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THREE AND COUNTING

Maubin industrial zone to become 3rd zone

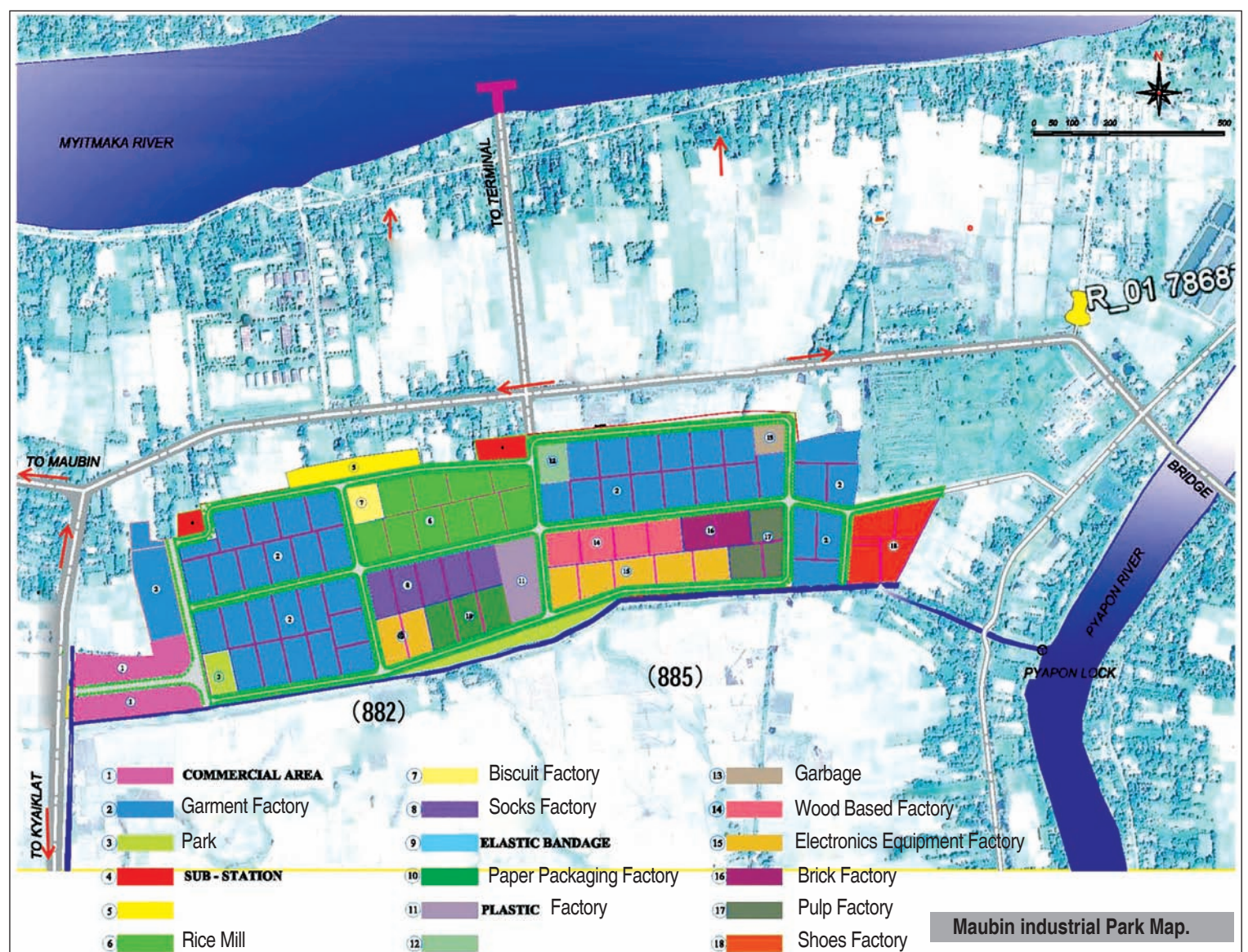
MAUBIN industrial zone will be established on 283.41 acres of land in Maubin in three years, it is reported.

This zone will be set up between Nyaungwine village-tract and Pantaput village-tract in Maubin Township. The project aims at developing the socio-economic status of the local people.

Maubin industrial zone was initiated with 26 shareholders from Maubin Development Company Limited which has now been turned into Maubin Development Public Company Limited, with 134 shareholders, the majority of which are farmers. This Maubin Development Public Company has established a joint venture with Shanghai Yangon Investment Company Limited and Southern Metal Industry, with Shanghai keeping 55 per cent of shares while Southern, 15 per cent of shares.

The project will include 42 factories relating to clothes, 3 factories of foodstuff, 3 factories of household goods, one literature and entertainment factory, one electric product factory, with a total of 50 factories. Around Ks269,100million are expected to be invested in this project. The infrastructure construction is expected to spend Ks22,113million, with a total of estimated investment of Ks291,213million. With the construction of the factories, job opportunities can be created for 77,000 locals.

"There is no heavy industry of agriculture and breeding in Maubin. Therefore, we have come up with an idea of implementing the industrial zone in this township. The farmers are happy to be a part of this project because there are a total of 108 farmer shareholders



in this project. Currently, we have requested the authorities concerned to grant permit to use the farmland for other purposes. We cannot expect when we will get the electricity supply. But we know power will be supplied by electric power corporation of Kyaikelat Township. There is also a proposal

offered by a solar company. Electricity supply will be enough after Maubin project is completed," said U Win Hlaing, the vice chairman of Maubin Industrial Zone project.

Currently, infrastructures like the foundation, the roads, the ditches for waste water and the fences have already been built as an initial

step of the project. The survey on the housing project for the farmer shareholders has also been conducted.

What makes Maubin industrial zone unique is that the shares are held by farmers. The training courses like sewing and capacity building courses will soon be con-

ducted for the local people.

The first industrial zone is in Yangon and the second one is in Mandalay. Maubin industrial zone will be the third one. This Maubin industrial project is slated to complete within three years, according to the Maubin industrial zone. — Soe Win (MLA)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi to hold talks with UNFC's Chairman on 17 July

STATE COUNSELLOR Daw Aung San Suu Kyi and the United Nationalities Federation Council's Delegation for Political Negotiation-DPN will hold talks on 17 July in Yangon for the first time.

"The meeting between the

State Counsellor and the United Nationalities Federal Council led by U N'Ban La, Chairman of the United Nationalities Federal Council, is scheduled to take place on the evening of 17 July at the National Reconciliation and Peace Centre," said U

Hla Maung Shwe, Secretary of the Preparatory Committee for holding the Union Peace Conference—21st Century Panglong.

The upcoming meeting comes after a request from UNFC delegation at the 3 June meeting with the preparatory

sub-committee-2.

During the meeting with the Union Peace Conference-21st Century Panglong preparatory committee, United Nationalities Federal Council's Delegation for Political Negotiation-DPN expressed its willingness to

work out ways for non-signatory ethnic-armed organisations to join the Nationwide Cease-fire Agreement and participate in the Union Peace Conference and what the objectives and nature of the conference are. —Ye Khaung Nyunt

Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects construction and reclamation works in Sagaing Region

AS CHAIRMAN of the National Natural Disaster Management Committee, Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspected the Yazagyo Dam in Sagaing Region yesterday.

Department officials briefed U Henry Van Thio on arrangements for electricity generation, irrigation capacity and stability of the facility, with local officials explaining the ongoing rehabilitation of Kalay region and measures for disaster preparedness, after serious flooding last year.

After hearing the briefings, U Henry Van Thio urged officials

to clear all doubts and anxieties from the mind of the people by feeding the correct information about the safety of the dam.

The Yazagyo dam is located on the Nerinzara creek two miles north of Kalay township in Sagaing Region. The facility can feed 52,000 acres of fields, with a capacity to annually generate 21 billion kilowatt hours of electricity on average.

U Henry Van Thio also inspected the reclamation of creeks and the construction of bridges in nearby villages. —*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Henry Van Thio inspects the Yazagyo Dam in Sagaing. PHOTO: MNA

Workshops aim to improve ability of Myanmar scout trainers

A WORKSHOP will be held to develop the membership registration system for Myanmar scouts from today to 14 July with the aim of promoting local scout trainers.

The national level workshop on drafting national training system for Myanmar scout will also be held between 16 and 19 July to improve scout industry.

Both workshops are planned to take place at No.1 Basic Education High School in Lanmadaw Township in Yangon.

Myanmar Scout Federation's movement to receive a global membership certificate from the World Scout Bureau, development of membership registration system for Myanmar scout, scout movements of the WSB and Asia-Pacific Scout Region (APR) and activities of local scout members will be discussed at the events by 12 officials from the WSB, the APR and the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM).

Senior scouts from the Myanmar Scout Federation and scout trainers under Department of Higher Education and Department of Basic Education have been invited to attend both workshops. —*Ko Latt (Myanmar News Agency)*

Speaker urges representatives to serve the people



Mahn Win Khaing Than greeting locals. PHOTO: MNA

Parliamentary representatives are to serve the people and make their voices heard in parliament, Mahn Win Khaing Than, Speaker of both Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and Amyotha Hluttaw, said in a meeting with local residents in Hinthada, Ayeyawady Region, on 9 July.

"The parliament will always fulfil people's wishes in the exercise of legislative, executive and judicial powers," said Mahn Win Khaing Than, encouraging residents to file complaints about unfair treatment with the parlia-

ment's public complaints committee.

Representatives should draw a line between legislation and administration, with Mahn Win Khaing Than warning against their interference in administration as their primary task is to legislate to protect public interests.

Mahn Win Khaing Than pushed the local residents for closer cooperation with the parliament and the government in the path to national development. —*Myanmar News Agency*

POEM:

Occupational Safety and Health

OSH, as many may see it, is not just providing Personnel Protective Equipment and the same using.

No doubt, appropriate PPEs are a requirement, but at the very core of the OSH movement is identification of occupational hazards at workplace and eliminating or protecting against them at source, either by simple mechanical means such as fitting guards to protect against accidents happening or built in protective devices of safety engineering to eradicate danger to worker and surrounding.

An often seen accident causing predicament is using low tech machinery and equipment for highly hazardous processes particularly in some of the hazard prone extractive industry

which may result in accidents and to increasing long term risk of Occupational Disease contracting. At the high end of the industrial technology safety scene are deliberate shut down of processes and plants has been when industrial wastes, runaway chemical or nuclear reaction caused Major Accidents resulting in death and destruction of the population and the environment as had occurred in past Major Industrial Accidents around the world.

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New Companies Act to relieve some burdens on SMEs

The upgraded Myanmar companies act will remove some burdens on small and medium enterprises, according to the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration (DICA).

"We have upgraded some of the provisions (of the existing Myanmar companies act) to be in line with the current situations and to help promote the SMEs and small companies in Myanmar," said U Aung Naing Oo, Director-General of the Directorate of Investment and Companies Administration at a recent forum in Yangon.

The new draft of Myanmar Companies Act will simplify the procedures for corporate business but also promote collaboration between Myanmar companies and foreign firms and facilitate foreign investment in capital market, especially the YSX, according to DICA.

The old law was promulgated in 1914.

