THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

Vol. III, No. 102, 8th Waning of Waso 1378 ME | www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com | Wednesday, 27 July, 2016

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TOWARD FEDERAL SYSTEM

The leaders from ethnic armed organisations hold plenary meeting in Mai Ja Yanng, Kachin State. PHOTO: PHO HTAUNG

Ethnic Armed Organisations' conference commences

Ye Khaung Nyunt

THE ethnic armed organisations plenary meeting commenced in Mai Ja Yanng, Kachin State, yesterday, attracting leaders representing 17 ethnic armed groups to search for common ground in working toward a federal system in the country.

Delivering his opening remarks, U N'Ban La, Chairman of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), spoke of the importance for seeking common ground in meeting and implementation of agreements reached among the ethnic groups in the meeting, as the government is planning to hold the Union Peace Conference — 21st century Panlong.

U N'Ban La recounted what he discussed with State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi recently in Yangon, saying that the council urged her to settle the current armed conflicts and to carry on the political commitment gained between General Aung San and ethnic leaders in 1947 in order to reach a cessation of armed conflicts and to build a federal democratic system in the country.

Khu Oo Reh, the secretary of the United Nationalities Federal Council (UNFC), spoke on the importance of the conference for the ethnic armed groups, calling the conference a "historic event for ethnic armed groups".

The four-day conference is intended to prepare for coming Union Peace Conference — 21st century Panglong and to seek common ground between ethnic armed groups in order to broker deals for a future Union in Myanmar.

He also urged participants of the conference to discuss and negotiate with tolerance and loving kindness towards each other.

At the conference, ethnic armed groups will discuss four topics: discussion and approval of a Panglong manual, adoption of basic principles for the constitution of a federal democratic State, basic principles for security and defence and amending the framework for the political dialogue.

The plenary meeting was attended by Arakan Liberation Army-ALP, Arakan National Council, All Burma Students Democratic Front-ABSDF, China National Front-CNF, Democratic Karen Buddhist Army-DKBA, the Karenni National Progressive Party (KNPP), the KNU/KNLA Peace Council, Lahu Democratic Union-LDU, New Mon State Party-NMSP, National Democratic Alliance Army-NDAA (Mongla), the Pao National Liberation Organization-PNLO, Restoration Council of Shan State-Shan State Army (RCSS/SSA), the Shan State Progress Party/Shan State Army-SSPP/SSA, UNFC, The United League of Arakan/Arakan Army-UL/AA,

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw continues for second day with Q & A session on worker issues

Amyotha Hluttaw is being convened in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

THE Second Amyotha Hluttaw's second regular session entered its second day with a question and answer session on Myanmar migrant workers, the daily minimum wage and expats working in the country yesterday.

In his response, the Union Minister for Labour, Immigration and Population said that the ministry has prioritised measures to protect Myanmar migrant workers and ensure their socio-economic betterment.

The Union minister said that there are 243 registered overseas employment agencies in Myanmar and that the Myanmar Overseas Employment Agencies Federation has been formed, adding that actionis is being taken against undisciplined agencies based on the extents of the violations.

According to the Union minister, employment agencies are responsible for taking care of the agency workers in accordance with prescribed rules and regulations.

The Union minister added that works were being undertaken in cooperation with ASEAN member countries to ensure safe and healthy workplaces for Myanmar migrant workers vulnerable to labor exploitation and discriminatory treatment.

On the daily minimum wage (K3,600) the Union minister said that it is impossible to revise the current minimum wage that had been set at the moment as coordination with Union/Region/State committees relating to minimum wage is needed.

The National Minimum Wage Committee set a minimum wage of K3,600 for an eight-hour work day on 29 June 2015.

He stressed the need for seeing the minimum wage from different points of view based on present commodity prices, foreign investments, employer-employee relationship, job opportunities, monetary stability and regional matters. *—Myanmar News Agency*

Pyithu Hluttaw

Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htway. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw San San Ei. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw continues for second day with discussions on public health services

THE second Pyithu Hluttaw's second regular session continued into its second day with lawmakers holding discussions on public health services and other parliamentary activities yesterday.

Regarding a question on whether there is a plan to build a 100-bed hospital in Dagon Myothit (South) Township, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htway replied that the already-built 25-bed hospital will be upgraded into a 50-bed with eight specialised treatment services during this fiscal year.

The Union minister pointed out that the township, formed with 32 wards and with a population of 296,979, has one township hospital, one station hospital, two regional health centres and two rural health centres providing health care services to the local people while the 500-bed Thingangyun-Sanpya Hospital is situated to the west of the township and the 200-bed Thanlyin District Hospital to the south.

Next, the Union minister pledged to upgrade the 25-bed hospital in Mong Pyin Township into a 50-bed centre while responding to a question fromPyithuHluttaw representative U Sai Tun Sein.

He added that all 25-bed health facilities in regions and states are set to be upgraded into 50-bed centres under the National Plan running from 2016-2017 FY to 2020-2021 FY.

ThePyithuHluttaw approved the amendment bill to the Anti-Corruption Law sent by Amyotha Hluttaw with amendments.

Afterwards, Moenyin Township Pyithu Hluttaw representative Daw San San Ei submitted a proposal calling on the Union government to expand the organisational set-up of the Public Health Department to ensure that all people can access health care services. *— Myanmar News Agency*

Ethnic excursion group visit Naypyitaw for four days

ANOTHER group of ethnic youngsters have visited Naypyitaw in a bid from the government to project a uniting image in the lead up to the 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference to apparently be held at the end of August.

The 100-member excursion group visited Uppatasanti Pagoda and the white elephant shed, National Museum and Agricultural Research Department (Head Office) in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday, with three more days to go.

It was the second "educational" trip for national races organised by the Ministry of Border Affairs. The ethnic excursion group comprising 25 each from Kachin, Kayah, Mon and Rakhine States arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on Monday.

According to the ministry, the excursion program is aimed at strengthening Union spirit by deepening their understanding of each other in different cultures and ensuring an opportunity to apply knowledge gained during the trip in their own regions.— *Myanmar News Agency*

ADB to renovate disaster stricken areas in Chin State

ASIA Development Bank (ADB) has vowed to provide US$10 million for renovation and rehabilitation of areas hit by natural disaster in Chin State, according to the Department of Rural Development.

The project is aimed at developing roads in the isolated region as well as working to have a consistent supply of water and electricity fed into the region. The Department of Rural Development has been working with 30 international organisations to help meet quotas for the project.

Currently, KFW development bank from Germany has already provided €18m for Southern Shan State. Over US$70m was received from the World Bank to renovate roads and bridges damaged by the natural disasters in Magwe, Bago, Sagaing, Yangon and Ayeyawady regions.

ADB has already signed an MoU to provide US$10m for a rehabilitation project in Chin State from 2016 to 2018. Electricity supply project in Southern Shan State from 2016 to 2018 has been submitted to Union government office and this project is said to cost €2m.

Over US$800m will be spent on the rural development projects, according to an announcement from the Rural Development Department.

From 2014-15 to 2015-16 FY, water supplies, health projects and self-help water meter systems were conducted in 34 townships of Kachin, Rakhine and Shan states, Taninthayi, Sagaing, Magwe and Mandalay regions in cooperation with UNICEF.—*ZarZar*

SEA-ME-WE5 submarine internet fiber cable networks to be installed in early 2017

SEA-ME-WE5 (South East Asia- Middle East - Western Europe 5) submarine internet fiber system will be installed in early 2017, said an official from the Ministry of Transport and Communication.

Currently, installation of land cable networks is at it's final stage for the installation of the SEA-ME-WE5 submarine cable networks. This SEA-ME-WE5 submarine cable networks is 20,000 kilometers long, linking Southeast Asia to Western Europe passing 17 countries. Myanmar Post and Telecommunication (MPT) is one among telecommunication operators, which is building the network. After the completion of this cable network, backbone bandwidth will be wider on fiber-optic networks.

Currently, Myanmar has been using cross-border fiber link, SEA-ME-WE3 submarine cable network and INTELAST9, MEASAT 3 AND Satellite THAI-COM 5 for internet network, out of which Cross-border fiber link and SMW3 are mainly used.

The rate of internet usages has risen this year. The measures to enhance the SEA-ME-WE3 submarine cable network were undertaken in 2015. As a result, the bandwidth of SEA-ME-WE3 has risen from 7Gbps to 60Gbps.

Three operators in Myanmar are currently using cross-border network between Thailand and Myanmar. However, it is only MPT that has been using SEA-ME-WE3 submarine cable network.—*200*

U Tha Aung Nyun appointed as Ambassador to Australia

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Tha Aung Nyun, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Republic of South Africa, as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the Commonwealth of Australia.— *Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

U Htin Lynn appointed as Permanent Representative to UN

THE President of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Htin Lynn, Director-General of the International Organizations and Economic Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as the Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar to the United Nations and other International Organizations, Geneva.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Appointment of Ambassador agreed

THE Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar has granted Agreement to the appointment of Mr. Vikram Misri as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of India to the Republic of the Union of Myanmar.

Mr. Vikram Misri was born in 1964. He holds Degrees of B.A (Hons:) (History) and M.B.A. He joined Foreign Service of India in 1989. During his diplomatic career, he had served in various capacities in the Ministry of External Affairs. He served in the diplomatic missions of India; as Counsellor in Washington, D.C (2003-2006), as Deputy High Commissioner in Colombo (2008-2011), as Consul-General in Munich (2011-2012). He is currently serving as Ambassador of India to Spain since August 2014. He is married and has a daughter and a son.—*Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Yangon's crime crackdown operations to be extended to other locations

Ko Moe

YANGON Region government yesterday said that its crime crackdown operations will be extended to eight other townships of the region.

Acting Police Bridge-Gen Win Naing of Yangon Region Police Force said that the next crime crackdown plan will begin 1 August, targeting Thakayta and Dagon Myothit (North) Townships in Yangon's East District, Mayangon and Sangyoung in West District, Dala and Twantay in South District and Insein and Mingaladon in North District.

He called for the regional government's support and participation of local authorities at the grass roots level.

