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MEETING OF ASIAN MINDS

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attends 29th ASEAN Summit Retreat, ASEAN+1 Summits with dialogue partners

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi attended the 29th ASEAN Summit Retreat, ASEAN+1 Summits with dialogue partners and the Mekong-Japan Summit in Vientiane, Laos yesterday.

The State Counsellor first attended the 29th ASEAN Summit Retreat at National Convention Center.

Then Daw Aung San Suu Kyi took part in the 19th ASEAN-China Summit to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-China Dialogue Relations, the 19th ASEAN-Japan Summit, the 18th ASEAN-ROK Summit, the 19th ASEAN Plus Three Summit, the 2nd ASEAN-Australia Summit, the 8th ASEAN-United Nations Summit and the 8th Mekong-Japan Summit.

Also present at the summits were the Laotian Prime Minister, heads of state/government of other ASEAN countries and dialogue partners, the United Nations Secretary-General, ministers of ASEAN and other countries, the ASEAN Secretary-General, officials and the media.

In the evening, the State Counsellor attended a dinner hosted by Laotian Prime Minister Mr. Thongloun Sisoulith and his wife in honour of the United Nations Secretary-General and ASEAN Heads of State/Government.—*Myanmar News Agency*



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi, left, with Asian leaders at the ASEAN Summit yesterday in Vientiane, Laos. PHOTO: REUTERS

WHO urged to review programmes in Myanmar

Aye Min Soe

UNION Health Minister Dr Myint Htwe has called on the World Health Organization to revamp the budget allocations and to review the monitoring process and evaluation of all

activities being carried out in Myanmar using WHO-funding.

“Myanmar calls for the effective and efficient utilisation of WHO’s resource being allocated on the country level and whether we are allocating the resources appropriately in

terms of priorities. That is very important for us,” said Dr Myint Htwe at the WHO South-East Asia Region’s annual Region Committee meeting, which is currently meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka.

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Former UN chief visits Islamic schools, IDP camps in Sittwe

AS Chairman of the Advisory Committee for Rakhine State, former United Nations head Kofi Annan visited Islamic schools and camps of internally displaced persons in Sittwe yesterday morning.

During his tours, the former UN secretary-general met leaders of the camps and the Muslim community in Islamic schools in the wards of Aungmyingalar, Mingan and Thetmaypyin.

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Pyithu Hluttaw

Pyithu Hluttaw session continues for 28th day with Q & A session

THE Pyithu Hluttaw heard answers to parliamentary questions by the ministries concerned during its 28th day session yesterday.

During a Q & A session, Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung replied to a call for the ensuring of transparency regarding the Nyaung Shwe Haw Nann repair works, pledging that local people will be informed of the repair works when a repair plan emerges and funds for repairing the building are received.

It is too early to speak about the repairs as no decisions have been made yet on the matter, added the Union minister.

According to the Union minister, donor organisations or in-

dividuals who can bear the cost of repair and maintenance of the building are still being sought.

If would be better if the government could allocate funds for the repair works, said the Union minister.

Next, Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win responded to a question regarding measures to be taken by the government to lift Myanmar from the Least Developed Country list, where it has been since 1987. The deputy minister said that the country will seek technological and developmental assistance from the Istanbul Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries while striving to remove itself.

According to the deputy



Union Minister for Hotels and Tourism U Ohn Maung.

minister, Myanmar was listed in 1987 but did not enjoy LDC benefits due to economic sanctions.

Works are underway to seek short term technical advice and consultancies from resident UNDP experts regarding adoption of policies to support Myanmar's graduation from the LDC status, said the deputy minister.

He stressed the need to be



Pabedan Constituency Representative U Nay Phoo Ba Swe.

granted favourable EBA and Generalised Special Preferences (GSP) while striving for graduation from the LDC status, saying that the country is looking to enhance cooperation with multinational organisations as well as foreign countries including LDCs.

Next, the deputy minister replied to a question regarding the



Deputy Minister for Planning and Finance U Maung Maung Win.

income taxation system, saying that the Internal Revenue Department states the amount of 'white' money collected from taxpayers in their tax books each tax year.

Then, U Nay Phoo Ba Swe of Pabedan Constituency submitted a proposal calling for the implementation of an e-government system to the Pyithu Hluttaw. — Myanmar News Agency

Netherlands provides training to develop Myanmar's grape industry

IN a bid to develop the country's grape industry, the Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SME) Development Department will partner with the PUM Netherlands Senior Experts organization in giving theoretical and practical training on grape and wine production, Myitmakha News Agency has been told.

The training will be given by Dr Anne Westendrop from the Dutch organization, and be held in Mandalay Region between Oc-

tober 26 and November 4.

"It's primarily to support bettering the quality of Myanmar's grapes and market products which use grapes or grape juice. The aim of the training is that farmers will be able to cultivate a better quality of grape crops. The training will also be provided free-of-charge," said Daw Mu Mu Aye, deputy director of the SME Development Department's Technology and Market Promotion Department.

The training will reportedly specifically target grape growers from Yamethin and Pyin U Lwin Townships.

But this training is apparently just one of many the SME Development Department is implementing, reportedly inviting foreign experts from various fields to provide practical and theoretical training to a cross section of Myanmar's small and medium-size entrepreneurs. —Myitmakha News Agency



Mr Kofi Annan is seen meeting local people in Sittwe. PHOTO: MNA

Former UN chief visits Islamic schools, IDP camps in Sittwe

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The panel led by Kofi Annan left Sittwe by air for Yangon in the afternoon.

More than 1,000 people in Sittwe protested on Tuesday against the advisory commission

headed by former United Nations chief Kofi Annan. A proposal by a member of parliament to reform the Rakhine State Advisory Committee only with local experts, suggesting that the involvement of three foreigners in the commis-

sion could cause the internal issue to become an international issue, was rejected by vote 148 to 50 at the parliament on the same day while the commission was visiting Rakhine State on Tuesday. —Myanmar News Agency

Amyotha Hluttaw

Amyotha Hluttaw holds Q & A session, discussions on proposal

THE Amyotha Hluttaw entered its 26th day with a question and answer session and a parliamentary discussion on a proposal yesterday.

During the Q & A session the Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Livestock and Irrigation responded to a call for the repairing of damaged dykes and the dredging of drains in Chaungzon Township of Mon State and a question about farmland compensations in Myittha Township of Mandalay Region.

The deputy minister pledged to repair three dykes and six drains during the next fiscal year depending on the funds allocated.

Regarding compensations for 60 farmers who lost their 75 acres of farmland in total due to construction of a water outlet channel from Samar diversion weir in Myittha Township, the

deputy minister said that there is no plan to compensate farmers as the farmlands were seized in accordance with the then rules and regulations (1997-1998) and the construction project served as a boon for the socio-economic development of local people.

Next, seven parliamentarians held discussions on a proposal calling for special plans to eradicate illiteracy in ethnic regions, enable ethnic people to pursue further studies and promote ethnic literature.

In his discussion, U Kyaw Naing of Yangon Region Constituency 12 stressed the need to form a committee on the implementation of long-term plans in order to eradicate a misperception that people in hilly regions are provided with less health care coverage and education opportunities than those in the plain region. — Myanmar News Agency

Drivers fined for speeding on Yangon-Mandalay highway

TRAFFIC police said yesterday that they stopped 39 drivers over two days from 7am to 5pm for speeding on the Yangon-Mandalay highway.

Speed cameras have been installed along the highway to help the police detect drivers breaking the speed limit.

The violators have been charged with speeding at the traffic court in Zambuthiri township, Nay Pyi Taw. Police are planning to launch evening checks, which they said would target those driving under the influence of liquor. —Than Oo (Lay Myat Hnar)

State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held separate talks with foreign leaders in Laos



State Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi shakes hands with New Zealand Prime Minister Mr. John Key. PHOTO: MNA

STATE Counsellor Daw Aung San Suu Kyi held talks with the Prime Ministers of Viet Nam, Japan and New Zealand at the National Convention Centre in Vientiane, Laos separately.

In her meeting with the Vietnamese Prime Minister Mr. Nguyen Xuan Phuc, the State Counsellor and the Vietnamese leader discussed matters related to Vietnamese investment plans in Myanmar's communication, banking, financial and tourism sectors, operating new flights between Myanmar and Viet Nam and further co-operation and relations between the two countries.

The Vietnamese PM invited the President and the State Counsellor to visit Viet Nam and requested Myanmar to understand Vietnam's stance in regional and international arenas. Next, the State Counsellor met with Japanese Prime Minister Mr. Shinzo Abe and held talks

on Japanese assistance to Myanmar's agriculture sector and poverty alleviation efforts, development undertakings to be carried out in the country's regions and states with the help of Japanese assistance and co-operation in development of the country's electricity and energy sectors.

During the meeting the Japanese PM expressed his support for Myanmar's reforms, development programmes and the 21st Century Panglong Union Peace Conference and pledged to increase sector-wise investments in Myanmar.

The Japanese leader also invited the President and the State Counsellor to visit Japan. In the afternoon, the State Counsellor held talks with New Zealand Prime Minister Mr. John Key on bilateral co-operation in development of agriculture and livestock breeding, education and health sectors and private-public partnership.—*Myanmar News Agency*

VP U Myint Swe meets with Vice Chairman of Central Military Commission of the PRC

VICE President U Myint Swe received General Xu Qiliang, Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China, at Credentials Hall of the Presidential Palace in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

During the call the two representatives held discussions on the promotion



Vice President U Myint Swe holds talks with General Xu Qiliang. PHOTO: MNA

of bilateral relations and border trade, border region stability and the rule of law and further military cooperation.

Also present were

Union Ministers Lt-Gen Kyaw Swe, Lt-Gen Sein Win and Lt-Gen Ye Aung, Vice Chief of Armed Forces Training Maj-Gen Soe Naing Oo, Deputy Minis-

ter for State Counsellor's Office U Khin Maung Tin, Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Mr. Hong Lian and officials.—*Myanmar News Agency*

VP U Henry Van Thio opens International Technology & Industry Show in Nay Pyi Taw

VICE President U Henry Van Thio attended the opening ceremony of the International Technology & Industry Show at Myanmar International Convention Centre-2 in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The Vice President together with Union Minister U Pe Zin Tun, Permanent Secretary U Ko Ko Lwin, Managing Director Dr Zarni Maung Maung of Myanmar Promotional Services Co Ltd and Director U Naing Oo of the Farmer Choice Tractor Company formally opened the ceremony.

Next, the Vice President viewed the booths on display at the show in which departments and enterprises under the Ministry of Industry and 24 local companies presented their products and services.

The International Technology & Industry Show organised by the Ministry of Industry and

Myanmar Promotional Services Co Ltd is set to last for four days until Saturday. Those interested are invit-

ed to visit the Show where a seminar on products will be held on Friday.—*Myanmar News Agency*



Vice President U Henry Van Thio visits the International Technology & Industry Show. PHOTO: MNA

LUXURIOUS & TRANQUIL WEEKEND 'BUBBLY' BRUNCH AT SEDONA YANGON



Relax this weekend away from the hustle and bustle at Sedona's 'Bubbly' Brunch that serves up an indulgent spread of mouth-watering delicacies and cuisine, with seafood, sushi, sashimi, carving & 'live' cooking stations and an extensive salad bar for the health conscious!

Immerse yourself in luxurious surroundings with 'Live' Entertainment, comfort and 5* services at our lavish Weekend 'Bubbly' Brunch available every Saturday, Sunday and Public Holiday from 11.30pm to 3.00pm at D'Cuisine.

