

Myanmar or Burma? Take your choice, Suu Kyi tells diplomats

NAYPYITAW, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar's de facto leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, has made it clear to foreign diplomats: It doesn't matter if they call her country Myanmar, or its old name, Burma.

Suu Kyi gave her position in a speech to the foreign diplomatic corps. She is the government's de facto leader in the specially created post of state counsellor, and also is foreign minister. Her National League for Democracy party took power from an army-backed government at the end of March.

Democracy supporters in Burma balked when the then-ruling military renamed the country Myanmar in 1989. The military in turn was irritated when activists and their supporters abroad — including many western governments — insisted on sticking with the old name.

As she explained her policy of friendship and mutual benefit to the diplomats, Suu Kyi interrupted herself to say she should clear up the matter of what name to use for her country "because there are some members of the diplomatic corps who don't know quite which term to use."

"So it is up to you, because there is nothing in the constitution of our country



COUNTRY CONUNDRUM. Myanmar foreign minister Aung San Suu Kyi speaks during a meeting with diplomats at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. Suu Kyi, Myanmar's de facto leader, has made it clear to foreign diplomats: It doesn't matter if they call her country Myanmar, or its old name, Burma. (AP Photo/Aung Shine Oo)

credentials a year after its bloody suppression of mass pro-democracy demonstrations in 1988. It also changed the style of many place names, including the then-capital, Rangoon, which became Yangon.

Its opponents sought to deny the army regime's legitimacy by rejecting the name changes.

It was an argument fought mostly on the international stage, since the country's name remained the same in the national language, and the English versions, Burma and Myanmar, both derive from the same Burmese word.

Suu Kyi is the country's most popular political figure but was unable to become president because of a clause in the military-imposed constitution that bars anyone with a foreign spouse or child from holding the job. Her two sons are British, as was her late husband.

that says that you must use any term in particular," she said. "I use Burma very often because I am used to using it. But it does not mean that I require other people to do that as well.

"And I'll make an effort to say Myanmar from time to time so you all feel comfortable," she told her audibly amused

audience. "This is what diplomacy, I think, is all about. We have to learn to accommodate each other."

The generals changed the country's name as a nationalistic gesture, spurning the name that was handed down from when the country was a British colony.

The military sought to boost its patriotic

South Korea unveils Zika-proof Olympic uniforms

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea's Olympic committee has unveiled Zika-proof uniforms complete with mosquito repellent it says will help protect athletes from the virus at this year's games in Rio de Janeiro.

Mosquito-repellent chemicals were added to the outfits, which all include long pants, long-sleeved shirts, and jackets. The uniforms will be worn by athletes during ceremonies, training, and at the athletes' village, the Korean Olympic Committee said.

The committee said it couldn't make changes to the uniforms worn during competition because of strict rules and performance concerns, although athletes will be allowed to use anti-mosquito spray during competition.

Brazil has been fighting the spread of the Zika virus, which causes severe birth defects, including microcephaly, a condition in which a baby's head is significantly smaller than normal. The threat of Zika has emerged as a major concern in the buildup to this year's Olympics along with construction delays and the political turmoil in Brazil.

A team of South Korean government and Olympic officials visited Rio de Janeiro in April to inspect Olympic venues and local hospitals. The Korean Olympic Committee said it expects to soon provide guidelines to Olympic



ZIKA-PROOF UNIFORMS. South Korean Olympic athletes and models present the South Korean Olympic team uniforms for the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Olympic Games at the Korean National Training Center in Seoul, South Korea. South Korea's Olympic committee unveiled long-sleeved shirts and pants it says will help protect the country's Olympic athletes from the mosquito-borne Zika virus at this year's games in Rio de Janeiro. (AP Photo/Lee Jin-man)

athletes and others travelling to the games about how to protect themselves from Zika.

The U.S. team also revealed its Ralph Lauren-designed closing-ceremony outfits, and the Americans don't seem as worried. The men and women will wear shorts.

Cats at Japan's 'cat cafés' now allowed to stay up until 10

By Mari Yamaguchi
The Associated Press

TOKYO — Felines at Japan's popular "cat cafés" are now allowed to stay up until 10:00pm to interact with customers. The Environment Ministry's animal-rights panel says the cats will be allowed to hang out two hours later than the old guidelines allowed.

Under the 2012 guidelines, cats and other animals at pet shops could not be displayed after 8:00pm.

Cat cafés — establishments where customers can see and play with cats — were provisionally allowed to have their cats out until 10:00pm while the impact of the nightlife on their health could be studied. During the trial period, only cats age one or older that were free to take a break were allowed to be out at cafés for up to 12 hours.

Experts concluded that the late hours had no noticeable effect on the cats' stress levels.

Café owners say their felines are not under stress while being out late because they are nocturnal anyway and become used to a café environment while growing up.

Japan has hundreds of cat cafés. Tokyo alone has more than 50 that are frequented by tourists and students during the day and by many others who visit after work.

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CRC holds appeal hearings of police misconduct investigations; listens to community concerns; periodically serves on the Police Review Board, an advisory body to the Chief of Police that makes recommendations as to findings and discipline of sworn police members; reviews Police Bureau policies; and advises IPR on complaint handling processes.

CRC members are appointed by Portland City Council to serve three-year terms. Candidates must be Portland, Oregon, residents or business owners, and be impartial and objective in regards to law enforcement.

Applications are available at
www.portlandoregon.gov/auditor/ipr
 or the IPR office: City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Avenue, Room 140, Portland, OR 97204.

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