Yangon Region Chief Minister U Phyo Min Thein said that efforts will be made to keep the rule of law in the four townships where a rule of law programme was conducted since 14 June despite planned crime prevention activities in other townships. The chief minister called on lawmakers to encourage the people to take part in the community-based crime crackdown plan in cooperation with police members and local authorities.

The launch of the crime crackdown operations in the city's most high risk locations— South Dagon, Kamayut, Thanlyin and Hlinethaya Townships— can reduce crimes there, said Police Bridge-Gen Win Naing.

According to Yangon Region Police Force, the rule of law programme to ensure and reduce crimes in Yangon will be extended to the remaining townships except Cocogyun Township.

Ethnic Armed Organisations' . . .

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the Women's League of Burma, the Nationalities Brotherhood Federation – NBF, the United Nationalities Alliance-UNA and the Wa National Organization-WNO.

Not in attendance, however, were the Ta'ang National Liberation Army (TNLA), the Myanmar National Democratic Alliance Army (MNDAA) and the United Wa State Army (UWSA).

The UN Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Myanmar Vijay Nambiar, who joined the Mai Ja Yang summit, said that the UN will stand alongside ethnic armed organisations and the government in support of the peace process.

Sun Guoxiang, from the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that China will "continue supporting" Myanmar.

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends the 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum in Vientiane, Laos. PHOTO: MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister attends 49th AMM's related meetings in Laos

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended related meetings of the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Vientiane, Laos yesterday.

The 17th ASEAN plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meetings attended by the Union minister welcomed the realisation of the Chiang Mai Initiative. Multilateralisation (CMIM), ASEAN Plus Three Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO), the Asian Bond Market Initiative (ABMI) and the Credit Guarantee and Investment Facility (CGIF) to ensure regional economic and financial stability.

The foreign ministers reiterated the importance of the role of the ASEAN Plus Three in the area of boosting regional peace, stability and development and encouraged implementation of the ASEAN Plus Three Emergency Rice Reserve (APTERR) to ensure regional food sufficiency at the meeting.

The group called for the continued implementation of the 2013-2017 Work Plan and the recommendations of the East Asia Vision Group II (EAVGII) report for further cooperation between ASEAN and three dialogue partners.

The meeting also expressed wide support for the draft ASEAN Plus Three Statement on Promoting Sustainable Development initiated by Laos, as Chair of ASEAN, to be adopted by the leaders at the 19th ASEAN Plus Three Summit scheduled to be held this September in Laos.

During the 6th East Asia Foreign Ministers' Meeting, those present pledged to further consolidate the East Asia Summit with the implementation of the 6 priority areas, namely Finance, Education, Environment and Energy, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Disaster Management and ASEAN Connectivity as well as the Kuala Lumpur Declaration, adopted with a view to further strengthening the East Asia Summit as a Leaders-led forum for Dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern aimed at promoting peace, stability and economic prosperity in East Asia.

The draft Vientiane Declaration on Promoting Infrastructure Development Cooperation in East Asia proposed by Laos, chair of ASEAN, is to be adopted at the 11th East Asia Summit.

The 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum retreat session and the 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum plenary session followed with the participation of foreign ministers from 27 member countries.

In the evening, Union Foreign Affairs Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi cordially greeted Myanmar citizens in Laos, family members of the Myanmar Embassy in Laos and delegation members who attended the meetings at the Myanmar Embassy in Vientiane, Laos.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi holds talks with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. V.K Singh at National Convention Center in Vientiane, Laos. PHOTO: MNA

Union Foreign Affairs Minister meets with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs in Laos

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Mr. V.K Singh at National Convention Center in Vientiane, Laos, yesterday.

During the meeting, they discussed matters related to applications of rubber and further cooperation between Myanmar and India. —*Myanmar News Agency*

Post primary school library opened in Taungoo Township

THE opening ceremony of a school library named the Tun Lin Wai Library at the Basic Education Post Primary School of Nyaungthongbin village in Taungoo Township was held on Monday.

Assistant Township Education Officer U Maung Maung Tun, the Headmistress of Nyaungthongbin Primary School Daw San San Wai, the Ward Administrator and the donor of the library Daw Wai Wai Shine cut ribbons to formally open the library.

Staff officer Daw Khine Khine Thin of the Taungoo District Information and Public Relations Department, The Assistant Township Education Officer, Retired Headmaster U Kyaw Win, Headmistress Daw Khin Kyi and the ward Administrator U Myo Myint gave speeches at the event.

The Information and Public Relations Department of Taungoo District and U Kyaw Kyaw Maung donated a number of books at the event while the headmistress for the library and officials gave certificates of honour to donors who gave furniture.—*017*

Post primary school library opening ceremony in progress. PHOTO: 017

Action taken against Shwe Ingyinn Hotel over opening of illegal massage parlour

POLICE on 24 July took action against the Shwe Ingyinn Hotel in Hotel Zone- 2, Ottarathiri township, Nay Pyi Taw Council Area for allegedly running an illegal massage parlour.

Police had previously issued a warning to hotels and guest houses that massage parlours were banned in the Council Area and would not be tolerated.

Arrested were eight people involved including the hotel manager, a security guard and six masseuses.

"The Shwe Ingyinn Hotel opened a KTV and Beauty Spa under the name of Chaw Akari. We had warned them not to open massage parlours in the Nay Pyi Taw Council Area but they disobeyed us. We had to arrest them," said an official from the Bayargon Myoma police station Local police have filed charges against the group under section 188 of the Penal code. — *Thein Ko Lwin*

Crime NEWS

Illegal logs discovered in old graveyard

A COMBINED team comprising officers and staff from Sagaing police station discovered illegal logs weighing 7.8 tonnes in the old graveyard of Pay Pin village on 23 July. A combined team handed over 42 logs to the township forestry department.

The combined team is still investigating the case.— *May Thu (IPRD)*

Illegal logs discovered in old graveyard being checked. PHOTO: MAY THU (IPRD)

Hand grenades discovered on grounds of monastery

Hand grenades discovered on grounds of monastery being seen. PHOTO: 077

EIGHTEEN forgotten hand-grenades were discovered when earth was dug to make repairs to an old road in a monastery compound in Myinmu town on 24 July.

The hand-grenades were handed over to the local Tatmadaw battalion by the monks to be disposed of safely.

The abbot of the monastery said that a basket load of hand-grenades had been discovered on the grounds previously as well as discarded rounds of ammunition. "I asked the other monks to stop burning rubbish" the presiding monk added.— *077*

Police arrested a man for motorbike theft

The police have filed a lawsuit against a man on suspicion of mobile phones theft at Kyaw Zeyar (North) road, Kawlin town, Sagaing region on 24 July.

According to the investigation, a strange man hired a three-wheel motorbike for U Maung Htay at Kawlin railway station. Then, the strange man asked U Maung Htay to take the same motorbike. The former jumped down from the motorbike when it arrived beyond Kayargon village. U Maung Htay found his two mobile phones missing when he arrived at the home and informed it to the police station.

The police identified that the offender as Pho Aung, 35. When interrogated, Pho Aung admitted that he had stolen the two mobile phones from U Maung Htay on board the three wheeler. The local police have filed a lawsuit against him.— *Myanmar Police force*

Pho Aung. Photo: MPF

Yaba and heroin seized in Phakant

AN anti-narcotics suppression squad comprising policemen from Mohnyin confiscated heroin and yaba from a Probox car near Shwe Ngar restaurant, Nga Pyaw Taw ward, Phakant town on 24 July. Acting on a tip-off police stopped a Probox car being driven by one Soe Aung with Ar Yu, Ar Lay and Mao Shee on board. Upon conducting a search police discovered heroin weighing 508 grams and 204,000 yaba pills.

Police from Mong Yaung Myoma police station seized 36,162 yaba pills from two motorcycle drivers on Mong Lite Village Bridge on 23 July. Acting on a tip-off police stopped one Ma Lar Kay Hla and Kyatot. Kyatot abandoned his motorbike and ran into the forest. Police made a search and discovered 17,007 yaba pills on Ma Lar Kay Hla and 19,085 yaba pills on Kyatot's motorcycle.

All suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*

The criminal suspects the probox car and Yaba and heroin being seen. Photo: MPF

Vehicle carrying illegal logs seized in Padaung

THE forestry department is on the lookout for the driver and conductor of a 12-wheel truck found with 10 tonnes of illegal padauk logs on board. The abandoned vehicle was seized on 25 July near Myaywargon village, Pathein- Monywa road Padaung township, Bago region.

The driver and conductor were gone when police arrived. —*Township IPRD*

LOCAL Business

Myanmar imports nearly 15,000 motorbikes this month

Aung Thant Khaing

MYANMAR imported about 15,000 motorcycles worth over US$6m through border trade camps within the first week of this month, according to the Ministry of Commerce.

The imported motorbikes mainly entered the local markets in Mandalay and central regions.

"Mandalay Region authorities normally issue licenses for over 500 bikes per day although the region has seen a decrease in demand compared to the last three years," said a local agent.

"Motorcycle demand has been high in some rural areas including Pyay, Magwe and Pakokku townships where people mainly rely on those bikes for transportation," one of motorcycle brokers said.

According to the ministry's official figure, 12,923 motorbikes were imported through Muse trade zone, 120 bikes from Lwegel trade camp, 60 bikes from Kanpiketi trade camp and 1,792 bikes from Myawady trade camp at the beginning of this month.

Over 1,000 India-made motorbikes entered the country via Myanmar-India border town in the past three months. The number is less than the same period last fiscal year.

Workers install parts for the new motorbikes at a factory in Ruili, Yunnan Province, China. PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE

Requirements of car import permits to be decided by Union level authorities

CAR import license requirements will be decided by Union level authorities according to secretary of the Transport Authority of Yangon Region, Dr Maung Aung.

Matters concerning import of cars with Yangon licence have been negotiated with the businessmen, departments concerned and the experts. But car import to Yangon Region can proceed only with the decision by the Union level authorities.

If Yangon license will be granted under tax system, the prices of permit-free cars might fall, some car dealers have said.

Importation of cars into the country has been low due to the prospect of laws changing soon. This news is likely to also affect the mindset of importers yet again according to an official from an unnamed automobile dealers association.