DICA hopes to submit this new Myanmar Companies Act to Parliament within two months, with the expectation to be able to enact within this year.

At the moment, 90 per cent of Myanmar Businesses are SMEs. The Small and Medium



A small enterprise being seen in Mandalay. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Industrial Development Bank (SMIDB) is to provide US\$20bn in loans but only US\$11bn will be given because the rest cannot pay for mortgages.

Meanwhile, Cooperative Bank (CB), commonly known as

CB Bank, announced last month to grant two types of loans under a Credit Guarantee Insurance system to SMEs in Mandalay Region.

Some businesses will be able to apply for limitless loans

while others who cannot provide enough collaterals are set to Ks20m. Businesses can receive loans within two weeks if they have been operating for two years, after supplying necessary information.—GNLM

Research and Development vital to higher education

Education Union Minister, Dr Myo Thein Gyi, told faculty members of Yangon Institute of Education (YIE) research and development is vital to higher education institutions. Dr Myo Thein Gyi said that his ministry prioritised the implementation of a compulsory primary education in line with the National Education Law, aiming to ensure easy access to primary education for every child of school age.

The union minister described the YIE as the life-blood of the basic and higher education sectors, saying that education institutions play a vital role in the empowerment of teachers. He stressed the importance of the quality of teaching and learning, urging teachers to focus on classroom setting training. He also called on educators to conduct extensive field research to help curriculum development that reflects real-life concepts in education, describing research as central to higher education.

Dr Aye Aye Myint, Rector of Yangon Institute of Education, summarised the salient points of her institute.—Myanmar News Agency



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Bogyoke Aung San memorial park in Pyinmana under renovation

AUTHORITIES are carrying out heavy maintenance of the park with the Bogyoke Aung San Statue, which was built in Pyinmana in 1964.

The works including renovation of the place for laying wreaths and reconstruction of the place for paying tribute to the fallen national leader would cost around K12.5 million, according to Pyinmana Township Pyithu Hluttaw MP U Than Soe Aung.

Local people funded the works and the park would be opened to coincide with the ceremony to commemorate the 69th



Bogyoke Aung San memorial park in Pyinmana is under renovation.

PHOTO: THEIN KO LWIN

Martyrs' Day.

"We, as residents of Pyinmana, take pride in renovation of the Bogyoke bronze statue to enable the residents to pay tribute

to Bogyoke Aung San on grand scale on the Martyrs' Day," said Ko Myo Zaw from Pyinmana Youth's Organization.—*Thein Ko Lwin*

Police uncover nearly 60 human trafficking cases in first half of year

MYANMAR'S Trafficking in Persons Division exposed nearly 60 cases within the first half of this year, arresting 98 traffickers but other 67 on the lamb. Authorities uncovered 12 cases in January, 12 cases in February, 10 cases in March, four cases in April, three cases in May and 16 cases in June.

Police rescued nearly 130 victims who were sold into forced labour and forced marriage in neighbouring countries between January and June this year.

26 cases originated from Shan State, the highest in the

country, followed by Kachin State with eight cases and Yangon with six cases. Mandalay, Sagaing, Taninthayi, Magwe and Aye-yawady regions as well as Kayin, Mon and Rakhine states have all fewer than six cases but there are no reports of human trafficking cases in the capital Nay Pyi Taw and Bago Region this year.

Human trafficking is a serious issue in developing countries. Most Myanmar victims were sold into forced marriages in China and forced labour in Thailand, with the majority of them being hapless women.—*GNLM*

Crime NEWS

Two killed, 29 injured in high-speed car crash

Two people were killed and 29 others were seriously injured in a high-speed car crash on Yangon-Mandalay highway on 9 July, according to highway police.

A light truck with 31 pilgrims on board to the Jade Pagoda in Mandalay Region overturned at high speed near the Milepost 239 on the highway.

Police said that school chil-

dren and teachers were making a pilgrimage to Mandalay when the incident broke out at 12:45pm.

The driver and a retired school teacher were killed in the disaster. The injured people were taken to a hospital in Nay Pyi Taw an hour later, with a doctor saying that four were in serious conditions.—*Than Oo (Layhmyatnar)*



Highway police looks into the light truck after the accident.

PHOTO: POLICE



The truck loaded with illegal hardwoods. PHOTO: MIN KHANT SOE (ZEYAMYE)

Illegal harvested hardwood seized in Sagaing

THE illegal harvested hardwood weighing over ten tonnes was seized by Yimabin District authorities, in Sagaing Region on Saturday, arresting two traffickers.

After a tip-off to police from a member of public, a special squad including members of forest

department and police inspected Myaukyama Dam near Pale-Gant-gaw Road in Padaukgon Street in Pale Township. They searched a suspected truck being driven by Sai Kham and found 30 Padauk logs weighing nearly over five tonnes.

Police also collected 29 Pyin-

gado logs weighting nearly six tonnes from Kyaw Hsan who carried them on six-wheel truck along Pale-Gantgaw Road on the same day.

Both suspects have been charged by the township police.—*Min Khant Soe (Zeyamye)*

Young man wanted for robbery

Two out of three suspects have been nabbed by police in Meiktila township where they have been accused of stealing two mobile phones, a gold bracelet, Ks5,000 and a bag on 5 July.

They were arrested near the scene on Friday morning.

Police say they can arrest

two out of three suspects named Hlawn Moe Naing (aka Phoe Thae or Toe Gyi) and Min Khant. Nga Shine is the remaining suspect on the lamb (aka Shine Thu Zaw. All suspects will be charged under Section 382 of the Criminal Law.—*Tin Mung (Mandalay Sub-printing House)*

Two missing after fishing boat sinks

Two fisherman are missing after their boat sank near Ngayokekaung Township in Patheingyi District on Friday, with one managing to be rescued.

"Due to the storm and rough sea conditions, the small fishing vessel carrying three fishermen sank in the sea," said U Rakh-

ine, one of three fishermen, who escaped from the marine accident.

Large fishing vessels are combing the area.

U Rakhine phoned the families of U Hsan Thein and U Hsan Aye, the missing men.—*Pyong Maung Maung (IPRD)*

Short-Circuit fire destroys mobile sale centres in Mandalay

A fire caused by a short circuit broke out in Nahtogyi, a town in Mandalay Region, on Thursday evening, destroying four shops with no one injured in the blaze, said police.

The flame started in a retail store selling mobile handsets and other electronic devices located in Ward-1 in Nahtogyi Township. The two mobile sales and services centers, a textile shop and a pharmacy shop were damaged in the flame. The responsible shop owner has been charged by the police under Section 285 of the Criminal Law.—*Than Zaw Aung*

LOCAL Business

Aviation fuel stations to be built across nation

Aviation fuel stations will be built across the country following the construction of Mingaladon aviation fuel division at Yangon International Airport, according to Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise (MPPE) under the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

Fuel stations will be constructed at the following domestic airports: Nay Pyi Taw, TadaOo, Myitkyina, Heho, Sittwe, Dawei, Myeik, Mawlamyine, Kawthaung,

Tachilek and Kyaukphyu.

Myanmar Petroleum Products Enterprise will import and distribute aviation fuel in cooperation with Puma Energy Group Pte Ltd. based in Singapore that won the tender. MPPE has already entered into an agreement with Puma Energy Pte Ltd. during June to conduct a joint venture under the name of National Energy Puma Aviation Services Co., Ltd. The company will begin operations on 15 July.—200

Vehicles imported through border need to be in accord with three rules

Only vehicles that are in accord with three prescribed rules by the Customs department will be allowed to be imported through border trade zones from 12 July as illicit importing has increased at the Myawady-Mae Sot border, said an official from the Customs Department.

The three rules for importation of vehicles via border trade are: Export Certificate (Cancellation), checking the vehicles and documents and certifying that the

vehicles are manufactured legally. Only vehicles that are in accordance with the prescribed rules and regulations will be allowed.

Some illegally imported vehicles are seen in the border areas. Wagons for six or nine passengers are being imported with the permit for Mini Bus for ten plus passengers. Hiace are also being imported with extra seats added. Customs department is checking imported vehicles in border areas.—200

Thanhlyin bridge won't shake property market

Thanhlyin real estate market is not shaken by the news of construction of the new Yangon- Thanhlyin Bridge, said U Kyaw Tint, a sub-committee member of Myanmar Real Estate Services Association (MRESA).

Usually real estate prices increase when there is news that a bridge will be built. However, the realtors and the realty agents are not very much excited about the news of construction project of Thanhlyin new bridge.

The new Thanhlyin bridge will be built between No.1 Thanhlyin bridge and No.2 Thanhlyin bridge. The reason for the real estate price not increasing is because of the vast areas of land in Thanhlyin. Thanhlyin town has already been developed unlike the towns like Dala and Hlaingthaya.

“The project of the new bridge has been formulated with the assistance of architects from Taipei. Construction is expected to take five years at a cost of US\$86m,” said U Sein Lwin, the chairman of Yadana Shin Thant Company who is involved in the construction of the new bridge.—200



Paddy being seen dried in the sun. PHOTO: AUNG THANT KHAING

Old rice prices stable despite decline in export price of rice to China

The prices of old rice are still stable despite a decline in export prices of rice to China.

Prices of low-quality rice in Mandalay market is on the decline because of China's low demand for low-quality rice and Chinese Yuan depreciation, said U Thein Zaw, the chairman of Mandalay Rice Depot.

Myanmar's low quality rice market is depending on the demand from China and Yuan exchange rate. Besides, the local consumption of low quality rice has also declined.

The major merchants from China do not purchase in bulk because of the seizure of illegal inflow of trade. Some local rice merchants have turned to sugar trading. However, the price of the old rice is still stable, he added.

The price of the exported low quality rice to China has decreased by Ks500 to Ks700

per bag. The value of Yuan has also declined from 5.59 on 18th June to 5.72 per Ks1,000 on 10th July. The torrential rains in Myitkyina, Phakant, Laukkai badly affect the rice trading and the demand has been on the decline.

The transportation has thus caused delays. Besides, the rice merchants cannot purchase rice because some rice shops are closed because of bad weather, he continued.

The rice merchants suggest that the government provide subsidies rather than provide agricultural loans in order that production costs can be reduced, pedigree seeds can be bought at a cheaper price and the high quality chemical fertilizers can be utilized well enough.

Currently, the local farmers mostly use the fertilizers made in China, which does not meet the quality. The closure of China border gates might affect the rain

crops after harvesting. We need to seek the new market from other foreign countries, said Ko Sai Kyaw, a rice merchant.

Myanmar exported 13,755 tonnes of rice worth US\$5.4million to Indonesia. About 300,000 tonnes of rice are offered to purchase from India following the previous rice export of high quality when compared to that of neighbouring countries and thus, Myanmar and India have already signed a government to government (G to G) agreement.

Free trade can enhance the trade volume of the country. Non-tariff barriers play an important role in bilateral trade, said U Min Aung, the secretary of Myanmar Rice Federation on his facebook.