* Free use of swimming pool for brunch & dinners.
* Seniors above 60 yrs and children below 12 yrs old enjoy 50% discounts.
* Free Parking
* MMK 1,000 credit vouchers for every MMK10,000 spend.

ALSO FEATURING

EXECUTIVE BUFFET LUNCH
Mondays to Fridays
11.30am to 2.30pm

INTERNATIONAL BUFFET DINNER
Mondays to Thursdays
6.30pm to 10.00pm

SEAFOOD AND BBQ BUFFET DINNER
Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays
6.30pm to 10.00pm

**Inclusive of free flow of wine, beer & soft drinks



My jobs.com.mm press conference held at Central hotel

MYJOBS.COM.MM, a career website established in 2012 with over 1.3 million members, will host a career services and human resources exhibition, it was announced at a press conference at the Central Hotel in Yangon and drew over 20,000 attendees.

The career exhibition was celebrated in a Yangon show last month.

"I am really glad that my-job.com.mm could be celebrated at the HR conference. I expect that myjobs.com.mm can connect employees and companies such as NGOs and others. The myjobs.com.mm website is connected with over 300 companies both international and local. The employers can search for job op-

portunities by using a mobile phone. It can save time for the employer to get a job," said Hans Van Beek, the CEO of Myjobs.com.mm.

A career exhibition and HR conferences organized by Myjobs.com.mm will be held in October and November in Yangon and Mandalay, according to Van Beek. Over 50 big companies will showcase their job opportunities for the people who visited the jobs exhibitions. Attendees can apply for the jobs with free of charge, officials said.

At the HR conferences, local and foreign HR speakers will discuss their knowledge, changes, and opportunities. The first HR conferences was held in November 2015.—GNLM

Higher demand for Myanmar traditional lacquerware

LACQUERWARE is one of Myanmar's most intricate crafts. Myanmar traditional lacquerware which is produced in an old Inwa town, Tada U township, Mandalay region. Hantharwady village area, is one of the most famous sites for Myanmar traditional lacquerware. Lacquer artists mostly produce traditional lacquerwares items such as Buddha images, votive objects and household pieces.

Lacquerware rice bowls have been increasingly in demand. The



Myanmar lacquerware are mainly produced in Bagan. PHOTO: TAIN TAMAN

price of lacquerware depends on its quality but mostly sell in the markets for about Ks 150,000 per pair. Bamboo and wood are used as the frame or base in making lacquerware. The artists need to take care in each of the seven

separate steps required to produce the lacquerware. Producing a Myanmar traditional rice bowl takes about seven days. Myanmar lacquerwares are readily available in Nay Pyay Lin lacquer.—Tain Taman

WHO urged to review programmes in Myanmar

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He urged the world health body to review in particular the budget allocation for the areas which still need to be strengthened in order to provide momentum to move forward as a country.

He also said that Myanmar is carrying out a holistic review of all the activities carried out by INGOs on the country-level, requesting the WHO's South East

Asia Regional Office to give a helping hand in order to increase the impact of the WHO works in the country.

Following his request at the meeting, Ms Poonam Khetrpal Singh, Regional Director, WHO South-East Asia Region, pledged that a technical assessment team of SEARO will come back Myanmar to review the country's programmes.

Myanmar is working to over-

haul the country's health system along with conducting training to improve the quality of staff and medical ethnics.

"WHO itself needs to assess its programmes so that important programmes can get more funding than others," he said during an interview with the Global New Light of Myanmar.

Asked whether his request to review the WHO's programmes is related to the recent

measles outbreak in Myanmar, the Union minister said his request is not concerned with the deadly measles outbreak in Naga Self-Administrative Zone, and he just urged the WHO to reinforce its activities in the country.

Health ministers of WHO South-East Asia Region also reaffirmed their commitment to achieve time-bound targets to control, eliminate and eradicate neglected tropical diseases,

which continue to burden marginalised populations.

The Regional Committee is WHO South-East Asia Region's highest decision-making body, and includes health ministers and senior health ministry officials of the 11 member countries of the Region – Bangladesh, Bhutan, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, India, Indonesia, Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

Crime NEWS

Yaba seized in Myitkyina and Pekhon

OFFICERS from Myitkyina police station seized 2,355 yaba pills from a vehicle being driven by one Aung Kyaw Win in Aung Nan ward, Myitkyina town on Monday.

Similarly, police from Pekkoon township seized yaba from a motorcycle driver in Myogone ward, Pekkoon town on Sunday. Acting on a tip-off, police stopped and searched the motorcycle being driven by one Htein Lin with Kyaw Moe on board and discovered 991 yaba pills. Police have filed charges against all suspects under the Anti-Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Laws.—Myanmar Police Force



Aung Kyaw Win. PHOTO: MPF

Nine passengers injured from overturned vehicle



The bus being seen overturned. PHOTO: THAN SOE

NINE people were injured on Monday after a passenger bus went off the Yangon- Nyaungdon road and overturned near Aung Myay Thayar Pagoda road in Hlaing Thayar township, Yangon region.

According to the investigation, a vehicle being driven by Ko Soe Hliang, 24, crashed into a bus driven by Maung Aung, 38, with passengers on board. The

bus was en route to Aung Zayar bridge from the Tadar Phyu bus station. The crash caused the bus to overturn on the left side of the road. The investigation is ongoing by the traffic police.

Nine passengers from the bus were injured and are undergoing medical treatment at Insein General Hospital. Both of the drivers are facing charges for reckless driving.—Than Soe

Man injured after being struck by train in Mandalay region

A MAN was seriously injured after he was hit by a train as he crossed a railway line between Kyaukse and Minsu railway station, Mandalay region.

Police identified the man as U Aung Thin, 38, from Eastern Myin Hsine ward, Kyaukse town.

"Every railway line has a

sign board. So, people need to take care of themselves. The train cannot be stopped suddenly." Local police said.

The injured man is undergoing medical treatment at Kyaukse general hospital.—Aung Thant Khine

Explosion hits fire service department in Kawkareik

AN explosion occurred at a fire service department on Bokyoge road, ward 3, Kawkareik town of Kayin state on Monday.

No one was injured in the accident, it has been reported, but two fire engines and the main office were destroyed in the explosion. According to a police investigation, the bomb was an MA 7/60mm time bomb. AN investigation is ongoing.—District IPRD



MA 7/60mm time bomb. PHOTO: DISTRICT IPRD

LOCAL Business



PHOTO: MINISTRY OF ELECTRICITY

China and Singapore top investors in electric power projects

CHINA and Singapore made the largest investment in nine electric power projects as of July in this fiscal year 2016-2017, it is learnt from the Directorate of Investment and Company Administration (DICA).

China invested US\$1.3 billion into five projects in the electric sector. Meanwhile, Singapore invested in four projects with an investment of US\$570 million, said an official from DICA.

Currently, 39 hydroelectricity projects, five wind power projects and five solar energy projects have not yet been implemented. However, the projects are already drawn up to be carried out under Build-operate-transfer (BOT) and Joint Venture (JV) systems.

To boost the access to

electric power in Myanmar, concerted efforts are being made by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy and local entrepreneurs to generate electric power with the use of hydro-power, natural gas, diesel, solar power, other bio products and disposed fuel. Foreign direct investments are being invited to implement these projects, it is learnt.

There were 3.7 million households in Myanmar with access to electricity in the 2015-2016 fiscal year. Electricity access was extended to 1.48 million more households accommodating 7.4 million people in the past five years. However, 6.8 million households still have no access of electricity, it is learnt from the above ministry.—*Mon Mon*

Standard Chartered Bank to offer course for SMEs jointly with British embassy

U.S.-based Standard Chartered Bank will offer finance courses for small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) jointly with the British embassy.

The courses are named E4e (Education for Entrepreneurs), according to an announcement released by the bank. Those who are engaged in SMEs in Magwe, Pyapon, Pyi and Yangon will be offered the courses. The courses include financial management, budget evaluation, accounting and project planning.

To reduce the poverty rate in Myanmar, the development of

the businesses plays a vital role because SMEs can create job opportunities, said the British ambassador to Myanmar. This bank has provided the courses since 2014, which require the ongoing training of trainee teachers. The courses are conducted in eight cities including Mandalay and Mawlamyine.

This courses will be offered in October and December. Over 300 entrepreneurs can attend the courses. Additionally, 12 enterprises will be selected to be given advice for three months, it is learnt.—*Ko Htet*

Import value expected to reach US\$ 17 billion in 2020-2021 fiscal year

THE total national import value is expected to reach US\$ 17 billion in 2020-2021 fiscal year, according to the Second National Development Plan.

Myanmar expects to reach an import value of US\$17,933 million with an export value of US\$20,224 million from trade sector in 2020-2021 fiscal year.

Myanmar mainly exports agriculture products, products from animals, natural products, forestry products and industry products while mainly importing personal goods and raw goods from overseas.

The value of external trade this financial year amounts to US\$10,731 million. However, the value of the external trade has decreased by US\$74.959 compared with the same period last year.

According to central statistical organisation data, the trade deficit was US\$91.9 million for the 2012-2013 FY, US\$25,55.5 million for the 2013-2014 FY and UY\$4,912.559 million for the 2015-2016 FY. Myanmar's trade deficit hit a record high in the 2015-2016 FY at US\$ 5,407.464 million.—*Min Thu*



Containers are seen at Asia World port in Yangon. PHOTO: REUTERS

One-and-a-half tonnes of green tea leaf exported to Germany

One-and-a-half tonnes of dried green tea leaf will be exported for the first time to Germany this month, it is learnt from Myanmar Tea Association.

The dried green tea leaf will be exported at a price of Ks15,000 per viss to Germany. The dried green tea leaves are manufactured by machine. The

Tea Association from Pintaya will take responsibility to export to Germany.

Green tea leaf is processed within 1 or 2 hours after plucking and is thought to have many health benefits. A good price has been offered for the tea leaf, allowing the growers to do well, the association said.—*200*

Three companies in the running to build 300 megawatt electric power plants

OUT of six companies which submitted bids to build 300 megawatt electric power plants, three are initially in compliance with tender rules, it is learnt from an announcement released by the Ministry of Electricity and Energy.

The six companies which submitted bids on time were: Consortium of China ITS (Holdings) Co., Ltd, CEEC, HEPDI, China Construction Eighth En-

gineering Division Corp Ltd, Guangzhou Diesel Factory Co., Ltd, Khin Maung Nyunt Trading Co., Ltd; Consortium of National Infrastructure Holdings Co., Ltd, MCM Pacific Pte.Ltd, APR Energy PLC, Ace Resources Group Pte. Ltd; and Karpowership Asia Company Pte.Ltd.

To fulfill the requirements for electric power in Yangon Region, the tenders were invited to rent the generators which can

produce 300 megawatts of electricity. Additionally, the generators must be new ones which can utilise a Dual Fuel System. A total of 82 companies purchased the tender form. However, only six enterprises turned in tenders by the 18 August deadline.

Evaluation of tenders by reference to price and quality criteria will be made on 8th September, 2016 in Nay Pyi Taw, it is learnt.—*Ko Htet*

Remittance the main problem in trade promotion with India

TO enhance the economic relationship with India, Myanmar businessmen are encountering difficulties in building trust in the remittance of currency abroad, it is learnt from the Union of Myanmar Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry (UMFCCI).

The difficulties in remittance to the banks are attributed to the remaining economic sanctions on Myanmar by the United States. Payment used in investment and trading is only in American currency. Transferring American currency is monitored by the

American government. If there are companies with imposed sanctions, the American government gives close scrutiny, which causes delays in remittance.

