

President bids
farewell to outgoing
Cambodian
Ambassador **PAGE 3**



Union Foreign Affairs
Minister Daw Aung
San Suu Kyi
arrives Laos **PAGE 3**



Investment in Thilawa
Special Economic Zone
expected to increase
up to USD 1 billion **PAGE 5**

CRISS-CROSS THE NATION

Better transport key to development of rural areas - DRD

THE Department of Rural Development is planning to speed up efforts to develop rural areas with the assistance of the Asian Development Bank-ADB and the World Bank, it has been learned.

Short-term and long-term strategies are needed to improve the transport sector in rural areas, said the Director-General of the DRD at a meeting on rural road development projects in Myanmar financed by the Asian Development Bank yesterday in Nay Pyi Taw.

The ADB representative and heads of Region/State rural development departments held discussions on rural roads development projects with the director-general speaking at the event.

Roads in rural areas should be upgraded to become all-weather roads, he said, adding that the department has adopted national-level strategies for rural electrification and water supply infrastructure.

Rural development projects have been implemented in Shan State (South) with the use of an 18-million Euro fund provided by KfW German Bank, said the director-general of the department, adding that the ADB has committed to providing US\$ 10million each for road and bridge repairs in Sagaing Region and the reconstruction of disaster-hit infrastructure in Chin State.

Myanmar has received \$70million in grant money from the World Bank for rural infra-



Villagers on their way back home in caravans from the annual pagoda festival in Bagan. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

structure rehabilitation works in Magwe, Bago, Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions, said the director-general at the meeting.

Twenty million people, or about half of the rural population, live in villages without access to

an all-season road in Myanmar, which trails its Southeast Asian neighbors in transport infrastructure. The report notes that \$45 to \$60 billion is required in transport investments by 2030, and that the investment should be coupled

with streamlining institutions and strengthening cross-ministerial collaboration.

ADB, based in Manila, is dedicated to reducing poverty in Asia and the Pacific through inclusive growth, environmen-

tally sustainable growth, and regional integration. It is owned by 67 members – 48 from the region. In 2015, ADB assistance totaled \$27.2 billion, including co-financing of \$10.7 billion.—GNLM

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India buys up Kalay's young coconuts

A KEEN interest from neighbouring India in coconuts from Sagaing Region's Kalay Township, for use in manufacturing coconut oil and other cosmetic products, has reportedly seen a boom in local trade, according to Kalay coconut wholesalers.

Coconuts are exported to India via the Myanmar — India border town of Tamu, with trade reportedly showing no sign of losing momentum before the co-

conut season draws to a close in August.

"We buy up the young coconuts produced in villages within Kalay Township and export them to India via the border town of Tamu," said U Tin Win, a coconut wholesaler from Kalay Township's Thazi village.

Coconut wholesalers from Kalay are reportedly managing to shift between 300 and 400 of the fruits on a daily basis, with the

young coconuts fetching K120 a piece.

"We've recently been seeing a boom in trade of young coconuts at the Nanpalone Market from Indian buyers. We sell our coconuts to them for K280 each.

The coconuts are reportedly transported to the border town of Tamu via small and large trucks, together with three-wheeled vehicles.—*Myitmakha News Agency*



Coconuts are piled before export to India. PHOTO: MYITMAKHA NEWS AGENCY

Chinese group to help cataract patients

The China Public Diplomacy Association (CPDA) will offer free surgery to 200 cataract patients this year with funding from the Chinese government, Chinese eye specialists will be conducting the surgeries aimed at poor communities.

The project will be known as 'The Light' that has also been conducted in other ASEAN countries according to Hu Zhengyue, vice president of China Public Diplomacy Association.

He added, the project will be completed by the end of the year with assistance from Myanmar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Health and Sports.

The Myanmar civil society group, Withahka Foundation will work with CPDA on the project. Daw Shwe Zin, vice chair of Withahka Foundation said that the foundation has been, "tasked with taking care of the CPDA's requirements within Myanmar."

Dr Win Myat Thit, head

Professor of the Brain and Nerve Treatment Department of Yangon General Hospital said the department will, "cooperate with the organisation as they are coming to provide medical assistance to Myanmar."

According to the Ministry of Health and Sports an Indian delegation visited in 2015 to assist 200 cataract suffers and that 1.8m people suffer from cataracts in Myanmar.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

MoNREC denies privatisation rumours

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation has refuted claims that private logging enterprises will be granted working permits in the coming years, stating the logging industry will instead be centralised and handled by the government.

Previous years saw private logging firms enter Myanmar's logging sector, resulting in an excessive amount of logging being conducted.

"In the coming years the Myanma Timber Enterprise (MTE) will solely handle Myanmar's logging industry. Private logging companies won't exist, for now,

we've abated the extent of logging across the country; logging activities are only conducted by MTE staff. The Department of Forestry has made demands that private logging contractors not be issued with permits," said U Myo Min, director of the Department of Forestry.

The Department of Forestry and the Myanma Timber Enterprise are talking about reducing the logging within the country and establishing a criteria for at which ages trees will be permitted to be cut down.

"The fundamental reason why private logging companies were permitted to enter Myan-

mar's logging industry was in order to meet the MTE's annual logging requirements; the capacity of the MTE's human and elephant workforce, together with that of machinery, wasn't sufficient enough," continued U Myo Min.

"Contractors were hired in areas where logging targets needed to be met. That's how private companies entered the sector."

Myanmar boasts over 28 million acres of forestry, covering more than 16 per cent of the country, of which seven per cent is protected forest, according to the Department of Forestry. —*Myitmakha News Agency*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker receives Ambassador



Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Speaker posing for a photo with Cambodian ambassador. PHOTO: MNA

SPEAKER of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw Mahn Win Khaing Than received Cambodian ambassador Mr. Sieng Bunvuth, who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at a hall of the Amyotha Hluttaw Building in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call two rep-

resentatives discussed matters related to further bilateral relations and cooperation in parliamentary matters.

Also present were Deputy Speaker of Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw U Aye Tha Aung and officials of Amyotha Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker receives Ambassador



Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker talking to Cambodian ambassador. PHOTO: MNA

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint received Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Sieng Bunvuth who had completed his tour of duty in Myanmar, at a hall of Pyithu Hluttaw Building in

Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present at the call were Deputy Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Ti Khun Myat and officials of Pyithu Hluttaw Office.—*Myanmar News Agency*

HM meets Viet Nam Deputy Minister



Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe receives Snr Lt-Gen Nguyen Van Thanh. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Home Affairs Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe received Senior Lieutenant-General Nguyen Van Thanh, Deputy Minister for Public Security of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two

representatives held comprehensive discussions on crime prevention and bilateral cooperation.

Also present were Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe, Permanent Secretary of the ministry and officials concerned.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President bids farewell to outgoing Cambodian Ambassador

PRESIDENT U Htin Kyaw received Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sieng Bunvuth who has completed his tour of duty in Myanmar at Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to bilateral cooperation in culture and tourism sectors. The outgoing Cambodian ambassador has made achievements during his tour of duty, including reaching agreement on visa exemption between the two countries in 2013, and granting scholarships to the venerable monks and lay persons from Cambodia to attend the universities in Myanmar.—*Myanmar News Agency*



President U Htin Kyaw meets outgoing Cambodian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Sieng Bunvuth in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives Laos



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives Yangon International Airport to depart for Laos to attend the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings. PHOTO: ZAW MIN LETT

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi left Yangon by air yesterday to attend the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related meetings to be held in Vientiane, Lao People's Democratic Republic on 23-26 July, and arrived there at 9 p.m. local standard time.

The Union minister will attend the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Commission Meeting and ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) Interface with ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) Representatives on 23 July and the 49th ASEAN Foreign Min-

ister's Meeting plenary session on 24 July.

The Union minister will continue to attend the Post Ministerial Conferences with Dialogue Partners on 25 July and the 17th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the 6th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 26th July.

The Union minister will also attend the 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Retreat Session and Plenary Session on the same day. The Forum will be attended by Foreign Ministers from 27 member states of the ASEAN Regional Forum.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Policy being drawn up to evict settlers from Myanmar's forests

U MYO MIN - director of the Department of Forestry, which sits under the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation - has stated that policy is being drawn up that will allow for the eviction of itinerant settlers from within the country's forested areas.

"Settlements of more than 50 dwellings or those fewer than 50 which are deemed agitators - that reside on farmland, village land and public land within our forests and protected reserves - will be evicted. We're not in a position whereby we're able to evict such itinerant settlers who reside upon farmland that spills over our nation's borders, but we will continue to act on such matters," said the department's director.

A crackdown was initiated in 2013 on such individuals who settled long term on village land, farmland and public land within

Myanmar's forests and protected reserves, with a survey being collected and subsequent evictions made. But, such efforts reportedly did not succeed in removing all such itinerant settlers.

"We've classed settlements in to two categories: those more than or less than 50 dwellings," continued U Myo Min. "But, we've also created a further third class. This class is for those itinerant squatters who have entered [Myanmar] from abroad."

However, in order to expel the remaining remnants of settlers from the country's forested areas, respective policy must be passed, for which the process will reportedly include consultation with villagers living among such itinerant individuals on their thoughts and opinions toward such legislation.

The director continued by stating that itinerants "don't stick

together in one group", that they "spread around", raising questions as to how best to deal with the dilemma they pose. "Must they be removed from their current location? There are all kinds of options. Do we concentrate them together by building them a new village? Or, do we assimilate them with existing villagers? This is something which those itinerant villagers must be asked about. In terms of the side of the authorities, they are a very difficult type of people to govern."

The Department of Forestry has voiced they will continue with plans to clear farmland, village land and public land located within Myanmar's forests and protected reserves from itinerant settlers, with efforts to be continued in handling how to evict such individuals from farmland situated outside the country's borders.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Union Minister receives Vice President of the Carter Centre

UNION Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Kyaw Tint Swe met with Mr. Jordan Ryan, Vice President for Peace Programs at the Carter Centre, at the President's Office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two representatives held discussions on co-operation in national reconciliation and the peace process of the country.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe welcomes the US delegation led by Mr. Jordan Ryan, Vice President for Peace Programs at the Carter Centre in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

Renovation of historic sites in Innwa Ancient City to begin next month



A well of ancient city of Innwa being seen. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

A TENDER bidding event for undertaking the major renovation of historic sites in Innwa Ancient City will be held in mid-August by the Department of Archaeological Research and National Museum (Mandalay Branch), it has been learned.

