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FLOODS SHIFT TO SOUTH

Flood kills six, affect more than 420,000 people nationwide

NATIONWIDE flooding, which began in mid-July and so far killed six people, has also affected more than 420,000 people in 98,000 households, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement.

Bago, Ayeyawady and Yangon regions are still experiencing flooding, while some regions, including Kachin State and Sagaing, Mandalay, Magway regions shut down shelters as floodwaters receded.

Nine townships in Bago Region, 12 townships in Ayayawady Region and three townships in Yangon Region are the latest areas hit by flooding, forcing the relocation of people in flood-hit areas to shelters.

The ministry has so far spent more than K 468 million in aid to the people affected by the floods.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio, the chairman of National Natural Disaster Management Committee, met with flood victims in Moenyo Township, Bago Region and provided cash and gifts yesterday.

Accompanied by Union Minister Dr Win Myat Aye, Bago Region Chief Minister U Win Thein, Deputy Minister Maj-Gen Aung Soe and officials, the Vice President visited a relief camp at the compound of Maha Thumingala Bronze Buddha Image in Moenyo.

Vice President U Henry Van Thio talks to flood-effected people in Moenyo, Bago Region, during his visit. PHOTO: MNA

Speaking words of encouragement, the Vice President stressed the need for a strong spirit to face the challenges of responding to disasters and pledged the government's commitment to assisting flood recovery.

He also called for public participation in realisation of the government's policies on systematic exploitation of natural resources and minerals and prevention of deforestation.

Next, flood victims in the township's 27 relief camps were provided with cash and gifts including food supplies donated by the Ayeyawady Foundation and the Southern Command.

The Vice President then inspected flood damage to Khaungpin dyke and the Tapun-Natalin-Minhla-Moenyo dyke and

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Depression over North-West Bay of Bengal likely to weaken soon

THE depression over south Bangladesh & adjoining West Bengal moved west north-westwards and is likely to weaken within 24 hours, according to the 1.30 pm announcement yesterday of the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology.—*GNLM*

Political dialogue framework review meeting begins

Ye Khaung Nyunt

A POLITICAL dialogue framework review meeting involving the representatives from the government, Tatmadaw, parliament and political parties was held at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre in Yangon yesterday.

Chairman of the 21st Century Union Peace Conference Preparatory Committee Dr Tin Myo Win, Chairman of the subcommittee (1) Lt-Gen Yar Pyae and U Tun Tun Hein of UPDJC's political party group extended greetings at the meeting.

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Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw representatives donate daily allowances to flood victims

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

AMYOTHA Hluttaw representatives donated their daily allowances for one day to flood victims during its 13th day session yesterday.

During yesterday's session, parliamentarians also held discussions on an Older People's Bill, expressing their support.

Daw Shwe Shwe Sein Latt of Bago Region Constituency No. 3 said that the bill needs revising but is suitable for the 2013 ASEAN Declaration on Strengthening Social Protection, 2014 Myanmar's Social Protection Strategic Plan and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

She pointed out that the country's social protection service is the lowest in ASEAN.

Likewise, U Soe Thein of Taninthayi Region Constituency No. 10 expressed support for the bill, saying that the onus is on the government and the country's young generation to look after the aged that account for one-tenth of the total population.

Next, a parliamentary discussion on Territorial Sea and Maritime Zones Law began.

Major Aung Kyaw Pyo, Defense Services personnel Amyotha Hluttaw representative, highlighted the importance of the Law to effectively exploit untapped oil, natural gas and minerals in the territorial sea in accord with rules and regulations.

He called for quick implementation of a territorial sea boundary between Myanmar and Bangladesh and the signing of a bilateral agreement on codes of conduct to be followed by the two countries through coordination.

In his discussion, U Maung Maung Ohn of Ayeyawady Region Constituency No. 5 stressed the need of future plans for restricted areas and zones in accord with MARPOL 73/78 Annex I to VI, regulations for the prevention of air pollution from ships.

He pointed out that deep-sea ports will emerge soon in Dawei and Rakhine and that coastal ports receive around 2,000 ships a day.

The MP also called for necessary measures to avoid depletion of marine resources by conducting research on the zones.

Then, Union Minister for Education Dr Myo Thein Gyi submitted the Science, Technology and Innovation Bill to the parliament.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Pyidaungsu Hluttaw

Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw U Win Myint. PHOTO: MNA

Pyithu Hluttaw agrees to discuss agriculture-livestock promotion proposal

U Tin Htwe. PHOTO. MNA

U TIN HTWE of the Waw constituency called on the Pyithu Hluttaw yesterday to push the government for prioritising the procedures that will marry agriculture and livestock in a bid to reduce rural poverty.

Rice and crop yields per acre are on the decline as traditional farming methods are still employed, U Tin Htwe said in his proposal, adding that this forces local farm workers to leave the fields for more lucrative jobs abroad. All crop-planted areas across the country are estimated at over 12 million acres, with rice the most popular crop in terms of acreage.

He blamed the shortages of agricultural technicians, high-quality seeds and fertile fields for low yields, pointing out the need to adopt crop insurance to protect farmers against either the loss of their crops due to natural disasters or the declines in crop yields due to inadequate irrigation facilities and ineffective fertilisers. He also urged related ministries to encourage agricultural experts to conduct seminars.

The Speaker of Pyithu Hluttaw announced the parliament would discuss the proposal in the next session.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Computer scientist says SIM card registration ineffective for security

THE Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications agency has called for the registration of SIM cards, setting a deadline of 31 March 2017.

U Nay Win Aung, a computer scientist in Mandalay, said current practices are ineffective to provide public security, saying that it would not be easy to trace a crime, for instance, through a SIM card.

He pointed out the underlying weaknesses in the sale of SIM cards, stressing that some people buy them using registration cards of their friends and relatives.

"They buy them and discard them easily," he said. Assistant Director Daw Seint Seint Aye of the Department of Posts and Telecommunications suggested mobile operators should sell their SIM cards after buyer registration, as is the practice of other countries. SIM card registration can provide public security and facilitate e-government and mobile banking, she added. —*Aung Thant Khaing*

Naga measles outbreak brought under control

The medical team of the Tatmadaw provides health care services to children in Naga Self-Administrative Zone. PHOTO: OFFICE OF THE COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF OF DEFENCE SERVICES.

AN outbreak of measles which scourged some remote villages in far northwestern Myanmar's Naga Self-Administrative Zone (SAZ) is now finally under control, according to the Naga SAZ authorities.

Specialists from the Public Health Department (PHD) of Nay Pyi Taw and Sagaing Region hospitals are reportedly administering vaccinations and providing medical treatment for locals in areas where the disease broke out. "The disease is now under control as specialists from the capital have come and given treatment. They've identified the previously mysterious disease as measles and it has since stopped spreading," said U Kay Sai, chair of the Naga SAZ. The symptoms of measles reportedly start with a sore throat, increasing to a fever, then red spots that cover the whole body, before sufferers vomit blood. The disease can then prove fatal if not treated.

A medical team led by Dr Aung Kyaw Moe, assistant director of the PHD of Naypyitaw, reportedly worked together with four doctors from Sagaing Region in providing the aforementioned medical treatment within villages in the Naga SAZ which saw the outbreak of measles.

However, the medical team is yet to be reached for comment because of the remoteness of their current location.

As of 7 August, the measles virus which broke out in June this year has reportedly claimed the lives of a total 41 people: 27 from villages in Lahe Township and 14 from Nanyun Township.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

Flood kills six, affect more than 420,000 people nationwide

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coordinated matters to repair the dykes as soon as possible to mitigate the loss of farmlands.

On his arrival at a station hospital in Yaykin, the Vice President emphasized the need to keep antivenom ready for emergencies, take necessary measures against possible waterborne disease outbreaks and conduct personal hygiene education.

Next, he comforted the patients receiving treatment at the hospital and presented cash assistance to them.

During his stay in Moenyo, the Vice President also spoke words of encouragement while cordially meeting with flood victims in Kyun Nyo village.—*GNLM with Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor receives CPC official

DAW Aung San Suu Kyi, State Counsellor and Union Minister for Foreign Affairs, received Mr Song Tao, Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, at the ministry in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they exchanged views on enhancing the bilateral relations and cooperation between Myanmar and the People's Republic of China.—*MNA*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi welcomes Mr Song Tao in Nay Pyi Taw. PHOTO: MNA

YESC aims to ensure 1,400 megawatts of power supply next year

Thein Ko Lwin

THE Yangon Electricity Supply Corporation is planning to increase power supply to 1,400 megawatts next year, said YESC General Manager U Thant Zin at a press conference in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday. The General Manager added that efforts are being made to ensure that there are no power outages next summer.

"Taking lessons from this summer's power outages in Yangon, preparations that include the installation of more transformers and power lines are being made to avoid electricity failure next summer."

According to the YESC, Yangon consumed 1,200 megawatts this April.

The general manager stressed the need for an adequate budget allocation to provide full electricity supply to Yangon, saying that K100 billion is needed to ensure a 24-hour power supply in Yangon Region.

The YESC has a budget of K20 billion a year.

The YESC has reported to the Yangon Region government as well as State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi on budgetary requirements to ensure an adequate power supply in Yangon.

The Ministry of Electricity and Energy released a statement yesterday saying that 40 cases of electricity theft were exposed in April, May and June of this year.

Only 114 of 404 tangled cable nests in Yangon have been fixed, said the ministry in its statement.

President receives outgoing Egyptian Ambassador

THE Egyptian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hany Riad Moawd, who had completed his tour of duty, called on President U Htin Kyaw at the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

Also present were Union Minister for Information Dr Pe Myint, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs U Aung Lynn and other officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

President U Htin Kyaw bids farewell to the Egyptian Ambassador to Myanmar Mr Hany Riad Moawd. PHOTO: MNA

Govt to hold press conferences on its 100-day undertakings

THE government will hold press conferences on its 100-day undertakings in Nay Pyi Taw, the Ministry of Information said yesterday. The press conference will begin today with four ministries— the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Border Affairs and Ministry of Electricity and Energy —giving briefings and answering media questions.

The schedules are subject to change with prior notice, the ministry said.

The Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Construction will give press briefings on 16 August.

The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation, the Ministry of Planning and Finance, the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation and the Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs will give press briefings on 19 August.

The Ministry of Information, the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Commerce and the Ministry of Education will give press briefings on 23 August.

The Ministry of State Counsellor's Office, the Ministry of Health and Sport, the Ministry of Hotels and Tourism and the Ministry of Ethnic Affairs will give press briefings on 26 August.

The Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population, the Union Attorney General's Office, the Office of the Auditor General of the Union and the Union Civil Service Board will give press briefings on 30 August.

News agencies eager to cover the events are requested to contact the Ministry of Information at ir.pso.moi2015@gmail.com for registration.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Political dialogue framework review meeting begins

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In his address, Dr Tin Myo Win said that efforts are being made to ensure inclusivity in the peace conference, expressing hope that political dialogue would continue after the conference.

According to the preparatory committee chairman, the review meeting was between the government and a group representing political parties.

The meeting is also set to be held with representatives from NCA signatory and NCA non-signatory groups before representatives from the government, parliament, Tatmadaw, political parties and signatories and non-signatories of the NCA meet on Saturday, said the chairman.