Therefore, the businessmen conduct transfers through Singaporean banks, rendering the promotion in bilateral trade difficult.

The government of India is keen on economic cooperation with Myanmar both in private and government sectors.

The value of trade between India and Myanmar in the 2015-2016 fiscal year amounted to over

US\$1.7 billion whereas the trade with China fetched over US\$10 billion. Trade value with India as of end of July in this fiscal year was over US\$723 million.

India has already offered to purchase 50,000 tonnes of various pulses from Myanmar.

The construction and upgrading of the roads approaching the India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) trilateral highway and the cooperation in traditional medicine and renewable energy were discussed during the visit of Myanmar's president to India.—*Ko Htet*

North Korean nuclear envoy visits China

SEOUL — A senior diplomat from North Korea involved in stalled international talks to end its nuclear programme has visited China, a South Korea news agency said on Wednesday, as China endorsed a fresh rebuke of the North by the United Nations.

The UN Security Council issued its latest condemnation of the North after it conducted ballistic missile test launches on Monday. China, the reclusive North Korea's main diplomatic ally, joined the criticism.

North Korean diplomat Choe Son Hui arrived in Beijing on Tuesday with her interpreter, the South's Yonhap news agency cited an anonymous source familiar

with the situation in North Korea as saying. Yonhap did not specify the reason for her trip or say who she was expected to meet. Choe is deputy director-general of the North Korean foreign ministry's US affairs bureau, according to South Korea.

She was the deputy chief envoy to negotiations known as six-party talks, hosted by China and including the two Koreas, Japan, Russia and the United States, aimed at getting the North to give up its nuclear aims but stalled since 2008.

Asked about the visit at a daily news briefing in Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said she had no information.—Reuters

Landslide kills one, wounds three in western Indonesia

JAKARTA — One person was killed and three others injured after landslides hit West Java province of western Indonesia on Wednesday, according to a disaster agency official.

The disaster took place at Cibogor village of Bogor district after the area was hit by heavy downpours, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho,

spokesman of national disaster management agency told Xinhua via phone.

One out of the three wounded is suffering serious injury, he said.

All the victims have been rushed to a nearby hospital, Sutopo said. Indonesia is frequently hit by flood and landslide during heavy rain season.—Xinhua

China confident can improve relationship with Philippines

VIENTIANE — China has confidence that it can work with the Philippines to return to a healthy relationship, Beijing's vice foreign minister said on Wednesday, after the two countries locked horns over a recent arbitral ruling on the South China Sea.

Speaking on the sidelines of a regional summit in Vientiane, Laos, Liu Zhenmin said that China and the Philippines had had "thousands of years" of good relations.

"In the past 30 years, the relationship has been very smooth, it's only in the past few years, because of some problems known to all, the relationship has been affected," he said.

"China has confidence that it can work with the Philippines to progressively improve our relationship," he said, adding that ties with the new government of Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte had started well.

Liu was referring to an international arbitration case, brought and won by Manila, which ruled in July that China's building of numerous artificial islands was illegal and its claims to most of the South China Sea had no legal basis.

He said the two countries were also looking into setting up a hotline to tackle emergencies in the disputed South China Sea. China and Southeast Asian



China's Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin speaks during a news conference in Beijing, on 13 July 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

nations have been discussing the hotline since 2015.

Liu did not respond to questions about photos published by the Philippines' defence ministry showing what it said were Chinese boats near a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, just hours before Southeast Asian na-

tions were due to meet China's premier at the summit.

China claims most of the potentially energy-rich sea, through which \$5 trillion in ship-borne trade passes every year, and rejects the rival claims of Viet Nam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan.—Reuters



Police present suspects and packets of methamphetamine as evidence to the media following an illegal narcotics raid at police headquarters in Jakarta, Indonesia, on 24 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Indonesia anti-drugs chief calls for tougher Philippine-style war against dealers

JAKARTA — Inspired by the Philippines "war on drugs", Indonesia's anti-narcotics chief plans to aggressively ramp up the country's fight against drugs by bolstering its police force with more personnel and heavy weaponry.

The Southeast Asian neighbours have both declared a "war on drugs" with Indonesia stepping up executions of drug convicts, while the Philippines has launched a brutal crackdown in which hundreds of alleged drug dealers have been killed within months.

Leaders of the two

countries will meet later this week in Jakarta and one of the main topics of discussion will likely be ways to wipe out the region's drug trade.

Budi Waseso, chief of Indonesia's national anti-narcotics agency (BNN), said late on Tuesday that the agency was in the process of adding weapons, investigators, technology, and sniffer dogs to its arsenal as it steps up law enforcement efforts in one of the region's biggest narcotics markets.

When asked if Indonesia can be as aggressive as the Philippines in fight-

ing drugs, Waseso said: "Yes I believe so. It can happen because (the drugs problem) in Indonesia is as bad as in the Philippines".

"The life of a dealer is meaningless because (he) carries out mass murder. How can we respect that?," he added.

However, a BNN spokesman said Indonesia would not be as aggressive as its neighbour. "Our punishments have to be in accordance with our law and with national and international standards," said spokesman Slamet Pribadi.

Since President Rod-

rigo Duterte took office in June, 2,400 people have been killed in his "war on drugs". About 900 died in police operations and the rest authorities say were "deaths under investigation", a term human rights activists say is a euphemism for vigilante and extrajudicial killings.

The bloody campaign has drawn condemnation from organisations like the United Nations, which calls the killings unlawful.

But Duterte has refused to back down, promising that "plenty will be killed" before achieving his goal of a drugs-free country.—Reuters

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WHO declares Sri Lanka malaria-free in 'truly remarkable' achievement

NEW DELHI — The World Health Organisation (WHO) has declared Sri Lanka free of malaria, hailing it as a “remarkable public health achievement” for the Indian Ocean island, once one of the most affected nations in the world.

The WHO said Sri Lanka had become the second country in the region to eliminate the mosquito-borne disease after Maldives with no locally transmitted cases of malaria in Sri Lanka in the last three and a half years.

The WHO attributed the South Asian country's success to a strategy that deployed mobile clinics, boosted public health awareness campaigns and intensively targeted the parasite, as well as the mosquito.

This included providing drugs to populations who may unknowingly be carrying the parasite, which can survive in humans for more than 10 years.

“Sri Lanka's achievement is truly remarkable. In the mid-20th century it was among the most malaria-affected countries, but now it is malaria-free,” WHO's South East Asia Director Poonam Khetrpal Singh said late on Monday.

“This is testament to the courage and vision of its leaders, and signifies the great leaps that can be made when targeted action is taken. It also demonstrates the importance of grassroots community engagement

and a whole-of-society approach when it comes to making dramatic public health gains.”

Almost half the world's population is at risk of malaria. The disease is both preventable and curable, yet hundreds of thousands of children die of it every year. Globally, there were 214 million cases of malaria and more than 438,000 deaths in 2015. Analysts say the actual figure is probably higher because many cases are not reported.

Spread by the female anopheles mosquito, it affects people in most developing countries. Sub-Saharan Africa carries a disproportionately high share of the global malaria burden with almost 90 per cent of the total number of cases and deaths.

Improvements in prevention have cut the number of people dying of the disease by 60 per cent since 2000, and several countries have recently eliminated it altogether.

But, in South East Asia, the parasite which causes malaria is developing resistance to the most effective drug treatment and scientists are concerned resistance may spread to Africa.

More than 80 per cent of Sri Lanka's 22 million population live in rural areas, providing ideal ecosystems for Anopheles culicifacies, one of the main vectors for malaria in the region.

And despite an armed con-

flict raging in the country's northern and eastern provinces, authorities — supported by international charities and the army — managed to effectively lay down the ground work for the elimination of the disease.

Sri Lanka stepped up its battle against the killer disease at the turn of the millennium after malaria cases soared in the 1970s and 1980s.

“Mobile malaria clinics in high transmission areas meant that prompt and effective treatment could reduce the parasite reservoir and the possibility of further transmission,” the WHO said in a statement.

It added that health education and grassroots engagement also helped in the fight against malaria.

During the country's 1986/87 epidemic there were more than 600,000 cases of malaria, while during its 1999 epidemic, the number of confirmed cases of malaria reached almost 265,000.

By 2006, Sri Lanka recorded less than 1,000 malaria cases annually, and since October 2012, there have been no locally transmitted cases.

The WHO however said it was crucial to remain vigilant the parasite was not re-introduced, adding that it would help Sri Lanka to maintain surveillance as well as screen high-risk travelers entering the island.

—Reuters

Japan pledges \$440 mln to bolster Asia's anti-terrorism steps

VIENTIANE — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged \$440 million on Wednesday to help Asian countries strengthen counter-terrorism measures, a government spokesman said, as the region sees a surge in large-scale attacks.

Police blamed a bombing last week in Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's home town that killed 14 people on rebels linked to Islamic State, while 22 people were killed in a July attack on a cafe in the Bangladeshi capital.

“As our first ever support for

anti-terrorism and anti-extremism steps in Asia, we will carry out an aid programme worth 45 billion yen for the next three years,” Japanese Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Koichi Hagiuda quoted Abe telling a meeting of leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) grouping.

It was not clear which Asian countries will receive the aid, but the plan includes measures such as the introduction of cutting-edge biometrics identification systems and advanced equipment to detect explosives.—Reuters

Australian man burned by exploding Samsung phone

MELBOURNE — An Australian man was left with burns when his Samsung smartphone “exploded” as he slept in his hotel room.

Tham Hua, a Victorian man who was visiting Western Australia, said his Samsung Galaxy Note 7 exploded in his hotel room, bursting into flames.

“My brand new Note 7 exploded this morning while I was still asleep, it was plugged in and charging,” Hua posted on a technology forum in comments published on Wednesday.

“Phone completely fried... (Samsung) told me this is the first

case in Australia.”

“(It) charred the hotel room bed sheet and the carpet when I whacked it down to the floor, burnt one of my fingers while doing that too.”

Hua said the accident caused 1,300 U.S. dollars worth of damage to his hotel room which Samsung offered to cover.

Samsung issued a global recall for its flagship smartphone Galaxy Note 7 units in early September after the technology giant discovered a battery fault in the phone which caused it to explode. —Xinhua

‘Too soon’ to take giant panda off the endangered list

BEIJING — It is too soon to downgrade the conservation status of China's giant pandas as they still face severe threats, a leading conservationist said, after the International Union for Conservation of Nature took the species off its endangered list.

The giant panda has emerged as a success story for conservation in China whose cause has been championed right up to the highest levels in Beijing, where leaders often give the animal to other countries as a sign of friendship.

As of the end of 2015, China had 1,864 giant pandas in the wild, up from about 1,100 in 2000, with 422 in captivity, according to the government.

But on Sunday, the International Union for Conservation of Nature reclassified the species as “vulnerable” rather than “endangered”, citing growing numbers in the wild due to decades of protection efforts.

Zhang Hemin, of the China Conservation and Research Centre for the Giant Panda, known in China as the “father of pandas”, told the official Xinhua

news agency that this was a hasty move.

“A severely fragmented natural habitat still threatens the lives of pandas; genetic transfer between different populations

will improve, but is still not satisfactory,” Zhang said in a report late on Tuesday.

“Climate change is widely expected to have an adverse effect on the bamboo forests which

provide both their food and their home. And there is still a lot to be done in both protection and management terms.”

The wild giant panda population faced a lack of genetic di-

versity as it was broken up into 33 isolated groups, some of which had fewer than 10 individuals, Zhang said.