The local price of the rice ranges from Ks22,000 to Ks43,000, depending on the rice variety during the first week of July.—Aung Thant Khaing



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Critic of Cambodian government shot dead in capital

PHNOM PENH — A critic of the Cambodian government was shot dead in the capital on Sunday, at a time of rising political tension between Prime Minister Hun Sen and an opposition hoping to challenge his grip on power in elections as soon as next year.

Kem Ley, 46, the head of a grassroots advocacy group, “Khmer for Khmer” was shot three times in a store at a gas station in Phnom Penh, police said.

“Kem Ley was shot dead,” Eng Hy, a spokesman for the National Military Police, told Reuters, but declined to provide further details.

A 38-year old suspect has been arrested and admitted to killing Kem Ley in a dispute over money, Cambodia’s Interior Ministry said in a statement.

Videos of the attacker’s confession spread widely on social media soon after the killing. Reuters was unable to independently verify the video.

A Reuters witness saw Kem Ley’s body lying in a



Relatives of Kem Ley, anti-government figure and the head of a grassroots advocacy group, ‘Khmer for Khmer’ sit inside a gas station after he was shot dead in Phnom Penh July 10, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

pool of blood on the floor of the store, with hundreds of onlookers gathered around it. A water bottle and a cell-phone were strewn nearby.

Kem Ley’s pregnant wife, Pou Rachana, wept.

“I don’t know what happened, somebody just called me and said that

he’s shot,” Pou Rachana told Reuters. “He’s already dead,” she added, as investigators kept her away from the body of her husband.

Supporters gathered at the gas station to prevent police from taking away the body, as some of them wanted to carry it on

a march through the streets of the capital.

The United States embassy in Phnom Penh said Kem Ley was one of Cambodia’s most prominent political analysts while Britain’s envoy called his death a serious loss to the country.

Political tension is growing between Hun Sen and the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), which wants to take on the prime minister in local elections in 2017 and a general election in 2018.

A popular political commentator and researcher, Kem Ley was frequently critical of Hun Sen’s administration, having most recently commented on a report by anti-corruption pressure group Global Witness.

The report, which accused the prime minister and his family of having amassed \$200 million in business interests, has been dismissed by a government spokesman as propaganda. —Reuters

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Gunmen kidnap three Indonesians off Malaysian state of Sabah

KUALA LUMPUR — Gunmen kidnapped three Indonesian tugboat crew off Malaysia’s eastern state of Sabah, police said on Sunday, the latest in a string of abductions in a region noted for kidnappings by Islamist militants.

It was not immediately clear whether the men

were seized by Abu Sayyaf, a group linked to Islamic State that is responsible for recent beheadings of Western hostages and notorious for the extortion of millions of dollars in ransoms.

The tugboat, with a crew of seven, was in waters off the east coast of Sabah on Borneo island, about 8 nau-

tical miles from shore, regional marine police said, when it was attacked by armed men in a white boat late on Saturday.

“The suspects inquired who had their passports with them, and the three who did were taken into their boat, while the four who did not were left behind,” marine

police said in a media statement. The five armed abductors spoke in Malay and the local Suluk dialect, the police added. Police in Sabah are expected to hold a news conference later on Sunday. In Jakarta, the Indonesian foreign ministry said it had no information yet on the abductions. —Reuters

Typhoon Nepartak leaves 2 dead, 17 missing in east China

FUZHOU — Two people have died and 17 remain missing after Typhoon Nepartak made landfall and swept through east China’s Fujian Province, authorities said Sunday.

As of 1 p.m., 438,000 residents in nine cities had been temporarily relocated as the typhoon destroyed more than 1,000 houses, according to a written statement issued by the provincial flood control office.

Nearly 49,000 hectares of crops were damaged by the typhoon, 4,500 hectares of which were totally destroyed. Nearly 400 flights were canceled, and more than 300 bullet trains



Firemen carry out rescue work at a gas station destroyed by landslide in Zhangping, southeast China’s Fujian Province, on 10 July 2016. PHOTO: XINHUA

were suspended, according to the statement. Heavy rain is forecast to continue in the province, and the above

numbers may rise. Nepartak has faded into a tropical depression, but will continue to bring wind and rain to

provinces including Jiangxi and Zhejiang, bringing more risks to the already-weather battered area. —Xinhua

Australia's prime minister declares victory in marathon election

SYDNEY — Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull declared victory on Sunday in a marathon national election, with his coalition government retaining power and the opposition Labour Party conceding defeat.

Vote counting continues into an eighth day, with Turnbull's coalition expected to win two of the five seats still in doubt, enabling it to form a majority government, after having already won 74 of the 150 lower house seats up for grabs in the poll.

"We have won the election," Turnbull told a news conference in Sydney. "We have gone through this election with fiercely fought arguments, issues of policy, issues of principle and we have done so

peacefully and it's something we should celebrate."

Although he is expected to form a majority government, Turnbull's gamble in calling the election backfired badly, with a swing to the center-left Labour opposition and a rise in the popularity of minor parties and independents.

Turnbull's narrow margin of victory over Labour leaves him likely to be forced to rely on independents, who won five seats, to ensure the passage of legislation. That raises questions about how effective his government will be in the long term.

Labour, on course to win 69 seats, conceded defeat.

"It is clear that Mr Turnbull



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

PHOTO: REUTERS

and his coalition will form a government," its leader, Bill Shorten, told a news conference.

Labour vowed not to unduly disrupt the new parliament, although it and several independents oppose much of the coalition's jobs and growth agenda, from how to return to budget surplus to a proposal for a A\$50-billion (\$38 billion) corporate tax break.

"We need to ensure that all the vital government services are provided, and at the same time, we have to ensure we bring our budget back into balance," said Turnbull. The difficult legislative pathway after the election could force changes to some proposed legislation, several government figures said.

"None of us should have a tin ear to the public's view about a number of issues, including superannuation," Immigration Minister Peter Dutton told the *Daily Telegraph* newspaper, referring to proposals on tax breaks for pensions. Standard and Poor's cut Australia's credit rating outlook to negative from stable last week, threatening a downgrade of its coveted triple A status, over a potential budget impasse.

"We really want to see them start achieving some of their forecasts," S&P official Anthony Walker told a briefing, adding that the cost of refinancing Australia's debt is up to three times more than its foreign currency earnings. —Reuters

North Korea fails in testing sub-launched ballistic missile: South Korea

SEOUL — North Korea fired what appeared to be a ballistic missile launched from a submarine off its east coast Saturday but the projectile failed in flight, South Korea's military said, amid renewed tensions in the region.

The launch took place around 11:30 a.m. South Korea time from waters southeast of the coastal port city of Sinpo, South Hamgyong Province, the South's Joint Chiefs of Staff said.

According to the South Kore-

an military, the missile appears to have been successfully ejected out of the sea but failed to fly normally in the air.

South Korea's Yonhap News Agency reported that the missile was fired from a 2,000-ton Sinpo-class sub and seems to have flown several kilometres before exploding at an altitude of about 10 km. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe told reporters in Tokyo that North Korea's latest act is "a clear challenge to UN Security Council

resolutions. We must firmly condemn it." The move came a day after South Korea and the United States said they will deploy an advanced US antimissile defence system in South Korea to counter threats from North Korea.

North Korea warned through its official media that if the Terminal High Altitude Area Defence system is deployed in South Korea, it could spark a fierce arms race and significantly raise tensions in the region.

The plan to install the system, designed to intercept ballistic missiles flying at high altitudes inside and outside the atmosphere, has also drawn sharp reaction from China and Russia, which believe that its radars could see far into their territories and would undermine their own security interests.

In another recent development, North Korea said Thursday that the United States has crossed a "red line" after Washington sanctioned the North's leader Kim Jong

Un for the first time.

North Korea said it sees the sanctions imposed Wednesday by the United States as an "open declaration of war" against Pyongyang and threatened to take "the toughest countermeasures" if the measures were not removed.

The US Treasury Department has said the sanctions targeting Kim, 10 other North Korean officials and five entities are a result of their role in "notorious" human rights abuses. —Kyodo News

Voting under way in Japanese upper house election

TOKYO — Voting was under way on Sunday in Japan's House of Councillors election, with the outcome expected to show whether voters believe the government of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe should be given more time to reach its economic goals, or if they heeded opposition warnings that both the country's economy and its pacifist Constitution are at risk.

At stake are half the 242 seats in the Diet's upper house, as staggered elections are held every three years for seats and six-year terms. A total of 389 candidates are running for the 121 seats up for grabs.

For the first time, teenagers are among those going to the polls for a national election, as 18- and 19-year-olds are able to vote following an electoral law amendment lowering the minimum voting age from 20.

The ruling bloc of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and junior coalition partner Komeito has set its sights on winning a majority of the contested seats as a sign that the public endorses the continuation of his "Abenomics" monetary and fiscal policy strategy.

Yet an even stronger performance by the LDP, which has long advocated constitutional reform, and like-minded allies

could see enough pro-reform lawmakers in the upper house to call a national referendum on amending the constitution for the first time since its adoption soon after World War II.

Voter turnout was 22.54 per cent as of 2pm, down 0.12 percentage points from the previous upper house race in 2013, according to government data.

Polling stations across the country will close at 8pm.

Voters are casting two ballots — one vote to pick representatives to fill 73 seats from 45 electoral districts, 32 of which are single-member districts, and another vote for 48 seats to be filled by party preference under a proportional representation system. The results will likely be clear by early Monday.

As an 18-day official campaigning period came to a close Saturday, opposition parties reiterated the importance of denying Abe the power to oversee constitutional reform, while the LDP and Komeito promised to keep pursuing economic growth in the face of international uncertainty.

The main opposition Democratic Party has campaigned together with the Japanese Communist Party and others, citing the need to protect the Constitution — and particularly the



A woman in a wheelchair casts her ballot with the help of election officials in Japan's House of Councillors election at a polling station in central Tokyo on 10 July, 2016. At stake are half the 242 seats in the Diet's upper house, as staggered elections are held every three years for seats and six-year terms. A total of 389 candidates are running for the 121 seats up for grabs. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

war-renouncing Article 9 — from alteration.

Despite fundamental policy differences, the opposition parties are jointly backing just one candidate in all 32 single-member electoral districts.

Abe needs the support of two-thirds of both houses of the Diet in order to propose a constitutional amendment and call a national plebiscite on the matter.

The ruling parties already

hold such a majority in the lower house, and will clear the two-thirds hurdle in the upper house if they and other pro-amendment parties and independents win at least 78 of the seats at stake in Sunday's election. There are some differences, however, in their stance on constitutional reform. The united opposition has also vowed to scrap controversial security legislation passed by the Abe Cabinet last year, which ena-

bles Japan's Self-Defence Forces to now be sent to aid allies in conflicts overseas.

Having deferred a planned increase in Japan's consumption tax that was supposed to bolster government revenue and help pay for the graying population's mounting social security needs, the LDP and Komeito have vowed to secure those funds in other ways while fostering economic growth. —Kyodo News

Opinion

Write for us

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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.