The review of the political dialogue framework will be approved at a UPDJC meeting scheduled to be held on 15 August, he added.

U Hla Maung Shwe. PHOTO: PHOE HTAUNG

Likewise, Lt-Gen Yar Pyae highlighted the importance of the political dialogue framework, saying that the NCA is a basic principal to solve all problems by political means.

The political dialogue framework created within 60 days after the signing of the Nationwide Ceasefire Agreement needs to be revised to allow non-NCA signatories to join the peace conference, added the subcommittee (1) chairman.

He warned that ceasefire deal will not last long unless political agreement is reached, stressing that political dialogue is very important.

It is required that a review of NCA non-signatories on the framework be taken into account, he added.

U Hla Maung Shwe, secretary of the preparatory committee, said that the review meeting between the government and ethnic armed organisations will be held today, adding that a decision on revision of the political dialogue framework will be made at the UPDJC meeting.

Tatmadaw provides food, healthcare to flood victims in Yangon and Ayeyawady Regions

Tatmadawmen lay sandbags to reduce the amount of floodwater entering. PHOTO: C-IN-C' OFFICE

TATMADAW members of Yangon Region Military Command on Monday provided food to flood victims from Nyaungdon Township of Ayeyawady and Taikkyi Township of Yangon Region. The flood victims were then relocated by service members.

Soldiers also shored up Uto-Ahphyauk road in Yangon Region with sandbags.

A mobile medical team of the Yangon Region Command provided healthcare services to flood victims who took shelter in Kyaiklat Monastery, Nyaungdon Township.—*Office of Commander-in-Chief of Defence Services*

Myanmar saw over 1m tourists in first half of 2016

SOME 1.69 million foreign visitors entered the country in the first six months of 2016, according to the Department of Hotels and Tourism. The department said the country's tourism industry has seen a 4% increase compared with the same period last year.

Over 650,000 tourists visited the country in the first six months last year. Despite the monsoon season, the country still witnesses an increase in the tourist arrivals, said U Myo Win Nyunt, Director of Hotel and Tourism Department.

The department's statistics show that a majority of tourists visiting the country are from Thailand, followed by China and Japan.

Travel companies expect more tourists from Europe and Asia. Currently, 70 per cent of tourists visiting the country are from Thailand, Singapore, China, South Korea and Japan, while tourists from Europe accounted for 30 per cent.

Myanmar won the Best Destination Award-presented by Lonely Planet in 2015, according to the ministry. — *200*

Crime NEWS

Illegal tanmalan logs confiscated on Ayeyawady River

LOCAL Authorities confiscated a shipment of illegal logs weighing 0.6158 tonnes on the Ayeyawady river near Tone Paw village Wednesday.

Seven suspects jumped into the river when a combined investigation team comprising officers and staff from Katha district stopped the water vehicle. The team conducted a search of the vessel and discovered 20 illegal tanmalan logs. Police arrested one Thurein Phyo alias Thargyi who was found on board. Charges have been filed against the crew under the forestry law.—*Aye Mya That Htar*

Photo shows logs seized on Ayeyawady River near Tone Paw village. PHOTO: AYE MYA THAT HTAR

Brown opium seized in Hsenwi

AJOINT task force, including officials from Lashio police station seized brown opium powder from a vehicle at Thein Ni entrance gate, near oriental toll gate, on Wednesday. Acting on a tip-off police searched a vehicle being driven by one Aik Hla with Aik Nyi on board and discovered brown opium powder weighing 60 kilograms. When interrogated the couple told police that a man named Arr Kyu was waiting for them at Nar Gone village.

The police located and arrested Arr Kyu in connection with the case.

Similarly, police from Tachilek police station seized raw opium weighing 1.5 kilograms from a motorcycle driveridentified as one Aik Yee on Bokyoge road, Tachilek. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*

Suspects arrested in connection with seizure of brown opium in Hsenwi. PHOTO: MPF

Heroin and Yaba seized in Mandalay and Mohnyin

AN anti-narcotics squad comprising policemen from Mandalay region seized yaba pills from passengers onboard a vehicle on Taunggyi- Meiktila road, Kwine Tat Son village, Taze township on Monday.

Acting on a tip-off police stopped and searched the vehicle en route to Meiktila from Taunggyi. The driver was identified as one Sit Nyein with Saw Eh Mu on board. The search revealed 9,980 yaba pills.

Similarly, a local anti-drug in Mandalay South seized 4,060 yaba pills from two motorcycle riders identified as Lin Naing and Tun Tun Aung between 62 and 63 road, Pyigyidagun township, Mandaly region on Tuesday. Authorities in Mohnyin police station seized 800 yaba pills and heroin weighing 87 grams from the home of one Kyaw Myint in-Sai Yar Ywar Thit village, Phakant township. All suspects have been charged under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Law.— *Myanmar Police Force*

Suspects arrested together with narcotic drugs. PHOTO: MPF

A man arrested for stealing money on the train

POLICE have arrested a 23-year- old man on suspiconof staling bags on Yangon- Mawlamyine train on 6 August, according to the police station.

According to the investigation, the man took and ran away with the bag which belongs to the passenger Daw Myint Thant from Mawlamyine at the railway station. Then, the passenger woman was informed the matter to the police station.

The police arrested the man called Aung Myo alias chitti, 23 from Bago region together with Ks 3 lakh and other document of Daw Myint Thant.

Also, Aung Myo has admitted to the charge. The police have filed charges against him. – *Ko Myo*

LOCAL Business

Construction labourers compensated for suspended high-rise construction projects

A construction site seen in downtown Yangon on 10 August 2016. PHOTO: NYI ZAW MOE

Construction staff and labourers received compensation in accordance with Labour Laws after the High-Rise Building Inspection Committee reviewed suspended construction projects.

Several high-rise building projects in Yangon were forced to suspend activity on 14 May, causing losses for developers. Because there is no guarantee that those high-rise building projects will resume, the engineers, staff and labourers who were engaged in those construction projects received compensation.

"We, the high-rise developers, have to hire the foreign architects before the construction projects are started to implement, with the cost of hiring them at US$1million. Besides, the owners of the house have to demolish theirs after the proposal of the construction have been approved. We, the construction contractors, have to pay the general cost to the owner of the real property so that they can move to stay at another place. After that, we started to carry out the construction process such as pilings and structure calculation," said a developer.

A developer pointed out that those companies will gradually go bankrupt if construction is not resumed or if the freeze lasts too long.

The High-Rise Building Inspection Committee divides construction projects into three categories.

The first category are inspection visits to those high-rise buildings which have been approved according to a policy laid down by the previous government and which are under construction. The second and third parts are those construction projects which have been granted approval but have not started.

These projects are required to seek additional permission under a new policy. As a result, the construction entrepreneurs are adversely affected, the developers said. A high-rise building developer, U Than Naing, said that the authorities plan to systematically build Yangon.

Therefore, they need to save the construction businesses. "Currently, those suspended construction projects affect not only us but also the economy of the country because the heavy losses of the projects could drag the nation's economy down.

We are carrying out the projects to be in accordance with the policies laid down by the then government. It is unlikely for our projects to match perfectly the new policies to be formulated.

We also want to make Yangon become a metropolitan city like the government," said U Than Naing. "We would like to request the incumbent government to proceed in accord with the previous policies.

We also want the Union government to intervene in this," he added.

The number of suspended building projects has risen and the freeze of construction projects is threatening the job security of the engineers, the staff and the labourers who are engaged in those projects, it was learnt from the construction businessmen.—*Pwint Thitsar*

Group launched to facilitate international trade

A working group known as the International Trade Supply Chain (ITSC) was launched on 9 August in Yangon to facilitate trade, it has been

learnt. The Asian Development Bank provided backing for the ITSC group to be launched. The working group includes all stakeholders in the international trade supply chain in Myanmar and related departments.

It aims to solve the problems and difficulties faced by the stakeholders in the ITSC. Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI) will meet the group once a month to come up with new ideas to facilitate trade. The authorities concerned and the representatives

will make attempts to find out what needs to be changed. There will be coordinating meetings between exporters, importers and concerned departments to sort out the challenges. The first step of this working group is to listen to the voices of all stakeholders, to negotiate and to be accordance with the laws. Some of those laws need to amended, such as those concerning international countries, said U Maung Maung Lay, the vice chairman of UMFCCI.

The ADB has conducted seminars with participants from over 514 trade stakeholders in Yangon, Tachileik, Myawaddy and Muse as part of the trade facilitation.—*200*

Real estate expo aims to provide great opportunities for house hunters

OVER K2 billion worth of property are estimated to be sold during the next real estate expo to be held in Mandalay, said U Nay Min Thu, managing director of iMyanmarHouse.com.

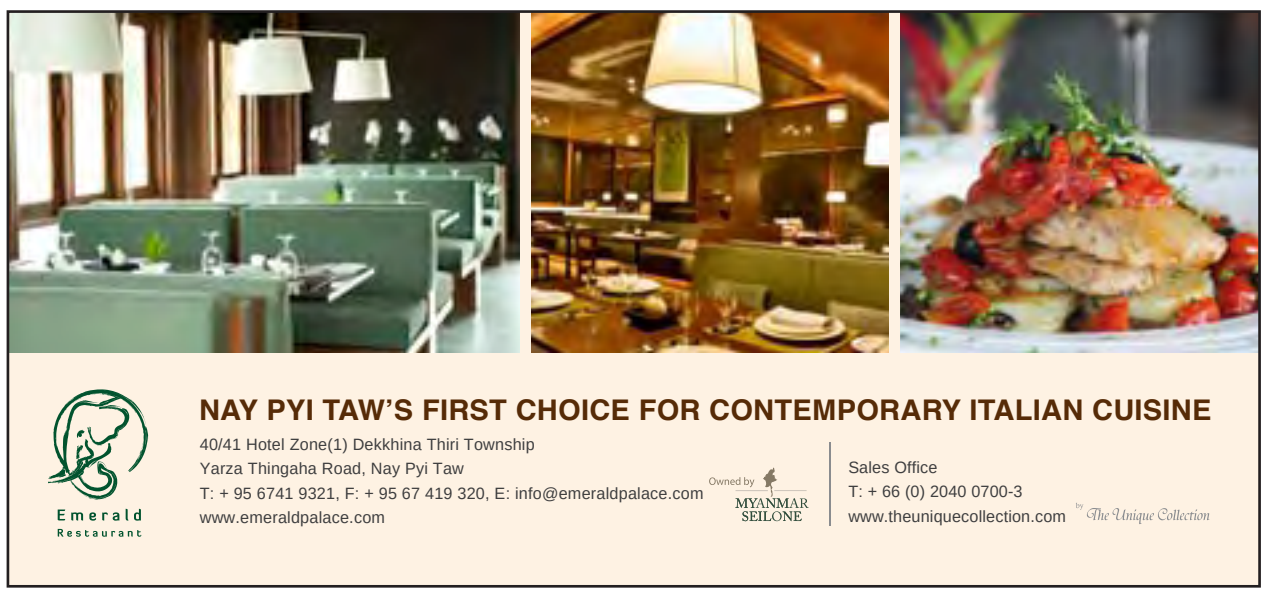
After a market survey in Mandalay, the exhibition is planned to take place from 16 to 28 August at Mandalay's City Hall.

