002.

The 34-year-old Swiss will be partnered at the Perth Arena from 1-7 January by compatriot Belinda Bencic, who was a year old when Federer turned professional in July, 1998.

"I do remember it was a good preparation way back when so I thought it would be nice to do it again," the 17-times grand slam champion, a Hopman Cup winner with Martina Hingis in 2001, said in a video release.

"I can't wait to come back because I think it will be the perfect way to start the new season."

Federer and the then Miroslava Vavrinec lost two of their three group matches at the 2002 Hopman Cup, which was won by Tommy Robredo and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario for Spain.

Earlier this year, Nick Kyrgios and Daria Gavrilova teamed up to give Australia their first Hopman Cup triumph since 1999. —*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

Bolt targets third sprint sweep to close Olympic chapter

SYDNEY — Usain Bolt is keenly aware of the narrative of his extraordinary career and, for the fastest man who ever lived, the only fitting way to close its Olympic chapter is with a third sprint sweep at next month's Rio Games.

Bolt is already assured of a place not only in the pantheon of his own sport but alongside the likes of Muhammad Ali, Pele, Michael Jordan and Jack Nicklaus — men whose names alone conjure up the notion of sporting excellence.

It is company the confident Jamaican covets and he is determined to concrete his legacy by capping eight years of sprint dominance by defending his 100, 200 and 4x100 metres relay titles in what he has said will be his final Olympics.

Barring injury or mishap, Bolt will run in his ninth Olympic final in the relay at the Rio Olympic Stadium on 20 August, the day before he turns 30.

He ran his first final in Beijing five days before his 22nd birthday, exploding into the consciousness of sports fans around the world by coasting to 100 metres victory in a world record time of 9.69 seconds with one shoelace undone.

Since that balmy August night Bolt has proved unbeatable in major championships, winning 11 world titles and sweeping the three sprint titles at the Beijing and London Olympics.

The one title he missed came at the 2011 worlds in Daegu when he was disqualified from the 100 final.

Then, some of the conjecture over his false start focused on possible jitters caused by a lack of fitness but he blew away those theories with victories in the 200 and the relay.

Bolt has since lived with, and confounded, the injury narrative ahead of two major championships — a sore hamstring hampered him before London and a back problem similarly limited his outings before the 2015 world championships.

This year, Bolt was forced to skip the Jamaican Olympic trials because of another hamstring injury but his rivals, chastened perhaps by experience, have no doubt he will be at his best in Rio. —*Reuters*

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