Let's avoid hate speech

Khin Maung Aye

WITH the promise of change, NLD won a landslide victory in 2015 general election. To keep its promise, the NLD government has launched its first 100-day plan to effectuate change in various sectors. Nevertheless, it is not as easy to implement change as it is said because everything needs changing. This being so, the government has to select areas of priority. In fact, it is undeniable that this period is only a transitional period. Naturally, transition from a quasi-civilian government into a pure-

ly democratic administration requires the incumbent government to perform a herculean task. In addition to its onerous duties of managing the day-to-day affairs of the state, the government is assigned with the historic task of reconciling the disunities and discords between and among the national races and ethnic minorities. Only when this process of national reconciliation is achieved, will the government be able to amend the constitution because the union peace conference – the 21st century Panglong will focus

on power sharing, resource sharing and revenue sharing.

In this juncture, it is of utmost importance for the entire mass of people to co-operate with the government, actively participating in the government's nation-building tasks, national development activities, restoration of law and order, enforcement of the rule of law and last but not the least the national reconciliation process. Now is the time for all citizens with different political beliefs, different religious faiths, different social and cultural backgrounds to

be united, harbor amity towards one another, forgetting bitter things of the past, forgiving one another, just being bent upon establishment of a democratic, federal union.

As we are all residing in the same land, partaking the same water, let's be united, especially at this critical point, abandoning enmity, hatred and animosity, avoiding hate speech. Let's restrain our physical, verbal and mental volitional activities in order that misunderstandings are not created. And let's live in unity within diversity.

Natural Remedies for Arthritis Pains

Khin Maung Myint

As I'm a health buff, I'm interested in anything that is related to health — especially the alternative medicine. In this age of medical breakthroughs and effective medicines flooding the markets, I cannot understand, at first, why more and more people are becoming interested in, and turning to natural remedies and cures. However, when I recalled the Myanmar saying: "Asar lei saye, saye lei asar", which literally means "Food is medicine, medicine is food", I could now, comprehend that trend. Since then, I had become greatly interested in the health benefits of various herbs, veggies and fruits.

What is Arthritis ?

Recently, I came across a very interesting piece of information in the Reader's Digest Best Health US magazine related to foods and drinks that could fight arthritis pains. Generally speaking, arthritis is a condition that causes joint pains. It is a painful and degenerative condition marked by inflammation that causes stiffness and pain in the joints. Osteoarthritis, the most common type, gets worse with age and is caused by wear and tear over the years. Traditionally, doctors cure arthritis with pain killers and anti-inflammatory medications. However, as some of them have side effects people are turning to natural remedies. There are a variety of natural remedies: including exercises and weight

loss regimens, but this article would be dealing with the foods and drinks that could fight the arthritis pains.

There are many foods and drinks that are effective in fighting or relieving the joint pains. However, according to the aforementioned magazine, the most effective are what that magazine called the "9 Arthritis-fighting Superfoods". It suggests that these should be included in the daily meals for those who are suffering from arthritis. **The Super Nines** are as follows:--

1. Salmon. Salmon is among the richest sources of healthy fats. It's an ideal source of omega-3 fatty acids, especially because it's less likely than other cold-water fish to harbor high levels of toxic mercury. In addition to its fatty oils, salmon contains calcium, vitamin D and folate. Besides helping with arthritis, eating salmon may protect the cardiovascular system by preventing blood clots, repairing artery damage, raising levels of good cholesterol and lowering blood pressure.

2. Bananas. Bananas are perhaps best known for packing potassium, they are also good sources of arthritis-fighting vitamin B6, folate and vitamin C. This easily digested, dense fruit is a prime source of soluble fiber, an important part of your diet if you are trying to lose weight because it helps you feel full without adding calories.

3. Sweet peppers. A single green pepper contains 176 per-cent of your daily needs for vitamin C. Red and yellow varieties have



more than double that amount. That makes them richer in C than citrus fruits. Sweet peppers are also excellent sources of vitamin B6 and folate.

4. Shrimp. Taste and convenience make shrimp the most popular shell fish choice. Shrimp also deserves acclaim as one of the few major dietary sources of vitamin D, with 3 oz, providing about 30 percent of the recommended daily amount---more than a cup of fortified milk. Shrimp also contains omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin C, along with other nutrients essential for general health.

5. Soy products. Once relegated to the shelves of health-food stores, soy products such as tofu and soy milk have reached the mainstream largely because they have been shown to have cardiovascular benefits. Soybeans also protect bones, thanks to compounds called isoflavone and significant amount of both vitamin E and calcium. Long a staple of Asian diets, soy can also be found in soy milk---a boom for people who want to avoid lactose or cholesterol in regular milk.

6. Sweet potatoes. These tropical root vegetables are such a

nutritional powerhouse, they once topped a list of vegetables ranked according to nutritional value by the US-based Center for Science in the Public Interest. Sweet potatoes are rich sources of vitamin C, folate, vitamin B6 and dietary fiber, among other nutrients.

7. Cheese. Hard or soft, fresh or ripened cheese in all its variety is an excellent source of calcium for bones and proteins for the muscles and other joint-supporting tissues. Depending on the type, cheeses (especially hard varieties such as cheddar) are good sources of vitamin B6 and folate. The sheer abundance of cheeses makes it easy to get more in your diet---by, for example, slicing hard cheeses onto crackers or spreading soft cheeses such as cottage cheese onto the fruits or vegetables.

8. Lentils. These dried legumes are prime sources of folate, with a single cup providing about 90 percent of your daily needs. Lentils also provide one of the richest plant-based sources of protein, contain large amounts of soluble dietary fiber and hold significant stores of vitamin B6. These and other nutrients make lentils protect the body against heart disease and cancer in addition



to arthritis.

9. Green Tea. This mild, slightly astringent tea contains hundreds of powerful antioxidant chemicals called polyphenol and has been cited for helping prevent problems ranging from cancer to heart disease. Studies also suggest green tea may help prevent or ease symptoms of rheumatoid arthritis.

Conclusion

Based on the above mentioned properties of each of the 9 Superfoods, it is evident that the majority of them are packed with vitamin B in different forms: vitamin B6 and folate or folic acid or vitamin B9 — the prime arthritis-fighters. Some contain omega-3 fatty acids, vitamins C, D & E, soluble fibers, proteins, calcium, potassium and antioxidants. All these ingredients are useful not only in fighting arthritis, but they are also beneficial to the cardiovascular health and may even protect against cancer. Above all, as they are natural products they may be totally free from any side effects; if produced organically. Apart from the salmon, which is very expensive and not readily available, the remaining eight are quite cheap and readily available in most of our markets today. We should include one or more of them in our daily diets.



US President Barack Obama waves as is welcomed by Spain's King Felipe, following his arrival aboard Air Force One at the Torrejon airbase, outside Madrid, Spain, on 9 July, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dallas shootings cast shadow over Obama trip to Spain

MADRID, (Spain) — President Barack Obama will meet with the King of Spain and Spain's acting prime minister in Madrid on Sunday, but the trip that was meant to show solidarity with Europe has been overshadowed by violent events in the United States.

The visit is Obama's first to Spain as president. White House officials said it was important for Obama to make the trip, because Spain was the only major European country he had not travelled to during his term.

Obama was supposed to spend two days in Spain after attending a NATO summit in Warsaw earlier this week. At the summit, the United States, Spain and the other allied nations pledged to stand united in

the face of threats from Russia and fall out from Britain's vote to leave the European Union.

But, after a sniper killed five police officers in Dallas on Thursday following the fatal shootings earlier in the week of two black men by police in Louisiana and Minnesota, the White House decided to cut the trip short so Obama could go to Dallas.

Plans for sightseeing in Seville and a town hall meeting with Spanish citizens were canceled. Instead Obama, who landed in Madrid late on Saturday night, will squeeze in sessions with King Don Felipe and acting Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Sunday.

He will also address troops at Naval Station Rota, before

heading back to the United States on Sunday night.

In an interview with Spain's El Pais published on Saturday, Obama called Spain "an indispensable European partner."

"Spain is a strong NATO ally, we're grateful for Spain's many decades of hosting US forces, and we're major trading partners," Obama said in the interview. "That's why the United States is deeply committed to maintaining our relationship with a strong, unified Spain."

Obama's visit to Madrid comes after Rajoy's conservative People's Party (PP) failed to win a parliamentary majority last month leaving the country in a political stalemate as the parties work to form a coalition government.—Reuters

Former UK deputy PM Prescott says now believes Iraq invasion illegal

LONDON — Britain broke international law when it invaded Iraq in 2003, its deputy prime minister at the time, John Prescott, said on Sunday in the wake of a critical report on the decision.

A seven-year inquiry concluded on Wednesday that former British Prime Minister Tony Blair's justification, planning and handling of the Iraq War involved a catalogue of failures, but did not rule whether the war was legal.

Eight months before the 2003 invasion, Blair told US President George W. Bush "I will be with you, whatever", eventually sending 45,000 British troops into battle when peace options had not been exhausted,

the long-awaited British public inquiry said.

Prescott, writing in the *Sunday Mirror* newspaper, said he had now changed his view on the legality of the war and criticised Blair for stopping his ministers from fully discussing in advance whether the war would be legal.

"In 2004, the UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said that as regime change was the prime aim of the Iraq War, it was illegal. With great sadness and anger, I now believe him to be right," Prescott wrote.

"I will live with the decision of going to war and its catastrophic consequences for the rest of my life," he added.

Many Britons want Blair

to face criminal action over his decision to take military action that led to the deaths of 179 British soldiers and more than 150,000 Iraqi civilians over the following six years.

"The Attorney General, Lord Goldsmith, came to the Cabinet, verbally announced it was legal, but provided no documentation," Prescott said. "The timing of the decision was clearly designed to endorse an almost immediate action for us to go to war."

Prescott added that he backed the decision by Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn — a veteran anti-war campaigner and critic of Blair — to apologise for the war on behalf of the party.—Reuters

The Secretary-General's Message on World Population Day

11 July 2016

The international community has committed to a new sustainable development agenda built on the principles of equity and human rights. A central objective of the Sustainable Development Goals is to leave no one behind.

Despite significant gains made in reducing poverty and improving opportunity and well-being for many people around the world, hundreds of millions remain desperate for a chance of a better future. Among those least served by previous development initiatives are girls, particularly those in their formative teenage years.

Just when girls should be in school and imagining the possibilities ahead, too many are held back from pursuing their ambitions by social and cultural traps. While a boy's options and opportunities tend to expand when he becomes an adolescent, those of a girl too often shrink. Half of all sexual assaults worldwide are committed against girls aged 15 or younger. In developing countries, one in three girls is married before she reaches 18. And teenage girls are less likely than teenage boys to start or finish secondary school.

Rectifying these inequalities is critical for the success of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. That is why it includes the specific Goal of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls. On this World Population Day, I urge all Governments, businesses and civil society to support and invest in teenage girls. Everyone deserves the benefits of economic growth and social progress. Let us work together to ensure a life of security, dignity and opportunity for all.

UNIC / Yangon

NEWS IN BRIEF

UK Labour's Corbyn says expects to automatically be on ballot for leadership contest

LONDON — British opposition Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn said on Sunday he expected to automatically be on the ballot for an upcoming leadership contest, without needing to be nominated by party lawmakers.

