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LENDING A HAND IN LAOS

State Counsellor attends multiple events, ceremonies at ASEAN Summits

IN a full day of activity, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the opening of the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits, which included ceremonies, meetings, plenary sessions and unveilings at the National Convention Center in Vientiane, Laos yesterday.

Before the opening ceremony, Prime Minister Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith of Laos, which is the current ASEAN Alternate Chair, and his wife welcomed the ASEAN heads of state at the National Convention Center.

Also present at the opening ceremony were ministers and high-ranking officials from ASEAN countries, the secretary-general of ASEAN, delegates and media.

The Laotian Prime Minister extended greetings followed by an opening address by Laotian President Mr. Bounnhang Vorachit.

The State Counsellor, together with the ASEAN heads of state/government, then unveiled the Launch of the Visit ASEAN@50 Campaign Logo and posed for documentary photos.

In the afternoon, the plenary session of the 28th ASEAN Summit followed.

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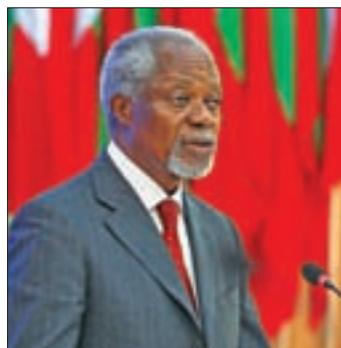
(From L to R) Malaysia's Prime Minister Najib Razak, State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc and Laos President Bounnhang Vorachit attend the opening ceremony of ASEAN Summit in Vientiane, Laos on 6 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

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Myanmar military delegation leaves for RoK to attend Defense Expo Korea 2016

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Kofi Annan. PHOTO: REUTERS

Rakhine State Advisory Commission led by Kofi Annan arrive in Sittwe

CHAIRMAN of Rakhine State Advisory Commission Mr. Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, and party together with Union Minister U Kyaw Tint Swe arrived in Sittwe, Rakhine State yesterday.

During a meeting with Rakhine State ministers, departmental officials, town elders and responsible persons from civil society organizations in Sittwe, the Union minister, Rakhine State Chief Minister U Nyi Pu and the

Advisory Commission Chairman extended greetings.

Next, the Advisory Commission held talks with the Rakhine State government led by the Chief Minister.

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သဒ္ဓါထက်သန် မြန်မာအားမာန် ကမ္ဘောဇဘဏ်

Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw rejects motion to replace foreigners on Rakhine State Advisory Commission



U Aung Kyaw Zan.



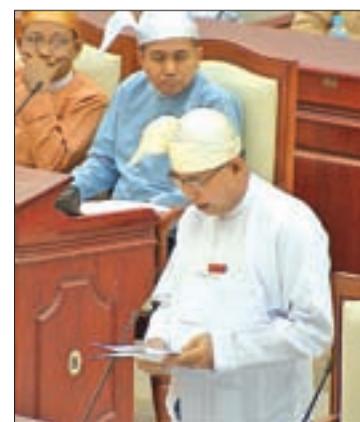
Col Khin Maung Tun.



U Oo Hla Saw.



Daw Khin Saw Wai.



Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin.

A PROPOSAL by a member of parliament to reform the Rakhine State Advisory Commission only with local experts, suggesting that the involvement of three foreigners in the commission could cause the internal issue to become an international issue, was rejected by vote 148 to 50 at the parliament yesterday.

A total of 34 Pyithu Hluttaw representatives debated the proposal submitted by U Aung Kyaw Zan of Pauktaw Constituency and Deputy Minister for State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin responded to the parliamentary discussions on the proposal.

In her opposition to the inclusion of foreigners on the Advisory Commission, Daw Khin Saw Wai of Yathedaung Constituency called on the govern-

ment to take Rakhine people's concerns and objections into account, saying that no foreign intervention should be allowed because the Rakhine issue is an internal affair.

"Despite the commission's sound objectives to give advice on Rakhine State, this would be impossible without achieving the rule of law," said the Yathedaung representative, adding that the onus is on the government to ensure the rule of law.

She pointed out that if priority is given to human rights with no focus on sovereignty, the situation will allow foreigners to intervene in the problem of undesirable people entering Rakhine region illegally.

The commission includes three foreigners: former UN secretary general Kofi Annan, the

commission's chairman; Ghassan Salame, a former Lebanese Minister of Culture; and Laetitia van den Assum, the special adviser to UNAIDS and the former Netherlands ambassador to the UK.

In his discussion, U Chin Pe Lin of Mansi Constituency expressed his support for the formation of the Advisory Commission with eminent, highly experienced and well-respected international and national persons.

"It is obvious that the Rakhine issue is not described as an internal affair from the international point of view," said the Mansi representative, adding that now is the time to clear international criticism through transparency.

The commission's recommendations will be available to the public through the State Counsellor and the government,

said the lawmaker.

Col Khin Maung Tun, Defense Services personnel Hluttaw representative, expressed his concerns over the urgent formation of the Advisory Commission on the critical issue, saying that there will be effects of the commission on Rakhine region as well as others.

He suggested that the foreigner-led commission should be put under the management of the government and the ministry concerned should seek suggestions from Pyidaungsu Hluttaw and the people through the government.

He went to say that Rakhine issue is a matter that can be solved by local experts focusing on peace and stability, national unity and development, not a matter that needs technical assistance.

He stressed the need to place emphasis on the issue in order not to be criminals in the country's history as only the people will suffer any consequences of inclusion of foreigners on the commission.

Next, Deputy Minister U Khin Maung Tin elaborated on the establishment of the Advisory Commission, rejecting the perception that foreigner inclusion on the commission can create an internal issue into an international matter. He called for rejection of the proposal, saying that the Advisory Commission formed with international and national persons of eminence on a matter that has been created as an international issue since more than 10 years ago was established with the aim of safeguarding the national security and interest.— *Myanmar News Agency*

Union Border Affairs Minister receives Vietnamese delegation



Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung holds talks with Vice Chairman of Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs of Vietnam Vice Minister Mr. Dinh Que Hai. PHOTO: MNA

UNION Minister for Border Affairs Lt-Gen Ye Aung received Vice Chairman of Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs of Vietnam Vice Minister Mr. Dinh Que Hai and party at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two repre-

sentatives held discussions on the ministry's border region development undertakings including human resources development programmes for ethnic people in border areas and exchange of culture and tradition of ethnic people between the two countries.

Also present at the call were Deputy Border Affairs Minister Maj-Gen Than Htut, the permanent secretary of the ministry and officials. In the evening, the Union minister hosted a dinner in honour of the Vietnamese delegation. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Donors invited to renovate Bagan Pagoda

WELL-wishers home and abroad are invited to donate cash to the funds for the repair and renovation of the damaged ancient religious structures in Bagan and NyaungU areas.

A 6.8 magnitude earthquake, centring 12 miles west of Chauk in Magway Region, struck the country's historic site of cultural heritage on 24 August.

Cash donations can be made to following departmental officials:

U Myo Tint Aung
Director, Ministry of Religious and Cultural Affairs (Nay Pyi Taw)
Ph: 067 408 031, 09 861 7342

Daw Ohnmar Aung
Director, Department of Archaeological Research and National Museum (Yangon)
6 ½ mile, Pyay Road, Hlaing Township, Yangon
Ph: 01 513 897, 09 730 302 38, 09 506 1832

U Nyo Myint Tun
Director, Department of Archaeological Research and National Museum (Mandalay)
Chanayethazan Township, Mandalay
Ph: 02 600 59, 09 201 9004

U Soe Tint
District Administrator
NyaungU District General Administration Department
Ph: 061 60 261, 061 602 62, 09 442 003 012

— *Myanmar News Agency*

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives in Laos for ASEAN Summits

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrived at Wattay International Airport in Vientiane, Laos for ASEAN Summits yesterday.

The State Counsellor and party were welcomed at the airport by Laotian Minister for Science and Technology Mr. Boviengkham Vongdara, Myanmar Ambassador to Lao People's Democratic Republic U Kyaw Soe Win and embassy families and officials.

The State Counsellor and party left Yangon to attend the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and related Summits to be held from today until Thursday in Vientiane, Laos yesterday morning. They were seen off at Yangon International Airport by Yangon Region ministers, Charge d' Affaires of the Laotian Embassy in Myanmar and officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

According to sources, the

29th ASEAN Summit (Retreat), the 19th ASEAN-China Summit to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, the 19th ASEAN-Japan Summit, the 18th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit, the 19th ASEAN plus Three Summit, the 2nd ASEAN-Australia Summit, the 8th ASEAN-United Nations Summit and the 8th Mekong-Japan Summit are scheduled to be held today.

Tomorrow, the leaders will continue the 14th ASEAN-India Summit followed by the 4th ASEAN-United States Summit. A ceremony to issue a Joint Leaders Statement on the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), a closing ceremony of the 28th and 29th ASEAN Summits and a ceremony to transfer the Chair of ASEAN 2017 to the Philippines will also be held on the same day.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi arrives at the Wattay International Airport in Vientiane, Laos. PHOTO: MNA

U Henry Van Thio receives Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar

Vice President U Henry Van Thio received the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and party at the diplomatic hall of Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

At the meeting, they focused

on matters related to cooperation in the economic and planning sectors between the two countries, the development of agriculture and health in rural areas and the development of border areas.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Henry Van Thio poses for a photo with Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Liang and party. PHOTO: MNA

State Counsellor attends multiple events, ceremonies ...

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Next, the State Counsellor attended the launching ceremony of Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity 2025, Initiative for ASEAN Integration Work Plan III and the signing ceremony of ASEAN Declaration on One ASEAN, One Response: ASEAN Responding to Disasters as One in the Region and Outside the Region, and signed the declaration together with ASEAN leaders.

In the evening, the State Counsellor took part in the ASEAN Leaders' Interface meetings with Representatives of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly, ASEAN Youth and ASEAN Business Advisory Council.

Next, the State Counsellor attended a dinner hosted by the Laotian Prime Minister and wife in honour of ASEAN heads of state/government at Don Chan Palace Hotel.—*Myanmar News Agency*

Deputy Minister for Border Affairs meets with Vietnamese delegation

DEPUTY Minister for Border Affairs Maj-Gen Than Htut received a Vietnamese delegation led by Vice Minister Mr. Dinh Que Hai, Vice Chairman of Committee for Ethnic Minority Affairs of Viet Nam, at his office in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the meeting the two

representatives held discussions on development undertakings, human resources developments and job opportunities in border regions being carried out by the ministry, cooperation with the international community in fulfilling the needs of ethnic people in border areas, matters related to the eradication of

poppy growing and rural development tasks and further cooperation between the two ministries. In the afternoon, the Vietnamese delegation, which is on a visit to Myanmar at the invitation of the Deputy Border Affairs Minister, visited the Gems Museum and Uppatasanti Pagoda in Nay Pyi Taw.—*MNA*

Rakhine State Advisory, Commission arrives in Sittwe

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In the afternoon, the Advisory Commission Chairman and party paid respects to Rakhine State Ovadacariya Sayadaws. State Ovadacariya Patheingyi Monastery Presiding Sayadaw Bhaddanta

Pandita expressed views on peace and stability in Rakhine State at the meeting. Next, the Commission Chairman and members visited Rakhine State Hluttaw and held talks with the Speaker of the Rakhine State Hluttaw and members of

Hluttaw Committees.

In the evening, Mr. Kofi Annan and party met with town elders, members of Civil Society Organizations and Islamic religious leaders at the guest house of the State Government.—*District IPRD*



Chairman of Rakhine State Advisory Commission Mr. Kofi Annan, the former Secretary-General of the United Nations addresses in Sittwe, on 6 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

Detained Myanmar workers return

A second group of Myanmar citizens who had been detained in Malaysia arrived back in Yangon yesterday via a chartered flight.