Although Yangonites need the cars with Yangon licence plates, they do not need to rush to buy these cars as they are cautiously observing how things change. It was over three months ago that import permits of cars with Yangon licence plates had been suspended, rendering auto showrooms and centers have difficulties.

Previously, car imports had been granted only with car parking permits. However, issuing of car parking permit has been suspended since April, rendering importers have more difficulties.

If the system requires parking permits be abolished, Yangon license plate car imports should be permitted, said an expert car dealer.

To be able to ease the traffic congestion in Yangon Region, Yangon regional government is making effort to reduce the bus lines and also searching for empty space on the plots of land belonging to some ministries to make space for car parks, said Dr Maung Aung.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Myanmar corn market expands to China

MYANMAR corn market has expanded to China with the import of American maize halting in late 2014. Corn is cultivated across Myanmar, with corn plantations exceeding 1,093,482 acres and producing over 1.5m tonnes of maize seed every year.

There are about 300,000 tonnes of the maize for the local consumption and the wastages of maize seeds and the additional maize seeds are being exported to the foreign countries. A total of 1,188,438 tonnes of maize has been exported through normal trade as well as border camps in 2015-2016 fiscal year. During this fiscal year, over 1million tonnes of maize have been exported, said an official from the Ministry of Commerce.

Maize seeds are the main commodity for the Chinese merchants. Maize seeds from Myanmar are used in SME enterprises and the snack enterprises as raw materials in Yunnan, Sichun and Guangzhou provinces as well as for the feedstuffs in China. The market prices of the maize seeds are from 1,600 to 1,800 Yuans per tonne (from Ks288,000 to Ks324,000).

Previously, American exported maize seeds to China. However, American maize seed is geneticallly modified and thus upset China, a country priding itself on purity and truth.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

BRT Lite 1 to be run with Scania

THE BRT Lite bus line 1 is to be run only with Scania branded vehicles, Dr Maung Aung, the chairman of Yangon Bus line Public Company, has said.

The line is being operated with vehicles made in China and South Korea. Five Scania vehicles are being added into this line, and only Scania vehicles will be used in this line later on.

It is expected that there will be only Scania buses in BRT Lite1 by January, 2017, he added.

Thirty vehicles of Scania have been ordered for their elegant design. These vehicles are due to arrive in December.

"Scandia and Daewoo have different interior designs. The unique design of Scania vehicles impresses us," said Ko Tayote Lay, a 45-year-old bus owner.

The BRT Lite 1 was introduced on 7th February this year, serving the Htaukkyant - Pyay Road route and Kaba Aye Pagoda Road. A bus terminal for the line will be set up later, and BRT Lite1 will extend its route to Dagon University and Thilawa.

BRT Lite buses might be faced with difficulty in maintenance because BRT Lite is running with various vehicles: King Long and Higer were made in China; Hyundai and Daewoo were made in South Korea; and Scania were made jointly by Sweden and Brazil. The existing five new vehicles and the latest orders are Sweden and Brazil hybrid Scania. Those vehicles are affixed to the brand of Marcopolo S.A Company , a Brazilian Bus and Coach manufacturers.

The hybrid vehicles are a combination of a chassis from Scania and a body from Marcopolo, said a vehicle importer from abroad.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Indonesia to hold next round of executions on Friday — diplomat

JAKARTA — Indonesia will execute several people including a Pakistani on Friday, a Pakistani embassy official said, its first executions since last year when it put to death 14 people, most of them foreign drug convicts, sparking an international outcry.

Indonesian officials have said 16 people will be executed this year, including citizens of Nigeria, Zimbabwe and Pakistan, though they have not confirmed any more details.

Syed Zahid Raza, charge d'affaires at the Pakistani embassy in Jakarta, said the embassy had been informed about the imminent execution of the Pakistani, Zulfikar Ali, convicted of smuggling drugs.

"We were invited to meet with officials from the attorney general's office today who told us the executions will take place on Friday," Raza told Reuters on Tuesday.

A spokesman for the attorney general's office declined to comment on any time frame. Pakistan on Monday urged Indonesia to stay Ali's execution, citing concern that his 2005 trial had been unfair.

Ali will make a last-ditch attempt to escape the death penalty by appealing directly to Indonesian President Joko Widodo for clemency, Raza said.

Indonesia says it is facing a "drugs emergency" and has vowed no mercy for traffickers. Its executions by firing squad have caused outrage overseas though surveys show Indonesians are largely in favour of capital punishment.

Last year, Australia recalled its envoy to Jakarta, and Brazil said it was shocked and was evaluating ties after their citizens were executed. But President Widodo has disregarded diplomatic pressure and vowed to ramp up a war on drugs in what is among Southeast Asia's biggest markets for narcotics.

The executions will take place at a maximum security prison on Nusakambangan Island in Central Java but it is not clear how many prisoners will face the firing squad this week.

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*

Malaysia jails nine Filipinos over invasion to press claim by "sultan"

KUALA LUMPUR — A Malaysian court jailed nine Philippine militants for life on Tuesday for their involvement in a 2013 invasion of a Malaysian state on Borneo island, in a dispute stemming from 19th century British colonial rule.

The militants were found guilty of waging war against the Malaysian king during the February 2013 invasion of Sabah state that ended in bloody skirmishes with Malaysian forces after a month-long standoff. —*Reuters*

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte. PHOTO: REUTERS

New Philippine Congress opens with death penalty at top of agenda

MANILA — The newly convened Philippine Congress heard a proposal on Tuesday to re-impose the death penalty for "heinous crimes", giving priority to President Rodrigo Duterte's push for capital punishment in its first legislative session.

The death penalty bill was received the same day Duterte took office on 30 June, and it cites illicit sales and use of drugs as the root cause of "the most perverse and atrocious crimes".

Introduced by two lawmakers, including a house speaker allied with Duterte, the bill cites the need for a war on crime and argues that existing laws were not a deterrent and had "emasculated" the criminal justice system.

The death penalty was repealed in 2006 following pressure from church groups. The bill comes as Duterte's war on crime is in full swing, with at least 200 people killed in the past month, according to police, who say many of the deaths are the work of vigilantes.

Other estimates of the body count are far higher and human rights groups are outraged.

Duterte's vow to wipe out crime and drugs by the end of the year resonated among millions of Filipinos when he campaigned for election on threats to kill drug dealers who refused to surrender and dump their bodies in Manila Bay.

He will not get everything his way, however, with the bill calling for lethal injection as a method of administering the punishment. Duterte had called for death by hanging, which he described graphically during speeches.—*Reuters*

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San Lwin (+95) (01) 8604532
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Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629.

Most Thais undecided on charter vote after debate stifled — pollster

BANGKOK — Most Thais are undecided about how they will vote next month in a referendum on a new constitution that the military government says will promote stability but which critics say will entrench military influence, a pollster said on Tuesday.

The 7 August referendum is an important step for the government that took power after a 2014 coup as it tries to shape a political system after a decade of turmoil in Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy.

The government has stifled dissent and is particularly sensitive about criticism of the draft charter, curbing debate ahead of a vote that will be the first big test of its popularity.

But a one-sided information campaign has left many people dithering about how to vote and liable to make impulsive decisions, said Suwicha Pao-aree, head of polling at the National Institute of Development Administration university.

Thailand's Election Commissioner Somchai Srisutthiyakorn inspects boxes of ballot papers to be sent to central provinces, ahead of the 7 August referendum at a printing office in Samut Prakan province on the outskirts of Bangkok, Thailand, on 25 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"Anything could happen," Suwicha told Reuters.

Suwicha said preparation for Thailand's referendum was very different to the campaign in Britain for a vote last month on whether to stay in the European Union or not. "There has only been information from one side whereas in Britain both sides were allowed to take to the boxing ring and fight. The result is an undecided chunk of the population."

NIDA released a survey this week showing nearly 60 per cent of 1,500 people polled around Thailand were undecided, 32 per cent would vote in favour of the draft constitution and about 6 per cent planned to vote against it. The military government, which has promised an election next year, says the proposed constitution will heal divisions after years of rivalry between election-winning populist political forces and a military-dominated establishment wary of challenges.

Critics of the charter, including some major political parties and activist groups, say it would empower pro-establishment institutions at the expense of political parties.

Public opinion in the run-up to the referendum has been difficult to gauge because of a ban on campaigning, including a law stipulating 10 years in prison for criticising the draft's content or disrupting the vote.

While activists say the charter would not heal underlying rivalries, some analysts say a vote in favour of it would be most beneficial for stability in the short term.

"This would be the least bad outcome from a short-term perspective as at least a roadmap to nominal democracy would be in sight," BMI Research said in a note on Tuesday.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha has said an election will be held in 2017 regardless of the referendum outcome.—*Reuters*

Natural disasters in China kill more than 800 since June

BEIJING — More than 800 people have died and about 200 are missing in a series of natural disasters that have struck China since June, the worst casualty figures since a similar period in 2011, state media said on Tuesday.

Large parts of central, eastern and northern China have been hit by flooding this summer, while a typhoon left a wave of destruction this month and a freak tornado killed at least 98 in the eastern province of Jiangsu in June.

Since the year began, 1,074 people have died in natural disasters, 833 of them since June, with 270 missing, Xinhua news agency cited the Ministry of Civil Affairs as saying. Direct economic losses have reached 298 billion yuan ($44.63 billion) this year, with about 400,000 houses destroyed and 6.24 million residents relocated, the ministry added.

Separately, the government on the southern island province of Hainan issued a typhoon warning for a tropical storm that is expected to hit in the early hours of Wednesday.—*Reuters*

An aerial view shows that roads and fields are flooded in Xingtai, Hebei Province, China, on 21 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Nine militants killed in gunfight with police in Dhaka

DHAKA — At least nine militants were killed and one arrested when a gunfight took place between police and militants in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka early on Tuesday, police said.

Police suspected the militants to be members of the banned organisation Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh (JMB), an Islamist fundamentalist group.

One of the militants, named by officers as Hassan, was injured during the gunfight and later taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Hassan was said to have hailed from Bogra district in the northwestern Rajshahi division, and claimed to be a cook for the militant group.

Police said he told doctors at the hospital that he lived with ten other militants on the fourth floor of the building where the gunfight took place in Dhaka's Kallyanpur neighbourhood. He said he jumped from the building after sensing police movement at around 6am.

