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AMM CONCLUDES WITH OUTCOMES

Union Foreign Affairs Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi returns home

UNION Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived back in Myanmar yesterday evening after attending the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM) and related meetings in Vientiane, Laos from 23 July until Monday.

The Union minister attended the Meeting of Commission on the South East Asia Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty on 23 July, and also the Interface Meeting between ASEAN Foreign Ministers and the representatives of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

She attended the 49th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting Plenary Session and Retreat Session on 24 July together with other ASEAN counterparts.

A Joint Communiqué of the 49th AMM, ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Statement on the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in the South East Asia (TAC) and Joint Statement of the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN Member States on the Maintenance of Peace, Security and Stability in the region were issued at the end of the meeting.

During her stay in Vientiane, the Union minister also attended the 6th Mekong-Republic of Korea Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the 7th Mekong-Ganga Co-



Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi is welcomed back by a diplomat at the Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: MNA

operation Ministerial Meeting, the 9th Lower Mekong Initiative Ministerial Meeting and the 9th Mekong-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting on 24-25 July respectively. Myanmar will assume the chairmanship of the 8th Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Ministerial Meeting.

On 25 July, the Union minister attended the ASEAN Post Ministerial Conference (PMC+1) with the ten Dialogue Partners namely the People's Republic of China, Republic of Korea, Canada, Japan, Australia, India, the US, the European Union (EU), New Zealand and the Russian Federation. After the meetings, the Chairman's statements of the PMC+1 with dialogue partners were issued.

At the ASEAN-China Ministerial Meeting, the Ministers adopted the Joint Statement of the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN member states and China on the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea.

The Union minister co-chaired the ASEAN-Australia Meeting together with Julie Bishop MP, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Commonwealth of Australia. Myanmar is currently the country coordinator of ASEAN-Australia Dialogue Relations from 2016 to 2018.

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AUTHORITIES BRING BACK FISHERMEN FROM INDIA

Ko Moe

TEN fishermen who were detained at the Open Disaster Camp at Port Blair in India were repatriated yesterday by air as their prison sentences for illegally entering India's

territorial waters expired.

"We will send them back their homes as soon as possible. There was no case of human trafficking among the ten fishermen," said U Tin Hlaing, head of Yangon Region Relief and Resettlement

Department. The ten fishermen, comprising five from Taninthayi Region, three from Ayeyawady Region and two from Yangon Region were brought back home under the arrangement of the governments of the two countries.

"We were arrested by the Indian navy while we were drifting in Indian territorial waters after the engine of our fishing boat broke down," said Saw Gay Htoo from Ayeyawady Region. The fisherman claimed that he and his com-

rades were tortured and underfed by Indian prison authorities. The group were handed prison sentences by Indian authorities in 2012.

The returned men were provided cash and clothes at Yangon International Airport.

We would like to give good news that those who come to Okkala Golf Resort and play ten times and above monthly will be granted free Green Fees once and that in the event of Hole In One, the golfer will be given a KENBO-125-motorcycle.

Ph: 09-30998334, 09-30998335 Email-okkala.golfresort@gmail.com

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw representatives second motion calling for expansion of public health services

THE Pyithu Hluttaw session continued yesterday with parliamentarians holding discussions on a proposal calling for the expansion of the organisational set-up of the Public Health Department to effectively provide public health services.

Dr Sai Mauk Kham of Lashio Constituency pointed out that the Health Department, handling a heavy workload that involves administering vaccines nation-

wide and undertaking the monitoring and control of infectious diseases needs infrastructure, human resources and adequate funding so that its tasks can be accomplished the lawmaker said, seconding the motion.

In his discussion, U Myint Oo of Thanatpin Constituency, who also seconded the proposal, pointed out an inadequate ratio of midwives to births in his constituency with one midwife for



Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe.
PHOTO: MNA



U Myint Oo of Thanatpin Constituency. PHOTO: MNA



Dr Sai Mauk Kham of Lashio Constituency. PHOTO: MNA

about 3,700 people. He called for the assigning of midwives, an assistant and a health staff member to each village and providing them with further training to be appointed permanent staff.

Regarding a question on vacant doctor posts in townships and station hospitals, Union Minister Dr Myint Htwe said

that 2,000 doctors recruited by the ministry will be assigned to the states and regions following the completion of an eight-week training course at the Phaunggyi Central Institute of Civil Service.

The Union minister added that doctors have been assigned to Myaunkpyin and Kyauktaing station hospitals in Mindon

Township, Magwe Region.

Next, U Wai Hlaing Tun put forward a report on the third revised Ward or Village-tract Administration Law to the Pyithu Hluttaw and the Speaker invited those willing to submit amendments to the revised law to list their names for discussions.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Amyotha Hluttaw

Unclaimed lottery prizes go to funds that benefit the people; PF Minister



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.
PHOTO: MNA

MONEY from unclaimed lottery prizes have gone to education, health and social sectors that benefit more than 51 million people through the State's Fund, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win told the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday.

The government received lottery prize money that went unclaimed for one year as State revenue, said the deputy minister, adding that works are underway to use the money for the development of the State lottery and tax reforms.

According to the deputy minister, arrangements are being made to award K500 million and K 100million special lottery prizes and introduce K500 e-lottery tickets. The deputy minister also answered a question on seized cars and motorcycles during a Q&A session of the Amyotha Hluttaw, saying that the seized vehicles were being sold on an open tender system and unsold vehicles have been transferred to the ministry to be listed as state-owned vehicles.



Union Minister Dr Aung Thu.
PHOTO: MNA

He added that seized vehicles have also been distributed to the departments which are in need of vehicles in regions and states.

During a session of the Amyotha Hluttaw yesterday, Union Minister Dr Aung Thu also responded to a question about the Myanmar Agriculture and Rural Development Bank, saying that the annual reports of the Bank will be made public soon as Auditor-General's Office had approved it.

According to the Union minister, the Bank received a net profit of K54.74billion and made a contribution of K41.054billion to the government over the last 10 years from 2006-2007 FY to 2014-2015 FY but lost K10.823billion for 2015-2016, added the Union minister. The amount of money that the bank lost last year is not cash loss, said the Union minister adding that farmers have not paid back yet their loans. According to the Union minister, the bank is still collecting the loans amounting to K193.25billion.—*Myanmar News Agency/ Thein Ko Lwin*

Open Campus event will be held at University of Information technology (UIT)

AN open Campus event will be held from 9am to 3pm on 1 August at the University of Information Technology (UIT), on Thanlwin Road for the development of the ICT sector, it has been learned.

Interested persons can attend to observe project papers made by students, research activities being carried out in cooperation with international organisations and the teaching/ learning methods of UIT.

"Holding of the Open Campus event is aimed at enabling the public and students to know the objectives and purposes of the university, to support the students who have passed the matriculation examination to choose their special disciplines, to enable businesspeople to choose human resources by evaluating the qualities of ICT specialised students, to enable degree holders of ICT university to grasp job opportunities and to expose the event-com-

ers to the teaching/learning methods of the university," said Dr Swe Zin Hlaing, associate professor of the university.

The university, previously known as the University of Computer Studies (Bahan Campus, was turned into the University of Information Technology in April 2015. Those who score at least 450 marks in the matriculation exam can attend the university. Two hundred students are being admitted annually. —200

Endangered species to be preserved

ENDANGERED species from the three sanctuaries of Shwettaw, Min sun taung and Lawkanandar will see more efforts being made to preserve them, said a forester from Shwettaw sanctuary.

The authorities of the sanctuaries will cooperate with NGOs

and wildlife preservation organisations to seek monetary and technical support, it is reported.

Currently, 150 scarce star tortoises, which are being raised according to a new breeding system under research will be sent to the forest in the last week of July with sensors on their bodies

to see if they can return to their original places. Foresters will make monthly checks on the tortoises.

Wildlife animals are being preserved according to the protection of wildlife and conservation of natural areas law (1994) and the fishery law (1993). —200

MPT's 'Lighting The Way Forward' programme comes to a close



Mr Yoshiaki Benino, COO from Joint Operation, presents documents related to solar lanterns to Buddhist monks. PHOTO: GNLM

AS part of its corporate social responsibility policy Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications provided a total of 2,014 solar lanterns to monastic education schools nationwide since February.

To raise funds for solar lanterns that can provide a reliable source of light for monastic schools, MPT organised a vanity phone numbers auction on 19 December, 2015, managing to raise K292.7 million for the CSR initiative.

About 632 schools nationwide have received lanterns. The initiative successfully concluded this month.—*GNLM*

Union Minister for Foreign Affairs Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends a meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers in Vientiane, Laos. PHOTO: REUTERS



Union Foreign Affairs Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi returns home

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On 26 July, the Union minister participated in the 17th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the 6th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting and the 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).

The Ministers adopted ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Enhancing Cooperation among Maritime Law Enforcement Agencies, ASEAN Regional Forum Ministerial Statement on Recent Tragic Terrorist Attacks, ASEAN Regional Forum

Statement on Cooperation to Prevent, Deter and Eliminate Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing and ASEAN Regional Forum Statement on Strengthening Cooperation in the Management of Cross-Border Movement of Criminals at the 23rd ASEAN Regional Forum.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers paid a joint courtesy call on the Prime Minister of Lao PDR on 24 July after the opening ceremony of the AMM.

The Union minister held bilateral meetings with Ministers of

Foreign Affairs from Brunei, Viet Nam, Norway, the Republic of Korea, China, Australia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation and also with Minister of State for External Affairs of India and discussed matters of mutual interests.

The Myanmar delegation led by Union Minister Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended dinner hosted by the Ambassador of Myanmar at his residence and met with the Myanmar Community in Laos on Monday evening.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Detained Myanmar citizens' return home from Malaysia cancelled as donor withdraws offer

THE Myanmar Embassy in Malaysia announced yesterday that it could not arrange a planned trip for 700 detained Myanmar citizens to return home by air as the Po La Min Trading Company withdrew its offer to bear the cost of repatriation.

With the company's proposed funding, detained Myanmar citizens living in 11 detention camps in Malaysia were expected to come home on five chartered flights on 3 August. The Myanmar Embassy in Kuala Lumpur said that it will continue the migrant protection

programmes that began on 1 January last year to protect and help Myanmar citizens there.

Citizenship verification processes will go on as usual in order to repatriate Myanmar citizens detained in camps in Malaysia, it added.—*Shin Min*

Legislation and law drafting coordination meeting held in Nay Pyi Taw

A WORK coordination meeting on legislation and law drafting was held at a meeting hall of the Pyidaungsu Hluttaw Joint Bill Committee in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U Win Myint said that it is required to amend, revise and abolish old laws and enact new laws suitable for the present situation.

The Speaker stressed the need of ensuring that the laws offer protection to the people and encourage them to respect and follow the law, calling for participation of all in efforts to make appropriate laws conform with the country's economic and social policies.

In his address, Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker Mahn Win Khaing Than emphasised the need to ensure laws are suitable for the modern era and highlighted the importance of the rule of law in the country's multi-party democracy system and market economic system.

Next, Thura U Shwe Mann, chairman of the Pyidaungsu

Hluttaw Legal Affairs and Special Cases Assessment Commission, called for revision and removal of outdated laws and promulgation of new laws to strengthen democracy, stating that it is all impossible without change to the laws.

Then, members of the commission reported on matters related to legislation and law drafting and those present held discussions on the matters.