The return of the group comprising 137 Myanmar citizens was sponsored by the KBZ's Brighter Future Myanmar foundation (BFM).

Out of 2,294 detained work-

ers who have already received a Certificate of Identity, 824 have been brought back home so far.

The first batch, comprising 138 workers, returned on 8 August, also under the arrangement of the BFM.

The workers were welcomed at Yangon International Airport by the officials of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Labour, Immigration and Population and personnel of the BFM.

They were also provided with K100,000 each by the foundation.

The remaining citizens will also be brought home by chartered flight, according to the BFM. According to sources, 2,294 Myanmar citizens were detained for various reasons in 11 camps in Malaysia.

The foundation sponsored the return of more than 3,000 Myanmar workers detained in Malaysia, more than 500 Myanmar fishermen detained the Port Blair of India and more than 510 Myanmar workers trafficked and enslaved at Benjina Island, Indonesia. The philanthropic foundation has brought back over 4,200 workers since 2013 from Indonesia, Malaysia and India by chartered flights.—*Thura Lwin (Eco)*



Myanmar workers arrive back in Yangon International Airport. PHOTO: SUPPLIED

Crime NEWS

Two robbers attack woman in Mandalay, one arrested

A woman was robbed in Mandalay yesterday by two men, one of whom was arrested after he was struck by a car while attempting to run away.

Daw Ni Ni Aung was attacked by the two men at her home yesterday afternoon with knife while she was alone at her home reading.

She was stabbed in her chest and received other injuries. She was taken to hospital for treatment.

“We saw two men arrive at that home by motorcycle,” said a neighbour. “We heard cries from that home and found robbers there and shouted for help. Then, the two men ran

away.” A relative of Daw Ni Ni Aung confirmed that the men robbed her of a gold chain and one mobile phone.

One alleged robber was arrested by police after he was hit by a car. He remains in critical condition at the hospital, according to the police.

The other alleged robber managed to escape. He remains at large and is being sought by police.

The man arrested Kyaw Min Aung, also named Thurein, is an ex-labourer who had been previously hired by the victim, according to the police.—*Aung Thant Khaing*

Police in hot pursuit of suspect in quadruple homicide case

(Interview with Police Col Myo Swe and Police Lt-Col Thar Tun of Yangon Region Police Force) By Zaw Gyi

Q : What did you discover when you arrived at the scene of the crime?

A: We found the bodies of Ko Soe Naung and his eldest son in the shrine, the body of his wife in the kitchen and the body of the youngest child (in bed) in the bedroom.

Upon closer inspection of the crime scene we found blood pools under the dining-table and in front of a cupboard. The suspect(s) had attempted to hastily soak up some of the pooled blood using clothing stripped from Ko Soe Naung and his eldest son (a shirt and a pair of trousers respectively). The shirt of Ko Soe Naung was found on his bed and Han Thura's trousers were found under the dining table.

Q: What was the state of the victims' bodies when you inspected them?

A: Ko Soe Naung was found lying on the floor with multiple stab wounds across his chest. Han Thura was found with five stab wounds and Ma Cherry Pwint was found with 12 stab wounds. Maung Swan Htet Myat, the youngest son, had

been stabbed four times.

Q: Do the police have an idea of the sort of weapon that may have been used?

A: According to the forensic surgeon on the case the wounds were made by a pointed, single sided blade. An 11-inch knife was found near the body of Ko Soe Naung and is suspected of being the murder weapon.

Q: Were you able to determine where the knife came from?

A: We are almost certain that the knife belonged to the family. We discovered the companion sheath for the knife in the living room. Min Sithu, a police member of Hlegu Myoma police station and Ma Cherry Pwint's younger brother con-

firmed this.

A: Could you elaborate on the state of the crime scene (the family home)?

Q: The home is located 65 feet from the next home to the east and 150 feet from the next home to the west. For this reason, we have not found witnesses who actually heard the disturbance.

Q: How about the ongoing investigation?

A: Investigating officers have so far interviewed 62 people in connection with the case, which is ongoing. We are looking for three suspects.

Q: Do you have a photo or description of the three suspects?

A: Photographs were found in

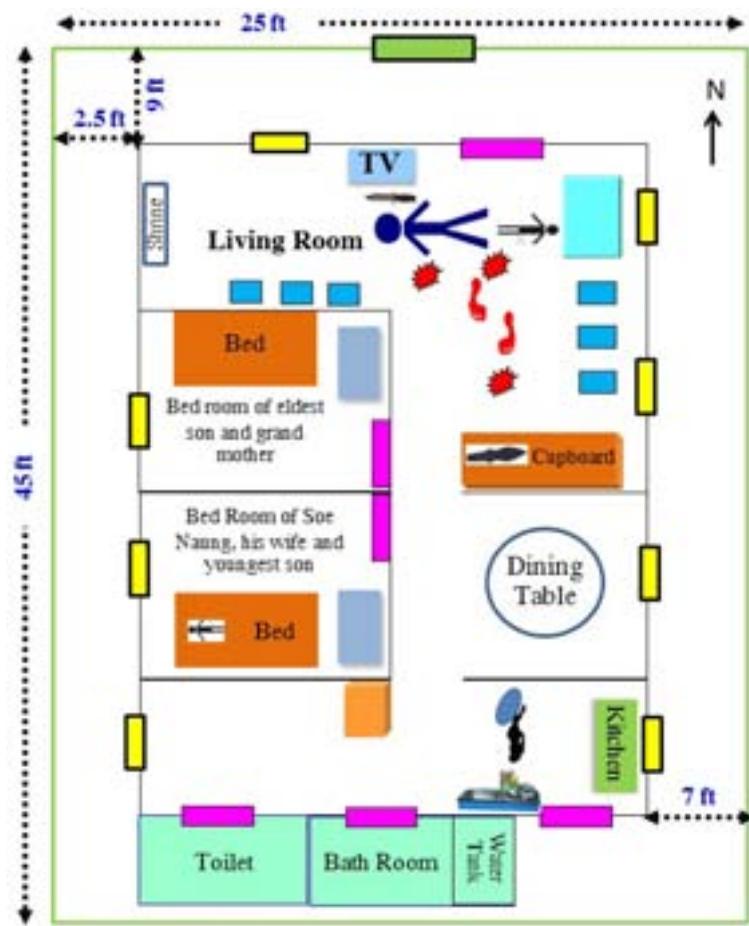
the mobile phone of Ma Cherry Pwint that we believe show the suspects. We have circulated these photographs to region/state police forces to help locate them for questioning. The Yangon Region Police Force is cooperating with the Criminal

Investigation Department to solve the case.

For more information on the case or to provide information to police, dial the Yangon Region Police Force, ph: 01 2323199, 01 2301646 or 01 2300747.



The house (middle) where quadruple homicide case happened and two houses next to it.



Man arrested for murder

A 45-year-old man was arrested on suspicion of killing U Pho Wae, 55, on Sunday in Naung Kalar village, Thaton township, Mon State.

According to the investigation, the victim and his friend, U Pyone Cho, 45, drank together in

Zoekayae village, Thaton Township and got into a quarrel during which U Pyone Cho hit the victim with a brick. Then he fled the scene.

The police arrested U Pyone Cho and charged him under Criminal Law.—*Thet Oo (Thaton)*

Yaba seized in Hsenwi and Mongtong

AN anti-narcotics squad comprised of policemen from Mongtong police station seized 50,000 yaba tablets and 13,500 baht from a vehicle driven by Arr Phar with Ma Nar Htaw Zae on board at Mongtong gate on

Sunday.

On the same day, police from Lashio seized Yaba pills from a passenger at Oriental toll gate, Hsenwi entrance gate.

Acting on a tip-off, the police searched a passenger

vehicle and found 1,900 yaba tablets from Han Myo Tun, a passenger. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—*Ko Ye*

LOCAL Business

PHOTO: AYE MIN SOE



Sugar cane growers enthusiastic about the purchase news

THE growers of sugar cane in Yedashe Township, Bago Region are enthusiastic about the proposal that the factories will offer up to Ks40,000 per tonne of sugar cane, said U Win Myint from the township agriculture department.

The farmers lost interest in sugar cane cultivation because

rice and other crops were fetching higher prices. There were a total of 25,000 acres of sugar cane plantations over the past three years in Yedashe Township. The acre of sugar cane plantations has been scaled down to 8,000 acres, he added.

The decrease in the cultiva-

tion of sugar cane resulted from a large gap between supply and demand, said the growers. The sugar cane growers need not concern about pests, but they are dealing with other problems like low weight of the sugar canes caused by the scorching heat. —*Ko Lwin (Swar) Myama Alin*

Industrial area to be established in Thaton instead of caustic soda plant project

AN industrial area in Thaton will be established instead of a project to start a caustic soda (sodium hydroxide) plant in Thaton.

The decision was made because it was determined that the sodium hydroxide plant would not be cost-effective. The caustic soda plant was initially planned to be built with a loan from China.

The government has already given a green light to implement

the industrial area (Thaton).

The Industry Ministry has already invited Expressions of Interest (EoI) to carry out the industrial area, it is learnt from an announcement released by the Ministry of Industry.

An industrial training school will be set up in this area, it is learnt.

There are a total of 103 factories under the Industry Ministry. However, only 44 factories

are state-owned.

The others are joint ventures with the private sector and some are leased.

“We do not have a plan to sell the remaining ones,” said U Ko Ko Lwin, the permanent secretary of the Industry Ministry.

India came to discuss matters to make the state-owned pharmaceutical industries and subsidiary factories under joint ventures, it is learnt.—*Mon Mon*

Japan based Toyo Seikan Co to join hands with Loi Hein Company

JAPAN based Toyo Seikan Co., Ltd will join hands with Loi Hein Company to set up a can manufacturing factory, it is learnt.

Toyo Seikan Co., Ltd has already pledged to make an investment of US\$23.5million in the factory. The joint venture (JV)

will be founded under the name of Yangon Can Manufacturing Co., Ltd.

This factory is expected to manufacture 200 million cans per year. Those cans will be mainly used for fruit juice. The factory will be built in the Thilawa Spe-

cial Economic Zone (SEZ), said Dr. Sai Sam Htun, chairman of Loi Hein Company. The factory is slated to become operational in 2018. The Japanese company will own 75 per cent of shares and the remaining shares belong to Loi Hein Company, it is learnt.—*200*

Hong Kong-based HK Express to fly direct to Mandalay

HONG Kong-based HK Express will begin regularly scheduled flights direct to Mandalay starting 5th September, said Sherman Luk, the airline's general manager.

HK express will fly twice a week, Mr. Luj said. HK Express is the third airline to fly the Mandalay-Hong Kong route along with Myanmar National Airlines (MNA) and Myanmar Airways International (MAI). HK Ex-

press is a budget airline and aims at creating the opportunity and developing good relationship between the people of Hong Kong and Mandalay, said Kayley So, a communications officer for HK Express.

The airline already launched a Hong Kong-to-Yangon flight that operates four times a week. Similarly, MNA also flies to Hong Kong from Yangon four times a week.—*200*

Trade deficit reached over US\$67million by end of August

THE trade deficit has reached over US\$67million by the end of August, resulting from the decrease in border trade, it is learnt from Trade Promotion Department.

The export value as of last week in August in this fiscal year 2016-2017 amounted to US\$264.004million, whereas the import fetched US\$331.127million.

Therefore, there is a trade deficit of over US\$67million to outmanoeuvre the export value, it is learnt from the statistics of this department.

The decline in the export of green grams, mung beans and jade materials resulted in the deficit of trade, said the exporters.