The event will be organised by the iMyanmarHouse, an online property trading platform in partnership with Mandalay Region Construction Association, Real Estate Agent Development Association and the Construction and Housing Development Bank.

Unfinished housing projects in Yangon, Mandalay as well as Taunggyi and Lashio in Shan State will be for sale during the three-day event. They will be sold through a one-to-14 year installment programme.

Real estate experts and agents will share their knowledge and experience on property through educative seminars during the event. For further information, visit www.imyanmarhouse.com/expo or call 09 252 605 671~5

The current domestic property market is cooling in the wet season, U Nay Min Thu said.—*GNLM*



China says new satellite will help safeguard interests at sea — China Daily

SHANGHAI — A newly launched satellite will help China protect its maritime interests, the official *China Daily* newspaper reported on Thursday amid growing tensions over disputed territory in the South China Sea.

The "Gaofen 3" satellite that was launched on Wednesday has a radar system that captures images from space with a resolution down to 1 metre (3 feet) and can operate in all weathers, the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defence told the newspaper.

"The satellite will play an important role in monitoring the marine environment, islands and reefs, and ships and oil rigs," the *China Daily* said, citing project leader Xu Fuxiang.

"Satellites like the Gaofen 3 will be very useful in safeguarding the country's maritime rights and interests," he added, according to the newspaper.

In July, an international court in The Hague ruled against China's claims in the resource-rich South China Sea in an action brought by the Philippines, a decision stridently rejected by Beijing.

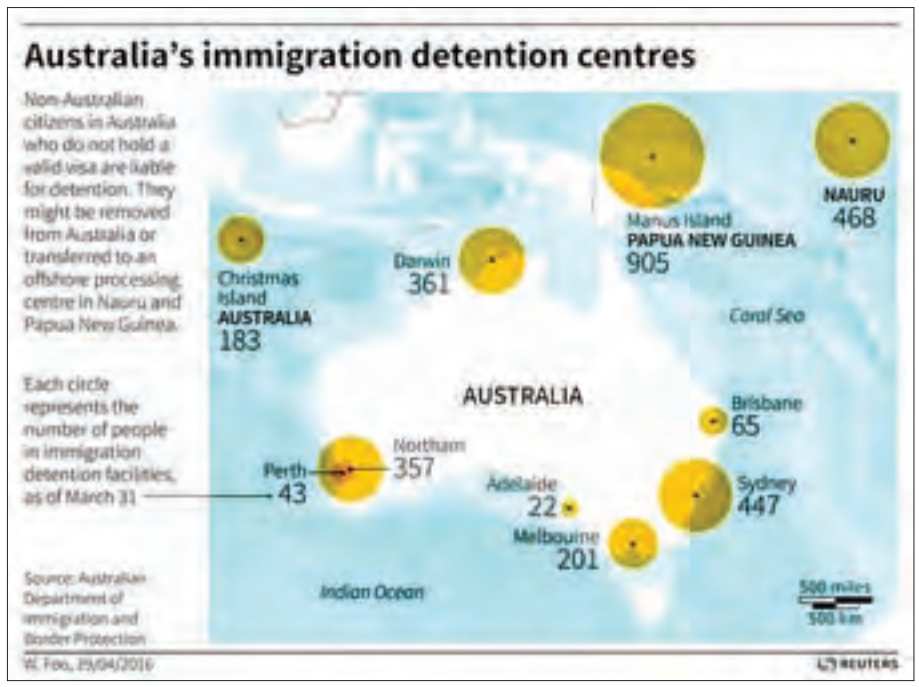
China claims most of the South China Sea, through which $5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year.

Viet Nam, China and Taiwan claim all of the disputed Spratly islands in the South China Sea, while the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei claim some of the area.

Reuters reported this week that Viet Nam had discreetly fortified several of its islands in the South China Sea with new mobile rocket launchers.

That followed satellite photos in July that showed China appeared to have built reinforced aircraft hangars on some of the disputed islands. —*Reuters*

Australia accuses refugees of falsely reporting sexual abuse



Australia's immigration detention facilities EPS CMap showing the number of detainees by location in Australia's immigration detention centres. PHOTO: REUTERS

SYDNEY — Australia on Thursday accused asylum seekers held in Pacific detention camps of falsely reporting sexual assault in order to get sent to Australia, a day after a newspaper published leaked documents detailing abuse at the Nauru immigration centre.

More than 2,000 incidents, including sexual abuse, assault and attempted self-harm, were reported over two years at the Australian-funded Nauru detention centre, more than half involving children, *Guardian Australia* reported.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton on Thursday said asylum seekers were lying about sexual abuse and repeated comments he made earlier this year that refugee advocates were encouraging detainees to self-harm and set themselves on fire.

"I have been made aware of some incidents that have reported false allegations of sexual assault, because in the end, people have paid money to people smugglers and they want to come to our country," Dutton said in an interview on Australian radio.

"Some people have even gone to the extent of self-harming and people have self-immolated in an effort to get to Australia. Certainly some have made false allegations."

Under its hardline immigration policy, asylum seekers intercepted trying to reach Australia by boat are sent for processing to Australian-funded camps on Nauru, which holds about 500 people, and on Manus island in Papua New Guinea. They are told they will never be settled in Australia.

The harsh conditions and reports of systemic child abuse at the camps have drawn wide criticism at home and abroad. Australia, however, has vowed there will be no change to the policy, which has been pursued by successive governments.

Australia says the policy is needed to stop asylum seekers dying at sea on the dangerous boat journey from Indonesia to Australia. Hundreds of people died attempting the trip in the years before the policy was put in place.—*Reuters*

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Thai PM promises general election in late 2017 after official result of referendum comes out

BANGKOK — Thai prime minister Prayut Chan-o-cha said his government will follow the roadmap to a general election in 2017 after official results of the charter referendum came out on Wednesday.

"All of what happened earlier are consistent with our roadmap... the Constitution Drafting Committee(CDC) will make amendments to the draft constitution in accordance with result of the referendum on the additional question, then the draft will be sent to Constitutional Court to examine, then submitted to the King for endorsement," Said Prayut in a TV address, adding that this process will be finished in three months.

According to Prayut, the 2014 interim constitution will be replaced by the new one after its promulgation and CDC will work on 10 organic laws, especially four of them that are necessary for a general election, during which the National Council for Peace and Order, or the junta will function normally until there is a new government under the new constitution.

Thailand's Election Commission announces the result of the referendum during a news conference in Bangkok, Thailand, on 10 August 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

Prayut said the four organics laws will be promulgated in middle 2017, after which the Election Commission will hold a general election in five months, if the country is still stable.

Prayut also mentioned there are people disappointed about the current stable situation in Thailand, "who persist on damaging the country and even our highest institution, all for their own personal gain, through the use of online media and information sent from abroad."

He asked them to respect laws and the results of the referendum, adding that the Article 44 of the 2014 interim Constitution is still in effect.

The controversial Article 44 authorizes the junta chief to issue any order or direct any action to be done or not to be done, irrespective of whether the order or action would produce legislative, executive or judicial effect. —*Xinhua*

The Sydney Opera House is reflected in a harbourside hotel window in The Rocks district of Sydney, in 2014.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Australia announces $154-million upgrade for Sydney Opera House

SYDNEY — Australia on Thursday unveiled plans for the largest renovations to the Sydney Opera House since its opening in 1973, with more than A$200 million ($154 million) earmarked to update the UNESCO world heritage-listed site.

It draws more than 8 million visitors a year, bringing A$775 million into the coffers of the state of New South Wales, Deloitte Access Economics said in 2013, but gets low scores from critics and musicians for its acoustics.

The renovations, which kick off next year and wrap up in 2020, will focus on improving the acoustics and accessibility, and convert unused offices into a family-friendly Creative Learning Centre, the Opera House said in a statement.

"The Sydney Opera House is the symbol of modern Australia," said Troy Grant, the deputy premier of New South Wales. "It is our responsibility as custodians of this extraordinary place to maintain and renew it for all Australians."

He pledged that the renovations to Danish architect Jorn Utzon's design, which helped make the Opera House one of the world's most recognisable buildings, would not damage the sail-like external facade overlooked by Sydney's Harbour Bridge.

Since its opening, however, the structure has never quite overcome the disappointment of its acoustics. In a 2011 survey of performers, spectators and critics, Australian music magazine Limelight rated the Opera Theatre as having the worst acoustics among 20 major world venues, with its Concert Hall doing marginally better, in 18th place.

But the renovations should change all that, said Sydney Symphony Orchestra Managing Director Rory Jeffes.

"For the first time the Concert Hall will deliver the true ambitions of the original creators," he said in a statement. "People will be able to enjoy the great orchestras of the world in one of the greatest acoustics in the world."—*Reuters*

Cambodia bans Pokemon Go game at genocide museum

PHNOM PENH — Cambodia on Wednesday banned the game Pokemon Go from a former Khmer Rouge torture centre and prison after players showed up at the site, now a genocide museum, hunting for the virtual cartoon characters.

It is the latest effort to rein in enthusiasts of the game, which has been blamed for a rash of accidents and has prompted safety warnings after players glued to their phones stumbled, were robbed or wandered into dangerous places. "We have guards on standby, any tourists holding iPhones or iPads and playing this game will be asked to leave," Chhay Visoth, director of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, told Reuters. "This is a place of sorrow, not a place to play games." A handful of Cambodian teenagers was turfed out on Wednesday, he said, adding that the game had been banned in the precincts of the memorial to Cambodia's "Killing Fields" genocide. Game players use mobile devices to search for virtual Pokemon characters that appear to pop up at office spaces, restaurants, museums and other places where people are known to gather. In neighbouring Thailand, the telecoms regulator announced plans on Tuesday to place certain places, from the Royal Palace grounds and Buddhist temples to hospitals, off limits to players of the augmented reality game.—*Reuters*

South Korea's ICT exports decline 6.6 pct in July

SEOUL — South Korea's information and communications technology (ICT) product exports reduced 6.6 per cent in July from a year earlier due to weak demand from the country's top two trading partners, China and the United States, a government report showed on Thursday.

ICT exports reached 13.02 billion US dollars last month, down from 13.93 billion US dollars a year ago, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy.

It marked the 10th consecutive on-year decline since October last year.

It was attributable to soft demand from China and the United States, toward which South Korea's exports retreated 9.5 per cent and 10.7 per cent respectively. Those to the European Union (EU) slumped 8.2 per cent, but shipments to Viet Nam jumped 24 per cent.

By item, chip exports shed 2.6 per cent in July, falling at a faster pace than the previous month when semiconductor shipments inched down 0.5 per cent.

Display panel shipment tumbled 19.2 per cent in July from a year ago, with those for mobile phones sliding 10.1 per cent amid fiercer competition with Chinese manufacturers.

ICT product imports shed 6.4 per cent to 7.2 billion dollars, sending the July trade surplus in the ICT sector to 5.82 billion dollars.

During the January-July period, ICT exports tumbled 10 per cent to 282.85 billion dollars compared with the same period of last year. Imports plunged 13.5 per cent to 225.75 billion dollars, sending the ICT trade surplus to 57.1 billion dollars in the cited period. —*Xinhua*

Indonesia assures ASEAN it is committed to dealing with haze

KUALA LUMPUR — Indonesia gave assurance to its Southeast Asian neighbours on Thursday that measures are in place to prevent the recurrence of thick smog that used to blanket the region due to forest fires and the slash-and-burn practice of plantation owners.

