Myanmar army sues students over play

AFP, Yangon

A group of Myanmar students has been charged with defamation over a play containing jokes about military wives having affairs while their husbands are away fighting. Nine students were in a court near the southern city of Pathein on Wednesday, where they were told they would face trial over the

Clark to step down as UNDP chief in April

staged during a workshop

performance that was

promoting peace.

AFP, United Nations Helen Clark, the highest ranking woman at the United Nations, is stepping down as director of the UN Development Programme in April, according to an email seen by AFP on Wednesday. The former prime minister of New Zealand told UNDP staff that she had notified **UN Secretary General** Antonio Guterres of her intention to leave the top post on April 19, at the end of her second four-year term.

Palestinian attacker shot dead: Israel

AFP, Kochav Yaakov

Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank shot dead a Palestinian who drove at a bus stop in an attempted car-ramming attack Wednesday, a military spokeswoman told AFP. Nobody on the Israeli side was injured in the incident near a Jewish settlement southeast of the Palestinian city of Ramallah. The Palestinian Red Crescent named the dead man as Hussein Abu Ghosh, 24.

Philippines talks end with no ceasefire

AFP, Rome

A third round of peace talks between the Philippines and communist rebels ended Wednesday with no deal on a permanent ceasefire the government had billed as its primary goal. Both parties described a week of Norwegian-brokered negotiations on the outskirts of Rome as "successful" in a joint statement that was delayed by last-minute wrangling over wording.

Six people killed by Chile wildfires

AFP, Santiago

Six people -- among them four firefighters and two police -- have now been killed battling vast forest fires in central Chile, officials said Wednesday. "I can now say officially that there are two more fatalities -- two Chilean police who were found in the Maule River," said Interior Minister Mario Fernandez, raising the total death toll to six. Earlier in the day a firefighter died after getting stuck while trying to help a family escape from their home near the city of Constitucion.

Avalanches kill 10 soldiers in Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

Avalanches killed 10 Indian soldiers in Kashmir after cascading onto an army post and a patrol along the de facto border that divides the disputed territory with Pakistan, the military said

yesterday. The separate avalanches buried the soldiers under tonnes of snow on the Line of Control (LoC) in the remote Gurez area on Wednesday, an army

spokesman told AFP. A total of seven soldiers in the patrol, that was approaching a border post when it was hit, were killed. The avalanche that slammed into the army post left three soldiers dead, but seven

have been rescued. A search for the other missing soldiers was continuing, Colonel Rajesh Kalia said.

millions of refugees from Middle Eastern trouble spots

REUTERS, Washington

US President Donald Trump said on Wednesday he "will absolutely do safe zones in Syria" for refugees fleeing violence in the war-torn country.

Saying Europe had made a tremendous mistake by admitting millions of refugees from Syria and other Middle Eastern trouble spots, Trump told ABC News in an interview: "I don't want that to happen here."

"I'll absolutely do safe zones in Syria for the people," he added, without giving details.

According to a document seen by Reuters on Wednesday, Trump is expected to order the Pentagon and the State Department in coming days to craft a plan for setting up the "safe zones," a move that could risk escalation of US military involvement in Syria's civil war.

The draft executive order awaiting Trump's signature signaled the new administration was preparing a step that Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, long resisted, fearing the potential for being pulled deeper into

the bloody conflict and the threat of Huseyin Muftuoglu told reporters that clashes between US and Russian warplanes over Syria.

"The Secretary of State, in conjunction with the Secretary of Defense, is directed within 90 days of the date of this order to produce a plan to provide safe areas in Syria and in the surrounding region in which Syrian nationals

Pentagon would be given 90 days to draw up a method

Turkey waits to see outcome of US president's call

Qatar welcomes the pledge

displaced from their homeland can await firm settlement, such as repatriation or potential third-country resettlement," the draft order said.

Meanwhile, Turkey yesterday said it would watch closely Trump's reported interest in setting up safe zones in Syria to house refugees, an idea that Ankara has pushed for months.

Foreign ministry spokesman

Ankara would make an assessment after seeing what Washington proposed.

Qatar, a backer of rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, welcomed Trump's pledge to order safe zones in Syria, a foreign ministry official was quoted as saying by state news agency QNA yesterday.

Creation of safe zones could ratchet up US military involvement in Syria and mark a major departure from Obama's more cautious approach. Increased US or allied air power would be required if Trump chooses to enforce "no fly" restrictions, and ground forces might also be needed to protect civilians in those areas.