"We plan to open the tender for the new project which also includes upgrading of the National Museum to protect buildings from flood damage on

11 August," said U Nyo Myint Tun, director of the regional department. The department will announce the tender winner later in August.

Funded by the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Culture, the project also covers renovation of ancient buildings including Nanmyint Tower, Ale Pagoda, Layhtatgyi Monastery and Inwa city wall in TadaU Township in the region.

Situated over 660 km north of commercial hub Yangon, Mandalay was the last capital of the Myanmar Kingdom founded by King Mindon in 1857, showcasing the remains of numerous traditional art pieces and architecture of the 19th century. Woodcarvings, silverware, tapestries, silk, and other products of traditional handicraft are available in the area.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Myanmar pottery businesses at risk of folding

THE pottery industry in Mon State is at risk of disappearing soon according to a local of Mawlamyine township.

"I got into the pottery business when I was 15. I am really fond of this art. But, these days, we find it difficult to earn a living from doing traditional business. So, we opened a restaurant to make our living and continue to run the pottery business as a hobby," said U Kyaw Kyaw from Oh Yone Su kalay ward.

There were 40 professional potters here 20 years ago. Currently, there are only seven potters and a number of people left the village for foreign countries to live and work there, he added.

The pots, made in Oh Yone su kaly ward, are sold in other regions. Low demand can be attributed to replacement by plastic products, the scarcity of clay and the high price of wood for the kilns, said U Maung Hla, a pottery businessman.—*Zar Zar*

Four more disciplines to be taught at YEU this year

YANGON Economic University (YEU) will accept more students next academic year and will teach four more disciplines according to University Rector Dr Khin Naing Oo.

This year will prescribe the pass marks for admission but there will be no more regional limitation, enabling

students across the country to apply for admission should they have a score of 450 or above.

We will admit 50 students each for all disciplines.

The new major disciplines are commerce, accounting, business management and statistics, said the Rector. —200

Crime NEWS

Four men charged with theft

The police have filed a lawsuit against four men on suspicion of theft in Myawady township, Kayin state on Monday.

According to the investigation, Ma Saw Nu Phyu asked her sister Ma Yin Yin Oo to take care of her house in Thingan Nyi Naung village but Ma Yin Yin Oo only looked after the house once a week. One day, she found certain property missing in her sister's house. So, she informed the matter to the police station.

The police found a man called Ah Shay Gyi, 33, trying to sell an air-con. So, police took him to the police station for interrogation.



Ah Shay Gyi, Aharkar, Saw Eh Htoo (a) Kayin and Nyi Nyi Naing. PHOTO: TOWNSHIP MPF

When interrogated, Ah Shay Gyi admitted that he had stolen the air-con from the house. He also said that Aharkar, 27, Saw Eh Htoo alias

Kayin, 28, and Nyi Nyi Naing, 22, were his accomplices. The police filed charges against them.—*Township Myanmar Police Force*

Yangon man charged with murder

A MAN has been charged with murder for allegedly killing a woman in ward 94, Yuzana Garden City, Yangon region on Wednesday.

According to an investigation, U Aung Win Soe, 37, and his wife Daw Aye Myat Kyu, 37 entered into a quarrel with one U Soe Paing, 45, who lived in the same apartment. U Soe Paing then became belligerent and stabbed them both.

Daw Aye Myat Kyu was injured seriously and is receiving medical treatment at Yangon General Hospital while U Aung Win Soe succumbed to the injuries. The police have filed charges against U Soe Paing.—*Kyine Maung*



U Soe Paing. PHOTO: KYINE MAUNG



Ma Ah Nyi. PHOTO: MPF

Yaba and heroin seized in Phakant, Kyaikhto and Taunggyi

ACTING on a tip-off, police on Thursday searched the home of one Ma Ah Nyi in Shaduzit village, Phakant township and seized heroin weighing 150 grams.

On the same day police in Kyai-

khto township seized 400 yaba pills from a motorcycle driver identified as Charlie in ward 4, Kyaikhto town.

Police in Shan state confiscated 259 yaba pills from motorcycle driver Phyo Min Oo who had Zin

Min Tun on board near Htee Haw village, Taunggyi. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—*Myanmar Police Force*

LOCAL Business

Myanmar's external trade value decreased by \$500m this FY

THE total value of Myanmar's external trade over the past four months saw a decrease of more than US\$500 million compared to the same period last FY, according to figures issued by the Department of Trade.

Between 1 April and 15 July this FY the total external trade value reached over US\$7.3 billion, including \$2.971 billion from the export sector and \$4.3 billion from the import sector. The country has a trade deficit of over \$1.3 billion.

During the first four months last FY, the country earned over \$7.8 billion from external trade via sea routes and border trade camps.

Myanmar mainly imports industrial raw materials, personal goods, construction equipment, automobiles and capital goods mainly from China, Japan, India, Indonesia, Germany, France and Hong Kong.

The trade department expects that the trade value of Myanmar with partner countries is likely to reach around US\$31 billion over the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Efforts are reportedly being made to promote the country's export sector by shipping new valued-added products from the manufacturing sector within the next five years.—GNLM

Investment in Thilawa Special Economic Zone expected to increase up to USD 1 billion

INVESTMENT in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone is expected to increase up to USD 1 billion within a few years and the value of exports is expected to hit USD 350 million per year according to the Myanmar Japan

Thilawa Development Limited.

The total investment amount in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (TSEZ) is currently USD 760 million with an export value of USD 241 million. The income of the TSEZ makes up 12.5 per

cent of the whole country's investment value for the 2014 fiscal year and 3 per cent of the value of exports.

An electric power generation facility, which was constructed near Thilawa using an

ODA loan from the Japanese government, became operational on 25 May helping Myanmar assure potential foreign investors that power problems, which have been reported in the past, will no longer be an issue.—200



People work at a site of the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ) project in Yangon Region. PHOTO: REUTERS

Printing Business Matching on 23 July

PRINTING Business Matching between Thailand and Myanmar & GASMA Print 2016 Roadshow to be held at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel on 23 July 2016.

Supported by department of international trade promotion DITP, Ministry of Commerce of Thailand, GASMA organized its member of

20 companies to hold the said business matching event in Myanmar on 23 July 2016 from 10am to 5pm, at Novotel Yangon Max Hotel, in co-operate with MPPA of Myanmar Printers and Publishers Association. Thai Graphic Arts Suppliers & Manufacturers Association _ GASMA comes to hold this kind

of business matching for its 2nd time in Myanmar. Thai suppliers of Rubber roller manufacturing, Printing & advertising, UV inks for paper & textile, Tapes & inkjet papers, rubber mould & stamps, printers, offset machine and equipment, come to discuss in this business matching.—GNLM

MIA collecting data of factories and mills

THE Myanmar Industries Association (MIA) is collecting data on factories and mills which are not currently running, it has been learned from the MIA.

"We want to know the exact data of the factories and mills that are not currently operating. We will find out what the needs are of the industrial zones so that we can submit their issues to the regional government. We will present matters regarding social welfare", said Zaw Min Win, chairman of the

Myanmar Industries Association.

The industrial zone development working committees formed under the MIA and the data committee are cooperating with the industrial zone management committee, according to the ministry.

According to old data there are over 44,000 registered factories of the Ministry of Industry. There are 29 industrial zones in Yangon region but only 20 zones are currently running, it has been

learned from the zone management committees.

Currently, the MIA is collecting data on vacant plots of land and garages, consumption of electricity and the disposal of sewage water.

The 47 mills under the MoI will be rented with long term and short term contracts to both local and foreign investors. Industrial businesses and factories that are outdated and running at a loss will be either commercialised, corporatised or privatised.—200

56 state-owned factories being operated by private investors, mostly from China, RoK, according to MoI

THE Ministry of Industry confirmed that a total of 56 state-owned factories under the ministry are being operated by private entrepreneurs, mostly from South Korean and China, with plans to lease the remaining plants to the public.

Private investors wishing to operate production business under the joint venture agreement or other forms of contracts have been invited by the ministry to indicate their interest, said U Myo Zarni Win, deputy secretary of the ministry.

Those investors may visit the ministry's website to observe locations of state-run plants and the labour force while further

negotiations can be made with the relevant departments.

The former government granted leases of some state-owned factories to private entrepreneurs from home and abroad under short-term and long-term agreements after approving the government's Economic Affairs Committee.

However, long-term leases need the added approval of the Myanmar Investment Commission.

According to the ministry, there are more than 100 factories under the previous administration, more than 50 have been leased out to private businesses.—Zar Zar

Possible early North Korean nuclear site found

WASHINGTON — A US policy institute said it may have located a secret facility used by North Korea in the early stages of building its programme to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons, which if confirmed would be critical to the success of any future nuclear deal, according to a report seen by Reuters on Thursday.

The report by the Institute for Science and International Security said there has always been doubt about whether North Korea has disclosed all of its nuclear facilities. Confirming their location would be critical to the success of any future agreement to freeze and dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons programme, it said.

The site, 27 miles (43 km) from the nuclear com-

plex at Yongbyon, may have played a key role in development of centrifuges that refine uranium hexafluoride gas into low-enriched and highly enriched uranium, the report said.

"It is necessary to identify where North Korea enriches uranium and part of that is understanding where it has done it in the past," said David Albright, the institute's president.

What may once have been the early centrifuge research and development facility is believed to have been inside an aircraft part factory inside a mountain next to Panghyon Air Base. It was located using commercial satellite imagery, the report said.

It was unclear whether the aircraft part factory was still operational but informa-

tion from defectors indicates there may be three production-scale centrifuge manufacturing plants operating in the country although their locations have not been confirmed, said Albright.