Also present at the meeting were Chief Justice of the Union U Tun Tun Oo, Chairman of Constitutional Tribunal U Myo Nyunt, Chairman of Union Election Commission U Hla Thein, Deputy Pyithu Hluttaw Speaker U T Khun Myat, Deputy Amyotha Hluttaw Speaker U Aye Tha Aung, Union Minister for Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Dr Win Myat Aye, Deputy Minister for the Office of the State Counsellor U Khin Maung Tint, Deputy Attorney-General U Win Myint, chairpersons and secretaries of Hluttaw committees and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Ethnic armed groups continue Mai Ja Yang meeting

THE ethnic armed organisations continued their plenary meeting yesterday in Mai Ja Yang, Kachin State, with the intention of finding some common ground in the establishment of a federal system in the country.

At the meeting, Vice Chairman of the Karen National Union (KNU) Pado Naw Si Po Ra Sein stressed that the establishment of a federal system and the restoration of internal

peace cannot be completed by a single organisation.

All ethnic armed organisations, all ethnic political parties, democratic forces and the people must work in unison to achieve success, he added.

The meeting was followed by a press conference, in which nine leaders of the ethnic armed organisations responded to queries raised by correspondents.—*Ye Khaung Nyunt*

A JOURNEY OF TRULY ASIA AT SEDONA HOTEL YANGON



Let your palate take you on a culinary journey across South and East Asia this month at the luxurious and relaxed settings of D'Cuisine where Chef Robert and his kitchen team will feature delicacies from the countries of Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, India and of course, Myanmar!

Every evening will feature 'live' dances ranging from the various ethnicities that makes Asia a most colourful and vibrant culinary destination

Time : Daily Dinner Buffet 6.30pm to 10.00pm

Venue : D'Cuisine All Day Dining Restaurant

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** Inclusive of free flow wine, beer & Soft Drinks



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SEDONA
YANGON

Japanese marine company surveys Ayeyawady for three years, builds barge

THE SA Marine Myanmar Co Ltd held a seminar on Tuesday at the Park Royal Hotel, Yangon entitled the "Verification Survey with the Private Sector for Disseminating Japanese Technologies for a Container Barge for Shallow Water on the Ayeyawady River".

The company has been carrying out barge pilot operations

on the Ayeyawady in collaboration with Inland Water Transport of the Ministry of Transport and Communication based on a small and medium Enterprises' Overseas development and supporting project overseen by JICA.

The Seminar was organised by SA Marine Co Ltd of Japan in cooperation with IWT and under the support of the Japan In-

ternational Cooperation Agency (JICA).

Mr. Takeshi Miyamoto, Managing Director of SA Marine Myanmar Co Ltd, addressed the crowd briefly on the background of SA Marine Myanmar Co Ltd and their survey resulted in introduction of a barge. Over 120 people attended the seminar. —GNLM



Group photo taken at a seminar held by SA Marine Myanmar Co Ltd. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Over 800,000 fish introduced into rivers and creeks

THE Thaton State Fisheries Post will put over 800,000 fish including carps, barbuses, golden sturgeons and white sturgeons

into rivers and creeks in order for the fish species to proliferate this year.

Saff from the Thaton Dis-

trict Fisheries Department together with local people added 100,000 into the Warpar dam in Thaton district, Mon state on 24 July to ensure sufficient supply of fish for consumers in the region.

U Tayzar Aung, the administrator of Thaton district, U Saw Lin, Deputy director of District Fisheries Department, U Thein Win, the township administrator, officials concerned from districts and townships and local people attended the ceremony at which 80,000 varieties of carps and 20,000 barbuses were added to the dam.—That Oo (Thaton)



Fish being put into a creek. PHOTO: THAN OO (THATON)

Villagers in Mandalay receive land grant from authorities

MANDALAY Region authorities accelerate its efforts to issue land grant to villagers in the region to reduce land disputes on ownership of the property.

Villagers from over 80 households in Magyigon Village in Lamang Village-tract in Madaya Township on Tuesday received the land grant.

U Hla Min, deputy head of PyinOoLwin District, said the supervisory committee in cooperation with relevant government departments provided land grant to 82 households only for 20.82 acres of old village land in accord with the existing rules and regulations.

"Since last two months, we see a lot of efforts of the local authorities to issue land grant to us,"



Land grant presenting ceremony in progress.

PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

said Ko Tin Nyo, one of residents from Magyigon Village, who expressed his thanks to the authorities.

The Magyigon Village has not only old village land but extended land plots. The ministry

is planning to orngaise the use of remaining extended land plots under the appropriate titles.

The holder of land grant has a right to sell or mortgage of their leasehold property, an official said.—Aung Thant Khaing



Dr Khet Aung, Chief Minister of Kachin State, speaks at a ceremony to donate Ks100 m for the disaster preparedness in the state. PHOTO: KBZ

Kachin State receives K100 m fund for disaster preparedness

THE Kanbawza Bank's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation (BFM) provided Kachin State with K100 m for disaster preparedness on Monday.

Chief Minister of Kachin State Government Dr Khet Aung received the donation and spoke words of thanks pledging that the government would spend the donation on effectively carrying out disaster preparedness activities in the Kachin State.

Speaking on the occasion Daw Yin Yin Mar from the BFM said the foundation's chairperson Daw Nang Lang Kham arranged for the establishment of the BFM

fund in order to better deliver aid in the future as the foundation and other philanthropic associations were delayed last year in delivering aid to areas due to poor infrastructure.

The foundation has established such kinds of fund in Rakhine State, Chin State, Magway Region, Sagaing Region and Kayah State in June and seven regions and states including Kachin State in July. Also present at the ceremony were local authorities, members of the Kachin State disaster preparedness and management committee and local people.—Thura Lwin (Eco)

Crime NEWS

Yaba confiscated in Yangon

LOCAL authorities from Yangon (East) confiscated yaba from a woman on Wayzayanda road, ward 8, South Okkalapa township on Monday. Acting on a tip-off police searched one Ma Nang Khan Matt and found 20,000 pills.

Similarly, police from Keng Tung township searched one Than Soe in a farm hut located between Pon Kay and Pon Ti villages on 24 July and discovered 361 yaba pills.

A combined team comprising officers and staff from Lashio police station confiscated yaba from a vehicle near Nawngkhio Oriental toll gate on 25 July. Acting on a tip-off police searched the vehicle en route to Mandalay



Ma Nang Khan Matt. PHOTO: MPF

from Lashio being driven by one Kan Kaung and discovered 325 yaba pills. All suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.—Myanmar Police Force

One dead, two injured in car crash

A MOTORCYCLE collided head on with another motorcycle on the Monywa- Mandalay highway, Monywa township, Sagaing region on 24 July, leaving one man dead and two injured.

The motorbike, driven by one Kyaw Phyo, 18, with Ye Htet Aung, 20, on board, crashed into another vehicle being driven by Di Moe alias Than Wai Lwin, 27,

from Tawpu village. The reason for the collision is not known yet.

The police are investigating the case. De Moe alias Than Wai Lwin succumbed to his injuries at the scene while the two others were injured seriously. Police have filed charges against the drivers under sections 337 and 338 of the Penal code.—Myanmar Police Force

LOCAL Business



A circular train arrives at Ma Hlwa Gone Station in Yangon on 20 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Upgrade of Yangon circular railway to be implemented in 2017-2018

THE upgrading of the Yangon circular railway is slated for the 2017-2018 fiscal year, it has been reported.

To upgrade the Yangon circular railway and suburban railway, data collection of the squatter houses along the railroads is being conducted and it is slated to be completed at the end of this month. Those dwellings in the squatter houses will be systematically moved to more suitable

places, said U Tun Aung Thin, the general manager of Myanmar Railway (Lower Myanmar).

Upgrading the railroads will include the renovation of 10 railway overpasses, the installation of automatic gates at 21 railway crossings, upgrading Kyimyindine, Danyingon, Insein, Mingaladon and Paywetseikgon railway stations.

Currently, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and

Social Impact Assessment (SIA) are being conducted as an initial step under the procedures of the 2012 Environmental Conservation Law and existing laws.

The cost for building all necessary infrastructure to upgrade the Yangon circular railway will be incurred by the government. The Japan International Corporation Agency (JICA) will contribute US\$ 206 million to the project.—200

Suzuki to establish factory in Thilawa SEZ

SUZUKI has announced that it plans to expand its business in Myanmar by building a manufacturing factory of automobiles and motorcycles in the Thilawa Special Economic Zone (SEZ).

“Suzuki began manufacturing automobiles and motorcycles in Yangon South Dagon Township in 1999. Although a 12-year investment agreement was due, we have been trying to make automobiles and motorcycles here since 2013,” said Sugiyama, managing director

of the Myanmar Suzuki branch.

Suzuki has confirmed it will build the factory on a 20-hectare plot in the Thilawa SEZ. There have been difficulties in finding the raw materials to manufacture automobiles in Myanmar, it is reported, with the company planning to address material shortages following the completion of the factory.

The factory is slated to be operational in 2018 according to the Managing Director.—GNLM

Border trade value between Myanmar and China rises by over US\$3 million

BORDER trade value between Myanmar and China has risen by over US\$3 million this fiscal year when compared to the same period last fiscal year, according to the trade department.

Myanmar-China border trade value from 1 April to 15 July of the 2016-2017 fiscal year amounted to US\$1,515.248 billion whereas, during the same period last fiscal year, it was US\$1,512.114 billion.

Exported products from Myanmar include agricultural prod-

ucts, livestock, mineral products, forestry products and industrial finished goods while personal products, raw materials and capital goods are imported from neighbouring countries. Myanmar has entered into agreements with India, Thailand, China and Bangladesh to open border trade, it has been learned. The Muse, Lweje, Chin Shwe Haw, Kanpikete and KeungTung border trade camps are being opened to allow trade between Myanmar and China.—GNLM

Low-cost apartments in Dagon Seikkan and Hlaingthaya to be sold at the end of July

A TOTAL of 2,200 low-cost apartments in Yuzana estate, Dagon Seikkan Township and Shwe Lin Pan Industrial Zone in Hlaingthaya Township will be sold at the end of July, with a price of around K12 million per apartment, it has been learned from the Department of Human Settlement and Housing Development.

Seventy per cent of these apartments will be sold by the Yangon region government whereas 30 per cent will be sold

by the Union government to government staff and the general public. Only those who have already applied will be considered.

18-square-foot community housing will be rented to the people in Hlaingthaya, Dagon Seikkan and South Dagon Township within two years. The government has a plan to build up to one million apartments, 80 per cent of which will be built by private companies whereas 20 per cent will be built by the government.—200

IWT to run three coastal-going ships in Rakhine

“Inland Water Transport is going to run three coastal-going ships in Rakhine this summer for the convenience of travelers,” said U Htin Kyaw, assistant director of the department of water transport administration.

After the sinking of Aung dagun 3, Rakhine coastal-going

ships have all been suspended rendering travel difficult. To reduce the risk of sinking at sea Japanese engineers have been brought in and have been making observations as to how to reduce risks. After checks by Japanese experts IWT will resume running.—200

Select startup entrepreneurs clarify business plans



Workers make gold foils traditionally at an industry in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

TWENTY-three select small and medium enterprises clarified their business plans on their lines of products and services at the Ayeyawady Riverview hotel in Mandalay yesterday.

The group was selected under the programme of SME development strategy jointly organ-

ised by the International Labour Organisation and the AAT Business Park.