Of those 18 sub-populations with fewer than 10 pandas, all faced “a high risk of collapse”, he added.

Only when the wild population could grow steadily without the addition of captive-bred pandas could the species be called less endangered, Zhang said.

“If the conservation status is downgraded, protection work might slacken off and both the panda population and their habitat are more likely to suffer irreversible loss,” he added.

“The present protection achievements will be lost and some small sub-populations may die out.” Shi Xiaogang, of the Wolong National Nature Reserve in southwestern Sichuan province, China's main panda conservation centre, said pandas still needed continuous protection, according to Xinhua. It was good China's efforts had been recognised. “But as conservators, we know that the situation of the wild panda is still very risky,” Shi said.—Reuters



A giant panda sits on a tree during the first snow in Jinan, Shandong province, in 2015.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Opinion

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

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A monumental national victory for all Myanmar

Kyaw Thura

IT is widely accepted that the youth of today can become a dynamic force of development if they are chockablock with the opportunities they need to thrive. Yet the country's frustrating political climate is the most serious challenge to empowering young people to reach their full potential and contribute to national development. It seems that our country needs to train the youth to be able to tackle persistent social and economic

disparities.

Adequate investments in human capital among young people will be highly beneficial for social and economic development, while failure to do so will pose an obstacle to the implementation of the country's development goal. No firm will ever hire uneducated youth. The problem does not stop there. High unemployment is a factor associated with social and political instability.

It is interesting to note that the spell of poverty is not about a lack of money but a paucity of choices and opportunities. The government should, therefore, take the lead in the development of human resources and ensure that the youth of today require the skills they need, in partnership with private institutions and civil society.

We are all obliged to leave a proud legacy of youth empowerment. According to the national

census taken in 2014, young people account for 28% of the country's population of 53 million. We should all play an active role in educating, engaging and empowering the youth of today in the fight against poverty and for social justice and social mobility. After all, setting a goal is fundamental to achieving it. Only then will our collective efforts yield a monumental victory for the entire population.

An Introduction To Reinsurance

Win Myint Han (F.N.I)

IT is said (maybe by reinsurers themselves) that most of the reinsurers are born and only some made. Even though we are a little bit skeptical about that claim, we have to acknowledge that reinsurance is very, very important. It is so essential that many insurance scholars advocate that an insurer cannot last long unless protected by adequate reinsurances. If we want to find out how true and reasonable that statement is, we have to trace the origin of why people buy insurance. In a shortest possible explanation we can say that an insured buys insurance in order not to lose his/her current financial position all of a sudden. That is why Principle of Indemnity stipulates that Indemnity is to restore the insured as much as possible into his/her financial position he/she was in just before the occurrence of loss or damage, after the loss or damage.

Likewise, the financial stability of an insurer can be seriously imperilled by unexpected *frequency and severity of losses*. As a rule each and every insurer knows that it is bound to pay claims but they are expected and estimated not to be frequent and severe. The opposite of that estimate in 2, 3 consecutive years could easily send an insurer packing. Moreover, a catastrophic event like Nargis, Sandy or Katrina would wreak havoc, causing unfathomable financial strain to the insurers affected even in a year. For instance the extraordinarily long and severe floods in Bangkok some years ago had caused the reinsurer concerned even to seek recapitalization.

That is why insurers protect themselves by establishing almost impregnable defense of reinsurance around them. Here we would not confuse the readers with technical complexities of reinsurance. Only its pros will be discussed as there are no cons.

By purchasing sufficient amount of reinsurance, an insurer enjoys the benefits as shown below:- (How to determine sufficient or not is a technical problem to be solved on the basis of experience, expertise and financial strength (net worth) of an insurer):---

1. The very first good is peace of mind like that experienced by an insured just after purchasing an insurance. (being assured of recovering part of or full value of the subject matter of insurance lost or damaged even in a worst-case scenario).
2. No excessive fluctuations of claims costs year to year (despite frequency and severity of losses)
3. The ceding company's capacity for underwriting is considerably enhanced to accept larger sums insured or a different class which it does not usually write.
4. In countries where **Solvency Margin** is strictly maintained and enforced by the authorities, adjustment can be made by using reinsurance.

In short the technical role of reinsurance is to protect insurers from financial ruin or insolvency by producing greater stability in underwriting results. Dr F.L.Tuma had aptly expressed as follows :----

The purpose of reinsurance is purely technical . It is a means which an Insurance Company uses to reduce, from the point of view of possible material losses, the perils which it has accepted. When a carriage fitted with a shock absorber passes over a rough street, the road becomes no smoother but the passenger will feel the jerks less as these are absorbed by the contrivance carried as a special addition to the vehicle. So it is with Reinsurance; it does not reduce losses but it

makes it easier for insurance to carry the material consequences.

At present the newly – born private insurers in Myanmar have to rely on co-insurance only, reciprocally effected amongst themselves and Myanma Insurance as required by the Insurance Business Regulatory Board owing to a variety of reasons. The spreading of risk as far and wide as possible is the essence of insurance and reinsurance. But under the present co-insurance system with only 13 insurers at the most and in the same country (Myanmar) the spreading of risk is very much limited in sharp contrast to reinsurance which is international in character and spread across as many borders as possible. In the worst – case scenario like Nargis, Sandy or Katrina catastrophe the very young and self-placed market like Myanma would surely collapse as all the risks were assumed by all the 13 insurers. The Board knows pretty well that the Myanma insurance market is too young and too inexperienced to make use of reinsurance. In order to practice it the market must have 2 very important elements: **Technical Expertise** and **Resources**. As the private insurers cannot be expected to directly deal with foreign reinsurers, there must be a local **specific reinsurer** who is technically competent to write both inward and outward reinsurances. The latter would be sold to all private insurers and some cessions are to be retroceded to the foreign reinsurers. It is learnt that in some of our neighboring countries all private insurance companies are required by law to compulsorily cede some percentage, say 5%, 10% of all their written business to the state-run reinsurer or insurer before ceding some of the remainder worldwide, if they resort to buying reinsurance.

The state-owned Myanma Insurance with its very long service

in insurance business mostly as the one and only underwriter in Myanmar since 1953 is automatically qualified and would be assigned (I believe so) to play the role of the local specific reinsurer between the private insurers and foreign reinsurers, as there is no other insurer qualified enough to do so in Myanmar. Despite having monopolized unchallenged on all insurance business available in the country, the Myanma Insurance, itself a pure cedent (reinsurance buyer) was not experienced in the sale of reinsurance.

The purchase of a physical commodity in our daily life is not that difficult and different from the sale thereof and people are doing so now and again. But as far as reinsurance is concerned the purchase is very much different from the sale which is most difficult (at least for me).

In the case of purchase you as a buyer will be presented equal or different terms, conditions (forms, methods) and recommendations by some experienced international brokers. Out of those you may choose what you believe to be the best for you (no, no) your company, comparing and contrasting one proposition from another and one broker from another. For sale you as a reinsurer have to make terms, conditions (contract wording in English) and everything as shown above for the reinsurance which you are selling. If you accept proportional reinsurance only such as Quota Share or Surplus, as original premium rates are accepted as proposed, you need not fix the premium rates yourself, no problem. But if excess of loss is proposed by the cedent, you have to fix the premium rates which is the biggest problem. For insurance or reinsurance premium rating is the most difficult and needs the combined knowledge of actuarial science, past history of losses, particular nature of the subject –matter of in-

surance and geographical conditions concerned etc. (and mortality rates for life assurance). In Myanmar no one has ever done premium rating for excess of loss reinsurance, as outward reinsurance has never been effected. Accordingly, we can for the time being safely jump to the conclusion that our market cannot have the necessary **Technical Expertise**. But the IBRB could cope with the situation by helping the insurers to learn the requisite basic knowledge just to be able to obtain necessary reinsurance protection .

In order to buy reinsurance a ceding company needs as Resources freely convertible currencies like US dollars, euros or pounds sterling etc. The private insurers would like to buy reinsurances in the same currency in which they write direct insurances ceded to the reinsurers i.e If the premiums for direct insurances are in kyats, they want the reinsurance premiums to be so. But the local reinsurer (Myanma Insurance) who would write cessions and retrocede some of them, would not like to accept the local currency because it has to pay reinsurance premiums in foreign exchange. Consequently, only 2 ways seem readily available to solve that problem one of which should be adopted:--

- (1) Even for the business written in kyats, reinsurance premiums are to be paid in foreign exchange by the direct insurers, when ceded, or
- (2) The Union Government has to subsidize the requisite amount of foreign exchange to the local reinsurer to pay reinsurance premiums.

Whenever foreign reinsurers reimburse the local reinsurer or direct insurers (cedents) the claims paid, the payments will be in foreign exchange which the Government can recover.

Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, Chinese Central Military Commission Vice Chairman visit special force training school

COMMANDER-in-Chief of Defence Services Senior General Min Aung Hlaing and Vice Chairman of the Central Military Commission of the PRC General Xu Qiliang observed training exercises of the special force at a training ground of the Tatmadaw Advanced Training School in Nay Pyi Taw yesterday.

The training ground for the special force was opened on 8 April, 2016, offering training programmes including combatting urban terrorism. — *Myanmar News Agency*



Senior General Min Aung Hlaing observing the training exercises of the special force. PHOTO: MNA



Union Commerce Minister attends ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2016, Business Branch with CLMVT Heads of State/Government and Economic Ministers in Laos

UNION Minister for Commerce Dr Than Myint attended the ASEAN Business and Investment Summit 2016 and Business Branch with CLMVT Heads of State/Government and Economic Ministers in Vientiane, Laos on Monday and Tuesday.

On Monday the Union minister took part in a round table discussion entitled "Regional and Global Free Trade Agreements"

where those present exchanged views on the opportunities and challenges of the ASEAN Economic Community, economic and investment outlooks for ASEAN and partners, transpacific partnership and the one belt, one road initiative adopted by China.

In the evening the Union minister attended the ASEAN Business Awards 2016 presentation ceremony in which 13 Myanmar

companies and organisations won awards.

On Tuesday the Union minister attended the Business Branch with CLMVT Heads of State/Government and Economic Ministers and held talks with businesspeople from Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Laos and New Zealand on the trade and investment sectors. — *Myanmar News Agency*

Literacy campaign aims to educate inmates

A LITERACY campaign is being conducted by local authorities at Monywa Correctional Facility to educate male inmates, said U Zaw Myo Aung, a spokesman for the prison.

Since the morning of 5 September, campaigners have provided free education

services to inmates who did not complete basic education along with the children of those prisoners.

This is part of the Correctional Department's effort to promote the education level of those who have been sentenced to jail terms by providing learn-

ing opportunities to them, said U Zaw Myo Aung. Not only formal education but also vocational education has been given by service providers to improve their education that plays an important role in reducing crimes in the country. — *Pho Chan (Monywa)*

Myanmar bodybuilders win gold medals in Asian Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships

MYANMAR athletes won gold medals in the 50th Asian Bodybuilding and Fitness Championships held in the Kingdom of Bhutan.

The event has been ongoing since 4 September this year in Thimpu in the host country of Bhutan.

Three Myanmar athletes, including one woman, are participating in the event. Tun Tun Aung (60kg) and Tun Min (65k) competed in their weight categories. Nang Laung Kham competed in 160cm model physique event on 7 September. In the 60-kilo men's extempore bodybuilding event on

the evening of 5 September, Myanmar athlete Tun Tun Aung secured a gold medal. He also won third in 40-50 Year Master Club event.