The value of export through normal trade as of the last week of August was US\$2,637.405million, whereas the import value amounted to US\$4,692.301million. At a similar period the previous year, the value of export through border trade camps was US\$1,575.155million whereas the import value, US\$999.948million, it is learnt.—*Ko Htet*

FDI and subsidies required to enhance agricultural sector

FOREIGN direct investment (FDI) and subsidies are required to enhance the agricultural sector.

Farmers need to survive from occasions when they are offered a lower price after a harvest. Besides, efforts will have to be made to attract more FDI to put into agricultural sector.

At harvest time, supply overpowers demand, resulting in a low price for the crops. Concerted efforts are required to solve this problem. The system that the government will use to purchase the crops to control the decreasing price in a market has already been enshrined into a law concerning the farmers' rights. However, the central unit to purchase the crops is not yet constituted, it is learnt.

The low price is also positively related to the quality of the products. Myanmar is still weak in manufacturing high quality products. The pedigree processing businesses have been allowed to operate with 100 per cent foreign investment this year. The total of foreign direct investment as of July in this fiscal year is over US\$64 billion, but only over \$294million was invested in the agricultural sector, it is learnt.

Sometimes, a good price is offered when the foreign countries fulfill their market requirements.

Farmers are required to have access to updated information about the crop market. Technical awareness campaigns are also required to be conducted.—*Ko Htet*

Abe, Duterte meet on sidelines of Laos meetings after US spat

VIENTIANE — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte held a meeting in Laos on Tuesday on the sidelines of regional meetings in the Southeast Asian country, following the cancellation of the U.S.-Philippines leaders' talks over Duterte's verbal blasting of President Barack Obama.

Abe kicked off their first meeting since Duterte took office in June by addressing his counterpart, saying, "I would like to congratulate you on assuming the office of President of the Republic of the Philippines," adding that "Mr. President is quite a famous figure also in Japan, and I am very excited to see you in person."

He also expressed condolences to Duterte following an explosion in the Philippine city of Davao

on Friday evening which killed 14 people. Duterte was formerly the mayor of Davao.

The Philippines' Presidential Adviser on Peace Process, Jesus Dureza, told Kyodo News that the two leaders had shared strategies on dealing with territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

He said they shared the same position on honouring a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration, based on the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, which found China's claim to most of the disputed water had no legal basis.

They discussed the possibility of bringing up the ruling at the summit, Dureza said, adding that Duterte explained his options for dealing with China's pursuit of territory in the sea, saying "we cannot go to war with China...but

at some point in time we'll just have to work within the four corners of that ruling on the South China Sea."

Japan has urged the countries involved in disputes in the South China Sea to comply with the July ruling.

Dureza added that he thanked Abe for coast guard and navy assets provided by Japan.

The Philippines is part of the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations, meeting Tuesday through Thursday in the Laotian capital Vientiane. The reaction to the ruling within ASEAN has been varied, reflecting the members' differing ties with China.

Japan's vigor in backing the ruling is linked to its own tensions with China over the Senkaku Islands in the East China Sea, ad-



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (R) and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte hold talks in Vientiane, Laos, on 6 September 2016, on the sidelines of regional summit meetings. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

ministered by Tokyo but claimed by Beijing, which calls them Diaoyu.

Abe and Duterte may also have discussed Japan's ongoing commitment to assist the Philippines with infrastructure and development.

Attention is being paid to any mention by Abe in the meeting of concerns

about human rights under Duterte's leadership.

According to media reports, Duterte unleashed a series of insults toward Obama on Monday in response to a reporter's question about how he would handle US concerns about extrajudicial killings in the Philippines' anti-drugs campaign, prompting the

White House to cancel planned talks in Laos.

On Tuesday, a statement issued by the Philippine government said the president "regrets that his remarks to the press have caused much controversy" and "expressed his deep regard and affinity for President Obama." — *Kyodo News*

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Viet Nam sees dropping smoking rate in 5 years

HANOI — Viet Nam saw a dropping rate among smokers from 23.8 per cent in 2010 to 22.5 per cent in 2015, said the Ministry of Health (MoH) on Tuesday.

The information was released at a seminar on results of Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS) held by the MoH in Viet Nam's capital Hanoi on

Tuesday.

Among the figure, the rate of male smokers went down from 47.4 per cent to 45.3 per cent during 2010-2015 period.

In urban areas, the rate of male smokers fell from 47.7 per cent in 2010 to 42.7 per cent in 2015, said the ministry.

Despite the decrease, with proportion of 45.3

percent of male smokers nationwide, Viet Nam remains among countries with the highest rate of tobacco use in the world, said the MoH.

At the same time, tobacco is sold everywhere in Viet Nam and local citizens find it easy to access to tobacco.

In the coming time, in order to reduce smoking

rate and further implementation Law on Prevention and Control of Tobacco Harms which took effect three years ago, Viet Nam will speed up efforts to prohibit smoking in public areas and proposes the country's government and parliament to increase tobacco tax, reported the state-run news agency VNA. — *Xinhua*

Bomb kills father and daughter at school in Thailand's south



A school bag lies on a street next to the site of a bomb attack at Tak Bai district in the troubled southern province of Narathiwat, Thailand, on 6 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

BANGKOK — A motorcycle bomb killed a father and daughter in front of a Thai elementary school as parents were dropping off their children on Tuesday, officials said, the latest in a series of attacks in the troubled south.

The bomb went off in Narathiwat Province, one of three Muslim-majority provinces in predominantly Buddhist Thailand where a separatist insurgency has been raging since 2004.

The blast killed a

man and his five year-old daughter, the army's Internal Security Operations Command said. The motorcycle was parked opposite the school entrance. Eight people were wounded.

"We suspect this to be the work of people who want to destabilise the situation and cause chaos," the deputy spokesman of the ISOC, Yuthanam Petchmuang, told Reuters.

The attack occurred less than a month after a wave of bombings in tourist towns, including Hua Hin, Phuket and Surat Thani, killed four people and injured dozens.

Police say the tourist-town bombings were linked to the southern insurgency and arrested a suspect over the weekend in connection with the

attacks.

Defence Minister Prawit Wongsuwan told reporters on Tuesday that the military government, which took power in May 2014, were making security preparations ahead of the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha on 12 September.

More than 6,500 people have been killed in insurgency-related violence in the Muslim-majority provinces Yala, Narathiwat and Pattani Province since the conflict began, according to Deep South Watch, which monitors the conflict.

While the conflict has been largely confined to the three southern provinces, analysts say that the spread of violence to other provinces could affect Thailand's tourism industry. — *Reuters*

Philippines scrambles to soothe tensions after insult to Obama

VIENTIANE — The Philippines scrambled to defuse a row with the United States on Tuesday and its new president, Rodrigo Duterte, voiced regret for calling President Barack Obama a “son of a bitch”, comments that prompted Washington to call off a bilateral meeting.

The tiff between the two allies overshadowed the opening of a summit of East and Southeast Asian nations in Laos.

Duterte has bristled repeatedly at criticism over his “war on drugs”, which has killed about 2,400 people since he took office two months ago, and on Monday said it would be “rude” for Obama to raise the human rights issue when they met.

Such a conversation, Duterte told reporters, would prompt him to curse at Obama, using a Filipino phrase “putang ina” which can mean “son of a bitch” or “son of a whore”.

After Washington called off Tuesday’s bilateral meeting between Obama and Duterte in response, the Philippines issued two statements expressing regret.

“President Duterte explained that the press reports that President Obama would ‘lecture’ him on extrajudicial killings led to his strong comments, which in turn elicited concern,” the Philippines government said in one statement.

“He regrets that his remarks to the press have caused much controversy,” it added. “He expressed his deep regard and affinity for President Obama and for the enduring partnership between our nations.”

The White House had earlier said Obama would not pull any punches on his concerns about human rights abuses in the Philip-



US President Barack Obama reviews honour guard during a welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Vientiane, Laos on 6 September, 2016. PHOTO : REUTERS

ines, its treaty ally, when meeting Duterte.

It was not immediately known if the bilateral meeting between the two president would be rescheduled. Instead of the Duterte meeting, Obama plans to hold talks with South Korean President Park Geun-hye, said Ned Price, spokesman for the White House National Security Council — a meeting where the response to North Korea’s latest missile tests is expected to be on the agenda.

Obama arrived in Vientiane just before midnight on Monday for the first visit by a sitting US president to Laos, where he wants to begin to address the legacy of US bombing during the Viet Nam War.

He announced on Tuesday that the United States would provide an additional \$90 million over the next three years to help Laos, heavily bombed during the Viet Nam War, clear unexploded ordnance, which has killed or wounded more than 20,000 people.

The unusually open tensions between the United States and the Philippines, its former colony and long-term ally, threaten to overshadow the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and East Asia Summits in Laos from Tuesday to Thursday.

The 10-member ASEAN will meet leaders of other regional powers: China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, India, Russia and the United States.

Duterte won the presidency in May as he promised to suppress crime and wipe out drugs and drug dealers. At least 2,400 people have been killed since he took office on 1 July, including 900 in police operations against drug pushers.

The rest are “deaths under investigation”, a term human rights activists in the Philippines say is a euphemism for vigilante and extrajudicial killings.

Duterte has poured scorn previously on critics, usually larding it with curses.

He lambasted the United Nations after it criticized the surge in killings and he turned down a meeting with UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon at the Laos summit.—Reuters

US, South Korean ‘six-party’ envoys to meet on 13 September in Seoul

SEOUL — The US and South Korean head delegates to the long-stalled six-party talks on North Korea are scheduled to meet on 13 September in Seoul, South Korea’s Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

News of the talks between Sung Kim, US special representative for North Korea policy, and Kim Hong Kyun, South Korea’s special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, come after the two envoys had a telephone conversation on Monday, the ministry said.

During their discussion, which was arranged in response to North Korea’s launch of three ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan earlier that day, the two officials agreed to continue close consultation on responses at the UN Security Council and also other measures.

The missiles, believed to be medium-range Rodong or short-range Scud types, were fired at around 12:14 pm from Hwangju in the southwestern province of North Hwanghae and flew around 1,000 kilometres, according to South Korea’s Joint Chiefs of Staff.

According to the Japanese Defence Ministry, the missiles fell inside Japan’s exclusive economic zone, as did a ballistic missile launched by North Korea on 3 August. North Korea’s launches of various types of missiles and artillery shells in recent months have drawn a flurry of condemnation from Japan, South Korea and the United States.

The six-party talks aimed at ending North Korea’s nuclear programme, involving the two Koreas, the United States, Japan, China and Russia, have been deadlocked since late 2008.—Kyodo News

Abe, Xi agree to speed up talks on setup of maritime hotline

HANGZHOU — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Monday he agreed with Chinese President Xi Jinping that the two countries will speed up talks toward an early implementation of a maritime and aerial communication mechanism, a sort of hotline between defense officials, to prevent accidental clashes in the East China Sea.

The two top leaders, in their first talks in nearly a year and a half, agreed that stable development of bilateral ties is essential for regional peace and prosperity.

Abe told Xi that Japan wants to work with China to contribute to global economic growth and forge “friendly” ties by “managing difficult issues” and “promoting win-win cooperation.”

Xi said “long-term, healthy and stable” bilateral ties would benefit not only the citizens of

both countries, but also the rest of the world.

At the outset of the meeting, which was open to the press, Xi also said they should try to bring back their relations back “on the track of normal development as soon as possible.”

Their meeting, the first time since April 2015, took place in the Chinese city of Hangzhou after a two-day summit of the Group of 20 major economies ended in the evening, at a time of renewed tensions between the two Asian powers over the sovereignty of a small group of islands in the East China Sea.