Labour lawmaker Angela Eagle has said she will launch a bid on Monday to replace the embattled Corbyn as party leader, saying he had failed to lead Labour legislators as an organised and effective force to hold the government to account.

"I'm expecting to be on the ballot paper because the rules of the party indicate that the existing leader, if challenged, should be on the ballot paper anyway," he told the BBC.—Reuters

Moscow says NATO fixating on non-existent Russian threat

MOSCOW — Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Saturday that a NATO summit in Warsaw showed that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation was focusing its efforts on containing a non-existent "threat from the East".

At a meeting of the NATO-Russia council on 13 July, Moscow will seek explanations for the alliance's plans, the spokeswoman for the foreign ministry, Maria Zakharova, said in a statement. Russia will also seek an explanation from NATO for a Finnish plan to improve air defences over the Baltic Sea, she said in the statement.—Reuters

Three dead or missing as suspected-smuggling vessel overturns off China

GUANGZHOU — Three people, who authorities think are likely undocumented migrants, were dead or missing after a vessel carrying 13 people overturned off south China's Guangdong Province, rescuers said Sunday. Ten foreigners were rescued after the boat capsized around 5 a.m. near Neilingding Island, one body has been retrieved so far, according to an official with the provincial maritime rescue centre.

The official said the vessel could be implicated in people-smuggling, but did not mention where the vessel was from or where it was heading. Rescuers are searching for the missing.—Xinhua

Gunfire heard in parts of south Sudan capital Juba on Sunday — Reuters witness

JUBA — Gunfire erupted again in parts of South Sudan capital Juba on Sunday, a Reuters witness said, after gunbattles between rival troops last week raised fears over a fragile peace process in Africa's newest country.

A Reuters witness said shooting could be heard in Gudele and Jebel suburbs of Juba, near the military barracks that hosts troops loyal to the country's vice president Riek Machar.—Reuters

Bin Laden's son threatens revenge for father's assassination

DUBAI — The son of slain al Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden has threatened revenge against the United States for assassinating his father, according to an audio message posted online.

Hamza bin Laden promised to continue the global militant group's fight against the United States and its allies in the 21-minute speech entitled "We Are All Osama," according to the SITE Intelligence Group.

"We will continue striking you and targeting you in your country and abroad in response to your oppression of the people of Palestine, Afghanistan, Syria, Iraq, Yemen, Somalia and the rest of the Muslim lands that did not survive your oppression," Hamza said.

"As for the revenge by the Islamic nation for Sheikh Osama, may Allah have mercy on him, it is not revenge for Osama the person but it is revenge for those who defended Islam."

Osama bin Laden was killed at his Pakistani hideout by US commandos in 2011 in a major blow to the militant group which carried out the 11 September, 2001 attacks.—*Reuters*

Egypt foreign minister to talk Mideast peace in rare visit to Israel

CAIRO/JERUSALEM — Egypt's foreign minister will meet Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Sunday during a rare visit to Israel aimed at reviving the moribund Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

Sameh Shoukry's visit to Israel — the first by an Egyptian foreign minister in nine years — follows a similar meeting with Palestinian officials in Ramallah on 29 June.

It comes as France leads a renewed push to put peace efforts back on the agenda with an international peace conference held on 3 June. The French initiative seeks to bring the two sides back to the table by year-end and was welcomed by the Palestinians.

But Israeli officials have said only direct talks can end the decades-old conflict.

Egypt's foreign ministry said in a statement that Shoukry's visit was part of a push by Cairo to build confidence between Israel and the Palestinians with the ultimate aim of resuming direct talks to reach a comprehensive settlement that would give the Palestinians a state and Israel security.

"The foreign minister will hold extensive consultations during his visit with... Netanyahu aimed at addressing many files... with a focus on the Palestinian issue," the statement said.

Netanyahu announced



Egypt's Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry arrives for a working dinner with heads of delegations for the Nuclear Security Summit at the White House in Washington on 31 March 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

the visit in public remarks on Sunday at the weekly meeting of his cabinet. He said he would hold two meetings during the day with Shoukry.

"Today's visit is important in many respects. It attests to the change that has begun in Israeli-Egyptian relations, including President (Abdel Fattah) al-Sisi's important call to advance the peace process with the Palestinians and Arab countries as well."

Sisi called on Pales-

tinians and Israelis in May to seize the opportunity to make a historic peace, offering Israel the tantalising prospect of warmer ties should it reach a just peace.

Egypt was the first of a handful of Arab countries to recognise Israel with a US-sponsored peace accord in 1979, but Egyptian attitudes to their neighbour remain icy due to what many Arabs see as the continued Israeli occupation of land that is meant to form a Palestinian state.

Sisi offered the 2002 Arab peace initiative as a potential way ahead. The initiative offered full recognition of Israel but only if it gave up all land seized in the 1967 Middle East war and agreed to a "just solution" for Palestinian refugees.

After Sisi's offer, Netanyahu said he would be willing to discuss the Arab peace initiative.

Egypt's foreign ministry statement said peace should involve the creation of an independent Palestin-

ian state on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital. It did not mention refugees.

Previous attempts to engage the adversaries have come to nought. The Palestinians say Israeli settlement expansion denies them a viable state they seek in the occupied West Bank, the Gaza Strip and a capital in Arab East Jerusalem.

Israel has demanded tighter security measures from the Palestinians.—*Reuters*

Death toll from South Sudan fighting climbs to 272: government source

JUBA — At least 272 people have died in fighting between South Sudan's rival factions in the capital Juba, including 33 civilians, a government source said on Sunday, as heavy gunfire erupted again in parts the city.

The fighting broke out on Thursday and Friday between troops loyal to Presi-

dent Salva Kiir and soldiers who support vice president Riek Machar.

The violence has raised fears South Sudan could face more instability after emerging from a two-year civil war, which began in December 2013 after Kiir sacked Machar as vice president.

On Saturday Juba was

calm, but on Sunday a Reuters witness said gunfire was heard in Gudele and Jebel suburbs of Juba, near the military barracks that hosts troops loyal to Machar.

"For about 30 to 40 minutes we heard sounds of heavy artillery in the direction of Jebel area," an aide worker based in Juba who

did not want to be named told Reuters.

South Sudan's civil war was fought largely along ethnic lines with Kiir, a Dinka, and Machar, a Nuer, drawing support from their respective tribes. A peace agreement last August ended the war but Kiir and Machar have yet to integrate their forces,

a key part of the peace deal. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Friday the latest violence highlighted a lack of commitment to the peace process and urged the country's leaders to end the fighting, discipline military leaders and work together to implement the peace deal.—*Reuters*

Kurdish militant bomb attack on Turkish army outpost kills two

ISTANBUL — Kurdish militants carried out a car bomb attack on a military outpost in southeastern Turkey overnight, killing one soldier and a member of the state-sponsored village guard militia, security sources said on Sunday.

It was the second such attack within 12 hours in the mainly Kurdish region, showing no let-up in a con-

flict between the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) militant group and the state which flared up a year ago when a two-year-old ceasefire collapsed.

Ten soldiers and five village guards were also wounded in the attack by PKK guerrillas which took place in the Ercis district of Van province at 00:20 am (2220 BT), the sources said.

The army launched an operation to catch the perpetrators.

Around midday on Saturday a bomb attack on a similar military installation in the province of Mardin bordering Syria killed two soldiers and a civilian and wounded dozens.

More than 40,000 people have been killed in the conflict since the PKK,

designated a terrorist group by Turkey and its Western allies, began its insurgency in 1984. Just in the last year, thousands of militants, security force members and civilians have died.

Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency reported on Saturday that senior PKK commander Fehman Huseyin had been killed in a bomb attack on a car in

which he was travelling in northeast Syria. The report has not been confirmed. Huseyin, a Syrian Kurd also known by the code name Bahozi Erdal, was killed on Friday evening as he travelled to the northern Syrian city of Qamishli, Anadolu said, citing a spokesman of a Syrian rebel group it named as the Tel Khamis Brigades.—*Reuters*

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China healthcare costs forcing patients into crippling debt

SHANGHAI/LONDON — As China's medical bills rise steeply, outpacing government insurance provision, patients and their families are increasingly turning to loans to pay for healthcare, adding to the country's growing burden of consumer debt.

While public health insurance reaches nearly all of China's 1.4 billion people, its coverage is basic, leaving patients liable for about half of total healthcare spending, with the proportion rising further for serious or chronic diseases such as cancer and diabetes.

That is likely to get significantly worse as the personal healthcare bill soars almost four-fold to 12.7 trillion yuan (£1.4 trillion) by 2025, according to

Boston Consulting Group estimates.

For many, like Li Xinjin, a construction materials trader whose son was diagnosed with leukaemia in 2009, that means taking on crippling debt.

Li, from Cangzhou in Hebei province, scoured local papers and websites for small lenders to finance his son's costly treatment at a specialist hospital in Beijing, running up debts of more than 1.7 million yuan, about 10 times his typical annual income.

"At that time, borrowing money and having to make repayments, I was very stressed. Every day I worried about this," said Li, 47, adding that he and his wife had at times slept rough on the streets near the hospital.

"But I couldn't let my son down. I had to try to save him," he said. Li's boy died last year.

The debts will weigh him down for a few more years yet.

Medical loans are just part of China's debt mountain — consumer borrowing has tripled since 2010 to nearly 21 trillion yuan, and in eight years household debt relative to the economy has doubled to nearly 40 per cent — but they are growing.

That is luring big companies like Ping An Insurance Group, as well as small loan firms and P2P platforms, as China's traditional savings culture proves inadequate to the challenge of such heavy costs.

The stress is particularly apparent in lower-tier cities and



A diabetes patient has her pulse checked by a diabetes specialist doctor during a medical check-up at a hospital in Beijing, China in 2012. PHOTO: REUTERS

rural areas where insurance has failed to keep pace with rising costs, said Andrew Chen, Shanghai-based healthcare head for consultancy Parthenon-EY.

"It's a storm waiting to happen where patients from rural

areas will have huge financial burdens they didn't have to face before," he said, adding people would often take second mortgages on their homes or turn to community finance schemes. —Reuters

New robot shows how first land animals moved 360m years ago

WASHINGTON — Scientists have developed a robot that shows how early terrestrial animals began moving about on mud and sand 360 million years ago.

Animals would have used modified fins to move around on flat surfaces, but for climbing sandy slopes, the animals could have benefited from using their tails to propel themselves forward, the researchers found.

The findings may help designers create amphibious robots able to move across granular sur-

faces more efficiently — and with less likelihood of getting stuck in the mud.

Scientists from the Georgia Institute of Technology, Clemson University and Carnegie Mellon University in the US studied the African mudskipper fish and developed a robot model that used the animal's locomotion techniques.

The study also examined flow and drag conditions in representative granular materials, and applied a mathematical model in-

corporating new physics based on the drag research.

"Most robots have trouble moving on terrain that includes sandy slopes," said Dan Goldman, an associate professor in the Georgia Tech School of Physics.

"We noted that not only did the mudskippers use their limbs to propel themselves in a kind of crutching motion on sand and sandy slopes, but that when the going got tough, they used their tails in concert with limb propulsion to ascend a slope," Goldman

said. "Our robot model was only able to climb sandy slopes when it similarly used its tail in coordination with its appendages," he said.