Tensions have been escalating between North Korea and South Korea, the United States and Japan over Pyongyang's fourth underground nuclear test in January and a series of missile launches.

North Korea's nuclear programme is based on highly enriched uranium and plutonium separated from spent reactor fuel rods.

The reclusive government, which for more than a decade denied having a gas centrifuge programme, in November 2010 revealed the existence of a production-scale gas centrifuge

plant at Yongbyon but insisted it had no other such facilities.

In June 2000 a Japanese newspaper quoted Chinese sources as saying a facility was located inside Mount Chonma, the report said. Information recently obtained from "knowledgeable government officials" suggested the undeclared facility was associated with an underground aircraft parts factory, it said.

Working with All-source Analysis, which interprets satellite imagery, the institute determined it most likely was Panghyon Aircraft Plant, which made parts for Soviet-supplied fighters. The report quoted an unidentified official as saying the site could have held between 200 and 300 centrifuges.—Reuters

China starts emergency response for flood-hit Henan

BEIJING — China issued a grade-IV emergency response on Friday following rainstorms and flooding across central China's Henan Province, which have left 15 people dead.

The Ministry of Civil Affairs and the China National Commission for Disaster Reduction have sent teams to assist relief work on the ground.

Since 18 July, Henan has been battered by rain and floods. By 7am Friday, 15 people had died, eight others remained missing, and 72,000 had been evacuated to safer places, according to local government.

The disaster also destroyed 18,000 houses, ruined 3,500 hectares of crops, and caused 930 million yuan (139.5 million US dollars) in direct economic losses.

A grade-IV response, the lowest in China's emergency response system, requires a 24-hour alert, daily damage reports, and the allocation of money and relief materials within 48 hours.

Henan's disaster response and civil affairs authorities have delivered quilts, drinking water, food and other relief to the disaster stricken areas.—Xinhua

North Korean Air Koryo plane makes emergency landing in China

BEIJING — A North Korean Air Koryo airplane made an emergency landing in China's city of Shenyang due to a fire, China's official Xinhua news agency said on Friday.

The plane from North Korea's national airline, which was flying from Pyongyang to Beijing, made a forced landing in the

northeastern Chinese city after it caught fire, Xinhua said, citing a passenger.

Smoke appeared in the cabin about 30 minutes after takeoff and passengers were told by the flight crew not to panic as the plane landed, Xinhua cited the person as saying.

"Later, oxygen masks dropped and several passen-

gers began to have breathing difficulty because of the oxygen shortage in the cabin," Xinhua said.

The plane landed in Shenyang 10 minutes later and no one on board was injured, Xinhua said, but it did not give further details about what caused the fire.

Flight JS-151 had made a safe emergency landing

after smoke appeared in the cabin, but "nothing abnormal" had been found with the aircraft, Shenyang airport said in a short statement on its microblog, adding that an investigation was underway.

Independent ratings website Skytrax lists Air Koryo as the world's only 1-star airline for poor quality

standards, though it does not measure safety.

Few North Koreans are allowed to travel outside their isolated country.

An Air Koryo employee reached at the airline's Shanghai office said no company representatives were available and she was unaware of the situation. The Beijing office could

not be reached. The North Korean state-owned airline uses mainly Russian-built Tupolev aircraft on its international flights although older, Soviet-era aircraft are also still used domestically.

The aircraft was a Tupolev TU204-300, according to plane tracking website flightradar24.com.—Reuters

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Philippine woman will not be in Indonesia's next round of executions

JAKARTA — A woman from the Philippines convicted in Indonesia for drug smuggling and sentenced to death will not be among the first round of executions carried out when capital punishment is resumed after a lull, the attorney general said on Friday.

Indonesia imposed a moratorium on executions for five years before resuming them in 2013. It provoked international outrage in April last year with the execution of eight drug traffickers, seven of them foreigners.

After the outcry, authorities said they were postponing executions while the government focussed on reviving the economy. But President Joko Widodo's administration has this year pledged to resume executions by firing squad.

A Philippine maid, Mary Jane Veloso, got a last-minute reprieve last year, following a request from Manila after an employment recruiter, whom Veloso had accused of plant-



A protester holds a placard as they appeal for the pardon of Mary Jane Veloso, as she walks past anti-riot policemen during a protest in front of the Indonesian embassy in Makati city, metro Manila, on 27 April 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

ing drugs in her luggage, gave herself up to police in the Philippines.

"Not yet," Attorney General H.M. Prasetyo told reporters when asked about Veloso. "We are still waiting on the legal process in the Philippines, which we have to respect."

Prasetyo has said 16 prisoners will be executed this year, including nationals from Nigeria and Zimbabwe, but has declined to give a specific time frame. That number will be more than doubled next year, he said. Indonesia has declared a "drug emergency" and

vowed no mercy for drug traffickers.

Authorities have not given a breakdown of the numbers of foreigners on death row but citizens of France, Britain and the Philippines are known to be among them.—Reuters

Hong Kong victims remain in hospital following train attack in Germany

HONG KONG— Four Hong Kong people, who were among a group of travellers injured when a man attacked passengers with a knife and an ax in Germany, remain in hospital, local media reported Thursday.

Two of the four, Yau Shu-ping, 62, and Edmund Au Yeung, 31, remained in a “severe condition” with life threatening head injuries and little signs of improvement at the University Hospital of Wurzburg, the South China Morning Post quoted managing medical director Georg Ertl as saying.

The other two — Yau’s wife Wong Pui-king, 58, and daughter Tracy Yau, 26 — were in a stable condition and might be transferred from the hospital in

Nuremberg, where they have been treated, to Wurzburg to stay closer to the family, the report said.

All were injured when the assailant, named by German media as Riaz Khan Ahmadzai, 17, attacked a group of people on board a train travelling from Treuchtlingen to Wurzburg in Bavaria, some 380 kilometres southwest of Berlin, on Monday.

A video later released by the Islamic State militant group, in which the Afghan refugee was shown, saw the group claim responsibility for the attack.

Meanwhile, on Wednesday, German Chancellor Angela Merkel vowed to put a stop to violent extremism as she met with the new British Prime Min-

ister Theresa May.

She described Monday’s attack as “an unbelievably cruel act,” and said her thoughts were with the victims of the crime, “with the family in Hong Kong as well as the Germans who have been injured.”

“I want to take this opportunity to tell them that we are thinking about them, we are hoping and we extend our heartfelt wishes that they will be able to recover from their injuries, from the physical and psychological trauma that such an attack causes,” she added.

While a German woman was also injured in the attack, Ahmadzai was shot dead by police officers while fleeing the scene.—Kyodo News

Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan re-elected as Vietnamese parliamentary chief

HANOI — Nguyen Thi Kim Ngan, chairwoman of the 13th National Assembly (NA) of Viet Nam, was re-elected as chief of the new parliament for the 2016-2021 tenure, according to voting results announced on Friday morning.

Ngan has been re-elected with 483 “yes” out of 490 valid votes cast by NA deputies at the ongoing first session of the 14th NA in Viet Nam’s capital Hanoi.

Earlier on 31 March, Ngan was elected chairwoman of the

13th NA, becoming the country’s first female parliamentary chief.

In her sworn-in statement, Ngan vowed to be absolutely loyal to the nation, the people and the Constitution of the Socialist Republic of Viet Nam, and to make every effort to fulfill the duty assigned by the Vietnamese party, the state and the people.

In her speech, Ngan pledged to join hands with members of the standing committee of the NA as well as NA deputies to continue upholding the tradition

of Vietnamese parliament in the past 70 years so as to effectively fulfill the tasks of law-making, deciding on major issues of the country, and oversight towards the state’s operation activities.

She committed to improve the effectiveness of the parliament for the benefit of the people, honour and pride of the nation as well as sustainable development of the country.

Also on Friday, four NA vice chairpersons and 13 members of the NA standing committee were elected.—Xinhua

Search for Malaysian MH370 aircraft to be suspended, joint panel confirms



A family member of a passenger onboard the missing Malaysia Airlines flight MH370 holds a placard during a news conference following a meeting with Joint Agency Coordination Centre (JACC) in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 21 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

KUALA LUMPUR — The search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight MH370 will be suspended if the plane is not found in the current search area, Malaysia, China and Australia said in a joint statement on Friday.

The aircraft, with 239 aboard, disappeared in March 2014 during a flight from the Malaysian capital to Beijing. Almost A\$180 million (\$135 million) has been spent since on an underwater search spanning 120,000 square kilometres (46,332 square

miles) in the southern Indian Ocean.

“In the absence of new credible evidence, Malaysia, Australia and China have collectively agreed to suspend the search upon completion of the 120,000-km search,” Malaysian transport minister Liow Tiong Lai said.

“I must emphasise that this does mean we are giving up on the search for MH370,” he added, in a statement read out to the media.—Reuters

Smash-hit ‘Pokemon Go’ launched in Japan amid global frenzy

TOKYO — In a long-awaited debut for fans in Japan, the smash-hit “Pokemon Go” mobile game was released Friday, shortly after the government issued a warning about its use following trespassing and other incidents overseas linked to the augmented reality app.

The game has sparked a frenzy since its release in the United States, Australia, and New Zealand in early July, raising expectations of sharp business growth at Nintendo Co, one of the three co-developers. Nintendo has been seen as a latecomer to the smartphone game business.

Japanese fans expressed joy over the release of the game that can now be played in over 30 countries, while investors sent Nintendo and other Pokemon Go-related shares surging.

After the app was released for downloads around 10 am, an 18-year-old college student in Tokyo downloaded it but ended up trying different user names to register because his first choice was already taken, a sign of the high popularity of the game.

“I’ve heard we can find Pokemon at school, so I’ll go catch them,” the student said.

Nintendo’s stock price has more than doubled on the Tokyo market since the smartphone app became available in the three countries on 6 July.