Still, the document gave no details on what would constitute a safe zone, exactly where they might be set up and who would defend them. Jordan, Turkey and other neighboring countries already host millions of Syrian refugees. The Turkish government had long pressed Obama, without success, for creation of a no-fly zone in Syria on its border with Turkey.

NEWSIN brief Says Europe made tremendous mistake by admitting Says Europe made tremendous mistake by admitting Japan, S Korea in Feb Japan, S Korea in Feb

In his first trip abroad, Mattis will discuss security co-op with US allies in the region He will meet with his counterparts and

AFP, Washington

US Defense Secretary James Mattis plans to travel to Japan and South Korea next month on his first trip as the Pentagon's new chief, a spokesman said Wednesday.

He is set to depart on February 1 for South Korea before traveling to Tokyo on February 3.

"The trip will underscore the commitment of the United States to our enduring alliances to Japan and the Republic of Korea, and further strengthen US/Japan/Republic of Korea security cooperation," Pentagon spokesman Jeff Davis said.

The trip comes amid worries among the two long-standing American allies about the direc-

tion of US policy in their region under President Donald Trump.

During his campaign, Trump threatened to withdraw US forces from the two countries if they do not step up their financial support.

Mattis will be the Trump administration's first senior official to shed light on specifics of Washington's intentions in the region.

threats to test an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of striking the US mainland. Trump has angered China with a hard line against Beijing, threatening an economic trade war and upending decades of US policy over Taiwan.

other senior officials, Davis said.

Tensions are also rising with China over its

moves to assert sovereignty in disputed areas of

the South China Sea, and over North Korean

region, the president this week withdrew the United States from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a freetrade agreement signed by former president Barack Obama but never ratified by Congress.

In another jarring note for the

The agreement was signed by 12 countries bordering the Pacific. In addition to the United States, signers include Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore and Vietnam.

Since his appointment earlier this month, Mattis has sought to reaffirm Washington's major alliances.



Indian Army's Infantry Combat Vehicles are displayed during 68th Republic Day parade in New Delhi yesterday. After the US and French presidents attended the last two events, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, was this year's chief guest as everyone from bagpipe-playing troops to schoolchildren paraded along the landmark Rajpath boulevard. PHOTO: REUTERS

ROW OVER 'FAKE JOBS' GIVEN TO WIFE Ex-French PM faces probe

Test to humanity

African refugee drowns in Venice as

tourists film on phones while laughing

AFP, Paris

French presidential candidate Francois Fillon ter explosive allegations that his wife received half a million euros (\$540,000) for "fake jobs".

The rightwing former prime minister Fillon, who polls show is likely to reach the second round of May's election, is facing an investigation into claims he handed his

British-born wife Penelope a fictitious paid role as a

parliamentary aide. Fillon's campaign manager, senator Bruno Retailleau, said the candidate's lawyer would contact the national financial prosecutor's office and "take them a certain number of documents".

MAIL ONLINE

phones.

"We will give all the pieces (of evidence) to the investigators very quickly," Retailleau said.

"It will then be between the investigators and Francois Fillon," he said, adding: "I tell you, this thing is going to fizzle out very quickly."

The allegations are potentially damaging to the 62-year-old, who owed some of his surprise victory over Nicolas Sarkozy in the rightwing primary contest to a "clean"

A migrant from Africa has drowned in

Venice's Grand Canal as tourists and locals

filmed the apparent suicide on their

Sabally, a 22-year-old Gambian, was seen

jumping into the water from a pier and

leap and at least three life rings were

thrown into the water near the man, but

he refused to hold on to them, raising

speculation he wanted to commit sui-

investigation into the incident after a video

of the scene was posted on the Internet

bystanders yelling at the flailing man. "He is

stupid. He wants to die," says one person.

Italian magistrates have opened an

The recording appears to pick up some

One person allegedly shouted: "Go

cide. No-one jumped in to help him.

amid claims of shouting racist abuse.

on, go back home."

swimming to the middle of the large canal.

The young migrant, named as Pateh

Hundreds of people witnessed the

image, contrasting with the former president's legal woes.

The claims first surfaced in the Canard | New Zealand passports are yesterday vowed to produce evidence to coun-Enchaine weekly, which mixes satire and investigative reporting.

The paper said it had been unable to find anyone who remembered Penelope working in parliament.

Fillon has dismissed the allegations, which are dominating coverage of the campaign, as "mudslinging" and

"misogynistic". In a statement later Wednesday, Fillon said he hoped to speak to investigators "as soon as possi-

ble (to) set out the truth", adding that the claims were "baseless". Fillon's spokesman Thierry Solere confirmed to AFP on Tuesday that Penelope had worked for her husband

and said the arrangement was "common" among French MPs. Hiring family members is not against the rules if the person is genuinely employed, but attention is focused on precisely what

work Penelope carried out for a salary of sometimes around 7,000 euros a month.