Indonesia again came under the spotlight at the meeting of environment ministers from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations in the Malaysian capital, Kuala Lumpur.

Officially titled the Conference of Parties to the ASEAN Agreement on Transboundary Haze Pollution, the annual meeting was to oversee the implementation of the agreement that was signed in 2002.

"The Indonesian government has strong commitment to preventing land and forest fires in the initial stage. This is a directive from the President (Joko Widodo)," Arief Yuwono, the senior energy advisor to the minister of environment and forestry, told a joint press conference at the end of the one-day meeting.

He said the Indonesian government is targeting capacity-building in local communities, with such initiatives as setting up fire brigades in some 700 villages.

Malaysian Natural Resources and Environment Minister Wan Junaidi Jaafar said Indonesia gave the assurance that it is ready to deal with haze.

"I take note of that assurance and, based on that, 2016 may not be as severe as 2015," he said.

The ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre based in Singapore issued its weather outlook noting that the dry period can be expected in the southern ASEAN region between August and September this year.

"The ASEAN member states pledged to remain vigilant and continuously monitor and step up their haze preventing efforts to minimize any possible occurrence of transboundary smoke haze from land and forest fires in anticipation of the drier weather," the ministers said in a joint press statement.

Last year, the region experienced one of its worst haze episodes since 1997. The air quality index in the epicenters in Indonesia's Kalimantan and Sumatra hit nearly 2,000, or almost six times the "hazardous" level of 350, according to the Pollution Standard Index of Indonesian Agency for Meteorology, Climatology and Geophysics.

Thick smog spread to Singapore, Malaysia, southern Thailand and the Philippines.

Environmental and health hazards aside, the haze issues have, in the past, sparked a diplomatic war of words between Jakarta and the two neighbouring countries.—*Kyodo News*

Opinion

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

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

Errors of omission are worse than errors of commission

Kyaw Thura

NOW that the government has raved about its economic policy, business firms at home and abroad are all eyes on its move. According to some foreign media, lack of specific information about the economic policy forces potential investors to remain aloof. Nevertheless, our national economy is going to take off sooner or later.

When it comes to economic development, the development of human resources must be at the top of the agenda. In this respect, the government needs to be aware of the possible errors of omission, which is defined as a failure to do something that should have been done or to include something that should have been included. Researchers have argued that errors of omission are likely to be more common than errors of commission, which is defined as a mistake that consists of doing something wrong, such as including a wrong amount or including an amount in the wrong place.

The 21st century being dubbed the Age of Information Technology, the economic development of a country depends on its knowledge economy, a term used for an economy in which growth is dependent on the quantity, quality and accessibility of the information available rather than on the means of production.

In other words, the knowledge economy places a greater reliance on intellectual capacities than natural resources.

Our country has witnessed how a heavy reliance on natural resources for economic development degraded the ecosystems. The world is full of the examples of how resource-poor countries have achieved high socioeconomic status on the basis of human resources.

In fact, the development of human resources involves increasing the number of healthy and skilled workers to build up trained and skilled manpower. After all, it is the educated workforce that can pave the way for the economic and political stability of the country.

South China Sea territorial dispute (News analysis) (III)

U Khin Maung
(A retired diplomat)

Introduction

Sovereign and independent states have sovereignty over three kinds of territories: land territory, sea territory and air space over its sea territory. And if there arises any maritime dispute, state-parties to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea shall settle the disputes between them by peaceful means, not through the threat or use of force. At present, South China Sea dispute has been one of the top news items of the day. China, the rising superpower in the region, claims almost the entire marine resources, especially energy rich South China Sea waters. Through the South China Sea, more than U.S dollar 5 trillions worth of marine trade passes each year. The 4 Asean nations, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam and the self-ruled territory, Taiwan have the over-lapping claims over the same South China Sea.

The Philippines, in a territorial dispute in the South China Sea with its big neighbour, China, is not powerful enough to engage in state to state war or combat. So, the Philippines submitted its dispute to the United Nations-backed court of arbitration in the Hague. The United Nations backed tribunal court ruled that China's claims to historic rights over the South China Sea Waters are not consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Law the Sea. Simply put, in this South China Sea territorial dispute, China loses and the Philippines enjoys victory. However, it is quite amazing to read that China says tribunal court ruling is invalid and not legally binding." But a rival claimant, Vietnam welcomes the tribunal ruling. Taiwan, another rival claimant does not accept the ruling. Vietnam, an active rival claimnant welcomes the ruling claiming that the ruling defines the rule of law and urges the peaceful settlement of dispute. China, a United Nations Permanent Security Council member and a state party to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea retorts that the tribunal court has no power to enforce the ruling. MR. John Kerry, the Secretary of State of the United States of America, the only super-power, in the post cold-war era, has said he would like to see the "absolute rule of law and diplomacy prevail" in this case.

Analysis

First and foremost, please allow me to say that I am not a law expert. I am just a law student, who is seriously studying law, especially the international law, in spite of my very old age.

And in submitting my honest and humble views on this topic, I bear malice towards none: I present it with the love of justice and fairness and purely with academic interest from what I understand this particular case from the legal point of view.

To quote only the relevant points of Annex VII Arbitration of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Article 1, "institution of proceedings" prescribes that "any party to a dispute may submit the dispute to the arbitral procedure provided in this Annex by written notification addressed to the other party or parties to the dispute. The notification shall be accompanied by a statement of the claim and the ground on which it is based."

And Article 8 that requires majority of decisions reads that decisions of the arbitral tribunal shall be taken by a majority vote of its members. As regards default of appearance of one of the parties to the dispute before the tribunal or fails to defend the case, the other party may request the tribunal to continue the proceedings and to make its award. So also it is stipulated in article 9. "default of appearance". The same article 9 clearly provides that absence of a party or failure of a party to defend its case shall not constitute a bar to the proceedings. One significant provision, I would like to quote is article 10 "award". The award of the arbitral tribunal shall be confined to the subject matter of the dispute and state the reasons on which it is based. Article 11 clearly provides that "the award shall be final and without appeal, unless the parties to the dispute have agreed in advance to the appellate procedure. It shall be complied with by the parties to the dispute.

Conclusion

From the afore-mentioned dispute, I, just a retiree, with no iota of authority to make any comments, have nothing to say except to follow my Ministry of Foreign Affairs' stand which clearly states that "the rule of law and diplomacy should win and prevail in this dispute". Diplomacy always ensures win-win benefits. Known to all and sundry, there is no good war and bad peace in the settlement of disputes.

To quote H.E Tommy T.B Koh of Singapore who has contributed all his wide wisdom and rich experience as the chairman of the conference on the law of the sea, may I express as follows:

"The world community's interest in the peaceful settlement of disputes and the prevention of use of force in the settlement of disputes between states have been advanced by the mandatory system of dispute settlement in the UN. 'Convention on the Law of the Sea".

It is never too late to peaceful settlement to disputes, where there is a political will, there is a way. Where there is a conflict, between the international law, that governs the inter-state relations, and the domestic or local law, the international law prevails. It is a time-tested, and universally accepted principle of the international law.

Well, my dear reader, please allow me to submit to you, just in brief, the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea that provides the coastal states sovereign rights to its 12 nautical mile territorial sea measured from its baselines and its exclusive economic zone's rights for exploring and exploiting its natural resources under the sea-bed and contiguous zone's rights and obligations. In fact, the United Nations Convention on the law of the sea is the "culmination of over 14 years of works involving participation by more than 150 countries, representing all regions of the world, all legal and political systems, all degrees of socio-economic development, countries with various dispositions regarding the kinds of minerals that can be found in the sea-bed, coastal states, states described as geographically disadvantaged with regard to ocean space, archipelagic states, island states and land-locked states. These countries convened for the purpose of establishing a comprehensive regime "dealing with resources under the sea-bed with all matters relating to the law of the sea, ... bearing in mind that the problems of the ocean space are closely interrelated and need to be considered as a whole".

To sum up, please allow me to propose you sir, "the mighty China, or rising super-power in the region, and our good neighbour, to propagate, and practise "mutual respect for each other's sovereignty and territorial integrity" as it was one of the historic and time -tested principles of peaceful co-existence, set up by China, India and Burma (Myanmar) long ago. And if there be any conflict, please put it into practice "Let amity be eternal and enmity be ephemeral, 1. *Thank You, Sir.*

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Nature photographs of missing Myanmar climber to be exhibited in Yangon

A PHOTOGRAPHIC exhibition will take place in Yangon featuring shots of the natural beauty of northern most Myanmar. The photographs were taken by Aung Myint Myat, one of missing local climbers on Mount Khakaborazi, organiser said.

Aung Myint Myat together with Wai Yan Min Thu from the Thabawa Khawthan (Nature's Call) Foundation and the University Hiking and Mountaineering Team lost contact with their base camp on 31 August, 2014, after they hoisted the country's flag at the peak of Mt Khakaborazi.

Video footage showing the two Myanmar citizens who reached the peak was circulated on the internet. Shortly after reaching the summit the two men went missing, a local mountaineer said.

Mount Khakaborazi, the highest peak in Southeast Asia and located in Kachin State,where Myanmar connects both India and China, is about 5,900 metres high.

Japanese climber Takeshi Ozaki and Namar Johnson of Myanmar reached the peak of mountain first in 1996.

Organised by the Thabawa Khawthan (Nature's Call) Foundation and the University Hiking and Mountaineering Team, the exhibition is intended to take place between 1 and 3 September on the second floor of Myenigon Dagon Center II in Sangyaung Township. Natural scenery such as landscapes, wildlife, plants and the traditional culture of ethnic minorities in far-flung areas including Kachin and Chin states as well as Naga hills will be displayed during the three-day exhibition. Prints will be sold at the event and all money raised will be donated to help flood victims nationwide, said U Myo Thant, president of the Nature's Call Foundation.—*Khin Zarli*

Nature's Call Foundation and University Hiking and Mountainnering Team will exhibition the photos taken by missing climber Aung Myint Myat in Yangon next month. PHOTO CREDIT: AUNG MYINT MYAT

Residents fearful as muggings surge around Mandalay's Kandawgyi Lake

A RECENT surge in muggings along the Kandawgyi Lake circular road, located in Mandalay's Chanmyathazi Township, has scared local residents from venturing out after dark.

"We don't dare leave the parameters of our neighborhood [after nightfall]. If we must, we never go alone; traveling in a group of no less than three. The muggers are so daring; they've no qualms about coming and mugging you if you stop your motorcycle. There's even cases of people being mugged at knife point. It's become a frequent occurrence these days." said Ko Soe Lay, a resident of Chanmyathazi Township's Ayeyarhtun Ward.

In light of the recent rise in theft, residents have voiced that local youth, administrative departments and police officers are making a concerted effort to provide security. "We station security during the evenings. The road which circles around Kandawgyi [Lake] is favoured by muggers because it's always dark. As many muggers as we catch, the same amount seem to escape through our fingers. As such, we're ensuring to take extra care with these unsavoury characters." said U Myint Lwin, administrator for Than and Taung Wards of Chanmyathazi Township. The No.10 City Police Station alone saw four cases of mugging around the Kandawgyi circular road reported last month and two cases reported already this August, while the responsibility for a further six cases has been transferred to other police stations.