Officers cordoned off the area and a bomb disposal unit conducted a search for explosives in a flat on the fourth floor of the "Jahaj Building."

Police believed it to be a den for militants, and that many more were still hiding inside the building. "We have overpowered and destroyed them," Deputy Police Commissioner for Dhaka, Sheikh Maruf Hasan, told journalists at the scene.—*Kyodo News*

Security personnel block a road near the site of a police operation on militants on the outskirts Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 26 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

Australian PM orders inquiry after teenage prisoners teargassed, stripped naked

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull on Tuesday ordered an inquiry into the treatment of children in detention after the airing of video showing prison guards teargassing teenage inmates and strapping a half-naked, hooded-boy to a chair.

Footage of the abuse of six aboriginal boys in a juvenile detention centre sparked renewed criticism of Australia's treatment of Aborigines and their high imprisonment rate.

The Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) aired CCTV footage late Monday of boys in a Northern Territory juvenile detention centre also being stripped naked, thrown by the neck into a cell, and held for long periods in solitary confinement.

"Like all Australians, I've been deeply shocked — shocked and appalled by the images of mistreatment of children," Turnbull said on ABC radio as he announced a Royal Commission, Australia's most powerful, state sanctioned inquiry.

The CCTV footage from the Don Dale Youth Detention Centre in Darwin was shot between 2010-2014. A lawyer representing two of the boys said all six boys abused were of aboriginal descent. Aborigines make up the majority of the Northern Territory population and 94 per cent of juvenile inmates in the territory.

"Our (indigenous) people have known about things like this...and to just see it laid bare in front of us last night must be a wake-up call to everyone in Australia - that something's got to be done about the way we lock our people up in this country, and particularly the way we lock our kids up," an emotional Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Social Justice Commissioner Mick Gooda told reporters.

Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull speaks during a news conference in Sydney, Australia, on 10 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"What we saw last night is an absolute disgrace."

A report into some of the incidents by the Northern Territory Children's Commissioner in 2015 found fault with the guards' behaviour, but the findings were disputed by the then head of prisons and not acted upon, said the ABC.

Northern Territory Chief Minister Adam Giles sacked his corrections minister within hours of the broadcast and said that information about the abuse had been withheld from him, blaming a "culture of cover-up" within the Corrections system.

Some Aborigines in the territory called for Giles to be removed, with one wearing a hood over their head with the words "Sack Giles". A coalition of Northern Territory Aboriginal organisations called for the national government to dissolve the territory government, which it has the authority to do.

"Any government that enacts policies designed to harm children and enables a culture of brutalisation and cover-ups, surrenders its right to govern," said spokesman John Paterson.

Residents in Alice Springs staged a peaceful protest against the abuse of children in detention, while the ABC reported that at least eight people were protesting on the roof of a prison in the town. Reuters could not confirm the prison protest.

The CCTV video showed guards mocking inmates, carrying a boy by the neck and throwing him onto a mattress in a cell, and covering a teenager's head with a hood and shackling him to a chair with neck, arm, leg and foot restraints.

"Excessive use of force, isolation and shackling of children is barbaric and inhumane," said Human Rights Watch Australia Director Elaine Pearson.

The ABC reported that only two detention staff members identified in footage remained within the youth justice system.

Lawyer Peter O'Brien, who represents Dylan Voller and Jake Roper who were abused, said he was suing the state on their behalf, alleging assault, battery and false imprisonment.—*Reuters*

Opinion

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

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

Use but not abuse facebook!

Khin Maung Aye

IN this knowledge age, almost every young people are techies or tech savvy. They have great love for high-tech gadgets, electronic devices and technologically sophisticated appliances and/or apparatuses. This being so, with the introduction of facebook, younger generations have become fanatic about facebook, spending hours using it. Not only the young people but also the middle aged as well as the old people are fond of using facebook, giving likes, comments and chatting rather than interacting with one another in person.

In fact, the introduction of facebook and the like has both advantages and disadvantages. It all depends upon the users. If the user devotes all his time and money to using facebook for being engaged in gossiping, playing games, abusing, watching pornographic movies, attacking and defaming people, use of facebook is harmful, dangerous and disastrous not only to the user himself but also to other people who are abused, misused and attacked. Nonetheless, if the facebook users spend their precious time on dissemination of valuable information, data, and knowledge, both the user and his facebook friends can derive benefit from his use of facebook.

It is worth recalling that children under 13 years of age were prohibited from use of facebook when it was first introduced. This was an official restriction. Nevertheless, about 20 million children around the world are using facebook, and 7.5 million of them are found to be under 13 whereas 5 million of them are under 10. In fact, children of this age group should not use facebook, for they can be abused, misused and exploited. They can also imitate improper behaviour of dirty, unscrupulous people as they are not mature yet. What is worst is that they can develop a habit of watching pornographic pictures and obscene movies.

In this regard, parents and teachers play an important role. They should tell their offspring and their pupils that facebook is like fire, which yields benefits only when it is used appropriately and that time spent on facebook should be dedicated to studying lessons and doing school assignments and homework. Parents should monitor their children's use of facebook at home while teachers ban their pupils' use of facebook at school. Last but not the least, children should be made known that devotion to facebook can also be harmful to their health.

Creating a happier workforce for higher productivity in Myanmar

SUN XI

"PRODUCTIVITY isn't everything, but in the long run it is almost everything," said Paul Krugman, an eminent Nobel laureate in economics.

So far, most ways used in Myanmar to raise productivity are conventional: capital investment, labor increment, skills training, and technological and business innovation. However, one unconventional factor has been overlooked and underestimated – the power of happiness.

Happiness is a mental or emotional state of well-being defined by joy, satisfaction, contentment, enthusiasm and interest. Many psychologists have pointed out that happiness promotes the capacities of innovation, improves memory, and leads to greater altruism.

There have been clear and positive links between workers' happiness and their productivity – happiness makes workers more productive.

A recent study led by Professor Andrew Oswald, Dr. Eugenio Proto and Dr. Daniel Sgroi from the Department of Economics at the University of Warwick found that happy workers were 12 percent more productive, while unhappy workers were 10 percent less productive. The research was based on four different experiments with more than 700 participants.

Based on statistics from 1994 to 2009, the Fortune's 100 best companies to work for in the United States outperformed their peer group by 2.3 percent annually. According to Professor Alex Edmans at the London Business School, this is not a correlation, but a direct causation between happier companies and shareholder returns.

The US internet giant Google/Alphabet, the most valuable company in the world and the No.1 place to work for the seven years in the past decade, is regarded as the pioneer in employee happiness.

Happy workers even make better sandwiches. The British sandwich chain Pret a Manger, which takes its employees' well-being very seriously, attributed its impressive 16 percent annual sales growth in 2014 largely to its workforce's happiness. Its staff are even given a special bonus for being happy during work.

Myanmar, however, is not known to have happy workers. It could be one of the reasons for its lackluster productivity.

To boost productivity, tripartite partners (employers, workers and government) in Mongolia need to cooperate with one another closely and continuously.

First, employers are at the center of creating a happier workforce. They could follow a simple "EMOTION" approach; namely Employee engagement, Maximizing satisfaction, Optimizing culture, Trust building, Individualization, Opportunity creation and Non-monetary incentives.

In Google, its employees (called "Googlers") are given competitive salaries, free Wifi on shuttle transport, free ice cream and healthy snacks, free lifts to work, and the opportunity to spend 20 percent of their office time on non-work projects of "passion".

Other practical measures adopted by top companies include work-life balance, flexible hours, training opportunities, challenging assignments and clear career progression, so employees feel stretched professionally and valued personally.

Second, workers play a key role in their own happiness, since in essence, one's personal perception of their job affects satisfaction. Everyone can follow a "HAPPY" recipe; namely contributing to Harmony at workplaces, working with Appreciation, staying Positivity, pursuing your Passion, and focusing on improving Yourself instead of competing with others.

Third, the government should consider measuring happiness in the workplace and society, as only "What gets measured gets managed," in the words of Peter Drucker, the founder of modern management. In this regard, the UK could be considered a role model.

In the UK, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Well-being Economics was formed in 2009. In 2010, the National Well-being Programme was launched. Since fiscal year 2012, its annual well-being official statistics have been published. Since then, reported personal well-being in the UK has been improving and the year-on-year differences are statistically significant.

In October 2014, the What Works Centre for Well-being was set up in the UK to promote greater understanding of what government, business, communities and individuals can do to improve well-being.

A similar mechanism could be formed in Myanmar. For a start, the government should consider officially collecting and publishing annual national statistics on workforce well-being, measuring not only overall sense of satisfaction with work but also sense of fulfillment across different occupations.

To effectively use workforce well-being data, it is necessary to organize public dialogues and stakeholder engagement so as to communicate the likely impact of real policy initiatives on workplace happiness and to help employers build professional capacity so as to create the conditions for employees to work happily.

So far, Myanmar has enjoyed a certain increase in material prosperity. Perhaps it's time for the pursuit of happiness, even if it is harder to quantify. In return, a happier society will also be beneficial for grooming higher productivity in Myanmar.

Sun Xi, a Chinese alumnus of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore, is a senior investment analyst and independent commentary writer based in Singapore.

Many psychologists have pointed out that happiness promotes the capacities of innovation, improves memory, and leads to greater altruism.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing visits Thandaungyi Station

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing encouraging a patient in Thandaungyi Station. PHOTO: MNA

COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF of Defense Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing met with officers and other ranks and their families and trainees at Defense Services (Army)'s Combat Training School (Banyintnaung) in Thandaungyi Station yesterday.

In his address, the Senior General stressed the need to apply theories and knowledge gained at the training school in practice with the combination of own reasoning power.

The Senior General called for giving duties and functions of Tatmadawmen serious consideration and highlighted the importance of developing self-awareness to accomplish the tasks easily.

After the meeting, the Senior General and wife Daw Kyu Kyu Hla presented foodstuff, publications and Buddha Images for families of Tatmadawmen.