Another local athlete, Tun Min, took first prize in the 65-kilo men's freehand competition. — *Maung Maung Zaw*



Philippines, Myanmar to celebrate 60 Years of Relations with charity fashion gala on 17 September

THE Philippine Embassy in Myanmar will organise a charity fashion gala, celebrating 60 years of relations between the Philippines and Myanmar as well as to launch the new Philippines-Myanmar Friendship Project, at the Sule Shangri-La Hotel in Yangon on 17 September.

The gala, held in collaboration with Myanmar Fashion Designers Group (MFDG) and the Fashion & Design Council of the Philippines (FDCP), is set to bring together some of Philippines' most prominent fashion

designers with some of the established stars in the Myanmar design world and offer both sides a chance to show off their creations.

According to the organisers, the event will feature Myanmar and Filipino designers in the three categories: traditional, modern/contemporary and high fashion and proceeds will go to the Yangon Children's Hospital.

For further information contact: Gregory Arnold (09797006011) or Theint Theint Win (09785030362). — *GNLM*

Waste-to-energy plant project in Shwepyitha 25 % finished

THE country's first-ever waste-to-energy plant being established in Yangon's Shwepyitha Industrial Zone is 25 per cent completed, and is estimated to be finished by March 2017, according to a senior officer from the Yangon City Development Committee.

Since October last year, the Yangon Waste to Energy Plant Project has been implemented by the YCDC and the tender-winning Japanese Future Engineering Cooperation agency under an agreement inked between Myanmar's Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry and the Japanese government.

According to the agreement, the Japanese Ministry of Environment vowed to pay half

of the total cost of US\$16.2 million for the project.

After completion of the project, 300 kilowatts of the 700 kilowatts produced by the plant will go to Yangon residents through the national grid, with electricity generated from 60 tonnes of waste materials per day. The major goal of the project is to reduce methane and carbon dioxide transmission, as both gases badly damage the environment and are considered a root cause of climate change. Waste collection in Yangon is estimated at over 1,600 tons a day. The YCDC collects the garbage from every township and disposes it to designated areas in Shwepyitha, Hlawga in Mingaladon, Dagon Seikkan and Dala townships. — *Kyu Kyu*



A migrant carries a child on his shoulders as they walk to cross the border with Austria in Hegyeshalom, Hungary, in 2015. PHOTO: REUTERS

Austria threatens to sue Hungary over migrants

VIENNA — Austria's interior minister threatened on Wednesday to sue Hungary if it refused to take back migrants who had crossed their shared border, as political tensions mounted over immigration before presidential elections.

Austria's government, facing a challenge from the far-right Freedom Party, has repeatedly accused Hungary of letting migrants enter its territory in the face of EU rules that asylum seekers must stay in the first country they enter in the bloc.

Hungary, itself preparing for a referendum on whether to accept a Europe-wide asylum quota, has insisted that most refugees enter its territory from other EU states, notably Italy and Greece, in a growing blame game.

"States or groups of states that permanently break the law have to expect legal consequences," Interior Minister Wolfgang

Sobotka told ORF radio, responding to a question on Hungary's refusal to give ground.

"In that case, the (Austrian) republic must sue. The republic must see that the European Union acts according to the law, full stop," he added, without specifying what legal process he was considering.

Budapest built a fence along its border with non-EU member Serbia to stem the flow of hundreds of thousands of people, many of them fleeing violence in the Middle East and North Africa. Both Hungary and Austria had said this month the situation was now broadly under control.

A Hungarian government spokesman dismissed Sobotka's call in an emailed statement, saying the vast majority of migrants had arrived in other EU states first.

"Hungary cannot and will not take responsibility for, and suffer the consequences of, the irrespon-

sible conduct of other member states — Austria, Germany — which expressly suggested ignoring the rules, or for other states — Greece — that neglected to do their job," the spokesman said.

Germany and Austria initially welcomed large numbers of refugees from the Middle East and Afghanistan.

However, Vienna started to toughen its asylum rules earlier this year and introduced an annual limit on the number of asylum requests it accepts.

Those steps, widely criticised by human rights groups and the European Union, came after support for the far-right Freedom Party (FPO) in opinion polls surged ahead of the ruling centrist parties.

FPO candidate Norbert Gerwald is standing to become Europe's first far-right head of state in presidential elections on 2 October, the same day as the Hungarian referendum.—Reuters

Iran vessel 'harasses,' sails close to US Navy ship in Gulf

WASHINGTON — A US Navy coastal patrol ship changed course after a fast-attack craft from Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps came within 100 yards (91 metres) of it in the central Gulf on Sunday, US Defence Department officials said on Tuesday.

It was at least the fourth such incident in less than a month. US officials are concerned that these actions by Iran could lead to mistakes.

Years of mutual animosity eased when Washington lifted sanctions on Tehran in January after a deal to curb Iran's nuclear ambitions. But serious differences still remain over Iran's ballistic missile programme, and over conflicts in Syria and Iraq.

Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis said the Iranian vessel sailed directly in front of the USS Firebolt, forcing the 174-foot (53-metre) US ship to change course.

The incident began when

seven Iranian ships "harassed" the Firebolt, Davis said.

A US Defence official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said the interaction was "unsafe and unprofessional due to lack of communications and the close-range harassing maneuvering," adding that uncovered and manned weapons were seen on the Iranian vessel.

The US ship tried to communicate with the Iranian ship by radio three times but received no response.

The US official said there have been 31 similar interactions with Iranian ships this year, almost double the amount from the same period last year.

"We don't see this type of unsafe and unprofessional activity from any other nation," the defence official added.

In late August, a US Navy patrol craft fired warning shots toward an Iranian fast-attack vessel that approached two US ships.

At the time, Iran's defense minister said Iranian vessels were just doing their job.

Last week, the head of US Central Command, General Joseph Votel, said unsafe maneuvers in the Gulf were part of the Iranian regime trying to exert its influence in the region.

Kenneth Pollack, a former top CIA and White House official, said that one or two incidents could have been explained "as being the work of an over-zealous commander" within Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

But the number of such incidents in recent weeks make it "very hard for me to believe these are not sanctioned by higher authority" within Iran, said Pollack, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.

If that is the case, Iranian authorities may be using the incidents to stir up popular anger against the United States, he said.—Reuters

Message from Ms Irina Bokova, Director-General of UNESCO on the occasion of the International Literacy Day, 50th Anniversary

8 September 2016

For fifty years, *International Literacy Day* has celebrated literacy as an empowering force for women and men and for society as a whole.

We have seen great progress since the proclamation of International Literacy Day by UNESCO in 1966. The world's population has increased substantially, but the number of young adults without literacy skills decreased by 25 percent between 1990 and 2015. There has been movement in enhancing women's opportunities to acquire literacy – 43 countries have shown major improvements in gender parity. The global Education for All movement spearheaded much positive change.

But not enough. There remain today 758 million adults who cannot read or write a simple sentence. Two thirds of them are women. On the side-lines of the global village, they receive none of the benefits of globalization and suffer all its costs. These women and men are more vulnerable to ill health, exploitation and human rights abuse. They are more likely to be unemployed and paid less. Unable to read or write, they are held back from their full potential, and whole communities are locked into vicious cycles of poverty that lay the conditions for violence and strife.

Illiteracy remains synonymous with exclusion and poverty — we must turn this around.

This is the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, setting forth a new global vision of prosperity, sustainability and peace in 17 Sustainable Development Goals — including a specific goal to "ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all". Literacy is essential to success across the board. A foundation for human rights and dignity, literacy is vital for poverty eradication, for gender equality, for more inclusive and sustainable societies. This is why we launch today the *Global Alliance for Literacy*, to mobilize investment and promote innovative initiatives, with a focus on gender and new information and communication technologies. We must seize every opportunity — we must work across all sectoral boundaries.

The world has changed since 1966 — but our determination to provide every woman and man with the skills, capacities and opportunities to become everything they wish, in dignity and respect, remains as firm as ever. Literacy is a foundation to build a more sustainable future for all — this is UNESCO's message.

Irina Bokova

NEWS IN BRIEF

Fighting in Syria's Hama Province displaces 100,000 — United Nations

GENEVA — Fighting in Syria's Hama governorate displaced an estimated 100,000 people between 28 August and 5 September, the United Nations said in on Wednesday, citing the Syrian Arab Red Crescent and the governor of the province.

Many people had fled from fighting in northern rural Hama and the northwestern countryside of Hama towards Hama city and neighbouring villages. There were originally about 4,500 families in the town of Halfaya, and 1,700 fled but 2,800 remain trapped by the fighting, the UN report said.—Reuters

Germany's Merkel hits back at critics of immigration policy

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday vowed to continue efforts to strengthen security at home and speed up repatriations of migrants who were denied asylum in Germany, but insisted the overall situation was much better now than a year ago.

Merkel, whose conservative party lost significant ground to the anti-immigrant Alternative for Germany (AfD) party in a regional election on Sunday, struck a defiant tone in a speech to parliament, denying that the influx of hundreds of thousands of migrants would cut benefits for Germans as some have feared.

She also defended her handling of German-Turkish relations and said a European Union deal with Ankara to curb the flow of migrants was necessary and could serve as a model for agreements with other countries.—Reuters

Suspected Aleppo chlorine attack chokes dozens, rescue workers, monitors say

BEIRUT — A suspected chlorine gas attack on an opposition-held neighbourhood in the Syrian city of Aleppo caused dozens of cases of suffocation on Tuesday, rescue workers and a monitoring group said.

The Syrian Civil Defence, a rescue workers' organisation that operates in rebel-held areas, said government helicopters had dropped barrel bombs containing chlorine on the Sukari neighbourhood in eastern Aleppo.

The Syrian government has denied previous accusations it used chemical weapons during the five-year-old civil war. The Syrian army could not be immediately reached for comment on the latest allegations.



A still image taken on 7 September, 2016 from a video posted on social media said to be shot in Aleppo's Al Sukari on 6 September 2016, shows a boy breathing with an oxygen mask inside a hospital, after a suspected chlorine gas attack, Syria. PHOTO: REUTERS

gations.

The Civil Defence said on its Facebook page that 80 people had suffocated. It reported no deaths. It posted

a video showing wheezing children doused in water using oxygen masks to breathe.

The British-based Syr-

ian Observatory for Human Rights, which tracks Syrian violence using sources on the ground, said medical sources had reported 70

cases of suffocation.

A United Nations and Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons inquiry seen by Reuters last month found that Syrian government forces were responsible for two toxic gas attacks in 2014 and 2015 involving chlorine.

The Civil Defence accused the government of two other suspected chlorine gas attacks in August. The United Nations Commission of Inquiry on Syria said it was investigating an August incident.

"Unimaginable crimes are occurring in Aleppo ... pro-government aerial bombardments cause mass civilian casualties," Commission Chairman Paulo Pinheiro told reporters in Geneva. "In gov-

ernment-held areas, indiscriminate ground shelling (by) armed groups ... is also killing scores of civilians," he added.

Aleppo has been one of the areas hardest hit by escalating violence in recent months after the collapse of a partial truce brokered by the United States and Russia in February.

Government forces put eastern Aleppo under siege on Sunday for a second time since July after advancing against rebels on the city's outskirts. The city has long been divided between government and opposition areas of control.

The Syrian conflict has killed more than 250,000 people and forced more than 11 million from their homes.—Reuters

Nigerian army faces new dangers in Boko Haram campaign

BAMA, (Nigeria) — Nigeria's military has liberated large swathes of land from Boko Haram but a ride with an army convoy, all guns firing for fear of ambush, shows how far the northeast is from normality after a brutal Islamist insurgency that has displaced millions.