Since both came to power in 2012, the leaders of the world’s second- and third-largest economies held face-to-face talks only twice before — in November 2014 and April 2015 — although

many crucial issues remain unaddressed.

China sent a record number of government vessels, as many as 15, and about 300 fishing boats close to the Japan-controlled Senkaku Islands last month.

Japanese officials have been puzzled over China’s real motives behind the dispatch of the vessels in the vicinity of the uninhabited islands, which it calls Diaoyu, in the weeks leading up to the G-20 summit.

Some of the vessels repeatedly entered Japanese waters, despite a series of high-level protests from Tokyo.

“With regard to South China and East China Sea issues, I frankly and clearly told President Xi about Japan’s position and my thoughts,” Abe told a press conference.—Kyodo News



Chinese President Xi Jinping (R) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe shake hands ahead of their talks in Hangzhou on 5 September, 2016. Their meeting, the first since April 2015, took place after a two-day summit of the Group of 20 major economies in the Chinese city. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

Opinion

Write for us

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

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Let's realise and maximise our potential

Khin Maung Aye

IT is a fact that everybody has their own potential. However, most people tend to neglect seeking the ways and means to realise and maximise their potential. Although early life development and early formative experiences within the family, at school etc can help to shape young persons into adults, personal development should not stop later in life. Personal development is not an event but a process that requires lifelong effort. People need to exert a sustained effort for their own development throughout their life.

Personal development is a way for people to assess their skills and qualities, consider their aims in life and set goals in order to make full use of their potential. In this regard, some tips would

be, in order to help the youth identify their skills, set life goals that can enhance their employability, raise their confidence level and lead to a more fulfilling, higher-quality life. Young people are advised to plan to make relevant, positive and effective life choices and decisions for their future to enable personal empowerment.

Despite the prevalence of ideas surrounding personal development, the editorial space limits this writer to just one piece of advice i.e. the process called self-actualisation. The extent to which people are able to develop, according to Maslow (1970), depends upon certain needs being met, and these needs form a hierarchy. Only when one level of need is satisfied can a higher one

be developed. As change occurs throughout life, however, the level of need motivating a person's behavior at any one time will also change.

At the bottom of the hierarchy are the basic physiological needs for food, drink, sex and sleep – i.e. the basics for survival. Second are the needs for safety and security in both the physical and economic sense. Thirdly, progression can be made to satisfying the need for love and belonging. The fourth level refers to meeting the need for self-esteem and self-worth. This is the level most closely related to self-empowerment. The fifth level relates to the need to understand. This level includes more abstract ideas such as curiosity and the search for meaning or purpose and a

deeper understanding. The sixth is concerned with aesthetic needs of beauty, symmetry and order. At the top of Maslow's hierarchy is the need for self actualization. Maslow (1970, P.383) says that all individuals have the need to see themselves as competent and autonomous, also that everybody has limitless room for growth.

Self-actualisation is in fact the desire that all people 'have to become everything that they are capable of becoming'. In other words, it refers to self-fulfilment and the need to reach full potential as a unique human being. Let's not forget that the path to self-actualization involves being in touch with our feelings, experiencing life fully and with total concentration, and let's try to realise and maximise our potential.

Spreading literacy to promote development, understanding and peace

Myo Myint

EVERY year on September 8th, the world celebrates International Literacy Day. This day is celebrated all over the world annually with different themes to draw the attention of leaders and citizens of nations, local and international NGOs, governmental organizations and the illiterates themselves to issues concerning illiteracy and the importance of acquiring literacy skills in order to liberate illiterates from the depths of poverty, ignorance, and exploitation to enable them to reach their full potential. The benefits of a country having a literate population are too numerous to be listed here. To mention a few, literacy is recognized worldwide as an important tool in raising socioeconomic standards of a country, fostering understanding, cooperation, tolerance and peace among members of the society, enhancing critical thinking skills, promoting gender equality, inculcating knowledge of healthy living and increasing appreciation for the need to conserve the environment.

In this day and age of digital skills, for those who have been able to attend school, the abilities to read, write and calculate are very basic skills that can be developed at an early age. It has been fifty years since the initiating of International Literacy Day by

UNESCO in 1965 and since then many countries have made great strides in eradicating illiteracy. Although the number of illiterates in the world has been halved between 1970 and 2005, there still remain millions all over the world, who have not had the opportunity to attend school, and for them, especially adults, achieving literacy may be a great challenge. According to UNESCO there are 758 million adult illiterates and of them two-thirds are women. In the case of Myanmar, during the time of Myanmar kings, as noted by foreigners of that period, Myanmar had a fairly large literate population due to the wide prevalence of monastic schools. Myanmar is also one of the countries that have gained success in eradicating illiteracy and has received two international awards in recognition for its outstanding achievements. In awarding the Mohamed Reza Phalavi Prize for 1971, the jury stated that the prize was awarded, "for the intensive literacy teaching carried out with exemplary persistence and earnestness in an increasing number of areas, for the benefit of broad strata of the population, with the assistance of the whole student body." Currently, the Myanmar literacy rate is equal to the average literacy rate of ASEAN and higher than those of neighbouring countries, India, Bangladesh, Lao PDR and Cambodia. However, Myanmar

cannot be complacent and has still to strive to fully eradicate illiteracy in the country and work for higher literacy among women as the national census of 2014 stated that the adult literacy rate is 89.5 percent, with literacy rate among men being slightly higher than women.

Knowing full well the cost of illiteracy, Myanmar continues to make relentless effort to promote literacy using the strength of the younger generation with university students forming the core of volunteer teachers and harnessing the assistance of basic education teachers and local volunteers. Each year, funds and areas are earmarked for eradication of illiteracy and volunteers are recruited. The majority of the volunteer teachers live in the villages assigned for the duration of the 45 day literacy promotion programme. According to the Ministry of Education, in April and May of 2016, 30 townships were selected from 14 Regions, States and Nay Pyi Taw area and 20527 illiterates were formed into 2180 learning groups to provide literary skills. Again, in October of this year, 3R campaigns will be carried out in Kayah State to bring literacy to about 4600 persons who will be formed into 400 learning groups to be taught by 400 volunteer students from technological and computer higher education institutions located

within Kayah State.

This year's International Literacy Day Celebrations may be considered to be of special significance as it marks the 50th anniversary of its initiation by UNESCO and supported by nations all over the world. The theme chosen for this year is Reading the Past and Writing the Future. The theme highlights the fact that the 50 years experience of striving to eradicate illiteracy worldwide serves as a sound foundation to increase effectiveness and maximize the benefits of future literacy campaigns.

For some of the nations that have faced challenges of long standing illiteracy, this year's theme of International Literacy Day may serve as a reminder to assess the successes of the methodology, the teaching materials and teaching aids and the mode of training of instructors used in the past and drawing on the achievements to introduce more effective ways. It is widely recognized that there have been many positive developments in teaching language and numeracy to children and some of the modern techniques used, with some modifications may be utilized in facilitating learning and increasing its pace. Moreover, whatever the age, most people like game-like activities and these can be incorporated in the methodology to create interest and fun and lessen stress. So also,

learning materials that have been used for many years may become more effective if reviewed and updated to reflect the interests of the times. It is also possible that if learning materials can incorporate very short and simple reading passages on life skills and activities on income generation, learners' knowledge on how to improve their lives and thinking skills may also be promoted and the programme better appreciated. In addition, utilization of more teaching aids will help learners learn faster and retain better. It is true that teaching and learning aids can be borrowed from schools in the locality, but it would be much better if these aids are developed specially for 3R classes most of which are attended by young and older adults and as many sets of teaching aids should be made available to provide learners hands-on experience. The teaching aids should be reusable ones so that they can be reutilized later on in literacy programmes at other venues and save costs. As young people these days are very much interested in social work, university students will be more than happy to assist in producing simple teaching aids during their free time. Similarly, by increasing the duration of instructor training programmes, the skill of instructors who lack experience of teaching 3R classes can be enhanced.

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General Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission, signs in the visitors' book. PHOTO: MNA

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission hold talks

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing welcomed General Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman of China's Central Military Commission with the Honour Guard at the Zeyathiri Beikman in Nay Pyi Taw

yesterday.

After the welcoming ceremony the two representatives held talks regarding the promotion of strategic relations between the two armed forces, promoting cooperation in border area management issues,

China's participation in national reconciliation efforts and the peace process in Myanmar, bilateral relations and international relations.

The Commander-in-Chief hosted a dinner in honour of General Xu Hialiang.—MNA

Myanmar military delegation leaves for RoK to attend Defense Expo Korea 2016

A Myanmar military delegation led by Deputy Commander-in-Chief of Defense Services Commander-in-Chief (Army) Vice Senior General Soe Win left for the Republic of Korea to attend the Defense Expo Korea 2016 at the invitation of General Jang Jun-Gyu, Chief of Staff of the Republic of Korea Army,

on Monday.

The Myanmar military delegation was seen off at Yangon International Airport by Commander of Yangon Command Maj-Gen Myo Zaw Thein and senior military officers, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Myanmar Yoo Jae-Kyung, Defense Attaché Col. Hong

Jongkee and officials.

Maj-Gen Swe Win of the Office of the Commander-in-Chief (Army) left for the Republic of Korea on the same flight.

The Defense Expo Korea 2016 is scheduled to be held in Seoul, the RoK from 6 to 10 September. —Myawady

POEM:

Just The End

- * By the time, bitter winds coming,
I'll withstand 'em knowing
Not alone
I'm not on my own.
- * By the time, the hates growing,
I'll learn what I'll be performing
Laugh and smile
I'll send 'em away awhile.
- * By the time, it's an earthquake,
I'll get erect but not shake
Let the sufferings go
Let my happiness know.
- * By the time, one's in desert
I'll decide 'em not deserved
Appear as their companions
Let not 'em be just the end.

Yin Nwe Ko (Linn)



Myanmar military delegation leaving for RoK to attend Defense Expo Korea 2016. PHOTO: C-IN-C'S OFFICE

Spreading literacy to promote development, understanding and peace

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In addition to human resource, good planning and management, another important success factor for nationwide campaigns is the amount of financial resources that can be utilized. In Myanmar, the budget allotted to the Ministry of Education is increasing steadily but since it is the main provider of education in the country and many areas need improvement, the ministry can only spend a small percentage of what is needed on literacy campaigns resulting in limiting the number of centres and participants. In

addition, printing and distribution of reading materials and holding of follow-up programmes for neo-literates have been hampered by lack of funds. However, there is hope that this can be redressed as Myanmar is now practising market economy and the private sector is prospering and many successful companies have embraced the concept of corporate social responsibilities.

Knowing the importance of literate human resource for the country as well as for the private sector, many companies will surely provide financial support

to this national endeavour if invited to do so by the ministry concerned.

Meanwhile, while striving to raise the standard of education, the Ministry of Education is also trying to ensure that all persons gain access to education by creating various pathways. In the very near future, the ministry will open a new department, the Department of Alternative Education whose tasks are to provide education to education seekers of all ages using non-formal and innovative means.

It is hoped that the department will also carry out effective

literacy programmes that will reach the four corners of the country to ensure that every citizen receives basic literacy skills and when the time is ripe to provide more advanced literacy skills defined by UNESCO as the "ability to identify, understand, interpret, create, communicate, and compute, using printed and written materials associated with varying contexts".

There is no doubt that mastery of literacy skills has a huge positive impact on a person and also multiplier effect. Not only will his/her life be transformed

for the better, so also he/her can contribute to the advancement of his/her family, community, country and future generations, personally, socially, economically and politically.