Next, the Commander-in-Chief and party visited Tatmadaw Tea Factory in Thandaungyi and comforted patients at a local military hospital. — *Myanmar News Agency*

BFM's chairperson presented woman of excellence award by Taunggyi Association

THE Taunggyi Association awarded the woman of excellence award in the business field to Daw Nang Lang Kham, Chairperson of KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation-BFM for her committed efforts to assisting nationwide social welfare and the rights of women in the country.

The association conferred the award on the chairperson of the BFM through an official of the foundation at the association's annual general meeting with a ceremony in Yangon on Sunday to pay respect to elders and outstanding students.

Daw Nang Lang Kham, who founded the BFM in 2008 and has since carried out philanthropic work nationwide, helping the BFM win the president's state excellence award for its contribution to the country and the people. She also won the woman of excellence award on Myanmar Women's Day this year.

The foundation has also been awarded the "Euromoney Achievement Award for CSR 2015" by London-based Euromoney for its water projects in Shan State.—*Thura Lwin (Eco)*

BFM's chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham and members provide aids to peoples affected by Cyclone Nargis in 2008. PHOTO: BFM

More appointments being made to meet demand for doctors at new hospitals, says Union Minister

Thein Ko Lwin

THERE will be about 2,000 doctoral appointments within two months to meet demand for doctors at new hospitals, Union Minister for Health and Sports Dr Myint Htway told a Pyithu Hluttaw session yesterday.

The Union minister revealed the plan to appoint more doctors under the ministry while responding to a question on whether a plan to establish a 100-bed hospital in Dagon Myothit (South) Township.

A doctor from the Nay Pyi Taw 1000-bed Hospital said that a doctor shortage in new hospitals and hospitals in rural areas as well as in Nay Pyi Taw has affected patients seeking treatment.

Apart from a shortage of doctors, diagnostics equipment and supplies for patients are also short in supply, said the doctor, adding that the officials concerned have failed to check and fulfill requirements.

Government inspections desired into Myanmar traditional medicine

THE civil society Myanmar Consumer Protection Association (MCPA) will reportedly forward an official request, for inspection into establishing whether western medicine has - or has not - been compounded together with traditional Myanmar medicines, to the Union Minister of Health and Sports.

"The public have expressed to us their desire for some traditional medicines to be checked [for traces of occidental medicines]. But, it's not clear as to whether the Food and Drugs Administration of the Department of Traditional Medicine would be responsible for the conduction of such inspections. In order for such inspections to be carried out, we'll send an official letter of request to the Minister of Health during August. The entreaty will include calls to support traditional Myanmar medicines," said U Ba Oak Khine, chair of the MCPA.

The MCPA has made it known that traditional Myanmar medicine is solely produced domestically, with regular inspections required as western medicine could be added during the time of production which could reportedly pose substantial risk to human health.

"I always took traditional medicine to cure my aliments; as soon as I took it my headaches, and what have you, all immediately dissipated. I didn't notice as first but after a while I started to feel odd and went to the health department to inquire as to whether the medicine I had ingested included traces of western medicine. But, that proved unsuccessful as they requested many samples of the medicine I had ingested together with an array of paperwork; it was too much for me to manage. As such, it would be good if the government were to carry out such a task," said Daw Aye Aye Htay, a retired middle-school PE teacher from Yangon's Insein Township.

An amended Myanmar Indigenous Medicine Act was passed through parliament in February 2014, which stipulates the illegality of compounding traditional medicine with that of occidental origin, with violators to face fines of between K50,000-300,000.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

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

THE Myanmar Police Force is implementing the tasks of public awareness activities for avoiding from being trafficked and taking severe legal action against traffickers for 100-day plan implementing between 1 May and 8 August.

Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force under the Myanmar Police Force organized Educational Talks on Trafficking in person across the country.

The Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force gave educational talks on human trafficking at Zabuthiri Township in Nay Pyi Taw, Loikaw town in Kayah State, at Shwepyithar Township in Yangon Region, at Kangyidaung Township in Ayeyawady Region, at Thayatchaung Township in Taninthayi Region, at Patheingyi and Thazi Townships in Mandalay Region, at Myitkyina Township in Kachin State, Kungtung and Tachilek Townships in Shan State from 22 to 24 July. At the talks, members of sections and companies of the Myanmar Anti-Human Trafficking Police Force elaborated on the definitions of human trafficking and human smuggling, how to recognise the signs that someone might be a victim of human trafficking, methods of recruitment used by human traffickers, , the types of human trafficking in Myanmar and the prevention of violence against women. The police force gave out education pamphlets to 2195 students, 38 trainees from the course for Hotel Service, 88 people in the Ward who attended the ceremony.—*Myanmar Police Force*

Anti-Human Trafficking Police dishibuting educational pamphelets on human trafficking. PHOTO: MPF

On raucous opening night, Democratic stars make a pitch for Clinton

Delegates wave anti-Hillary Clinton signs while Senator Bernie Sanders (D-VT) addresses the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US on 25 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

PHILADELPHIA — The Democratic Party's deep divisions were on full display on a raucous first day of its convention on Monday, with Bernie Sanders portraying Hillary Clinton as a fellow soldier in his fight for economic equality while his supporters booed the mere mention of her name.

On a night designed to showcase party unity, Sanders supporters repeatedly disrupted convention proceedings, chanting for him and jeering Clinton supporters.

But by the end of the night, Sanders, liberal favourite US Senator Elizabeth Warren and first lady Michelle Obama offered stirring endorsements of Clinton as the party tried to push through the discord and find common ground.

"Hillary Clinton will make an outstanding president and I am proud to stand with her here tonight," Sanders said as his supporters and Clinton's offered competing chants.

The angry uproar in Philadelphia was a setback to Democrats' hopes their convention would be a smoothly run show of party unity in contrast to the volatile campaign of Republican nominee Donald Trump.

It was also a bitter reminder of the bruising months-long primary battle between Sanders, 74, a US senator from Vermont, and Clinton, 68, a former secretary of state, who this week will become the first woman nominated for president by a major US political party.

Michelle Obama linked the historic nature of Clinton's campaign with her husband's own role as the first black US president.

"I wake up every morning in a house that was built by slaves, and I watch my daughters, two beautiful and intelligent black young women, playing with their dogs on the White House lawn," Obama said.

"And because of Hillary Clinton, my daughters and all our sons and daughters now take for granted that a woman can be president of the United States."

The tumult began before the convention opened, as Sanders drew jeers from his own supporters when he urged his delegates to back the White House bid of his former rival, Clinton, and focus on defeating Trump in the 8 November presidential election.

"We want Bernie!" they shouted in anger at both Clinton's victory in the race for the Democratic nomination and emails leaked on Friday suggesting the party leadership had tried to sabotage Sanders' insurgent campaign.

"Brothers and sisters, this is the real world that we live in," he said, adding: "Trump is a bully and a demagogue."

Members of the crowd screamed back: "So is Hillary." "She stole the election!" someone else shouted.

In the convention's first hours, party officials struggled to carry out business as angry Sanders supporters roared their disapproval, drawing a deafening response from Clinton delegates.

"We're all Democrats and we need to act like it," US Representative Marcia Fudge of Ohio, the convention's chairwoman, shouted over the uproar.

Sanders tried to head off the disruptions, sending an email to delegates as the convention opened urging them not to interrupt the proceedings.

"Our credibility as a movement will be damaged by booing, turning of backs, walking out or other similar displays. That's what the corporate media wants. That's what Donald Trump wants," Sanders said in the email.

Several speakers pleaded for peace between the Democratic factions. Comedian Sarah Silverman, a Sanders supporter, said she would support Clinton "with gusto" and admonished the Sanders fans.

"To the 'Bernie or Bust' people, you're being ridiculous," she said, drawing a roar from the crowd and another round of competing cheers between Clinton and Sanders supporters.

She and US Senator Al Franken of Minnesota then introduced Paul Simon to sing his 1970 classic "Bridge Over Troubled Water."

Trump gloated at the Democrats' opening day disorder.

"Wow, the Republican Convention went so smoothly compared to the Dems total mess," he wrote on Twitter.

As the convention opened, the Democratic National Committee issued "a deep and sincere apology to Senator Sanders, his supporters, and the entire Democratic Party" for the email flap and said it would take action to ensure it never happens again.

Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz resigned effective at the end of the convention over the controversy. At a morning gathering of Florida delegates, Sanders supporters booed Wasserman Schultz, who they accuse of trying to sabotage the campaign of the democratic socialist.

The emails exacerbated the distrust of Clinton among some Sanders supporters who view her as a Washington insider who is only paying lip service to their goals of reining in Wall Street and eradicating income inequality.

But US Senator Jeff Merkley of Oregon, the only senator to endorse Sanders during the primary, told the convention that supporters of the two former rivals had plenty in common.—*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Kerry says raised Democrat email hack with Russia's Lavrov

VIENTIANE — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday he raised the issue of the hacking of Democratic Party emails in a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov.

Lavrov brushed off accusations that Moscow was behind the hacking ahead of the meeting.

Kerry also said he would encourage the Philippines to engage in bilateral negotiations with China to resolve their dispute over rival claims in the South China Sea.

Kerry is due to travel to the Philippines later on Wednesday, after a two-day visit to Laos, and he will meet President Rodrigo Duterte while there.—*Reuters*

South Korea's anti-missile system does not threaten China — US official

BEIJING — South Korea's decision to deploy an advanced US THAAD anti-missile defence system does not threaten China's security, a senior US official said on Tuesday at the end of a visit to China by US National Security Adviser Susan Rice.

"It is purely a defensive measure. It is not aimed at any other party other than North Korea and the threat it poses and this defensive weapons system is neither designed nor capable of threatening China's security interests," the official told reporters on a conference call on Tuesday.—*Reuters*

Anti-terrorist prosecutor takes over probe into Normandy church attack

PARIS — France's anti-terrorist prosecution unit said on Tuesday it had taken over the investigation into an attack at a church in Normandy, northern France, after police said a priest had been killed by two hostage takers who were later shot dead.

The two hostage takers, whose identity and motives were still unknown, were killed in a police operation that ended the assault, a spokesman for the interior ministry said.

Another of the five hostages was seriously wounded, the spokesman said. —*Reuters*

Two more arrested in France in connection with Nice attack

PARIS — Two more people have been arrested in connection with the Nice attacker who killed 84 people in the French Riviera city of Nice on 14 July, sources close to the investigation told Reuters on Tuesday.