Daw Aye Aye Than of AAT Business Park said the programme was the first in the country to be organised under the ILO's provision of technical assistance to startups.

The 23 chosen startup entrepreneurs are required to take a three-month course. On completion, three entrepreneurs will be awarded K5 million (US\$4,200), K3m (\$2,500) and K2m (\$1,600) in prize money as starting capital for their businesses.—Aung Thant Khaing

Indonesia president puts ex-general, popular World Bank leader in cabinet

JAKARTA — Indonesian President Joko Widodo pleased market reform advocates by bringing home the World Bank's managing director to be finance minister and upset human rights activists by naming a controversial ex-general as security chief.

The surprise appointments of Sri Mulyani Indrawati atop finance and Wiranto as coordinating minister for politics, law and security were part of a wider-than-expected cabinet reshuffle in which the trade, energy, transport and industry ministers were also replaced.

"I am aware that the challenge keeps changing and it needs quick action from us," Widodo told reporters at the palace, adding that unemployment and income inequality must be addressed and the cabinet needed to work "more quickly, more effectively".

The addition of Indrawati to the president's economic team lifted financial markets, with stocks up more than 1 per cent and the rupiah strengthening 0.4 per cent against the dollar.

"Sri Mulyani's appointment is a game-changer because it restores a

certain amount of investor confidence and means having a steady hand on the tiller with a solid record as a reformer," said Paul Rowland, a Jakarta-based analyst.

In 2010, Indrawati joined the World Bank after serving as both Indonesia's chief economic minister and finance minister under then-president Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono.

Indrawati, who has a Ph.D in economics from the University of Illinois and is not a member of a political party, won praise for successfully managing Indonesia's economy through the 2008 global financial crisis.

"The president wants a dream team to manage economic policies so that we can accelerate (growth). He needs Sri Mulyani," said David Sumual, chief economist for Bank Central Asia.

Indonesia's economic growth is expected to improve only slightly in the second quarter from 4.92 per cent in the first three months of this year. The finance ministry has forecast full-year GDP of around 5.2 per cent in 2016, up from 4.79 per cent last year.



Indonesia's new ministers, (L-R) Transmigration Minister Eko Putro Sandjojo, Industry Minister Airlangga Hartarto, Administrative and Bureaucratic Reform Minister Asman Abnur, Trade Minister Enggartiasto Lukita, Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati, Coordinating Minister for Legal, Security and Politics Wiranto, Education Minister Muhadjir Effendy, Transportation Minister Budi Karya Sumadi, and Energy and Mining Minister Archandra Tahar, pose for photographers during the announcement of the new cabinet at Presidential Palace in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 27 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Bambang Brodjonegoro, the finance minister that Widodo appointed in 2014, has been shifted to head the country's national development planning agency.

The change in finance ministers comes just after Indonesia launched a tax amnesty it hopes will bring home billions of dol-

lars that Indonesians have parked overseas.

Widodo also surprised many by announcing Wiranto as his new chief security minister, reassigning his close adviser Luhut Pandjaitan to be chief maritime minister.

Wiranto, army chief when strongman Suharto quit amid protests in

1998, was indicted by a United Nations panel over the bloodshed surrounding East Timor's 1999 independence vote, when about 1,000 people died. The former general has denied any wrongdoing in East Timor.

"He is part of the very old guard of Suharto's New Order," said Andreas Harsono, Indonesia director

of Human Rights Watch. "This is really bad news for human rights."

Analysts viewed Wiranto's appointment and others as politically motivated, as the president looks to consolidate support from parties keen to join the ruling coalition.

Wiranto controls Hanura, "a party which has supported Jokowi from the get-go, and one way of seeing this is for the president to secure its continued support," wrote Wellian Wiranto, economist at OCBC. The president also welcomed the second-largest political party, Golkar, into the cabinet by appointing Airlangga Hartarto as industry minister.

Golkar, which was in opposition to Widodo when he was elected in 2014, played a key role in getting the president's tax amnesty bill passed this year.

Other major cabinet changes included the re-assignment of Thomas Lembong from trade minister to investment chief. Arcandra Tahar, an executive at Texas-based offshore engineering firm Petroner, was appointed energy and mining minister, replacing Sudirman Said.—Reuters

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Philippines says ASEAN omission of arbitration case not a Chinese victory

MANILA — The Philippines "vigorously pushed" for the inclusion of comment on an arbitration ruling in a joint statement from Southeast Asian countries but its failure to secure that was no diplomatic win for China, Manila's foreign minister said on Wednesday.

The Philippines had not sought support from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) or the international community in its arbitration case against Beijing over the South China Sea, and did not want to press the issue and risk dividing the group or provoking China, Perfecto Yasay said.

Yasay was speaking after returning from a meeting of foreign ministers in Laos, during which ASEAN dropped a US-backed proposal to mention the landmark 12 July court ruling, which nullified Beijing's claims to most of the South China Sea.

"I am just saying this to dispel the reports that

have been said that China came out victorious in the ASEAN meeting because we precisely agreed to not mentioning the arbitral award," Yasay told a news conference.

"But that (was) not the object of our meeting in ASEAN. The arbitral award is a matter between China and the Philippines."

Yasay said the arbitral tribunal was not an issue for ASEAN to deal with and it was strictly the business of China and the Philippines to handle.

Speaking later at a news conference with US Secretary of State John Kerry, Yasay said there were no losers in Laos and the issuance of a joint communique was a triumph for the 10-member bloc.

"It makes ASEAN more credible to the international community and makes it more effective and relevant as a regional group," he said.

Kerry said he was "very satisfied" with the communique as it showed

all members were fully supportive of the rule of law, even though the thorny issue of the arbitration case was left out.

"Sometimes, meeting like that and diplomacy, you don't always have to include every single word that may in fact sometimes make it harder to get to the dialogue that you want to get to," Kerry said.

The Philippines and Viet Nam both wanted the ruling and a call to respect international maritime law to feature in the communique, but Cambodia — China's only real ally in ASEAN — rejected the wording on the ruling, diplomats said, backing instead China's call for bilateral discussions.

Manila backed down to prevent the disagreement leading to the group failing to issue a joint statement after a meeting for only the second time in its 49-year history.

China's official Xinhua news agency said Yasay's comments that the

resolution of the dispute was for the Philippines and China only was "a welcoming change in Manila's policy".

"Now is the time for Manila to translate its words into action and start to fix its traumatised relations with China," it said in a commentary.

Kerry supported Yasay's call for China to take a position so bilateral dialogue could happen and said he was confident Manila would make the right judgements in how to move forward.

The failure by ASEAN to take a position or mention the arbitration had no impact on the validity of the court decision, Kerry added.

"It is impossible for it to be irrelevant, it is legally binding," he said.

Kerry met with Philippine's President Rodrigo Duterte for lunch on Wednesday and was due to discuss how to move ahead following the ruling, a US official said.—Reuters

North Korea sends propaganda leaflets to South Korea via river

SEOUL — The South Korean military said Wednesday that dozens of plastic bags containing North Korea's propaganda leaflets were discovered in a river near Seoul.

An official of the South Korean Joint Chiefs of Staff said there have been previous cases in which North Korea sent such flyers to the South by air using balloons, but it is the first time they arrived via the Han River.

The official, while criticising the act as a provocation aimed at causing confusion and division in South Korea, suggested that the North may have decided to use the river, as sending the leaflets by air has become difficult due to the summer south wind.

The plastic bags, believed to be floated intentionally from upstream in North Korea, were found in a part of the river in Gimpo, Gyeonggi Province on the outskirts of the South Korean capital. The leaflets contained threats to South Korea, including inferences on a possible attack using the Musudan intermedi-

ate-range ballistic missile.

They also referred to 27 July, the anniversary of the signing of the armistice that ended fighting in the 1950-53 Korean War, as war victory day. Meanwhile, the South Korean government held a ceremony in Seoul to commemorate the 63rd anniversary of the armistice, with Prime Minister Hwang Kyo Ahn saying that Seoul will work with the international community in dealing with Pyongyang. "North Korea continues rash provocations such as conducting nuclear tests and launching long-range ballistic missiles," Hwang said. "We will take various measures until North Korea abandons nuclear weapons and follows the road to peace on its own."

North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test in January and has subsequently test-fired banned ballistic missiles on several occasions. Some intelligence officials have said that activity at a nuclear test site in the country has been increasing since around mid-July.—*Kyodo News*

IN PICTURE



Vice state president, heads of judicial bodies elected in Viet Nam

HANOI — Vice President Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh (front C), poses for photos with Nguyen Hoa Binh (front R), Chief Justice of the Supreme People's Court, and Le Minh Tri (front L), Prosecutor General of the Supreme People's Procuracy, in Vietnamese capital Hanoi, on 27 July 2016. Vietnamese parliament on Wednesday elected vice state president and heads of the country's judicial bodies during the ongoing first session of the 14th National Assembly in capital Hanoi. PHOTO: XINHUA



Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte (R) shakes hands with visiting US Secretary of State John Kerry during his visit at the Malacanang presidential palace in metro Manila, Philippines, on 27 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

Duterte tells Kerry tribunal ruling is 'foundation' for China talks

MANILA — US Secretary of State John Kerry was told by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte on Wednesday that a recent international tribunal ruling that invalidated China's vast claims in the South China Sea will serve as the "foundation" for Manila's future talks with Beijing on their territorial disputes.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella said that the South China Sea issue was discussed among the other concerns shared by the Philippines and the United

States during a lunch meeting at Malacanang Palace in Manila, where Kerry arrived on Tuesday for a two-day visit.

"There were no agreements regarding that except that the president did mention that whatever talks we will engage in, we'll begin with the ruling. That will be the foundation," Abella told reporters. China has rejected the 12 July ruling by the UN-backed Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague.

Earlier Wednesday, Kerry

met with Philippine Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay and told reporters afterward that while the United States takes no position on the competing sovereignty claims in the South China Sea, "we do take a strong position on protecting the rights, the freedoms and the lawful uses of air and sea space as defined by international law."

He said Washington hopes to see the disputes resolved peacefully through diplomacy, without coercion or the threat of force.—*Kyodo News*

No aim to 'perpetuate military rule' with Thai charter; ex-PM rejects it

BANGKOK — A constitution that Thailand will decide on in a referendum next month is not aimed at perpetuating military rule, an official who helped write it said on Wednesday, as a former premier from a pro-establishment party rejected the draft charter.

The outcome of the 7 August referendum could have far-reaching implications for Southeast Asia's second-biggest economy as a military government that took power after a 2014 coup tries to shape politics after a decade of turmoil.

Critics argue that the constitution, to replace one torn up by the military after the coup, will

entrench military control at the expense of elected political parties.

The government says it will ensure stable politics. Norachit Sinhaseni, a former diplomat and spokesman for the Constitution Drafting Committee, said the main objective of the charter was to ensure a swift return to democracy.

"We have no interest or desire to perpetuate military rule," Norachit told Reuters.

"Our number one priority is to put Thailand back on the road to democracy."

The military government would interpret a "yes" vote as a seal of approval and a mandate

to govern, experts say. A "no" vote, on the other hand, could be seen as undermining the government's legitimacy, and would raise questions about its road map to a promised general election next year.

Norachit said there were no guidelines as to what would happen if the draft was rejected.

The government says the proposed constitution will heal divisions after years of rivalry between the military-dominated establishment and election-winning populist politicians who the military says buy their way to power.