It is therefore imperative that more innovative means are sought and best practices shared among countries and organizations to ensure the success of literacy campaigns all over the world and that the literacy achieved forms a sound basis for lifelong learning for those keen on further improving themselves.

Trump, Clinton court Ohio as White House race enters final two months



Michael Hackert, vice president at Xtra Airways, holds a model of US Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton's campaign plane in front of the real thing at the Westchester County Airport in White Plains, New York, US, on 5 September, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

CANFIELD (Ohio) — Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton opened a final two-month sprint to the 8 November election on Monday with the Republican presidential nominee suddenly looking stronger as he and his Democratic rival took their bitter fight to Ohio.

Both Trump and Clinton made overtures to a news media that each candidate sees as often hostile to them, talking to reporters on their private planes. Clinton's session with reporters was her first news conference since last December.

After eating a gyro at a diner in the Cleveland area, Trump rallied thousands of cheering supporters at a county fair in Canfield, and Clinton visited a brewery in Cleveland. For a time, their planes were parked about 200 yards apart at the Cleveland air-

port, a sign of Ohio's importance in the election.

Ohio is considered one of four swing states — those that are not clearly in the Democratic or Republican camp — that could prove decisive in the Electoral College vote that will ultimately determine the winner. The other swing states are Florida, Pennsylvania and Virginia.

Trump was buoyed by more polls showing him in a competitive position. The latest Reuters-Ipsos poll showed Trump with 40 per cent support vs 39 per cent for Clinton, effectively ending Clinton's bump up in the polls after the Democratic nominating convention. Other polls showed Clinton's lead had shrunk. "I think we've had a great month," Trump said.

Clinton remained in a strong position to win the White House

race, but Trump and his team cited his growing strength in opinion polls nationally and in several states where the election is likely to be decided to argue that his message is breaking through to voters. Clinton, who emerged into the public eye after days of raising money from wealthy donors behind closed doors, said she always knew the race would be close. "We're just going as hard and fast as we possibly can to be organised for turning out the vote, because we've always thought this was going to be hard, and that's why, you know, I'm not worried, I'm just working," she said. Trump, shaking his fist triumphantly, plunged into a crowd at the Mahoning County Fair where supporters had built a replica of the wall that the Republican nominee has pledged to build along the US-Mexico border. —Reuters

Germans test air defences in Latvia as NATO expands in Baltics

LIELVARDE (Latvia) — German and Latvian troops have begun a joint exercise in Latvia, not far from the Russian border, as part of a broad drive by NATO to shore up air defences against a possible Russian attack.

Germany has around 80 troops and 400 tonnes of equipment, including a deployable mobile control centre, for the exercise, which will continue through October. Five German Eurofighter jets are also flying Baltic air patrols out of Amari, Estonia.

"Our biggest concern is the unpredictability of Russia, which has proven in Georgia and Crimea and eastern Ukraine that it is ready, for whatever reason, to take military action," Lieutenant General Raimonds Graube, commander of Latvian armed forces, told Reuters.

Latvia has doubled its military spending over the past two years and will reach the NATO target of spending 2 per cent of its gross domestic product on defence by 2018. The joint operations underway in Latvia are part of NATO's "Persistent Presence" exercise and involve Germany's Deployable Control and Reporting Centre, which is patrolling a section of Baltic airspace using its own and several Baltic radars.

NATO leaders agreed in July to move four battalions totalling 3,000 to 4,000 troops to the Baltic states and eastern Poland for the first time, and increase air and sea patrols to reassure those countries following Russia's seizure of Crimea from Ukraine.

Some 25 per cent of the population in Latvia and Estonia are Russian minorities, who officials

fear could be galvanised to fight against the majority population, much as Russian separatists are now fighting in eastern Ukraine.

Moscow has also declared its intention to deploy nuclear-capable missiles in Kaliningrad, part of Russia surrounded by Poland and Lithuania, in response to NATO's activation of a US-built missile shield on Polish soil.

Graube said one of the most modern Russian helicopter bases was located in Ostrow, which is just 25 km (15.5 miles) from the Latvian border but well within the 350-km range of a powerful German radar brought in for the exercise. "Of course that worries us, and that's why it's good that the Germans are here for deterrence and to send a signal that NATO is strong and unified," Graube said. —Reuters

NEWS IN BRIEF

Worker dies after being caught in waste grinder at recycling plant

NARA (Japan) — A man was killed after becoming caught in a waste grinding machine at a recycling plant in Nara western Japan, police said on Tuesday.

The 45-year-old was among four workers who were placing construction waste in the machine Monday morning, but when the work was completed at the plant around 4:30 pm the victim's colleagues realised the man was missing. When searching for the man the workers discovered body parts and fragments of the man's helmet in the compacted waste. —Kyodo News

France expresses concern for safety of nationals in Gabon

PARIS — France expressed concern on Monday about the safety of several of its nationals following violence in its former colony Gabon triggered by a disputed presidential election.

Fighting erupted in Gabon last week after the announcement of a slim victory for incumbent President Ali Bongo. At least six people have been killed and more than 1,000 arrested during the unrest.

"Arrests have taken place in the past few days. France is without news about several of its compatriots," Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault said in a statement. —Reuters

Eagle attacks Aussie woman at Queensland wildlife park

SYDNEY — A wedge-tailed eagle has attacked a woman from the Gold Coast's Currumbin Wildlife Sanctuary in Queensland, Australia, leaving her with facial cuts. The woman, believed to be in her 30s, was attacked just after 08:30 local time (AEST) on Tuesday and was taken to Gold Coast University Hospital in a stable condition, local media reports. The sanctuary's senior vet Michael Payne said she was an experienced staff member who had entered the eagle enclosure to "clean and feed" the animal when the attack occurred. "She (had) suffered a lip injury and is currently undergoing treatment in hospital," Payne said. —Xinhua

Air passengers hit by BA tech glitch, London City airport protest

LONDON — Air passengers suffered lengthy delays in Britain after a computer glitch hit British Airways check-ins and protesters from "Black Lives Matter" forced their way on to the runway of London City Airport on Tuesday. British Airways said it was taking longer than normal to process customers at a number of airports, including London's Heathrow and Gatwick, but did not comment on reports there had also been hold-ups in San Francisco, Washington D.C. and Atlanta on Monday night. "Really unhappy with @British_Airways 'The system is down' & can't checkin!," one passenger, Shail, said on Twitter. —Reuters

Russia to use anti-aircraft missile systems in war games

MOSCOW — Russia will use S-400 and S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems in the "Caucasus-2016" war games in the southern region of Astrakhan, the Defence Ministry said on Tuesday.

The two long-range missile systems together with Pantsir-S1 "will fire at the air targets simulating the entire spectrum of air attacks at all altitudes and speeds," the ministry said in a statement.

Pantsir-S1 is a combined short-to-medium range surface-to-air missile and anti-aircraft artillery weapon system. —Xinhua

Emirates jet hit by shifting winds before hard landing, fire - inquiry

DUBAI — An Emirates jet that skidded along the runway on its fuselage at Dubai airport and caught fire last month was subjected to shifting winds as it made a failed attempt to abort a landing, United Arab Emirates (UAE) investigators said on Tuesday.

In a preliminary report on the Aug. 3 incident, the UAE federal aviation authority said the pilot had tried to abandon the landing after the main wheels of the Boeing 777-300 had already touched down. —Reuters

Lebanon dialogue suspended as Christian party pulls out

BEIRUT — The speaker of the Lebanese parliament on Monday suspended a national dialogue of rival politicians after one of the main Christian parties walked out, deepening the country's political crisis.

Speaker Nabih Berri took the decision after the withdrawal of the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) which criticised the dialogue as pointless and condemned what it called contraventions of a national pact on sectarian power-sharing among the Lebanese.

"There is no benefit from the dialogue and its continuation, therefore we announced this position in cabinet, and we announced it now at the dialogue table," FPM leader Gebran Bassil said in a statement reported by



Lebanese Christian leader and founder of the Free Patriotic Movement (FPM) Michel Aoun. PHOTO: REUTERS

the National News Agency.

Lebanon, which is still rebuilding from its 1975-90 civil war, has been paralysed by a political crisis exacerbated by the conflict in neighbouring Syria.

The country has been without a president for more than two years because rival groups have been unable to agree on who it should be, and Prime Minister Tammam Salam's unity cabinet has been paralysed by divisions among its members.

The presidency is reserved for a Maronite Christian. The FPM is determined the next head of state should be its founder, Michel Aoun. His party has the biggest number of Christian seats in parliament.

Berri, a Shi'ite politician, had said he would suspend the dialogue if any of the main factions withdrew.

The FPM is an ally of the powerful Shi'ite group Hezbollah, which supports Aoun for the presidency.

The other main candidate for the position is Suleiman Franjeh, another Hezbollah ally who was nominated for the post by Sunni leader Saad al-Hariri last year.

A row broke out between Bassil and Franjeh during Monday's session. "Parliament Speaker Nabil Berri suspended the dialogue indefinitely on Monday ... after a verbal row between two Christian leaders," an official said.—Reuters



Residents look at oil spill from wells, set ablaze by Islamic State militants before fleeing the oil-producing region of Qayyara, in Qayyara, Iraq, on 29 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Iraq puts out more oil fires at northern field, some still burning

BAGHDAD — Iraq has put out fires at six more oil wells in the Qayyara region, which Iraqi forces recaptured from Islamic State late last month, but at least three fires are still blazing, the oil ministry said on Tuesday.

The militants sabotaged much of Qayyara's oil infrastructure before fleeing ahead of the government advance, sending black smoke into the sky for days and oil pouring into main thoroughfares.

The authorities said last week they had already put out fires from four wells, but a Reuters corre-

spondent visiting the city afterwards saw around a dozen separate plumes of smoke and a military officer in the area said on Sunday the fires were still raging.

"The firefighting consisted of removing explosives from these wells, putting out the fires and preventing crude oil from leaking into the river to prevent pollution," ministry spokesman Asim Jihad said.

Responders also built dirt walls and trenches to prevent oil from reaching residential neighbourhoods, he added.

Jihad said three wells that

remain outside the control of the security forces would be extinguished as soon as they were recaptured.

The Qayyara region produces heavy sour crude and has a small refinery to process some of the oil.

The oil ministry has said it does not expect to resume production from the Qayyara region before security forces recapture Mosul, Islamic State's de facto capital in Iraq. The two main fields, Qayyara and Najma, used to produce 30,000 barrels per day of heavy crude before the takeover by Islamic State.—Reuters

Ivory Coast evicts thousands of cocoa farmers to save forests

MONT PEKO NATIONAL PARK, (Ivory Coast) — Before the morning mists had broken over Ivory Coast's Mont Peko National Park, thousands of newly homeless cocoa farmers and their families began to stir, fetching water and lighting cooking fires outside Sylvain Zongo's church at the forest edge.

"I don't know what I am going to do. All I can do is pray to God, otherwise it breaks my heart," the pastor said, surveying a scene more evocative of the West African nation's civil war years than its relative prosperity today.

This is the human toll of a government crackdown on illegal farmers that could leave hundreds of thousands destitute, dent gross domestic product and inflame tensions left over from years of unrest.

It is the consequence of what may be Ivory Coast's last chance save the most rapidly disappearing forest in Africa, home to endangered chimpanzees, forest elephants and the rare pygmy hippopotamus.

Since independence in 1960, Ivory Coast has built its economy — French-speaking West Africa's largest — on cash crop agriculture, growing about 40 per cent of the world's cocoa, which makes up some 15 percent of its GDP.

While the chocolate ingredient helped it become a relatively prosperous nation in a desperately poor region, it also brought it to the brink of an ecological disaster.