The success so far of Pokemon Go is good news for Nintendo, which has traditionally relied on console games. Nintendo shares surged over 6 per cent on Friday morning, while shares in McDonald’s Holdings Co. (Japan) jumped over 9 per cent on Friday morning.

McDonald’s is collaborating on the game in Japan, as the fast food chain operator is struggling to improve its business. Around 400 restaurants in the country serve as “gyms” or battlegrounds where players can battle their virtual pocket monsters known as Pokemon, and about 2,500 as stops where items can be collected. With the use of GPS technology, players can use the game for free, walking around to hunt down Pokemon in real locations. When a Pokemon appears on the smart-

phone screen with a buzz, players can try to catch it.

The game was jointly developed with Nintendo’s affiliate Pokemon Co. and Niantic Inc., a San Francisco-based game maker spun off from Google Inc.

The Pokemon Go craze, however, has raised safety and security concerns, with some players having neglected to pay attention to traffic lights, cars and other obstacles while focusing on their smartphone screens.

In the United States, where Pokemon Go saw 10 million downloads in just a few days after its release, some players have walked into obstacles while playing the game and injured themselves.

Three teenagers entered the premises of a nuclear power plant in Ohio in search of Pokemon, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission’s blog.

The Japanese government is calling on players in Japan, home of Pokemon creator Nintendo, not to play the game while walking or riding a bicycle, and warns them against entering off-limit areas.

Ahead of the Japan launch, railway operators expressed concern that enthusiastic players may be involved in accidents or cause trouble to other passengers.

“We’ve been repeatedly asking (passengers) not to use smartphones while walking on platforms,” West Japan Railway

Co. President Tatsuo Kijima said Wednesday.

A group of lawyers in Niigata Prefecture, central Japan, has called on a local education board to make sure elementary and junior high school students will be instructed to use the app properly.—Kyodo News



A mobile phone screen shows Osaka Castle on 22 July 2016, the debut day in Japan for the smash-hit “Pokemon Go” game. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Opinion

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Legal binding and the discipline

Khin Maung Aye

PEOPLE tend to understand the law as discipline. In all societies, citizens are obligated to abide by the discipline. Households have disciplinary rules for the family members to follow, students have the school discipline to adhere strictly to, soldiers have the military disciplinary rules to live up to and civil service personnel have fundamental rule, supplementary rule, civil service regulations to stick to.

Be they laws, rules, regulations, procedures or disciplinary rules, they are all meant

for maintenance of law and order, prevalence of the rule of law and peace and tranquility of a society. In this regard, it is worth noting that discipline is different from the law. When a member of a society does not follow the disciplinary rules, he can be ostracized by the society, condemned by the community and contempted by the family and friends. Nevertheless, when it comes to violation of the law, the violator will have action taken according to the law. The main difference between the discipline and the law is that the former has no

legal binding whereas the latter can fine, imprison or even decapitate the violator of the law. Anyway the disciplinary rules, ethics and customs can be turned into laws when situations demand enactment.

In fact, all citizens are required to follow the disciplinary rules although they do not have the legal binding if they really want to prosper and it they really wish to see their country develop. In this regard, even the monks have vinaya rules to strictly abide by. Although the vinaya rules

do not have legal binding, the monks who violate them are bound to be reborn in four unhappy abodes, which prevent them from attaining enlightenment, the ultimate goal of Buddhist monks. This being so, the spiritual authorities are sometimes needed to co-operate with the secular authorities in enforcement of the vinaya rules in order to salvage the sinners from being born again in the abodes, where they cannot meditate to emancipate from samsara, the rounds of rebirth as well as to maintain law and order in their country.

Understanding Children's Right to Expression

Dr. Khine Khine Win

BY tradition, we respect the elderly and those who occupy high position in society. We learn to always obey them. We are also told that we cannot express an opinion or idea contrary to theirs. This unfortunately leads to lack of freedom of expression and opinion and confidence. This is true among parents and teachers or in the relationship between adults and children.

Children are not objects that adults act on, but members of the community that deserve respect. Adults must respect children by allowing them to express their ideas or opinions, especially in matters affecting their wellbeing. International children's rights are commonly analyzed with regard to the 4 Ps- Protection, Prevention, Provision and Participation. The most fundamental personal freedoms are the freedom of speech, expression, movement, thought, consciousness, religion and the right to a private life. Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression:

this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers". Indeed, the right to freedom of expression is protected in many international and regional treaties. For children, there is international human rights instruments, "Convention on the Rights of Children, CRC" provides extensive protection for the rights to freedom of expression and information and related rights both directly (articles 12, 13, 14, 15 and 17). Under the human rights systems, Myanmar has ratified aforementioned Convention and have obligation to protect the rights covered by the convention or to realize those rights as much as they can possibly do.

Children have the right, as do the adults, to have an opinion, to express it and to meet in order to share their point of view. And they have the right to have an opinion different from their parents. While taking into account their age, as well as their degree of maturity and discernment, children have the right to have their opinion considered. However, there are situations in which children's right to freedom of ex-

pression may be restricted. For example, there is international concern about children's access to harmful material on the internet, or to websites through which children may be placed in danger. Moreover, we should know that too much freedom is like too much water for a plant- the roots can rot.

Parents or teachers often baffled to see their child or student

munication in the parent child relationship and teacher student relationship. Active listening can deepen the bond, the trust, the mutual respect and mutual understanding in relationship. And also active listening pay the respect of children's right to freedom of expression.

At primary and secondary schools, teachers should explain the right to freedom of expression

"Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression: this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers".

being defiant and uncooperative. It's hard to relate to our child's feelings and frustrations when we feel ignored by our child or feel that our child is purposely fighting us. In this situation we must understand the following basic concept: "Children listen to us more or less as well as they feel listened to". In this regard, we must listened children feelings as active listening improves com-

and opinion and the need for it and also should explain the need to respect other people's rights to freedom of expression and opinion. As students spend a good deal of times studying teachers can develop a good understanding of teacher's beliefs. A teacher who behaves unjustly or abusively will have little positive effect. For example: "Today we are going to talk about freedom of ex-

pression- shut up in the back row!" In such circumstances, children will learn mostly about Power, and considerably less about Rights. As teachers are the frontier workers in the field of education and education is an important tool for the growth of an individual. In this regard, teaching personality is very important for the children to understand their basic rights at the beginning stage.

Ultimately and without doubt, every children regardless of disabled or not have the right to express their feelings and opinion to their parents, elder people, families and teachers especially regarding the matters affecting their wellbeing. To enhance children's social and emotional development, we must allow children to express their feelings, thoughts and opinion. This is an opportunity for us to teach them to listen other's opinion and respect of others rights.

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Union Attorney-General holds separate talks with UN officials, My Justice Team



Union Attorney-General holds separate talks with UN officials, My Justice Team. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Attorney-General U Tun Tun Oo held separate talks with a delegation led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator Ms. Renata Lok-Dessallien and Mr. Jordan Ryan, former UN Assistant Secretary-General and Ms. Caitlin Reiger of My Justice Team at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call with the UN delegation the Attorney-General

explained national reconciliation and the peace process and ongoing works for the planned 21st Century Union Peace Conference.

The UN will provide a team led by the former UN Assistant Secretary-General to better assist the country's peace processes, said the UN Resident Coordinator at the meeting, emphasising the importance of inclusivity in

the peace process.

In meeting with the delegation of My Justice Team the two representatives exchanged views on further implementation of work programmes as well as paralegal and pilot projects.

In Myanmar, two Justice Centres are currently operating — one in Yangon and the other in Mawlamyine.—*Myanmar News Agency*

New fuel handling jetty project leads to riverbank erosion: DWIR official



The confluence of Ayeyawady River and Dokhtawady River where new fuel handling jetty project is being implemented. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

PREVENTION activities should be carried out near the confluence of the Ayeyawady River and the Dokhtawaddy River to protect them from riverbank erosion, said U Taing Aung Lin, director of the Mandalay Region Department of Water Resources and Improvement of River Systems.

He continued to say that protection activities should be undertaken before finalising the project to establish an international fuel

jetty at the junction located near Amarapura Township in Mandalay Region.

The project was initiated in February 2015 near the historic Thabyaytan Fort. The old jetty of ancient Inwa city is located on the opposite side of the current project.

High or moderate waves are formed when large-size fuel carriers cross the river that is leading to river erosion, U Taing Aung

Lin added.

The port is being constructed on an 41.1-acre plot of land owned by the Myanmar Energy Sector Development Public Co Ltd. It covers 32 oil storage tanks with a storage capacity of 2 million gallons, four harbours and a 500,000-gallon water tank for fire safety. After completing the project a total of 136 oil tankers can fill fuel at the same time.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

PATH to distribute nutrition supplement rice to Chin State

INTERNATIONAL health NGO PATH, in cooperation with the World Food Programme (WFP), will distribute nutrition supplement rice to Chin State in 2017 free of charge, it has been learned from project officer Dr Phyo Win Tun of PATH.

The World Food Programme (WFP) will buy nutrition supplement from rice mills which produce nutritious rice and provide 200 tonnes of the enriched rice to the people of Chin State.

The authorities of the WFP signed an agreement with the owners of rice mills to purchase nutritious rice at a cheaper price than the standard market rate when development assistance associations come to buy rice stocks.

The rice includes eight vitamins and minerals: iron, vitamin A1, B1, B2, B6, B12, folic acid and zinc, according to an official of the WFP. The enriched rice was certificated by the Myanmar Food and Drug Administration (FDA) in June. —200

Motorists, bus drivers tested for alcohol on Expressway



Highway policemen being seen checking drunken driving.

PHOTO: THAN OO (LAYMYATHNAR)

THE Highway Police Force announced yesterday that action will be taken against those booked for drunken driving and speeding on the Yangon-Mandalay Expressway as of 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)*

DCA arranges the installation of ADS-B system

THE Department of Civil Aviation (DCA Myanmar) is arranging to install Automatic Dependent Surveillance-Broadcast (ADS-B) system at Yangon International Airport, it is learnt from an official of the department.

DCA Myanmar will install the modern ADS-B system to control the airplanes and show their locations.