Based on fossil records, scientists have long studied how early land animals may have gotten around, and the new study suggests their tails — which played a key role in swimming as fish — may have helped supplement the work of fins, especially on sloping granular surfaces such as beaches and mudflats.

"We were interested in ex-

amining one of the most important evolutionary events in our history as animals: the transition from living in water to living on land," said Richard Blob, from Clemson University.

Researchers recorded how the mudskippers (*Periophthalmus barbaratus*) moved on a variety of loose surfaces.

The small fish, which uses its front fins and tail to move on land, live in tidal areas near shore, spending time in the water and on sandy and muddy surfaces.—PTI

In first, scientists use phones to track dengue outbreaks in poor nations

NEW YORK — Researchers have developed a new method to pinpoint outbreaks of dengue fever by tracking phone calls to public health hotlines, a team of scientists said on Friday.

Analysing patterns of calls in

Pakistan's Punjab region, the researchers forecast suspected dengue cases up to two weeks ahead of time with block-by-block accuracy, the researchers said in a study published in the journal *Science Advances*.

Dengue infections have increased dramatically over recent decades, making the virus the world's fastest-spreading tropical disease, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

The virus, which has flu-like

symptoms that can develop into the deadly dengue hemorrhagic fever, causes around 390 million infections a year globally, the UN agency says.

Though dengue seldom causes death, a complication called severe dengue is a leading cause of death among children in some Asian and Latin American countries, according to the WHO.

The low-cost statistical method to track dengue is particularly adapted for nations lacking the resources to effectively monitor the spread of diseases, said the scientists from the United States, Pakistan and United Arab Emirates.

"Thousands of lives are lost every year in developing countries for failing to detect epidemics early because of the lack of real-time data on reported cases," said co-author Lakshminarayanan Subramanian, a professor at New York University's Courant Institute of Mathematical Sciences.

"We think our technique can be of use to public health officials in their fight against the spread of crippling diseases."

The method was tested in Pakistan in the aftermath of a 2011

dengue outbreak in Lahore in which 21,000 were infected, the study said.

Over two years the researchers tracked more than 300,000 phone calls in the city, Pakistan's second largest, to a health hotline set up in the aftermath of the outbreak.

"To the best of our knowledge, this system is the first to demonstrate ... that an accurate, locality-specific disease forecasting system can be built using call volume data from a public health hotline," said Subramanian.

Only one dengue vaccine is currently licensed, Sanofi SA's Dengvaxia, with Mexico in December becoming the first country to give it approval.

But the three-dose vaccine was approved only for use in a limited population, people aged nine to 45 who live in areas where the disease is endemic, meaning younger children and tourists could not get it, and questions remain about its effectiveness.

In 2015, a spike in cases of dengue fever in Asia — including the Philippines, Myanmar, Malaysia, Taiwan and Viet Nam — put medical services under strain.—Reuters



An anti-government protester carries out fumigation to prevent the spread of dengue fever during a rally near the Government Complex in Bangkok in 2014. PHOTO: REUTERS

Awaiting Hague court verdict, Filipinos hope to fish without fear of China

INFANTA, (Philippines) — For years, the fishermen of the sleepy Philippine town of Infanta cared little for politics, international diplomacy and centuries-old squabbles over sovereignty.

That changed four years ago when China's coastguard swept in and seized the Scarborough Shoal, making it very difficult for the Filipino fishermen to get access to a tranquil South China Sea lagoon rich in fish stocks some 124 nautical miles off their shores.

Since then, they've barely broke even. Many have found other jobs.

But they're hoping a verdict on Tuesday by the International Court of Arbitration at The Hague in a case lodged by the Philippines will change that, and allow them to fish without the threat of being chased and rammed by Chinese boats or blasted with water cannon.

"I hope we'll win the case so we can come back to Scarborough where there's abundant fish, and improve our lives," said Henry Dao, 45, as he watched his crew repair a wooden fishing boat on the shores of Pangasinan province, about 300 km (186 miles) northwest of Manila.



Fishermen take a break after returning from a fishing trip in the South China Sea, on the shores of Infanta town, Pangasinan Province, northwest of Manila, Philippines on 6 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

"I have high hopes the court will favour us."

What started as a standoff over six rocks poking above the seawater that were once a shooting range for the United States navy took on huge international significance when

Manila angered Beijing by lodging the challenge under a United Nations' maritime convention in January 2013.

The 15-point filing didn't ask for a decision on sovereignty, but sought to set the record straight on its rights of maritime access.

In the bigger picture, it

amounts to a David versus Goliath battle as the Philippines asked the court to decide the legality of China's claims to the South China Sea and its extensive building of islands on disputed reefs there. China's claims are expressed on its maps as the so-called nine-dash line, an ill-defined

U-shaped demarcation drawn up after the defeat of Japan in World War II.

China has said it will not recognise the court's decision, but there are hopes among some Filipinos that Beijing might be pressured to let them fish at the Scarborough Shoal, the only place within the Phil-

ippines' Exclusive Economic Zone where year-round, the waters are calm and fish keep reproducing.

For the fishermen who make up a third of Infanta's 30,000 people, the 16-hour trip to the prized shoal, where they fish for 10 days at a time, are necessary but perilous journeys.—Reuters

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Botahtaung Township, Yangon,
The Republic of the Union of Myanmar.
Dated 11 July 2016
kmma@kcyangon.com

EU negotiating position does not contain Croatian demands

BRUSSELS — The adopted common EU negotiating position for Chapter 23 in Serbia's accession talks does not contain the demands set forth by Croatia. The text of the common position, seen by Tanjug, encourages Serbia to continue the process of alignment with European criteria and develop its policy and the instruments thereof so as to make them as close to those in place in the EU as possible.

Serbia is expected to submit regular reports on progress in the judicial reforms and assess by the end of 2018 the direct impact of the results of the reform process in the field.

As regards judicial independence, the EU notes that Serbia has already launched preparations for constitutional amendments slated for 2017 pursuant to European standards and recommendations from the Venice Commission.

The amendments are expected to lay the groundwork for a transparent and objective system of electing judges and prosecutors and evaluating their work.

As regards war crimes trials — an issue Croatia had insisted for over three months — the EU is not demanding that Serbia scrap a specific law on the matter.

Serbia is expected to ensure thorough regional co-operation and good-neighbourly relations in the process of solving war crimes, including avoidance of conflict of jurisdiction, and war crimes must be tried without discrimination, the text said.

At the same time, Serbia is expected to cooperate constructively with neighbouring countries on the issue of missing persons. Serbia must ensure efficient and strong institutional capabilities to deal with the implementation and overseeing of anti-corruption measures, the text also said.—Tanjug

Iran says Saudis back terrorism after senior prince attends rebel rally

DUBAI — Iran on Sunday accused Saudi Arabia of backing terrorism after a senior Saudi prince, a former intelligence chief, addressed a Paris rally held by exiled Iranian rebels and told them he wanted the Iranian government to fall.

Shi'ite Muslim power Iran and Saudi Arabia, bastion of Sunni Islam, are

longstanding religious and political arch rivals. Relations are fraught as they back each other's foes in regional wars such as in Yemen, Iraq and Syria.

"The Saudis are resorting to well-known terrorists ... as they have also done in Iraq, Yemen and Syria. This shows that they use terrorism and terrorists to

further their aims against regional Islamic countries," an unnamed Iranian Foreign Ministry source was quoted by Iran's state news agency IRNA as saying.

The rally addressed by Prince Turki al-Faisal on Saturday was held by the political wing of the exiled People's Mujahideen Organisation of Iran (PMOI),

which seeks the overthrow of Iran's clerical leadership established by the 1979 Islamic revolution.

Saudi media gave top coverage to the speech. The rally was also attended by a number of Western political figures, including former US House of Representatives speaker Newt Gingrich.—Reuters

US Air Force urges decision on delayed Mideast fighter jet sales

FARNBOROUGH, (England) — A top US Air Force official on Sunday urged the US government to speed up its consideration of long-standing bids by Qatar, Kuwait and Bahrain to buy US fighter jets, citing growing frustration among the key US allies in the Gulf about delays in the process.

Air Force Deputy Undersecretary Heidi Grant said she was trying to reassure officials in those countries that Washington's failure to approve billions of dollars of US arms sales to them would not alter the strong bilateral air force-to-air force relationships that exist.

"I would like to see a decision soon," Grant told Reuters in an interview on the eve of the Farnborough Airshow in southern England. Grant said she "absolutely" saw growing frustration among officials in the three countries, which have asked to buy a variety of US fighter planes.

"It's caused us to do more to reassure them that this one transaction should not impact the larger relationship ... that they are very valued partners," Grant said. "Hopefully the delay in this decision to move forward isn't going



A RAF Lockheed Martin F-35B fighter jet taxis along a runway after landing at the Royal International Air Tattoo at Fairford, Britain on 8 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

to have any impact."

Grant said the three requests were still being worked on "at the highest levels of our government." She declined to comment on what was holding up the decisions.

All three arms sales have stalled amid concerns raised by Israel that equipment sent to Gulf states could fall into the wrong hands and be used against it, and by the Obama administration's desire to integrate arms sales decisions into its broader decision-making on military aid to the Gulf.

The Pentagon and State Department have both have signed off on the sale of 36 F-15 fighter jets to Qatar and 24 F/A-18E/F Super Hornets to Kuwait, both built by Boeing Co, as well as a number of Lockheed Martin Corp F-16 fighter jets to Bahrain.

Grant joins other senior military officials and lawmakers who have weighed in in recent months to urge the White House to move forward on the arms sales requests, some of which have been in work for years.

The sale to Kuwait is

worth about \$3 billion and the one to Qatar is probably close to \$4 billion, according to sources familiar with the matter. The value of the Bahrain deal was not immediately available.

US Navy Secretary Ray Mabus last month warned the US Navy could see the cost of new F/A-18E/F Super Hornets rise unless the government approves foreign sales of the jets soon.

Mabus said he was frustrated by delays in approving the sale of the Boeing jets to a close US ally.—Reuters

Family of killed US journalist Marie Colvin sues Syria

NEW YORK — The family of American journalist Marie Colvin who died in Syria in 2012 has filed a wrongful death lawsuit in a US court, accusing the Syrian government of deliberately killing her, the *New York Times* reported on Saturday.

Colvin and French photographer Remi Ochlik were killed in the besieged Syrian city of Homs in 2012 while reporting on the Syrian conflict, now in its sixth year.

The lawsuit, filed in Washington, said Syrian officials deliberately targeted rockets against a makeshift broadcast studio where Colvin and other reporters were living and working.

The lawsuit, to which the *New York Times* article provides an online link, said the attack was part of a plan orchestrated at the highest levels of the Syrian government to silence local and international media "as part of its effort to crush political opposition".

Advocacy group Reporters Without Borders said it supported the lawsuit.

The group's secretary-general, Christophe Deloire, said the group "hopes these efforts will help to expose the truth, namely that these journalists were deliberately targeted and killed because they were providing information about the Syrian army's crimes against civilians."