Ivory Coast lost 80 per cent of its virgin forest between independence from France in 1960 and 2010, according to the European Union. Another study by Ivorian and French scientists estimated it had the highest rate of deforestation in Africa — with 265,000 hectares cleared annually by 1999 — even before the onset of political unrest that accelerated the destruction.

During the 2002-2011 crisis, which included two civil wars, park rangers and forest officials abandoned areas they were protecting.

The 34,000-hectare Mont

Peko, which means "mountain of hyenas" in the local Guere language, became a symbol of the lawlessness that reigned during that period as armed warlords seized control of the land and sold off parcels, many to immigrants from neighbouring countries.

The government crackdown in Mont Peko is a significant step in ending illegal cocoa farming in Ivory Coast's eight national parks, five nature reserves and 231 forest reserves.

Annual production in Mont Peko alone reached around 10,000

tonnes, worth over \$28 million in export value, a UN panel of experts said in a report in March, though some exporters say the tonnage figure may be double that.

The government had repeatedly told illegal farmers to leave the park since 2012, but had not enforced its demand. On 30 July, it formally issued a decree of eviction and sent in troops to clear plantations, destroying cocoa trees and settlements that housed tens of thousands of people.

"We must end impunity and we dare to hope that we will finish this once and for all," said park ranger Kpolo Ouattara, as his men pulled down the remnants of the camp of Amade Oueremi, the park's most notorious warlord and a major illegal cocoa grower, who was arrested in 2013.

The evictions mirrored those that have taken place in parks and reserves across the country since 2013, as the government has come under pressure from international donors including the European Union to act to protect its natural resources.—Reuters



Illegal farmers from Burkina Faso evicted from the Mont Peko National Park gather with their families inside the yard of an evangelical church at Nidrou in Duekoue department, western Ivory Coast on 1 August, 2016. OIPR is one of the government agencies charged with managing protected land. PHOTO: REUTERS

Brazil's Taurus sold arms to trafficker for Yemen war, prosecutors allege

PORTO ALEGRE, (Brazil) — Brazil's Forjas Taurus SA, the largest weapons manufacturer in Latin America, sold guns to a known Yemeni arms trafficker who funneled them into his nation's civil war in violation of international sanctions, according to charges in court documents reviewed by Reuters.

Federal prosecutors in southern Brazil charged two former executives of Forjas Taurus in May with shipping 8,000 handguns in 2013 to Fares Mohammed Hassan Mana'a, an arms smuggler active around the Horn of Africa for over a decade according to the United Nations.

The handguns were allegedly shipped by Taurus to Djibouti and redirected to Yemen by Mana'a, according to court documents.

Alexandre Wunderlich, a lawyer for the two

former Taurus export executives, Eduardo Pezzuol and Leonardo Sperry, said the accusations in the sealed indictment "do not reflect the facts of the matter."

Yemen has been consumed since early last year by a brutal civil war killing thousands of people as Iran-backed Houthi rebels challenge a Saudi-allied government.

Mana'a, who served from 2011 to 2014 as governor of Sa'dah, a Houthi stronghold, could not be reached for comment.

A Brazilian court issued a public summons for Mana'a in May as part of a case citing him, Sperry and Pezzuol as defendants.

Taurus declined to answer detailed questions on the weapons case due to legal confidentiality but said it was "helping the courts to clarify the facts."

Following the Reuters



A view of the site of a Saudi-led air strike in the Red Sea port city of Houdieda, Yemen, on 5 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

report, the company confirmed in a securities filing on Monday that two of its former executives had been charged for an alleged 2013 arms shipment destined for Yemen.

After learning about suspicions surrounding the Yemeni arms dealer, Taurus said it halted another shipment he negotiated.

The case, currently sealed by a judge in the

southern city of Porto Alegre, near Taurus' headquarters, may draw legal scrutiny to the company, a major supplier of firearms to Brazil's police and military and one of the top five

makers of handguns in the US market, where it sells nearly three-quarters of its production.

Brazil is the world's fourth-largest exporter of small arms.

Prosecutors say the two former Taurus executives were negotiating another shipment of 11,000 guns with Mana'a last year when police uncovered the plot and raided the company's offices in November.

Prosecutors have not brought charges against Taurus but said evidence seized in the raid included dozens of emails showing it knew of UN sanctions against trading arms with Mana'a and Yemen but sought ways to skirt them.

"Taurus clearly made use of a notorious international arms trafficker to triangulate its merchandise to other countries, especially Yemen," the documents said.—Reuters

TRADEMARK CAUTION

FUMAKILLA LIMITED, a Corporation organized under the laws of Japan, of No.11, Kanda-Mikuracho, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, Japan is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following Trade Mark:



(Reg. No. 495)

The said trade mark is used in respect of the description of goods following, that is to say—

"Insecticides"

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Htain Lin Oo LL.B Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtppip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel:376318 G.P.O Box:666
Yangon, 7th September 2016

TRADEMARK CAUTION

GSK Vaccines S.r.l of Via Fiorentina 1, Siena, 53100, Italy is the Owner and Sole Proprietor of the following trademark:

ANATETALL

(Reg. No. IV/6445/2005)
(Reg. No. IV/1763/2007)

used in respect of —
Int'l Class 5: "Vaccines"

This amendment of trademark ownership from Novartis Vaccines and Diagnostics S.r.l to GSK Vaccines S.r.l has been duly registered in Myanmar under the registration no. IV/559/2016.

Fraudulent imitation or unauthorized use or any other infringement whatsoever of this trademark will be dealt with according to law.

Thein Aung B.Sc., R.L.D.B.L Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtppip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel:376318 G.P.O Box:666
Yangon, 7th September 2016

Fruit exporters drive up New Zealand wholesale trade sales

WELLINGTON — New Zealand's wholesale trade sales rebounded in the quarter ending June, driven up by fruit exporters, the government statistics agency said on Tuesday.

"Kiwifruit export values were at an all-time high in the months of May and

June," Statistics New Zealand business indicators senior manager Neil Kelly said.

"It was also a good quarter for apple exporters."

Total wholesale trade sales rose 1.7 per cent, or 397 million NZ dollars

(290.44 million US dollars), after small falls in the previous two quarters.

The largest industry increase was in grocery, liquor and tobacco wholesaling the category including fruit exporters which was up 2 per cent.

The trend for whole-

sale trade sales had generally been rising since the September 2009 quarter.

The actual value of wholesale trade sales was 23.6 billion NZ dollars (17.26 billion US dollars) in the June quarter, up 4 per cent from the June 2015 quarter.—Xinhua

Journalist charged in Venezuela after anti-Maduro protest

CARACAS — A prominent journalist and lawyer jailed on Venezuela's Margarita island was charged on Monday with money laundering, according to family and a rights group, following his arrest after publicizing a protest against President Nicolas Maduro.

Videos published by activists, purportedly from

the locality of Villa Rosa, showed scores of people banging pots and pans and jeering the socialist leader as he visited the island on Friday evening.

More than 30 people were briefly detained, activists said on Saturday.

The incident came as the opposition has been stepping up its campaign for a

referendum to recall Maduro, who says a coup is being planned against him.

All those held in Margarita were released after a few hours except Braulio Jatar, 58, who was picked up on Saturday morning on his way to host his regular morning radio show, according to his family.

They knew nothing

about his whereabouts until hours later when intelligence agents came to the family home and searched it, allowing them to send him clothes, according to his sister, Boston-based Ana Julia Jatar, 60.

Jatar was born in Chile, where Foreign Minister Hernando Muñoz expressed concern over Jatar's arrest and the charges against him.

"As a Chilean, he has the right to be protected by the state of Chile and we will take all the steps necessary on his behalf," Muñoz told reporters.

On Thursday, hundreds of thousands of people marched peacefully through Caracas to demand the right to vote on a recall of Maduro, the successor to Hugo Chavez, whose popularity has plummeted due to a brutal economic crisis.

Of 163 people detained in relation to Thursday's protests, 29 remain behind bars, according to local rights group Penal Forum. Five of them have been formally charged.—Reuters



Protesters run after clashes with the police during a rally to demand a referendum to remove Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela, on 1 September.

PHOTO: REUTERS

INVITATION TO OPEN TENDER

Sealed tenders are invited by the Department of Medical Services, Central Medical Stores Depot for the supply of Medical Equipment. Tender documents are available during office hours at the Central Medical Stores Depot office, Commencing from (8.9.2016).

Sealed bids are to be submitted to the office, not later than (7.10.2016) 14:00 hour, after which no bid will be accepted. No telegraph / telex proposal will be accepted.

For detail information please contact the Deputy Director (Procurement), Phone No.01-384937, 01-371284, 01-372362

Central Medical Stores Depot
Department of Medical Services

Hermine lingers off US East Coast, high winds and rain expected

NEW YORK — Hermine, a storm that raked Florida with hurricane-force winds last week, lingered on Tuesday off the US East Coast where it was expected to produce heavy gusts and rain over the next two days.

Forecasters warned swimmers and boaters to stay out of treacherous waters and rough surf. New York City said all public beaches would be closed through Tuesday because of "life-threatening" rip currents.

At 2 am EDT on Tuesday, Hermine's center was about 110 miles (175 km) southeast of the eastern tip of Long Island and expected

to move northwest at about 9 mph (15 kph).

Hermine was forecast to bring up to 2 inches (5 cm) of rain to Rhode Island and southern Massachusetts through Wednesday, the National Weather Service said. A tropical storm warning remained in effect from the eastern end of New York's Long Island and to Martha's Vineyard and Nantucket Island off Massachusetts.

On Cape Cod and its islands, high surf and wind put a crimp in the Labour Day plans of many people looking to celebrate summer's end, but some beaches farther south reopened.

Hermine was classified as a Category 1 hurricane when it slammed into Florida's Gulf Coast on Friday. It became a post-tropical storm by week's end after its winds dropped below 74 miles per hour (119 kph) and it lost its tropical characteristics.

The storm, which crossed northern Florida and then moved up the Georgia and the Carolina coasts, was packing sustained surface winds of up to 65 mph (100 kph) with higher gusts, the National Weather Service said.

"Just because it's a post-tropical cyclone doesn't mean the impact of

tropical force winds, winds in general and storm surge go away," said National Hurricane Centre spokesman Dennis Feltgen.

The storm has claimed at least three lives, in Florida and in North and South Carolina. The third reported death was that of a man struck by a car on a South Carolina highway on Friday as he tried to move a fallen tree, a Colleton County fire department spokesman said.

Hermine became the first hurricane to make landfall in Florida in 11 years, packing winds of 80 mph (130 kph), and knocking out power to 300,000 homes and businesses.—Reuters



A lifeguard surveys the water where surfers took advantage of the waves at Rockaway Beach in Queens, New York on Labour Day despite beach closures due to post-tropical cyclone Hermine which tracked off the east coast of the US, on 5 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

AM-HEX 2016 joint exercise begins in Thailand

CHONBURI, (Thailand) — Troops from 18 countries — 10 ASEAN member states and its eight dialogue partners on Monday began a joint exercise on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief here in Thailand.

During the seven-day exercise, or the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Military Medicine-Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Joint Exercise (AM-HEX 2016), troops from different countries are set to work together to offer assistance to a certain country that just suffered a tsunami, earthquake and other natural disasters.

The exercise consists of command post exercise and integration trainings, while these multinational forces are set to work to-

gether in medical support, airlift, maritime search and rescue and so on.

Prawit Wongsuwan, Thai deputy prime minister and minister of defence, held opening ceremony of the exercise, which he said "is considered an important milestone of defence cooperation under the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) mechanism."

Prawit also said the exercise is aimed to foster cooperation and to share experience, information, and skills among military medics of ASEAN member states and those dialogue partners, including China, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand, India, Russia and United States.