The moment military convoys leave the relative safety of Bama, Borno state's second town, soldiers in the lead vehicle open fire with a heavy cannon into the scrub along the road to pre-empt attacks by remaining fighters from the Islamist group.

As they head for the regional capital, Maiduguri, the soldiers scan the road for bombs or booby-traps, while shooting at any possible cover — abandoned petrol stations, burned out farmhouses, trees, even clumps

of elephant grass.

Jeep drivers behind them in the convoy join in, firing assault rifles indiscriminately through windows with one hand while gripping the steering wheel with the other.

"If there is somebody there and you fire at him, he definitely wants to fire back so then you know his position and take action," said Colonel Adamu Laka, the military commander in Bama. "You are trying to seize the initiative."

Such extreme measures highlight the lack of security across Borno despite the army's success in driving Boko Haram out of occupied territory that 18 months ago was the size of Belgium.

Reuters was given access to the Nigerian army on the ground as it seeks to re-impose order in Borno after

seven years of dominance by Boko Haram, one of the world's deadliest Islamist groups and a major challenge to a government also grappling with an economic crisis caused by plunging oil prices.

As the first international reporting team to travel through the area by road since Boko Haram was pushed back, Reuters was able to see the devastation caused by the group. Roads are highly dangerous, no food is grown in the fields, and people are still trickling out of their hiding places in the bush.

The military campaign has curbed an insurgency that has killed at least 15,000 people since 2009 but in a new phase of the conflict, the army now finds itself facing small groups of guerrillas operating in the sparsely



A boy salutes at a military truck in Maiduguri, Borno, Nigeria on 31 August 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

populated, wooded terrain.

In July, Boko Haram fighters hiding in trees along the Bama-Maiduguri road ambushed a United Nations aid convoy, wounding five people.

With the UN saying up to 5.5 million people in the northeast might need food aid this year, the military

is under intense pressure to make roads safer. It is no easy task.

"There are so many ambush sites along the road so we are cutting the trees," Colonel Laka said.

As Boko Haram has been forced back, the government and aid agencies have been able to assess for

the first time the extent of the humanitarian disaster left in the jihadists' wake.

The UN children's agency, UNICEF, said last month nearly half a million children were at risk of 'severe acute malnutrition' in the area around Lake Chad that has been ravaged by Boko Haram.—Reuters

INVITATION FOR OPEN TENDER (4/2016) [TENDER NO. MPPE/HSD/T/2 (2016-2017)]

1. Open Tender is invited for the Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Ministry of Electricity and Energy for the supply of High Speed Diesel (423,000 ± 10% Barrels)
2. Tender Closing Date & Time - 26-9-2016, 12:00 Hrs
3. Tender Opening Date & Time - 26-9-2016, 13:00 Hrs
4. Delivery Time - November 2016 to January 2017
5. Tender documents and details information are available at the Department of Finance, Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise, Nay Pyi Taw, during our office hours commencing 8-9-2016 on payment of Myanmar Kyat One Hundred Thousand (Kyats 100,000.) per set.
6. Only bid from tenderer who has purchased tender document officially from Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise will be accepted for evaluation.

Managing Director
Myanma Petroleum Products Enterprise
Ministry of Electricity and Energy
No (6) Complex, Nay Pyi Taw

Contact Phone No.
067-411487/411486/411280

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV HIJAU SAMUDRA VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 8.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of H.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185

CLAIMS DAY NOTICE

MV PACAO VOY. NO ()

Consignees of cargo carried on MV PACAO VOY. NO () are hereby notified that the vessel will be arriving on 7.9.2016 and cargo will be discharged into the premises of A.W.P.T where it will lie at the consignee's risk and expenses and subject to the byelaws and conditions of the Port of Yangon.

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

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

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

Phone No: 2301185



An Israeli police handout photograph shows what a police spokesperson says are World War I artillery shells discovered in the Sea of Galilee in Tiberias, Israel, made available by Israeli police, on 6 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

World War I shells found in drought-hit Sea of Galilee

JERUSALEM — Receding waters in the drought-hit Sea of Galilee have uncovered five World War I artillery shells likely dumped by retreating Turkish troops a century ago, Israeli police said on Tuesday.

A swimmer at a resort on the southern edge

of the biblical freshwater lake discovered the ordnance, and police demolition experts safely detonated the shells on Monday.

"It emerged that these were artillery shells from the World War I period which were apparently abandoned by the Turks

when they lightened their load as they fled from the British army," police spokesman Luba Samri said.

Turkish forces, which controlled Palestine as part of the Ottoman Empire, were defeated in battles in the Galilee in 1918.

After World War

I, Britain ruled Palestine under a mandate that expired in 1948, the year Israel declared independence.

Israel's Water Authority says there has been a sharp reduction in annual rainfall in the Galilee region over the past two years.—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:



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: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel:376318 G.P.O Box:666
Yangon. 8th September 2016

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Thein Aung B.Sc.,R.L.D.B.L Advocate
MYANMAR TRADEMARK AND
PATENT LAW FIRM
E-mail: mtpip@mptmail.net.mm
Tel:376318 G.P.O Box:666
Yangon. 8th September 2016

Two dead, three missing as Hurricane Newton batters northwest Mexico

SAN JOSE DEL CABO, (Mexico) — Hurricane Newton barreled across Mexico's Baja California peninsula tourist haven on Tuesday, dumping heavy rain and killing at least two people, officials said.

Three people were missing.

The Category 1 hurricane hit Cabo San Lucas early on Tuesday morning, then headed northwest. By evening, the storm had crossed the tourist resort area and was about to head over the Gulf of California.

It is currently low season, and hotels popular with American tourists are not full.

Two bodies were found on a beach, and it is believed they were part of a five-per-

son crew aboard a fishing vessel that was wrecked by the storm, Jose Luis Rios, the captain of the port of La Paz, told reporters.

He said the three other crew members were missing, adding that the navy was searching for their bodies. On Tuesday evening, the storm was around 85 miles (137 km) southwest of the port of Guaymas, with maximum sustained winds of 75 mph (120 kph), the US National Hurricane Centre said.

Newton was expected to move north-northeast on Wednesday, and into southeastern Arizona by Wednesday afternoon, the NHC said. The storm should dissipate by early Thursday, it added.—Reuters



Residents stand next to debris of a restaurant in the aftermath of Hurricane Newton in Los Cabos, Mexico, on 6 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Russian experts due in Cairo on Wednesday to decide on resumption of flights

CAIRO — A Russian delegation will arrive in Egypt on Wednesday to decide whether flights to the country should be resumed after a Russian passenger plane was blown up killing all on board last October.

The delegation of ex-

perts will assess security and technical reforms taken by Egypt, the Egyptian Civil Aviation Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday.

"A high-level Russian delegation will arrive in Cairo tomorrow to study whether flights can resume

between Russia and Egypt," the ministry said.

The Airbus A321, operated by Metrojet, had been returning Russian holiday-makers from the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Sheikh to St Petersburg when it broke up over Sinai,

killing all 224 on board.

Islamic State said it brought down the plane with a bomb smuggled inside a fizzy drink can.

Russia and Western governments quickly confirmed a bomb brought the plane down and Egyptian

President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi later said the cause was terrorism.

Russia suspended flights to Egypt as a result, devastating Egyptian tourism, a lifeline of an already battered economy.—Reuters

Poland to seek US OK for \$5 billion missile deal with Raytheon

WARSAW — Poland will seek formal US approval to buy eight Patriot missile defence systems from Raytheon Co, marking a key move toward closing the estimated \$5 billion (4 billion pounds) deal, the Warsaw government and the US company said on Tuesday.

"Poland's formal request is an important milestone toward becoming the 6th NATO Patriot country and the 14th Patriot partner nation," Wes Kremer, president of Raytheon Integrated Defence

Systems, said in a statement.

The deal calls for eight systems, a Polish government statement said.

Raytheon agreed to perform at least half the value of the work in Poland, Polish Defence Minister Antoni Macierewicz said in July.

Raytheon said in its statement it had already signed eight contracts and more than 30 letters of intent with Polish companies.

Sources familiar with

the proposed sale said the announcement looked like a firm commitment by Poland to move ahead.

As of Tuesday afternoon, the US government had not yet received the letter of request, but officials expect it to arrive soon.

The missile defence tender is central to Warsaw's large-scale army modernization programme, speeded up in response to the Ukraine crisis and Russia's renewed assertiveness in the region.—Reuters

Gang suspects down helicopter carrying police in Mexico, four dead

MEXICO CITY — Suspected gang members shot down a helicopter in a clash with police in restive western Mexico on Tuesday, killing four people, the governor of the state of Michoacan said.

Silvano Aureoles said on Twitter that the operation took place near the violent city of Apatzingan, in Michoacan, and was aimed at detaining "leaders of criminal cells". It was not immediately clear which gang was responsible.

"During the operation, an official helicopter which

was supporting the patrol in area of difficult access was shot down," he said. "We lament the death of the pilot, three police officers and a police officer who was injured." Last year, members of the Jalisco New Generation cartel, which operates in Michoacan and in the neighbouring state of Jalisco, shot down an army helicopter, killing six soldiers.

Michoacan has one of the highest murder rates in Mexico after being overrun with drug gangs and armed vigilante groups.—Reuters

Brazil's new government buffeted by pension fund scandal

BRASILIA — The government of Brazil's new President Michel Temer scrambled on Tuesday to distance itself from a multibillion-dollar corruption scandal that broke less than a week after he took office, involving fraud in the country's largest pension funds.

With the country already reeling from a sprawling bribery and kickback scandal at state oil company Petrobras, the new corruption case could hamper the conservative Temer's efforts to restore credibility and turn the page on the leftist government of impeached President Dilma Rousseff.

Police on Monday arrested five people linked to fraudulent investments made by four huge pension funds of state-run companies. The investigation snared dozens of businessmen and fund managers suspected of involvement in a fraud scheme valued at around 8 billion reais (2 billion pounds), including the chief executive of the world's biggest

beef exporter.

The coveted appointments of directors to the funds' boards were made by political parties and the probe is expected to spread to Brazil's political establishment, where some 50 politicians are already under investigation in the Petrobras scandal.

Temer's office said the appointments were made during the 13 years of Workers Party rule that ended with Rousseff's removal from office last week, and the "irregularities" uncovered by the police had nothing to do with the current administration.

"The Workers Party appointed the pension fund directors from the moment it took office in 2003 and they were closely linked to the unions," said a Temer aide who asked not to be named.

"The Workers Party was responsible for the big loss suffered, ironically, by the workers of the state companies who were saving for their retirement," the aide said. "This has not even scratched the image



Brazil's President Michel Temer arrives at the Hangzhou Xiaoshan international airport before the G20 Summit in Hangzhou, Zhejiang Province, China, on 2 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

of the new government."

Temer's government will press for a thorough investigation as it pushes through proposed legislation that will depoliticise the appointment to directors of state companies, he said.

The investigation focuses on investments in overpriced assets, including private equity funds with artificially inflated share prices, according to the federal police.

The Workers Party declined to comment on the investigation but its president, Rui Falcão, denounced as "arbitrary" a raid and seizure of documents at the home of the party's former treasurer João Vaccari, jailed a year ago in the Petrobras scandal.

Political observers in Brasilia doubt that Temer's Brazilian Democratic Movement Party will emerge unscathed from the new scandal, since it shared power with the Workers Party during the years the fraud allegedly took place. The party has also been deeply implicated in the Petrobras scandal.