ADS-B technology was created by Aireon Company based

on the satellite technology to detect the locations of the airplanes by the satellite.

As DCA is arranging to introduce the modern technology to monitor and control the flights, and to receive the data and information of the flights, DCA signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) to be able to install ADS-B system to adapt to increased number of flights during the past two years, it is learnt.—200

Trump accepts Republican nomination, vows to put 'America first'

CLEVELAND — Donald Trump accused Democratic rival Hillary Clinton of a legacy of “death, destruction, terrorism and weakness” as US secretary of state and vowed to be tough on crime and illegal immigrants in a speech on Thursday accepting the Republican presidential nomination.

Trump’s 75-minute speech was designed to set the tone for the general election campaign against Clinton, an answer to Republicans who say the best way he can unify the divided party is to detail why the Democrat should not be elected on 8 November.

As the crowd chanted: “Lock her up” for her handling of US foreign policy, Trump waved them off and said: “Let’s defeat her in November.” Thousands of supporters who were gathered in the convention hall roared their approval.

When it was over, Trump was joined on stage by family members as balloons cascaded from above and confetti blew around the arena.

The acceptance speech by Trump, 70, closed out a four-day convention that underscored his struggle to heal fissures in the Republican Party over his anti-illegal-immigrant rhetoric and concerns about his temperament. The event was boycotted by many big-name establishment Republicans, such as 2012 nominee Mitt Romney and members of the Bush family that gave the party its last two presidents.

Trump presented a bleak view of America under siege from illegal immigrants, threatened by Islamic State militants, hindered by crumbling infrastructure and weakened by unfair trade deals and race-related violence. Accusing illegal immigrants of taking jobs from American citizens and committing crimes, Trump vowed to build a “great border wall” against the border-crossers.



Republican US presidential nominee Donald Trump formally accepts the nomination at the Republican National Convention in Cleveland, Ohio, US on 21 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

“We will stop it,” Trump said.

Trump took positions in conflict with traditional Republican policies. He said he would avoid multinational trade deals but instead pursue agreements with individual countries. He would renegotiate the NAFTA trade accord linking the United States, Canada and Mexico. He would penalize companies that outsource jobs and then export their foreign-made products back into the United States.

“We will never sign bad trade deals,” Trump thundered. “America first!”

The New York businessman, who has never held elected office, filled his speech with some of the bravado he used to win the Republican nomination over 16 rivals, punctuating his rhetorical points by waving an index finger.

“I have joined the political arena so that the powerful can no longer beat up on people that cannot defend themselves,” Trump said. “Nobody knows the system better than me, which is why I

alone can fix it.”

In his speech, Trump portrayed himself as a fresh alternative to traditional politicians, willing to consider new approaches to vexing problems and help working-class people who may feel abandoned.

Laying out his case against Clinton, he denounced nation-building policies that were actually put in place to some extent by George W. Bush, without mentioning by name the Republican president who launched wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Trump said policies pursued by Clinton in Iraq, Libya, Egypt and Syria had made a bad situation worse. He blamed her for the rise of Islamic State militants and blasted her willingness to accept thousands of Syrian refugees.

“After 15 years of wars in the Middle East, after trillions of dollars spent and thousands of lives lost, the situation is worse than it has ever been before. This is the legacy of Hillary Clinton: death, destruction, terrorism and weakness,” Trump said.—Reuters

Cars burned north of Paris in third night of tension over death in police hands

PARIS — Protesters angered by the death of a man in police hands earlier this week burned cars and garbage bins in an area north of Paris overnight, but tension seemed to be easing despite a third night of unrest, a local official said on Friday.

The protests started on Tuesday night when 24-year-old Adama Traore died while being driven to a police station following his arrest over an altercation in the Val d’Oise area around 40 km (25 miles) north of the French capital.

Members of his family said he appeared to have been killed by police. An autopsy found no trace of significant violence on the body of the man but found he had been suffering from a “very serious in-

fection”, according to a justice official. Jean-Simon Merandat, chief of staff to the Val d’Oise police prefect, said family and friends of the dead man were planning a street march later on Friday and that local authorities were liaising with them on the matter.

In the overnight violence, less marked than previous nights, a police vehicle was hit by buckshot fire, six cars and several bins were set on fire, Merandat told French public radio.

“Things are pointing towards an easing of tension,” he said, adding that five arrests were made but nobody put in custody.

Earlier this week, a crowd of around 200 threw petrol bombs at police and public buildings.

Traore was arrested after an altercation with police when they went looking for his brother over a petty crime case.

About 180 police have been deployed to restore calm, five of whom were slightly hurt on Tuesday when someone opened fire on them with what Merandat said was probably a hunting weapon.

Weeks of rioting erupted in Paris’s often grim suburbs in 2005 after the death of youths who were electrocuted when they hid from police in a power generation hub. An independence ombudsman said in a statement on Thursday that it had been asked to pursue the matter and that an inquiry would be opened to examine the police handling of the affair.—Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Indian military transport plane carrying 29 people missing in Bay of Bengal

NEW DELHI — An Indian air force plane carrying 29 military personnel to a remote island chain in the Bay of Bengal went missing on Friday, the military said.

The Russian-made AN-32 was on its way to Port Blair, the capital of the Andaman and Nicobar chain of islands, from the south-east city of Chennai when it disappeared from radar.

There were six crew on the aircraft, a workhorse of the air force.

A navy spokesman said surveillance planes and ships were searching for the aircraft. It was carrying service personnel to the strategic islands near the Malacca Straits, where India has a military base.—Reuters

UN envoy hopes Geneva meeting will pave way for Syria peace talks

GENEVA — The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria hopes that a meeting expected to be held in Geneva next week with US and Russian officials will pave the way for a resumption of peace talks between the warring parties, his spokeswoman said on Friday.

Jessy Chahine, spokeswoman for Staffan de Mistura, declined to give details of the talks or their participants. “Our hope is that any discussions on Syria will help move forward with the process so we can also get to starting the next round of intra-Syrian talks,” she told a briefing in Geneva.

A high-level meeting of officials from Russia, the United States and the United Nations is due to take place in Geneva next week to discuss the Syrian crisis, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Thursday, Interfax reported.—Reuters

Thailand to crack down on blacklisted companies numbering 22,992

BANGKOK — The Thai government blacklisted a total of 22,992 companies who fail to provide clear locations of their offices or submit required annual financial statements.

Pongpun Gearaviriyapun, director-general of Thai Business Development Department (BDD), said the department has put 22,992 questionable companies on the list of firms posing high risks of doing business, among which 7,293 were found to have no headquarters registered, 4,054 failed to submit annual financial statements as required, and 11,293 have not answered queries concerning their financial statements.

According to Pongpun, the blacklisted companies, accounting for nearly 3.6 per cent of the roughly 640,000 active companies in the country, were detected after the BDD operated inspections of totally 635,000 juristic persons registered with the department.

Some of them were found to have intentionally registered their company names resembling well-known businesses as to mislead and cheat people, she added.—Xinhua

Five men killed in road accident in Belarus

MINSK — Five people died in a road accident in Dokshytsy district of Vitebsk region of Belarus, the press service of the local police department said on Thursday.

According to the preliminary investigation, an Audi 80 crossed into lane and collided with an oncoming Ford Mondeo on Wednesday, killing the driver of Audi and three passengers with him, all men.

The driver of the Ford succumbed to injuries. He was travelling with his 9-year-old daughter, who was severely injured and was taken to hospital. She was the only survivor in the road accident.—Xinhua

Afghan battle leaves 22 dead in Qala-e-Zal district of the northern Kunduz province

KUDNUZ, (Afghanistan) — Up to 22 people including 18 militants have been killed as clash erupted in Qala-e-Zal district of the northern Kunduz province on Friday, an army official Brigadier Mangal Rahat said. “A total of 18 Taliban rebels have been killed as security forces mounted pressure against militants in Qala-e-Zal district Friday morning,” Rahat told Xinhua.

Several more militants have been injured, the official asserted.

The official, however, avoided commenting on security forces casualties. Meantime, an official on the condition of anonymity said that four security personnel have been killed and six others injured.

Clash for the control of Qala-e-Zal district along the border with Tajikistan has been continuing since Sunday and government forces have been doing their best to dislodge militants from the area.—Xinhua

Iraq's domestic security must catch up to military gains, defence minister says

BAGHDAD — Less than 10 per cent of Iraqi territory remains in the hands of Islamic State, but battlefield advances have not been matched by better security inside Iraq, the country's defence minister said on Thursday.

Iraq is now mounting a campaign to retake Mosul, the de facto IS capital, after recapturing Falluja late last month. But a suicide bombing in Baghdad less than a week after Falluja fell killed almost 300 people, and bombings since then have taken at least 51 more lives.

"Progress in military performance must be paired with progress on the security file," Defence Minister Khalid al-Obeidi tweeted from Washington before a meeting of defence ministers from the US-led coalition battling the ultra-hardline militants.

At its peak, IS had captured somewhere between 30 per cent and 40 per cent of Iraqi territory. The ground it holds has been drastically reduced, but the militants can still inflict tremendous damage in Iraq's towns and cities.

The suicide bombing in central Baghdad earlier this month, which killed at least 292 in one of the worst such attacks since the US-led invasion in 2003, was

a "stark example" of that failure, he said. IS claimed responsibility for the attack.

Obeidi said the battle for Mosul, which has gained momentum since the recapture of Falluja and a northern airbase, required airstrikes, intelligence, logistics and engineering support.

He said he expects most residents, which he estimated at around 2 million, to flee Mosul as they've done in recent battles, and that the offensive would require coordination with peshmerga forces from the autonomous Kurdish region.

That population estimate is nearly double recent projections from the United Nations, which predicts displacement from Mosul will require the largest humanitarian relief operation in the world this year.

Obeidi acknowledged the need for political understandings about the offensive and post-IS management, but it is far from certain that Iraq can accomplish that before the battle begins.