In the video, onlookers start to laugh

Hundreds witnessed the migrant's

and one man can be heard saying, "Let

death and later saw his dead body being

pulled out of the water wrapped in a blue

bag and tied to a ladder. A taxi driver told

local media: "A young man threw himself

into the water and two or three life jackets

were thrown from the boat but he refused

I do not know the story of this guy. They

have said he is African. Who knows what

he's been through, how many seas and

deserts he has crossed? And he came to die

confirmed that the drowning had seemed

to be a suicide. He said: "He threw himself

from the pier. At first I thought he slipped

but when I saw they threw lifebuoys and

saw that he refused, I realised that he had

decided to call it quits." Italian media said

Sabally had residency papers for Italy.

Witness Abdus Sattar from Bangladesh

in the most beautiful city in the world."

A fellow cabbie added: "This is despair.

him die at this point."

the help."

NZ PM denies passports for sale to rich

AFP, Wellington

not for sale, Prime Minister Bill English said yesterday, after it emerged US tech titan Peter Thiel gained citizenship in the South Pacific nation despite not meeting official criteria.

The dispute over Thiel's citizenship follows reports that mega-wealthy Americans are eyeing the remote South Pacific nation as a "bolthole" should Donald Trump's presidency go disastrously wrong.

The government confirmed this week that German-born billionaire Thiel was granted citizenship in June 2011, just two months after donating NZ\$1.0 million (US\$730,000) to an official Christchurch quake disaster fund.

English acknowledged



Thiel did not meet the usual requirements -- living at least 70 percent of the previous five years in New Zealand -- but said he was granted citizenship due to exceptional circumstances.

"New Zealand is a better place with Mr Thiel as a citizen," English told reporters.

He declined to detail the exceptional circumstances and dismissed as "ridiculous" suggestions New Zealand had sold citizenship to Thiel, who Forbes estimates is worth US\$2.7 billion.

"It's not a case of whether wealthy people can jump the queue," English said.

"It's whether people have particular skills, particular contributions that don't quite meet the criteria," he added.

Russia Security Fears Nato troops arrive in Lithuania

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK

The first of a 1,200-strong Nato force have arrived in Lithuania for deployment close to a key Russian exclave, amid growing security fears.

German officers have landed in the capital of Vilnius to coordinate the deployment.

More than 100 Belgian army troops and five dozen military vehicles also arrived in the port of Klaipeda, 37 miles from Russia's Kaliningrad exclave, which has a navy base and long-range missile systems.

Kaliningrad is squeezed between Lithuania and Poland. The Belgians will join German, Dutch, and Norwegian troops at the Rukla base in central Lithuania. At last year's Nato summit in Warsaw, the alliance

decided to deploy forces in the countries bordering Russia and Belarus. There is a fear in the Baltic countries and Poland, that after Russia displayed its might in Georgia and Ukraine, the

former Soviet republics could be next. Earlier this month, dozens of US Special Forces soldiers were deployed along Europe's eastern flank to reassure

Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia. Britain will send an 800-strong battalion to Estonia, supported by French and Danish troops, from May.

Elsewhere, Canada is sending 450 troops to Latvia. In October, Russia deployed nuclear-capable Iskander missiles to its Kaliningrad exclave.

Lithuania's President Dalia Grybauskaite has called Berlin's decision to lead the Nato battalion a "breakthrough" toward it playing a greater role in European defence.

The deployment began days after the inauguration of maverick US President Donald Trump who has suggested

he may seek to improve ties with Moscow, reports AFP. The Nato operation has sparked anger in the Kremlin, which insists that the US-led alliance is trying to encircle Russia.



Heavy snowfall kills 27 Afghan children AFP, Mazar-i-sharif

Heavy snowfall and freezing weather has killed 27 children, all under the age of five, in a remote district in northern Afghanistan, officials said yesterday, with fears the toll could rise. Roads in Darzaab in

northern Jawzjan province

were blocked by 50 centimetres (20 inches) of snow, cutting off access for villagers in the area to medical care as temperatures plunged to -10 degrees Celsius (14 Fahrenheit). "Unfortunately we have 27 children killed due to

heavy snowfall and freezing weather," district governor Rahmatullah Hashar told AFP, saying the deaths had occurred over the last two or three days. All the children were

adding the blocked roads mean the toll could still increase. The deaths were confirmed by the Jawzjan pro-

under the age of five, he said,

vincial governor's spokesman, Reza Ghafoori, who said aid would be delivered via emergency committees.