"We've caught some of the culprits responsible for the muggings. We've even caught two perpetrators in recent days that used knives to mug their victims. Legal action has been taken against these actors." said Deputy Police Chief Khin Zaw of the No.10 City Police Station.

Over 10,000 residents reside in neighborhoods nearby Mandalay's Kawdawgyi Lake, while the majority of muggings have reportedly been taking place in the late evening, between 10-11pm.—*Myitmakha News Agency*

CPC official calls on USDP Chairman

USDP Chairman U Thein Sein holds talks with Mr Song Tao Chinese Minister of the International Department of the communist party of the PRC. PHOTO: AYE KO KO

A Chinese delegation led by Mr Song Tao, the Minister of the International Department of the Communist Party of the People's Republic of China, called on U Thein Sein, the Chairman of the Union Solidarity and Development Association, at the party's headquarters in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they discussed promotion of relations and friendship between the two parties and working together for public welfare.— *Aye Ko Ko*

DNA department to be established by Ministry of Home Affairs

THE MINISTRY of Home Affairs working towards opening a DNA department before the end of this fiscal year to improve the quality of police work and capture guilty criminals, its spokesperson said.

Officials from the Myanmar Police Force are now receiving DNA-related laboratory technique training shared by experts from England to set up the DNA department under a systematic structure, with plans to buy DNA-related machinery, it has been learned.

The MPF opened a Chemical Examination Department on 27 March this year. From14 July the necessary laboratory equipment has been installed at the department.

The main function of the Chemical Examination Department is to examine people or pieces of evidence for traces of poison, narcotic substances or other compounds.—*200*

Aid from SEPCOIII reaches flood victims in Nyaungdon

TRADITIONAL medicine and food donated by the SEPCOIII Electric Power Construction Corporation reached people currently being affected by flooding in Nyaungdon Township, Ayayawady Region, yesterday.

Daw Ni Ni Moe, MP of the Ayeyawady Region Parliament, accepted the aid handed over by Mr Zhang Yushi, PMP Manager of SEPCOIII and Ms Meng Fei (a) Daw Kyi Lynn of the Myanmar Mingalar Media and Cultural group at a ceremony held in Nyaungdon. — *GNLM*

Aid reaches flood victims in Moenyo. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Clinton blasts Trump for 'casual inciting of violence,' Republicans shaken

WASHINGTON — Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton on Wednesday accused Republican opponent Donald Trump of inciting violence with his call for gun rights activists to stop her from nominating liberal US Supreme Court justices.

Clinton's comments added to a growing outcry over Trump's remarks on Tuesday at a North Carolina rally, which some interpreted as a call for violence against his White House rival. His remarks also fuelled widespread concerns about his ability to stay on track.

"Words matter, my friends," the former US secretary of state, who rarely engages in direct back-and-forths with her Republican rival, said at a rally in Des Moines, Iowa. "And if you are running to be president or you are president of the United States, words can have tremendous consequences."

"Yesterday, we witnessed the latest in a long line of casual comments from Donald Trump that crossed the line," she said, citing "his casual inciting of violence."

Trump insisted in an interview with Fox News that his remarks were a call for political, not physical, action.

"There is tremendous political power to save the Second Amendment, tremendous," the New York businessman said. "And you look at the power they have in terms of votes and that's what I was referring to, obviously that's what I was referring to, and everybody knows it."

The US Constitution's Second Amendment guarantees a right to keep and bear arms.

"I can't think of anything remotely comparable to it. No one tells a joke about the opponent getting shot. I've never heard it," said Bob Shrum, a top aide for Al Gore's presidential campaign in 2000 and John Kerry's in 2004.

High-profile Republicans and rank-and-file voters appeared shaken on Wednesday after a string of Trump misfires, struggling with how to best reject his divisive candidacy. Some pledged to withhold their endorsement and others backed Clinton.

Some, including MSNBC host Joe Scarborough, a former Republican congressman from Florida, called for party leaders to replace Trump on the ticket.

A new Reuters/Ipsos poll taken 5-8 August — before Trump's latest controversy — showed that nearly one-fifth of 396 registered Republicans said they want Trump to drop out of the race and another 10 per cent said they "don't know" whether the Republican nominee should or not.

Clinton's campaign, seeing an opening, has moved to bring disenchanted Republicans into the fold by announcing an official intraparty outreach effort on behalf of the Democratic nominee.

Clinton's campaign now has a website for Republicans and political independents to sign up to pledge their support, listing 50 prominent Republicans and independents who have endorsed her.

US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton holds a t-shirt while visiting Raygun, a clothing store, in Des Moines, Iowa, on 10 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

On Monday, 50 Republican national security officials signed an open letter questioning Trump's temperament, calling him reckless and unqualified to be president.

Other top Republicans, including Senator Susan Collins of Maine this week, have disavowed Trump but said they cannot back Clinton.

James Rohrscheib, 74, a registered Republican and retired US Navy officer from Washington state, told Reuters the reality is the 8 November election will be a "tough one."

"I'm in a quandary as to who I am going to vote for," Rohrscheib said.

Trump has dismissed the defections and criticism as an unsurprising reaction of the so-called Washington elite to his drive to change the status quo.

One group that appears unswayed is Trump's donors. Reuters interviewed nine major Trump donors on Wednesday, and not one said his Second Amendment comment had given them pause.

Trump Texas fundraising co-chair Gaylord Hughey called the interpretation of his remark as condoning violence "ridiculous" and "ludicrous."

"It's just another issue the press has really twisted to make headlines," Hughey said.

But Mike Smith, a Republican voter and Reuters/Ipsos poll respondent, said the support Trump is still receiving from Republicans "almost seems obligatory rather than voluntary."

"I'm almost at the point where I think I'm going to vote for Hillary. I don't like her," said Smith, a 74-year-old retiree who lives in Clearwater, Florida. "But Mr. Trump is making me very nervous."

Republican strategist and Trump supporter Ford O'Connell said Trump has "dug himself a deep hole" with voters and to win the election he will need to "make it a referendum on Hillary Clinton and the 'rigged system.'"

Trump sought to do just that by using an economic policy speech in Detroit on Monday to correct a series of missteps that included a prolonged clash with the parents of a fallen Muslim American soldier. But his remarks Tuesday undermined that effort.

"If she gets to pick her judges, nothing you can do folks," Trump said at the rally in North Carolina. "Although the Second Amendment people, maybe there is, I don't know," he continued.

A federal official familiar with the matter denied a media report that the US Secret Service, which investigates threats against presidents and candidates, had formally spoken with the Trump campaign about his remark.

Trump's comment and the resulting backlash occurred as Reuters/Ipsos polling showed some 44 per cent of 1,162 registered voters believe Trump should exit the race, and that as of Tuesday, Clinton led Trump by more than 7 percentage points, up from a 3-point lead late last week.

Strategists and Trump detractors agreed that it would be difficult, if not impossible, to remove Trump from the Republican ticket.

"It's wishful thinking to believe the Republicans are going to replace its nominee after the convention. People are grasping at straws," Ron Bonjean, a Republican strategist unaffiliated with Trump, told Reuters.

A more likely scenario would be a replay of the 1996 presidential race, when the Republican Party essentially deserted nominee Bob Dole, who was badly trailing President Bill Clinton, to focus on congressional races. —*Reuters*

NEWS IN BRIEF

Ecuador will let Sweden interview Assange in London embassy

LONDON — Ecuador will allow Swedish prosecutors to interview Wikileaks founder Julian Assange in its London embassy, where Assange has been living since June 2012, Ecuador's foreign ministry said in a statement on Thursday.

Swedish authorities want to question Assange, 45, over allegations that he committed rape in 2010. He denies the allegations. He avoided possible extradition to Sweden by taking refuge in Ecuador's embassy in London.

"In the coming weeks, a date will be established for the proceedings to be held at the Embassy of Ecuador in the United Kingdom", Ecuador's foreign ministry said in the statement.

In late May, a Swedish lower court upheld the arrest warrant for Assange, saying the stay at Ecuador's London embassy did not equal detention.—*Reuters*

Ukraine has enough military power to defend itself — General Staff spokesman

KIEV — Ukraine has the military resources to defend itself and is monitoring the situation around Crimea, the spokesman for the General Staff, Vladislav Seleznyov, told Reuters on Thursday.

Russian President Vladimir Putin accused Kiev on Wednesday of using terrorist tactics to try to provoke a new conflict and destabilise Crimea, a region Moscow annexed from Ukraine in 2014. Earlier on Wednesday Russia said it had thwarted armed Ukrainian attempts to get saboteurs into the peninsula. Putin's comments stirred fears that Russia, which has been steadily reinforcing Crimea militarily, may be considering new military action in the region.—*Reuters*

Russian navy to hold Black Sea drills to practice repelling saboteurs

MOSCOW — The Russian Navy plans to hold exercises in the Black Sea to practice repelling underwater attacks by saboteurs, Russian news agencies on Thursday cited the defence ministry as saying.

The scenario would be based on pushing back an underwater attack by saboteurs from the sea, the ministry said.

Vladimir Putin accused Ukraine on Wednesday of using terrorist tactics to try to provoke a new conflict and destabilise annexed Crimea after Russia said it had thwarted two armed Ukrainian attempts to get saboteurs into the contested Black Sea peninsula. —*Reuters*

Vucic: Giving money to Red Star, Partizan is a mistake

BELGRADE — Giving money to the Red Star and Partizan sports societies is a mistake, but I do not have the strength to refuse to do that, Serbian Prime Minister designate Aleksandar Vucic said in the parliament on Wednesday.

Responding to Serbian Radical Party leader Vojislav Seselj's criticism over government expenditures for public enterprises and the way their funds are spent, Vucic said the expenditures were ten times smaller than in the past. Vucic conceded the government was giving money to sports clubs and national teams through public enterprises, and that giving money to Red Star and Partizan was a mistake.

"I am to blame for that. I do not have the strength to refuse to do that because everyone would tell me that they existed successfully for 70 years and that we shut them down. Simply, I do not have the strength for that," Vucic said.—*Tanjug*

US condemns terror attacks in Turkey

WASHINGTON —The United States on Wednesday strongly condemned the terror attacks in southeastern Turkey and reaffirmed its commitment to supporting its ally in the fight against terrorism.

Six people were killed and 54 others wounded on Wednesday in two separate attacks staged by the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party in southeastern Turkey, local media reported.

"The United States condemns in the strongest terms today's terrorist attacks in southeastern Turkey. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones of those killed, and we wish a speedy recovery to those injured," National Security Council spokesperson Ned Price said in a statement.

"We remain steadfast in our support for Turkey, our NATO ally and partner, which has suffered from several recent terrorist attacks, as well as a violent coup attempt on 15 July," Price said.—*Xinhua*

Blast wounds 13 in Pakistani city on edge after huge suicide attack

QUETTA, (Pakistan) — A roadside bomb hit a Pakistani security vehicle and wounded 13 people on Thursday in the southwestern Pakistani city of Quetta, days after a suicide bombing at a hospital killed at least 74 people, most of them lawyers, officials and media said.