Paris prosecutor Francois Molins said last week the Bastille Day attacker, Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel, had been planning the attack for months. Five suspected accomplices already in custody have been put under formal investigation.

None of the five had been known to intelligence services.

The source said the new arrests took place on Monday in Nice.

A second source said the two arrested were men and that their pictures had been found on Bouhlel's mobile telephone.

In an attack claimed by Islamic State, the 31-year-old Tunisian ploughed his hire truck into a crowd of revellers along Nice's palm-fringed Promenade des Anglais.

The militant group called Bouhlel one of its soldiers, but authorities say they have yet to find evidence that the 31-year-old, who was shot dead by police, had any actual links to the militant group.—*Reuters*

China's ruling Communist party to hold key meeting in October

BEIJING — China's ruling Communist Party will hold a key meeting in October to discuss internal party discipline, state radio said on Tuesday.

Such meetings, called plenums, generally happen once a year and can be used to map out important policy platforms.—*Reuters*

Afghanistan weighs Islamic State threat after Kabul attack

KABUL — Islamic State is threatening more attacks against Afghanistan's Hazara minority after Saturday's suicide blasts in Kabul that killed 80 people, pledging to retaliate against support by some in the mainly Shi'ite group for the Assad regime in Syria.

But assessing the threat from Daesh, as Islamic State is known in Afghanistan, is difficult. Some officials question whether an ultra-radical Sunni movement largely confined to an area near the border with Pakistan can sustain more attacks.

Omar Khorasani, a Daesh commander, said Saturday's bombing at a rally by thousands of Hazara protesting about the route of a new power line was in retaliation for the support offered by some Hazara to the regime in Syria.

Many Hazara have gone through Shi'ite-governed Iran to fight for the government of President Bashar al-Assad, a fellow Shi'ite, against Islamic State.

"Unless they stop going to Syria and stop being slaves of Iran, we will definitely continue such attacks," he told Reuters via telephone from an undisclosed location. "We can and we will strike them again," he added.

Broken glass and debris are seen inside a restaurant a day after a suicide attack in Kabul, Afghanistan.
PHOTO: REUTERS

The government says it has been hitting Daesh hard even before Saturday's blasts in Kabul, one of the most deadly in the country since the start of the Taliban insurgency in 2001.

It said government forces had killed hundreds of insurgents in the past two months in assaults on Daesh strongholds in the eastern province of Nangarhar, which straddles the highway from Kabul to the Pakistani city of Peshawar.

In the latest fighting, at least 122 insurgents were killed in the past 24 hours, it said on Tuesday. However, the numbers could not be independently confirmed.

Nevertheless, Saturday's attack by Islamic State on the Shi'ite minority adds a dangerous complication to the war the Western-backed government in Kabul has been fighting with Taliban insurgents.

As well as the risk of dragging Afghanistan into Islamic State's wider campaign in the Middle East, it raised the spectre of sectarian violence, something Afghanistan, a majority Sunni country, has largely been spared during decades of war.

But while seeing the threat, officials are cautious about whether the attack represents a real turning point for Daesh, which has been under heavy pressure this year from both US air strikes and an Afghan ground offensive.

"Having a couple of people that you've hired put on a suicide vest and sneak into a crowd of many thousands really is not that sophisticated," said US military spokesman Brig. Gen. Charles Cleveland.—*Reuters*

Suicide bombers kill seven at peacekeeping base in Somalia

MOGADISHU — Suicide bombers killed at least seven people as they tried to blast their way into the African Union's main peacekeeping base in Somalia's capital on Tuesday, police said.

The force of the explosions shattered windows at Mogadishu's nearby airport, showering arriving passengers with glass, said witnesses.

Al Shabaab, the Islamist militant group fighting to topple Somalia's Western-backed government, claimed responsibility for the attack, saying it had killed more than 12 people. It regularly reports higher death counts than the authorities.

Police said the first attacker detonated a car bomb and the second tried to storm the base on foot, but was shot and exploded at the gate.

"We understand at least seven from a private security firm died," said Ali Farah, a police officer.

The guards were caught in the blast at the gate as they escorted UN personnel into the base, which is known as Halane, he added.

The African Union's AMISOM force said on Twitter it condemned the "senseless attacks that aim to disrupt and cripple the lives of ordinary Somalis". There was no immediate comment from the United Nations.

Al Shabaab spokesman Abdiasis Abu Musab said both attackers detonated car bombs.

People arriving on international flights said the blasts shattered windows in the airport buildings.

"We were greeted by two loud blasts. The glass of the airport building fell on us," said Ali Nur, who had just got off a plane from Nairobi.—*Reuters*

Bavarian bomber called in video for more attacks-SITE

BERLIN — A Syrian man who injured 15 people when he blew himself up in southern Germany — an attack claimed by Islamic State — called in a video for further attacks, US monitoring group SITE reported, citing Islamic State's Amaq news agency.

The attack that took place on Sunday outside a music festival in Ansbach, a town of 40,000 people southwest of Nuremberg, was the fourth act of violence by men of Middle Eastern or Asian origin against German civilians in a week.

Bavarian Interior Minister Joachim Herrmann said on Monday that a video had been found on the bomber's mobile phone in which he pledged allegiance to Islamic State.

SITE quoted the man in the video saying he was on a "martyrdom-seeking operation" in Ansbach, and calling for more attacks.

He said the attack in Ansbach was in response to "crimes committed by the Coalition in collaboration with Germany by bombing and killing men, women, and children".

In December the German parliament approved plans to join the military campaign against Islamic State in Syria in a mission that includes sending reconnaissance jets, a frigate, refuelling aircraft and military personnel. But Germany has not joined countries like Britain, France, the United States and Russia in conducting airstrikes.—*Reuters*

A Fort Myers police officers examines a vehicle in the parking lot of Club Blu after a shooting in Fort Myers, Florida, US on 25 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Suspects sought in Florida nightclub shooting that left two teens dead

FORT MYERS — Florida police said on Monday they had taken three people into custody but were searching for additional suspects in connection with a shooting outside a nightclub just after midnight that left two teenagers dead and more than a dozen people wounded.

The shooting took place shortly after 12:30 am EDT (0430 GMT) on Monday in the parking lot of Club Blu, which was hosting an event open to teenagers, the Fort Myers Police Department said.

Police said Stef'An Strawder, an 18-year-old high school basketball star, and Sean Archilles, 14, were killed. Two other people were critically wounded.

Police officials in Fort Myers, located on Florida's Gulf Coast, said terrorism was not a factor in the state's latest outburst of gun violence this summer, but provided no details about a possible motive.

The three young men were arrested after fleeing the scene in two vehicles and were charged in connection to that pursuit, according to the Lee County Sheriff's Office said in a statement posted on Facebook.

According to the statement Derrick Church, 19, was charged with assault on a law enforcement officer after accelerating his vehicle toward a sheriff's deputy. Church was shot in the stomach by the deputy during that altercation, but was treated and had been released from a hospital, the sheriff's department said.

Demetrius O'Neal, 19, and Tajze Battle, 22, were taken into custody on suspicion of resisting arrest, according to the statement.

"This was not a terrorist act," Fort Myers interim Police Chief Dennis Eads said at a news conference.

He said officers responding to the shooting found chaos at the scene. "No one really knew what was going on or what happened," Eads said. Officers provided first aid to victims, bandaging some with tourniquets to stop bleeding, he said. Paramedics took some victims to the hospital while others drove themselves.

At least 19 people, ranging from 12- to 27-years-old, were treated at local hospitals, said Lisa Sgarlata, chief administrative officer for Lee Memorial Hospital.

Three patients remained hospitalized at Lee Memorial as of Monday afternoon, two of whom were in critical condition.

The shooting came six weeks after a massacre at a nightclub in Orlando, in central Florida, where a gunman who sympathized with Islamist extremist groups killed 49 people in the deadliest mass shooting in modern US history.

Despite the recent violence, Florida Governor Rick Scott said the state's crime rates were at a 45-year low.

Fort Myers, about 150 miles southwest of Orlando, was the scene of another shooting incident last October when one person was killed and several wounded by gunfire at a festival that attracts thousands of people in zombie costumes.—*Reuters*

Two attackers killed, one hostage dead in French church attack

PARIS — Two attackers killed a priest with a blade and seriously wounded another hostage in a church in northern France on Tuesday before being shot dead by French police.

There were no immediate details on the identity or motives of the two assailants but the investigation was handed to the anti-terrorist unit of the Paris prosecutor's office.

A police source said it appeared that the priest had had his throat slit.

"At one point, the two assailants came out of the church and that's when they were killed by the BRI elite force," Interior Ministry spokesman Pierre-Henry Brandet told France Info radio, referring to France's specialised police group.

Prime Minister Manuel Valls branded the attack "barbaric" and said it was a blow to all Catholics and the whole of France.

"We will stand together," Valls said on Twitter.

The attack is the latest in a string of deadly assaults in Europe.

In France, the Normandy attack comes 12 days after a 31-year-old Tunisian Mohamed Lahouaiej Bouhlel ploughed his heavy goods truck into a crowd of revellers in the French Riviera city of Nice, killing 84 people. Islamic State claimed that attack. The knifemen launched their assault by taking five people hostage inside the church in the Normandy town of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, south of Rouen.

Interior Ministry spokesman Brandet confirmed one of the hostages had been killed and said another was critical.—*Reuters*

Post-Brexit vote rise in hate crimes prompts Britain to review policing

LONDON — Britain will order a review of how police deal with hate crimes after a sharp rise in offences reported following last month's vote to leave the European Union.

Almost 6,200 hate crimes have been reported in Britain over the month since the 23 June referendum, which saw immigration become a key issue during a bitter and deeply divisive campaign.

The most common crimes were harassment, assault and other violence such as verbal abuse or spitting, with Muslims and Eastern Europeans saying they had been particularly targeted.

"Those who practise hatred send out a message that it's ok to abuse and attack others because of their nationality, ethnicity or religious background," interior minister Amber Rudd said in a statement ahead of the publication of a "Hate Crime Action Plan".