Although Iraqi and US officials have not announced a timetable for moving on the city, a senior Baghdad-based diplomat and a Western official have said Iraqi Prime Minister Haider



Vehicles of the Iraqi security forces move toward Falluja on the outskirts of the city in Iraq, on 10 June 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS

al-Abadi wants to push into Mosul by October.

Western officials say retaking the city without a plan to restore security, basic services and governance, along with money and personnel to implement it, risks repeating the mistake US President George W. Bush's administration made in 2003, by toppling one government without plans for a new one.

Mosul and its outskirts are a mosaic of different ethnic and religious groups lying between Turkey, Syria and Iraqi Kurdistan, and the fight against IS

has exacerbated tensions among many of those communities.

Obeidi said Iraq needed the help of its allies in securing cities and borders, but that the participation of the Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMF), a coalition of mostly Iran-backed Shi'ite militias, would be determined by "military plans and a decision by the commander-in-chief".

Some PMF elements have been accused of rights violations in earlier battles, including Falluja. Obeidi condemned such abuses on Twitter as "a betrayal of the army's sacrifices" and said viola-

tors would be held accountable.

Speaking with a small group of journalists in Washington on Thursday, Obeidi said he expected Islamic State to use tactics it has used in past battles, in defending Mosul, ranging from IEDs (improvised explosive devices) to the use of trenches and tunnels.

Obeidi added that he did not expect the peshmerga forces to enter the city of Mosul.

"We won't even let them take part in the liberation of the city," the defence minister said through a translator.—Reuters

Russia says new materials needed to rebuild monuments in Syria's Palmyra

MOSCOW — Two ancient monuments in the Syrian city of Palmyra were so badly damaged by Islamic State that they can only be rebuilt using substantially new materials, Russian officials said on Thursday.

If that were to happen, many historians would view the monuments as mere replicas, shorn of the ancient heritage of the original structures.

Experts from Russia's Culture Ministry have assessed the

damage in Palmyra after the UNESCO world heritage site was recaptured from Islamic State in March.

Retaking Palmyra was the first significant victory over Islamic State by Syrian forces with support from the Russian military. It was celebrated with a concert by Russian musicians in Palmyra's ancient amphitheatre a month after the battle.

One of the symbols of Palmyra, the Greco-Roman Temple

of Bel, founded in the first century, "can be hardly restored", the Russian experts said in a report presented on Thursday.

"A recreation of the monument can only be made by its reconstruction using designs and photographs after preliminary clearing of the building's ground," the report said.

This will require at least 3-4 years and "significant financing", the experts added, estimating that the rebuilding of another key

monument, the Arch of Triumph, would be possible within 9-12 months.

"After the re-creation of the monument it will 60-70 per cent consist of new materials," the report said about the arch, whose vaults it said were "fully destroyed" by an explosion.

Some original fragments of the nearly 2,000-year-old Temple of Baalshamin could be restored in 2-3 months, they said.

A decision on which works

will be rebuilt has not been made yet, Russian Deputy Culture Minister Vladimir Aristarkhov told a news conference also attended by the Syrian ambassador to Moscow.

Aristarkhov called on other countries, including ones in the West opposed to President Bashar al-Assad, to take part in discussions on the restoring the ruins in Palmyra, including how such work would be funded.

—Reuters

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People wait on a rock to be brought back to Carna by local fishermen off the coast of Galway, Ireland, on 16 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Pilgrimage to tiny Irish island keeps local fishermen safe

ST MACDARA’S ISLAND (Ireland) — It is said that people don’t come home for Christmas to the small western Irish village of Carna, they come back for St. MacDara’s Day. On that day, every 16 July, hundreds make a pilgrimage off the coast of Gaelic-speaking Carna to tiny, uninhabited St. MacDara’s Island, to a celebration of mass and blessing of boats. It will keep them safe throughout the year, locals believe. St. MacDara, the pa-

tron saint of seafarers, is believed to have built the small church on the island in the sixth century. After mass, the locally crafted boats, known as Galway Hookers, bow their sails in the direction of the church three times to bless the year ahead. “It is like a second Christmas half way through the year,” said Cliona Ni Chualain, the organiser of MacDara’s festival. Her family own a Galway Hooker built in 1895 called ‘Blath na hOige’, meaning

‘Flower of Youth’. “I’ve done it since I was a baby and for us it’s a family gathering, a community gathering. It’s pretty special. And when you’re on the island there is this feeling of calmness. I wouldn’t be a practicing Catholic but there is something very, very spiritual about it.” ‘Blath na hOige’ and other nautical celebrants can be seen in a Reuters photo essay. Local fisherman John-ni Cloherty reckons the pil-

grimage, one of the few remaining snapshots of Irish yesteryear, has kept him safe for the last 40 years in the Atlantic Ocean, where he harvests seaweed and fishes for lobster and crab. “It does yeah, definitely,” said Cloherty, 58, from nearby Mweenish Island. “I’d be out there in the winter and keep near that island (MacDara’s). It’s a good thing.” But like many in small rural parts of the country, Cloherty, who starts working at 5am each day and

doesn’t finish until 10pm, has seen young people leave the area in increasing numbers in search of jobs and a different lifestyle. There are now only about 30 Galway Hookers left and the days of all 30 trawling the western Irish coastline together are fading with fewer and fewer crew to go around. “I don’t think the young people will be going out fishing. It’s sad. Say another 10 years, who will be out there? Nobody knows,” Cloherty said.—Reuters

Fighting erupts over northern Mali town of Kidal

BAMAKO — Fighting broke out in the town of Kidal in Mali’s desert north on Thursday between pro-government militia and a Tuareg-dominated rebel coalition, town residents and the United Nations said. The violence highlighted the increasing fragility of a UN-backed deal signed a year ago between the government in the southern capital Bamako and northern armed groups that was meant to end a decades-long cycle of uprisings. Mali’s UN peace-keeping mission, MINUSMA, said the fighting was a violation of the ceasefire both groups — the Tuareg separatist Coordination of Azawad Movements (CMA) and pro-government Gambia militia — agreed to as part of the deal.

The sound of gunfire rang out in Kidal, one of northern Mali’s main towns, from around 4pm (1600 GMT) and sent residents fleeing indoors for cover as clashes quickly spread. “We were at the mosque when we heard a few gunshots,” said Ahamadou Thegoum, a Kidal resident. “Fifteen minutes later, they let loose and we heard gunfire practically all over town, steady gunfire and sometimes explosions.”—Reuters

Extension of Submission Deadline
Invitation for Price Quotation G. 36, G 47 and G.48
Department of Rural Development
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation

The Department of Rural Development would like to extend the deadline for submission of quotations for the follow Invitation to Quote (ITQ):

ITQ Ref. No.	Description of Goods	Quantity
G.36	Motorcycles Crash Helmets	3,425
G.47	Office Furniture (desks, chairs, folding chairs, bookcases, filing cabinets, telephone and fax stands)	2,660 (total)
G.48	Office Equipment (printers-fax-scanners, photocopiers, color printers, projector with screen)	140 (total)

Request for Invitation to Quote document must be submitted in writing to the below e-mail address:
unioncddprocurement@gmail.com

Contact no. : Telephone no. (+95-67) 409071 : Fax No. (+95-67) 409413/409071
Deadline for submission of quotation is on or before Monday August 1, 2016 at 10.00 a.m. Myanmar Time

Former Portuguese PM in lead for next UN chief position

NEW YORK — Former prime minister of Portugal Antonio Guterres was the top contender in the race to replace outgoing UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in a secret poll carried out Thursday, diplomats said.

The so-called straw poll is being used to help trim down the long list of 12 candidates who have presented themselves so far. It allows the 15-member UN Security Council to unanimously weigh in on whether they encourage, discourage or offer no comment on each one of them.

Guterres, who also served as UN high commissioner for refugees until last year, garnered 12 encourage and 3 no opinion votes.

Slovenia’s former President Danilo Turk came in second with 11 encourage, 2 discourage and 2 no opinion votes.

Bulgarian Irina Bokova, who presently serves as head of UNESCO, came in third place with 9 positive votes, 4 negative votes and 2 no comments — the top-scoring female of the six women candidates in the race so far.

The UNESCO head

was at the UN headquarters but declined to comment to Kyodo News about the results.

Former Serbian Foreign Minister Vuk Jeremic and former Macedonian Foreign Minister Srgjan Kerim, who both had previously served as presidents of the UN General Assembly, also received 9 positive votes, 5 negative votes each and 1 no opinion respectively.

New Zealand’s former Prime Minister Helen Clark garnered 8 encourage, 5 discourage and 2 no opinion votes.—Kyodo News

Earth on track for hottest year ever as warming speeds up

GENEVA — The earth is on track for its hottest year on record and warming at a faster rate than expected, the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) said on Thursday.

Temperatures recorded mainly in the northern hemisphere in the first six months of the year, coupled with an early and fast Arctic sea ice melt and “new highs” in heat-trapping carbon dioxide levels, point to quickening climate change, it said.

June marked the 14th straight month of record heat, the United Nations agency said. It called for speedy implementation of a global pact reached in Paris last December to limit climate change by shifting from fossil fuels to green energy by 2100.

“What we’ve seen so far for the first six months of 2016 is really quite alarming,” David Carlson, director of the WMO’s Climate Research Programme, told a news briefing.

“This year suggests that the planet can warm up faster than we expected in a much shorter time... We don’t have as much time as we thought.”



White canvas covers protect parts of the Rhone glacier against melting as visitors enter an ice cave near the Furka mountain pass at 2429 metres (7969 ft) altitude in the Swiss Alps, Switzerland in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

The average temperature in the first six months of 2016 was 1.3° Celsius (2.4° Fahrenheit) warmer than the pre-industrial era of the late 19th Century, according to space agency NASA. Under the Paris Agreement, near-

ly 200 governments agreed to limit global warming to well below 2°C (3.6°F) above pre-industrial levels, while “pursuing efforts” for a ceiling of 1.5°C — a lower limit already close to being reached.