The state-company pension funds, flush with cash, have long been vulnerable to political interference and dogged by suspicions of fraud, said political risk consultant André Cesar.

"The 8 billion reais is just the tip of the iceberg. They have opened a Pandora's Box and names of politicians will inevitably appear sooner or later," Cesar said.—Reuters

Paris to open first migrant camp by October

PARIS — Paris will house close to 1,000 migrants in two camps to tackle the growing number of men, women and children fleeing war and poverty who are sleeping rough on the French capital's streets, the city's mayor said on Tuesday.

The building of the two camps in the capital comes as the government faces pressure to dismantle a swollen shanty town dubbed the 'jungle' near the port of Calais, whose inhabitants are blamed by residents for an increase in crime and the ailing local economy. Paris mayor Anne Hidalgo said one camp would be built for men, the other for vulnerable women and children, with the first site opening in mid-October.

"We have to come up with new ways of overcoming the situation. Things are saturated," Hidalgo told a news conference. "These migrant camps reflect our values." Hidalgo said the camps would be temporary and cost 6.5 million euros to set up, of which the Paris municipal authorities would cover 80 per cent.

While France has been much less affected by Europe's migrant crisis than neighbouring Germany, thousands of asylum seekers use it as a transit point in the hope of reaching Britain. Truck drivers, farmers and Calais business owners on Monday blocked traffic on the motorway approach to Calais demanding a deadline for the dismantling of the "jungle".—Reuters



Migrants tents are seen at a makeshift camp on a street, northern Paris, France, on 6 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS



Members of the media interview an Israel Railways official during a media tour showcasing the last stages of the construction of a new high-speed railway between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, near Jerusalem, on 6 September 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

New rail line to connect high-tech Tel Aviv with holy Jerusalem

JERUSALEM — Tel Aviv and Jerusalem are only 60 km (40 miles) apart but they often feel like different planets, not just in terms of mentality but because the commute from the Mediterranean to the hills can sometimes take two hours.

That is set to change in the next 18 months with the completion of a \$2 billion, high-speed rail line that will slash the time between the high-tech, business centre and Jerusalem's Old City to just 30 minutes.

After more than a decade in the planning, the project, which has involved boring tunnels through mountains and spanning bridges over deep valleys, promises to transform Israel's two largest cities, or at least bring them a little closer.

"We are doing in Israel what was done 200 years ago in the United States, after World War II in Europe and in recent decades in Asia," Transport Minister Yisrael Katz said on

Tuesday, touting several new rail lines in the works. "The main aim is to connect Jerusalem to the rest of the country."

There is already a train between Jerusalem and the coast — built during the Ottoman empire and added to by the French and the British — but it's a slow, scenic route that takes an hour and 40 minutes, not ideal for commuting.

That said, around 7,500 people still ride it most days.—Reuters

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

Role as society reject among cannibals 'terrifying', Suki Waterhouse says

VENICE — Playing a society reject who tries to survive in a desert wasteland after having her limbs cut off by cannibals was a terrifying experience, British model-turned-actress Suki Waterhouse said at the Venice film festival on Tuesday.

The 24-year-old actress landed her first major role with "The Bad Batch", which premieres in Venice and is one of 20 US and international movies competing for the coveted Golden Lion that will be announced on Saturday.

"I was absolutely terrified and I stayed terrified throughout the whole thing," Waterhouse told a press conference ahead of the movie's official premiere.

Shooting in the desert and portraying a character with a prosthetic leg and without an arm was a challenge both physically and mentally, said the actress, who has modeled for fashion house Burberry.

"I'm a girl from London who's been in a different industry, and I was suddenly like kaplonked in the salt and sea."

Writer and director Ana Lily Amirpour described her second feature film as a "action-adventure-fairy-tale" that

plores the lives of people on the margins of society and the limits of survival and human understanding.

"I guess it is a love letter to something American. I do love America. The things I love, though, I don't really think are perfect," Amirpour said.

Amirpour said the movie was shot in the Californian desert and she spent a year visiting a local community called Slab City, whose inhabitants, living in trailers and off the grid, eventually became extras on the set.

The movie also stars Jason Momoa as Miami Man, one of the cannibals, Keanu Reeves as The Dream, the cult leader of the community where Arlen finds safety, and Jim Carrey, as the mute hermit who wanders around the desert with a shopping cart and at one point saves both Miami Man and Arlen.

"The hermit is so important ... he's the kindness in this harsh environment," Amirpour said.

About offering an experienced actor like Carrey a role with only a few scenes and no dialogue, she said the "Dumb and Dumber" actor known for his facial expressions and quick wit understood the character's importance because of the parallels to his own life as a celebrity.

The hermit "is like the homeless guy that you ignore at every street corner," she said. "Being that famous in a way, no one really sees who you are ... there is something really connected there. And I also said, 'hey, Jim, have you ever not said a word in a movie?'"

Reuters

'Blade Runner' sequel 'an insane project': director Villeneuve

VENICE — Canadian director Denis Villeneuve says making a sequel to 1982 cult film "Blade Runner", in which Harrison Ford hunted down humanoids, is "an insane project" but that it is one the way nonetheless.

He heaped praise on cast member Ryan Gosling.

Villeneuve opened up about the yet unnamed movie, which is scheduled for release next year, while promoting sci-fi thriller "Arrival" at the Venice Film Festival.

"I can say nothing... it's an insane project that is moving

forward ... we are in the middle of the shoot right now and Ryan Gosling is fantastic," Villeneuve told Reuters.

"For me it's a big, big, big ... artistic encounter... I have never been that inspired by an actor ... He is really doing something special in front of the camera right now."

Producers have said the movie is set decades after the original but little is known about the project. The cast includes Ford as well as Oscar winner Jared Leto and "House of Cards" actress Robin Wright.—Reuters



Musician Nick Cave.
PHOTO: REUTERS

Nick Cave chose documentary to open up about son's death

VENICE — Australian musician Nick Cave is hoping a 3D documentary will help answer questions about his son's death rather than speaking to crowds of strangers as he promotes his new album, the film's director Andrew Dominik said on Tuesday.

Cave's son Arthur, 15, died after falling from a cliff in July last year. It happened as his father was recording "Skeleton Tree".

"There was no way for him to discuss the record without talking about the context in which the record was made which was the death of his son," Dominik told Reuters at the Ven-

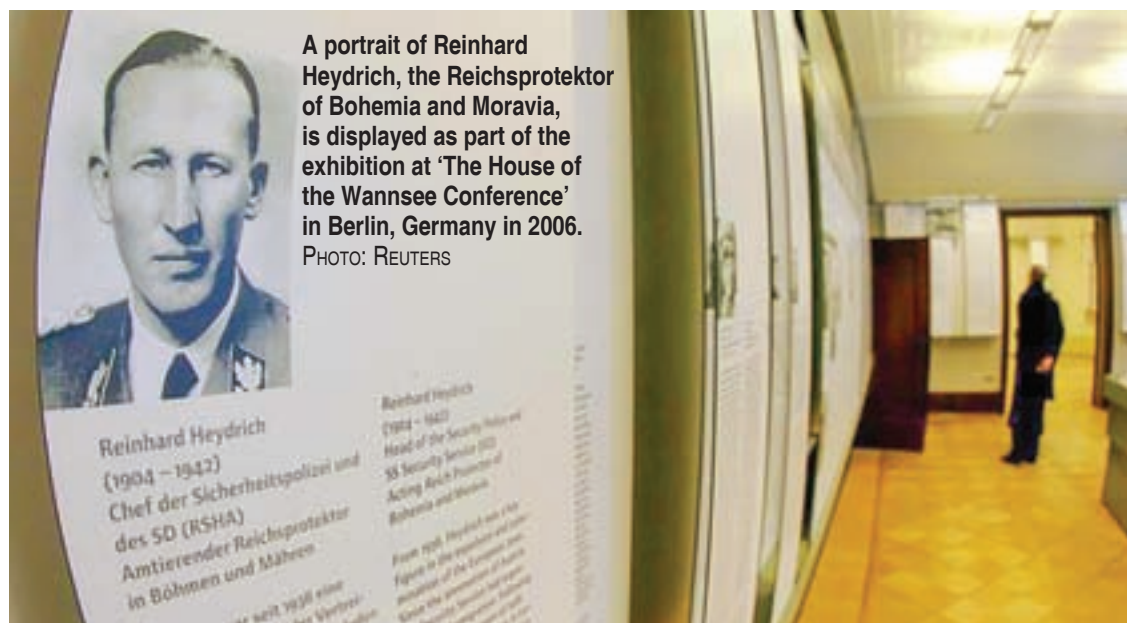
ice film festival.

"It's not that he doesn't want to talk about what happened with Arthur, but I think he just didn't want to do it with a whole lot of strangers ... so his solution was to make a film, which would give him safer space."

The resulting documentary, "One More Time With Feeling", was screened at the festival in the out-of-competition section.

"The film is not a narrative film, it's like an experience that's going to wash over you and 3D has a more sensual quality," he said. "You're not thinking ahead, you are sort of surrounded by it."—Reuters

Actress Suki Waterhouse attends the red carpet for the movie "The Bad Batch" at the 73rd Venice Film Festival in Venice, Italy, on 6 September. PHOTO: REUTERS



A portrait of Reinhard Heydrich, the Reichsprotektor of Bohemia and Moravia, is displayed as part of the exhibition at 'The House of the Wannsee Conference' in Berlin, Germany in 2006. PHOTO: REUTERS

Dornan, Murphy tackle WWII roles for thriller 'Anthropoid'

LONDON — "Fifty Shades of Grey" star Jamie Dornan joins "Peaky Blinders" actor Cillian Murphy for a World War II thriller about the assassination of one of the main architects of the Holocaust.

"Anthropoid" is based on the operation to kill SS Obergruppenführer (general) Reinhard Heydrich in Prague in 1942. It follows Czech soldiers Jan Kubis, played by Dornan, and Jozef Gabčík, portrayed by Murphy, parachuted into occupied Czechoslovakia from Britain to kill Heydrich in "Oper-

ation Anthropoid".

"I'd never heard of this story and it was quite remarkable to read it," Murphy told Reuters in an interview. "It's quite extraordinary to think that what these men did changed the course of the Second World War and inevitably changed the course of history." Heydrich, who stood at the pinnacle of the Nazi security apparatus, was the most senior Nazi to be assassinated in World War II. The village of Lidice was razed to the ground in a revenge massacre, part of a wave of reprisals.—Reuters



US photographer Annie Leibovitz is reflected in glass during a press preview of her exhibition ‘WOMEN: New Portraits’ at Wapping Hydraulic Power Station in London, Britain, on 13 January 2016. PHOTO: REUTERS

Mystery Italian writer heads Leibovitz wish list for women’s portraits show

MILAN — American photographer Annie Leibovitz hopes to add a layer of mystery to her traveling “Women: New Portraits” exhibition when it sets down in Milan — by including the image of writer who’s identity is a closely-guarded secret.

The show, which began its tour in London and is a continuation of a project started in 1999, features images on a panel where some spaces have been left blank.

Leibovitz aims to fill those holes with new photos as the show moves around the world and said writer Elena Ferrante —

known for the popular Neapolitan Novels that chronicle two women’s life-long friendship — was on her Italian wish list.

But Ferrante’s identity is unknown, making it probable that Leibovitz will have to content herself with just a single Italian subject, fashion designer Miuccia Prada.