The constitution would allow for an unelected prime min-

ister and an upper house of parliament appointed by the junta with seats reserved for military commanders to check the powers of elected lawmakers for a five-year transitional period.

It also sets out an electoral system that critics say would produce weak coalition governments.

Even some of the military's natural political allies have voiced opposition.

Former Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva, leader of the pro-establishment Democrat Party, rejected the constitution on Wednesday, saying he did not see how it would help the country make progress.—*Reuters*



Abhisit Vejjajiva, leader of Thailand's Democrat Party, leaves a news conference where he spoke about his personal position on the draft charter at the party's headquarters in Bangkok, Thailand, on 27 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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The interface between politics and economics

Kyaw Thura

IN today’s participative world, strengthening national economy is no longer just the concern of the government alone. Researchers have described citizen participation as an important determinant of the path that an economy takes, stressing that the challenge of economic development goes beyond economics.

There is widespread recognition that both social and political institutions have a large impact on economic consequences. Clearly, people have come to exercise their rights to participate in the political process by casting votes in elections and taking to the streets in protest of the issues they consider opaque.

It is, therefore, absolutely vital for the government to consider how best to mobilise public engagement to achieve better economic outcomes. In other words, policy makers need to have a better understanding of how political incentives can realise development goals through small changes from relaxing political constraints to adopting policies that can leverage technical strengths.

Nevertheless, the fear of talking about politics is still deeply ingrained in most of the people. The government has the responsibility to help the citizens overcome this fear by encouraging them to work with government officials at different levels in the adoption and implementation of the policies necessary for sustained economic growth.

On the whole, making politics work for development is an individual concern simply because citizen engagement can ensure greater transparency in the political process, thereby holding the government to account for any failure in the delivery of public services.

Educational talk to reduce betel leaf chewing held in Taunggoo

AN educational talk aimed at reducing betel leaf chewing and spitting was held at hall on Police Yekiktha in Taunggoo yesterday.

At the event, Police Major Ohn Pe, the Commander of Taunggoo Township Police Force, gave a talk on the elimination of the betel leaf chewing custom, Dr. Arkar of Taunggoo General Hospital



Police Major Ohn Pe giving educational talks on betel chewing. PHOTO:(017)

spoke on the diseases caused by betel leaf chewing, Daw Thida Win, a member of the Myanmar Women’s Affairs Federation spoke on environmental pollution and betel and Daw Yin Yin Aye, a member of the Maternal and Child Welfare Association spoke on staying away from betel leaf chewing and dry tobacco.—(017)

A Wave of Nostalgia for my Yangon University Days

Dr. Saw Mra Aung

Iturned right into Dagon Road from the short tarred-path skirt-round the Taunggoo Hall. All of a sudden, at a two-fold romantic call of a cuckoo, I looked up at the huge *Gangaw* trees growing at the cross-roads to in vain find the invisible bird. At the same time, I threw a look at the Dagon Hostel where I had spent my eight-year university life as a geology student. Lo! It was now changed into a female- hostel fenced with iron-bars. No more play-grounds in front of the hostel where we spent half of the day playing football, volley-ball and *takraw* with friends on holidays. Instead, tall grass was growing wild. No sign of hostel-students was to be seen at the door into the ground floor of the hostel where there used to be a small stall which sold out odds and ends like cigarettes, betel-quids, candies, etc, buzzing with some students from sun-rise to sun-set. The *Gangaw* trees in front of the hostel grew higher and the *Seinpan* trees bending over the balcony did not change tangibly. But both species of the trees were in full bloom. Brown, withered leaves were whirling down, riding on the occasional hot eddies.

In fact, the Dagon and the Shwebo Hostels had been the male-hostels of the Judson College by the name of the Wellington Hall and the North Hall before it was combined with Yangon College to form Yangon University in 1920. Those two hostels were renamed “Dagon” and “Shwebo” Hostels during the post-war Period. I looked nostalgically at the Dagon Hostel which had served male students dutifully for nearly 100 years and, where I enjoyed the juice of the university life merrily and care-freely with my friends in the prime of youthfulness. I, at the instant, wondered why it was changed into a female-hostel during the Union Government, although such a male hostel could by no means fit female students well and the two paths on the west and east of the hostel blocked to form the fence of it caused hindrance to the students who were to walk from the southern part of the campus to the northern one. I suddenly felt a pang of loneliness and yearning for my old friends with whom I stayed together at the Dagon Hostel more than two and a half decades ago.

My mind flashed back to the days when I was a fresher at the Dagon Hostel which provided accommodation only to geology students. On 1st December 1984, I was assigned at room. No. 68 on the first floor. As I was a first year student, I had to share the room with Zaw Htwe Myint from Kinhmaw



Thiri Hostel, which is quite famous among the young students.

Village in Thandwe. Ko Tha Tun Aung, who came with me from Sit-tway, had to share room No. 72 with Kyaw Soe Moe from Manaung. Room No. 70 between the two rooms was taken by Maung Maung Zaw and Nyan Moe. The former, who later became my best friend during my university student life, hailed from Tharbaung near Pathein, Ko Aung Myint from Hinthada, etc were assigned at the rooms in the back-row of the first floor where first year students were exclusively accommodated then.

We all were then aged 16 years. In the beginning, we felt alien, observing one another with furtive eyes. Within a few days, by the nature of the young, intimacy developed swiftly among us and became fast friends. I remembered a ridiculous incident which occurred on the day we first visited U Chit’s tea-shop. It was then situated in a grove of trees at the corner of Dagon Road and Pyi Road. When we got to it, I found a few tables in the one-storeyed brick building and many under the trees outside were already taken by students dressed gaudily. I, as rustic, felt formidable by their glitz, gloss and celebrities and the big name of the tea-shop. So when the tea ordered reached, I drank it at a gulp and rose to feet to leave, my friends, in a mocking tone, banned me to not to do so. And they explained to me that I should sip tea, gawking at the beautiful girls sitting at the near-by tables because

we were now university students and therefore, licensed to woo girls. From then onwards, we were obsessed with visiting the tea-shop whenever we were free. In those days, some puns related to tea were came into vogue in the university campus such as *တိုင်း* (Taingki) for a large cup of tea, *ချစ်ကောင်း* (Chitkaung) for coffee with bitter taste due to the effect of too much coffee powder, *ကျောက်ပန်းတောင်း* (Kyauk-padaung) for excessively sweet tea, etc.

At that time, the Vesali Hall was not yet in existence. There was a vast stretch of land between the Ramanya Hall and the Taunggoo Hall. There was a row of makeshift stalls roofed with thatch and corrugated zinc sheets and with the walls made of wooden planks and bamboo-mattings, in the northern part of that patch of land adjacent to Dagon Road. Different kinds of snacks and foods were available there. At night, U Chit’s tea-shop and these stalls were the meeting places of the hostel students, where they ruminated about what they had experienced during the day time and the tryst of adult students who attended the worker college which opened at the Ramanya Hall in the evening.

The Taunggoo Hall and the Ramanya Hall were built only after the Second World War. I have heard from the elders that the place where these halls were had been the foot-ball field of the Judson College during the Pre-war Period, that there stood a large *Thingan* tree in isolation at the centre of the field, which was said to be haunted at night and that, therefore, no one without companions dare not pass by it even at twilight. When it

came to our days, the Taunggoo Hall housed the Department of English and the Department of Myanmar-sar. There stood tall, big perennial trees in the wide patch of land between the Taunggoo Hall and the Mandalay Hall, which housed the Department of Geology. When we resumed our class after the 88 Unrest, all the food stalls, tea-shops, etc including U Chit’s tea-shop were moved to that patch of land.

During our first and second years, we had to attend the RC 2 (Hlaing Campus). So we had to take decrepit, old buses crammed with passengers grinding their way along Pyi road for three bus-stops. The Department of Geology was then located in the southern-most part of the Hlaing Campus. It comprised two one-storeyed brick-buildings, one for lectures and the other for the practical works. Our Head of Department was Saya U Kyaw Htin, who had a small figure with brown complexion. So vociferous and cussed as he was, he loved us so much that he protected us from the attacks of the students from other majors. Whenever we picked up fights or quarrels with the students from other majors, he, standing at the vanguard of his student-group, used to launch verbal attacks against them with his sleeves curled up to his elbows and his index-finger pointing out to them. So he was held dear to every geology student. As 90 per cent of the geology students were boys, we all were held together in the brotherhood-bond. So if a geology student started a fight with a student from another major, we all without any prompting laid a siege on that student and were ready to

fight him back, without asking the reason. So we were treated in fear as well as contempt by the students from other majors. We were thorns in their side. The then principal of the RC 2 was U Kaung Nyunt, who was promoted to that post from the head of the Department of Chemistry. So we thought that he would have a bias for chemistry students. One day, we had a fight with some students from Chemistry students. The case was resolved peacefully. But we were not satisfied with U Kaung Nyunt. So, one of us, to vent his anger and dissatisfaction, wrote the name of U Kaung Nyunt in English on the wall of a boys’ toilet. Out of the

three words in his name, although U and Nyunt were spelt in English alphabets, a figure of cow was drawn for the word “Kaung,” which is its English pronunciation. Although the inquiry was staged, the actual doer could not be identified. In fact, Sayagyi U Kaung Nyunt was a fair-minded and good-tempered person. Due to his diligence and honesty in his work, he was subsequently promoted to Rector of Dagon University and then a member of the Civil Service Selection and Training Board. As he did not want to affect the wild happiness of the youths, he turned a deaf ear to the insult to him. But as we did not know it, we were happy, thinking that we could take revenge upon him.

Another ridiculous event happened during my early university days thus: As I was born and brought up in Rakhine, I had never been to Yangon until I came to Yangon University. Only Rakhine dialect was then used in Rakhine, especially in the northern part of Rakhine State. Use of the Myanmar language was a taboo at my house, for my father was an orthodox Rakhine who was afraid of the extinction of Rakhine dialect. We on our part also never exerted any effort to speak in Myanmar. So the Myanmar language was quite alienated from me. Therefore, I found myself too hard to speak in Myanmar a few days when I had arrived in Yangon. What was worse, when I tried to speak the Myanmar language in the Rakhine accent, no one, except Rakhine students, could understand me. As I majored in Geology, I had a practical class once a week. At the end of the practical class, I had to do a

viva voce. One day, at the end of the first practical class, a beautiful young demonstrator on duty asked me some questions about physical properties of rock specimens I had studied during the practical class. I knew the answers to all her questions but she did not make the head or tail of what I answered. To her wit’s end, she asked me to write down the answer on paper. All my answers were to her liking. From that day onwards, I was branded as “Rakhine Lay” meaning “Rakhine lad”. I felt that I became the butt of everyone’s ridicule and was shy of that brand. But when the practical tests were conducted and marks scored were announced, my name was included in the short list of the most outshining students. Thus, the my brand “Rakhine lay” bore a positive sense among the students and I was acknowledged as a clever student in our major. Thenceforth, I prided myself on being a Rakhine.