The last month with global temperatures below the 20th century average was December 1984, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

“There’s almost no

plausible scenario at this point that is going to get us anything other than an extraordinary year in terms of ice (melt), CO₂, temperature — all the things that we track,” Carlson said.

“If we got this much

surprise this year, how many more surprises are ahead of us?”

A strong El Niño weather event from 2015/2016 in the Pacific Ocean, a phenomenon associated with extreme droughts, storms and floods, contributed to the record temperatures in the first half of 2016 before disappearing in May, WMO said. “Climate change, caused by heat-trapping greenhouse gases, will not (disappear). This means we face more heatwaves, more extreme rainfall and potential for higher impact tropical cyclones,” said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas.

Repeated extremes, such as heatwaves, downpours or droughts, could encourage more action to limit greenhouse gas emissions.

“Research shows that for the general public extremes make climate change more tangible, more understandable,” said Joeri Rogelj, a climate expert at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Vienna. “It could help to motivate people to engage in climate action, and do something.”—Reuters

Clinton faces pressure to pick VP who is tough on trade, Wall Street

WASHINGTON — Members of the Democratic Party’s liberal wing on Thursday nervously awaited Hillary Clinton’s announcement in coming days of a vice presidential running mate, urging her to choose someone who opposes a massive Pacific free trade deal and backs tough Wall Street reform.

Two US senators, Tim Kaine and Cory Booker, and Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack were among the contenders, according to a Democratic source with knowledge of the discussions.

“After promising to oppose the TPP, it’s important for Clinton to pick someone who shares that position,” said Stephanie Taylor, co-founder of the Progressive Change Campaign Committee.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade deal, known as TPP, became a key issue during the primary season, with critics contending that it would be unfair to American workers. Clinton’s chief rival for the Democratic nomination, Senator Bernie Sanders of



US Democratic Presidential candidate Hillary Clinton. PHOTO: REUTERS

Vermont, has headed the effort on the US left to oppose the TPP and trade deals like it.

The Democratic source said that while Clinton’s decision was being closely held, there were “vibes” she may be leaning toward Kaine as a partner to take on Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump and his vice presidential running mate Mike Pence in the 8 November election. But the source said that the consideration of Vilsack, a former governor of Iowa, “is real,” even if Kaine, a senator from Virginia who is also a former governor of the state, might have an edge.—Reuters

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV CAPE FLORES VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S COSCO CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV AYSAN VOY NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV AYSAN VOY NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T where it will lie at the consignee’s risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S LAND AND SEA SHIPPING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (034W)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BC SANFRANCISCO VOY NO (034W) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 23.7.2016 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.

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S ORIENT OVERSEA CONTAINER LINES
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV THAI BINH 039 VOY NO (05/2016)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV THAI BINH 039 VOY NO (05/2016) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 24.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of SPW-3 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 G-LINK EXPRESS PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301928



Comedian Carey Marx performs at the Up The Creek Comedy Club in Greenwich, London, Britain, on 16 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dying on stage: comedian Marx has come closer than most

GREENWICH — Like most stand-up comedians, Carey Marx has stories about “dying on stage”, but in his case they are almost literally true.

Just weeks after a heart attack at the age of 46 which he put down to smoking, drinking and poor diet, economic necessity forced Marx back to work. But the crowd reacted badly when he tried to make jokes about his illness, chanting: “Die! Die! Die!”

He shuffled off stage and into an ambulance. He survived but only after a second operation to keep his arteries open.

“I tried to do material about the heart attack and I think if you do material like that badly you just embarrass the audience,” Marx told Reuters ahead of a gig in south London.

“And I was also was genuinely afraid of hecklers, and that’s when comedy becomes frightening. You should never be afraid of the heckler. When you feel your heart racing and you’re aware that you could go down

at any moment then it’s pretty scary.”

Just hours after his heart attack, Marx told hospital staff he intended to get to a gig that evening. The doctor, astonished that he was contemplating rushing back into such a high-stress occupation, inadvertently gave him his first heart joke.

“He said: ‘You can’t do comedy.’ What he hadn’t bargained for is I’ve been told that loads of times!” Marx says in “Intensive Carey”, a show about his heart attack which he performed at the Edinburgh Festival and BBC radio.

These days the Londoner, a combative, confident performer who is both lauded and criticised for his “dark” subject matters, rarely does material about his heart attack, partly because “I don’t want to ruin their night” but more because it is so personal.

“I found it embarrassing to talk about at first. I am able to criticise the world and behaviour and rules normally (during my comedy) because they don’t

affect me personally and I don’t mind how the audience react to it.”

“But if I had an audience I didn’t really like, I didn’t want to tell them the story, because it was personal. I felt like I had an investment in it.”

One of the most touching stories in “Intensive Carey” is when Marx recalls walking to the local shop to buy a bag of sugar.

Severely weakened by his heart disease, he has to clutch it desperately to his chest as he staggers home, aware that people around him must be thinking: “Look at that poor old man. He really loves sugar.”

Research published in the “International Journal of Cardiology” that found standup comedians were particularly at risk of fatal illness, with “an inverse association between comedic ability and longevity”, is something of a double-edged sword for Marx.

“Should I be putting ‘has had a heart attack’ amongst the reviews on my flyers?” he asked. —Reuters

Prince estate’s administrator dismisses claims by three

LOS ANGELES — The administrator of Prince’s estate has dismissed claims from three would-be heirs who asserted that their father was also the true biological dad of the late pop star through an alleged affair with his mother.

The denials, in Minnesota court documents filed on Wednesday, came in reply to three individuals seeking a piece of the estate left by Prince after he died unexpectedly in April, apparently without a will, and demanding DNA tests to prove they were his half-siblings.

The dismissals, subject to a judge’s review, underscored the tangled and voluminous testaments of kinship that need to be sorted out by the Minnesota probate court overseeing Prince’s estate, estimated to be worth more than \$500 million.

Among the more colourful are petitions from at least three men claiming they were fathered by Prince out of wedlock - two who are now incarcerated - and a woman who claims she was a secret bride to Prince whose marriage records are classified by the CIA as top secret.

The latest decisions dealt with three people

who have asserted that their late father, Loyal James Gresham Jr., was also Prince’s biological father by way of an extramarital affair with Prince’s mother, Mattie Della Shaw, the year before Prince was born.

Prince, whose legal name was Prince Rogers Nelson, has long been identified in public records as the only son from Mattie Shaw’s marriage to John L. Nelson, who also fathered Prince’s younger sister, Tyka Nelson, and three older surviving children from a previous marriage.

David Crosby, an attorney for the estate’s special administrator, Bremer Trust, wrote in a letter of determination that Minnesota law presumes that John and Mattie were Prince’s biological parents

because they were married when he was born.

“Only a very limited group of persons have standing to challenge that presumption and, in any event, the time to make such a challenge passed long ago,” Crosby wrote.

He cited a statute of limitations requirement that any challenge to that presumption be brought within three years of the child’s birth. Prince was born in 1958. Crosby said no DNA testing was necessary to dismiss the claims of Gresham’s three adult children, daughters Darcell Gresham Johnston and Orrine Gresham and son Loyal Gresham III. Separately, Crosby upheld as valid the claims of heirship from five known half-siblings, previously acknowledged in court filings by Tyka Nelson, who Crosby said have demonstrated that they share at least one genetic parent with Prince. —Reuters



PHOTO: REUTERS

Miley Cyrus drops surprise new single

LONDON — Pop star Miley Cyrus just dropped a surprise single with Zoe Kravitz’s band Lolawolf. The song named Teardrop is available on iTunes and Apple Music, reported Digital Spy.

The haunting Teardrop includes Cyrus waxing lyrics about the taboo subject of religion: “Forever is like Jesus, it’s just something that we’ve made our self-believe in. Makes, maybe, our death a little less scary.”

Miley and Zoe have also collaborated in the past - with Lolawolf opening several shows for the 2014 Bangerz Tour. Cyrus also cameoed in the group’s Bitch video. This is the first new musical output for Miley since she dropped her surprise album Her Dead Petz at the MTV Video Music Awards last August, earning positive reviews from many critics for its experimental style. Over the last year, Miley has dedicated most of her time to acting in Woody Allen’s Amazon series, coaching on The Voice US and spending time with her beau Liam Hemsworth. —PTI



PHOTO: REUTERS



Dancers perform during the opening ceremony of the 1st Afro-Chinese Arts & Folklore Festival in Cairo, Egypt on 21 July, 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

Egypt launches first Afro-Chinese Arts Festival to promote tourism

CAIRO — Egypt launched on Thursday its first Afro-Chinese Arts & Folklore Festival in a bid to draw tourists back to the North-African country.

Some 18 African countries participated in the festival, organised by the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism. During the opening ceremony held in Cairo's Mohammed Ali Palace, a number of bands from several African countries and China performed folkloric and musical shows.

Chinese ambassador to Egypt Song Aiguo told Xinhua

that the event is good "because it not only introduces Chinese culture to Egypt, but also enhances bilateral understanding."

"It is a difficult time for Egypt's tourism, so the event is even more timely," he added.

The six-day event aims to strengthen ties between African countries and China, and will celebrate the cultural heritage of the participating countries.

The festival includes film screening, folkloric dance performance as well as cuisine from the different countries and handicrafts.—Xinhua

British jousters want medieval 'martial art' made Olympic sport

LONDON — British enthusiasts have launched a bid for the ancient sport of jousting, in which riders in steel armor charge and try to knock each other off their horses with a 12-foot (3.7 m) pole, to be made an Olympic sport.

Long a feature of themed medieval fairs in the grounds of ancient castles, jousting deserves to be recognised as a "western martial art" and added to the roster of Olympic events, said professional joustier Dominic Sewell.

"You can see jousts from Russia to Australia to western California," Sewell, suited up in chain mail, told Sky TV on Thursday.

"It's becoming a truly international sport and that's why we are calling for it to be recognised on an Olympic level."

Sewell is backed by English Heritage, a charity that curates 400 historic buildings, monuments and sites, and has launched an online petition to promote jousting ahead of the Rio Olympics.