Home Minister Safaraz Bugti said the homemade bomb targeted police personnel escorting a judge, who was not hurt in the attack, in the frontier city.

"It was a judge's car that was passing, but I believe it was the police who were the target," he said on Pakistani TV.

"It was a remote-controlled device with 3-4 kg of explosives ... I think these kinds of cowardly acts will not reduce our morale," Bugti said.

Medical Superintendent Abdul Rehman Miankhel told Reuters that 13 wounded people, including four members of the security forces, were being treated at the Civil Hospital, the same facility hit by Monday's suicide attack.

Security officials gather at the site of a bomb explosion in Quetta, Pakistan, on 11 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

An announcer for Geo TV warned viewers not to gather at the scene on Zarghoon Road in central Quetta for fear of a second bombing like the one on Monday. That attack hit a large group of lawyers gathered at the hospital to mourn the head of the Baluchistan bar association who was shot dead earlier that day.

"Care must be taken that a rush not be created at the scene as the terrorists have reached the point of barbarity where they target crowds like this," the news announcer said.

Monday's hospital suicide bombing was Pakistan's deadliest attack this year. It was claimed by both a faction of the Pakistani Taliban, Jamaat-ur-Ahrar, and also by the Islamic State militant group, which has been seeking to recruit followers in Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Targeted killings have become increasingly common in Quetta, the capital of Baluchistan province that has seen rising violence linked to a separatist insurgency as well as sectarian tensions and rising crime.—*Reuters*

Turkish police detain 17 in raids targeting Kurdish militants

ISTANBUL — Turkish police detained 17 people as part of an operation aimed at Kurdish militants early on Thursday, conducting raids across Istanbul, including at the offices of the pro-Kurdish Peoples' Democratic Party (HDP), state-run Anadolu Agency said.

Backed by a helicopter, counter-terror squads raided HDP offices in the central Istanbul district of Beyoglu at 3 am (0000 GMT) as armoured vehicles and a water cannon vehicle were deployed nearby, the Dogan news agency reported.

The raids came after bomb blasts in two cities in southeast Turkey killed nine civilians and wounded dozens on Wednesday evening, according to security sources who said Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militants were responsible.

A top PKK commander had warned at the weekend of fresh attacks, saying police "will not be able to live as comfortably as they did in the past in cities."

The HDP, parliament's third biggest party, wrote on its Istanbul Twitter account that police had broken open the door of its building and "illegally" searched the offices when no party official was present.

The raids, in 10 districts across Turkey's largest city, targeted the "urban structure" of the PKK, Anadolu said.

It said the detainees were accused of "terror group membership", recruitment and staging illegal protests.

The PKK, designated as a terrorist organisation by Turkey, the European Union and the United States, took up arms against the Turkish state in 1984 and over 40,000 people, mainly Kurds, have died in the violence.—*Reuters*

Fighting in Aleppo persists despite Russia ceasefire announcement

BEIRUT — Fighting persisted in the Syrian city of Aleppo on Thursday more than an hour into a three-hour ceasefire announced by Russia, two rebel groups and a witness in the city said, as government forces tried to reverse last week's opposition gains.

Russia, which backs Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his government, said on Wednesday daily ceasefires would last from 10 am until 1 pm daily to facilitate the delivery of aid supplies. Asked at 10.45 am (0745 GMT) whether the ceasefire had taken effect, Mohammed Rasheed, spokesman for the rebel Jaish al-Nasr group, said: "No, on the contrary." "Today since the morning there has been a (government) attempt to advance in the Ramousah area. There has been a big escalation by Russian warplanes," he added.

A witness in Aleppo near the frontline between the opposition-held eastern sector and the government-held west of the city also reported hearing continued fighting after 10.30 a.m. A second rebel official said fighting was continuing at 11 am local time.

Syrian state television reported on Thursday that the army had advanced on Wednesday night under cover of air strikes to positions near the areas that insurgents captured last week.

However, Rasheed of Jaish al-Nasr and Ahmed Hamaher of the Nour al Din al-Zinki group, which is also fighting in Aleppo, said government forces had taken some positions but then been quickly forced back.—*Reuters*

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

SHIPPING AGENCY DEPARTMENT
MYANMA PORT AUTHORITY
AGENT FOR: M/S SAMUDERA SHIPPING LINE

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV WEST SCENT VOY. NO (121N)

Consignees of cargo carried on MV WEST SCENT VOY NO (121N) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV KOTA HASIL VOY. NO ( )

Consignees of cargo carried on MV KOTA HASIL VOY NO ( ) are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 12.8.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

Zambians to vote in election amid tensions as economy struggles

LUSAKA — Zambia braced for what is expected to be bruising battle on Thursday to elect a new president and legislators, contested against the backdrop of lethargic growth as weak commodity prices have hit Africa's No 2 copper producer.

President Edgar Lungu and his main rival Hakainde Hichilema both have said they are confident of outright victory, but either could fail to garner more than half of the vote as required by electoral law, necessitating a second round.

After a campaign marred by violence, Lungu and Hichilema on Wednesday made their final plea for votes in the capital, Lusaka, each pledging to steer the economy onto a firmer footing.

"I have been on probation for one year, six months and I think I have done very well. I promise to serve you even better," Lungu told thousands of supporters at his final rally, referring to last year's vote to replace late president Michael Sata in which he narrowly beat Hichilema.

"And I promise to respect the results and I will not fight even one day, to remain in State House. But I will not allow somebody to come to State House (through) violence or intimidation," he added.—*Reuters*

Edgar Lungu (C, in black suit), leader of the Patriotic Front party (PF), dances before addressing his supporters during a rally ahead of Thursday's presidential elections in the capital, Lusaka, Zambia, on 10 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Canada police kill suspect after receiving 'terrorist threat' tip

VANCOUVER — Canadian police killed a man on Wednesday, national television news channels reported, after the police said they had identified a suspect after receiving "credible information of a potential terrorist threat".

The suspect was killed during a police raid in a small Ontario town, CTV News and CBC News reported.

The Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) said in a statement they had identified a suspect in a national security threat and taken action to ensure the safety of the public. No further details were provided.

Intelligence sources told Reuters that the suspect was Aaron Driver, who was arrested last year for openly supporting the Islamic State militant group on social media. The sources declined to be identified because they did not have permission to speak to the media.

The sources said Driver, who also uses the alias Harun Abdurahman, lives in Strathroy, Ontario, a small community some 225 km (140 miles) southwest of Toronto.

Driver's death was not yet officially confirmed and his lawyer was not immediately available for comment.

Reports on Twitter late on Wednesday said police had raided a home in Strathroy in relation to the RCMP threat incident. Reporters on the scene later tweeted that the coroner had arrived and a body bag had been loaded into an official vehicle.

The London Free Press newspaper, citing family members, reported that Driver was shot by police after he detonated a device, wounding himself and another person. There was no immediate confirmation of that report. Driver had not been charged with a crime but in February he was placed on a peace bond, a court order that restricted his movements, required that he stay away from social media and computers and not have contact with Islamic State or similar groups.

He said in February he did not think Canadians should fear him and that people should not be persecuted for their political beliefs, according to CBC news.

Irene Lee, whose parents own a convenience store near Driver's home, said police arrived on the quiet residential street shortly after 4 pm ET (2000 GMT) and quickly surrounded the house.

"I hear a bomb sound, like a 'bang' — I was freaking out because this is a small and quiet town," she told Reuters. "All of a sudden the policemen were yelling, 'everyone get into your houses'." Lee said police were still outside and had told her they would likely be there all night.

Canada's public safety minister Ralph Goodale said in a statement released late on Wednesday the public had been "properly protected" following a national security threat, and that he had briefed Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

He said Canada's National Terrorism Threat Level remained unchanged at "medium".—*Reuters*

Wild fires spread in southern France, four firemen injured

MARSEILLE — Several wild fires broke out in various parts of southern France on Wednesday, causing a major firefighting operation in which four firemen were injured, three of them seriously, the interior ministry said in a statement.

About 1,800 firemen battled the blazes, backed up by firefighting airplanes, Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve told French news channel BFM TV.

About 400 policemen were also mobilised across the region, he said.

The fires, which have covered 2,000 hectares (nearly 5,000 acres), were still out of control late on Wednesday, Cazeneuve added.

One of the fires affected the town of Fos-sur-Mer, 40 km (25 miles) northwest of Marseille, France's second-biggest city where petrochemical plants are located.

High winds stimulated the spread of the fires, with thick smoke visible across the region.

Most commercial air flights leaving Marseille were delayed or cancelled, according to the local airport's website.—*Reuters*

Man scaling Trump Tower in New York City wanted meeting with nominee

Officers from the NYPD watch as a man climbs the outside of Trump Tower in New York, US, on 10 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

NEW YORK — A 20-year-old Donald Trump supporter who scaled the Trump Tower in Midtown Manhattan on Wednesday for three hours using suction cups and a climbing harness was pulled inside through a window by police who had tried to coax him into the building throughout the escapade.

The man reached the 21st story of the 58-story tower on Fifth Avenue which is headquarters for the election campaign of Donald Trump, the US Republican presidential nominee.

As the climber from Virginia who wore a backpack scaled the tower's glass exterior, police removed large window panels above him and several officers, some wearing helmets, stood at the windows. The climber shifted his route several times in what appeared to be an attempt to get around the police.

At a news conference later the New York Police Department said the unidentified man did not express a desire to harm anyone and said his mission was to get a meeting with Trump.

The man was undergoing psychiatric evaluation and would be arrested, police said. Police had earlier closed several streets near the building in one of the city's busiest areas and put an inflatable landing pad on East 56th Street between Madison and Fifth Avenues.

The New York City Police Department said on Twitter that its special operations division and emergency crews had been sent to the building.

Reports of the climber first surfaced on Twitter and social media around 4 pm (2000 GMT). The police then tried to coax him inside, first by throwing a rope in his direction and then by opening a large grate directly above him.

In a video that was uploaded to YouTube on Tuesday, the man discussed climbing the tower in a message addressed to Trump. He wore a black hooded sweatshirt and long hair was over his eyes. He referred to himself as an "independent researcher" seeking a private audience with Trump to discuss an unspecified important matter. "The reason I climbed your tower was to get your attention," he said in the video and then encouraged people to vote for Trump.—*Reuters*

Destructive California fire was started by faulty hot tub wiring

SACRAMENTO, (Calif) — The third most destructive wildfire in California's recorded history, which killed four people and destroyed more than 1,300 homes and buildings, was started by a spark from an improperly wired hot tub, state fire officials said on Wednesday.

The so-called Valley Fire charred more than 76,000 acres (30,756 hectares) in California's storied wine country in Napa and Sonoma Counties north of San Francisco last fall, killing among others an elderly disabled woman trapped in her home, injuring four firefighters and costing $56 million to suppress.

On Wednesday, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection said the blaze started after a copper wire at the poorly connected hot tub heated to 1,981 degrees (1,082 Celsius), melted and set ablaze dry brush that was nearby at a home in the town of Cobb.

According to a report posted online and filed with local prosecutors, homeowner and primary resident John Pinch admitted to investigators that he had installed the circuit that caused the fire.