When I came to the Dagon Hostel as a first year student, the warden was a lecturer from the Department of Geology named U Myitta (“ U Metta” in Pali meaning “ Mr. Loving- Kindness”). As he was reticent and kind-hearted, his name fitted him to a T. He was never heard to ill-treat his students. He treated us as his own sons. He never prescribed do’s and don’ts for us. So although we as hostel students in the beginning suffered from home-sickness, we were acclimatized to the hostel life and felt at home very soon. Breakfast was served from 7 am to 9 am and dinner from 4 pm to 6 pm. As we all were only in our teens, we had a good appetite for any curry served. But on the morning of every Satur-

day, we were served with chick-pea curry. Then fried water-cress, fried rosella, fried chicken-eggs, etc sold by some lowly-paid kitchen-staff at the door into the dining hall and fried chilli and roasted chicken brought from home came to our rescue. Some well-to-do students got up late that morning and had their breakfast at the canteen. There were some mango trees growing on the left side of the kitchen-building. They were laden with fruit all the year round. On the days when I was broke and deprived of the preserved curries sent by home and when the curries I disliked were served, I brought down mangoes from those trees with a length of bamboo and had them for breakfast and dinner. Sometimes, we took some meal in our plain-tea cup without the kitchen-staff’s knowledge so that we could have it with the preserved curries sent by our home when we were hungry at night. Sometimes, we secretly plucked fruit from the papaya trees growing near our water-tanks, kept them away in a safe place and ate them when they were ripe. Though the warden knew it, he turned a blind eye to our mischievous deeds. A special dinner was served at the end of every month. At the special dinner, a roasted chicken was equally divided among four students. We used to return from the class to the hostel earlier that day to enjoy the special dinner to our heart’s content. We had to pay 120 kyats as monthly hostel-fee for our accommodation and messing. But, at the end of each semester, we were refunded tins of condensed milk, sugar, pieces of soap, etc.

(To be continued)



The Dalbergia Kurzii tree, an important symbol of the University of Yangon.

Democrat Clinton makes history, wins US presidential nomination



US Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton rallies campaign volunteers in Charlotte, North Carolina, US on 25 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

PHILADELPHIA — Hillary Clinton secured the Democratic Party's White House nomination, coming back from a stinging defeat in her first presidential run in 2008 and surviving a bitter primary fight to become the first woman to head the ticket of a major party in US history.

In a symbolic show of party unity, Clinton's former rival, US Senator Bernie Sanders of Vermont, told the chairwoman from the convention floor that Clinton, 68, should be selected as the party's nominee at the dramatic climax of a state-by-state roll call at the Democratic convention in Philadelphia.

Capping nearly a quarter century in public life, Clinton will become the party's standard-bearer against Republican nominee Donald Trump in the 8 November election when she accepts the nomination on Thursday.

"If there are any little girls out there who stayed up late to watch, let me just say: I may become the first woman president, but one of you is next," Clinton told the convention via a video satellite link.

In nominating Clinton, delegates made the point that the selection of a woman was a milestone in America's 240-year-old history. Women got the right to vote in 1920 after ratification of the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution.

Clinton's husband, former President Bill Clinton, portrayed her in a speech to the convention as a dynamic force for change as he made a case for her White House bid.

"Hillary is uniquely qualified to seize the opportunities and reduce the risks we face, and she is still the best darn change-maker I have ever known," he said, hitting back at Republican arguments she is a Washington insider tied to the status quo.

The Democratic nominee, who promises to tackle income inequality, tighten gun control and rein in Wall Street if she becomes president, is eager to portray Trump, a businessman and former reality TV show host, as too unstable to sit in the Oval Office.

Trump, 70, who has never held elective office, got a boost in opinion polls from his nomination at the Republican convention last week. He had a 2-point lead over Clinton in a Reuters/Ipsos opinion poll released on Tuesday, the first time he has been ahead since early May.

Sanders has endorsed Clinton, but some of his supporters protested in Philadelphia against the party leadership's apparent backing of her during the Democratic primary fight.

Outside the convention hall, protests turned more heated late on Tuesday. Thousands of protesters gathered near a subway station close to the convention centre although a heavy police presence and barricades kept them far from convention guests. Among the protesters were Sanders supporters and Black Lives Matter activists.

At least three people clambered over perimeter fences and were arrested. Some set up a candlelight vigil, sang songs and chanted "Election fraud," in apparent reference to leaked emails that showed the Democratic National Committee tried to undermine Sanders' campaign.

Earlier on Tuesday, delegates from South Dakota had given Clinton 15 votes, formally ensuring that she had more than the 2,383 votes needed to win the nomination. She emerged with a total of 2,842 votes to Sanders' 1,865. Two delegates held up a red banner emblazoned "History" in white letters as Clinton's face showed up on the screen.

In 2008, she lost a hard-fought nomination battle to first-term US Senator Barack Obama, who went on to become America's first black president.

Bill Clinton's speech on Tuesday night offered an unusual twist to the warm spousal endorsement of a presidential candidate traditionally given at party conventions by a wife, not a man — let alone a former president of the United States.

He said Hillary had been a political activist since the couple's early days as law students together. He told how she gave legal aid services to poor people and went undercover to expose a segregationist school in Alabama in the 1970s.

Clinton put forth an alternative narrative to the Republican portrayal of his wife as a power-hungry politician who bends the rules and lacks transparency in her political dealings.

Polls show many Americans distrust Hillary Clinton. Controversy over her use of a private email server for official business while she served as America's top diplomat dogged her during the primary election season.

She came under relentless attack at the Republican convention in Cleveland, as speakers assailed her over the email controversy and her record as secretary of state and painted her as out of touch with ordinary Americans. Delegates weighed in with repeated chants of "Lock her up."

"They're running against a cartoon," Bill Clinton said in his speech. "Cartoons are two-dimensional, they're easy to absorb. Life in the real world is complicated and real change is hard, and a lot of people even think it's boring."

Then speaking directly to the crowd, he said to cheers and applause: "Good for you because earlier today you nominated the real one." —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Davenport: EU, Serbia cooperating on migrant crisis

GOLUBAC — The EU has for a long time been cooperating with the Serbian government in addressing the migrant crisis, the head of the EU Delegation to Serbia Michael Davenport said Tuesday.

When asked how the EU could help Serbia deal with migrants stranded on its border with Hungary, Davenport said cooperation was underway within IPA funds, as well as the new Madad fund.

Serbia can use the Madad fund for humanitarian purposes and covering expenses associated with maintaining reception centres for migrants, he said.

On the border, the EU has been very active through its ECHO programme, Davenport added — *Tanjug*

Turkish military says coup-plotting soldiers account for 1.5 per cent of force

ISTANBUL — The Turkish military said on Wednesday that 8,651 soldiers took part in a failed attempt to overthrow the government earlier this month, accounting for about 1.5 per cent of the army.

In a statement carried by Turkey's NTV television, the military said the soldiers belonged to a "terrorist" network led by Fethullah Gulen, a US-based Muslim cleric who has led a religious movement for decades.

The armed forces said 35 planes, including 24 fighter jets and 37 helicopters, were used in the coup attempt on 15 July when at least 246 people were killed and more than 2,000 were injured.

It said 37 tanks and 246 armoured vehicles were also used in the coup attempt and added that it has the power to put down any further threats. —Reuters

Official calls on media to support Belt and Road

BEIJING — A senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official on Wednesday called on media organisations to create a sound environment for promoting the Belt and Road Initiative.

Liu Yunshan, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, made the comment when meeting with foreign representatives at the 2016 Media Cooperation Forum on the Belt and Road.

The Belt and Road refers to the Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along ancient trade routes.

"Media organisations can enhance cooperation through personnel exchanges and sharing news products to increase understanding of people in countries along the routes," Liu told the representatives.

"Media organisations can work jointly to create a sound environment for building a green, healthy, intelligent and peaceful Silk Road," Liu said.

The conference, hosted by the "People's Daily," has attracted participants from 212 media institutions in 101 countries. —Xinhua

Floods, landslides leave at least 54 dead in Nepal

KATHMANDU — Floods and landslides triggered by torrential rain since Monday night have left at least 54 dead across Nepal, the Home Ministry said Wednesday.

Another 20 people are missing after rain-induced disasters in 14 affected districts, ministry spokesman Yadav Koirala told Kyodo News. The highest fatalities have been confirmed in Pyuthan district, about 250 kilometres west of Kathmandu.

Dozens of houses were buried or swept away in the district, leaving 22 dead.

"All security agencies have been mobilized for search and rescue. Helicopters are also being used, but bad weather is hampering rescue operations," Koirala added.

The death toll is feared to rise as security personnel reach more affected areas.

Every rainy season, which lasts from June to September, brings misery to Nepal with landslides, mainly in hill districts, and floods, mainly in southern lowland areas, causing loss of life and property. —Kyodo News



People look for survivors under debris at a damaged site after two bomb blasts claimed by Islamic State hit the northeastern Syrian city of Qamishli near the Turkish border, Syria on 27 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

Truck bomb blast kills dozens in northeast Syria city

BEIRUT — A large truck bomb blast claimed by Islamic State killed nearly 50 people and wounded scores more in the northeastern Syrian city of Qamishli near the Turkish border on Wednesday, a monitoring group and state television reported.

The attack, which hit near a Kurdish security forces headquarters, was the deadliest of its kind in the city for years, the British-based

Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said.

The blast, which took place early on Wednesday, killed at least 48 people. The death toll expected to rise because of the number of people seriously injured, the Observatory said. State media put the death toll at 44.

Kurdish forces control much of Hasaka province, after capturing vast areas from the jihadist

group last year. The Kurdish YPG militia, which has proved the most effective partner for a US-led coalition battling Islamic State, is also involved in fighting the extremists farther west, in Aleppo province.

Islamic State claimed responsibility for what it said was a suicide truck bomb attack, and added that it targeted Kurdish security forces. The group State has carried out a number of bombings in

Qamishli, which is in Hasaka province, and in the provincial capital, Hasaka city. State TV rolled footage purportedly from the scene of one blast, showing large-scale damage to buildings, vast amounts of rubble strewn across the road and plumes of smoke rising.

One explosion was so powerful it shattered the windows of shops in the Turkish town of Nusaybin, directly across the bor-

der. Two people were slightly hurt in Nusaybin, a witness said.

Islamic State has targeted Qamishli and the provincial capital, Hasaka city, in the past with bombing attacks. A suicide blast killed six members of the Kurdish internal security force, known as the Asayish, in April. In July, an Islamic State suicide bomb killed at least 16 people in Hasaka. —Reuters

Turkey issues detention warrants for 47 journalists: media

BODRUM — Turkish authorities issued warrants for the detention of 47 journalists on Wednesday, broadcaster CNN Turk said, the latest step in a widening crackdown following a failed military coup.

Police were set to detain the journalists as part of an investigation into US-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, accused by Ankara of masterminding the 15-16 July coup attempt in which at least 246 people were killed, CNN Turk said. The journalists worked for the *Gulen-linked Zaman* newspaper, which was seized by Turkish authorities in March as part of a clampdown on the preacher's supporters. Gulen, an ally-turned-foe of President Tayyip Erdogan who had built up an extensive network of schools, charities and businesses in Turkey over decades, has condemned the coup attempt and denies any involvement in it.

Police raided the home of one of the journalists, Sahin Alpay, around 6 am (11:00 pm EDT) on



Turkish journalist Nazli Ilıcak (C), also a well-known commentator and former parliamentarian, is escorted by a police officer (R) and her relatives (L and rear) after being detained and brought to a hospital for a medical check in Bodrum, Turkey, on 26 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wednesday and detained him after a 2-1/2 hour search of the property in a central Istanbul district, the Dogan news agency reported. Since the failed coup Turkish authorities have suspended, detained or placed under investigation more than 60,000

soldiers, police, judges, teachers, civil servants and others. On Monday media reported that Turkey had issued arrest warrants for the detention of 42 journalists, including well-known commentator and former parliamentarian Nazli Ilıcak.—Reuters

Gunmen kill two military officials in Pakistan's Karachi

KARACHI — Gunmen on Tuesday killed two Pakistan army officials in Karachi, where paramilitary forces have been cracking down on Islamist militants and criminal gangs for almost three years, police and media said.