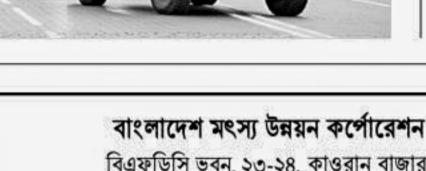
Heavy snowfall and avalanches kill scores of people in Afghanistan each winter.

In 2015, avalanches killed some 300 people across the country, the bulk of them in the mountainous province

of Panjshir, north of Kabul. Rescue efforts after disasters such as avalanches and flash floods, which often hit as snows melt in the spring,

are frequently hampered by

lack of equipment.



বিএফডিসি ভবন, ২৩-২৪, কাওরান বাজার তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫

ফোনঃ ৯১৪০৮০১, ৯১৪০৮০৬, ৯১৪৪৪০৫, ৯১৪৩৪৯৪

Email: bfdc 64@yahoo.com Fax: 880-2-55011853

"ইন্টেরিয়র কাজের পুনঃ দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

২৩-২৪, কাওরান বাজার, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

২৩-২৪, কাওরান বাজার, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

২৩-২৪, কাওরান বাজার, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫।

প্রধান কার্যালয়, বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন

ক) বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-দরপত্রের বিষয়

দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের তারিখ ও সময় দরপত্র সিডিউল প্রাপ্তির স্থান

দরপত্র খোলার স্থান, তারিখ ও

দরপত্র সিডিউল জমা দেয়ার স্থান, তারিখ ও সময়

দরপত্র সিডিউলের মুল্য আর্নেষ্টমানির পরিমাণ

তারিখঃ ০৯/০২/২০১৭ খ্রিঃ ইং সময়ঃ দুপুর ১২.৩০ ঘটিকা। প্রতি সেট ১,০০০/- (এক হাজার) টাকা মাত্র (অফেরৎযোগ্য)।

কোন সিডিউল ব্যাংক থেকে "বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন, ঢাকা" এর অনুকুলে ৪০,০০০/- (চল্লিশ হাজার) টাকার আর্নেষ্টমানি পে-অর্ডার/ডিডি আকারে দরপত্রের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে (যা ফেরংযোগ্য)।

: ৩৩.০৩.০০০০.১০২.০৩.২১৯.১৬.৩৭ তারিখঃ ২২.০১.২০১৭ খ্রিঃ

হিসাব বিভাগ, বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়

বাংলাদেশ মৎস্য উন্নয়ন কর্পোরেশন, প্রধান কার্যালয়ের ৫ম তলার ইন্টিরিয়র কাজ।

২৯/০১/২০১৭ হতে ০৭/০২/২০১৭ খ্রিঃ প্রত্যহ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত।

তারিখঃ ০৯/০২/২০১৭ খ্রিঃ সকাল ০৯.০০ টা হতে দুপুর ১২.০০ টা পর্যন্ত।

দরদাতার মূল যোগ্যতা

করতে হবে

রাষ্ট্রয়াত ব্যাংক/বেসরকারি ব্যাংকে কমপক্ষে ০৩ (তিন) বছরের কাজের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। ক) দরপত্র ক্রয়ের মূল রশিদ। খ) ব্যবসায়িক হালনাগাদ ট্রেড লাইসেন্সের সত্যায়িত কপি।

দরদাতাকে ইন্টেরিয়র সংস্থাপন কাজে সরকারি/আধা সরকারি/ স্বায়ত শাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান

গ) হালনাগাদ ভ্যাট ও আয়কর পরিশোধের সনদপত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।

ঘ) দরদাতার নিজস্ব ব্যাংক একাউন্টসে কমপক্ষে ১০.০০ লক্ষ টাকার লিক্যুইড মানি থাকতে হবে। ঙ) জাতীয় পরিচয় পত্রের সত্যায়িত কপি।

চ) দরদাতাগণ ইচ্ছা করলে ইন্টেরিয়র কাজের ডুইং-ডিজাইন সংযুক্ত করতে

৩০ (ত্রিশ) কার্য দিবস। ১১। কার্য সম্পাদনের সময়সীমা

নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না এবং অসম্পূর্ণ ও ত্রুটিপূর্ণ দরপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলে গণ্য হবে।

পরিচালক (ক্রয় ও বিপণন)। দুরাঃ ৯১৪৪৪০৫

GD-222

কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে কর্তৃপক্ষ যে কোন দরপত্র অথবা সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ অথবা বাতিলের ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।