"We will not stand for it. Hatred has no place whatsoever in a 21st century Great Britain that works for everyone," she said. "Hatred does not get a seat at the table, and we will do everything we can to stamp it out."

Critics of the "Leave" campaign say its focus on immigration helped stoke xenophobia and racism, an accusation its leaders reject.

In the days following the referendum, the Polish embassy in London said it was deeply concerned about what it said were incidents of xenophobic abuse directed against the Polish community.

Rudd will announce plans to commission Britain's independent overseer of police, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, to review police understanding of hate crime and how forces respond to it, her office said.

The action plan will also set out plans to work with schools on tackling hatred and prejudice and ensuring better reporting of hate crime incidents, as well as looking at how to prevent hate crimes on public transport.

The government will provide 2.4 million pounds ($3.14 million) of funding to provide security measures and equipment for places of worship that need increased protection, following concerns from religious communities over crimes from graffiti to arson attacks.—*Reuters*

Britain's Home Secretary Amber Rudd walks with Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe in Westminster, London, on 14 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Stabbing spree in Japan leaves at least 19 dead, dozens injured

TOKYO — A knife-wielding man went on a stabbing rampage at a residential care facility for persons with mental disabilities in Kanagawa Prefecture west of Tokyo early Tuesday, killing at least 19 people and injuring 25 others, 20 of them seriously, police said.

Kanagawa prefectural police arrested Satoshi Uematsu, 26, who drove to the Tsukui Police Station and turned himself in around 3am Tuesday, saying "I did it." He was a former employee of the facility in the city of Sagamihara, the facility later said.

"It's better that the disabled disappear," the police quoted him as saying.

Uematsu, who lives close by the scene of the incident, had three knives in a bag, some of them blood-stained, when he turned himself in.

The police arrested Uematsu, who is currently unemployed, on suspicion of attempted murder and unlawful entry into a building.

They are investigating the motive behind the attack that took place at the Tsukui Yamayuri En (Tsukui Lily Garden) facility at around 2:30am, they said. Speaking at a press conference, Kanagawa Gov. Yuji Kuroiwa offered a "sincere apology and condolences" to the victims and vowed that the prefectural government would endeavor to see that such an incident never happen again.

A spokesman for the facility said later that the man had been employed there between December 2012 and February this year. According to its website, the residential care facility for the mentally disabled was established by the Kanagawa prefectural government and run by a social welfare corporation. It can accommodate up to 160 people and covers around 30,000 square metres. —*Koydo News*

Police officers are seen near a facility for the disabled where at least 19 people were killed and as many as 20 wounded by a knife-wielding man, in Sagamihara, Kanagawa prefecture, Japan, in this photo taken by Kyodo on 26 July 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Sakurajima in southwestern Japan erupts with 5,000-m plume

Photo taken on 26 July, by an unattended remote camera installed in the southwestern Japan city of Tarumizu shows the Sakurajima volcano having an explosive eruption to spew volcanic ash 5,000 metres into the sky. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

KAGOSHIMA — The Sakurajima volcano in southwestern Japan had an explosive eruption early Tuesday, spewing volcanic ash 5,000 metres into the sky, the Japan Meteorological Agency said.

It is the first eruption projecting to such an altitude since August 2013 for the volcano within kilometres of downtown Kagoshima, a city of 606,000 and major shipping port in southwestern Japan.

The agency maintains its alert level for Sakurajima at 3, which warns people not to get close to the volcano, on a scale of 5. —*Kyodo News*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV DA CHENG VOY. NO (001)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV DA CHENG VOY. NO (001) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of MITT-4 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 SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV BANGPAKAEW VOY. NO (12)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV BANGPAKAEW VOY NO (12) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of AIPT-2 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 WONGSAMUT OCEAN SHIPPING CO LTD.
Phone No: 2301928

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV MAREN S VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV MAREN S VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.7.2016 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV ANDAMAN STAR VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.7.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of M.I.T.T / 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 MCC TRANSPORT (S'PORE) PTE LTD.
Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY. NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 27.7.2016 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 YANG MING LINE
Phone No: 2301185

Bolshoi Ballet marks 60th anniversary of landmark London visit

MOSCOW — At the height of the Cold War, dancers from Russia's Bolshoi Ballet did their bit to thaw East-West relations, flying to London in 1956 to make their first performances for British audiences who had never seen anything quite like it.

This week, they return to mark the 60th anniversary of an event that was a triumph of art over geopolitics in a year when Britain was rocked by the Suez crisis and the Soviet Union invaded Hungary.

"The whole thing began very strangely," said Marina Kondratyeva, recalling her journey to Britain as one of the ballerinas on the historic trip.

"Our plane was diverted to a different airport (an air force base outside London) and they said that 26 blonde spies had landed, and that was what all the press reported," Kondratyeva told Reuters during rehearsals in Moscow where, as coach, she was putting the principal dancers through their paces.

In a year in which British spies Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean resurfaced in the Soviet Union after five years on the run, the distrust between London and Moscow was so great that until the last minute, there was always a chance the concerts would be cancelled.

Despite that, British journalist Clement Crisp remembers people queuing for tickets around the clock for days, enduring the British summer rain day and night to get a chance to see the legendary dance company perform on British soil.

The star attraction was prima ballerina Galina Ulanova, who wowed Covent Garden with her "Romeo and Juliet" at the age of 46. "The leading dancer of our troupe ... made an incredible impression on London audiences," said Kondratyeva.

"They didn't know what our ballet was like. They didn't know anything about us – there was the Iron Curtain and then the Iron Curtain opened and we arrived."

Crisp, now ballet critic for the Financial Times, met Ulanova some years later and she told him the dancers were initially concerned about the audience's subdued reaction.

"'You know what's so strange. The audience was so quiet during the first act,'" he recalls her saying.

"'We didn't understand, we were very puzzled. Why are they so quiet? Why are they so quiet?'"

The answer? "Because we were in rapture, we were sitting there drinking it all in," Crisp said. "But of course at the end of the evening there was 45 minutes of applause. It went on and on and on ..."

Although the Iron Curtain is long gone, relations between Russia and Britain are far from smooth, something that the Bolshoi could still do its bit to help, the company Ballet Director Makhar Vaziev said.

"I think that touring, not only by the Bolshoi Ballet but in general by talented Russian artists, of course might have an impact on people's perceptions and their attitude towards us. But I always say: 'Why are you afraid of us? Explain.'"—*Reuters*

A general view shows the National academic Bolshoi opera and ballet theatre in Minsk, Belarus. PHOTO: REUTERS

Actor Lindsay Lohan.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Lindsay Lohan responds to relationship drama

LOS ANGELES — Actor Lindsay Lohan has broken silence on the drama surrounding her relationship with fiance Egor Tarabasov.

The 30-year-old "Mean Girls" star, who publicly accused Tarabasov of cheating on her over the weekend, has asked her fans to let them privately solve their "personal matters."

"I would appreciate if these speculations regarding my personal life would respectfully come to a halt. Unfortunately, a private matter has become more public than I can control and I would be extremely grateful if my fiance and myself could discuss our personal matters on our own," Lohan wrote on Instagram captioning a picture of a heart-shaped cloud.

"There are more important things going on in the world than our relationship. Please leave us be to solve our personal matters," she added.

Lohan previously blasted her 23-year-old fiance on social media after he chose to spend his time partying instead of staying home with her last weekend.

She accused her beau of cheating on her with friend Dasha Pashevkina whom she referred to as "Russian hooker."—*PTI*

YouTube superstar Lilly Singh's debut book next March

NEW DELHI — YouTube superstar Lilly Singh will come out with her debut book next March in which she will share inspirational stories and also teach readers how to be their own 'bawse' or someone who exudes confidence and reaches goals.

"How To Be a Bawse: A Guide to Surviving Conquering Life" is inspired by hilarious and honest stories from Lilly's own experiences and life achievements and proves that becoming a 'bawse' requires hard work and dedication — and that there are no shortcuts to success, publishers Penguin Random House said.

"I am so thrilled to write my first book and share, all in one place, what I've learned about achieving success and happiness. This journey has taught me to always pick yourself up, not allow anything to stand in your way and that the only secret to achieving your dreams is hard work," says Lilly aka Superwoman, who has found worldwide fame through her comedic and inspirational YouTube videos, amassing over 9 million subscribers across her YouTube channel.—*PTI*

Streaming activity helps keep Drake's 'Views' atop Billboard 200

LOS ANGELES — Strong streaming activity helped keep Canadian R&B artist Drake at the top of the weekly US Billboard 200 album chart on Monday for an 11th non-consecutive week.

Drake's "Views" sold 16,000 albums, 156,000 songs and was streamed 85 million times across platforms such as Apple Music and Spotify, totaling 89,000 album units according to figures from Nielsen SoundScan.

Billboard said "Views" has the most weeks at No.1 by a male solo artist since Billy Ray Cyrus' "Some Gave All" in 1992.

The Billboard 200 album chart tallies units from album sales, song sales (10 songs equal one album) and streaming activity (1,500 streams equal one album).

Other new entries in the top 10 of the Billboard 200 chart included Christian rock group Needtobreathe at No.2 with "Hardlove" and the 32nd installment of the "Kidz Bop Kids" pop compilation franchise at No.9.

On the Digital Songs chart, which measures online song sales, Katy Perry's latest upbeat Olympics anthem "Rise" debuted at No.1 with 137,000 copies sold.—*Reuters*

Recording artist Drake celebrates after Toronto Raptors score a basket in a 105-99 win over Cleveland Cavaliers in game four of the Eastern conference finals of the NBA Playoffs at Air Canada Centre, Toronto, Ontario, CAN, on 23 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

100-year global study finds world's tallest are Dutch, Latvians

A woman walks past a H&M advertisement in Riga in September 2013. PHOTO: REUTERS

LONDON — Dutch men and Latvian women are the planet's tallest people but Iranian men and South Korean women have grown the fastest in the last century, according to the largest ever study of height around the world.

Americans, once among the world's tallest people, have dropped from having men and women at 3rd and 4th in the global height rankings a 100 years earlier, to placing 37th and 42nd respectively in 2014.

The research, led by scientists at Imperial College London and published in the journal *eLife*, also found some nations have stopped growing over the past 30 to 40 years, despite having spurts at the start of the century studied.