The killings are the latest attacks in the busy port city of 20 million people riven by political, ethnic and sectarian violence, where one of the most popular singers of Sufi devotional music, Amjad Sabri, was shot dead last month.

Police said the soldiers, who belonged to an intelligence agency, were patrolling a crowded area of the southern city when their vehicle was attacked.

"The attackers were on a motorcycle and managed to escape through the congested narrow lanes," senior police officer Raja Umar Khattab told Reuters.

Karachi police chief Mush-taq Mehar said one of the vic-

tims died and the other was in critical condition, but the death of the second was confirmed by a doctor at the city's Jinnah Hospital, which received both bodies.

Better security in Karachi has been one of the showcase successes of the crackdown, although two days before Sabri's killing, the son of the provincial chief justice was kidnapped from an upscale shopping area. He was rescued later.

Karachi's murder rate fell by half after the paramilitary Rangers, who answer to the Ministry of Interior and the army, launched the crackdown in 2014, targeting suspected militants and criminals.

Political activists have accused the Rangers of heavy-handed tactics, including summary executions and targeting political parties. The paramilitary force denies the charges. —Reuters



French President Francois Hollande (R) stands by members of the RAID, the French national police intervention group, as he arrives after a hostage-taking at a church in Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, France, on 26 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Elderly priest killed in French church, attack claimed by Islamic State

SAINT-ETIENNE-DU-ROUVRAY (France) — Assailants linked to Islamic State slit the throat of an elderly priest and took several worshippers hostage in a French church on Tuesday before police shot the attackers dead.

It was the latest in a wave of attacks in Europe inspired by the Islamist militant group based in Iraq and Syria that is on the defensive against a US-led military coalition in which France is a major partner.

Police said the knifemen entered the church during morning mass near the northern city of Rouen, west of Paris, killing Father Jacques Hamel, an 85-year-old parish priest, and taking four other people hostage, one of whom was seriously wounded.

Police shot the attackers dead as they emerged from the church with their hostages.

Speaking at the scene of the

attack in the Normandy town of Saint-Etienne-du-Rouvray, President Francois Hollande said Islamic State had declared war on France and the state should “use all its means” within the law to fight the militant group, against which France has launched air strikes in Syria and Iraq. The president called it a “dreadful terrorist attack” and told reporters the attackers had pledge allegiance to IS. The IS news agency Amaq said two of its “soldiers” were involved.

“The threat remains very high,” Hollande said.

The attack was the latest in a string of deadly assaults including the mass killing in Nice, southern France, on Bastille Day 12 days ago and four incidents in Germany, most recently a suicide bombing at a concert in Ansbach on Sunday.

IS has called for its supporters to take action with any available weapons targeting countries that

it has been fighting. The investigation was handed to the anti-terrorist unit of the Paris prosecutor’s office.

Several French media reported that one of the knifemen was a local man who had spent a year in jail on his return from Turkey after being intercepted trying to travel to Syria, but had been freed on bail with an electronic tag pending trial for alleged terrorism offences. The prosecutor’s office said the identification of the two suspects was still under way and it was too early to jump to conclusions about a possible link.

Police said one person had been arrested in connection with the attack. Without waiting for such details, ex-president Nicolas Sarkozy, expected to enter a conservative primary soon for next year’s presidential election, jumped on the latest incident to accuse the Socialist government of being soft on terrorism.—Reuters

Police tighten security at Geneva airport after French tipoff

GENEVA — Police in Geneva increased security checks around the Swiss city’s Cointrin airport on Wednesday after receiving information from French police about a possible bomb threat.

Preventive security measures were under way around the airport, the police said on their Facebook page, and would continue for an indefinite period.

Officers armed with machine guns were on duty around the airport, which straddles the Swiss border with France, after Geneva police acted on unspecified information from their French counterparts.

Airport officials said the alert was triggered by an anonymous telephone call, without giving further details.

“There was a bomb alert,” a security source in the Swiss city

told Reuters.

There was also heightened security on the French side of the border.

“The investigation will determine the facts, but it’s not in our hands...The French investigators will keep us informed,” Geneva police spokesman Guillaume Gentil told Reuters. “The situation at the airport is calm.”

France has been on high security alert after a series of attacks, including the murder of a Catholic priest during a church service in northern France by knife-wielding assailants on Tuesday.

The heightened security closed most airport entrances, with armed officers checking the documents of visitors but airport officials said the airport remained open and was functioning normally.—Reuters

Patient shoots dead doctor in Berlin before killing himself

BERLIN — A patient shot a doctor in a university clinic in Berlin on Tuesday before killing himself, but there were “no signs at all” of a link with Islamist militancy, police in the German capital said.

Germany is on edge because of a spate of violent attacks on civilians by men of Middle Eastern or Asian origin since 18 July that have killed 10 people. Islamic State militants claimed responsibility for two of those four attacks before Tuesday.

Berlin police said the doctor had sustained life-threatening injuries in the attack at the Benjamin Franklin campus of the Charite university hospital in the southwest of the city and died shortly afterwards.

They added that the situation at the hospital in Berlin’s Steglitz district was now “under control” and investigators were

on the scene to determine the background to the crime.

“There is currently no danger,” police said on Twitter.

Winfrid Wenzel, a spokesman for Berlin police, said the crime took place in the jaw surgery area of an outpatient clinic where the doctor was in a treatment session with the patient.

“In the course of the consultation, the patient pulled out a gun and fired several shots at the doctor. The attacker then directly turned the gun on himself and died as a result of the shots,” Wenzel told Reuters TV.

He said police did not yet have information on the suspect’s background, history, personal details or motivation, but added:

“We do not have a single indication that this crime was motivated by extremism or Islamists.”—Reuters

UK PM May says strong will on both sides to preserve free movement with Ireland

LONDON — Strong will exists in both Britain and Ireland to preserve free movement between the countries following Britain’s vote to leave the European Union, Prime Minister Theresa May said on Tuesday after meeting her Irish counterpart.

May, who visited the province of Northern Ireland on Monday, has said she does not want to see a return to past border controls with the Irish Republic, which will be Britain’s only land frontier with the EU.

“We benefited from a common travel area between the UK and the Republic of Ireland for many years before either country was a member of the EU,” May said at a joint news conference with

Irish Prime Minister Enda Kenny in London.

“There is a strong will on both sides to preserve it and so we must now focus on securing a deal that is in the interests of both of us.”

The pair said they had agreed that the peace process in Northern Ireland, which ended three decades of fighting between Catholic nationalists seeking a united Ireland and Protestant unionists who wanted to keep the province British, must not be undermined by last month’s referendum result.

Northern Ireland voted to stay in the EU, with 56 per cent voting ‘Remain’, putting it at odds with the United Kingdom’s overall 52-48 per cent result in favor of leaving. Some have demanded a ref-

erendum to split Northern Ireland from the United Kingdom so it can remain in the EU as part of a united Ireland.

Asked about the prospect of a united Ireland, Kenny said he respected Britain’s decision to leave the EU and the job now was to work through the Brexit process in “as practical, as imaginative and as creative a manner as is possible”.

Kenny also said while many obstacles lay ahead, it was in Ireland’s interests to see its neighbour prosper outside the EU.

“We want the upcoming negotiation process to end with a prosperous and outward-looking UK which retains a close relationship with the EU. This is in all of our interests,” he added.—Reuters



Britain’s Prime Minister Theresa May (R) poses for photographers with Ireland’s Taoiseach Enda Kenny inside 10 Downing Street, London, Britain, on 26 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Thai cabinet approves two new city train lines in Bangkok

BANGKOK — The cabinet of Thailand approved construction of two red railway lines at a cost of 44.16 billion baht (1.26 billion US dollars) in the capital Bangkok on Tuesday.

The newly approved 25.9-kilometre-long lines are projects of the State Railway of Thailand (SRT). The Light Red Line runs from Bang Sue to Hua Mark, while the dark one runs from Bang Sue to Hua Lamphong.

Deputy Transport Minister Ormsin Chivapruck said the SRT will forward the terms of reference for the two projects to Deputy Prime Minister Somkid Jatusripitak in August and SRT is expected to call bids for both projects in September, Khaosod reported.

The construction is planned to start in February 2017, said Kobsak Pootrakool, vice minister at the Prime Minister's Office, adding that both lines are expected to open to public in 2020.

"Once this project is completed, it will change the lives of people in Bangkok," Kobsak said.

The two new routes will link with another phase of the red line under construction running from Bang Sue, to Don Meuang Airport and finally to Rangsit, which is set to open in 2018.

According to *Bangkok Post*, these train projects are among about 20 infrastructure projects that the government hopes to get underway before 2018, which is an attempt to revive the sluggish Thai economy.—Xinhua

US says backs resumption of China-Philippines talks on South China Sea

VIENTIANE — US Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday he supported the resumption of talks between China and the Philippines over the South China Sea, following an international court ruling against Beijing over the dispute earlier this month.

China did not participate in and has refused to accept the 12 July ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, based in The Hague, in which US ally Manila won an emphatic legal victory.

China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi had asked Kerry to lend his support for bilateral talks to restart between Manila and Beijing in a meeting between the two in the Laos capital of Vientiane on Monday.

"The foreign minister said the time has come to move away from public tensions and turn the page," Kerry told a news conference. "And we agree with that... no claimant should be acting in a way that is provocative, no claimant should take steps that wind up raising tensions."

The court ruling has exacerbated tensions between the 10 members of the Association of South-east Asian Nations (ASEAN), who are pulled between their desire to assert their sovereignty while fostering ties with an increasingly assertive Beijing.

China scored a diplomatic victory on Monday when ASEAN dropped any reference to the ruling from a joint statement at the end of the bloc's foreign ministers' meeting in the face of resolute objections from Cambodia, China's closest ASEAN ally.



A Philippine flag flutters from BRP Sierra Madre, a dilapidated Philippine Navy ship that has been aground since 1999 and became a Philippine military detachment on the disputed Second Thomas Shoal, part of the Spratly Islands, in the South China Sea on 29 March 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Kerry, who was due to travel to the Philippines later on Tuesday, said he would encourage Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte to engage in dialogue and negotiations with China when the two meet in Manila on Wednesday.

Duterte has already appointed former President Fidel Ramos to visit Beijing and begin informal talks to resolve the dispute, said a Philippine Foreign Ministry official on Tuesday.

Philippines Foreign Minister Perfecto Yasay

told reporters in Vientiane that the dispute was not between China and the United States but between China and the Philippines.

"We would like to pursue bilateral relationships in so far as the peaceful resolution of the dispute is concerned that is between the China and the Philippines. The others are not concerned with that dispute," Yasay told reporters.

Wang, who met Kerry on the sidelines of the ASEAN gathering in Laos, said on Tuesday he would welcome Ramos' visit.

The Chinese foreign minister also told his US counterpart that China and ASEAN had agreed the

dispute should get back on to the "correct" track of being resolved by direct talks with the parties concerned, according to a foreign ministry statement released on Tuesday.