Medieval knights turned to jousting to showcase their strength, skill and horsemanship, with the first tournament held in 1066 and similar spectacles patronized by King Henry VIII and Queen Elizabeth I.

Encounters often ended in



Performers dressed as medieval knights joust at Knebworth House in Hertfordshire, Britain on 1 April, 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

injury or death — including of French King Henry II in 1559 — but the hollow lances used nowadays are designed to shatter on impact, reducing the risks.

Sewell said jousting combines the demands of the Modern Pentathlon with the horsemanship of other equestrian events already on the Olympic roster. He described his armor as "personal protection equipment — it just happens to be made of steel."

It would take years, however, for jousting to be consid-

ered for inclusion in the summer games.

First it would have to be recognised as an Olympic sport and then scrutinized for a period of at least seven years. A recognised international jousting federation would need to be established and world championships held.

While no new sports have been added for Rio, baseball and softball, karate, sport climbing, skateboarding and surfing have been recommended for inclusion at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. —Reuters

Japanese restaurants in Michelin's inaugural guide on Singapore

SINGAPORE — Several Japan-affiliated restaurants were awarded Michelin's two-star and one-star ratings in the French tire maker's first-ever guide on Singapore-based restaurants released Thursday night.

French restaurant Joel Robuchon was the only restaurant to clinch the most prestigious three-star rating at a glittery gala dinner and awards ceremony at Singapore's Sentosa island resort.

Japanese fine dining restaurant Shoukouwa, which spe-

cializes in sushi, was among six restaurants awarded the two-star rating in the Michelin Guide Singapore.

The restaurant had just opened in March this year as a joint venture between the Emmanuel Stroobant Group and the three-starred Sushi Shikon in Hong Kong.

Also awarded a two-star rating was Shisen Hanten, part of a famous Japanese chain of Szechuan restaurants which made its first debut outside Japan in Sin-

gapore in 2014.

Three Japanese restaurants, Waku Ghin, Shinji and Sushi Ichi were among 22 restaurants in Singapore that were given one-star ratings.

Many Japanese restaurants have set up shop in Singapore where Japanese food, especially sushi, is popular among locals.

Singapore is the first South-east Asian economy, and the fourth in Asia after Japan, Hong Kong and Macau, to be rated by Michelin. — Kyodo News



Masakazu Ishibashi (L), chef of sushi restaurant Shoukouwa, and Chen Kentaro (C), executive chef of Chinese restaurant Shisen Hanten, pose after being awarded Michelin two-star ratings in Singapore on 21 July, 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Entertainment Channel

(23-7-2016, Saturday)

06 : 00 pm • Weather Report • He can do it 06 : 20 pm • Cartoon Programme "Minuscule Valley of the Lost Ants"(Part-1) 07 : 10 pm • Cassette Recordings 08 : 20 pm • MRTV Entertainment Music	08 : 40 pm • The Writer: Chit Oo Nyo (Part- I) 09 : 00 pm • International Movie Songs 09 : 10 pm • Moe Ne' Keeps Its Tradition Alive 09 : 30 pm • Music Programme 09 : 50 pm • Myanmar Movie
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From 23-7-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 pm
To 24-7-2016 (Sunday) 6:00 pm

Myanmar International

(23-7-2016 07:00am ~ 24-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh 07:03 Am News 07:26 Am Great Shwedagon- Historic and Mysterious Places 07:55 Am Made in Myanmar "Mixxo" 08:03 Am News 08:26 Am Ar Khar New Year Festival 08:47 Am Today Myanmar "69th Anniversary of The Martyrs' Day" 09:03 Am News 09:26 Am News Extra "World Bank" 09:49 Am Myanmar Weaving 10:03 Am News 10:26 Am "Myanmar's Traditions and Culture" Myanmar's Secret Beautifier	10:50 Am Gemstone Sculptor (11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Friday 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 07:26 Pm Interesting feature of Rakhaine 07:47 Pm Today Myanmar: Small & Medium Enterprises 08:03 Pm News 08:26 Pm Sai Htee Hseng or an Exceptional Music Star From Shan Plateaus(Ep-2) 08:57 Pm Myanmar Masterclass: Fantastic Art (09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am) (11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Friday Repeat (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) (03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) -Today Repeat (03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm)
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(For Detailed Schedule – www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)

Chris Froome moves closer to third Tour de France title

MEGEVE, (France) — Britain's Chris Froome edged nearer retaining his Tour de France title when he won the 18th stage, a 17-km mountain time trial, to extend his overall lead to almost four minutes on Thursday.

The Team Sky rider, aiming to become the first to retain the title since Miguel Indurain in 1995, clocked a best time of 30 minutes 43 seconds on a course featuring the punishing Cote de Domancy, a 2.5-km climb at an average gradient of 9.4 per cent.

He beat time trial specialist Tom Dumoulin by 21 seconds and Italian Fabio Aru by 33 seconds.

"I really didn't expect to beat Tom today, pacing was key. I started off steady and really controlled that first part then gave it everything I had," said Froome.

"I've got a great advantage now." Five-times Tour champion Eddy Merckx said the Briton already had the Tour sewn up.

"I can't see any reason why he could not keep the yellow until Paris," the Belgian said. "His rivals are just sitting in his team mates' wheels. Nobody can beat him at this Tour."

Dutchman Bauke Mollema, who started the day 2:27 behind Froome in the general classification, lost 1:25 and trails the defending champion by a massive 3:52 going into two final stages in the Alps before Sunday's parade to the Champs Elysees.

Froome's compatriot Adam Yates is third, 4:16 off the pace, as the race to the podium is set to heat up with at least five riders still in the mix for second place.

Colombian Nairo Quintana, runner-up to Froome in 2013 and 2015, had another tough day in the saddle, losing 1:10. The Movistar rider is fourth overall, 4:37 behind Froome.

On his heels is Frenchman Romain Bardet, 4:57 behind after finishing a surprise fifth on Thursday, while Australian Richie Porte, fourth on Thursday, is sixth three seconds further back.

"I'm happy it's a good time trial, I've got good sensations, it was pleasing. There are still two big stages left. I hope I'll find a good terrain to attack," said Bardet. Froome started cautiously but finished strong to claim his second stage win in this Tour, raising his fist in celebration after crossing the line.

"As always in the time trial the pacing strategy is critical, particularly in one like today where it was very easy, with that first steep ramp, to go out a little bit too hard and pay for it at the end," said Team Sky manager Dave Brailsford.—Reuters



Yellow jersey leader Team Sky rider Chris Froome of Britain wins on the finish line during the individual time trial at Tour de France cycling race, Stage 18 from Sallanches to Megeve, France, on 21 July 2016.

PHOTO: REUTERS



PHOTO: REUTERS

Rosberg signs deal to stay at Mercedes until 2018

BUDAPEST — Formula One championship leader Nico Rosberg has signed a new contract that will keep him at Mercedes with Lewis Hamilton until the end of the 2018 season, the team said on Friday.

The team tweeted video of the 31-year-old German, runner up to Briton Hamilton in the championship for the last two years, signing the contract to race for the team in the 2017 and 2018 seasons.

"We are delighted to announce that the Mercedes AMG Petronas Formula 1 Team has signed a two-year contract extension with Nico Rosberg for the 2017 and 2018 Formula One seasons," Mercedes later confirmed in a statement.—Reuters

Mata must earn his first-team place at United — Mourinho

LONDON — There is space for Juan Mata at Manchester United but the midfielder must fight to break into the first team, manager Jose Mourinho has said.

Mourinho was in charge at Chelsea when Mata left Stamford Bridge to join United in January 2014, having won back-to-back Player of the Year awards in his two previous seasons there.

"He's here and he works hard. He knows that I know he is a good player and he has space in the squad. Until 31 August the market is open for every one of my players that is not happy, but to be fair I think he is (happy)," Mourinho told the BBC.

"I think he is happy and I am not expecting him to ask to leave. I am expecting him to do what he is doing now, which is to fight for a place."



Manchester United manager Jose Mourinho with Juan Mata after the Pre Season Friendly match against Wigan Athletic at DW Stadium, on 16 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"We have 38 matches in the Premier League, we expect to play a lot of them in the Europa League and domestic cups so in a squad of, let's say, 22 players, there will be a space for everyone. So, yes, there is a space for Juan," Mourinho added.

Mata scored six goals in 38 Premier League appearances last

season as United finished fifth in the standings.

Since his arrival in May, Mourinho has boosted United's squad by signing defender Eric Bailly, midfielder Henrikh Mkhitaryan and striker Zlatan Ibrahimovic and, according to media reports, is chasing midfielder Paul Pogba from Serie A champions Juventus.—Reuters

Johnson in share of Canadian Open lead; Day three back

OAKVILLE, (Ontario, CAN) — World number two Dustin Johnson eagled the final hole to earn a share of the lead with fellow American Luke List after the first round at the RBC Canadian Open on Thursday.

Johnson sank a 12-foot putt at the par-five 18th to cap a roller-coaster afternoon round that also included seven birdies, a bogey and double-bogey at sun-baked Glen Abbey Golf Club outside Toronto.

"I drove it in the fairway a bunch. That was definitely very helpful," the US Open champion told Golf Channel after signing for a six-under-par 66 and a one-shot lead.

"Conditions were tough. The wind was blowing pretty hard and I felt like I played pretty well. I just made one bad swing, on 14 (into the creek). Other than that I thought I played really nicely all day long."

Defending champion Jason Day was also rewarded for his aggressive approach with a 69.

Day used his driver liberally and collected four birdies, along with a chip-in eagle.

After finishing a disappointing 22nd at the British Open on Sunday, Day spoke of how he was looking forward to returning to hot and dry North American weather. So far he has not been disappointed.

"With how dry everything is, it's almost better to get up there around the green with a wedge in your hand," the Australian world number one told PGA Tour.com, explaining his aggressive mindset.

"You miss the fairway with an iron off the tee, there's no chance of keeping it on the green anyway, so you may as well get it up close to the green. The greens were pretty firm and fast."—Reuters