A murder and attempted murder investigation was launched in France in 2012 into the death of Ochlik and wounding of another journalist, Edith Bouvier, in the same attack.

Reporters Without Borders, as an interested party in the case, said it will submit the Colvin family's US lawsuit to the judge in charge of the French investigation on Monday.

Colvin and Ochlik were both prize-winning reporters of wars in the Middle East, Asia and elsewhere. The Britain-based Colvin, who lost an eye while working in Sri Lanka in 2001, was working for the *Sunday Times* at the time of her death.—Reuters

Climbing season begins on Mt. Fuji trails in Shizuoka

SHIZUOKA — This year's climbing season began on three trails for Mt. Fuji in Shizuoka Prefecture on Sunday, following a similar season opening on a trail in neighbouring Yamanashi Prefecture nine days earlier.

The 3,776-metre volcano, which straddles the two prefectures west of Tokyo, is the nation's highest peak and attracts many climbers, including foreigners. Last year about

97,000 people climbed the mountain via the trails in Shizuoka.

As a no-entry sign was removed from the Fujinomiya trail under a slightly cloudy sky at 9am, climbers in mountain gear streamed into the trail.

"I've come to Mt. Fuji a number of times, but this is the first time I've encountered the season opening," said Kayoko Kato, a 44-year-old woman from Yokohama, Kanagawa Pre-

fecture. "Once I scale the peak, I want to encircle the crater there."

The other two trails that opened for climbing Sunday were Subashiri and Gotemba. The Yoshida trail in Yamanashi, the most popular of the four trails due to its easy access to the Tokyo area, opened on 1 July. The trails will be closed on 10 September.

Although not mandatory, climbers are asked to pay 1,000 yen per person near halfway points on the trails in Shizuoka and Yamanashi. The fees are collected in the name of supporting the mountain's upkeep.

An increase in the number of climbers has prompted environmental concerns about the popular mountain. UNESCO, which added Mt. Fuji to its World Heritage List in 2013, has said the value of the mountain is being pressured by the increase.

—Kyodo News



Climbers walk on the Fujinomiya trail for Mt. Fuji in Shizuoka Prefecture, central Japan, on 10 July, 2016. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

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MECHANICAL CAR PARKING

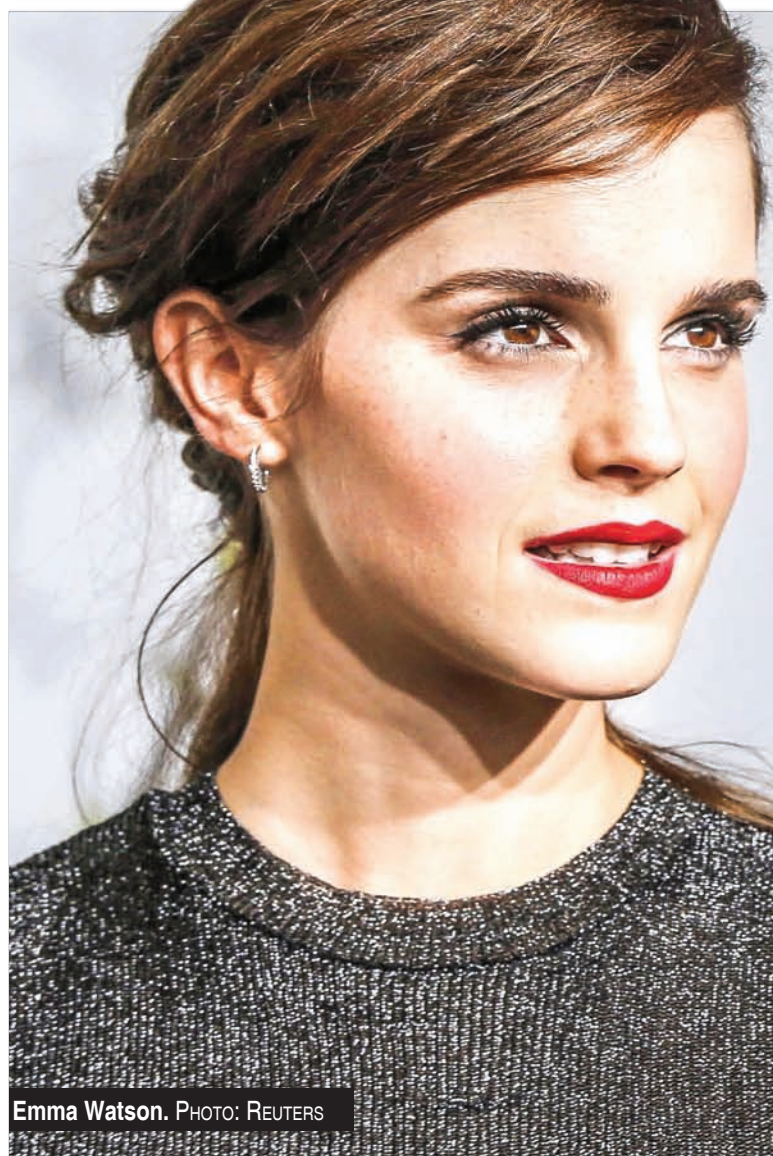
Side View: 14'4" height, 18' width, 7'2" depth.
Front View: 7'2" width, 7'2" depth.
Plan View: 21'6" width, 18' depth, 7'2" depth.
Front View: 21'6" width, 14'4" height, 7'2" depth.

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Emma Watson. PHOTO: REUTERS

Emma Watson praises Harry Potter play

LONDON — Actress Emma Watson says “Harry Potter and the Cursed Child” was amazing and it was emotional to meet Noma Dumezweni, who portrays Hermione Granger.

The 26-year-old actress, who portrayed Hermione Granger in the wizard movie franchise, found seeing the London stage production, which is set 19 years after JK Rowling’s books and spin-off movies, made her feel connected to her wizard alter ego once again. “Yesterday I went to see the Cursed Child. I came in with no idea what to expect and it was AMAZING. Some things about the play were, I think, possibly even more

beautiful than the films.

“Having seen it I felt more connected to Hermione and the stories than I have since Deathly Hallows came out, which was such a gift,” she wrote on Facebook. The “Beauty and the Beast” actress spent time backstage meeting the cast and crew of the production where she met Noma Dumezweni, who portrays Hermione in the play. “Meeting Noma and seeing her on stage was like meeting my older self and have her tell me everything was going to be alright, which as you can imagine was immensely comforting and emotional!”

“The cast and crew welcomed me like I was family

and Noma was everything I could ever hope she would be. She’s wonderful. The music is beautiful... I could go on,” she added. Meanwhile, Noma admitted she also found it emotional to meet Watson and tweeted.

“Now I feel I can share the maHUSSIVE Joy I felt, alongside the company when a beautiful, humble and very kind young lady saw @HP-PlayLDN. @EmWatson It really was quite emotional to be in your company... And Thank you 4 your lovely self. We spoke of you with MAJOR respect! Blessings Dear @Em-Watson and Thank You! xxx (sic).—PTI

Jaden Smith unveils new track ‘Labor V2’ on 18th birthday

LOS ANGELES — Actor-singer Jaden Smith released a new track, “Labor V2” on his 18th birthday.

In the song, Jaden namedrops Miley Cyrus and gives nod to girlfriend Sarah Snyder. “The Karate Kid” actor celebrated his 18th birthday on 8 July by gifting his fans new music.

“Yo @HYPEBEAST @ComplexMag @highsnobiety @NylonMag I turn 18 in 3 hours, London time, and Ima drop a song on Willows Soundcloud so get ready,” he tweeted. Parents Will and Jada Pinkett shared sweet throwback photos on their son’s birthday with an honest message. “Happy Bday, Jaden! You’re 18 years old today. And I’m still trying to figure out what the hell I’m doing,” Will joked along with a

photo of him holding baby Jaden. Jada posted, “Jaden, You are the prince of my heart. I have no doubt that you were born to me to show me how deeply I can love. You are one of the brightest lights of my life. You are my son, my friend, a walking embodiment of my soul, my treasure. Happy Birthday Mr18.—PTI



Jaden Smith. PHOTO: REUTERS

Celine Dion praises Pink for writing a song for her

LONDON — Singer Celine Dion has revealed that Pink has written a song called “Recovering” for her, which has helped her to move forward following her husband Rene Angelil’s death.

“I’m already starting to work on an English album. Pink wrote me a song. She is phenomenal. I love her for her talent, for her strength, for her focus, the person she is.”

“At the Billboard Music Awards when I saw her, I said,

For you to take the time to really write a song, to give me a tool, a piece of luggage to help me to move forward to walk to keep going,” Dion said.

The 48-year-old singer has also thanked her fans for helping her. “I think I do have a relationship with my fans that are pushing me along. They’ve been such supporters of my good days and my bad days,” she added.—PTI

Kate Hudson pens emotional poem about recent shootings

LOS ANGELES — Actress Kate Hudson wrote a poem expressing her desire for change after the fatal shootings of Sterling and Castile and the killings of police officers in Dallas.

These incidents have compelled many celebrities to voice out messages of peace and harmony.

The “Almost Famous” star took to Instagram to share the poem. She specifically noted Sterling, Castile, Orlando’s Pulse nightclub massacre, the Dallas shootings, and recent terror attacks around the world.

“These last few months have brought so much sadness. From Alton Ster-

ling, Philando Castile, Orlando shooting, Dallas, to terrorist attacks of Bangladesh, Istanbul, Baghdad, Somalia,” the 37-year-old captioned the poem.

“Everyday there is violence like this reported and not reported. It becomes overwhelming that there could be such hatred and senseless killing. When I can’t make sense of things I just start to write. I don’t usually share my writing but I felt a desire to put this out there. Peace,” she added.

The poem linked the tragedies with a phrase referring to a bullet.

“When the silver drops who wins / Shot in the dark / Why, We can’t let fear rule / For then we are too responsible for a world so cruel / Fear is who takes the shot in the dark / And we must stop sitting back and watching this silver drop,” the poem read.

Hudson is one of many celebrities who have spoken out about the recent tragedies, including Beyonce, Jay Z, Jennifer Lopez and Lin Manuel-Miranda and Michael B Jordon.—PTI



Kate Hudson. PHOTO: REUTERS

Lhasa old town aims for world heritage status

LHASA — Lhasa, capital of southwest China's Tibet Autonomous Region, is to apply for the city's old town to be awarded world cultural heritage status.

"Lhasa has more than 4,000 years of history, and is strewn with famous historical sites. It embodies the essence of Tibetan culture," said Chichala, secretary of the CPC committee in Lhasa, during the Forum on the Development of Tibet, which closed on Friday.

"We will actively apply for world heritage status," he said.

"Lhasa is a vibrant, yet ancient city — the streets and buildings have been the scene of many stories over many centuries," he said.

More than 1.5 billion yuan has been spent on preserving of the old town. Seven streets and 56 buildings have been given protected status, he said.