China "hopes the United States side takes actual steps to support the resumption of talks between China and the Philippines, and supports the efforts of China and ASEAN to maintain regional peace and stability", Wang said.

Beijing claims most of the South China Sea, through which more than \$5 trillion of trade moves annually. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Viet Nam have

rival claims.

China has repeatedly blamed the United States for stoking tensions in the region through its military patrols, and of taking sides in the dispute, accusations Washington denies.

In an address to foreign ministers, including Kerry, at the gathering in Vientiane, Wang criticised the United States, Japan and Australia for a joint statement on the issue they released late on Monday.

The statement "continued to hype up the South China Sea issue and play up tensions", he said. "Now is the time we will test whether you are protectors of peace or agitators."—Reuters

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

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

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Beyonce dominates MTV video nominations, Taylor Swift shut out

NEW YORK — Beyonce's critically-praised visual album "Lemonade" on Tuesday earned the R&B singer a career-best 11 nominations for the MTV Video Music Awards, in a list that included multiple nods for Adele and rapper Kanye West but nothing for Taylor Swift.

Adele's YouTube-shattering video for her 2015 comeback single "Hello" notched seven nominations, while the sultry British singer earned an eighth mention for "Send My Love (To Your New Lover)."

The controversial video for West's "Famous" — which features portrayals of 12 nude celebrities including Swift sleeping next to the rapper — got two nominations, including the top award of video of the year.

Swift and West have been publicly feuding for months

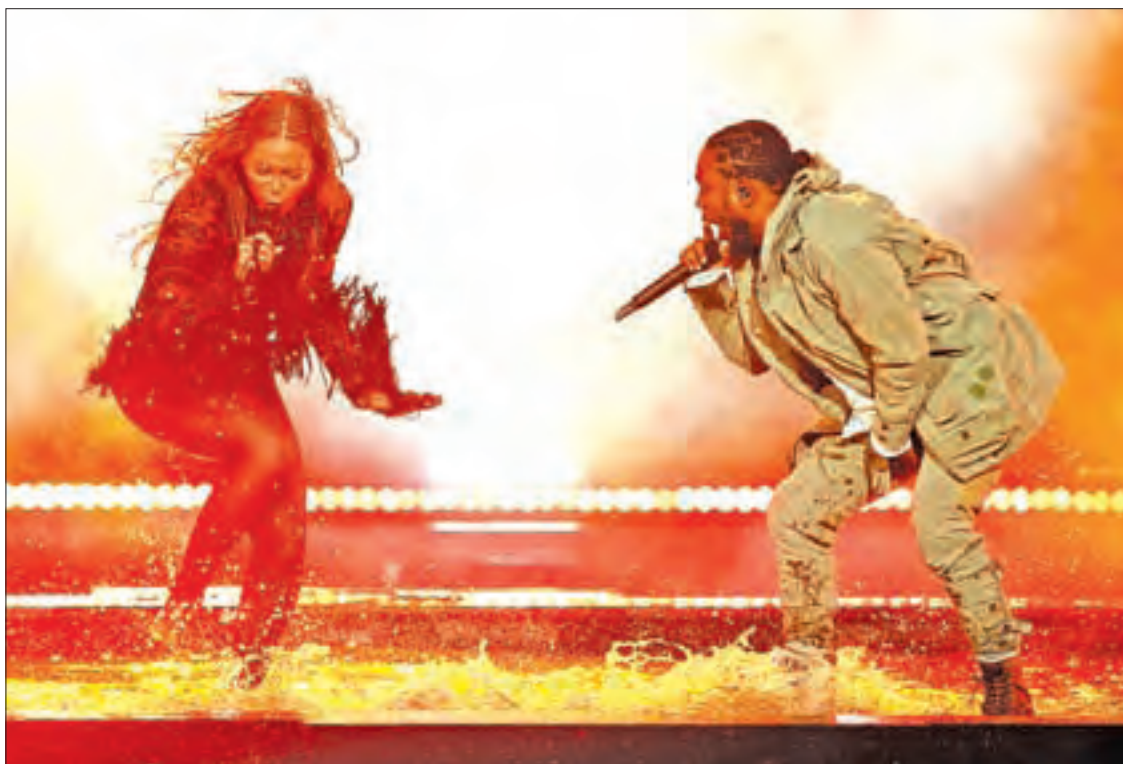
about whether the pop star approved lyrics in which West boasts about making her famous.

Swift, 26, the top-earning celebrity in the world, has dominated music awards shows in the past five years and won four MTV music video prizes in 2015, including for her single "Bad Blood" with Kendrick Lamar.

But this year she did not score any nominations after touring worldwide for much of 2015, despite releasing videos for "Out of the Woods" and "New Romantics" in late 2015 and early 2016.

The coveted video of the year category pits Beyonce's politically-charged video for "Formation" against Adele's "Hello," Canadian rapper Drake's "Hotline Bling," Justin Bieber's "Sorry" and West's "Famous."

The MTV Video Music



Kendrick Lamar performs "Freedom" with Beyonce (L) at the 2016 BET Awards in Los Angeles, California, US, on 26 June 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Awards, which have a reputation for irreverence and shock tactics, take place this year in New York City on 28 August and will air live on MTV. The awards are voted on by fans, starting on Tuesday. A host for the 2016 show has yet to be announced.

Beyonce's album "Lemonade" in April featured music

videos for each track and was praised for its bold songs about betrayal and revenge. Videos from the album also scored nominations for choreography, art direction, and editing.

Rihanna scored multiple nominations for her collaborations with DJ Calvin Harris on "This is What You Came For,"

and with Drake on "Work."

British artist David Bowie, who died unexpectedly in January of cancer days after releasing a new album, also made it onto the list with nominations for best direction, art, editing and cinematography for his singles "Blackstar" and "Lazarus." — Reuters



Lead singer Robert Plant (L) and guitarist Jimmy Page of British rock band Led Zeppelin are seen on 9 October 2012 and 21 July 2015 in New York and Toronto in this combination file photo. PHOTO: REUTERS

Verdict over Led Zeppelin's 'Stairway to Heaven' is appealed

LOS ANGELES — The plaintiff who failed to convince a Los Angeles jury that Led Zeppelin plagiarized the opening guitar passage for its 1971 rock anthem "Stairway to Heaven" plans to appeal the verdict, court papers show.

Michael Skidmore, the trustee for the songs of Randy Wolfe, a member of the band Spirit, on Saturday filed a notice of appeal of the 23 June verdict with the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals. The court acknowledged receipt of the notice on Monday.

Jurors found that Led Zeppelin's lead singer Robert Plant and guitarist Jimmy Page did not steal the opening to "Stairway" from Spirit's instrumental "Taurus," which was penned in 1967.

Though Plant and Page, who testified at the trial, had access to "Taurus," jurors found that the song's riff was not intrinsically similar to the opening of "Stairway."

Skidmore had argued that Wolfe, who performed as Randy California, deserved a writing credit, and that the trust set up in his name deserved millions of dollars in damages.

Wolfe drowned in 1997.

Oral arguments on Skidmore's appeal will likely not take place before 2017, court records show.

The case is Skidmore v Led Zeppelin et al, 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals, No. 16-56057. — Reuters

'Magnificent Seven' remake to be featured at Toronto film fest

TORONTO — Director Antoine Fuqua's remake of the 1960s Western "The Magnificent Seven" is expected to kick off the Toronto International Film Festival on 8 September, which will include movies about whistleblower Edward Snowden and former US President Lyndon B. Johnson among the usual Oscar hopefuls.

The 10-day festival, now in its 41st year, has become a launching pad for Hollywood's award season, with films such as "12 Years a Slave," "The King's Speech" and "Slumdog Millionaire" all gaining critical momentum in Toronto before going on to win the Academy Awards for best picture.

Organisers said in a statement on Tuesday that the festival is expected to start with the world premiere of "The Magnificent Seven." The film stars



Presenter Denzel Washington. PHOTO: REUTERS

Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, Ethan Hawke, Vincent D'Onofrio, Byung-Hun Lee, Manuel Garcia-Rulfo, Martin Sensmeier, Haley Bennett and Peter Sarsgaard.

Fuqua's remake of the 1960 original tells the story of the town of Rose Creek under the dead-

ly control of industrialist Bartholomew Bogue, played by Sarsgaard, and the mercenaries hired to protect the townspeople.

The festival will close with the world premiere of Kelly Fremon Craig's "The Edge of Seventeen," which tells the tale of an awkward high school student, played by Hailee Steinfeld, who gains the unexpected friendship of a thoughtful boy played by Hayden Szeto. The film also stars Woody Harrelson.

Biographical films feature prominently in the festival's high-profile gala and special presentation programs.

Oliver Stone, known for the gangster movie "Scarface" and the financial drama "Wall Street," directs "Snowden," which features Joseph Gordon-Levitt in the personal story of the titular polarizing figure who exposed US illegal surveillance. — Reuters

UK producers guilty over Harrison Ford's broken leg on Star Wars set

LONDON — A production company involved in making "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" has pleaded guilty in a British court to failing to protect actors and workers after an incident in which Harrison Ford's leg was broken, officials said on Tuesday.

The star, who plays the much-loved character Han Solo,

was injured after he became trapped under a rapidly closing metal-framed door during filming in June 2014 at Pinewood Studios, near London.

The power of the door's drive system was comparable to the weight of a small car, said Britain's Health and Safety Executive (HSE), a state agency which enforces workplace safety

regulations. "This was a foreseeable incident," a spokesman for HSE said in a statement.

"Managing on-set risks in a sensible and proportionate way for all actors and staff — regardless of their celebrity status — is vital to protecting both on-screen and off-screen talent, as well as protecting the reputation of the industry," he said. — Reuters

Solar plane completes globe-circling journey

CAIRO — A solar-powered airplane landed in the United Arab Emirates' capital Abu Dhabi early Tuesday, completing the first entirely zero-fuel flight around the world.

Solar Impulse 2, carrying Swiss pilot Bertrand Piccard, touched down at Al Bateen Executive Airport in Abu Dhabi after a 48-hour flight from Cairo. The final stop caps its 17-leg journey that began in March 2015 when the plane flew from Abu Dhabi to Oman.

"We have now just watched our shared dream unveil, becoming a reality," the Solar Impulse team said in a blog post. "Emotions, tears, relief, exhilaration is what we are all feeling right now after completing the first Round-the-World solar flight in history."

The 40,000-kilometre, round-the-world expedition was undertaken using only energy from the sun.

The aircraft has a 72-metre wingspan and about 17,000 solar panels built into the wings to supply electricity. It was operated by two alternating pilots — Piccard and Andre Borschberg, also a Swiss.

Since the start of the tour, the plane has stopped over in countries including India, Myanmar and China.

It also set a record for the longest nonstop solo flight of nearly 118 hours from Nagoya, Japan to Hawaii.

After being grounded in Hawaii for more than nine months due to battery damage from overheating, Solar Impulse 2 arrived in California in April this year and made other stops in the United States.

The plane then crossed the Atlantic Ocean from New York to Spain in June and proceeded to Egypt on 13 July before reaching Abu Dhabi. —Kyodo News

Commercial complex opens on former Akasaka Prince site in Tokyo

TOKYO — A major commercial complex of Seibu Holdings Inc., including an upscale hotel, opened Wednesday in central Tokyo on the site of the former Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka.

The Tokyo Garden Terrace Kioicho commercial complex in Chiyoda Ward has offices, shops, restaurants and apartment units along with the 250-room hotel, The Prince Gallery Tokyo Kioicho.