"China attached great importance to this exer-

cise, as we have sent 120 troops to take part in land operations and 245 troops to maritime operations," said Chen Zhaohai, deputy commander of the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA)'s Southern Theater Command, after the ceremony, adding that the number of Chinese troops is the largest in the exercise, except for the host country Thailand.

Chen also said the joint exercise will strengthen trust between Chinese troops and troops from other participant countries as well as foster capacities for dealing with natural disasters together.

Besides troops, China also sent an amphibious landing ship, the Changbaishan, and several helicopters to join in the exercise.—Xinhua



Chinese soldiers pose for a photo after participating in the opening ceremony of ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus Military Medicine-Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Joint Exercise (AM-HEX 2016) in Chonburi, Thailand on 5 September 2016. Troops from 18 countries — 10 ASEAN member states and its eight dialogue partners on Monday began a joint exercise on humanitarian assistance and disaster relief here in Thailand. PHOTO: XINHUA



PREQUALIFICATION NOTICE

The Government of Japan and the Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar (hereinafter referred to as "the Recipient") signed the Exchange of Notes (hereinafter referred to as "the E/N") dated February 17th, 2016, concerning the Japanese grant assistance for the Project for the Reconstruction of Flood-Affected Schools. Japan International Cooperation System (JICS) is acting as the procurement agent for and on behalf of the Recipient for procuring the products and services in accordance with the E/N.

Companies who are interested in procurement of the products and services for the said project shall send an e-mail by 15:00 hours, September 16, 2016 (Myanmar Standard Time), which mentions company name, name of representative, name of contact person, e-mail address, TEL and FAX, to the e-mail addresses below:
Attention: Mr. Phyo Wai Min, Coordinator / Mr. Pyae Sone Ko, Junior Coordinator
E-mail address: h27myanmarschool@jics.or.jp, myanmarschool27.jics@gmail.com and jics.yangon.1@gmail.com

THE REPUBLIC OF THE UNION OF MYANMAR MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY AND ENERGY MYANMA OIL AND GAS ENTERPRISE (INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER) (11 / 2016)

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

Sr.No	Tender No	Description	Remark
(1)	IFB-039(16-17)	Sucker Rods and Pony Rods (17) Items	US\$
(2)	IFB-040(16-17)	Pipe Fittings (13) Items	US\$
(3)	IFB-041(16-17)	Working Barrels, Working Valves and Standing valves (9) Items	US\$
(4)	IFB-042(16-17)	Spares for Progressing Cavity Pump (4)Items	US\$
(5)	IFB-043(16-17)	Insert Pumps (26) Items	US\$
(6)	IFB-044(16-17)	"SP" Sand Pump (2) Items	US\$
(7)	IFB-045(16-17)	Electrical Spares for ZJ 70L Rigs (19) Items	US\$
(8)	IFB-046(16-17)	Spares for Mitsubishi S6N Engine (36)Items	US\$
(9)	IFB-047(16-17)	1 1/2" Pitch Five Layer Roller Chain (2) Items	US\$
(10)	IFB-048(16-17)	Spares for QY 50K Mobile Crane (5) Items	US\$
(11)	IFB-049(16-17)	Spares for Grove Mobile Crane (16) Items	US\$
(12)	IFB-050(16-17)	Spares for Dongfeng Nissan Tractor (43) Items	US\$
(13)	IFB-051(16-17)	Spares for Dongfeng Nissan Tractor (21) Items	US\$
(14)	IFB-052(16-17)	Spares For Pressure Regulating System (10) Items	US\$
(15)	IFB-053(16-17)	Spares For Sino Truck (20-Ton Long Body) (29) Items	US\$
(16)	IFB-054(16-17)	Spares For GM 8V-71 Engine Ex Cementing Unit (22) Items	US\$

Tender Closing Date & Time - 29-9-2016, 16:30 Hr

Tender Document shall be available during office hours commencing from 5TH September, 2016 at the Finance Department, Myanma Oil and Gas Enterprise, No(44) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar.

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

Beyonce postpones 'Formation' tour to give her vocals rest

NEW YORK — Singer Beyonce has postponed her Formation World Tour show in New Jersey after being put on vocal rest by her doctors.

The star has been advised to take proper rest.

The tour which was earlier scheduled for 7 September has now been postponed until 7 October, announced MetLife stadium on its website.

"As a result of strict doctor's orders for vocal rest, Beyonce's highly anticipated New York

city area Formation World Tour date in E Rutherford previously scheduled for this Wednesday September 7th at MetLife Stadium has been postponed until Friday, October 7th," reads an announcement. The post also assures fans that their tickets will be honored at the rescheduled show and that the rest of the singer's upcoming tour dates are expected to proceed as per schedule. The "Lemonade" hitmaker also celebrated her 35th birthday over the weekend with husband Jay Z.—PTI



Singer Beyonce arrives at the 2016 MTV Video Music Awards in New York, US, on 28 August, 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Roan Johnson's 'Piuma' brings laughs and irony to Venice film fest

VENICE — Among the dramas and thrillers screening in Venice this year, Roan Johnson's story of two Roman youngsters and their families coping with an unwanted pregnancy is part of a genre much rarer at film festivals: a comedy.

A fast-paced Italian movie filled with laughs and irony, "Piuma" (Feather) tells the story of Ferro and Cate, played by Luigi Fedele and Blu Yoshimi Di Martino, as they prepare for final exams, plan a trip to Morocco and get ready for a baby.

Johnson, born in London to an Italian mother and an English father, is pleased that "Piuma" is one of 20 movies competing for the Venice festival's Golden Lion, which will be awarded on 10 September. But he said the industry should drop its resistance to seeing



Director Roan Johnson (C) poses with actors Blu Yoshimi (L) and Luigi Fedele as they attend the photocall for the movie 'Piuma' at the 73rd Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on 5 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

comedies represented in serious contests. "We have arrived at a point where we should get over that," he said. "We have had such a strong tradition of comedy in Italy in the past, where films were made that were envied the world over and the four of us, the screen-writing team, are somewhat descendants of that school."

Asked whether the absence of the words "I love you" in the movie was deliberate, Johnson said a lot of the inspiration for the movie came from his and the other writers' own experience as 18-year-olds as well as that of his lead actors.

"We wanted to portray a love story ... but we tried to avoid using certain clichés as much as possible, because they easily make the situations seem fake," he said.—Reuters

Bridget Jones is back in new film, this time facing motherhood

LONDON — Oscar winner Renee Zellweger puts on her British accent again to play bumbling Londoner Bridget Jones in the third instalment of the film franchise,

with the much-loved character, now in her 40s, single again but unexpectedly pregnant. The Texas-born actress reprises the role of the weight and

love-obsessed character for "Bridget Jones's Baby", with Colin Firth back as the reserved Mark Darcy and new addition "Grey's Anatomy" actor Patrick Dempsey as her love interests.

Zellweger first took on the role in 2001's "Bridget Jones's Diary" and "Bridget Jones: The Edge of Reason" in 2004, both based on the 1990s novels by Helen Fielding.

While now older and working as a television news producer, Jones, described by Zellweger as "a character that I love", still gets up to plenty of mishaps.

"She's familiar to me," Zellweger told Reuters in an interview. "But it was a different kind of experience creatively to figure out how you show that a person has evolved but at the same time not betray the essence of who they are".

The movie begins with Jones turning 43 and single following her break up with long-term love interest Darcy.

But after an encounter with him as well as meeting American Jack Qwant, played by Dempsey, Jones becomes pregnant and is uncertain who the baby's father is.

"She's less naive, I think, which is great that both of her ... suitors are great guys so it's a different sort of rivalry because I think she would be less apt to fall for the silly guy at this stage in her life," Zellweger said.

The movie has been highly-anticipated by fans, who were left shocked with 2013's "Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy" book in which Fielding killed off Darcy and portrayed Jones a widowed mother with a toy boy.—Reuters



Director Sharon Maguire. PHOTO: REUTERS

Villeneuve says creating alien world in new sci-fi movie was 'nightmare'

VENICE — Canadian film director Denis Villeneuve said making sci-fi thriller "Arrival", which has premiered in Venice, was the biggest challenge of his career so far because it meant creating a foreign civilization that obeys different kinds of laws.

In the film, Amy Adams plays a linguist hired by the US government to go inside one of 12 spaceships that have touched down around the world. Her task is to establish contact with the extra-terrestrials on board, to develop a common language and discover the purpose of their visit.

"I thought it would be a game, that it would be fun to do and I discovered that it was a

nightmare because it's like trying to create something that makes sense, that is fresh ... to find the right idea when you are in the unknown and have no limits," the 48-year-old director told Reuters on the sidelines of the Venice film festival on Monday.

"The creature we designed is pretty challenging and I am still amazed that nobody said 'are you mad?'" Various scenes in the movie are silent or expressed through close-ups of the protagonist, and Villeneuve said he needed a strong actress like Amy Adams to be able to do that.

"We are seeing a movie on the screen, but half of it is inside her, and we must see it and feel it," he said. "(Adams) was my

first choice and when she said yes I was so grateful."

The movie, which also stars Forest Whitaker and Jeremy Renner, is one of 20 US and international films vying for the Golden Lion award, which will be presented on 10 September.

The world's oldest film festival is again being viewed as a launch pad for the industry's award season after premiering Academy winners in its last three editions. Villeneuve said it would take much longer than an award season to decide whether his movie was a true success.—Reuters

500 year-old skull goes online in 3D as part of Mary Rose project

LONDON — A carpenter's skull recovered from Henry VIII's warship the Mary Rose, which sank in battle in 1545, can now be viewed in 3D online — allowing the public to see his bad teeth and a head wound.

The skull is part of a collection of 3D scans of human remains, shoes and tools which people who cannot make it to the ship's museum home can see on www.virtualtudors.org. The detailed, interactive images are part of a bigger scientific project on the website aimed at researchers working in the field of bone science.

Nine other Mary Rose skulls can be viewed by archaeologists, osteologists and forensic anthropologists who will take part in a study into the usefulness of 3D models to the world

of science.

While experts identify historic features of the virtual images hidden to the layman, ordinary users can still zoom in on the carpenter's eyebrow wound and rotate to the image to see his bad teeth.

He would have been on board to carry out repairs which occurred during battle, like the one against an invading French fleet in 1545 during which the Mary Rose sunk off the south coast of England.

After hunting for years, divers discovered the wreck in 1971, along with over 19,000 artefacts and the bones of 179 of its crew, providing historians with an insight into Tudor life at sea. The ship was raised from the seabed in 1982 and is now on display at a museum in Portsmouth.—Reuters

Progress on artemisinin research

GUANGZHOU— Nobel laureate Tu Youyou's team has made new progress in their research into antimalarial drug artemisinin, a team member said on Monday.

At the ongoing third Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) Science Meeting in south China's Guangdong Province, Liao Fulong, the researcher with Tu's team, said they found that there are other anti-malaria components in sweet wormwood besides artemisinin. The finding may provide new treatment of malaria, Liao said.

Tu Youyou's team also found a component in artemisinin which is be-

lieved to help improve the effect of the drug.

Tu's team is also working on using artemisinin compounds to treat other diseases, such as lupus.

Artemisinin is expected to be applied to different areas such as anti-viral, immunosuppression, anti-neoplastic and anti-mould, he said.