The United States was one of the first wealthy countries to plateau, followed by others including Britain, Finland, and Japan. Meanwhile, people in Spain and Italy and many countries in Latin America and East Asia are still gaining height.

In contrast, some nations in sub-Saharan Africa, North Africa and the Middle East have seen average heights decline over the past three to four decades.

Human height is strongly influenced by nutrition and environmental factors, although genetic factors can also play a role in individuals. Children and teens who are better nourished and live in better environments tend to be taller.

Research suggests a mother's health and nutrition during pregnancy may also play a role in how tall her children grow.

Height also has lifelong consequences. Some studies have found that taller people tend to live longer, get a better education and earn more. But being tall may also increase some health risks, with studies linking height to a higher risk of developing ovarian and prostate cancers.

"This study gives us a picture of the health of nations over the past century," said Majid Ezzati, an Imperial professor of public health. He said the findings underlined the need "to address children and adolescents' environment and nutrition on a global scale."

The 800-strong research team, which worked with the World Health Organisation, used data from various sources including military conscription figures, health and nutrition population surveys and epidemiological studies.

The scientists use these to generate height information for 18-year-olds in 1914 through to 18-year-olds in 2014.

They found that Iranian men have gained an average of 16.5 centimetres (cm) in height, and South Korean women 20.2 cm.

The height of men and women in Britain has increased by around 11 cm over the past century, while the height of US men and women has risen by 6 cm and 5 cm. Chinese men and women have gained around 11 cm and 10 cm.—*Reuters*

Chinese authors shine at Lima book fair

LIMA — Dozens of Chinese books are being promoted at an ongoing book fair in Lime, the Peruvian capital, covering a broad range of topics including culture, history, martial arts, and philosophy.

The Lima International Book Fair 2016, which is organised by the Peruvian Chamber of Books, also features presentations by several Chinese writers.

The book fair opened on 15 July and will end on 31 July.

Local readers and book lovers would have a chance to discuss crime novels with China's leading thriller writer He Jiahong, who is promoting his book "Crime of Blood," or to have a conversation with award-winning author Chi Zijian, who brings his book "The Right Bank of Erguna River" to the two-week event, said Eduardo Tay, the fair's head of cultural affairs. "The Governance of China" is also on prominent display, added Tay.

As China becomes an increasingly important global player, the general public in Peru has a growing desire to get to know the country and learn the Chinese language, he told Xinhua.—*Xinhua*

Harry Potter's 'Cursed Child' story already a US best-seller

British author JK Rowling, creator of the Harry Potter series of books, poses during the launch of new online website Pottermore in London in 2011. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK— Harry Potter is casting a spell, again, over the publishing industry.

Nine years after the publication of the seventh and last book in the best-selling boy wizard series, pre-orders for the script of a new, sold-out London play is the most pre-ordered book since 2007 in the United States, retail book sellers Barnes & Noble said on Monday.

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" is billed as the eighth story in the Harry Potter series and is to be published at midnight on 31 July. A script rather than a narrative novel, it is being published a day after the official opening of the London stage production of the same name.

The play, based on an idea by British author and Potter creator J.K. Rowling, is set 19 years after "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows." It features a grown-up Potter as an overworked employee of the Ministry of Magic and father of three children who is grappling with his past.

Barnes and Noble said in a statement that "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" was the US company's most pre-ordered book since 2007's "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" — the final book in the original series. It did not give sales figures but said the book was expected to its biggest seller of 2016, and that midnight parties are planned in stores around the nation on Saturday night. Amazon Books said "Cursed Child" was already its top US pre-order in print and on Kindle e-book of 2016.

"For the millions of us who are Harry Potter fans, a new Hogwarts story is a huge event," said Amazon Books editor Seira Wilson. "I could easily see young fans adapting to the format and using it to act out the play on their own." Rowling agreed to publish the script to meet public demand after appeals from fans who couldn't get to London to see the play, publishers said earlier this year.—*Reuters*

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(27-7-2016, Wednesday)

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

06 : 20 pm
- Cartoon Programme "Bleach: Fade to Black Final" Part (2)

07 : 10 pm
- International Drama Series

08 : 30 pm
- MRTV Entertainment Music

08 : 40 pm
- A Street Vendor "Spreading Knowledge

09 : 20 pm
- International Movie Songs

09 : 30 pm
- Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA OBOE)

10 : 00 pm
- Music Programme

10 : 20 pm
- Myanmar Video

From 27-7-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm
To 28-7-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm

mitv Myanmar International

(27-7-2016 07:00am ~ 28-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Around The Maha Boditahtaung
07:39	Am	Family of Toys
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Back To A Paradise (Ep-1)
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Kayin Child Boxer
09:37	Am	Lawka Nandar Wildlife Sanctuary And Its Rare Star Tortoises
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Shwe Bo Township Bearing Five Names

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Wonderful Indonesia
07:53	Pm	Myanmar Harpist
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Myanmar Sculpture-Work of Art
08:42	Pm	Up Against The Tide

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

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

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PHOTO: REUTERS

Phelps still the big fish in the pool

LONDON — Greatness can be hard to define but two words suffice for Olympic swimming — Michael Phelps.

Despite a global cast of world record holders, champions and swim sensations preparing to light up the Rio pool, the greatest of all time will again be the centre of attention at his farewell Games.

Phelps, who retired in 2012 before a rethink, may not win the most medals but his fifth Olympics are about more than that.

"I came back because I wanted to," he said at the US trials. "I wanted to do this for me."

The 31-year-old has three individual events (100 metres butterfly, 200 butterfly and 200 individual medley) plus relays with a younger-looking US team that has rung some changes since London.

However big the splash he makes, Phelps is ratings gold as he seeks to add to his record haul of 18 Olympic titles and 22 medals in total.

Winner of the 100 butterfly and 200IM at the past three Olympics, Phelps can become the first swimmer to win the same individual event at four Games in a row.

He is not the oldest US swimmer in Rio, however, with former bad boy and 2000 gold medallist Anthony Ervin back at 35. Ryan Lochte, 31 and an 11 times medallist, will be at his fourth Games.

If anyone is going to carry Phelps' mantle at a meet that will run well past midnight on some days to cater for US viewers, then it is likely to be Katie Ledecky.

The 19-year-old American holds the world record in 400 and 800 metres freestyle and could complete a golden triple with the 200 as well.

Ledecky, who won four individual golds at last year's world championships in Kazan, Russia, is the youngest member of the US squad but looking unbeatable in 800.

Team mate Missy Franklin, who won four golds and a bronze in 2012, will compete in only two individual events and a relay after a disappointing trials.

The rest of the world, and particularly the Australians, sense an opportunity.

London saw the once-mighty swimming nation slump to its lowest Olympic haul in 20 years, with a subsequent review highlighting a 'toxic culture', but Rio can expect a fighting comeback.

"I think swimming has got its mojo back which is a great thing," said head coach Jacco Verhaeren after national trials in April.

Cate Campbell set a 100m freestyle world record in July while sister Bronte is world champion but both face a challenge from Sweden's Sarah Sjostrom.

On the men's side, Cameron McEvoy will chase gold in the blue riband 100 freestyle, one of five events he will contest.

Golden couple Emily Seebohm and boyfriend Mitch Larkin go to Rio as world champions in both the 100m and 200m backstroke.

The Europeans will get in on the act, with Britain's breaststroke world champion Adam Peaty and 200m free world champion James Guy hoping to succeed for a country that has not had a male Olympic swimming gold medallist since Adrian Moorhouse in 1988.

Hungary, Italy, France — with reigning 50 metres freestyle world and Olympic champion Florent Manaudou — and the Netherlands all have potential medal winners too.

Africa will look to South Africans Cameron van der Burgh, the reigning champion and Peaty's big rival in 100m breaststroke, and Chad Le Clos, who beat Phelps to 200m butterfly gold in 2012.

The scourge of doping, in a year darkened by scandals in Russia, also hangs over the pool with 2012 gold medallists Sun Yang of China and South Korea's Park Tae-hwan back in Rio after suspensions.—*Reuters*

PHOTO: REUTERS

Irish golfer Harrington hungers for Rio gold

SPRINGFIELD — Some top golfers have passed on the Olympics because of a hectic schedule and others have health concerns, but three-times major winner Padraig Harrington is thrilled to be going and dreams of gold.

"I'm really looking forward to Rio. My whole family are going," the 44-year-old Irishman told Reuters after a long session on the practice putting green on a sizzling hot and stormy Baltusrol, where the PGA Championship begins on Thursday.

"We're busy getting our tickets organised for the second week that we're there. It's a big deal for us." Harrington, winner of the 2008 PGA Championship and two British Open titles (2007, 2008), accepted the honor of playing for Ireland after the withdrawals of four-times major champion Rory McIlroy and Graeme McDowell citing concerns over the Zika virus.

Later Shane Lowery also withdrew over Zika worries, opening the door for 297th-ranked Seamus Power to join Harrington in the 60-man Rio field as golf returns to the Olympic programme after an absence of 112 years. World number one Jason Day of Australia, the defending PGA champion, and Americans Dustin Johnson and Jordan Spieth, ranked second and third, respectively, also bowed out from Rio consideration due to health concerns. The mosquito-borne Zika virus, which the World Health Organisation says is spreading rapidly in the Americas, can cause crippling defects in babies and has been linked to the neurological disorder Guillain-Barre in adults. "I'm going down there to try and win. No doubt about it, I believe I can win," said Harrington, who has slipped to 150th in the world rankings.

Harrington, like others who played at the Open at Royal Troon, are returning for the season's final major with just one tournament week in between them in a tour season condensed to make room for the Olympic tournament. Some players, including world number eight Adam Scott of Australia and South Africa's world number 15 Louis Oosthuizen, said they opted out of the Rio Games for scheduling reasons.—*Reuters*

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www.globalnewlightofmyanmar.com
Advertisement & Circulation — (+95) (01) 8604532
www.facebook.com/globalnewlightofmyanmar

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

"Printed and published at the Global New Light of Myanmar Printing Factory at No.150, Nga Htat Kyee Pagoda Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, by the Global New Light of Myanmar Daily under Printing Permit No. 00510 and Publishing Permit No. 00629."