Room tariffs for the hotel, which occupies the top seven floors of the 36-story roughly 180-metre-tall Kioi Tower, range from 60,000 yen to 590,000 yen (\$570 to \$5,600).

Each room is equipped with a tablet pc designed to guide guests through room service amenities in eight languages.

The office floors of the Kioi Tower building are fully occupied with tenants including Yahoo Japan Corp. The total construction cost of the complex was roughly 104 billion yen. —Kyodo News



Undated supplied shows the Tokyo Garden Terrace Kioicho commercial complex, which opened on 27 July 2016, on the site of the former Grand Prince Hotel Akasaka. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Yemen's ancient art of brickmaking endures war

SANAA — Traditional mud brick tower houses have always been a source of pride to Yemenis, and over a year into a devastating civil war, they are also providing some much-needed jobs in the ancient capital Sanaa.

At his traditional mud brick factory outside the city, Ali al-Sabahi oversees the process as it has always been done, in happier days and now in dire ones.

Workers mix clay with straw, animal dung and water and leave this to dry in the sun for several days before settling it into square moulds.

After drying once more, they are loaded into the kiln to be fired. The burning period ranges between 15 and 20 days.

Yemen, a poor country awash with weapons where the rule of law is weak, is no stranger to conflict. But the war that erupted last year brought widespread destruction in Sanaa and beyond in air strikes led by Saudi Arabia.

The traditional houses of Sanaa, a UNESCO world heritage site said to have been founded by the son of Prophet Noah two and half millennia ago, have been spared — mostly.

Coalition air strikes killed at least six people and levelled sev-

eral tower houses in the Qasimi quarter, one of the city's oldest, in June. The war has taken livelihoods as well as lives, but brick-making is a rare bright spot in Yemen, which has been pushed into a humanitarian disaster by the civil war. —Reuters



Labourers stack dried bricks inside a kiln, where they will be fired, at a brick factory on the outskirts of Sanaa, Yemen on 1 June. PHOTO: REUTERS

Powerball jackpot grows to \$422 million, eighth largest ever

LOS ANGELES — The US Powerball jackpot grew to \$422 million ahead of an 11 pm EDT drawing on Wednesday, making it the eighth largest in the game's history and the 11th-biggest lottery prize ever in the United States.

The jackpot amount has now rolled over 22 times since it was reset to its starting sum of \$40 million for a drawing back on 11 May, lottery officials said.

The Powerball game, based on lottery tickets sold for \$2 apiece, is played in 44 states as well as the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands.

A winning ticket consisting of all six numbers drawn on Wednesday night will be worth an estimated payout of \$422 million if spread over 30 years, or the winner may opt for

a lump-sum payment of 291.8 million before federal taxes.

The Wednesday draw comes about 2-1/2 months after a \$429.6 million winning Powerball ticket was sold in New Jersey and two weeks after a \$540 million Mega Millions lottery jackpot was clinched in Indiana.

Those two prizes ranked as the ninth- and seventh-largest in US lottery history, respectively.

The largest all-time biggest lottery prize offered in North America was a Powerball jackpot worth nearly \$1.6 billion for winning tickets sold in California, Tennessee and Florida in January of this year.

A couple who bought the winning California ticket in that draw came forward just last week to claim their \$528 million share of the prize. —Reuters



Entertainment Channel

(28-7-2016, Thursday)

06 : 00 pm	Up(Ep-6)-In Pursuit of a dream
• Weather Report	
• Pyi Thu Ni Ti	09 : 20 pm
06 : 20 pm	• International Movie
• Cartoon Programme	Songs
• "Shrek 2" (Part-1)	09 : 40 pm
07 : 20 pm	• Innovation of Traditional Design
• International Drama Series	09 : 50 pm
07 : 50 pm	• Music Programme
• International Drama Series	10 : 10 pm
08 : 30 pm	• Geographic Center of Myanmar
• MRTV Entertainment Music	10 : 30 pm
08 : 50 pm	• Myanmar Video
• Those Who Never Give	

From 28-7-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm
To 29-7-2016 (Friday) 6:00 pm



Myanmar International

(28-7-2016 07:00am ~ 29-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:27	Am	Myanmar Social & Charitable Association (Ep-1)
		Mingalar Byuha
07:52	Am	One of the Useful Purposes of Bamboo
08:03	Am	News
08:25	Am	Back To A Paradise (Ep-2)
08:51	Am	Culture Shows: Theatrical Art
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Handicrafts
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	The Treasures in a Small Village (Part-1)
10:47	Am	Dhamma School

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Wednesday 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
07:25	Pm	An Oasis Trip to Mt. Popa
07:54	Pm	Independent Filmmaker
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Pride of Myanmar- Bagan arts and handicrafts
08:41	Pm	Art Students: Theatrical Art
08:47	Pm	Life of Sea Urchin Diver

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

Wawrinka battles past Youzhny in Toronto

TORONTO — Stan Wawrinka survived a thriller against Mikhail Youzhny in the second round of the Rogers Cup on Tuesday, fighting back in both sets to prevail 7-6(3), 7-6(8). The Swiss second seed trailed 5-4 in the first set and had to break Youzhny's serve to force a tiebreak.

He then fell behind 3-0 in the second before launching a comeback that saw him fight through set point in a heated tiebreak and ultimately pull through to close out the match.

Wawrinka, who had failed to advance past the second round in his last two tournaments, now has a third-round matchup with American Donald Young. Earlier in the day, Gael Monfils, fresh off his tournament win in Washington, cruised by Portugal's Joao Sousa 6-3, 6-3 to ease into the second round. The 10th seeded Frenchman won 50 per cent of his return points against Sousa and hammered down eight

aces to extend his win streak to six matches. "I think I've put in good work with my team. What I try to do is keep working with them and then see the results later," said Monfils, two days after his first tournament win in two-and-a-half years.

"I like to think when I'm in my top game and with consistency, I can beat a lot of players at the top." Czech fifth seed Tomas Berdych, playing his first match since losing in the Wimbledon semi-final to eventual champion Andy Murray, secured his spot in the third round with a 4-6, 6-1, 6-4 win over Croatia's Borna Coric. Top seed Djokovic, the only member of the "Big Four" in Toronto, will play his first singles match since Wimbledon when he takes on Luxembourg's Gilles Muller on Wednesday.—Reuters



Stan Wawrinka of Switzerland reacts after winning the first set against Mikhail Youzhny of Russia on day two of the Rogers Cup tennis tournament at Aviva Centre, Toronto, Ontario, Canada on 26 July. PHOTO: REUTERS

Arsenal's Mertesacker out for a 'few months' says Wenger

LONDON — Arsenal's German centre back Per Mertesacker will be sidelined for a few months with a knee problem, the Premier League club's manager Arsene Wenger told a news conference on Tuesday.

He was injured in Friday's friendly away to Lens and ruled out of the pre-season tour of the United States which kicks off on Friday against the MLS All-Stars in San Jose, California.

Mertesacker's injury means Wenger may have to rush back Laurent Koscielny, who is resting after helping France reach the Euro 2016 final, for the start of the Premier League season.

Gabriel has also missed the US tour with tonsillitis, leaving Calum Chambers as their most experienced centre back.

England Under-21 central defender Rob Holding, 20, joined the club from Bolton Wanderers last week.

Arsenal start their league campaign at home to Liverpool on 14 August.—Reuters

Federer to miss Olympics and rest of season with knee problem

RIO DE JANEIRO — Roger Federer has pulled out of the Rio Olympics and will miss the rest of the season, including the US Open, because he needs "more extensive rehabilitation" to prolong his career after knee surgery earlier this year.

Last month he described how "one stupid move" sparked a chain of bad luck — which resulted in left knee surgery in February and sitting out the French Open with a back injury — culminating in Tuesday's decision to end his wretched season.

"I'm extremely disappointed to announce that I will not be able to represent Switzerland at the Olympic Games in Rio and that I will also miss the remainder of the season," the 17-times grand slam champion said on his Facebook page.

"Considering all options after consulting with my doctors and my team, I have made the very difficult decision to call an end to my 2016 season as I need more extensive rehabilitation following my knee surgery earlier this year.— Reuters

From yellow to gold, Froome eyes road to glory

LONDON — Chris Froome underlined his love of yellow with a third Tour de France triumph on Sunday, now the British rider has his eyes on Olympic glory alongside the golden sands of the Copacabana.

The 31-year-old missed out on gold at London 2012, settling for a bronze in the time trial, but looks almost unbeatable at present and will be the man to overcome in the Rio road races.

Froome's victory in the Tour's individual time trial last week, a brutal 17km uphill slog, was so dominant that he finished 21 seconds ahead of second-placed Dutchman Tom Dumoulin who could miss Rio after breaking his wrist in France.

So the 31-year-old will be clear favourite for TT gold over two laps of Rio's 29.8km course boasting the 1.2km Grumari hill, at an average gradient of seven per cent, and the 2.1km Grota Funda climb plus a high-speed section next to the Atlantic.

"It almost feels like a TT through the Ardennes at points," Team Sky rider Froome, who claimed a third Tour de France title in four years on Sunday, said.

"It's not a mountain TT because you have this flat section you do twice. Ordinarily I would say a climber should do really well but with this flat section you

need someone who can really hold the speed up at 55kmh on the flat. I really liked it."

The time trials will be held on 10 August, with the women doing just one lap of the 29.8km circuit.

Before that, though, the men's and women's road races taking place on the first weekend of the Games will provide an intriguing and unpredictable spectacle set against the backdrop of Rio's lush landscape.

The 144-strong men's race on 6 August will tackle 256.5km, taking in four laps of the Gru-

mari loop, a tricky cobbled section, and three loops of the 'Canoas/Vista Circuit' including an 8.9km climb, a fast descent and a 20km flat to the finish.

The 67-rider women's race, over half the distance, will see Britain's world road champion Lizzie Armitstead and Dutch Olympic champion Marianne Vos likely battling for gold.

Froome, bidding to do what no man has ever done by winning the road race and TT at the same Games, cannot count on his usual selfless Team Sky support for the mass-start race that begins

and finishes in Flamengo Park.

The five-man British team, like those from other powerhouse nations, will probably work together to maximise medal prospects, but fellow Sky riders Geraint Thomas and Ian Stannard have eyes on the podium as will Adam Yates, who finished fourth on the Tour, and Steve Cummings who brilliantly won stage seven.

Italian former Tour de France winner Vincenzo Nibali, Tour runner-up Romain Bardet of France, Spain's Alejandro Valverde, Poland's mountain man Rafal Majka, Portugal's Rui Costa, Belgium's Greg Van Avermaet and Froome's trusty Dutch Team Sky protector Wout Poels will all be in the mix too.

Australian Richie Porte is another rider to watch and his team mate Simon Clarke, a late call-up for the injured Simon Gerrans, said the race could be a feast for fans.

"It's going to be one of the most unique one-day races we've ever seen," Clarke, who said he will ride for Porte, forecast.

"It's going to be chaos." Slovakia's road world champion Peter Sagan is likely to concentrate on the cross-country event having deemed the road race profile not favourable.— Reuters



Yellow jersey leader and overall winner Team Sky rider Chris Froome of Britain reacts on the podium during Tour de France cycling race, the 113-km (70.4 miles) Stage 21 from Chantilly to Paris, France on 24 July. PHOTO: REUTERS