Tu Youyou, a Chinese researcher who was inspired by TCM and discovered the anti-malaria compound artemisinin, won the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2015. She was the first Chinese national to win a Nobel prize in science.—Xinhua

Women offer prayers during Teej festival in Kathmandu



Women offer prayers at Shiva Temple during the Teej festival at Hanumandhoka Durbar Square in Kathmandu, capital of Nepal, on 4 September, 2016. During the festival, married women fast and pray for good health and longevity of their husbands while unmarried women pray for marrying healthy and handsome husbands. PHOTO: XINHUA

Beijing to mark 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death by staging opera Macbeth

BEIJING — To memorize the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death, the National Centre for the Performing Arts (NCPA) of China will stage the opera version of Macbeth first created by the Italian composer Giuseppe Verdi.

The opera will be on from 7 September to 11 September in the NCPA. Spanish tenor Placido Domingo will play the leading role, well-known maestro Daniel Oren will serve as the conductor while the worldly renowned opera director Hugo de Ana will be in charge of the direction,

set and costume design. The presenters of the opera are the NCPA Chorus and NCPA Orchestra, while Chinese dramatic actors and actresses will also take turns to play the leading and supporting roles in the opera.

Adapted from a Scottish historical legend, Shakespeare's five-act tragedy tells the story about brave Scottish general Macbeth murdering the king and usurping the throne.

In 1847, based on an Italian drama by F.M.Piave, Verdi put Macbeth on opera stage, which is his first opera work adapted from

Shakespeare's dramas, with strong dramatic music to show characters' selfishness, desire, greed and fear. He also for the first time experimented with a series of acts in the original work such as "knocking sound" and "sleepwalking".

General Macbeth, the cousin of the King of Scotland Duncan, murders Duncan and usurps the throne, with the support and connivance of his wife Ms. Macbeth. Although Macbeth achieves his aim, the fear and suspicion have created illusions in his brain, while his wife lives

in the fear and sleepwalks to end in death.

Being utterly isolated, Macbeth fails in the war and dies, and Duncan's son Malcolm becomes the new king at the end. As the leading Chinese art groups both on stage of operas and concerts, the NCPA Chorus and Orchestra represent the highest artistry in China. By presenting over 100 performances each year, they have depicted numerous opera characters in an enthusiastic way and contributed actively to the further development of arts production of the NCPA.—Xinhua



Entertainment Channel

(7-9-2016, Wednesday)

<p>06 : 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weather Report • MRTV Entertainment Music <p>06 : 20 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Premier League (Review) <p>7 : 15 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series <p>07 : 55 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Drama Series 	<p>08 : 35 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MRTV Entertainment Music <p>08 : 45 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cassette Recordings <p>10: 00 pm</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Myanmar Video <p>Midnight</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close Down
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(00:00 Am ~ 06:00 Am) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 00:00 Am)

(06:00 Am ~ Noon) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 00:00 Am)

(Noon ~ 18:00 Pm) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 00:00 Am)

From 7-9-2016 (Wednesday) 6:00 pm
To 8-9-2016 (Thursday) 6:00 pm



mitv Myanmar International

(7-9-2016 07:00am ~ 8-9-2016 07:00am) MST

<p>Today Fresh</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>07:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>07:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Jade Pagoda: Weirawsana</td></tr> <tr><td>07:43</td><td>Am</td><td>Soft Drinks without Vendor</td></tr> <tr><td>07:51</td><td>Am</td><td>Philatelic Pleasure</td></tr> <tr><td>08:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>08:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA OBOE)</td></tr> <tr><td>08:51</td><td>Am</td><td>Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"</td></tr> <tr><td>09:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>09:26</td><td>Am</td><td>Hive Hunter</td></tr> <tr><td>09:45</td><td>Am</td><td>MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)</td></tr> <tr><td>10:03</td><td>Am</td><td>News</td></tr> </table>	07:03	Am	News	07:26	Am	Jade Pagoda: Weirawsana	07:43	Am	Soft Drinks without Vendor	07:51	Am	Philatelic Pleasure	08:03	Am	News	08:26	Am	Myanmar Traditional Instruments (MYANMA OBOE)	08:51	Am	Distinguished Myanmar Ladies "Tin Moe Lwin"	09:03	Am	News	09:26	Am	Hive Hunter	09:45	Am	MONASTERY (Bargayar Kyaung)	10:03	Am	News	<table border="0"> <tr><td>10:27</td><td>Am</td><td>The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting</td></tr> <tr><td>10:44</td><td>Am</td><td>Guiding Star of Song Birds</td></tr> <tr><td>10:51</td><td>Am</td><td>Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater</td></tr> </table> <p>(11:00 Am ~ 03:00 Pm) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Pm ~ 07:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>Prime Time</p> <table border="0"> <tr><td>07:03</td><td>Pm</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>07:26</td><td>Pm</td><td>A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-1)</td></tr> <tr><td>07:46</td><td>Pm</td><td>The Iron Rider</td></tr> <tr><td>08:03</td><td>Pm</td><td>News</td></tr> <tr><td>08:26</td><td>Pm</td><td>Tapestry- A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship</td></tr> <tr><td>08:45</td><td>Pm</td><td>Entrepreneur "Nan Ei Ei Zar"</td></tr> </table> <p>(09:00 Pm ~ 11:00 Pm) - Today Repeat (09:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(11:00 Pm ~ 03:00 Am) - Tuesday Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p>(03:00 Am ~ 07:00 Am) - Today Repeat (07:00 Am ~ 11:00 Am)</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(For Detailed Schedule - www.myanmaritv.com/schedule)</p>	10:27	Am	The Mountain with antique stone sculptures & Mural Painting	10:44	Am	Guiding Star of Song Birds	10:51	Am	Pyin Oo Lwin Sweater	07:03	Pm	News	07:26	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-1)	07:46	Pm	The Iron Rider	08:03	Pm	News	08:26	Pm	Tapestry- A Unique Combination of Painting and Craftsmanship	08:45	Pm	Entrepreneur "Nan Ei Ei Zar"
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Ruthless Spain maul Liechtenstein to lay down marker

BARCELONA — Spain started their World Cup qualifying campaign with a crushing 8-0 win over Liechtenstein, laying down a marker in Group G with a ruthless second-half display on Monday.

Diego Costa scored his first goal for Spain in almost two years to put Julen Lopetegui's side ahead in the 10th minute in their first competitive game under their new coach and Sergi Roberto doubled the lead in the 55th.

Costa got his second while David Silva and substitute Alvaro Morata also got braces and Vitolo opened his international account as the former world champions ran riot.

"Sometimes an opponent's name can fool you but we played a great game," said Lopetegui. "We reaped in the second half what we had sowed in the first."

Costa was the focus of the

pre-match build-up having netted once in his previous 11 appearances since switching nationalities from Brazil in 2014 and needed only 10 minutes to open the scoring, rising high to head in Koke's free kick.

The entrance of substitute Nolito for Thiago Alcantara at the start of the second half livened up the home side and it was the Manchester City forward who laid the ball on for Roberto to grab his first international goal.

The floodgates had opened for Spain, the 2010 world champions who lost in the last 16 of this year's European Championship.

Silva was soon in on the act, adding to his double in the friendly against Belgium last week by turning in Vitolo's cross from close range.

Barely a minute later, Silva repaid the favour by teeing up the Sevilla forward to mark an-



Spain's Vitolo and Liechtenstein's goalkeeper Peter Jehle in action during World Cup 2018 Qualifying European Zone Group G at Reino de Leon stadium, Leon, Spain on 5 September. PHOTO: REUTERS

other impressive display for his country with a goal.

Spain only grew hungrier and Costa wanted another bite. He effortlessly turned two defenders in the area before firing at goalkeeper Peter Jehle's right foot, calmly nodding in the rebound for the fifth goal.

"Players control their destiny and we just try to help them, but Diego is a great player and he proved it today," added Lopetegui.

Costa came off to a standing ovation but his replacement Morata threatened to upstage him with two strikes in under a

minute, slamming in at the near post before striking the ball past the hapless Jehle from the edge of the area.

Silva had a goal harshly ruled out as stoppage time approached but the City playmaker grabbed his second a minute later with a crisp shot.—Reuters

Kei Nishikori topples giant Karlovic, to reach quarters

NEW YORK — Kei Nishikori cut down the towering Ivo Karlovic of Croatia with surgical precision in a straight-sets win on Monday that lifted the sixth-seeded Japanese to the US Open quarter-finals.

Nishikori, the US Open runner-up two years ago, beat Karlovic 6-3, 6-4, 7-6(4) in the final main draw singles match at Louis Armstrong Stadium, which will be replaced by a new stadium with a retractable roof for the 2018 tournament.

It was a David and Goliath clash of physical opposites, but

the 6-foot-11 (2.11 m) Karlovic's tennis game, apart from his prodigious serve, was overshadowed by the skills of Nishikori, more than a foot shorter at 5-10 (1.78 m).

The quick-footed Nishikori made 37-year-old Karlovic look like he was standing still, which he often was, as he raced to victory in two hours to earn a berth into the last eight.

"It's never easy against someone like Ivo, he has a great serve," Nishikori said about the Croat, who crushed a US Open record 61 aces in his five-set,

first-round win over Lu Yen-Hsun of Taiwan.

"I made a lot of returns of first and second serves and was happy with my return game today."

Nishikori will play either second seed Andy Murray of Britain or 22nd seed Grigor Dimitrov in the quarter-finals.

"I've been playing well, especially today," the Japanese said. "I think I played one of (my) best matches so far. So will try to recover well and play (more) good tennis next round."

Karlovic hammered in 21 aces but when his first serves were not finding the mark, Nishikori pounced. The Croat led all players with 99 aces. Nishikori broke Karlovic twice and was credited with 44 winners against only seven unforced errors.

"I was able to get the break, first and second set, early. So that makes me a little more relaxed," said Nishikori.

"And my serve was much better today. I was able to hit a lot of first serves in," added the Japanese, who landed 60 per cent of them.

He won on his fifth match point, but Nishikori was not fussed — the first four came after he had galloped to a 6-0 lead in the third-set tiebreaker which he won 7-4.—Reuters



Kei Nishikori of Japan hits a shot to Ivo Karlovic of Croatia on day eight of the 2016 US Open tennis tournament at USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Centre. PHOTO: REUTERS

Serena storms into quarters in record-smashing style

NEW YORK — Serena Williams stormed into the US Open quarter-finals in record-smashing style on Monday by easing past Kazakhstan's Yaroslava Shvedova 6-2, 6-3 to claim her record 308th grand slam match win.

The world number one needed just 68 minutes on Arthur Ashe Stadium court to overwhelm the 52nd-ranked Shvedova and surpass Roger Federer on the all-time list of matches won at tennis's four blue riband events.

"Oh wow, it is really exciting, this is where it all started so it is always so magical out here for me but 308 sounds pretty good," Williams said after moving a step closer to a record seventh US Open title.

"I just think winning 308 matches in general is pretty awesome. For that to be in a grand slam is pretty cool."

"It's a huge number. I think it's very significant actually. I think it's something that just really talks about the length of my career, in particular.

"I've been playing for a really long time."

It has been another dominating run into the last eight for the 34-year-old American, who has yet to be broken and has faced just one break point in four matches while never spending more than 68 minutes on court.



PHOTO: REUTERS

Shvedova did not put Williams under any stress and failed to even register one break chance the entire match against the 22-times grand slam winner.

"I just feel like I'm going out there doing what I need to do," said Williams. "I'm not overplaying, I'm not underplaying. I'm just trying to play my way into this tournament."

Next up for Williams is Romanian fifth seed Simona Halep, who beat 11th-seeded Spaniard Carla Suarez Navarro 6-2, 7-5.

There are more major milestones to be had if Williams can reach the winner's circle again on 10 September.

A seventh US Open title would break the professional era record for career grand slam titles that Williams currently shares with Steffi Graf and leave her one behind all-time record holder Margaret Court.—Reuters