It was not clear whether charges would be filed against Pinch, who was not immediately available for comment.—*Reuters*

A firefighter from the Sonoma Valley Fire & Rescue Authority work on a a hotspot during the Rocky Fire near Clearlake, California, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS
MYANMA RAILWAYS
INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Opened Tenders are invited by Myanma Railways, Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar from reputed manufacturers or their bona fide agents from the Republic of India for the supply and delivery of the following:-

Sr No	Tender No	Description	Tender Issuing Date	Tender Closing Date and Time	Tender Document Fee (per Set)
1	12/MR/INDIA (E)2016-2017	Automatic Levelling Lining and Tamping Machine (1) No	15.8.2016	2.11.2016 (14:30)Hr	US$ 100
2	13/MR/INDIA (E)2016-2017	Track Geometry Measuring Trolley (4) Nos	15.8.2016	2.11.2016 (14:30)Hr	US$ 100
3.	14/MR/INDIA (M)2016-2017	Diesel Rail Crane (60)Tons(Complete with Standard Tools and Accessories(5) Nos	15.8.2016	2.11.2016 (14:30)Hr	US$ 100
4.	15/MR/INDIA (E)2016-2017)	Rail Road Excavator with five type of Attachments (3) Nos	15.8.2016	2.11.2016 (14:30)Hr	US$ 100

Tender Documents are **Only** available at the Office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar during office hours on payment of non refundable fee as stated above. Further enquiries about tender can be made to Deputy General Manager (Supply), Supply Department, Myanma Railways by fax to (Fax No.95-1-291994, 95-67-77016) or by phone to (95-1-291991, 95-1-291985) during office hours.

Bids are to reach the office of the Deputy General Manager (Supply), Supply Department, Myanma Railways, Corner of 51st Street and Merchant Street, Botahtaung Township, Yangon, Myanmar on or before the Closing Date and Time.

All Bid not accompanied by earnest money (Bid Bond) will not (not) be considered. No Telegraphic/Telex/Fax/email proposal will be considered or accepted.

Myanma Railways reserves the right to reject any or all tenders without furnishing reasons. Tender will be accepted only from Bidder who has purchased Tender Documents officially.

The above Goods are to be purchased by the proceeds of the loan from the Government of the Republic of India.

Managing Director, Myanma Railways
Ministry of Transport and Communications, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR
MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY
MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE
(INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER)
(10 / 2016)

Open tenders are invited for supply of the following respective items in United States Dollars and Myanmar Kyats.

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-031(16-17)	Wild CAT 330(AMC) (4000) Litres	US$
(2)	IFB-032(16-17)	Spares for KB-150 Well Servicing Unit (1) Item	US$
(3)	IFB-033(16-17)	Spares for FLC 504 Derrick Shaker Units (6) Items	US$
(4)	IFB-034(16-17)	Spares for S-250 Series Shaker Screen Ex ZJ 70L SR I & II (6) Items	US$
(5)	IFB-035(16-17)	Spares for Derrick Shaker Units (Derrick FLC 2000) Ex ZJ 50D SR I & II (6) Items	US$
(6)	IFB-036(16-17)	2" & 3" ERW Steel Line Pipe, API 5L Grade A (2) Items	US$
(7)	IFB-037(16-17)	Spares for F-1600 Pump Ex ZJ 70L Drilling Rig (2) Items	US$
(8)	IFB-038(16-17)	Spares for EMSCO Rotating Equipment (6) Items	US$
(9)	DMP/L-011(16-17)	Mud Testing Equipments (7) Items	Ks

Tender Closing Date & Time - 1-9-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 8TH August, 2016 at the Finance Department , Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No (44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise
Ph . +95 67 - 411097 / 411206

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Dozens arrested for alcohol misuse at rappers' New York concert

NEW YORK — Dozens of people, many of them underage, were arrested at a concert by rappers Snoop Dogg and Wiz Khalifa in Long Island, New York because of alcohol misuse and nine were hospitalized with alcohol related issues, authorities said on Wednesday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Law enforcement officers confiscated alcohol and arrested 75 attendees at Tuesday's show at the Nikon Theater at Jones Beach near Wantagh, a small community in Hempstead. Ambulance crews treated some of those sickened at the scene.

"Law enforcement has a zero tolerance policy for underage drinking in New York State and our state parks," Randy Simons, a spokesman for New York State Parks, said in a statement.

"People who jeopardize public safety with underage drinking, driving while intoxicated and illegal drug use or possession will not be tolerated," Simons said.

Authorities did not give any more details on the individuals detained or hospitalized. Local media said the arrests were for charges including underage drinking and driving while intoxicated, and that several fake identity cards were seized.

Video from the local ABC television affiliate showed state troopers dumping out bottles and cans of confiscated drinks.

Cordozar "Snoop Dogg" Broadus and Cameron "Wiz Khalifa" Thomaz, two rappers known for popular songs laced with marijuana references, were performing in front of nearly 10,000 fans as part of the "The High Road" US summer tour.

Representatives of the two rappers did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment.

The arrests in Wantagh came days after a front-row railing collapsed during their performance in Camden, New Jersey, on Friday, injuring at least 40 people and ending the show early.—*Reuters*

Actress Meryl Streep speaks at the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, US in July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Meryl Streep makes music, badly, in 'Florence Foster Jenkins'

NEW YORK — Meryl Streep has showcased her musical talents in several films, but her abilities take a purposeful turn for the worse in "Florence Foster Jenkins."

The triple Oscar-winner portrays the real-life title character, a World War II-era New York socialite whose passion for music far outweighed her singing skills.

"Yeah, she aimed high," said Streep, who had voice lessons while a teenager.

"She picked the most difficult arias in the coloratura canon, absolutely. And she screwed it up every time, but she knew them. She knew how they should be done and she really did try her very best. I discovered when listening to her recordings that it wasn't how bad it was, it was how close it came to being almost good and that's what made you want as an audience to root for her and then be disappointed."

The movie, opening in US movie theaters on Friday, follows Jenkins around 1944 as, at age 76, she prepares for her first big public performance at a sold-out Carnegie Hall.

Weak from a nearly half-decade battle with syphilis, Jenkins is determined to deliver her best at the concert, but is blindly unaware that people's interest in her is due to her lack of skill. Her philandering husband, played by Hugh Grant, has been hiding the truth from her, allowing his wife to think she is an operatic wonder.

"In all the characters I've played, I don't think, except maybe for (American chef) Julia Child, I've ever played anybody with so much joie de vivre... She just soldiered on in spite of it all and that was very touching to me," Streep said.—*Reuters*

Captain America returns to his Brooklyn roots

NEW YORK — Marvel's patriotic superhero Captain America was cast in bronze to watch over New York City, as a giant statue of the fictional comic-book character went on display on Wednesday.

First displayed at San Diego's Comic-Con event last month, the one-ton (907 kilograms) bronze statue, measuring 13 feet tall (4 metres), was unveiled in Brooklyn's Prospect Park to commemorate Captain America's 75th anniversary. The statue will remain there until 23 August, after which it will move throughout the borough.

Captain America, played by actor Chris Evans in Disney's Marvel film franchise, most recently appeared in the summer blockbuster, "Captain America: Civil War." —*Reuters*

Anne Hathaway. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rihanna, Anne Hathaway expected to join female 'Ocean's Eight'

LOS ANGELES — Pop star Rihanna along with actresses Anne Hathaway and Helena Bonham Carter are in talks to join Sandra Bullock and Cate Blanchett in a female-driven spinoff of the "Ocean's Eleven" crime caper franchise, Hollywood trade publications reported on Wednesday.

News of the movie comes a month after the release of the all-female remake of the beloved 1980s action comedy "Ghostbusters," this time starring Melissa McCarthy and Kristen Wiig, that prompted a hate-filled backlash on social media.

Production of on the Warner Bros. movie, to be called "Ocean's Eight," is expected to start in October, with director Gary Ross, Hollywood websites Deadline and Variety reported.

Warner Bros. declined to comment. Ross told movie website SlashFilm in June that the movie would continue the "Ocean's Eleven" trilogy starring George Clooney and Brad Pitt, as well as having a similar light-hearted tone.

"Ocean's Eleven," in which Clooney and accomplices rob three Las Vegas casinos, made some $450 million at the worldwide box office on its 2001 release. "Ocean's Twelve" and "Ocean's Thirteen" followed, bringing in another $670 million for Warner Bros.

Actress Mindy Kaling, star of US TV comedy series "The Mindy Project," is also expected to join the "Ocean's Eight" cast, along with Asian American rapper Awkwafina.

Ross told SlashFilm in a June interview that the idea for "Ocean's Eight" had been in the works for years and that director Steven Soderbergh would be a producer on the upcoming film.

"Ghostbusters," a reboot of the beloved 1984 movie with Bill Murray, stars some of America's funniest women in the entertainment industry. But ever since plans were announced a year ago for the movie, the decision to go with a new, female cast has provoked controversy online and led to the trailer earning the distinction of being the most disliked in YouTube history.

"Ghostbusters" went on to earn generally warm reviews and has taken more than $180 million at the worldwide box office since its July 15 release, according to film tracker BoxOfficeMojo.com.—*Reuters*

OBITUARY
U THANT ZAW
Age: 43 years
B.E.H.S (2) Kamayut Old Student

Son of U Kyaw Min and Daw Khin Yee, residing at No. (10), San Yeik Nyein 6th Street, Kamayut Township, Yangon, Son-in-law of U Kyaw Myint and Daw Khin Lay Nwe, Brother of U Zaw Win (USA) and Daw Thin Thin Naing (USA), (U Hla Phone) and Daw Su Pan Soe, U Min Tint and Daw Chaw Chaw, Uncle of Mg Tun Zaw Min (USA), Ma Thiri Marlar Win (USA), Mg Ye Aung (USA), Mg Soe Lwin (USA), Mg Aung Phone Thar, Mg Zwe Hlyan Phone, Beloved Father of Ma Han Nu Nwe, Ma La Min Myat, passed away on 10-8-2016, (1:50) p.m

The corpse will be carried from the Htein Pin Cemetery for cremation on (12-8-2016)

The Buses will leave from the residence at (9:30)

Athletics — Walker Schwazer loses appeal, banned for eight years

LAUSANNE (Switzerland) — Italy's 2008 Olympic 50km race walk champion Alex Schwazer has lost his appeal against a provisional ban for a doping violation and was suspended for eight years, the Court of Arbitration for Sport (CAS) said on Thursday.

Schwazer, who returned from a previous doping ban to lead Italy to the 50km world race walking team title in Rome this year, tested positive in May for a steroid that he said he had not knowingly taken.

The International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) imposed a provisional ban on the 31-year-old but the walker took his case to CAS with his lawyer claiming the athlete's sample had been tampered with. Schwazer previously served a three-and-a-half-year suspension after admitting to using the blood booster erythropoietin (EPO) in 2012.

Schwazer asked CAS to treat his appeal as an urgent request ahead of the Rio Olympics but this was dismissed and sport's highest court instead initiated an expedited arbitration procedure to rule on the case.—*Reuters*

Alex Schwazer of Italy walks on his way to win the 50 kilometres race walk at the World Race Walking Team Championships in Rome, Italy, on 8 May 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Ledecky gets third gold, Franklin a first in Rio

USA's Katie Ledecky, Maya DiRado, Leah Smith and Allison Schmitt celebrate winning gold. PHOTO: REUTERS

RIO DE JANEIRO — Freestyle queen Katie Ledecky won her third gold medal of the Rio Olympics by anchoring the US women to victory in the 4x200 metres freestyle relay on Wednesday while struggling Missy Franklin opened her account without being in the water for the final.