Prada will join the likes of activist and Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai, singer Adele and Facebook executive Sheryl Sandberg, when the exhibition goes on display at Milan’s former light bulb plant Fabbbrica Orobica from 9 September to 2 October.—Reuters

NY Fashion Week adapts to changing designer needs, business models

NEW YORK — New looks on the runway at New York Fashion Week will be met with changes behind the scenes as designers tweak their shows and schedules to meet the needs and expectations of digitally engaged consumers.

About 100 designers will showcase their collections at the fashion fest that begins on Thursday. The looks are expected to hark back to the 1980s and feature shirtdresses, well-defined, generous cuts, ruffles and clothes that transcend the seasons.

“I think we are going to see a lot more seasonless merchandise; in other words it is going to be more about layering,” said Lizzy Bowring, head of the catwalks department at trend forecasting and analysis company WGSN.

Another theme will be athletic-inspired fashion

and street-style looks, popularized by singers Kanye West, Beyonce and Rihanna, whose Fenty Puma collection will be available in pop-up shops and stores this week.

“A lot of people are going into this realm and I think it is what people are actually buying too,” said William Kahn, fashion market and accessories director at Hearst Magazines, Town & Country.

“The celebrity culture is so strong right now, if Beyonce or Rihanna put their name on something it can create a major trend in itself.”

While many designers will be showing 2017 Spring/Summer collections that will not be in stores for months, others will try a different format by showing in-season fashions.

Some brands are opting for the “see now, buy

now” model with the designs on the runway, or capsule collections, immediately available to customers. Appointment-only presentations are another option, as are online shows and combining men’s and women’s fashions into one presentation.

“It is a moment of change in fashion and experimentation, in terms of making fashion week relevant now,” said Kahn. “Before fashion week was to show people what was coming out in six months, now it is to sell clothes now.”

The changes are in line with the results of a study released in March by the Council of Fashion Designers of America, which administers the fashion week schedule. After questioning 50 industry insiders about the future, the report found the overall consensus was “the time is

ripe for change.”

Ken Downing, senior vice president and fashion director at luxury fashion retailer Neiman Marcus, supports the shakeup in the fashion week system.

“I am a huge proponent of people showing their collections in real time and within the season the clothes are going to be in the store,” he said.

Once the domain of fashion editors, buyers and well-heeled clients, fashion week now attracts more than 230,000 attendees and a huge online audience in real time.

Kahn credits social media and fashion bloggers for changing the game.

“They have made it so much more accessible for everyone to see what is going on,” he said. “When everyone gets to see it, everyone is a fashion editor.”—Reuters

Tokyo’s Ueno zoo reports 1st Asian elephant pregnancy in over 100 yrs

TOKYO — An Asian elephant at Tokyo’s Ueno Zoological Gardens has been confirmed pregnant, becoming the first case of pregnancy for the species at the zoo that opened in 1882, zoo officials said Tuesday.

The 18-year-old elephant named Authi is expected to give birth around June or July, they said. Only 10 births of Asian elephants have been reported in Japan so far.

Born in 1998 in Thailand, the female elephant arrived at the zoo in 2002 along with a male elephant

named Artid as a gift from Thailand in celebration of the birth of Princess Aiko, the first child of Crown Prince Naruhito and Princess Masako the year before.

The female elephant showed signs of pregnancy after zookeepers made her stay together with the other elephant, now age 19, in October, and what appears to be a fetus was observed using an ultrasound in July, according to the officials.

Asian elephants are typically pregnant for about 21 to 22 months, they said.—Kyodo News



Supplied photo shows Authi, an Asian elephant at Tokyo’s Ueno Zoological Gardens. It has been confirmed that 18-year-old Authi is pregnant, the first case of pregnancy for the species at the zoo since it opened in 1882. PHOTO: KYODO NEWS

(8-9-2016, Thursday)

06 : 00 pm	07 : 35 pm
• Weather Report	• International Drama Series
06 : 15 pm	08 : 15 pm
• The Great Po Sein	• MRTV Entertainment Music
6 : 40 pm	08: 30 pm
• MRTV Entertainment Music	• International Movie
06 : 55 pm	10: 25 pm
• International Drama Series	• Myanmar Video

(00:00 Am ~ 06:00 Am) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 00:00 Am)
(06:00 Am ~ 08:30 Am) Transmission (Repeat - 06:00 Pm ~ 08:30 Pm)

08 : 30 am	10 : 10 am
• Myanmar Video	• International Movie

(12:00 Pm ~ 04:10 Pm) Transmission (Repeat -06:00 Am~10:10Am)

04 : 10 pm	04 : 15 pm
• Myanmar Masterclass: 3D	• Cartoon Movie “The Smurfs”

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

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

Today Fresh

07:03	Am	News
07:26	Am	Gold: King of All Metals
08:03	Am	News
08:26	Am	Htan Taw Drums (Part-II) “Dobat”
08:42	Am	Graffiti: Portraiture
08:49	Am	Today Myanmar “Mobile Banking System”
09:03	Am	News
09:26	Am	Myanmar Handicrafts
09:56	Am	Dances of Myanmar “Pre Kayaw Dance”
10:03	Am	News
10:26	Am	Caves of Myanmar
10:51	Am	Tea

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

Prime Time

07:03	Pm	News
07:26	Pm	A Journey To Southern Shan State (Ep-2)
07:46	Pm	Moe Hnyin Than Buddh, The Unique Pagoda in Monywa
08:03	Pm	News
08:26	Pm	Innovative Handiworks Based on The Art of Line Drawing
08:44	Pm	Chanmyay Yeiktha Meditation Centre- Hmawbi

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

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

Neymar goal gives Brazil 2-1 win over Colombia

BARCELONA — Neymar's second-half goal gave Brazil a 2-1 victory over Colombia on Tuesday as the five-times world champions registered their second consecutive win to take the second place in the South American qualifying group for Russia 2018.

The home side got the perfect start when Miranda rose after just 80 seconds to head home a corner and score his first goal in 33 appearances for the national side. Brazil, playing just their second game under new coach Tite, dominated the first half with a high-pace pressing game but struggled to make clear cut chances and paid the price in 35 minutes when Colombia equalised against the run of play. James Rodriguez floated in a free kick from 35 yards out and Brazilian defender Marquinhos headed the ball into his own net. Neymar took a pass just inside the box with 73 minutes gone and his angled drive was well placed into the far corner to beat Colombian goalkeeper David Ospina. It was his 48th goal in 72 international games and takes the Barcelona striker equal to Zico on Brazil's all-time goal-scoring list. The result in the humid heat of

Manaus marked the first time that Brazil have won two consecutive games in what has until now been a stuttering qualifying campaign.

"We've been very consistent the last two

games," said goalkeeper Allison. "We've become tougher and we deserve congratulations for taking the lead again after the pegged us back. We reacted well."

The result lifts Brazil to 15 points, ahead of Argentina, who came

from behind to draw 2-2 against bottom-placed team Venezuela, on goal difference. Colombia sit two points behind them in fourth place in the 10-team South American group. Uruguay, who beat Paraguay 4-0 earlier in the evening, top the table with 16 points. Ecuador remain in fifth after going down 2-1 to Peru in Lima.

A penalty from Christian

minutes from time to give Peru only their second win in eight games. Chile could only draw 0-0 with Bolivia and sit in seventh place in the 10-team table. The top four qualify automatically for Russia 2018 and the fifth place side goes into an intercontinental play off with a team from Oceania.—Reuters

Cueva for the home side after 20 minutes was cancelled out by Gabriel Achilier 10 minutes later but Renato Tapia got his first international goal 1 2



Neymar. PHOTO: REUTERS

Williams headlines fascinating quarter-finals

NEW YORK — Ana Konjuh was not a year old when Serena Williams played her first US Open match but both will be in the Arthur Ashe Stadium spotlight on Wednesday, with four gripping quarter-finals to take centre stage at the year's final grand slam.

Even on a card packed with quality and intriguing story-lines, world number one Williams remains the undisputed Flushing Meadows headliner and will take on Romanian fifth seed Simona Halep.

It has been another dominant run to the last eight for 34-year-old Williams, who has not dropped serve or spent more than 68 minutes on court in any of her matches.

After moving to the top of the all-time grand slam match wins list on Monday with her 308th victory sealed against Yaroslava Schvedova, Williams has two further records in

her crosshairs.

A seventh US Open title would give the American her 23rd grand slam singles crown and move her past Steffi Graf for the most in the professional era. At the other end of the spectrum is power-hitting 18-year-old Konjuh, who until this US Open had never ventured beyond the third round of a grand slam.

The 92nd ranked teen booked her quarter-final with an upset of fourth seed Agnieszka Radwanska and will meet 10th seeded Czech Karolina Pliskova as she continues her bid to become just the second woman to win both the US Open junior girls and women's titles. On the men's side, the gold, silver and bronze medalists from the Rio Olympics will battle for more glory at Flushing Meadows.

Second seed Andy Murray, who has enjoyed a dream summer with a second Wimbledon title and a second Olympic gold, would like nothing more than to end the fortnight with a second US Open trophy.—Reuters



Djokovic into semis after another opponent retires

NEW YORK — Novak Djokovic's strange US Open took another bizarre turn as he advanced to the semi-finals on Tuesday when Frenchman Jo-Wilfried Tsonga retired at the start of the third set, trailing 6-3, 6-2.

Tsonga took a medical timeout during the changeover at 5-2 of the second set and had the area below his left knee taped.

World number one Djokovic held serve to love to close out the set and the Frenchman walked off, giving the Serbian passage into the last four for a 10th consecutive time.

It has been an unusual tournament for Djokovic who has played only two full matches. He was gifted a walkover in the second round and a retirement after six games in the third before Tsonga.

"I'm in the semi-finals, so that's what matters for me the most," Djokovic told reporters after 83 minutes in Arthur Ashe Stadium.

"I know Jo for a long time, we grew up playing in the junior circuit as well. He's a fighter, he's somebody who loves the big stage. This is something I'm sure he didn't wish for."

The first five games progressed on serve to offer promise of a big-hitting battle.

But Tsonga wobbled in the sixth game, committing three double faults to lose serve, the first of three successive breaks that left the Serb with a 5-3 lead.

From that point, Djokovic dominated.

Tsonga said when he felt pain in his knee, he knew it was over. "It's something I had already in the past," he said.—Reuters



Wozniacki. PHOTO: REUTERS

Wozniacki drops wounded Sevastova to reach semi-finals

NEW YORK — Former world number one Caroline Wozniacki reached the semi-finals of the US Open on Tuesday with a ruthless 6-0, 6-2 win over wounded Latvian Anastasiya Sevastova.

Sevastova, the first Latvian to reach a grand slam quarter-final, saw her US Open hopes come to a painful end when she rolled her ankle chasing down a ball on Wozniacki's opening serve.

"For sure it was affecting my play but I'm not a person that likes to retire during a match, so I just tried my best," said the 48th ranked Sevastova, who fought bravely to the finish.

"It's tough to end like that, but it's tennis. I could have played amazing but still lost. It would hurt more, I think."

After watching Sevastova crash to the court and then get up, Wozniacki said she had taken no chances with a spot in the semi-finals on the line.

With her opponent hobbled, the Dane showed no mercy as she moved in for the kill, keeping Sevastova running from sideline to sideline.

"I've rolled my ankle several times so I feel real sorry for her," said Wozniacki, twice a US Open finalist. "But I was just extra focussed."

"She stood up and I knew if she can still walk and still put weight on it and stuff then she's going to go obviously more for her shots and stuff like that."

"I kept serving well and made her run."—Reuters