Lhasa has 76 cultural heritage sites and 292 temples, palaces and other buildings are under state protection. Some sites including the 1,300-year-old Potala Palace are UNESCO World Heritage Sites.—Xinhua

Belgian twins celebrate 103 years living side by side

BRUSSELS — The world's oldest male twins, Pieter and Paulus Langerock of Belgium, turned 103 on Friday, raising a glass of wine to more than a century of living side by side.

The brothers, neither of whom ever married, have lived together for most of their lives. To this day, they barely leave each other's side, sharing a room at their nursing home just outside the Belgian town of Ghent.

While they sometimes regret not having had any children or grandchildren, they say they are each other's best friends and cel-



The world's oldest living twin brothers, Paulus (L) and Pieter Langerock from Belgium, 102, toast with a glass of red wine at the Ter Venne retirement home in Sint-Martens-Latem, Belgium. PHOTO: REUTERS

brated their birthday with a glass of French red wine.

After their long careers as court magistrates in the middle of the 20th century, the elegantly-dressed 103-year-olds prefer

speaking French and being addressed as "Pierre and Paul". They have another two years to go to break the record of US brothers Glen and Dale Moyer, both of whom reached 105.—Reuters

Bullfighter and runner die, two others gored in Spanish bull festivals

PAMPLONA — A bullfighter and a man participating in a village bull-run were killed in Spain on Saturday, while another two men were gored by the animals at the world-famous festival in the town of Pamplona.

Victor Barrio, a 29-year-old professional bullfighter, was killed when a bull's horn pierced his chest in front of spectators as he competed in a fight in the town of Teruel in the eastern region of Aragon.

His death, shown live on television, was confirmed on the website of Madrid's Las Ventas bullring, where Barrio began as an apprentice bullfighter in 2010. He is the first Spanish bullfighter to die in a ring since the turn of the century.

In the southeastern village of Pedreguer near Valencia, a 28-year-old Spaniard was killed during a bull-run, in which people risk life and limb by racing alongside specially-bred fighting bulls through narrow streets.

A bull's horn pierced his lung and heart as he was trying to help another runner during the event, in which a man was killed last year, a spokesman for the regional government said.



A recortador performs at the bullring during the San Fermin festival in Pamplona, northern Spain, on 9 July 2016. Recortadores use jumps, acrobatics and evasive skills to dodge fighting bulls. PHOTO: REUTERS

Many of Spain's towns hold summer festivals involving bulls, and several people die each year.

The San Fermin festival, in which bulls chase red-scarved runners through Pamplona's cobbled streets during nine days of events, attracts thousands of revellers from Spain and over-

seas.

In Saturday's run there, a 33-year-old Japanese man was gored in the chest and a 24-year-old Spanish man in the arm, while 12 others suffered minor injuries, the local government said on its website.

The Japanese man was in a stable condition in hospital, a

spokesman for the festival said.

The four-minute run in Pamplona featured six bulls from the Jose Escolar ranch, one of which separated from the rest and caused panic among the runners.

The daily bull-run along an 825-metre stretch of narrow streets in Pamplona's old town starts at 8am (0600 GMT) and

usually lasts between three and five minutes. There are eight runs in total during the festival.

Over the past century 15 people have died in Pamplona's event, which dates back hundreds of years, according to a count on the unofficial San Fermin website. The last death was recorded in 2009.—Reuters

MRTV Entertainment Channel

(11-7-2016, Monday)

06 : 00 pm

- Weather Report
- Pyi Thu Ni Ti

06 : 30 pm

- Cartoon Programme "Open Season Scared Silly" (Part-2)

07 : 10 pm

- International Drama Series

08 : 50 pm

- MRTV Entertainment Music

09 : 10 pm

- Director: Maung Myo Min (Yin Twin Byit)

09 : 20 pm

- International Movie Songs

09 : 30 pm

- Archery Session (from Ramayana Play)

09 : 50 pm

- Music Programme

10 : 10 pm

- Myanmar Movie

From 11-7-2016 (Monday) 6:00 pm
To 12-7-2016 (Tuesday) 6:00 pm

mitv Myanmar International

(11-7-2016 07:00am ~ 12-7-2016 07:00am) MST

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Myanmar Delicate Artistic Handy Creations- Lacquer ware Making
07:51	Am	Porcelain and Glass
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	A Snake Catcher
08:37	Am	Kambawzathardi Golden Palace — A Treasured Legacy of Golden Days
08:53	Am	A Girl Guide
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Crab Business (Part-I) Mud Crab
09:41	Am	Beach Food Delivery

09:51	Am	Next Generation "May Melody"
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Irrawaddy Dolphin (Part- I)
10:41	Am	Thin Byu Mat
10:49	Am	Ancient Heritage at Natalin

(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Sunday 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	"	Food Trip (EP-1) (Part-2)
07:53	"	Graffiti: Portraiture
08:03	"	News
08:26	"	Taste of Myanmar (Shan Style Clay Pot)
08:44	"	A Monk's Robe
08:52	"	Now in Yangon

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



USA's Serena Williams and Venus Williams celebrate winning their womens doubles final against Hungary's Timea Babos and Kazakhstan's Yaroslava Shvedova with the trophies at All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Wimbledon, England on 9 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Serena Williams (USA) reacts during her match against Angelique Kerber (GER) on day 13 of the 2016 The Championships Wimbledon, London, United Kingdom, on 9 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Williams sisters win sixth Wimbledon doubles crown

LONDON — Serena Williams put the icing on the cake of another magnificent Wimbledon campaign by teaming up with sister Venus for a sixth doubles crown at the All England Club on Saturday.

The reigning Olympic champions beat Timea Babos of Hungary and Kazakhstan's Yaroslava Shvedova 6-3, 6-4 on Centre Court — hours after Serena claimed a record-equalling 22nd grand slam singles title by defeating Germany's Angelique Kerber 7-5, 6-3.

Serena has now won both the Wimbledon singles and doubles (with Venus) in the same year on four occasions.

For Venus it was a consolation after she lost to Kerber in Thursday's singles semi-finals — denying her a first grand slam singles final since losing to Serena at Wimbledon in 2009.

The sisters, who paired up again this year after a two-year absence, have won 14 grand slam doubles titles together — moving them level with American Gigi Fernandez and Belarussian Natasha Zvereva in second place on the all-time list.

They still have some way to go, however, to match the 20 of Martina Navratilova and fellow American Pam Shriver.

Number 22 and still counting as Serena equals Graf

LONDON — It was third time lucky for American Serena Williams as she finally matched Steffi Graf's professional era record of 22 grand slam singles titles by beating Angelique Kerber to claim a seventh Wimbledon crown on Saturday.

Top seed Williams was forced to play some of her best tennis by resolute Kerber in an engrossing Centre Court duel in which her formidable firepower proved decisive in a 7-5, 6-3 over her German opponent.

Kerber had stopped Williams in the Australian Open final to win her first grand slam title and last month Spain's Garbine Muguruza also kept the 34-year-old waiting to equal Graf's mark when she beat her in the French Open final.

Williams, who racked up grand slam number 21 against Muguruza at last year's Wimbledon, also stumbled at the 2015 US Open, losing to Roberta Vinci in the semi-finals when a calendar year Grand Slam and Graf's record loomed.

But this time Williams would not be denied. To her great credit fourth seed Kerber used her skilful shot placement and scram-

bling ability to stay in contention throughout a fascinating match of contrasting styles.

But with the Williams serve at its destructive best there was only so much punishment the 28-year-old Kerber could absorb on a breezy Centre Court.

The end came quickly when the German was broken for the second time in the match in the seventh game of the second set and Williams roared to the title with a love game, sealing victory with a simple volley before collapsing to the turf.

"It's been incredibly difficult not to think about it (Graf's record)," a smiling Williams, cheered on by celebrity couple Beyonce and Jay Z as well as sister Venus in her support box, said on court as she clutched the Venus Rosewater Dish.

"I had a couple of tries this year but lost to two great opponents, one of them being Angelique. But it makes the victory even sweeter to know how hard I worked for it.

"Thanks you guys for being out here to see number 22, this is awesome," she said to an appreciative crowd who were treated to a one hour 21 minute final full of absorbing rallies. Kerber warmly embraced Williams once the emotional American rose to her

feet — saying later she had been beaten by a "great champion and a great person."

"Serena was serving unbelievable today. She really played an unbelievable match," Kerber who will rise to second in the WTA rankings on Monday, said.

"I think I didn't lose the match, I think she won it."

Williams won 38 of 43 points on her first serve and faced only one break point, at 3-3 in the second set, which she saved with one of the 13 aces she delivered.

"It's the single greatest weapon in the history of the women's game, followed closely by her will to win," was three-times men's champion John McEnroe's succinct summing up of what puts world number one Williams in a league of her own.

Kerber reached the final without conceding a set and scuppered hopes of a first all-Williams grand slam final since 2009 when beating Venus in the semis.

With a stunning win against Serena in Melbourne, the German walked on court full of belief — winning the opening point with a cleanly struck forehand.

Williams, patrolling her baseline with menace, bit into the Kerber serve in the second game but failed to convert any of the three break points she had.

An intense scrap developed from then on as Williams attacked incessantly and Kerber bravely traded blows.

Williams bent double and pumped both fists when winning a long rally on serve at 3-3 as Kerber briefly threatened.

She was also taken to deuce on serve at 4-4 and 30-30 at 5-5, yelling "C'mon!!" as she kept her nose in front.

Having coped with the heavy artillery heading her way, Kerber's downfall was self-inflicted as two poor errors opened the door for Williams to take the opener.

Kerber then screamed her delight at one searing winner early in the second set and finally earned a break point at 3-3 — Williams responding with consecutive aces. Williams ended up in a heap on the floor in the next game after a close-quarters exchange, but got up to break for a 5-3 lead as Kerber finally crumbled.

She joyfully returned to the turf shortly afterwards as her trusty serve powered her home.

Serena returned to Centre Court later to claim a sixth Wimbledon women's doubles title with Venus against fifth seeds Timea Babos and Yaroslava Shvedova. All in all, not a bad day's work.—Reuters

Barcelona launch campaign backing sentenced Messi

BARCELONA — Barcelona have launched a campaign in support of Lionel Messi and his father Jorge after the Argentine pair were sentenced to prison terms this week over tax fraud.

The campaign, under the hashtag #WeAreAllLeoMessi, asks Barcelona fans to "express

their sympathy for the greatest footballer in the world by voicing their unconditional support on social networks."

Messi, 29, has played his entire club career for Barcelona.

"We want Leo to know that he is not alone," the club said on their website (www.cfbarcelona.com).

"All members, supporters clubs, fans, athletes, media and everyone else are invited to participate." Club president Josep Maria Bartomeu also tweeted: "Leo, those who attack you are attacking Barca and its history. We'll defend you to the end. Together forever!"

A Barcelona city court sentenced Messi and his father on Wednesday to prison terms of 21 months after they were found guilty of three counts of tax fraud, although it is unlikely they will spend time behind bars.

Spanish law is such that any sentence under two years for a

non-violent crime rarely requires a defendant without previous convictions to serve jail time and a spokeswoman for the court confirmed Messi was unlikely to be imprisoned.

It is the second campaign in support of Messi in the last two weeks.—Reuters