Australia, who led until Ledecky dived in and turned the race around, took silver and Canada the bronze.

The US were the defending champions but only veteran Allison Schmitt, who swam the leadoff leg in Rio, was in the race lineup from that London 2012 golden quartet that also beat Australia into second place.

Leah Smith and Maya DiRado swam second and third respectively before Ledecky, who won the 400 freestyle on Sunday and 200 free on Tuesday, brought home the gold with a typically powerful swim from behind.

Franklin, who won four golds in London four years ago but suffered a dramatic loss of form at the US trials, swam in the heats and collected a gold for doing so despite being dropped for the final.

So too did Melanie Margalis and Cierra Runge.

"It's such a great honour to be a part of a USA relay team," said Ledecky, still only 19 but the outstanding female swimmer on the US team.

"I think I was prepared for any circumstance, whether we were ahead or behind. I just knew that these three girls were going to put me in a good position to finish it out and I knew I could do it," she added.

"It's so easy to get up and swim fast when you're swimming for three other people."

China led at the start before Australia, with Emma McKeon swimming the second leg, handed over in the lead to Bronte Barratt. With DiRado closing in on Barratt but still behind, Ledecky had work to do and she went about it with a vengeance to take the lead with just over 100 metres to go and then powering home in seven minutes, 43.03 seconds.

Tamsin Cook touched out for Australia in 7:44.87 and Canada's anchor Penny Oleksiak finished close behind in 7:45.39 with China fourth.

DiRado's gold completed her set, having already earned a silver and bronze in the two women's individual medleys.

"I was so excited to get the call up today to be on this relay," said DiRado. "It was a dream to be on a US relay and to win gold. I'm just so happy I didn't mess it up and I gave Katie a chance.

"We've got the rainbow now," she added. "It feels really good."

The race may have been Schmitt's last swim but she was not ready to confirm anything.

"I am grateful for where I am right now, to be able to stand up there and hear our national anthem is something I am definitely soaking in," she said.

"I think my emotions are so high right now that I just want to soak that in and figure out the rest later." —*Reuters*

Police patrols beefed up at Rio Games as security concerns mount

RIO DE JANEIRO — Rio Olympics organisers stepped up police patrols on Wednesday as security concerns mounted over the threat posed by street violence, with a Games bus being hit by stones and a security patrol coming under fire near Rio's international airport.

In the latest incident, gunmen fired on a military police car which strayed into the entrance of a slum near the airport, off a highway used by visitors traveling between there and the Olympic Park, security sources and the country's justice minister said.

Three members of the patrol were wounded, including one who is in a critical condition and receiving a blood transfusion in hospital. Justice Minister Alexandre de Moraes called the attack "unfortunate and cowardly." He said two suspects had been identified and police would move swiftly to arrest them.

In the past week, three Swedish tourists were briefly abducted when they visited a slum, Portugal's visiting education minister was robbed at knifepoint, bullets flew into the equestrian center and a Games bus was attacked with stones.

On Tuesday night, the bus was ferrying journalists from a basketball venue to the Olympics media center when projectiles shattered two windows. Some passengers said they heard gunshots but a police investigation concluded that they were stones. Two people suffered minor lacerations in the incident. Police said they were investigating a second bullet discovered at the equestrian centre.

A security source said the shell was found near the stables. —*Reuters*

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(12-8-2016, Friday)

06 : 00 pm
- Weather Report
- Music Programme

06 : 25 pm
- Cartoon Programme " Batman; Mystery of the Bat woman " (Part-1)

07 : 10 pm
- International Drama Series

07 : 50 pm
- International Drama Series

08 : 40 pm
- Taung Byone Nat Festival (Part-5)

08 : 50 pm
- Young Talent "Animator Swan Thura Htun"

09 : 00 pm
- International Movie Songs

09 : 10 pm
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

09 : 35pm
- Unique Pattern of Myanma Ethnic Group: A Trend of ChinTraditional Dress

10 : 10 pm
- Myanmar Video

Midnight
- Close Down.

From 12-8-2016 (Friday) 6:00 pm
To 13-8-2016 (Saturday) 6:00 pm

mitv Myanmar International

(12-8-2016 07:00am ~ 13-8-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Discovering Tribes: Pre Kayaw- Their Life and Customs (Part- II)
07:52	Am	Black Gold (Part- I)
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Travelogue: A Tour in Korea (Part-5)
08:43	Am	The Caves
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	An Ardent Aficionado Of Traditional Design
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Continuation In Rural Tradition
10:58	Am	Myanmar Street Foods

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	Travel To The Southern Part of Shan State (Kalaw)
07:44	Pm	Amazing: May Phoo Han
07:54	Pm	Traditional Snacks
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	The Great Po Sein
08:51	Pm	A Nun's Creation in Fruit Carving

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

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

THE GLOBAL NEW LIGHT OF MYANMAR

9th Waxing of Wagaung 1378 ME | Friday, 12 August, 2016

Brazil advance; Argentina, Mexico out

RIO DE JANEIRO — Hosts Brazil finally found their form to progress to the quarter-finals of the Olympic soccer tournament with a comprehensive 4-0 win over Denmark on Wednesday, after holders Mexico and twice winners Argentina were sent packing.

After drab goalless draws in their first two matches, Brazil needed a win to calm the nerves of a soccer-mad nation and guarantee a place in the last eight, and first-half goals by Gabriel Barbosa and Gabriel Jesus provided a perfect platform.

Luan and Barbosa added two more goals in the second period to carry Brazil to the top of Group A and a Saturday showdown against fellow South Americans Colombia.

Despite the heavy defeat, Denmark advanced to face Nigeria after finishing in second place on four points, while Iraq and South Africa drew 1-1 in the other group game to both be eliminated.

Argentina, who were Olympic champions in 2004 and 2008, crashed out after they were held to a 1-1 draw by Honduras in Group D action, as Portugal topped the standings on seven points after a 1-1 draw with Algeria in the other match.

Honduras claimed the second qualifying spot by virtue of a superior goal difference over Argentina, who missed a penalty in their match, with both sides finishing on four points. Algeria were last after claiming a solitary point.

Gabriel Barbosa (BRA) of Brazil kicks the ball to score Brazil's fourth goal against Denmark during Men's First Round Group A at Fonte Nova Stadium in Salvador, Brazil, on 10 August. PHOTO: REUTERS

Germany were the big winners of the day, hammering 10 goals past Fiji, with Nils Petersen scoring five and Maximilian Meyer adding three as the European side ran riot against a team who conceded 23 goals in their first appearance at the Olympics.

The 10-0 win lifted Germany up to second spot in Group C above Mexico, who crashed out after Kwon Chang-hoon's 77th minute goal gave South Korea a 1-0 win.

The Koreans finished top of the group seven points, ahead of Germany on five. Mexico, who beat Brazil to win the gold in London four years ago, were eliminated along with Fiji.

South Korea will play Honduras in the quarter-finals on Saturday, while Germany face Group D winners Portugal.

Nigeria topped Group B, even though they lost 2-0 to Colombia, who finished second.

Two of Colombia's overage players scored the goals -- Teofilo Gutierrez getting the first after four minutes and Dorlan Pabon doubling their advantage from the penalty spot after 63 minutes.

Japan, who beat Sweden 1-0 in the other match, finished third in the group as both sides were eliminated.—*Reuters*

Sunderland sign McNair and Love from Manchester United

LONDON — Sunderland have bolstered their defence by signing the Manchester United duo of Paddy McNair and Donald Love for a combined deal worth 5.5 million pounds, the Premier League club announced on Thursday.

"The versatile 21-year-olds have both put pen-to-paper on four-year deals and become David Moyes' second and third signings as Sunderland manager," the club said in a statement.

Northern Ireland international McNair, who can also operate in midfield, heads to the Stadium of Light with two seasons of Premier League experience at Old Trafford.

"Paddy is a young, athletic player who is improving all the time. He has experience for Northern Ireland and we want to bring as many international players to the club as we can," Moyes said.

Scotland under-21 international Love, who can play at full-back or in midfield, made his senior debut for Manchester United last season, playing in both the Premier League and Europa League while also enjoying a successful spell on loan at Wigan Athletic.—*Reuters*

Ajax take Traore on loan from Chelsea

AMSTERDAM — Ajax Amsterdam have taken Bertrand Traore on loan from Chelsea for the season, Dutch media reported on Thursday.

The 20-year-old Burkina Faso international, who made his Premier League debut last December, arrives after Polish international striker Arek Milik moved to Napoli.

Traore will be reunited with coach Peter Bosz under whom he played at Vitesse Arnhem from 2013-15 on loan from Chelsea. He scored 16 goals in 14 Dutch league appearances at Vitesse.

Traore would be available for Tuesday's Champions League playoff fixture against Russia's Rostov, the reports added.—*Reuters*

Hingis and Mirza call time on doubles partnership

NEW DELHI — The leading women's doubles team of Martina Hingis and Sania Mirza have opted to end their partnership after suffering a slump in form following a trophy-laden 16 months together, the players confirmed on Thursday.

"After three grand slam victories and 11 WTA doubles titles together, we have mutually agreed that we would each be open to playing with other players for the remainder of the season," the pair said in a statement.

A former singles number one, Swiss Hingis partnered Indian Mirza for the first time at the Indian Wells Open last year and the self-styled "Santina" team went on to claim 14 titles, including wins at Wimbledon, and the US and Australian Opens.

Since their 41-match winning streak was snapped at the Qatar Open in February, the pair claimed the Rome title but failed to advance beyond the quarter-finals in their last four events.

"Perhaps, because of out great past results, we have had very high expectations from our partnership and unfortunately did not get the results we desired recently," they added. The pair will, however, reunite to defend their WTA Finals title in Singapore at the end of October.—*Reuters*

Switzerland's Martina Hingis and India's Sania Mirza celebrate after winning their doubles final match at the Australian Open tennis tournament at Melbourne Park, Australia, on 29 January. PHOTO: REUTERS

No Ibrahimovic but PSG primed to continue to rule in France

PARIS — Paris St Germain begin a less glamorous chapter of their Qatari-owned era following the departure of Zlatan Ibrahimovic, but they could be more even more lethal as a collective unit in their bid for a fifth successive Ligue 1 title.

For all their domestic dominance, PSG, backed by Qatar Sports Investment (QSI) since 2011, have failed to go past the last eight in the Champions League but they might now be better equipped to shine in Europe too.

Coach Laurent Blanc has been replaced by Basque Unai Emery, who led Sevilla to three Europa League titles, while former Dutch striker Patrick Kluivert is the club's new sporting director.

"The most important thing is to become a candidate to win the Champions League, it's a clear objective but we must not forget Ligue 1 and the Cups," Emery said. PSG won both the League and both French Cups in the last two seasons. They might have lost Ibrahimovic's scoring prowess, but they secured the services French prodigy Hatem Ben Arfa, as well as Real Madrid grown Jese.—*Reuters*

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